

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

December 14, 2020

The Board of Education of Perry Township Schools, Marion County, Indiana, held an executive session and a regular board meeting on Monday, December 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Perry Township Education Center, 6548 Orinoco Avenue.

Board of Education members present:

**Steve Johnson**, Board Present  
**James H. Hernandez**, Board Vice-President  
**Lee Shively**, Board Secretary  
**Hannah Dale**, Board Member  
**Emily Hartman**, Board Member  
**Charles R. Mercer Jr.**, 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 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Johnson called the regular board meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of the November
- Financial Report for October 2020
- Allowance of Vouchers
- Personnel Report
- Professional Development for Certified & Classified Staff
- Fundraiser Requests

- Approval of Acceptance of Donations:

Homecroft Elementary received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. This money will be used to aid children who need material assistance... used on behalf of children for masks, uniforms, backpacks, winter apparel, supplies or other materials.

Homecroft Kindergarten Academy received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. They plan to utilize the funds to purchase any needed items for students.

Jeremiah Gray Elementary received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. This money will be used to aid children who need material assistance. This would include masks, uniforms, backpacks winter apparel, and supplies.

Jeremiah Gray Kindergarten Academy received a donation of \$ 727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. They would use the donation to purchase items needed for students.

Mary Bryan Elementary received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. This money will be used to purchase necessary clothing, coats, and medical supplies as needed for students.

Southport Elementary received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. They would use this money to support student needs through their social working.

Southport Elementary received a donation of \$1500.00 of school supplies from Staples.

Winchester Village received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. This money will be used to provide needy students with coats, uniforms and gift cards to help with the cost of medications.

Southport High School received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. This money will be used for social worker student needs.

Southport High School received a donation of \$500.00 from Brandon Davis. This money will be used for the Southport High School's boys' basketball team.

Southport High School received a donation of \$150.00 from Ron Stiver and \$100.00 from Katy and Joe Allman. These donations will be used for the Steve Cline tennis court dedication and tennis nets.

Southport High School received a \$1000.00 donation from Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation. This money will be used for the Girls' Basketball program.

Southport Middle School received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. This money will be used for social worker student needs.

Southport 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy received a donation of \$727.00 from Edgewood United Methodist Church. This money will be used to aid students who need material assistance.

Compass Education Center received a donation of \$300.00 from Long's Bakery, Inc. This money will be used for student activities.

- Renewal of BrainPop Agreement for Platform for All Students Grades 1-8
- Renewal of DyKnow Software Agreement and Addition of Kindergarten Students

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **ITEMS OF INFORMATION REQUIRING ACTION**

Mr. Sampson recommended approval of the renewal of a Professional Services Contract with Mr. Jim Wernke to serve as the Energy Manager for Perry Township Schools. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mr. Hernandez seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Sampson recommended approval of Blue Bird Bus Replacement Bids. Mrs. Dale moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommend approval of Transfer of Appropriations Resolution 20-021 for the budget year 2020. Budget adjustments are necessary at the end of each fiscal year to align actual spending with previously anticipated appropriation forecasts. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mr. Mercer seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommended approval of Rainy-Day Fund Transfer Resolution 20-022 for the Budget Year ending December 31, 2020. The amounts requested to transfer are \$2,000,000 from the Operations Fund (DLGF Fund #3300) to the Rainy-Day Fund (DLGF Fund #0061) for future Bus Replacement needs and \$6,000,000 from the Education Fund (DLGF Fund #3101) to the Rainy-Day Fund (DLGF Fund #0061) for future educational needs of Perry Township Schools. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion carried 7/0.

