

MINUTES OF BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES MEETING  
OCTOBER 21, 2019

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session on Monday, October 21, 2019, at the Education Support Center. The following members were present: Mrs. Elizabeth Galligan, President; Mrs. Jenny Higbie, Vice-President; Mrs. Elaine Murphy, Secretary; Mr. Joseph L. Brown, Member; Mrs. Donna Corbett, Member; Mrs. Rebecca Gardenour, Member; and Mrs. Lee Ann Wiseheart, Member. Also present were the following administrators: Dr. Brad Snyder, Superintendent; and Mr. Bill Briscoe, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration and Operations.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mrs. Galligan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**B. RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mrs. Galligan asked everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. RECOGNITIONS:**

**Recognize Transportation Mechanics for 1<sup>st</sup> Place at IC Bus University Technician Skills Competition;**

Mr. Street shared that our three transportation mechanics, along with the shop supervisor, are responsible for servicing over 100 buses. These individuals also serve as substitute bus drivers. This summer the mechanics traveled to Tulsa, OK for advanced training. At the end of the week-long training, a technician skills competition is held with all technicians from around the country and our technicians finished first place. The Board and administrators congratulated them on this great accomplishment.

**Recognize Tony Duffy for "On My Way Pre-K" Contributions;**

Ms. Erica Woodward with Indiana's On My Way Pre-K program thanked Mr. Duffy, Dr. Jensen, and Dr. Griffin for helping to spread the word about this opportunity. And, on behalf of the State of Indiana, she thanked Mr. Duffy for his dedication to this program and to the families in Floyd County. Mr. Duffy understands and works tirelessly to provide support to all programs in the area to make this On My Way Pre-K program successful and to let the community know of this opportunity for free preschool for families in Floyd County.

Mrs. Murphy added that Mr. Duffy has always been one of the most conscientious, student-centered educators that she has known and congratulated him.

**D. 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. Len Krebs addressed the Board regarding the recommendation to enter into a contract with BSN Sports located in Texas. He outlined several reasons why he feels this is a bad idea and shared a cost analysis.

Ms. Barbara Bridgwater shared that recently Our Place, in which the school corporation works with on drug and alcohol prevention and education, contracted with her to work with the middle schools and high schools regarding vaping and E-cigarette prevention and education. She is not competing with them or taking over what they are currently doing; she is just playing one part in that education.

**E. PUBLIC HEARING:**

The regular session meeting was closed at 6:20 p.m. and a public hearing was opened regarding an additional appropriation.

**Conduct Additional Appropriations Hearing;**

Mr. Street shared that the district is asking for an additional appropriation of \$253,000 to the Debt Service fund. This was done in September 2019; however, this additional appropriation is different so he asked that the September resolution be rescinded and replaced with the resolution being presented tonight. The difference is because we received information from the DLGF last week that the \$10,000,000 appropriation in the Education Fund does not need to be appropriated because everyone is going to do the same thing.

Mrs. Higbie made a motion to rescind the resolution approved in September 2019 and instead accept the resolution presented here tonight. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gardenour and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

With no questions or comments regarding the additional appropriation, the public hearing was closed at 6:23 p.m. and the regular meeting was re-opened.

**F. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2019, Executive Session and Regular Session;
- Approval of Claims;
- Approval of Payroll;
- Approval of Monthly Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund;
- Approval of Staffing Report;
- Acceptance of Donations to New Albany High School;
- Approval of Referendum Change Orders;
- Approval of Field Trip Requests from Floyd Central High School and New Albany High School;
- Approval to Award Bid for NAHS Chiller Project;
- Approval to Declare Technology Items as Salvage.

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. With no one requesting to remove any items, Mrs. Gardenour made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda as presented and recommended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Murphy.

Mrs. Wiseheart asked, for clarification, could the NAHS Chiller Project awarded for \$398,701 have been paid for with “extra” referendum money rather than being paid from the Capital Projects Fund. Dr. Snyder said yes, it could have and a portion of it is being paid for from referendum money. Following that discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of September 16, 2019, Executive Session and Regular Session as presented.
- Claims beginning check #18445 through and including #18773, EFT #9936 through and including EFT #10077, and payrolls of 9-13-19, 9-27-19, and 10-11-19 in the total amount of \$15,460,508.38 as presented.
- Payroll of 9-27-19 in the amount of \$2,593,004.43 and 10-11-19 in the amount of \$2,606,442.18 as presented.
- Monthly Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund as presented.
- Staffing Report as presented.
- Acceptance of Donations to New Albany High School as presented.
- Referendum Change Orders as presented.
- Field Trip Requests from Floyd Central High School and New Albany High School as presented.
- Award Bid for NAHS Chiller Project as presented.
- Declare Technology Items as Salvage as presented.

