

**MINUTES OF A
ORGANIZATIONAL, BOARD OF FINANCE AND REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA**

January 11, 2021

The Board of Education of Perry Township Schools, Marion County, Indiana, held an Organizational, Board of Finance and Regular Board meetings on Monday, January 11, 2021 at the Perry Township Education Center, 6548 Orinoco Avenue.

Board of Education members present:

Steve Johnson, Outgoing Board Present
James H. Hernandez, Outgoing Board Vice-President
Lee Shively, Outgoing Board Secretary
Hannah Dale, Board Member
Emily Hartman, Board Member
Kenneth J. 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. Matthew Willey, Chief Technology Officer

OPENING OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Mr. Johnson called the Organizational meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

Mr. Shively nominated Mr. Scott Heller to be appointed to the Board of Education. The open board position was previously held by Mr. Chuck Mercer. The open board seat was advertised and interviews were held. Mr. Hernandez moved to approve the appointment, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

As a result of the election held in November 2020, the following were reelected to the Board of Education: Mrs. Hartman, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Mertz.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mrs. Hartman, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Mertz and Mr. Heller took the oath of office to serve as a member of the Perry Township Schools Board of Education

ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS FOR 2021

_____ nominated Mr. James Hernandez as President, Mr. Shively as Vice President, and Mrs. Dale as Secretary of the Board of Education for 2021. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mr. Mertz seconded. The motion passed 7/0.

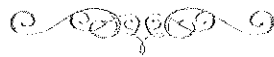
STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Mapes recommended the appointment of Mr. Kent Hatcher as Treasurer and Mrs. King and Mrs. Beth Meyers as Deputy Treasurers for the corporation. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 7/0.

Mr. Mapes recommended the appointment of Mr. Kent Hatcher as purchasing agent for the district. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

RECESS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Mr. Hernandez recessed the Organizational meeting at 6:35 p.m.



CALL TO ORDER THE BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING

Mr. Hernandez called to order the Board of Finance meeting at 6:35 p.m.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

Mr. Johnson nominated Mr. Hernandez as President, Mr. Shively as Vice President, and Mrs. Dale as Secretary of the Board of Finance. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING

Mr. Hatcher reviewed the Board Policy 6144 - Investment Income: The School Board authorizes the Treasurer or the Deputy Treasurer to make investments of available monies from the several funds of the Corporation as authorized by the State of Indiana and the State Board of Accounts. I.C. 5-13-9 and I.C. 20-26-5-4.

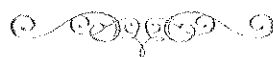
Mr. Hatcher presented the investment report. And the financial condition report using the fiscal and qualitative indicators from I.C. 20-19-7-4

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD OF FINANCE

Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the Board of Finance meeting, Mr. Mertz seconded. Mr. Hernandez adjourned the Board of Finance meeting at 6:49 p.m.



RECONVENE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Mr. Hernandez reconvened the Organizational meeting at 6:49 p.m.

ANNUAL APPROVALS

Mr. Mapes recommended approval of the dates for subsequent meetings of the Board of Education. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 7/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommended approval of Resolution 21-001, Investment of Public Funds. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Mapes recommended approval of Resolution 21-002, Authorization for Contract Changes. Mr. Johnson moved to approve, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion passed 7/0.

Mr. Mapes recommended approval of Resolution 21-003, Use of Facsimile Signatures. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Mapes recommended approval of board members' compensation for 2021 at \$2,000 per board member annually. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Mapes recommended the approval of Barnes & Thornburg and Associates to represent Perry Township Schools as general counsel for 2021. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 7/0.

ADJOURNMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Mrs. Hartman moved to adjourn the Organizational Meeting, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion to adjourn the Organizational meeting carried 7/0. Mr. Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



OPENING OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Mr. Hernandez called the regular board meeting to order at 6:56p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of the December 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- Minutes of the December 14, 2020 Executive Session
- Financial Report for November 2020
- Allowance of Vouchers
- Personnel Report
- Fundraiser Requests

- Approval of Acceptance of Donations:
Southport High School
 The families of Allyson and Marsela Riddle, and Nicole Vidari, donated two violas and one violin. The instruments are valued at \$1,443.
- Approval of Renewal Contract between Abraham Lincoln and Salt Creek Retreat
- Approval of Perry Meridian Strength and Speed Camp

