

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

October 30, 2017

The Board of Education of Perry Township Schools, Marion County, Indiana, held a public work session on Monday, October 30, 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  
**Emily Hartman**, Board Member  
**Steve Johnson**, Board Member  
**Stephen M. Maple**, Board Member  
**Charles R. Mercer, Jr.**, Board Member

Board of Education members present:

**Jon P. Morris**, Board Secretary

Administrative Staff present:

**Mr. Pat Mapes**, Superintendent and Associate Superintendent  
**Mr. Chris Sampson**, Associate Superintendent of Operations  
**Mr. Bob Bohannon**, Assistant Superintendent of Career Preparation, 6-12  
**Mrs. Vickie Carpenter**, Assistant Superintendent of Foundational Learning, Pre K-5  
**Mr. Mike Bagley**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Mr. Matthew Willey**, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Mertz called the meeting to order at 6.30 p.m.

Project Lead the Way

Stephanie Kohlmann, teacher at Abraham Lincoln and Ryan Gomez, teacher at Clinton Young presented Project Lead the Way in their schools. Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teaches perseverance as it makes the kids think. It is okay to fail and try again. It teaches problem solving. It's great for the students to attempt something, fail and then think how they can make it better next time. The program is amazing and it gets kids to think outside the box. We have seen a change in our students' creativity, response to problem solving and a change in communication. The students share ideas and collaboratively work on projects that they wouldn't otherwise experience. It teaches the students there is not always just one way to do something. Project Lead the Way also mirrors our science curriculum and the reinforcement is wonderful.

Traci Paswater, teacher at Perry Sixth Grade Academy and Josh Madden, teacher at Southport Sixth Grade Academy presented Project Lead the Way at their schools. With PLTW, it allows us to create an engaging classroom environment that empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable skills by exploring real-world challenges. It allows us to reinforce math and science standards within a project-based learning environment. Students gained experience being a biomedical engineer as they designed a foot orthosis for a patient with cerebral palsy. They work collaboratively in a team to build and test their orthosis. Project Lead the Way taps into students' experimental nature, involves them in learning that feels similar to play and encourages students to keep discovering better ways to do things. By engaging in challenges like designing a therapeutic toy for a child with cerebral palsy students are empowered to make a real-world impact. The benefits we have seen with PLTW are: growth mindset, productive struggle that improves perseverance, real-world work experience, creativity, measurements problem-solving, surface area/volume, teamwork and data collection.



Jobs for America's Graduates

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a national program assisting high school juniors and seniors graduate while helping them:

- Explore and establish career options and goals
- Build plans to achieve those goals
- Investigate postsecondary education and training opportunities
- Develop skills essential for obtaining and keeping employment
- Form leadership skills and citizenship qualities

JAG is a partnership between the Regional Workforce Development Board and a school corporation

JAG is an actual classroom where workplace and life skills are taught based on the JAG competencies formatted on a 3 level model. Class size is approximately 15 students. Students eligible to attend JAG:

- Barriers to successful completion of education and/or employment
- Age 16-21
- Low income
- Registered with the Selective Service

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

  
KENNETH J. MERTZ, PRESIDENT

ABSENT

JON P. MORRIS, SECRETARY

  
STEVE JOHNSON, MEMBER

  
EDWARD T. DENNING, VICE PRESIDENT

  
EMILY R. HARTMAN, MEMBER

  
STEPHEN M. MAPLE, MEMBER

  
CHARLES R. MERCER, JR., MEMBER

