

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
EAST NOBLE SCHOOL CORPORATION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at the Central Office.

Mr. Beall called the meeting to order with Mrs. Babcock, Mrs. Schellenberg, Mr. Lutter, Dr. Holliday, Mr. Wicker, and Mr. Pyle present. Mrs. Linson, Superintendent, Dr. 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: Ray Scott, Rose Marie Kemp, Richard Warford, Alisa Smith, Ron Frick, Mike Campbell, Mary Allen, Loren Allen, Kyle Allen, Dave Pine, Dave Leamon, Michael Wagner, Jim Swartzlander, Dan Diggins, Todd Hanes, Sheryl Hanes, Tom Foster, Elizabeth Payne, Kim Schwarz, Dave Schellenberg, Andy Deming, Karen Gandy, Dave Carteaux, Kara Hand, Karen Keck, Jane Doyle, Larry Doyle, Heather Green, Jen Blackman, Eric Blackman, Sue Yeager, Jo Smith, Mike Shultz, and Dennis Nartker.

4. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Ray Scott extended an invitation to School Board members to participate in a public forum on Thursday, October 30, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Kara Hand spoke in support of the project. Mr. Mike Campbell and Mr. Ron Frick spoke opposing the project.

5. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2014

Following a motion by Mr. Pyle, and seconded by Mr. Wicker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting as presented.

6. PERSONNEL:

A. Resignations/Retirements/Terminations

Following a motion by Mrs. Babcock, and seconded by Mrs. Schellenberg, the Board voted unanimously to accept the resignation of **Allison Joy** as seventh grade Social Studies teacher and Student Council Advisor at East Noble Middle School effective October 6, 2014, and **Lori Kumfer** as school bus driver effective October 9, 2014.

B. Reassignments

None

C. New Hires

Following a motion by Mrs. Schellenberg, and seconded by Mr. Wicker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following New Hires (*Pending completion of the required Expanded Criminal Background Screening*): **Nickolas Timmerman** as Social Studies teacher at East Noble Middle School effective October 27, 2014, **Marilyn Miars** and **Melanie Puckett** as school bus drivers for a one year temporary contract for the 2014/2015 school year, and **Nelson Smith** as a school bus driver for a temporary contract effective through the end of the 2014/2015 school year. The Board also approved the following ECA positions: **Christina Gustin** and **Angela Ratliff** as Student Council co-advisors at East Noble Middle School.

D. Leave Requests

Following a motion by Mr. Wicker, and seconded by Dr. Holliday, the Board voted unanimously to approve an unpaid leave of absence for **Michelle Yoder**, first grade teacher at Avilla Elementary School, beginning November 6, 2014 through the end of the 2014/2015 school year.

7. BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on Land for the Middle School Project

As reported by Superintendent Linson:

Good evening and thank you everyone for attending this meeting. The Board called this special meeting to discuss a concern expressed by a resident who attended the public forum last week.

During the past 18 months, the school board has been diligent in their actions to develop a sound and effective plan for the middle school. When you have a building approaching the 100 year mark, challenging decisions have to be made.

We have never said a new Middle School must be built. We have indicated that while the structure is solid, as the building ages more and more repairs and patchwork are being done. We are at a critical point in the life of the building. Before substantial investments are made, it is time to ask: What is the best investment for tax payer's dollars? Costly repairs and replacements are imminent. Is that the best investment...?

Since January 2013, the School Board and administrators have researched, discussed, consulted with experts, visited schools, asked for staff input, and asked for community input. Multiple community meetings have been held, tours of the middle school have been provided, small group, large group, and face to face meetings have been held. Questions from community members too numerous to count have been answered during this time.

All information has been openly and actively shared with community members through this process except land negotiations. The land options had been publically narrowed down to two, as far back as July 16 and included the piece of land selected for the middle school.

Last week, a concerned citizen shared information about a gas line located on the south end of the property. The school Board called this special meeting to address the concerns and share information that we know about this line. At this time, I would like to turn the meeting over to Brian Leitch.

Gas Line Information

Columbia Pipeline Group / Crossroads Pipeline operate and maintain this Gas line on the IN REM property. I have contacts for a Rodney Curtis 419-890-5268 and Russ Johnson 330-721-4163.

1. This 200 mile pipeline runs from Schererville IN to Cygnet OH.
2. Installed in the mid to late 50's with a maximum pressure of 720 psi.
3. Coated steel with welded joints form this into a solid steel line.
4. Pressure will vary daily depending on season and demand but not to exceed 720 psi.
5. Cathodic Protection from rust and corrosion.
 - a. Small electrical current transfers any corrosion to anode rods instead of pipe.
6. Right of way is 66' or 33' from center on both sides of the pipe.
7. Regulated by the Federal Government by CFR title 49
 - a. U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Admin.
8. Aerial Patrols are mandated quarterly. Typically are more frequently than this.
 - a. Looking for discolored or dead vegetation, bubbles in creeks or swamps, pools of discolored liquid on ponds, dense white clouds or fog.
 - b. Equipment on board similar to infrared heat detectors will pick up any kind of leak. Also sensors on board which will monitor the air for any leak.
9. A smart pig also runs through the line to inspect the inside for any defects, cracks, corrosion, etc.