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION REQUIRING ACTION

Ms. Baker recommended approval of the amendment and restatement of the 401(a) Plan Adoption Agreement. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Mertz thanked Mrs. Baker and her staff for their work and changes that came with the CARES Act. Mrs. Hartman wanted to confirm that in the midst of the pandemic that all of our employees received payment contributions via the CARES Act. Mrs. Baker confirmed, yes, all employees were paid. Mrs. Hartman thanked Mrs. Baker and her staff for their work.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Emily Hartman stated she is humbled; it is truly an honor to serve this township. I have asked people who are administrators and leaders, and fellow board members if my focus ever stops being on students and staff, they will tell me and hold me accountable. There are a lot of wonderful people who have served as board members in the past. I truly believe it is my turn. I am no more special than anyone else and I hope I am planting seeds as Denise Bush planted those seeds in my life when I was in high school. It is my prayer that one day that some of these kids will come back to Perry Township and serve because it's their turn. Thank you for voting for me.

Mrs. Hartman stated that one of the worst things about the pandemic and the board meetings is not being able to have our students and their families attend and be recognized. Tonight, I would like to recognize the following:

Recognitions:

- Assistant Principal Aaron Hufnagel, Homecroft Elementary - Before we went virtual, he worked tirelessly to make sure that every single one of their almost 500 kids had their own personal login schedule. He allowed for every student to receive math and reading instruction, EL support, Special Education support, and small group support. These schedules are why Homecroft Elementary School averaged almost 95% attendance during our virtual instruction.
- Six Homecroft students scored a 100% on their Evaluate tests. Students took Evaluate last week after a two week Winter Break which was preceded by a 3-week virtual learning session, and these students scored a 100%!

Math: Michael Edwards, Logan Pedraza, Easton Brunet, Gabby Pedraza, Aaron Reyes
 Reading: Keira Roberson.

- Henry Burkhardt: I would like to recognize the teachers who are doing both in person and virtual as they are definitely going above and beyond to make sure all of our students are growing: Chelsea Hammer, Meghan McCrocklin, Elaine Schaler, Amy Shadle, Susan Sommers, and Amber Sutton.
- Glens Valley: Erin Keller is our school nurse. Her level of kindness and patience is unbelievable in the face of the hundreds of decisions she has to make in a day's time. She works diligently to balance keeping our students and staff safe as she follows our district protocols, while using her professional wisdom to keep appropriate students in school, all with a huge smile on her face! It is truly a remarkable thing to witness and we are so proud of her!
- Brandee Stapp is one of our first year teachers. She has been inspiring in the way she has taken on the challenge of a first year during a pandemic! Due to her students not being with her for her first holiday party, she decided to load the gifts she had gotten them in her car and place them individually on each student's porch. What an amazing gesture of love and commitment at a time when so many were relieved to just make it to some well-deserved time off!
- Perry Meridian High School: 2 seniors and 4 juniors who have been recognized for their academic accomplishments:
 - Two members of Team 21, seniors who have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship: **Blake Hall** and **Kiara Childs**
 - Each year the Indiana Association of School Principals recognizes the top Junior scholars from Indiana. This year, Perry Meridian is well represented by four outstanding Juniors, well-done **Team 22**, and **all the Teachers** who have had these outstanding students in their classes.

IASP Rising Stars of Indiana:

Dagan Knight
Priscilla Huynh
Rachel Schmidt
Bawi Len Zing

- I would also be remiss if I did not recognize the Faculty and Staff at PMHS for making such a great effort in making our synchronous model work.
- Ashley Quinlin, SHS, is the main office assistant to the assistant principals. Ashley takes care of our substitutes for the building. She builds great relationships with those "guest teachers." Her efforts have helped keep us afloat many days. Even with numerous teacher absences this year, we have rarely had a day where we are not fully covered. There have been days where we have had over 20 people out because of quarantines or regular absences. Our fill rate for substitute teachers is phenomenal, and this has allowed other school personnel to focus on their work and not have to cover classrooms. She has even spent time this year calling local businesses so we can have some treats for our guest teachers as they come into school. Guest teachers love coming to Southport because of the way they are treated by Ashley.

