

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
EAST NOBLE SCHOOL CORPORATION  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at the North Side Elementary School.

Mr. Beall called the meeting to order with Mrs. Schellenberg, Dr. Holliday, Mrs. Babcock, and Mr. Wicker present. Mrs. Linson, Superintendent, Mrs. Lamon, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Leitch, Business Manager, and Mrs. Wright, meeting recorder, were also present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MISSION STATEMENT

3. INTRODUCE CITIZENS

Mr. Beall asked the following citizens to introduce themselves: Andy Deming, Bill Knox, Martin Swogger, Jessica Swogger, Kara Hand, Alisa Smith, Charlie Barber, Jennifer Wells, Corinne Wells, Andrea Everage, Becca Moore, Emily Coverstone, Sadie Coverstone, Ethan Brown, Jim Swartzlander, Venita Lawyer, Cori Valenti, Wesley Valenti, Weston Knafel, Angie Sibert, Karen Patrick, Josh Buhro, David Deming, Terri Deming, Steve Peterson, Berlin Lantz, Fred Kreigh, Karen Gandy, Tom Foster, Kelli Savage, Mike Shultz, and Dennis Nartker.

4. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

The following citizens addressed the School Board regarding the potential middle school project: Kara Hand expressed her support for building a new middle school and asked the Board to be sure to make all decisions in public meetings; East Noble instrumental music teacher Jim Swartzlander volunteered to serve on the building planning committee to help design the Fine Arts department when a new middle school is built; Fred Kreigh asked the Board to make sure they have a 30 year plan and “build for obsolescence” and understand that education in 30 years will look very different than today; and Jessica Swogger expressed concerns over how building a new building on a different site would affect local students bus transportation.

5. MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2014

Following a motion by Mrs. Babcock, and seconded by Mrs. Schellenberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2014 meeting as presented.

6. CLAIMS OF JANUARY 29, 2014

Following a motion by Mrs. Schellenberg, and seconded by Mr. Wicker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following claims for January 29, 2014:

- Handwritten checks #31935 - #32017, dated 12/26/13 – 1/22/14 in the amount of \$4,031,258.84
- Checks #32018 - #32127, dated 1/29/14 in the amount of \$187,242.21
- Self-Insurance Fund checks #2145 - #2148, dated 12/31/13 – 1/20/14 in the amount of \$198,057.93

Grand Total: \$ 4,416,558.98

7. PERSONNEL

A. Resignations/Retirements/Terminations

Following a motion by Dr. Holliday, and seconded by Mr. Wicker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the resignation of **Joni Bruce** as food service assistant at East Noble Middle School effective January 24, 2014.

B. Reassignments

Following a motion by Mrs. Schellenberg, and seconded by Mrs. Babcock, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reassignment of **Lynette Foote** from third grade teacher at Rome City Elementary School to Instructional Assistant at Avilla Elementary School effective February 4, 2014 through the end of the 2013/2014 school year under her current contract.

C. New Hires

Following a motion by Mr. Wicker, and seconded by Dr. Holliday, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following new hires (*Pending completion of the required Expanded Criminal Background Screening*): **Lucinda Shepherd** as Functional Life Skills teacher at Wayne Center Elementary School effective January 27, 2014; **Cheryl Herber** for a temporary contract as third grade teacher at Rome City Elementary School from January 6, 2014 through the end of the 2013/2014 school year, and **Berlin Lantz** as Sports and Fitness Instructor at South Side Elementary School effective January 21, 2014.

The Board also approved the following ECA positions at the **East Noble Middle School**: **Cody Freels** as head boys' soccer coach, **Brian Holloway** as head girls' soccer coach, **Sam Housholder** as head wrestling coach, **Chad Honaker** as assistant wrestling coach, **Kevin Irons** as head boys' golf coach, **Scott Kabrich** as head girls' golf coach, **Megan Disque** as head swim coach, **Ryan Ferguson** as head boys' track coach, **Matt Bennett** as assistant boys' track coach, **Jordan Krock** as head girls' track coach, and **Tracey Palmer** as assistant girls' track coach for the 2014 season.