#### **ITEMS OF INFORMATION NOT REQUIRING ACTION**

Mr. Hatcher stated the Teacher Appreciation Grant resolution was approved and passed in September of this year for the board policy which was necessary because the we are given only 20 days to get the

checks paid. It's challenging to be able to time it perfectly so we are bringing information to you that the actual payment went out on Friday, December 11 after we received the funds from the IDOE. Highly effective teachers receive \$637.50, and effective teachers receive \$510.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Mapes presented Mr. Charles R. Mercer, Jr. with a plaque for his 12 ½ years of dedicated service to the students, staff and community of Perry Township Schools as a school board member. Mr. Mapes thanked Mr. Mercer with a great appreciation of his leadership, commitment, devotion, and support in leading the district to prepare children to live successful lives. Mr. Mercer has seen a lot in this township in 12 ½ years from adding onto buildings, removing trailers, transitioning to 3-tier busing, becoming financially stable, creating a police department, the district has been honored by several national awards and state awards, and receiving over \$25 million grant dollars. Mr. Mercer has been an invaluable member of the school board, and we wish to say thank you!

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

The Board congratulated Mr. Mercer for his twelve and a half years of service on the school board, and wished him well.

Mrs. Dale thanked Mr. Mercer for his 12 ½ years of service, his passion, and dedication to Perry Township Schools. We wouldn't be the district we are, without you and so many of your family members. Thank you.

Mrs. Dale stated this year has obviously been one that we could not have imagined or truly prepared for, but I think we have done a great job in our district supporting our students and making sure they are a top priority. I want to express my gratitude to every staff member/person in this district ... all of the moving pieces we have and how many people have had to step up and do their jobs in different ways that we could have never imagined before. It's occurred at every level across the board I will add an extra, extra thank you to our teachers who have reimagined their profession to serve students and find a way to connect with them, teach them and grow them. I also thank teachers world-wide as the pandemic it is affecting all teachers. Thanks to those who are executing all of this. It leaves me speechless and its incredible.

Thank you. I wish everyone health and safety and happiness, and hopefully some normalcy in 2021. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Mr. Mertz thanked Mr. Mercer for his service. We started on this journey together and its bittersweet for me that he is retiring from the board. I honestly believe this township is a better district because of Chuck's service, his wisdom, guidance and counsel. I have learned a lot from Chuck and I am grateful to call him a friend and mentor. Chuck and I came in at a difficult time in the district. It was a tough time for the Board of Education. We were learning the ins and outs of a new superintendent. We dealt with cost containment, changing collective bargaining, we built kindergarten centers, he was involved in the stadium projects, artificial turf, and so much more we experienced together. In serving with Chuck, I can share that he has always been a steady hand that wanted nothing better than the absolute best for the district. In doing so, Chuck would always provide his honest input and opinion and he would hold firm

and keep the course. Chuck always has had the district's best interest in mind. He always did so in the most diplomatic way. I learned a lot from Chuck, his methodology and his diplomacy. Thank you very much, Chuck. The board thanks you and I thank you. The district has been well-served by you for 12 ½ years.

Mr. Mertz thanked the staff and administration for the completion of what has been an interesting first semester to say the very least. Having experienced it with my daughter with the teachers, administration, guidance counselors, coaches ... I compare it to riding a white water raft going up and down, and trying to guide the raft with the paddles as best they can. Mr. Mertz complimented the teachers, the staff and the administration for everything you have done and are doing. You had a curve ball thrown at you on top of a curve ball at every point throughout the year, and you responded. As a board member, sometimes you become frustrated because you only hear the bad stories. Very rarely does someone send an email to say something positive. In having a child in the school system, you get to see those successes and how the teachers respond to an overwhelming first semester. I want to thank you. I sincerely thank you as I have seen the impact you have had on my daughter and her friends as the teachers respond. The teachers have taught hybrid to a full on-line model. It's a lot of work, and I don't think the students realize the amount of work a teacher puts in to deliver one lesson. Thank you for your work. Mr. Mapes keeps the board informed of what the district is doing, how we are doing it, where we are going and the manner in which we are going. We are in touch with what is happening and when it is happening. Lastly, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Hartman thanked Mr. Willey. Please express my sincere appreciation to your entire team. The work your department has done this semester is huge. The comments and feedback that I hear about the IT Helpdesk has been tremendous. For parents who need help logging into Canvas, let alone understand it with every teacher having Canvas set up differently. The feedback I am hearing about the HelpDesk is so very positive. Thank you very much because I know you and your team have worked hard this semester. Mrs. Hartman thanked the teachers. Her daughter in high school shared how a teacher is following up with her to make sure she is doing okay. Teachers checking in with students and having a relationship is needed more during a pandemic. Mrs. Hartman is grateful that teachers are taking on an extra load of taking care of the whole student. I am very, very grateful for that. Mrs. Hartman stated she can't thank Mr. Mercer enough for his call to her 4 ½ years ago asking her to consider running for school board. Since that time, Chuck, you have always been supportive of me. My first year as a board member, it was eyes wide open. She said as Mr. Mertz stated, you are always steady, always calm ... we sat in numerous Executive Sessions my first year. I would look at you to see how you were responding, waiting for the wisdom you would give. You have been a steady, guiding hand and you will be missed. Thank you.

