

Minutes of Public Meeting

March 8, 2021

The New Castle Community School Board of Trustees met in the Boardroom at Community Education Center located at 322 Elliott Avenue, New Castle, IN 47362 on March 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 9 in person and 22 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. Recognizing two staff members – Dr. Shoemaker asked for a moment of silence in memoriam of two staff members who passed away since the last Board meeting. Deborah Scott, HS Math Teacher & Mark Schlotterbeck, Special Education Teacher and former NCEA President.
 - C. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session February 8, 2021 & Special Session February 22, 2021 – Jaci Hadsell asked that the Special Session minutes be amended. Nan Polk moved to approve February 8, 2021 minutes as presented and February 22, 2021 as amended. Jennifer Blackford gave the second. Motion carried 4-1 with Travis Callaway casting the dissenting vote.
 - D. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Shoemaker stated there was one addition to the agenda. Cory Bennett moved to approve as amended with a second by Jaci Hadsell. 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 #67687 through #67823; Payroll Claims and Donations; and Field Trip Requests – Nan Polk asked a question that was answered by Dr. Shoemaker. With no more questions, Jennifer Blackford moved to approve as presented with a second by Nan Polk. 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 – No report was given.
 - B. Neola Updates – 2nd Reading – After a brief discussion, Nan Polk moved to approve the policies on second and final reading. Jaci Hadsell gave the second and motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Neola Policy #0167.3 Public Comments – 2nd Reading – Jaci Hadsell moved to approve on second and final reading as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.

- D. Accept Secure Entrance Bids for Eastwood and Parker Elementary Schools – Lisa Smith recommended the Board accept the bid from Whisenhunt Construction, Inc. for a total of \$1.386 million. Jaci Hadsell moved to accept with a second by Nan Polk. Motion carried 5-0.
- E. Accept Additional Secondary Course Offerings – Secondary administration gave a brief presentation on additional course offerings. It was noted no new staff would be required and offerings would be based on class sizes. Nan Polk moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0. Dr. Shoemaker expressed his gratitude to Adam McDaniel, Kirk Amman and Lisa Smith for their efforts to continually increase funding based on course offerings.
- F. Appointment of Corporation Attorney Firm – Jennifer Blackford moved to approve Hayes Copenhaver Crider Harvey, LLP as the corporation attorney for 2021. Jaci Hadsell gave the second and motion carried 5-0.
- G. Amendment Number One to the New Castle Community School Corporation 403(b) – Megan Bell asked for approval of amendment to ensure the corporation remains in compliance. Nan Polk moved to approve the amendment as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Travis Callaway abstaining due to conflict of interest.
- H. Approval to Purchase Laptops for Secondary Teachers – Megan Bell recommended the Board accept a bid from DHE Computer Systems, LLC in the amount of \$75,999 for secondary teacher computers. Jaci Hadsell moved to approve as recommended with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.

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

- A. Various elementary project in addition to secured entrances
- B. Softball/Baseball Fields
- C. Field House Doors

Travis Callaway then expressed his gratitude to both Lisa Smith and Richie Broyles for their tireless efforts in essentially working two jobs to save the corporation in excess of \$1 million during the construction process.

V. Superintendent Report – Dr. Matthew Shoemaker gave a report on the following:

- A. Henry County COVID-19 color status
- B. Prom & Homecoming have been scheduled
- C. Congrats to D. Cox and Boys Basketball on 2021 Sectional Championship
- D. IREAD, ILEARN, ISTEP and AP exams are being completed or upcoming
- E. NCEA, Scott Priest, Dr. Wilkey, Henry County Health Department along with Meijer to schedule vaccination site for all corporation employees
- F. High School Indoor Percussion Team placed First Place at Perry Meridian
- G. Red Hot Blues were champions at recent Dekalb Invitational
- H. Swimming – Lylah Hutson – State Qualifier
- I. Wrestling – Jamorion Taylor – Placed 5th at State
- J. Gymnastics – Ella Garvin and Samantha Ward (4th time in her career) are State Qualifiers

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- K. Sherri Bergum stated Dr. Desautels will provide Professional Development to faculty on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – Dr. Shoemaker thanked her for her leadership
- L. KDG Round-Up – is scheduled for April 14, 2021

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

- A. Report on Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund for February Expenditures in the amount of \$242,600 – Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the transfer as recommended with a second by Jaci Hadsell. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.

VII. Public Questions & Comments – The following provided comments:

- A. Jennifer McGowan, NCEA President
- B. Travis Callaway, Board President
- C. Jaci Hadsell, Board Member

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____