

Minutes of Public Meeting

January 10, 2022

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 January 10, 2022.

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

Central Office Administrators Present: Matthew Shoemaker, Superintendent; Adam McDaniel, Assistant to the Superintendent; Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer; Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; Dr. Greg Crider, Attorney and Jena Schmidt, Human Resource Director

Also Present: Approximately 17 in person and virtual attendees both in person and virtual.

- I. Call to Order-by President Travis Callaway at 7:01 pm
 - A. Roll Call – All members were in attendance.
 - B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session: December 13, 2021
Nan Polk moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Jaci Hadsell. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Shoemaker stated there was one change to the agenda. Item III h. was added for a legislative update. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the agenda as amended 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; Payroll Claims and Donations; and Field Trip Requests – After some discussion and noting stale checks were also included in these routine consent lists, Nan Polk moved to approve all reports as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary.
- III. New Business –

Dr. Greg Crider performed the swearing in of Nannett Polk for the at-large member. The at-large term limits are 01-01-2022 through 12-31-2025.

 - A. Reorganization of the School Board: Dr. Crider led the process for President Nominations.
President: Travis Callaway nominated Jennifer Blackford, Jaci Hadsell gave the second. With no other nominations, Jennifer Blackford was elected President 5-0.
Vice President: Nan Polk nominated Jaci Hadsell; there was no second to the nomination. Cory Bennett then nominated Travis Callaway with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no other nominations, Travis Callaway was elected Vice President 5-0.
Secretary: Jennifer Blackford nominated Jaci Hadsell with a second by Travis Callaway. With no other nominations, Jaci Hadsell was elected Secretary 5-0.

Jaci Hadsell moved to schedule all Regular Session Board Meetings on the second Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm in the Community Education Boardroom. Nan Polk gave the second and the motion carried 5-0.

Board Appointments:

Legislative Liaison: Travis Callaway moved to appoint Nan Polk. Jaci Hadsell gave the second and motion carried 5-0.

Vocational Board: Jennifer Blackford moved to appoint Jaci Hadsell. Nan Polk gave the second and motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer: Travis Callaway moved to appoint Megan Bell. Jaci Hadsell gave the second and motion carried 5-0.

Deputy Treasurer: Jennifer Blackford moved to appoint Leah Melton. Jaci Hadsell gave the second and motion carried 5-0.

Corporation Attorney: Jaci Hadsell moved to appoint Hayes Copenhaver Crider Harvey Law Firm. Travis Callaway gave the second and motion carried 5-0.

B. Annual Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Dr. Matthew Shoemaker – stated his spouse and brother work for St. Vincent Ascension, which is one of the health providers the network the corporation uses for health insurance. There is no compensation received as a result of this.

Jaci Hadsell – stated her sister is employed as an accompanist for the corporation and she is currently a Principal Mentor for the Indiana Association of School Principals. She does not mentor any New Castle Principals.

Nan Polk – stated she has a relative that is a lay coach for the Athletic Department.

Jennifer Blackford – stated she is a current employee of the Henry Community Health Hospital.

- C. Re-Entry Protocol Update: Dr. Shoemaker shared that the Corporation has updated their Re-Entry Plan. The updates are posted on the web-site and generally follow the recently released guidelines from the CDC as well as the Corporation Health Advisory Committee. Jaci Hadsell moved to approve the updates as presented with a second by Nan Polk. Motion carried 5-0.
- D. Approval of 2023/2024 School Calendar: Dr. Shoemaker stated his desire to have two school years approved for advanced planning purposes. He also informed the Board that the proposed calendar mirrors the 2022/2023 calendar that was approved in December, 2021. After some discussion, Travis Callaway moved to approve the 2023/2024 School Calendar. Jaci Hadsell gave the second and motion carried 5-0.
- E. Discussion of Bundy Bids: Dr. Shoemaker, Adam McDaniel and Lara Blankenburg from Fanning & Howey spoke about the recent bids received on the Bundy Auditorium renovations. It was noted that the bids came in significantly higher than the budget. There was much discussion and the School Board decided to review the bids, speak with the committee and reconvene with a possible Special Session. The current bids are valid through February 16, 2022. This item will be placed on the Regular Session February Board Agenda.

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- F. First Reading of Neola #34 Volume 1: There was some discussion on the proposed changes to Board Policy. No action is necessary and will be on the February agenda for final reading and approval.
- G. HPS Pricing Update: Dee Orick went over the document that was presented giving an explanation for the rate increases for the second half of the school year. There was some discussion, no action was necessary.
- H. Legislative Update: Nan Polk gave a brief explanation of HB 1162 and SB 167. She expressed her concerns and encouraged all in attendance to be informed on current proposed legislation that pertains to schools.

IV. Buildings & Grounds – Adam McDaniel, Assistant to the Superintendent gave a report on the following:

- A. Middle School Construction – On target for March 2022 completion
- B. Gym Occupancy open today
- C. Tennis Complex – Target completion of June 2022
- D. High School cooling tower – begin installation today
- E. Parker & Eastwood phase 2 is complete and occupied
- F. Parker & Eastwood STEM spaces are operational
- G. Secondary is beginning structured Homework Help before school
- H. Corporation Mechanic, Randy Egan is retiring January 11, 2022

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

- A. Special thanks to all who help to keep our kids in school
- B. Kudos to secondary for collection of perishable items
- C. Upcoming Pre-K positions
- D. Purvis Foundation donation
- E. Dawson Scott – Summers Plumbing Heating & Cooling athlete of the month
- F. Excited that the Building Trades Instructor is returning after an accident. He will return on a limited basis at first.

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

- A. Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund – December Reported transfer amount of \$325,000.00. Annual transfer amount of just under 14.5%.
- B. Approve Chromebook purchase for 2022/2023 school year: Megan recommended approval. Jaci Hadsell moved to approve the recommendation as presented with a second by Travis Callaway. Motion carried 5-0.

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

- A. Jennifer Hood, parent of home-school student: policy on home-school students participating in athletics
- B. David Youngquist, parent of parochial school student: policy on parochial students participating in athletics

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- C. Andy Hood, parent of home-school student: policy on home-school students participating in athletics
- D. Sherry Bell, community member: commented on legislative update
- E. Travis Callaway, Board member: New Castle Alumni Association

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____