Mr. Shively stated he is feeling the same way everyone has expressed, and he appreciates the work everyone has put in. It's easy to get on social media and complain without knowing the full picture. It's interesting the mention of the Teacher Appreciation Grant being distributed. I hear what is being given to highly effective and effective teachers, and I know from personal experience no one is going to not take that, but especially this year, the work that teachers have done. If only the state had money to give to teachers for all of their work. Mr. Shively appreciates the work by the teachers. I understand that it is not just going from teaching in person to teaching on-line, but it is so much more. It's been a tough year on kids and it's been a tough year on teachers. The emotional disconnect and wanting to reach kids is just a piece of all of this. A year ago, today, no one knew what contact tracing was. Now, every administrator in the township knows more about it than they care to. Again, thank you to everyone, teachers and assistants. It doesn't work if they don't show up every day whether in person or virtually.

Edgewood United Methodist church donated \$727 to 10 schools in our district. Donations need to be mentioned. Every month we have people giving financially. Every one of those donations are going back to the kids. That is what Perry Township is about.

Mr. Shively stated he was thinking about his time on the board and Mr. Mercer. One of the words that came to mind was 'calm.' I am a firm believer in generational type things and legacies. I can't help but think the year and a half I have been here that has been steady and calm, that it is a reflection of you, Chuck, who have provided amidst the storm the calm, steady hand and guidance. I wish we could have worked together longer, but I am glad for the time we had and I hope you enjoy the additional time with your family. Thank you for your work for Perry Township Schools.

Mr. Hernandez thanked everyone in the district for all you have done, the perseverance, digging in and hard work and especially being flexible with all of the change. Being able to adapt is a great skill. One of our items for approval illustrates how we are using resources that are effective. It's an example of digging in and not doing what you were used to doing in the past. In doing this, we are seeing the results of using a resource with expertise and seeing incredible savings.

Mr. Hernandez echoed thanks to Mr. Mercer for his service, and the contributions you and your family have had on the district and community are immeasurable. Thank you for everything you have done. Mr. Hernandez told Mr. Mercer that he is part of the reason that he became interested in serving on the board. Lastly, since you offered, I am going to call you next year. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson stated this is the year which the entire world has learned how to deal with adversity. I would like to say to the teachers, students, administrators, and everyone in this board room ... 100 years ago when the outbreak of the Spanish flu struck, what were people thinking, and how did they deal with the lack of communication compared to what we have now. We recently remembered the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Everyone knows about Pearl Harbor and what happened there. I had an uncle that was there at that time. As a township, we are dealing with a COVID-19 pandemic. The days we are going through now, people will look back a century from now and ask themselves, how did they deal with that. So, I say, from superintendent to the PEA, teachers and staff: we have dealt with a lot of changes since the outbreak, the Marion County Public Health Department making changes every week, we don't know what is happening from week to week, day-to-day. As a township and educators, we have to deal with this. We pick up the ball and we move forward and try to do the best for our kids. I do not feel that is ever going to change. I have been in this township for almost 37 years and that has always been a unique treasure of Perry Township ... we move forward and we try to do the best with and for our kids. I know there have been difficulties at times ... I want to thank all teachers, staff, administrators, bus drivers, food service, everyone who works to make this district continuously operate. You all need to pat ourselves on the back, and part of that goes to Chuck Mercer. Thank you, Chuck, for your service. You and Mr. Mertz have seen a lot in 12 ½ years. I appreciate the advice you have given to me as president this year. Thank you for sending your son to me to be a student teacher. People have said you are the quiet storm and we appreciate you. When you have spoken, we take notice. Your advice and counsel have been positive for the township. Thank you and your wife. I wish you the best. Any time you want to go fishing, don't call me because I don't fish. I wish you well in your official retirement.