**G. ACTION ITEMS:**

**Consider 2020 Budget Adoption:**

Mr. Street presented the following:

**Capital Projects Fund Plan 2020-2022 Adoption Resolution:**

The Capital Projects Plan is a three-year plan. A public hearing was held at the September School Board meeting. The project list for 2020 includes air handler, window replacements, roof maintenance, flooring replacement, paving, property acquisition, pool filters. The 2021 list includes chillers, intercom, boilers, wallcoverings. In 2022, the list includes chillers, boiler replacements, restrooms, flooring and paint, and wallcoverings.

Upon motion by Mrs. Murphy, second by Mrs. Higbie, approval was given to the Capital Projects Fund Plan 2020-2022 Adoption Resolution as presented and recommended. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

**2020 Bus Replacement Plan Adoption Resolution;**

The bus replacement plan is a five-year plan; however, we replace buses every 12 years. A public hearing was held at the September School Board meeting. A total of \$1,449,000 was budgeted for 2020 and buses will be ordered soon. For 2021, \$1,275,000 was budgeted, \$1,265,000 was budgeted for 2022, \$1,385,000 was budgeted for 2023, and \$1,500,000 was budgeted for 2024.

Mrs. Gardenour asked if the buses will have air conditioning. Mr. Street said yes, the new buses will be equipped with air conditioning and seat belts. They have met with the drivers and are getting mixed reviews regarding the seat belts and parents have been supportive. They will look at ways of having a better experience with the seat belts and continue discussions on areas where it is working and areas it is not. However, when watching the safety videos, it looks like seat belts are the way to go. Air conditioning has been a good experience.

Upon motion by Mrs. Higbie, second by Mrs. Murphy, approval was given to the 2020 Bus Replacement Plan Adoption Resolution as presented and recommended. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**2020 Budget Adoption;**

Mr. Street reviewed the information that was presented during the public hearing in September. We adopt a higher levy and higher tax rate to protect and make sure we get that due to unforeseen variables. The adopted budget for Rainy Day is \$2,000,000; Debt Service is \$11,113,617 with an adopted tax levy of \$10,500,000 and adopted tax rate of 0.3621; Referendum Debt Fund is \$6,611,000 with an adopted tax levy of \$7,500,000 and adopted tax rate of 0.2586; Education Fund adopted budget is \$84,170,500; and Operations Fund adopted budget is \$32,528,700 with an adopted tax levy of \$19,500,000 and adopted tax rate of 0.6724. The total tax rate being advertised is 1.2931. Our county's AV did increase by approximately 4%; therefore, we should see the tax rate remain the same or lower for 2020 than 2019.

Upon motion by Mrs. Higbie, second by Mrs. Corbett, approval was given to the 2020 Budget Adoption as presented and recommended. The motion unanimously carried following a roll call vote.

**Consider Purchase of School Buses;**

Mr. Street recommended approval to begin the purchasing process of school buses so we can have in the spring of 2020. Last year, buses came in after school started and then drivers had to change bus numbers which was confusing for some students. The list includes one yellow minibus, two white activity buses, one white transit minibus, one special education front lift with air brakes, one special education rear lift with air brakes, five 72-passenger with hydraulic brakes, and three 72-passenger with air brakes. The estimated total cost is \$1,446,469.66.

Upon motion by Mrs. Murphy, second by Mrs. Higbie, approval was given to purchase school buses as presented. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

**Consider Mt. Tabor Athletic Field Construction Contracts;**

Administration intended to bring a recommendation forward tonight; however, due to a funding issue they are asking to table tonight and will bring back a recommendation at the next meeting. Mr. Street explained that the district has been saving for this project for a few years within the Capital Projects Fund; however, now with the new Operations Fund there is a restriction on the amount that can be spent on a sporting facility. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$2.7 million. Administration has looked at two viable options. One option is to cash flow the project to Rainy Day as that fund does not have restrictions. As funds are spent out of Rainy Day for this project, we could then in turn, over time, transfer the money back into Rainy Day so it is not truly affected. There would be no cost with doing this option. The second option would be to issue a General Obligation Bond, but there would be costs associated with this. He estimated the cost to be approximately \$60,000-\$80,000 range. The GOB option could be done in a tax neutral way. He asked Board members to contact him with questions or with ideas on which option they prefer. Administration is hoping to bring a recommendation forward at the November meeting. Administratively, they feel the Rainy Day is the better option.

Following this discussion, Board members commented they hate to go through a General Obligation Bond if we have the money on hand that has been allocated. With this phased project, it seems more manageable using Rainy Day.

