

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA**

August 14, 2017

The Board of Education of Perry Township Schools, Marion County, Indiana, held a regular board meeting on Monday, August 14, 2017 at the Perry Township Education Center, 6548 Orinoco Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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
Steve Maple, Board Member
Charles R. Mercer, Jr., Board Member

Administrative staff present:

Patrick W. Mapes, Acting Superintendent
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. Louis Norris, Associate Director of Human Relations/Student Services
Mr. Matthew Willey, Chief Technology Officer

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

President Mr. Ken Mertz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The presentation of colors and Pledge of Allegiance were presented by Cub Scout Pack #96 of Jeremiah Gray Kindergarten Academy and Elementary led by Ben Draughon, Sarah Huddleston, Aaron McDonough and Cheryl Patton.

2. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Craig Hendrick was recognized as a STEM teacher and recipient of the 2018 NEA Foundation's Global Learning Fellows.

Mrs. Lori Love was recognized as the 2016-2017 Jim and Vivian Leach Volunteer Award. Mrs. Love is a SHS parent with an expertise in financial aid who volunteers and gives of her time and to assist SHS students and parents with college applications, financial aid and FAFSA filing. Whenever the high school calls, Mrs. Love is prompt and thorough and eager to help.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Mrs. Hartman. It was seconded by Mr. Maple.

The motion passed 7/0. Included with these minutes are copies of the following items:

- Minutes of the July 10, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
- Minutes of the August 7, 2017 Executive Session
- June Financial Report
- Allowance of Vouchers

- Personnel Report
- Approval of Professional Travel Requests
- Report to Board on travel beyond 75 miles by certified staff
- Fundraiser Requests
- Approval of Acceptance of Donations:
 1. A donation of 300 books and gift cards totaling \$70.25 from Resurrection Lutheran Church to purchase additional books for Douglas MacArthur kindergarten students.
 2. \$5,000 donation from American Legion Post 355 to be used for Student Services/Support to help PMHS students in need.
 3. \$1,500 donation from Indiana Army National Guard to be used for PMHS athletic department equipment and supplies.
 4. \$999 donation from Purdue University for PMHS athletic department equipment and supplies.
 5. \$999 donation from State Farm Agent, Connie Mortensen to purchase PMHS athletic department equipment and supplies.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mark Krizman stated he lives next door to Homecroft Elementary and has water drainage problems on his property. Mr. Krizman stated he has always had a water problem and it has gotten worse. He has discussed it with the Town of Homecroft and they cannot help him. Mr. Mapes asked Mr. Schott to talk with Mr. Krizman to see if we can assist in any way.

Mrs. Tana Kay has a child who attends Douglas MacArthur Kindergarten Academy. Mrs. Kay asked what is the status of transportation? Mrs. Kay discussed her concerns and issues with transportation with the board. Mr. Mapes apologized for the problems Mrs. Kay and her family are experiencing. He stated we are looking into ways to provide snack for kindergarten students since the students eat first shift. Mr. Mapes stated we are actively searching for a solution to transportation and making things better.

5. ITEMS OF INFORMATION REQUIRING ACTION

5.01 - Mr. Bagley recommended approval to advertise 2018 budgets in the Indiana Gateway System and the capital projects and bus replacement plans in local newspapers. Mr. Bagley stated the Finance Committee will review the budget on August 24 and it will be presented, reviewed and discussed at the Public Work Session on August 28. Mr. Mercer moved to approve, Mr. Morris seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

5.02 - Mr. Willey recommended approval of the renewal of the Edmentum contract for a site license for the use of PLATO courseware and testing components at both high schools and the James Whitcomb Riley School. Mr. Johnson moved to approve, Mr. Denning seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

5.03 - Mr. Willey recommended approval of a hosting and maintenance contract with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for all of the reading products the district currently utilizes. This encompasses all of the systems formerly known as Scholastic that were purchased by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Mr. Maple moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

5.04 - Mr. Willey recommended approval of a renewal contract with Infrastructure, Inc. for a continuing license for Canvas K-12 online instruction system for all students and all staff. Infrastructure, Inc. is the sole source for the Canvas product. Mr. Morris moved to approve, Mr. Mercer seconded. Mrs. Hartman stated she is seeing an increase in Canvas use by her children at home and in school. The motion carried 7/0.