I know roles like Ashley's can often go overlooked in a school. Without her efforts, there would have been many days this year that our administration or department chairs would have been sitting in classrooms covering for absences. This has allowed us to stay focused on supporting our teachers and students through the chaos of this year.

Mrs. Hartman stated she knows there many other examples of great things going on in Perry Township. She said especially now in the pandemic, we need to hear the positive. Mrs. Hartman misses seeing students being recognized. She wants students, staff and administrators to know the board supports them, loves them, hears them and encourages them, and are trying to lift them up as much as we can. Thank you.

Mr. Mertz thanked Mr. Johnson for this past year serving as president. He noted that 9 of the 12 months that Mr. Johnson served, a COVID-19 pandemic hit the world. It has been a strange and different time. Mr. Mertz appreciated Mr. Johnson's steady leadership, and keeping the board informed. He told Mr. Johnson he appreciated his time he gave in serving as president of the board. Mr. Mertz welcomed Mr. Scott Heller to the board.

Mr. Mertz stated as he likes finance and he likes the Board of Finance portion of this meeting. He said it is key for community members to see and know how Perry Township compares to other districts financially. It's especially important this year to realize we maintained our financial status during the pandemic. The district was able to keep staff employed and continue to contribute to their retirement accounts. I am glad to be a part of an organization that is financially conscious and stable, and values staff who reach our kids and families every day during this COVID-19 crisis.

Mr. Mertz thanked Mr. Hatcher for his work on preparing the Board of Finance report.

Mr. Mertz thanked Perry Township for giving him the opportunity to serve four more years. He stated in his time serving/working on the board he's worked with Mr. Bohannon, Mrs. Carpenter, Mr. Willey for the twelve and a half years he has served on the board in addition to so many others who have provided me with guidance along the way. I very much appreciate all of you, and I hope to continue to be of service, ask the tough questions and answer questions. Thank you.

Mr. Scott Heller is thankful for the opportunity to serve on the board. He is looking forward to diving in and being a resource both for the community and as a community member. Mr. Heller shared he values the township decisions that have been made, and again just want to highlight what a great job that the school district has been doing, and just how important and vital you have proved to be. The school district has shown to be an incredible resource for the families and community and what the schools and staff continue to provide for each and every student. He said he continues to be blown away by all that takes place and the significance that it has in the lives of the students. Mr. Heller is impressed to see teachers reciprocate as they welcome students from breaks since Thanksgiving ... the net extended time away. To be able to embrace their students being back in their classrooms again I am grateful for teachers' attitude and the response for education for students here in Perry Township. Mr. Heller thanked the board. It is an honor serving beside you. Thank you to Mrs. Meyers for helping me get set up.

Mrs. Dale had no comment.

Mr. Shively mentioned the two students at PMHS who were awarded the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. Students who are awarded this scholarship are exceptional students who often live with extraordinary circumstances and can't be undersold. For every 4 ½ to 5 high schools in Indiana, there is only one winner. The fact that one of our high schools had two students, says a lot!

Mr. Shively said when the Marion County Public Health Department decided that students could return January 4, I along with others thought 'what should we do?' That was never in question in Perry Township, and I want to say I appreciate that. It points to our leadership and moving forward. The decision was made in confidence knowing the people in place are going to make this happen. From bus drivers getting kids safely to and from, teachers making sure kids are safe, to the night custodians making sure things are sanitized, so many others and of course the administrators making sure this all made sense and could be done. I know these decisions are not always easy, and they don't come

without critique and argument. I can't help but feel that the decision was the best for some of the kids. I don't want to assume it was an easy decision, but I can't also help but think that it was made easier knowing the people who are going to implement, who I appreciate, from the top to the bottom of people that make that happen.

Mr. Shively welcomed Mr. Heller to the board.

Mr. Shively stated, it may seem like people are 'yes' people, yet, that is not so. The items for approval in a board meeting have been researched, reviewed, studied and prepared prior to the board meeting. Board members review information and material and ask tough questions to make the best decision for the students, staff and community. The board is able to cast an informed vote because of the hard work by a lot of people in this room prior to the board meeting.

Mr. Hernandez welcomed Mr. Heller to the board.