Mr. Mapes echoed everyone's sentiments. It's been a unique year. Teachers went from being not just academic instructors, but social workers in checking on the health and well-being of their students. In our community, that is a big, big piece of this. It's one thing when you get to see them every day in your classroom and you know they're doing okay, but when you're in a virtual or hybrid environment, it makes you worry about kids who are still under your charge to take care of for an entire school year.

Our teachers, instructional assistants and all staff have stepped up to the challenge 24/7 as we receive a notice in the middle of the night that a student may be in danger. All of our staff stop to take care of the kids we serve and that's who we are. Mr. Mapes thanked the board. This is all new territory for every administrator across the United States that is in education. And as in every decision you make, there are those who think you are right and those who think you're wrong. What we do is keep our eyes on our kids, serve our community, and do the best we can. Our team has stepped up and done an outstanding job from every position in the district. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Get some rest. The second semester may mirror the first semester and we will need to keep pushing through and know there are brighter days ahead.

Chuck, as I said earlier, you've been a steady board member. I've been working in central office administration since 2002 and you are a fine board member, one of the best I've had experience to work with. It's because you care about the community you serve. That is the duty of the board, to set policies to serve the community. You have been a great role model for everyone in Perry Township as well other school districts on how to be an outstanding board member. Thank you.

Mr. Mercer stated it has been a quick 12 ½ years. I was just a kid. I remember saying the first night after the election, I thanked everyone who voted for me. There was a big turn-out because there had been so much turmoil in the district with the previous board. I had hoped that after I ran that those who didn't vote for me would say, 'I should have voted for him.' I don't know if I accomplished that or not. Ken and I worked with three superintendents. The difference between all of the superintendents and Mr. Mapes is remarkable. The board would take something to a previous superintendent(s) and it would take literally weeks for a decision to be made. The board can take something to Mr. Mapes and you'll receive thoughts and a decision pretty quickly. Not only that, but he will carry it out. I remember Mr. Mapes' first year of which I was president of the board. A teacher called me about a concern. I spoke to Mr. Mapes about it. Mr. Mapes went to see the teacher that afternoon to speak with her. The teacher was in shock that a superintendent came to talk to her and said he would help.

Mr. Mercer stated that as the district's legislative liaison, Mrs. Carpenter and Mr. Bohannon went with him to the state house a couple times to meet people to try to get something done in the legislature.

Mr. Mapes has many contacts to get things done.

Mr. Mercer thanked the teachers. If we didn't have teachers, we wouldn't have anything.

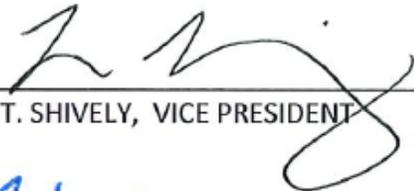
The first or second year on the board we were going to have to reduce staff. We went to HR and found areas that could be updated. Our current HR department has made many updates and is responsible for so very much in taking care of our employees. Thank you.

I have enjoyed my time serving on the board and enjoyed working with all of you for the past 12 ½ years. I am going to call Nancy Speedy who called me about serving on the board. I told her at that time I would serve for 4 years, and here we are 12 ½ years later. Thank you all for letting me be a partner with you. Thank you.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Johnson sounded the gavel to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm.

  
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