

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

May 10, 2021

The Board of Education of Perry Township Schools, Marion County, Indiana, held a Regular Board meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Perry Township Education Center, 6548 Orinoco Avenue.

Board of Education members present:

James H. Hernandez, President
Lee Shively, Vice President
Emily Hartman, Board Member
Scott Heller, Board Member
Steve Johnson, Board Member
Kenneth J. Mertz, Board Member

Board of Education members not present:

Hannah Dale, Board Secretary

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

OPENING OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Mr. Hernandez called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Jeff Spencer, principal of Southport Elementary School was named Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) 2021 Elementary Principal of the Year for District 7, which are all schools located in Marion County.

Mr. Brian Knight, principal of Southport High School was named Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) 2021 High School Principal of the Year for District 7, which are all schools located in Marion County.

Bawl Nung, 3rd grade student at Rosa Parks Elementary was recognized by the Read to the Final Four State Competition for reading 12,714 minutes during this competition.

Rosa Parks Elementary 3rd grade teachers were recognized for winning the Read to the Final Four State competition for their region with 102,580 minutes read!

Jayden Taylor, Perry Meridian High School Senior, was named 2021 Boys Indiana All-Star for basketball. Jayden scored 1,537 career points to rank second in school history. He plans to attend Butler in the fall, where he will play for the Bulldogs.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION NOT REQUIRING ACTION

Mrs. Vickie Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent of Foundational Learning, and Mr. Bob Bohannon, Assistant Superintendent of Career Preparation presented information related to the rigorous, three-week summer school program in June.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Mrs. Hartman. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson. The motion passed 6/0, with Mr. Shively abstaining from voting on the Personnel Report. Included with the minutes are copies of the following items:

- Minutes of the April 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- Minutes of the April 26, 2021 Public Work Session
- Minutes of the April 26, 2021 Executive Session
- Financial Report for March 2021
- Allowance of Vouchers
- Personnel Report
- Approval of Professional Travel Requests
- Report to Board on Travel Beyond 75 Miles by Certified and Classified Staff
- Fundraiser Requests
- Approval of Acceptance of Donations:

Homecroft

- a. Homecroft Elementary received a donation from one of their Homecroft families in the amount of \$480.00. This money will be used to help fund the 5th Grade Outdoor Education trip.

Rosa Parks Kindergarten

- a. Rosa Parks Kindergarten Academy received a \$400 donation from Gary and Sue Swails. This donation will be used to purchase items and snacks for the school's Field Day in May 2021.
- b. Rosa Parks Kindergarten Academy received a donation of Personal Protection Equipment from the TJ Maxx store in Plainfield, IN.
- c. Larry and Debbie Schneider donated \$200.00 to Rosa Parks Kindergarten Academy. This money will be used to purchase clothing, toys and diapers for a family experiencing challenges.

Donations continued ...

Perry Meridian High School

Request approval of cash donations, gift cards (\$1520 cash, \$690 gift cards) and gift items (no set value) from the community, to be used for the Special Needs Auction. Donations are given to students as rewards and incentives for their hard work and improvement.

Southport High School

Request approval of \$5000 donation from William L. Nieman to be used for SHS Student Needs account.

Student Services

Request approval of \$203.90 from Clinton Young Elementary School to benefit SHARE (Students and Staff Helping to Acquire Resources for Everyone).

- Approval of Renewal with Raptor Technologies, Security and Visitor Sign-In Software and System
- Approval of Renewal with Amplified IT for SysCloud, an Enterprise-Grade Student Safety, Security and Compliance Application for Google Workspace for Education and Office 365
- Approval of the Renewal Contract with Ellevation
- Approval of the Kleenit Group Carpet Cleaning Contract
- Approval of PHD Carpet Cleaning & Janitorial Services Contract
- Approval of the Renewal of the Lease with Southside Special Services
- Approval of the Lease Agreement with the Town of Homecroft
- Approval of the Summer School Incentive Pay
- Approval of Agreement with Duane Lytle Landscaping
- Approval of Agreement with Grant Keys Lawn Service
- Approval of treasurer, deputy treasurers and position surety bonds for the 2021-2022 school year
- Approval of the 2021 Southport High School Athletic Camps

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Jeremy Brooks was introduced as the new assistant principal at Southport Elementary School.