5.05 - Mr. Sampson recommended approval of a contract with Calvary Lutheran School for Perry Township Schools to provide meal service for them. The meals will be Satellite from SHS. Collect fed reimbursement and per meal fee per student. This is a new contract. Mr. Mercer moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. Mr. Morris asked do we charge a similar amount? Mr. Sampson stated we collect the same amount as our students. Calvary Lutheran provides labor, labor costs and equipment costs. Mrs. Hartman noticed the number of meals we provide to Calvary; how many is that and is it breakfast or lunch. We provide 120 lunches per day to Calvary Lutheran. The motion carried 7/0.

5.06 - Mr. Willey recommended approval of a 12-month retainer agreement with Jackson Sky Web Design for continued support of Perry Township Schools' websites. Jackson Sky will assist us with website items that continue to change, graphics and staying in compliance. The company will work directly with Keesha Hughes, district media coordinator and Keesha will be the contact for the web masters. Mr. Maple moved to approve, Mr. Denning seconded. Mr. Mertz stated the new websites, the layout, the content and the graphics look great. Mr. Mertz asked, if a school needs something added, removed or tweaked on their website tweaked, does the school contact Keesha and Keesha then contacts Jackson Sky? Mr. Willey stated the schools' webmasters will do their day-to-day updates/news items on their own. An example when we would rely on Jackson Sky is when a school needs a side bar modified, that involves programming code. Also, Jackson Sky will make sure we are in ADA compliance. The motion carried 7/0.

5.07 - Mrs. Carpenter recommended approval of the following school travel requests:

- a. Winchester Village 5th grade class to Flat Rock River Camp in St. Paul, IN from October 2-4, 2017 for their annual outdoor education trip. The cost of the trip is \$80 per student. The original cost was \$91, but donations have reduced it. The cost includes lodging, meals, educators, activities and materials.
- b. Rosa Parks 5th grade class to Flat Rock River Camp in St. Paul, IN from September 13-15, 2017 for their annual outdoor education trip. The cost of the trip is \$90 which includes lodging, meals, educators, FLOTS from PMHS, activities and materials.
- c. Mary Bryan Elementary 5th grade class to Cam Allendale in Trafalgar, IN from October 4-6, 2017 for their annual outdoor education trip. The cost of the trip is \$80 per student which includes lodging, food, guest speakers, SHS student volunteers, materials and activities.

Mr. Morris moved to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded. Mr. Mercer asked do we have a way to provide for those students who do not have the funds to pay for this trip? Yes, we do. The motion carried 7/0.

5.08 - Mrs. Carpenter recommended approval to renew the contract with Adult and Child Mental Health Services to provide behavioral health care. The contract is the same with the addition of the Kindergarten Academies. Adult and Child provides referrals for all of our students for evaluation and they involve parent/guardian as an all-around inclusive service for the child. All of our students are eligible for these services. Students who qualify due to Medicare/Medicaid also receive these services at no cost. Mr. Mercer moved to approve, Mr. Denning seconded. Mr. Morris asked do the counselors work in the buildings or do students and parents have to travel to Adult and Child? The counselors are onsite in the schools. Mr. Johnson asked how many counselors are in each building? Every building has at least one therapist and perhaps a support skills counselor. It depends on the size of the school and the amount of students who need services. At each high school, there are two therapists and two support skills counselors. If additional support is needed, Adult and Child provides it. The motion carried 7/0.

5.09 - Mrs. Carpenter recommended approval of a contract for NIET (National Institute for Excellence in Teaching) support services for the 2017-2018 school year. Services provided include access to NIET's training portal and CODE site for 17 schools and 31 days of on-site support and technical assistance. All costs associated with this contract will be paid through Title II funds for every school except for Southport and Abraham Lincoln Elementary which will be supported through Title I funds. Mr. Denning moved to approve, Mr. Maple seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

5.10 - Mr. Mapes recommended approval of a memorial to be placed at the site of the prior Edgewood Elementary School. The school was built in 1914. Mr. Denning moved to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded. A memorial plaque will be placed on the grounds where Edgewood Elementary originally stood. The motion carried 7/0.

