

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

March 9, 2020

The Board of Education of Perry Township Schools, Marion County, Indiana, held a public hearing and a regular board meeting on Monday, March 9, 2020 at the Perry Township Education Center, 6548 Orinoco Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Board of Education members present:

**Steve Johnson**, Board President  
**James H. Hernandez**, Board Vice President  
**Lee Shively**, Board Secretary  
**Hannah H. Dale**, Board Member  
**Emily Hartman**, Board Member  
**Charles R. Mercer, Jr.**, Board Secretary  
**Ken Mertz**, Board Member

Administrative staff present:

**Mr. Patrick W. Mapes**, 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. Kent Hatcher**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Mr. Matthew Willey**, Chief Technology Officer

**CALL TO ORDER THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Johnson called the hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

**DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY BONDS 1028**

Mr. Hatcher conducted the 1028 additional appropriation public hearing for the district's 2020 district-wide facilities and technology bonds.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at the hearing.

**BOARD QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

**ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Johnson adjourned the public hearing.

## **CALL TO ORDER REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Johnson called the regular board meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Troops 4111 and 4999 from Homecroft Elementary and Southport Middle led by Nichole McArthur.

## **RECOGNITION**

Kelli Sommers, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary was recognized at the 2020 Project Lead the Way Summit as an Outstanding PLTW Launch Teacher of the Year. She was recognized as an exceptional teacher with a focus on career learning. She developed a partnership with Eli Lilly in order to expose her students to careers supported through STEM.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Mrs. Hartman. It was seconded by Mr. Shively. The motion passed 7/0. Included with these minutes are copies of the following items:

- Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- Minutes of the February 24, 2020 Special Board Meeting and Public Work Session
- Financial Report for January 2020 with Bus Driver Increases
- Allowance of Vouchers
- Personnel Report
- Report to Board on Travel beyond 75 miles by Certified & Classified Staff
- Fundraiser Requests

- Approval of Acceptance of Donations:

**Southport High School**

Request approval of \$100 donation from Ted and Suzanne Belcas to support the Southport High Dance Team.

Request approval of \$500 donation from Humble Impressions, Inc. to support the Southport High Dance Team.

- Approval of Southport High School 2020 Summer Camps
- Approval of Perry Youth Theatre 2020 Summer Musical Camp
- Approval of Agreement with Guaranteed Energy Savings Group, Phase II Project Development
- Approval of Renewal Contract for Salt Creek Golf Retreat for Winchester Village Elementary Staff Retreat/Professional Development.
- Approval of Renewal Contract with ParentSquare

Mr. Bohannon announced and congratulated Mrs. Stephanie Quinlan as Assistant Director of Student Services.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Susie Schoch, PMHS teacher spoke regarding teacher concerns.

## **ITEMS OF INFORMATION REQUIRING ACTION**

Mr. Willey recommended approval of a contract with SysCloud/Amplified IT for the Google Cloud backup platform. The system will create automatic backups of staff and student items for recovery and discovery purposes. This contract replaces a contract at a 20% annual cost savings with additional functionality and locks the renewal price rate for three years. Mr. Mertz made a motion to approve, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Willey recommended acceptance of a bid by Network Solutions, Inc. (NSI) for network upgrades. This request for proposal was advertised, placed and evaluated under the Federal E-Rate Program rules. The solution from NSI was the top scoring proposal on the evaluation matrix. This acceptance is contingent on availability of the federal funds. The project will replace all wireless access points in our six secondary buildings. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mr. Hernandez seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Sampson recommended approval to advertise for bids for hallway carpet replacement at Clinton Young Elementary and Perry Meridian Middle School. Bids will be advertised twice, seven days apart and bid opening would be scheduled for April 1, 2020. Mrs. Dale moved to approve, Mr. Mertz seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Sampson recommended approval of a contract renewal of Joe Griffith & Associates, Inc. for servicing 84 AED units throughout the district. The contract renewal provides service and certification for each unit including sanitizing each unit, checking the alarms, batteries, pads and any updates. Mr. Mercer moved to approve, Mr. Hernandez seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommended approval for Baker Tilly who has joined Umbaugh to act as the district's municipal advisor in conjunction with the district's 2020 district-wide facilities and technology bonds. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommended approval for Barnes & Thornburg LLP to act as the District's bond counsel in conjunction with the district's 2020 district-wide facilities and technology bonds. Mr. Hernandez moved to approve, Mr. Mertz seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommended approval of 1028 Resolution 20-004 for the 2020 district-wide facilities and technology bonds that was discussed in the public hearing. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommended approval of the additional appropriation Resolution 20-005 for the 2020 district-wide facilities and technology bonds that was discussed in the public hearing. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mrs. Dale seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommended approval of Resolution 20-006 to transfer \$237,500 from the Ray Skillman Donation Fund to the Rainy Day Fund. These funds replace funds used out of the Rainy Day Fund for the Perry Meridian High School football field turf. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mr. Hernandez seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mrs. Carpenter and Mr. Bohannon recommended approval for the following out-of-state travel:

1. Southport Elementary School fourth-grade students to attend CYO Camp Rancho Framasa for their outdoor education program April 7-9, 2021. The cost per student is \$95. They will use fundraisers and a PTA donation to support payment for the trip.
2. Perry Meridian High School GAPP students (German exchange students and American host partner) to travel to St. Louis, Missouri on Thursday, April 2 and Friday, April 3, 2020 to explore landmarks in America using a school bus.
3. Southport High School Speech and Debate team to travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico on Sunday, June 14 and Monday, June 15, 2020 to compete in the Speech and Debate Association National Tournament