**Consider Naming Recognition for NAHS Classroom;**

Mr. Kelly was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but it was his wishes to continue forward with the approval. When the signage is ready, an event can be held at the school with him to give him the honor and praise he deserves.

Dr. Ginkins recommended approval to name the WNAS radio studio after Mr. Lee Kelly. Mr. Kelly worked at WNAS for 41 years and during that time spent countless hours covering everything from snow days early in the morning to thousands of basketball and football games all over the state of Indiana and much in between such as election coverages. His reputation is “the voice of the Bulldogs” and he continues to mentor the students.

Mrs. Murphy commented that he has had a positive impact on many, many students and she is glad this is being done.

Mr. Brown added he wholeheartedly votes for this, but would like to have a public recognition when Mr. Kelly can be present.

Upon motion by Mrs. Gardenour, second by Mrs. Wiseheart, approval was given to name the WNAS radio studio in honor of Mr. Lee Kelly as recommended. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

**Consider Purchasing Agreement with BSN Sports Network;**

Dr. Jensen received direction from the Board last month to go back and renegotiate the agreement with BSN. He is here tonight to present the revised agreement. The agreements have been reviewed by Amy Matthews, our school attorney and also by Michelle Cooper, School Board attorney. He shared the following revisions:

- On page 1, section 3.1, the word “shall” has been changed to “may” so we are no longer obligated with the word “shall.”
- On page 2, section 3.2, the statement “varsity game uniforms will be purchased from BSN” has been removed and now says “may be purchased.” Also, the statement regarding uniform replacement was deleted from the agreement.
- In regard to first right of refusal on purchase of uniforms, BSN wants us to give them the opportunity to bid. We will continue to reach to our local vendors. Therefore, there is no longer a first right of refusal.
- Coaches do not have to wear apparel from BSN or Nike on the sidelines.
- BSN has agreed to provide \$13,000 “bonus/seed monies” in branding garb plus the opportunity to earn this \$13,000 each year the life of the agreement.
- When a school’s expenditures exceed over \$75,000 a year, the school will receive an additional four (4%) percent rebate on purchases in the form of branding materials.
- The agreement is for five (5) years and can be terminated by either party by March 31<sup>st</sup> of any given year of the agreement.

Mrs. Murphy confirmed all coaches have the option to purchase from any vendor they wish to choose. Dr. Jensen said yes as long as they are within the budget.

Mrs. Corbett asked if there is a minimum that must be purchased from BSN in order to receive the \$13,000 and Dr. Jensen said there is no minimum amount. She asked what is in this for BSN to just give us \$13,000. Dr. Jensen said obviously they hope coaches will purchase from them. She commented we do not currently have strong policy and procedures defining how we manage gifts, rebates and such. She feels if we are going to be entering in to these types of contracts, we need tighter policy and procedures on how it is handled. Dr. Jensen said he will work with the athletic directors and Mr. Briscoe on this.

Mrs. Wiseheart commented she is grateful our students have not had to pay an activity fee in order to play sports like is done in some districts. She understands the athletic directors and coaches have to work hard to “get the best deal.”

Mrs. Higbie said deleting the first right of refusal language was important to her as well as individual coaches make the decision as long as it is within the scope of their budget.

Mr. Brown commented he has read the agreements and listened to comments made tonight. If it was first right of refusal, he would vote against completely because we are giving them the business effectively. But, it is not in there. We do not have to purchase from them; we do not have to wear Nike; we can cancel at March 31<sup>st</sup>. If this is approved, the district will receive \$26,000 in merchandise. If it is not approved, the schools will get zero and BSN still has the same opportunity to bid because all vendors are given the opportunity to bid.

Mrs. Gardenour stated that nothing is free; there are freight charges. In her opinion, we are paying more money with BSN.

Following discussion, Mrs. Higbie made a motion to approve the purchasing agreement with BSN Sports Network as presented and recommended. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried with five votes in favor and two votes against. Mrs. Higbie, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Corbett, and Mrs. Galligan voted in favor and Mrs. Gardenour and Mrs. Wiseheart voted against.

**Consider 2020 Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance Renewal;**

Mrs. Corson shared that we have negotiated medical health insurance rates with carriers through the RFP process. For health insurance, Humana, our incumbent carrier, provided the most competitive rate at an increase of 3.93% for all four of our currently offered plans for the 2020 plan year. Delta Dental will have no increase for two plan years. CompDent dental will increase 3.0% for the 2020 plan year. Vision insurance will see a reduction in premiums between 8.0% - 17.49% with the carrier decision to be determined after a comparison of the providers in both Anthem and Humana networks. Life and LTD insurance rates will have a zero percent increase in premiums for the 2020 plan year.

