

MINUTES OF BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2020

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2020, at the Education Support Center. The following members were present: Mr. Joseph L. Brown, Mrs. Donna Corbett, Mrs. Elizabeth Galligan, Mrs. Rebecca Gardenour; Mrs. Jenny Higbie; Mrs. Elaine Murphy; and Mrs. Lee Ann Wiseheart. 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. Murphy 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.

Mrs. Barbara Bridgewater addressed the Board regarding the potential safety referendum and is pleased to see that continuation of and adding to the mental health programs are included in the proposed budget.

**D. SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION POLICY 0154:**

**Consider 2020 Slate of Officers:**

Mrs. Galligan opened the floor for nominations for President and she made a motion to nominate Mrs. Murphy as President of the Board of School Trustees for 2020. Mrs. Gardenour made a motion to nominate Mrs. Wiseheart. With no additional nominations, a roll call vote was taken on the first nomination of Mrs. Murphy. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried with five votes in favor and two votes against. Mrs. Higbie, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Wiseheart, and Mrs. Galligan voted in favor. Mrs. Corbett and Mrs. Gardenour voted against.

On behalf of the Administration and Board, Dr. Snyder presented Mrs. Galligan with a personalized gavel as a token of appreciation for serving as Board President during 2019.

Mrs. Murphy then opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President and she made a motion to nominate Mr. Brown as Vice-President of the Board of School Trustees for 2020. Mr. Brown made a motion to nominate Mrs. Wiseheart. With no additional nominations, a roll call vote was taken on the first nomination of Mr. Brown. The motion carried with five votes in favor and two votes against. Mrs. Higbie, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Wiseheart, and Mrs. Galligan voted in favor. Mrs. Corbett and Mrs. Gardenour voted against.

Mrs. Murphy then opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Mrs. Higbie made a motion to nominate Mrs. Galligan as Secretary of the Board of School Trustees for 2020. Mrs. Gardenour made a motion to nominate Mrs. Wiseheart. With no additional nominations, a roll call vote was taken on the first nomination of Mrs. Galligan. Following the roll call vote, the motion carried with six votes in favor and one vote against. Mrs. Higbie, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Corbett, Mrs. Wiseheart, and Mrs. Galligan voted yes and Mrs. Gardenour voted no.

**Consider Adoption of Reorganizational Meeting Resolution:**

The following resolution from 2019 was presented:

*WHEREAS, Indiana Law and the Board's Bylaws require that certain actions be taken at the Board's organizational meeting; IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:*

- 1. That the Board hereby designates Attachment A listing as the day, place, and time for regular meetings;*
- 2. That the following persons are authorized to use the safe deposit box: Dr. Brad Snyder, Superintendent; Mr. Chris Street, Chief Business Officer; Mrs. Cindy Maitland, Deputy Treasurer; and the Corporation Attorney;*

3. *That the bylaws and policies printed and codified in the comprehensive document entitled "Bylaws and Policies of the New Albany Floyd County Consolidated School Board" are hereby adopted;*
4. *That the President of the Board is authorized to appoint individual Board members to any necessary committees, or as representatives to various organizations;*
  - 4a. *That Elaine Murphy is appointed as School Board representative on the New Albany City Redevelopment Commission;*
  - 4b. *That Joseph Brown is appointed as School Board representative on the Floyd County Redevelopment Commission;*
  - 4c. *That Rebecca Gardenour is appointed as School Board representative on the Georgetown Redevelopment Commission;*
5. *That Rebecca Gardenour is appointed as legislative liaison to the Indiana School Boards Association;*
6. *That Jenny Higbie is appointed as delegate representative to the Indiana School Boards Association;*
7. *That Lewis & Kappes is appointed as Board's legal counsel;*
8. *That Mr. Chris Street is appointed as this Corporation's Treasurer, Mrs. Cindy Maitland as Deputy Treasurer, Mrs. Tammy Lamon as Deputy Treasurer of Payroll, and Ms. Pam Schindler as this Board's Recording Secretary.*

Discussion followed. For 2020, Mrs. Murphy will remain as representative on the New Albany City Redevelopment Commission, Mr. Brown will remain as representative on the Floyd County Redevelopment Commission, and Mrs. Gardenour will remain as representative on the Georgetown Redevelopment Commission. Mrs. Wiseheart will now serve as the Legislative Liaison to the Indiana School Boards Association and Mrs. Corbett will now serve as the Delegate Representative to the Indiana School Boards Association. Lewis & Kappes will remain as the Board's legal counsel.