Mrs. Melissa Decker was introduced as the new assistant principal at Rosa Parks Kindergarten Academy.

Mrs. Bethany Peterson-Gibson was introduced as the new principal of Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.

Mrs. Kim Witkemper was introduced as the new principal of Southport Elementary School.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION REQUIRING ACTION

Mr. Sampson recommended approval of Resolution 21-011 to purchase the property at 2115 E. Southport and 67 Van Dyke Street. The purchase of the property is \$5,750,000. The property consists of a building with 64,299 square feet of space sitting on 4.91 acres. Initial use of the building will be for:

- English Language Learners Department offices
- House our Technology warehouse and 1:1 repair teams
- Classroom space and shop area for the James Whitcomb Riley Alternative School
- Training center

The property will be paid for from the rainy day fund. Mr. Johnson moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

Mr. Sampson will recommend approval of bids for carpet replacement at Abraham Lincoln Elementary, Jeremiah Gray Elementary, Perry 6th Grade Academy and Southport 6th Grade Academy. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mr. Heller seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

Mr. Hatcher recommended approval of the 2022 budget timeline. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mr. Heller seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

Mrs. Carpenter recommended approval of the 2021-2022 elementary textbook rental. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

Mrs. Carpenter recommended approval of a contract for Full Spectrum ABA therapy services. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mr. Mertz seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

Mrs. Carpenter recommended approval for Clinton Young 5th grade students to travel to Flat Rock River Camp for their outdoor education program. They would depart on October 27 and return on October 29, 2021. She recommended approval of the Southport Elementary 4th grade students to travel to CYO Camp Rancho Framasa for their outdoor education program, departing on April 13, 2022, and returning on April 15, 2022.

Mr. Bohannon recommended approval for the Perry Meridian High School Music Department (band, choir and/or orchestra) to travel to New York City and Sandusky, Ohio from Friday, May 27 through Wednesday, June 2022.

Mr. Bohannon recommended approval for the Perry Meridian High School Girls Basketball team to travel to Drury University in Springfield, Missouri from Sunday, June 20 through Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mr. Shively seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

Mr. Bohannon recommended approval of a service agreement between Perry Township Schools and Discovery Education. Discovery Education inspires educators to go beyond traditional learning with award-winning digital content and professional development. Mr. Shively moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

Mr. Bohannon recommended approval of the 2021-2022 textbook adoption of social studies and math for secondary schools. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mr. Mertz seconded. The motion passed 6/0.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Hartman said this time of year and graduation is always an exciting time of year.

Mrs. Hartman stated there is something very special when an experienced classroom teacher becomes a master teacher, and then assistant principal. You know how they impacted your child and other students in the classroom, and now on a larger level they are impacting an entire school and township. I am grateful to our staff for being committed to growing students emotionally, socially, and behaviorally. We are blessed with some phenomenal educators and blessed to see that progression happen.

Mrs. Hartman shared that as she looks back at this past year and what we've learned, she believes we've learned a lot of lessons, some of which were very hard. We grow most in those hard lessons. I see us not wasting this opportunity, using it for growth and being intentional. For that, I commend all of you in this room.

She shared it was an honor and joy to recognize Bawi Nung, 3rd grader at Rosa Parks Elementary for reading the most minutes, 12,741 minutes; and also, to the Rosa Parks Elementary 3rd grade teachers for winning the Read to the Final Four State competition for the region.