5.11 - Mr. Mapes recommended approval for the district to join Advocates of Marion County Children. During the last few legislative sessions, it seems Marion County school districts' needs for their students and funding have been ignored. IPS, Hamilton County and Boone have employed the services of a lobbyist and have made great gains to our loss as they work with different legislators to get legislation passed to support their schools and students. It takes someone full time in a relationship with our legislators to get our voices heard. The township schools, Beech Grove and Speedway Schools have agreed to join together to employ a lobbyist to extend our concerns and change legislation to support our students. Mr. Denning moved to approve, Mr. Mercer seconded. Mr. Johnson asked what is the total cost? The total cost is \$120,000 to be divided by the school corporations based on an ADM formula. Once we know all of the districts who will join the group, the cost will be calculated and we will share this with the Finance Committee and the committee minutes. Mr. Mercer asked what is the estimated cost? At this time the estimated cost is \$15,000, but that depends on one additional district joining the group. Mrs. Hartman asked is this per school year or calendar year. It is based on a calendar year. The motion carried 7/0.

6. ITEMS OF INFORMATION NOT REQUIRING ACTION

6.01 - Mr. Mapes conducted a first reading of:

- a. Policies 3121 and 4121: Pre-Employment Background Investigation. New legislation requires a school to contact all employee references before the candidate is hired by the school board, and in addition, contact the most recent employer if provided by the applicant prior to being hired by the school board. This is our current practice. We are including it in policy to be compliant.

New legislation states "if the need of the district requires that an applicant begin work before the background investigation can be completed, the expanded criminal history check shall be completed no later than thirty (30) days after the first day of employment. In addition, the district shall conduct an expanded child protection index check no later than sixty (60) days after the first day of employment. The applicant shall continue to be considered as an applicant working pursuant to a conditional offer of employment until the background investigation is complete."

We currently have our employee candidates complete online background verification before employment. We are already compliant but we need to include the verbiage in the policy to match the legislation.

Also, the district will not hire any applicant who has been convicted of an offense requiring license revocation, unless the conviction has been reversed, vacated, or set aside on appeal. This is new language pursuant to the new law.

As a recommendation from our legal counsel, we included 'contractors' to ensure they follow the applicable investigation process.

Each school corporation employee is required to undergo an expanded criminal history check every five (5) years. We will begin this year a rotation process so that every five (5) years an employee will undergo an expanded criminal history check. The district is to complete 20% of employees per year.

- b. Policy 3221: Teacher Appreciation Grant.

Legislation provides for teacher appreciation grants to be distributed to schools for teachers rated highly effective and effective. This replaces the teacher performance grant provided in the last state budget. The school corporation is required to give a different amount to highly effective teachers than to effective teachers and the difference must be at least 25%, with more given to the highly effective teachers. The board must annually adopt a policy on the amount of the stipends that will be given and submitted to the Indiana DOE along with the evaluation instrument by Sept. 15, 2017.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Mercer stated he received a few calls and emails about buses and transportation. I know our group has worked very hard on this and it has been a huge challenge. Members of the community been very upset. We recognize the system needed to be reworked and we are on the way to solving the issues. Thank you all for your efforts.

Mr. Johnson congratulated Mr. Hendricks and Mrs. Love for their efforts in helping others. To Mr. Hendricks, please be sure to share your travels and experiences with us.

Mr. Maple shared his thoughts on the legislative process.

Mr. Mercer said that Mr. Joe Loftus with Barnes and Thornburg is an excellent resource.

Mrs. Hartman echoed Mr. Mercer about emails and phone calls received on buses and Transportation. She also heard a lot of commends at middle school back-to-school night. Mrs. Hartman appreciates the patience the majority of our parents have exhibited and she sympathizes with the frustrations. I have three children in all 3 tiers. I want to commend the township for not pointing the finger at someone else or placing blame elsewhere. Yes, there are a lot of circumstances that have led to the situation. There are a lot of working pieces. Since the first day, Mr. Mapes and Mr. Sampson have said we are going to make this right; we are working to fix this. They have been very transparent and honest and didn't point the finger at someone else. Mrs. Hartman stated we are going to make this right. I appreciate everyone; teachers, aides, those who rode buses, café workers making sure everyone was fed, and our bus drivers. Thank you, thank you, thank you. If you see our bus drivers, please be sure to thank them.