Upon motion by Mrs. Galligan, second by Mr. Brown, approval was given to the revised Reorganizational Meeting Resolution as suggested. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

#### **E. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2019, Executive Sessions and Regular Session;
- Approval of Claims;
- Approval of Payroll;
- Approval of Monthly Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund;
- Approval of Staffing Report;
- Approval of Contract with Martin Travel for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington, D.C. Trip;
- Acceptance of Donations to New Albany High School;
- Acceptance of Substantial Donation to S. Ellen Jones Elementary School;
- Acceptance of Donation to Prosser's Automotive Technology Department;
- Approval of Field Trip Requests from Prosser, FCHS, and NAHS;
- Approval of Resolution to Transfer Amounts from Education Fund to the Operations Fund (Recurring Monthly);
- Approval of Referendum Change Orders;
- Approval of Change Order #1 for NAHS Baseball/Softball Field Project.

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 submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

- Minutes of December 16, 2019, Executive Sessions and Regular Session as submitted.
- Claims beginning check #19482 through and including #19662 and EFT #10365 through and including #10436 and payroll of 12-20-2019 and 1-3-2020 in the total amount of \$22,041,405.60 as submitted.
- Payroll of 1-3-2020 in the amount of \$2,648,717.73 as submitted.
- Monthly Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund as submitted.
- Staffing Report as submitted.
- Contract with Martin Travel for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington, D.C. Trip as submitted.
- Acceptance of Donations to New Albany High School as submitted
- Acceptance of Substantial Donation to S. Ellen Jones Elementary School as submitted.

- Acceptance of Donation to Prosser’s Automotive Technology Department as submitted.
- Field Trip Requests from Prosser, FCHS, and NAHS as submitted.
- Resolution to Transfer Amounts from Education Fund to the Operations Fund (Recurring Monthly) as submitted.
- Referendum Change Orders as submitted.
- Change Order #1 for NAHS Baseball/Softball Field Project as submitted.

Mrs. Gardenour asked Dr. Snyder to send letter acknowledging the very generous donation from Northside Christian Church. Mrs. Murphy will work with Dr. Lanoue and Dr. Snyder and send on behalf of the school corporation.

In regard to the change order for NAHS baseball/softball field project, Mrs. Murphy thanked Mr. Wiseheart for bringing forward this change order that will save the corporation over \$66,000.

#### **F. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **Receive Information to Discuss Final Form of Public Safety Referendum Question:**

Dr. Snyder shared if the school corporation intends to include a public policy question on the May 5<sup>th</sup> ballot, the School Board needs to consider taking action at the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mrs. Jane Herndon, legal counsel, provided an update on the question and where we go from here.

Mrs. Herndon shared copies of the proposed resolution that will be presented for approval in February. Embedded in the resolution is the form of the ballot question at this point. The resolution also authorizes the school administration to work with the Department of Local Government Finance to make sure the question is acceptable to them. Statute requires this to be done no later than February 21<sup>st</sup>. In order to get that accomplished, the administration would like to send the question to the DLGF in advance giving them time to review and ask any questions. Then, if and when, the School Board decides to move forward, the question can be sent to them officially and get their response quickly.

Board members were given the opportunity to share questions or concerns.

Mrs. Wiseheart suggested adding the words “but not limited to” after the statement “. . .for the purpose of funding social, emotional, safety, and security needs for all students and staffing including. . .”. She feels the wording as stated limits us to only those things. From the last referendum, the administration and Board need to do a better job of educating the public so she feels words need to be specific and purposeful.

Mrs. Gardenour asked how much money will be generated each year with the \$0.085 cents ask. Dr. Snyder said it will generate approximately \$3.1 million each year.

Board members suggested more specifics in what “physical safety and security improvements” will look like, i.e. how much will it cost, etc. How can they ensure the community the money will be used only for safety? They feel it is important to be transparent. Mrs. Herndon said this is a maximum authorization. As the Board puts together the budgets each year, they can look to see if they want to levy the full amount of \$0.085. Dr. Snyder added that the General Assembly limits the use to nine purposes only and money cannot be used outside of those purposes.

Mr. Brown suggested changing the order of items the money will be used for listing the “biggest” (physical things) first. Mrs. Galligan commented that this was a huge discussion in the Lunch & Learn meetings and it was suggested putting what people would know and recognize first. Mrs. Higbie added she likes having the SRO’s listed first. She feels this will resonate with people quickly.

Mrs. Corbett suggested deleting the words “for faculty and staff” in letter D and just say “professional development/training which focuses on proactive safety strategies.” She feels professional development and training includes everyone and this would make less wordy. Mrs. Higbie added she likes that the wording stipulates that training is not just for faculty, but all staff. Mrs. Wiseheart suggested using the word “employees.”