Mrs. Hartman commended the elementary and secondary teachers who have stepped up to the plate to teach our children to help close the gap and continue to grow this summer. The fact that we have as many students enrolled for summer school is a testament to families who are valuing education, and students who enjoy being in school. She gave a shout out to Mr. Kirby Schott because carpet cleaning and summer work will have to be scheduled around our three week summer school program. Thank you for your flexibility and making it work.

Mrs. Hartman closed by saying, we always have our eyes on students, and I will forever applaud that about Perry Township. Mrs. Hartman congratulated the class of 2021 who I have had the honor to get to know and watch them grow up.

Mr. Mertz mentioned a business downtown, a shoe store owned and run by the Cento family who has lived in Perry Township for 40+ years. The father passed away a number of years ago. The youngest son, Tony, passed away this past week. I have known the family for over 40 years and the Cento boys have been running the shoe store downtown for a very long time. They are a phenomenal family and individuals. Between COVID-19 and the riots, it was difficult for the family business to survive. They were a part of the Perry Township community and friends to Perry Township Schools.

Mr. Mertz said it is good to see people he has known for 10+ years move through the ranks of Perry Township; Mrs. Decker, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Witkemper congratulations, all well-deserving, excellent educators. It's always nice to sit here as a board member and watch the positive things happen.

Mr. Mertz stated he was a fan years ago when Perry Township first began looking into Evaluate, which at that time we called Benchmarks. I believe we were one of the first pioneering districts that used this tool. He remarked that when Mrs. Carpenter showed statistics from Evaluate before and during COVID-19. More than anything, it shows the meaning of Evaluate and why we do it so that we can help our kids as they move through the school year! That was a big adjustment when my kids were younger ... teachers, students and parents could find out where the student was efficient or where we needed work. Evaluate allowed teachers to make adjustments during the school year to help kids. Now we are using it for the entire district, and it has helped us during the pandemic so that we are offering a robust summer school to address our kids' needs. I can tell you, not a lot of districts have the data or utilize the data, and then implement the programs that we're doing at all levels of our schools. I compliment everybody who is involved in tackling this. The number of kids that are enrolled in summer school is a testament that the kids and parents recognize there are areas of missing information and it's not for anything lack of teaching, it was a totally different environment during the pandemic in which kids had to learn and teachers had to teach. I cannot say enough and commend the staff for making this happen for our students.

Lastly, Mr. Mertz echoed Mrs. Hartman in saying this is a fun time of year to congratulate the graduates as we watch these kids walk across the stage to the next phase of their lives. And it's even more special to actually partake in it after the pandemic. Thank you for being here tonight.

Mr. Heller said it's extraordinary that Mr. Spencer was named as the 2021 IASP (Indiana Association of School Principals) District 7 Elementary Principal of the Year. Congratulations for excelling and for your leadership. Also, the same to Mr. Knight for being selected as the 2021 District 7 Secondary Principal of the Year. We are blessed both of these principals are in Perry Township. Thankful for your leadership and striving for excellence. This is an extraordinary accomplishment, and I am grateful for the staffs who both support and develop, and those who have developed you throughout the years. I'm thankful our students get to be a part of that.

Mr. Johnson congratulated Mr. Spencer and Mr. Knight. I know your positions are tough with everything you do and the challenges you face. Behind the scenes no one knows the pressures and how you have to communicate with your staff in a positive way to keep them moving forward. Thank you. Mr. Johnson said he prays that we have some normalcy next school year for the students and teachers. Thank you.

Mr. Shively commented to Mr. Knight and Mr. Spencer that he is sure when they were working towards their administration license the phrase contact tracing was not anywhere in the curriculum. Congratulations to each of you for this recognition. Receiving this recognition during a normal year is amazing, that it was this year speaks volumes.

Mr. Shively spoke of his 9-year old in 3rd grade who asked him, "Is it the last week of school yet?" This is a kid who loves school. I told him from a teacher perspective, I completely understand. To the teachers in the room and across the district, we know you're feeling the same this year.

