

MINUTES OF BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2014

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at the Education Support Center. The following members were present: Mr. D.J. Hines, President; Mr. Roger Whaley, Vice-President; Mr. George Gauntt, Secretary; Mrs. Jan Anderson, Member; Mr. Mark Boone, Member; Mrs. Rebecca Gardenour, Member; and Mrs. Jessica Knable, Member. Also present were the following administrators: Dr. Bruce Hibbard, Superintendent; Dr. Brad Snyder, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Bill Briscoe, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration and Operations; and Mr. Fred McWhorter, Chief Business Officer.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Hines called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Hines asked everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

The public was invited to address the Board on matters of educational importance. Oral complaints regarding specific students and/or personnel will not be heard. School employees are encouraged to contact their immediate supervisor to be heard on specific complaints relating to the terms and status of their employment prior to addressing the Board. Individuals were asked to confine their comments to no more than three minutes. There were sign up sheets near each entrance prior to the start of the meeting.

Mr. Greg Neely, 3408 Chadwood Drive, New Albany, Indiana, discussed the bonus pay for teachers who had an effective or highly effective evaluation during the 2013-2014 and continued employment this school year. With this policy, it leaves out retirees. He feels in the future these people should be considered.

D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The following items were presented for approval:

- Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2014, Executive Session and Regular Session, November 19, 2014, Work Session, November 20, 2014, Executive Session and November 30, 2014, Executive Session;
- Approval of Claims;
- Approval of Staffing Report;
- Approval of Overnight Field Trip Requests from New Albany High School and Hazelwood and Scribner Middle Schools;
- Approve Corporation Treasurer to Make Necessary Year-End Budget Appropriation Transfers;

Board members have received information regarding each item on the consent agenda; however, any member may request that any item be removed from the consent agenda and discussed separately. Mrs. Gardenour asked to remove the Approval of Staffing Report and then she made a motion to approve all remaining items on the consent agenda as follows. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whaley and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

- Minutes of November 17, 2014, Executive Session and Regular Session and November 19, 2014, Work Session as presented.
- Claims beginning #44534 through and including #44987 and payrolls of 11-21-14 and 12-5-14 in the total amount of \$18,215,769.47.
- Overnight Field Trip Requests from New Albany High School and Hazelwood and Scribner Middle Schools as presented.
- Approve Corporation Treasurer to Make Necessary Year-End Budget Appropriation Transfers as presented.

In regard to the Approval of Staffing Report, Mrs. Gardenour asked if the Performance Grant that Mr. Neely spoke about can be bargained at any time. Mr. Briscoe said the Administration began discussion with the Teacher's Association in September. These discussions are going on statewide. Following discussion, Mrs. Gardenour made a motion to approve the Staffing Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Knable and passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Replacement Policy 8510 “Wellness”:

Mr. Briscoe recommended approval of Replacement Policy 8510 “Wellness”. The policy was presented at the last meeting for a first reading. The policy meets all state and federal guidelines as well as supports good eating habits and increased physical activity for students.

Mrs. Knable asked if PTO groups are permitted to bring snacks in for the students as rewards/incentives. Mr. Briscoe said he will distribute the new language to everyone but in the new policy snack items that are recommended will be limited. There will be a committee formed to monitor and evaluate the new policy.

Upon motion by Mr. Gauntt, second by Mr. Whaley, approval was given to Replacement Policy 8510 “Wellness” as presented and recommended. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried with six votes in favor and one against. Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Gauntt, Mr. Boone, Mrs. Gardenour, Mr. Whaley, and Mr. Hines voted in favor and Mrs. Knable voted against.

F. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Green Valley Elementary School Public Hearing - 2014-2015 Priority Status:

Michele Day, Director of Elementary Education, and Brian Kehrer, Principal at Green Valley Elementary School, shared the following data related to the school being identified as “priority status” and outlined specific measures being taken to increase student achievement:

What does priority status mean?

- A school that has been identified as highest need based on the current Indiana Accountability Model.
 - Schools that have been labeled as “F” or schools that have been labeled a “D” following a year labeled as “F”
- Grades are determined by the following factors: performance, growth, participation

The Data - ISTEP+

- Grades 3 and 4 English/Language Arts in 2009 was 54.5, in 2010 was 57.8, in 2011 was 64.4, in 2012 was 71.1, in 2013 was 74.3, and in 2014 was 65.5.
- Grades 3 and 4 Math in 2009 was 48.2, in 2010 was 56.8, in 2011 was 69.5, in 2012 was 75.5, in 2013 was 73.8, and in 2014 was 60.0.

How to Exit Priority Status

- To exit priority status a school must meet one of two requirements:
 - Maintain an accountability grade of “C” or higher for at least two consecutive school years OR
 - Earn the status of being a reward school (high performing, high growth with an accountability grade of “A”) for one year.
- In both scenarios, schools will continue to implement intervention improvement plans for three years so they can sustain the improvements and progress that have been made.

Accountability Model: Mixed Messages

- High Performing Schools: FKE and Greenville scored 90% and above, named 4 Star Schools in 2012 but labeled as “B” schools
- Growth is measured on a bell curve comparing students to unknown peer groups and labeling them as low, typical or high growth
- Green Valley received the “Excellence in Performance” grant based on 2013 data
- Green Valley has qualified to apply for the “Excellence in Performance” grant based on 2014 data

Strategies for Increasing Academic Achievement

- Continue to Clarify Core Purpose
 - 3 Big Ideas - Learning, Collaboration, Results
 - 4 Essential Questions

- Continue to Increase Teacher Expertise and Strengthen Core Instruction
 - Number Sense and Conceptual Understanding Focus
 - Math Teacher Leaders
 - Jan Richardson Visit
 - Literacy Coach
 - Reading Intervention Team
- Facilitate Early Intervention
 - “Begin” Kindergarten
 - Kindergarten Lunch
 - Letter Tracing
- Intentional Focus on Data and Progress Monitoring: Knowing students by name and by need
 - Leadership Team Meetings
 - Grade Level Team Meetings
- Increase Learning Time
 - Breakfast in the classroom
 - Uninterrupted blocks
 - After school support for struggling students
 - Intersession for struggling students
 - Acceleration time for Literacy and Math
 - Two-Hour Delay schedule
- Facilitate Behavioral Interventions
 - Family and Children’s Place Partnership
 - Composure Time
 - Conscious Discipline
- Enhance Parent Involvement
 - K and 1st Grade parent visit days
 - Home-School Liaison
 - Math and Literacy parent nights
 - Math Fact Mastery Games for home
 - 4-H Partnership

Following the presentation, Board members and administrators recognized and thanked the faculty and staff at Green Valley Elementary School for all their hard work and dedication to the Green Valley community. They also thanked the faculty and staff members from all the other schools that were present at the meeting to show their support. Board members asked school staff and faculty and central office administrators to keep them informed of anything they can do to help in this process.

Receive Update on Referendum;

Dr. Snyder shared that a work session was held with Board members in November to review the upcoming referendum. Central office administrators have been visiting with staff members at each school to share this information. Most meetings have been well attended and have been well-received. The intent is to bring a recommendation to the Board on January 12, 2015. At that meeting, we will have a public hearing and hear any concerns/questions about our direction.

As other business, Dr. Hibbard shared that we are one of the top districts in the State - we are Number 20. The next closest in this area is Lanesville and they are ranked #90. There is only one district in our “peer group” that is ranked above us. Also, a team from Schools to Watch recently visited Highland Hills Middle School and designated them 11th in the State of Indiana.

With no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce A. Hibbard, Ph.D., Superintendent