Mrs. Dale moved to approved, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Bohannon recommended approval of a capacity number for grades 6-8 at 650 students per grade level per school. Our enrollment has increased so that it is now necessary to establish a capacity number for grades 6, 7, and 8. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

## **COMMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Mrs. Hartman discussed fundraising. I was concerned over a year ago when I realized the percentage of donations that does not go to the group/team depending on the fundraising platform used. With the assistance of Superintendent Mapes, different options were researched and PTEF partnered with OneCause so that our kids would not lose a big percentage of donations. In using the OneCause fundraising platform, 80% of the donation goes to the kids' group/team and the remainder goes to the Perry Township Education Foundation. Mrs. Hartman noticed some of the groups/teams/clubs didn't use OneCause for their fundraisers. The PMHS volleyball team did use OneCause! Mrs. Hartman visited Jeremiah Gray Kindergarten Academy to recognize students of the month. While there, she came across a student who had made a poor choice. The kindergarten student began to tell her what he had done and the principal suggested to the student to tell Mrs. Hartman what he is going to do in the future to move forward! Mrs. Hartman stated this is a perfect example of where we are headed, to move forward and keep our eyes focused on our students. If we don't, we will have missed the mark.

Mr. Mercer congratulated Mrs. Kelli Sommers and acknowledged her mother who attended the meeting.

Mrs. Dale thanked the teachers for attending the board meeting and their comments. I feel in this digital, social-media age it is easy to post comments, but to come to a meeting and speak constructively and respectfully is appreciated. She stated that she is proud to say that several of the concerns mentioned are in conversations the board and administration have had and are having. She said that awareness doesn't always equal change, and change doesn't happen overnight. Mrs. Dale stated she was so very grateful as the board is having discussions. She stated there are mandates from the state that we have no control over. Mrs. Dale is proud of our district knowing those conversations are happening. She said when she speaks of the board, she tells people we have a retired teacher on the board who is married to a retired teacher, and a current teacher who is married to a school counselor. I love that these voices are a part of the board conversations and decisions. Mrs. Dale is so very proud of the Perry Township family.

Mr. Mertz thanked everyone for coming to the board meeting and welcomed them to come back again. It's important to stay involved and informed. He thanked Mrs. Kelli Sommers for her work on Project Lead the Way and as an educator. You have impacted my family as well as many other families. Mr. Mertz stated that the concerns he heard tonight were what many people struggle with even outside of the education profession; i.e. money, time, workload expectations and training. Mr. Mertz stated he has served on the board for 12 years. We all have to balance the time, the talent and treasures that Perry Township has and how do we continue to grow in all aspects. The board does that with information from the public, administrators, teachers and staff. We appreciate the information. Mr. Mertz stated we have to remember to keep our focus. The board is here to make sure that we are making decisions most effectively to deliver education for our kids. We have those kids for 12 years and they leave us to go to college and begin careers, etc.

Mr. Shively stated he was told by his building principal how important teachers are. Kids come to school each day and it doesn't work without the teachers. He said that during his time on the board that he has not met a single administrator who would not echo that sentiment. They value their teachers. Mr. Shively said as a teacher with 120 to 150 kids, you do the best job you can – it's big. He is impressed by the people he has met who can balance all of these things. He is very appreciative of what teachers do. You, the teachers, and Perry Township Schools district is why I moved back here to raise our kids.

Mr. Hernandez praised the Perry Township Leadership Academy. He graduated from the inaugural group. Attending each session and seeing everything that goes on in the district. It opened my eyes and I saw the great people and ideas we have here. The academy looked at the district as a whole seeing how we grow kids. Mr. Hernandez supports the continuation of the program. He recognized Keesha Hughes and Allie Price for all of their work in coordinating the academy. I encourage you to tell people to apply for the next academy. Mr. Hernandez congratulated Mrs. Kelli Sommers, and Mrs. Stephanie Quinlan. He thanked Mrs. Schoch for her thoughtful presentation. As a new member of the Finance Committee, he complimented Mr. Hatcher for all his work on the bonds. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson congratulated Mrs. Quinlan and Mrs. Sommers. He thanked Mrs. Schoch for speaking. He said he understands the frustration of TAP. Every now and then teachers and administrators need a pat on the back. Mr. Johnson said he feels we need to move forward. The board works hard to support teachers and will work for the positive. Mr. Johnson wished Mrs. Schoch good luck on her retirement. Thank you.

Mr. Mapes said he tells administrators "we need to keep our minds to help others stay calm." That is true with the Corona virus and what is going on in Marion County and Indiana. The Marion County Health officials told us today to not panic. We are going to work with the Marion County Health officials. This is a virus. We have to keep people informed and know we are doing everything possible to keep this from coming into the district. Mr. Mapes gave kudos to Mr. Kirby Schott, Director of Facilities; and Mrs. Esther Moeller, Manager of District Nurses for their work to prevent the virus in our schools/buses. We are keeping the board, staff and families informed. Our focus every day is to grow kids and work every day to get better.

Mr. Mapes thanked the board for coming early to recognize our winter athletes and music groups.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Johnson sounded the gavel to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

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STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

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JAMES H. HERNANDEZ, VICE PRESIDENT

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LEE T. SHIVELY, SECRETARY

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HANNAH H. DALE, MEMBER

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EMILY HARTMAN, MEMBER

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CHARLES R. MERCER JR., MEMBER

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KENNETH J. MERTZ, MEMBER