Mr. Shively talked about summer school and how amazing the numbers are. It's just as much about the kids and their parents as it is the teachers. How many of these kids especially in the elementary level learned that they could spend 3 additional weeks with their teacher and wanted to go! That says so much! On the other end of the spectrum, I know district administration has been going around recognizing 95 students who accomplished perfect I-Read 3 tests.

Mr. Shively commented he doesn't know what it says, but the fact that we have summer school where we are intentionally focusing on skills that are lacking and trying to improve that, but we are also maintaining a high expectation of rigor that is allowing almost 100 of our students to earn perfect IRead3 scores is amazing to me, and it is a testament to the range of our teachers reaching all levels.

Mr. Shively to Mr. Johnson, you mentioned getting back to normalcy, I agree.

Mr. Shively said he was excited to see summer camps, and future outdoor education on the board agenda for approval. Those are good signs moving forward!

Mr. Hernandez echoed the sentiments shared. He congratulated Mr. Knight and Mr. Spencer on their great work. He said he believes it also shows we have good people, and we develop them, and we like to recognize them and give them opportunities. I think one of the teachers said Perry is the place to be, and that feeling is echoed.

Mr. Hernandez stated the whole schematic of our summer school program is amazing. You are being proactive and truly looking out for the interest of the kids. We are investing in our kids!

Thank you to all of the teachers, support staff, administrators, technology, food service staff, transportation, and everyone who is involved in our three-week summer school program to help our kids.

Mr. Hernandez stated the building formerly known as the Gerdt building is exciting for Perry Township. Walking through the building with the administration team, you could see the gears working, and the creativity in their vision for the building and the district. The energy and the vision and excitement are a very good thing that is going to set us apart from other school districts, always focusing on our kids first and foremost.

Lastly, Mr. Hernandez shared, I haven't had a kid graduate in a long time, but I am looking forward to graduation! Thank you.

Mr. Mapes echoed all of the sentiments and congratulations. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel as we have only 13 student days remaining in the school year. To think last August that we would even get to this point with as many days in person is unbelievable. Yes, we still have the excitement of graduation to come, but since this is our last board meeting before the school year is over, we can't thank the teachers, the administrators, support staff, every employee in Perry Township Schools for their work and efforts this year. No one was prepared for this pandemic. We faced it head on and everybody jumped in to serve kids. That is a testimony of what we do each and every day. We will look back on this and think "we did what?" and "did it how fast?" That's why people get into education and we're an example for Marion County on how to do it right even when we're not sure what path we are going to take. We keep our eyes on students and provide academic opportunities for them. We cannot say thank you enough for the 2020-2021 school year and what happened in Perry Township Schools.

Mr. Mapes said we have a lot of work to do for the summer. Once again, our Facilities and Maintenance Department will make plans with those vendors to work around the summer school program because the first thing we have to do is take care of our kids, and that's reassuring each and every day in PTS. We have a lot to celebrate with graduation and we look forward to having at four tickets per student for their family to watch in the field house to graduate together. All of those seniors will graduate together at the same time. In Marion County, the larger school districts are dividing their senior class and they are not able to have that one last moment together. I'll go back a long time, because I'm an '82 grad and I'll never forget when my building principal told me, he said, this will be the last formal time you are ever together as a class. Within 10 days, we lost a class member. As we head into graduation of our high school students, it is important for them to understand that they've all made it together and it's the last time they will achieve something together and we look forward to honoring them at commencement.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hernandez sounded the gavel to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.



JAMES H. HERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT

Absent on 6.14.2021

LEE T. SHIVELY, VICE PRESIDENT

ABSENT on 5.10.2021

HANNAH H. DALE, SECRETARY



EMILY HARTMAN, MEMBER

Absent on 6.14.2021

SCOTT HELLER, MEMBER



STEVE JOHNSON, MEMBER



KENNETH J. MERTZ, MEMBER