D. Leave Requests

None

8. INSTRUCTION:

A. Goal 1: Presentation on Keys to Comprehension Training

North Side Elementary School teachers presented an overview of the *Keys to Comprehension* training they are receiving that supports literacy instruction. Third grade teachers Kelli Savage and Andrea Everage worked with students Corinne Wells, Wesley Valenti and Weston Knafel while sixth grade teacher Becca Moore worked along with students Emily and Sadie Coverstone and Ethan Brown to demonstrate main idea skills through categorizing information and identifying main ideas during reading.

B. Goal 2: Discussion over 2014 Graduation Date

Following discussion over the number of school days that have been missed due to bad weather, possible make up days going beyond the current scheduled graduation date, and conflicts that would prevent some seniors from attending graduation Mrs. Babcock made a motion to move graduation to Sunday, June 15, 2014 at 2 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Holliday and passed with a vote of 4-0-1, with Mrs. Schellenberg abstaining.

The Board also authorized transportation director Karen Patrick to investigate developing an “alternative bus route” plan that could be used when main roads are clear but secondary roads are not passable.

9. BUSINESS:

A. Action on Rainy Day Fund Transfer

Following a motion by Mrs. Babcock, and seconded by Mr. Wicker, the Board voted unanimously to transfer \$143,266.70 from the General Fund to the Rainy Day Fund.

B. Appointment for Avilla Redevelopment Commission

Following a motion by Mr. Wicker, and seconded by Mrs. Babcock the Board voted unanimously to re-appointment **Carol Schellenberg** to the Avilla Redevelopment Commission for a one year term effective January 1, 2014.

C. Appointment to the Kendallville Redevelopment Commission

Following a motion by Mrs. Schellenberg, and seconded by Mr. Wicker, the Board voted unanimously to appoint **Barbara Babcock** to the Kendallville Redevelopment Commission for a one year term effective January 1, 2014.

#### D. Discussion Over Middle School Renovation vs. New Building

The School Board discussed options for a potential middle school project. At this point they are down to two options; a full renovation or build a new facility. Adding on to the current location and then removing part of the old building is no longer an option due to the charter school laws. If a school facility is partially or fully empty, the building has to be registered with the Indiana Department of Education and made available for a charter school to move in. If the district were to add on to the current facility, they would not be able to tear off the vacated portion for two years. There is not enough room on the current property to have this sort of project.

During the Board discussion, members discussed the challenges of the current building, needs of the students, safety of the students, and ensuring they are fiscally responsible. There was much discussion around the cost of the middle school and taxes. The estimated cost of a new building or renovated building will be approximately \$22-\$24 million dollars. While the district cannot say taxes will not go up, they can say that their current debt is about \$5 million annually. By 2019 all debt will be retired. The estimated annual cost of a middle school project will be about \$3.25 million annually. The district anticipates their annual debt to drop by \$1.75 million per year with the middle school project. Mrs. Linson encouraged anyone with questions to please contact her at the central office or send an email to [alinson@eastnoble.net](mailto:alinson@eastnoble.net).

#### 10. LATE ITEMS

Business manager Brian Leitch reported that water testing at Rome City Elementary School is back to quarterly testing after passing all five of the January tests. The Chlorine system will be installed on February 6, 2014. He also reported on other maintenance projects being completed in the buildings.

Assistant Superintendent Becca Lamon reported that challenges with the ISTEP test continue. The stress test will only be testing a file that is 2% of the actual test file. CTB is not communicating changes to schools. In addition, our level of technology is too advanced for the CTB systems, causing our students to install and uninstall programs that we use every day but are not supported by the test.

As school shootings continue to happen around our country, with three additional shooting happening within the past two weeks including one at Purdue University, Mrs. Linson reminded everyone that school safety is always our first concern. We want to continue to keep this need in front of our administrators and staff to always plan and be prepared with this in mind.

#### 11. COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Beall adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m. The Board met for a Work Session following the regular meeting with an Executive Session immediately following to discuss personnel per I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (2), (5). The next Regular Board Meeting will be Wednesday, **February 12, 2014** at the Alternative Learning Center beginning at **6:00 p.m.**

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President

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Secretary