Mrs. Herndon suggested Board members send additional comments to Mrs. Murphy by the end of the week. They will use those comments and create another draft to send to the DLGF.

In regard to website information, Dr. Griffin shared that four links will be put on the corporation website: one main link that says “safety referendum” will be on the main page. Also included will be a Frequently Asked Questions link, a

referendum investments link that goes in to specifics on what the money will specifically be used for over the course of eight years and also a tax calculator, a link listing the permitted and prohibited activities of NAFC employees and board members with regards to the referendum, and also a news link which will include written or video information about the referendum.

Dr. Snyder then introduced Misty Ronau who will lead the Political Action Committee (PAC). She feels this referendum is an opportunity for the school corporation to provide prevention and intervention to our kids who need services this day and age that our federal government is not keeping pace with. This referendum is an opportunity for our community as a whole to invest in the children who are the future of Floyd County. She believes when schools ask for help, it is the community's responsibility to act, which is why she is proud to serve as the chair for the Safety for our Schools Floyd County PAC (SOS Floyd County PAC). The PAC will begin work in support of the referendum if and when the Board takes action to approve the referendum effort.

Dr. Snyder added that the survey process will begin next week and conclude within ten days and results will be shared as soon as they are available. He reminded everyone of the two town hall meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. at FCHS and Wednesday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Prosser. And, assuming the Board moves forward on February 10, he also is working on scheduling a press conference on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. featuring Misty Ronau and other community members.

#### **G. MISCELLANEOUS:**

Mrs. Sally Jensen shared that the demographic study preliminary report is complete. Administrators will be reviewing with representatives from Davis Demographics on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Once the draft is final, it will be emailed to Board members prior to the January 27 work session.

Mrs. Gardenour recognized Mrs. Sharon Jones for the recent newspaper article regarding mentoring. She appreciates all the work all the mentors do as we know it takes one caring adult for these kids.

Mrs. Murphy reminded everyone of the MLK Dinner scheduled for Tuesday, January 14 at Northside Christian Church at 6:00 p.m.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to be brought before the Board during regular session, Mrs. Galligan made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Higbie. Mrs. Murphy then opened the Board of Finance meeting.

### **BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING**

#### **Establishing Officers and Meeting Date:**

The Board bylaws establish the officers of the Board of Finance as the same as the regular school board officers and the meeting to be held in January. There is no recommendation to change this practice.

Upon motion by Mrs. Higbie, second by Mrs. Corbett approval was given to establish the Board of Finance officers as the same as the regular school board officers. The motion carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

#### **Review Investment Policy 0151.1;**

There were no recommended changes to the existing policy. It is currently in accordance with the State Statute.

#### **Review and Acceptance of Investment Report;**

Mr. Street shared that during 2019, all Corporation funds were invested in accordance with Board Policy 6144. The Corporation is authorized to contract with a depository for the operation of a cash management system. Currently, our main operating account is with German American Bank. We also have deposits on hand with Teachers Credit Union and the State of Indiana authorized Trust Indiana.

Our interest earned for calendar year 2019 was \$676,574.80. Typically, we use a combination of a cash management system as well as CD investments. The Fed Funds rate had been consistently increasing after stagnation at .25% from 2008-2015. In 2019, we are three decreases in the Fed Funds rate. We saw an increase of approximately 9% in interest

revenue from 2018 to 2019. The increase is modest as compared to the previous two years. We expect interest revenue to decrease in 2020, in part because of lower cash balances due to the spending down referendum funds and expected steady interest rates from the Fed.

Our school corporation is in solid financial shape at the end of 2019. Revenue is increasing due to steadily increasing ADM count and increasing local assessed valuation of the property tax base. Cash balances are within a prudent range in the local funds. Recent balance increases are partly due to referendum cash and delayed projects. Some of the surplus balances will be spent down in 2020.

School financing remains volatile from year to year. While NAFCS is in solid financial shape at the end of 2019, a decrease in ADM (likely given February count), a recession that would hinder state tuition derived from sales tax, a decrease in local assessed valuation, or an increase in the property tax circuit breaker could tighten margins very quickly.

It is important to the cognizant of increasing ongoing costs and obligations. Due to recent raises for employee groups, all departments are encouraged to be resourceful with the use of school funds as we enter the 2020 budget year.

Following the presentation, Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the Investment Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Corbett and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

With no further business for the Board, the Board of Finance Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Schindler, Recording Secretary