Mr. Morris congratulated Craig Hendricks; I've known Craig for a long time and I am proud of you. I would love to hear your experiences and stories. Mr. Morris stated he is not pleased with the company who routed our buses. The school year seems to have started well besides transportation. Mr. Morris stated the day is so long for kindergarten and first graders. It's a long time to sit on a bus or sit in a gymnasium waiting on a bus to arrive and a long time for teachers when they've been with the kids all day to extend the day for another hour or two. Everyone is

to be commended for a yeoman's job. Next year, I would like to see tiers reversed so the youngest kids are in the first tier.

Mr. Denning congratulated Mr. Hendricks and Mrs. Love for their work in helping others. He echoed the comments made by board members regarding transportation. I appreciate all of our staff working hard to correct and deal with the transportation issues the first few weeks of school. Mr. Denning stated we are having open houses for four (4) new buildings this week. I am proud of the buildings and appreciate all the work it took to get us here. How exciting it is for the children who attend those four new beautiful buildings. He stated he is excited for Friday night's football game and grand opening of Falcon Stadium. Mr. Denning personally thanked Mr. Schott for all of the hours and work in getting the job done. I took a self-guided tour on Saturday and the facility is unbelievable. It is great to see the coaches, staff and kids and their energy and excitement for their new football field. Thank you to everyone who made this happen and I am looking forward to the game Friday night.

Mr. Johnson said he coached football at Perry Meridian High for 20 years. One of the items on his bucket list was he hoped to be alive when PMHS has their first home football game. It's been a long time coming.

Mr. Mertz echoed Mr. Denning's sentiments. He also took himself on a self-guided tour over the weekend. Wow. The facility is phenomenal. Thank you to Mr. Schott for his work and long hours. Mr. Schott was also there on Saturday and emailed me later with answers to my questions. A lot of people worked long hours. The new football field is neat. It is going to be an exciting night in Perry Township. Mr. Mertz stated the board members understand transportation was a problem. I cannot commend the staff enough. Everyone was all hands on deck. I visited several schools to see the procedure. Teachers, aides, administrators were all out to insure the kids got to where they needed to go. I know there were a lot of calls, complaints and comments. Mr. Mertz stated he asked people to keep in mind, your child is late, but they are home safe. I appreciate everyone's work and efforts.

Mr. Mapes stated he wished to build on Mr. Morris' comment that we have had a great start to the school year. New teachers, administrators, everyone has had a great start. For everybody to quickly assemble and pull together to handle a very difficult situation, no one shied away from it. It would have been easy to say, it's time for me to go home, but the staff hasn't done that. The staff had the feeling 'these are our kids and were going to make sure they get home safely, and keep them calm while waiting.' I can't say enough about our people and their efforts. It does your heart good, but it doesn't allow you to sleep at night while trying to figure out solutions. We didn't have to beg people to do this, they stepped up and did it which says a lot about the character of the people who work in Perry Township Schools. We have a very exciting grand opening week this coming week and encourage people to go to at least one of the new kindergarten academies. Operation Football will be here early Friday to kick things off and back in the evening. We are the epi-center of high school football Friday night. It's exciting for our kids and staff to be able to experience that. Mr. Mapes thanked Mr. Boedicker for reaching out to Perry Meridian Middle School to hold a joint pep session on Friday to share in the excitement and begin building school spirit and traditions. Thank you everyone for a great start to the school year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mertz sounded the gavel to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

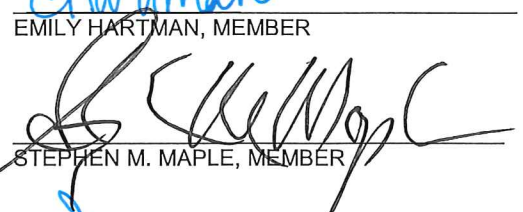

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EMILY HARTMAN, MEMBER


STEVE JOHNSON, MEMBER


STEPHEN M. MAPLE, MEMBER


CHARLES R. MERCER JR., MEMBER