When following this pipeline from Schererville to Cygnet OH I found the following information.

1. LaVille Jr/Sr. high is within 125 yards of this line. Proactive football and baseball fields sit on top of this line.
 - a. Contacted the Director of operations at LaVille and this building was built at a time when the line was dormant but has since been reinstated.
 - b. They are operations as normal. They call 811 before they dig and or burn brush
 - c. Columbia pipeline is very cooperative and helpful in anything they need.
 - d. Line is monitored on a regular basis by air and ground according to the Director of Operations.
2. Central Local schools in Defiance OH also has this line running within 500-600 feet.
3. Pipeline runs approximately 900' south of DeKalb's baseball field
4. Just north of Northwood High School
5. Between S.R. 6 and West Noble Schools.
6. Passes through several housing communities along the way.

In doing this research I have also found out that there is a 30" high pressure line running through Bluffton IN. A new Bluffton High School was built approximately 15 years ago and is very close to the pipeline. The entire community is aware and there are no problems. This pipeline is monitored in the same manner as the others discussed above. When talking with the Superintendent of Bluffton his comment was: "The community was more concerned with the trees removed for the right of way than anything happening to the pipeline. Several good trees were lost."

Quoting from Indiana Pipeline Awareness Association newsletter dated May 2012:

The pipeline infrastructure is one of the safest and most economical ways to distribute natural gas and other refined products. There are about 2 million miles of pipelines across the United States. That is enough pipeline to circle the earth 83 times. Hazardous liquid pipelines consist of roughly 170,000 miles. This includes gathering systems, crude oil and refined products. Natural gas transmission pipelines make up 296,000 miles with more pipelines being added every year. Local distribution companies (LDC) account for approximately 1,900,000 miles of pipelines.

The greatest challenge to operating a safe pipeline is preventing accidents caused by human error or third party damage. Use of local one call center is the best way of preventing damages and maximizing the public's safety. Any excavation requires that you call 811 at least two full working days before you dig.

Pipelines in the United States are regulated by the U. S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). This department establishes rules and standards governing the design, construction, operation, maintenance and safety of interstate pipelines. The pipeline companies operate their systems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Pipeline and local distribution companies regularly monitor their right-of-ways to look for signs of construction encroachment or possible leaks. All pipelines and local distribution companies have an integrity management program. This program is designed to assess and mitigate pipeline risks to reduce both the likelihood and consequences of incidents.

Pipelines exist nearly everywhere in the United States. Chances are pretty good that you live, work or drive by one every day. There are several ways you can see if there is a pipeline in your neighborhood. A marker is used to indicate the approximate location of a pipeline. The most important information on these markers is the company name and the emergency contact phone number. There are three basic types of markers; pipeline marker, casing vent and aerial patrol marker.

The following are a few examples of noticeable signs of a natural gas or pipeline leak: Discolored or dead vegetation along a pipeline easement, a hissing sound caused by a natural gas leak, bubbles in creeks or swampy areas, fire coming out of the ground, gaseous or unusual smell, a pool of discolored liquid on the ground, a dense white cloud or fog.

More information about gas safety awareness can be found at www.safegasindiana.org

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Mrs. Linson continued:

It is apparent that the line is not unique to Kendallville nor is it unique to have a gas line near a school. The critical question is how does the line owner maintain the line and protect the community from potential hazards. Through conversations with school superintendents, business managers, and the line owner, I feel, Brian has answered that question.

We are not here this evening to vote on anything, but rather to continue a practice we started with this project nearly two years ago. Transparency, honesty, and listening to our community. We are here to respond to gas line concerns brought to the Board during the public forum last week.

I want to remind everyone of the referendum process.

- On June 11, 2014, ENSC held a 1028 Hearing to inform the public of the critical elements of a building project.
- The 1028 hearing outlined the maximum cost of the middle school and high school projects, the maximum annual debt services payments, and the maximum number of years for repayment.
- Community members then carried a petition forcing the final approval of the project to the voters on November 4.
- On November 4, voters will vote to approve or not approve replacing a .50 cent per \$100 AV rate with a .35 per \$100 AV tax rate which will allow ENSC to move forward with building a new middle school and complete high school mechanical projects.
- It is important for everyone to remember, the vote is to approve or not approve moving forward with the projects allowing ENSC to issue bonds. Voters are not voting on a footprint, furniture, gymnasiums, or the site for the building.
- If approved on November 4, ENSC will continue to gather input from the community and openly and honestly share any information allowable by law that is related to the projects as we move forward. If you want the truth, ask a school board member, Brian Leitch, or myself. We will tell you the truth! Don't depend on second hand information or rumors.

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- If approved, everyone needs to understand, the work is truly just beginning and the input of the community continues to be an extremely important part of the success of this project.
- There is much to be done to ensure our students, staff, and community have a positive learning environment that fosters academic growth and meets the needs of learners and teachers in the year 2016 and 60+ years beyond.

8. LATE ITEMS:

None

9. COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD

None

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Beall adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m. The Board met for a Work Session following the regular meeting with an Executive Session immediately following to discuss land per I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1. The next Regular Board Meeting will be Wednesday, **October 29, 2014** at the **East Noble Middle School** beginning at **6:00 p.m.**

  
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President

  
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Secretary