

Minutes of Public Meeting

February 8, 2021

The New Castle Community School Board of Trustees met in the Boardroom at Raintree Education Center located at 329 S. 5th Street, New Castle, IN 47362 on February 8, 2021.

Board Members Present: Cory Bennett, Member; Jennifer Blackford, Vice President; Travis Callaway, President; Jaci Hadsell, Member; and Nan Polk, Secretary

Central Office Administrators Present: Matthew Shoemaker, Superintendent; Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Jena Schmidt, Human Resource Director – Virtually: Dr. Greg Crider, Attorney; Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer; Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director

Also Present: Approximately 4 in person and 24 virtual attendees community members both in person and virtual.

- I. Call to Order-by President Travis Callaway at 7:00 pm
 - A. Roll Call - All members present
 - B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session – Regular Session and Finance Board both held on January 11, 2021 – Cory Bennett moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Nan Polk. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Approval of Agenda – There were no changes on the agenda. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second by Jaci Hadsell. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.

- II. Communications/Routine Consent Items/Regularly Recurring Reports/Other
 - A. Public Questions and Comments on Agenda Items – No comments
 - B. Routine Consent Items: Approval of Reports: Travel; Monthly Personnel; Bill Lists #67486 through #67651; Payroll Claims and Donations; and Field Trip Requests – There was a question regarding extra-curricular accounts, then Nan Polk moved to approve reports as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. With no further discussion motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary.

- III. New Business
 - A. Fanning & Howey Report – Lara Blankenburg gave a brief presentation on the Middle School project. Dr. Shoemaker also provided an updated listing of projects based on priority and funding. Dr. Shoemaker asked that the board review the information and set a Special Session in two weeks for discussion. There was much discussion and questions from the Board. It was determined a meeting may be set for further discussion and decisions.
 - B. Neola Updates – 1st Reading – The Board was provided with policies that included general updates and revisions. No vote is necessary at this time.
 - C. Neola Policy #0167.3 Public Comments – 1st Reading – Dr. Shoemaker stated this policy is up for review due to a recommendation from Dr. Michael Adamson during the recent Board Training and Retreat. Dr. Shoemaker asked that changes or suggestions be provided so a

finalized policy can be approved during the next Regular Session. During the discussion, it was determined each speaker would be allowed a three minute limit. This is an increase from the current wording of two minutes. It was also recommended that a speaker may speak one time on a single topic.

- D. Approval of Annual Participation in Food2School Cooperative – Dee Orick is seeking approval to remain a member of the cooperative. Jaci Hadsell moved to approve as requested with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Buildings & Grounds – Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent gave a report on the following:

- A. There were no additional reports.

V. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Shoemaker.

- A. Thanks to Kirk Amman, staff and Pastor Rod Smith for conducting a graduation ceremony for student Ryan Scott.
- B. The state level has recommended a possible update to contact tracing requirements. This will be discussed and communicated soon. We will continue to work closely with Dr. Wilkey and the county Health Department.
- C. Vaccines – thank you to Patty Broyles for her work with communication to legislators to prioritize vaccines for our critical infrastructure employees.
- D. Henry County is currently in orange status and as a result the Health Advisory Committee will meet every two weeks. This will also allow up to 25% capacity at events.
- E. Red Hot Blues had a recent competition and received 2nd place.
- F. Wrestlers – We have four wrestlers advancing to semi-state competition.
- G. Swimmers – We have two swimmers advancing to state competition.
- H. Thanks and much credit was given to our staff and teachers for their hard work during a difficult year. We have a top notch program and our teachers are rising to the occasion.

VI. Budget – Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer, gave information relating to budget items.

- A. Report on Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund for November Expenditures - \$247,000 for January - Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the transfer as recommended with a second by Jaci Hadsell. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- B. Approval of Chromebook purchase for 2021-2022 school year – The recommendation from Technology is provided in the board packet. Jaci Hadsell moved to approve as presented with a second by Nan Polk. Motion carried 5-0.

VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.

- A. Patty Broyles, Community Member – gave kudos to NC Trojan Report for the great job they are doing during the sporting reports during competitions that are not allowing spectators. She also asked about the pool and gave her thanks to Dr. Shoemaker for his assistance in gathering data and information for her conversations with legislators.
- B. Nan Polk – Stated she would be sending some legislative issues to the board and asked that they review and become aware of a few pertinent issues. Dr. Shoemaker spoke very briefly on the

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establishment of education savings accounts. She also stated last week was School Counselor Week and wanted to give a shout out to them.

- C. Jaci Hadsell – The Corporation has had several successful athletes in various sports. However, in this last month there have had two big ten athletes, both academically and athletically successful; Mason Gillis and Melani Staffmaster.
- D. Curt Huntley, Coach – stated athletics can allow students to get scholarships to further their education goals.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____