Mr. Hernandez thanked Mr. Steve Johnson for his service as president of the board. Mr. Johnson dealt with an unprecedented pandemic, social media injustices and racism, and he did so with class. Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Hernandez stated a lot has happened in the world this last year; a lot of sensitive, sometimes difficult and often emotional discussions, which is good. It shows we care, and we're taking our board member responsibilities seriously. I appreciate working with all of you and especially Superintendent Mapes. Mr. Mapes has a great vision for our district and I believe we work well together to accomplish that.

Mr. Johnson thanked the board members for their kind comments. He said when he retired from education in 2014 and decided to run for board in 2016, he felt that he could do some good. He said he can give a perspective from a teacher's point of view. There aren't any easy solutions to what we've been dealing with. You don't know how many phone calls, texts and emails this past year has come my way, and to you as well. When answering calls and comments, I try to give solace on what the board is doing and it will be positive for their kids and family. It's been tough at times; however, I know the people in this room and we all work together whether behind the scenes, or at a board meeting or whether we are out in the community. We do what we feel is best for students, teacher, staff and community; and we will continue to do that. My role on the board will never change from that.

Mr. Johnson thanked the people in the community that voted for me. I took the oath again for another four years and I'm going to continue to do what's best for Perry Township Schools. I've lived in Perry Township for more than half my life. That's never going to change and I think that we as a community, and we as a board will continue to do what is best for Perry Township.

Mr. Johnson welcomed Mr. Heller to the board and added: any question you have, feel free to ask any one of us at any time, we are here to help. I have always told my students and athletes: I am a talk to me person first. Whatever is going on, just let me know. As I would tell students/athletes, don't do things on your own, come to me and we'll work through our issues together and make sure we have success for the team, and this team as well.

Mr. Johnson said to the teachers: Mr. Shively mentioned the decision to come back on January 4. There is was a lot of consternation out there. People questioned, were we doing the right thing. The decision was made and things look right and the township is in good shape. I think people will see that in the long run. Every school district in the country is fighting this, virtually, hybrid or in-person. We need to just do our best! This time is unprecedented. We will move forward and we will be the best we can be for our kids! Thank you for allowing me to serve as board president this year. We will continue to move forward. Thank you.

Mr. Mapes said to Mr. Steve Johnson: in recognition and gratitude for your time and service as president of the Board of Education, I present you with the president's gavel plaque.

Mr. Mapes stated it has already been said that if we didn't have such a good board, the pandemic could have been a lot more difficult than what it has been. It's important to be transparent and continue to move forward as Mr. Johnson says, keep moving forward.


A day of having our students in the buildings with our teachers and adults is not just a good day, it's a great day. It is a day that gives our kids a much better quality education than other school districts. The fact that everybody works towards what's best for kids -- even when it gets tough, sets us apart from everybody else.

Mr. Mapes spoke about the term "learning loss" that is being used in the country. He feels there is not a learning loss, it's a learning gap of what's not been presented academically because we were dealing with COVID. Besides academics, teaching virtually and hybrid, we have been focused on kids having food, shelter, clothing and they were safe. When we started in July, it was a continuation from March 12, 2020 when they told us we couldn't be in school anymore. We've made it through some part of this time and we have more to go. One of our high school student newspaper editors who is a senior asked me in an interview last week what was I hopeful for. I said, I hope we have graduation. Being a senior, she hopes that as well, so as even though it's January, we're already starting to plan how to finish this school year, how to kick-off the 2021 school year, and hope things can become even more normal than what they have been. We want to get to the point in time where our kids come to school and they worry about academics and not anything else.

Mr. Mapes said we have a lot of things to do in 2021 as we do keep moving the district forward. We want to improve the quality of education and opportunities for students who attend Perry Township Schools. I know for sure I have the right group to achieve all those things we have planned in 2021. We thank everyone for their work and coming back as successfully as we have in the last week. I've never seen so many people happy as Monday of last week. Even the middle school kids were happy they were back in school. We have been very successful through this process but that's taken a lot of people, too many to mention but realize we do have an outstanding group of people serving kids in Perry Township Schools. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Johnson sounded the gavel to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.



JAMES H. HERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT



LEE T. SHIVELY, VICE PRESIDENT



HANNAH H. DALE, SECRETARY



EMILY HARTMAN, MEMBER



SCOTT HELLER, MEMBER



STEVE JOHNSON, MEMBER



KENNETH J. MERTZ, MEMBER