Upon motion by Mrs. Murphy, second by Mrs. Corbett, approval was given to the 2020 health, dental, and vision insurance renewal as presented and recommended. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

**Consider Revision of Policy 3213 & 4213 “Student Supervision and Welfare”;**

Mr. Briscoe recommended approval of the policies which were presented for a first reading at the last meeting. The recommended changes, which Administration feels strengthens the policy, reads “a professional staff member (or non-certified staff member) shall immediately report to a building administrator any accident, safety hazard, sexual misconduct, invasion of privacy, or other potentially harmful condition or situation s/he detects.”

Upon motion by Mrs. Wiseheart, second by Mrs. Gardenour, approval was given to revision of Policy 3213 & 4213 “Student Supervision and Welfare” as presented and recommended. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**H. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Receive Update for Potential 2020 Safety Referendum;**

Dr. Snyder shared that public discussion was held with the Board in August regarding the idea of potentially conducting a public school safety referendum. This is a new community option that the Indiana General Assembly has given to local school boards. The Board could put a ballot question for the voters to approve or not approve to obtain revenue specifically for student and staff safety.

In September, the Board hired professional service companies to help us with the task. He emphasized strongly it is time for us concentrate and start working on the particulars/specifics if we are going to do this. He shared copies of and reviewed the timeline. Highlights include:

- In order to have on the ballot for May 5, 2020, election, the February 10, 2020, School Board meeting will be the last opportunity to adopt a resolution in order to get approved by the DLGF and the local election commission.
- The day after the resolution is adopted, the school corporation “must stand down” and cannot use their resources to influence the outcome of an election. The work will have to be done by volunteers or a Political Action Committee.
- Language says the maximum the Board can ask for is 10 cents. The higher the rate and effort for the taxpayer, the more safety and opportunity for our students and staff. We must find a balance. He did have a meeting with central office cabinet members and had good discussions. He suggested using time during the November 25<sup>th</sup> School Board work session for administrators to share “the program/budget” with board members.
- He has started to develop a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document and shared with cabinet members for their input.
- Meetings will be scheduled during December and January to share information with all staff to educate them and discuss their concerns.
- Scheduled a meeting with “high flying” community individuals (advisory committee) to share idea and discuss plan. The idea would be to meet every two weeks and grow the committee. Then, if the Board does approve a resolution on February, we would have a body ready to accept the hand-off.
- A meeting is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> with the first responders. This is another opportunity to educate and receive their input.

- Considering developing a key communicators group and meet with them. Also, considering conducting a town hall type meeting potentially in December or January. Could have as part of regular board meeting or have a stand alone meeting.

Mrs. Corbett said she agrees that it is hard to get people to come out and asked if a town hall meeting could be live streamed and people call in and ask questions and provide input. She also suggested doing a survey monkey. Mrs. Galligan agreed that we would get better attendance if coupled with something else. Mrs. Wiseheart added that December most likely isn't a good time to have if we want high participation.

Mrs. Wiseheart asked when the district will receive information back from Winston Terrell Group regarding their survey that is guiding the Board on if the community is even open to this. Dr. Snyder said he is under the impression we did not purchase that service - that is an additional \$6,500 for 250 replies. He can check with them to clarify. If we did not purchase, we still have time to do. Mrs. Wiseheart said, in her opinion, we have to do that. She doesn't want to go out and ask for this referendum if the community is not going to support it. Mr. Brown commented that he doesn't know if the community can give an honest answer because they do not know what they would be paying for. The administration and board needs to decide what programs they are including before doing the survey. Dr. Snyder suggested sharing information with the Board at the November 25<sup>th</sup> work session regarding the program/budget/etc. and then putting out a survey in December or January and get results to the Board before the February meeting. Mrs. Wiseheart commented that she would like the survey done that this company did the last time we won the referendum so we know what the community wants. She feels the survey is very important because of the information they received from it during the last referendum. Mrs. Murphy agrees that the more information the Board has, the stronger plan they can build.

Mrs. Gardenour asked if there are already three Board members who have expressed interest in attending the meeting with first responders next week. Mrs. Wiseheart said when the Board was having discussions in the meeting about the strategic plan and the pillars, she expressed interest in being involved in the school safety. Her feelings are hurt that she was not invited to the meeting with the advisory committee because this is the one thing she said she would do. Moving forward, anything to do with the safety and school referendum or school safety in general, she would like to be considered to be on that committee. Mrs. Wiseheart, Mrs. Gardenour, and Mrs. Corbett will attend the first responders meeting.

#### **I. MISCELLANEOUS:**

Mrs. Wiseheart reminded everyone of the City of New Albany Trunk or Treat scheduled for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

With no further business to be brought before the Board, Mrs. Corbett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wiseheart.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Schindler, Recording Secretary