

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF  
PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA**

January 17, 2017

The Board of Education of Perry Township Schools, Marion County, Indiana, held a public work session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at Perry Township Education Center, 6548 Orinoco Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46227 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Education members present:

**Kenneth J. Mertz**, Board President  
**Edward T. Denning**, Board Vice President  
**Jon P. Morris**, Board Secretary  
**Emily Hartman**, Board Member  
**Steve Johnson**, Board Member  
**Stephen M. Maple**, Board Member  
**Charles R. Mercer, Jr.**, Board Member

Administrative Staff present:

**Mr. Pat Mapes**, Acting Superintendent and Associate Superintendent  
**Mrs. Vickie Carpenter**, Assistant Superintendent of Foundational Learning, Pre K-5  
**Mr. Bob Bohannon**, Assistant Superintendent of Career Preparation, 6-12  
**Mr. Mike Bagley**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Mr. Matthew Willey**, Chief Technology Officer  
**Mrs. Rhonda Jones-Jointer**, Director of Human Resources  
**Mr. Louis Norris**, Associate Director of Human Relations/Student Services

Mr. Mertz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Mertz thanked the public for their input. We heard from elementary teachers and parents. As a board, we have to look at all of the information and how it affects each grade level and all that is involved with each group. The board took the questions and comments presented to them from community and staff and asked for answers to those questions and concerns. Thank you to the Perry Education Association who reviewed the plan and provided their input.

Mr. Mapes presented information and data on a three-tier bus schedule.

Ms. Cheryl Gonzalez, a Jeremiah Gray parent stated she is a single parent who is concerned about the idle time for her elementary child before school and in addition paying for after school care. At this time, she does not have to pay for before school care due to a flexible work schedule. If the bus schedule changes, I will have to pay for before school care and I do not have the money. She is concerned about kids being tired, doing homework at home, after school activities and dinner all in a shortened time period.

Mrs. Cindy Amaro, parent of a daughter who attends Mary Bryan and a son who will attend kindergarten next year at Jeremiah Gray Kindergarten Academy stated she has a concern having children in two locations to pick up and drop off and after school activities.

Mr. Charles Fulton stated an elementary student is very different than a high school student. One of our concerns is an increase in child care cost. Can something be worked out with the YMCA for a prorated rate? It was already a challenge for our child to go to school at 8:50 a.m. with our work schedules. I agree with what has been stated about elementary students and developmental needs more so than high school. Fifteen minutes will increase our childcare costs. Also, the YMCA does not help children with their homework; the children play.

Ms. Gonzalez stated the YMCA childcare charges by the hour. Unfortunately, they do not prorate in 15 minutes increments. She stated there is no enrichment at the YMCA; the kids color or play in the gym. She stated \$240 for a single parent is a lot of money and where is she supposed to get that money?

Ms. Shelly Haag has a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Jeremiah Gray. The change in time will not be conducive for my child. She gets on a bus before 7:00 a.m. In the past we tried YMCA child care program, but they do not help the child with homework; it's play time. Our daughter has been diagnosed with ADHD. Younger children will not be concentrating at 2:30 p.m. or 3:55 p.m. in the afternoon. By lunch, they are done. Also, children are exhausted if they have extracurricular activities. I do not agree with starting elementary students at 9:00 a.m.

Madison Gomez, a junior at Southport High School, stated she attended the YMCA child care program when she was younger. She recommended paying teachers to stay after school for instructional time, like a math lab at the high school.

Mr. Neil Linville, president of Perry Education Association and teacher at Perry Meridian High School stated he is glad he does not have to make this decision. There will be a best decision, but not a perfect decision as everyone will not be happy with the final decision. There are two issues. The first issue is the fiscal concern. I agree with putting academics first, however, we have a responsibility to the tax payers of the district who have said yes twice to referendas. The second issue is look at where the most impact is and which kids can absorb the most change. Parents have brought up the issue of childcare. I think we really need to look at childcare; cost and quality. Switching the secondary schools time with the elementary schools time was mentioned. This would be a big change. If you go with the schedule as is, who experiences the most change? If you decide to switch the times with groups, that is even more change. With which schedule will the most change/impact be felt? I appreciate the board's thoughtfulness in delaying a decision to listen to parents and staff to help you in making the best decision. Thank you.

Mr. Mertz thanked everyone for their input. Our son attended Rosa Parks for kindergarten. Kindergarten began at 8:45 a.m. and the day ended at 3:45 p.m. He got up 6:00 a.m. He caught the bus between 8:00 to 8:10 a.m. He got home off the bus at 4:45 p.m. As a kindergartener, it was tough in the beginning. As parents we forget how they adapt. He did adjust and that became his norm. When he started 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we experienced a change to our schedules again and he adapted. We experienced this as parents and made adjustments as well. Our kids' grandparents helped us by getting the kids off the bus. Mr. Mertz thanked everyone for their input. The board will weigh all of your comments, concerns and data in making the decision.

Mr. Mertz requested the administration look into child care programs before and after school. Please review what options are available for enrichment and pricing. Mr. Mapes stated we will do this.

Mr. Fulton added in regards to the comment about grandparents helping, he and his wife have no other support as they are not from the area. He stated there are other families who also do not have family support.

Mr. Mertz sounded the gavel to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

  
KENNETH J. MERTZ, PRESIDENT

  
EDWARD T. DENNING, VICE PRESIDENT

  
JON P. MORRIS, SECRETARY

  
EMILY R. HARTMAN, MEMBER

  
STEVE JOHNSON, MEMBER

  
STEPHEN M. MAPLE, MEMBER

Absent 2.13.17  
CHARLES R. MERCER, JR., MEMBER