

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

June 14, 2021

The Board of Education of Perry Township Schools, Marion County, Indiana, held a Regular Board meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Perry Township Education Center, 6548 Orinoco Avenue.

Board of Education members present:

James H. Hernandez, President
Hannah Dale, Board Secretary
Emily Hartman, Board Member
Steve Johnson, Board Member
Kenneth J. Mertz, Board Member

Board of Education members not present:

Lee Shively, Vice President
Scott Heller, 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

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.

CENTRAL NINE CAREER CENTER PRESENTATION

Dr. Kovach presented information on the proposed expansion of Central Nine Career Center.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Mr. Johnson. It was seconded by Mrs. Dale. The motion passed 5/0. Included with the minutes are copies of the following items:

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report for April 2021
- Allowance of Vouchers

- Personnel Report
- Fundraiser Requests
- Approval of Acceptance of Donations:

Henry Burkhart

- a. Henry Burkhart received a donation of \$125.00 from Mrs. Candace Brandt. This donation will be used to support the library by purchasing books for children.

Homecroft Elementary

- a. Homecroft Elementary has received three donations of \$80.00 each from three families in the Homecroft community. This money will be used to help cover the cost of the 5th grade outdoor education trip.

Southport Elementary

- a. The Southport Elementary PTA has donated \$1,865.90 to help minimize the student costs for a 4th grade trip next year to Camp Framosa.

Perry Meridian High School

Respectfully request approval of an additional \$390.00 in cash/checks and \$1,120.00 in gift cards donated to the Special Needs Auction that was held Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Southport Academy

Respectfully request approval of \$160.55 donation from Southport Academy teachers to be used for their buildings "Help a Student" Fund.

Compass Education Center

Respectfully request approval of \$60.00 donation from Bubba's 33 to be used for Student Incentives.

Student Services

Respectfully request approval of \$500.00 from Perry Meridian Middle and Perry Sixth Grade Academy PTA to benefit SHARE (Students and Staff Helping to Acquire Resources for Everyone).

- Approval of Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Pricing for 2021-2022 School Year
- Approval of Renewal of Waterford Contract or Reading, Math and Science for Kindergarten and First Grade Students
- Approval of a Renewal Contract with Monica Gallien to provide educational audiology resource service for students in the district.
- Approval of PMHS Summer Athletic Camp
- Approval of 2021 Perry Youth Theatre Camp

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bohannon introduced Mr. Andrew Repay as the new assistant principal at Perry Sixth Grade Academy.

ESSER III PLAN

Mr. Mapes discussed the Every Student Succeeds Emergency Recovery (ESSER). This plan from the federal government will be \$26,547, 039 for Perry Township Schools over a three-year period to for academic progress to address the learning gap, as well as to upgrade facilities in HVAC, and acquire PPE that might still be needed for COVID-19. The ESSER III plan requires each school district to prepare a back-to-school plan. This plan can be found on our district website.

ESSER III Public Comment

Mrs. Hartman asked if this is required to be completed again in six months? Mr. Mapes stated the plan will need to be revisited it in six months.

Mr. Johnson asked will the interventionists hired with the ESSER III funds be temporary positions. Yes, for two to three years.

Mr. Andrew Young asked for clarification in regard to legislation by the state health department as the city council makes decisions and the Marion County Public Health Department. Mr. Young would like clarification you are intending to follow guidelines, so as the health department pivots, you can pivot as well. Mr. Young would like for this language to be included in the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Robin McCarty stated she has concerns this past school year and for the upcoming year with the mask mandates. Are we requiring kids to wear masks? I feel it's detrimental to their mental health and impedes their concentration.

Mrs. Mary Nguyen praised Perry Township Schools for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her son graduated from SHS last year. Thank you for the fantastic work by administrators, principals, and teachers for figure out on the fly, student schedules, teacher virtual classes, transportation, feeding kids, etc. I want you all to know everything you did, with the ultimate goal to do what is best for kids is greatly appreciated. Kudos to Mr. Knight for drive-through graduation last year.

Mrs. Nguyen stated she supports individual choice for adults and students. She shared a handout "Five reasons why Coronavirus vaccine must be voluntary." We don't have long-term data.

Mrs. Nguyen suggested that we lift all daily COVID-19 screenings in school and the buses.

She discussed an article by Paul E. Alexander, article, talks about children must not be vaccinated for COVID-19 at this time. Mrs. Nguyen's concerns are more about the restrictions revolving around COVID-19. American Academy of Pediatrics. She discussed an article from Sweden indicating statistics under a no-mask mandate.

Mr. Andrew Young stated he feels vaccination is a choice. Every parent will feel differently. We should follow the Marion County Public Health Department guidelines should be followed to the letter by the school district. I support the school board in following those decisions.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION REQUIRING ACTION

Mr. Mapes recommended approval of the ESSER III plan discussed above. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 5/0.

Mr. Sampson recommended the approval of the Project Development Agreement with Energy Systems Group. Mrs. Dale moved to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion passed 5/0.

Mr. Sampson recommended the approval of the Perry Meridian Middle School Phase II Kitchen bids. Mrs. Dale moved to approve, Mr. Mertz seconded. The motion passed 5/0.

Mr. Sampson recommended the approval of the Project Development Agreement with Schmidt Associates to Study the Perry Township Academic Center for Various Administrative and Educational Functions. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mrs. Dale seconded. The motion passed 5/0.

Mr. Willey recommended approval of a contract with Roeing for Secure 360 Remediation Platform. This is a 24-hour/7-day a week cyber security that watches for triggers and signatures and alerts us. Mr. Mertz moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 5/0. Mr. Hernandez stated last week on the news it was reported schools are needing to do this to keep up with cyber security and I'm thankful we are doing it.

Mrs. Carpenter recommended approval of a contract for Read&Write which offers powerful support tools to improve reading and comprehension skills. Mrs. Dale moved to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion passed 5/0.

Mrs. Carpenter recommended approval for school travel for Glenns Valley Elementary 5th grade students' outdoor education program. Mrs. Hartman moved to approve, Mrs. Dale seconded. The motion passed 5/0.

Mr. Bohannon recommended approval of textbook adoption of advanced speech/dual credit for secondary schools. Mrs. Dale moved to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion passed 5/0.

Mr. Bohannon recommended approval of an early college course adoption for secondary schools. Mrs. Dale moved to approve, Mrs. Hartman seconded. The motion passed 5/0.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Hartman thanked the parents and community members in attendance for attending the meeting. She thanked everyone who worked on the projects and contracts requiring action this evening. She thanked Mrs. Baker for her and her staff's hard work and taking care of our district staff.

Mrs. Hartman congratulated our new hires. Mr. Repay is going to be a tremendous addition to Perry Sixth Grade Academy. She congratulated Mr. Jody Matthews, Principal of Homecroft Elementary for being selected District Administrator of the Year. Mrs. Hartman congratulated Allison Scot, Homecroft Kindergarten Teacher, for being named District Teacher of the Year.

She thanked all teachers for their hard work this year.

Mrs. Hartman stated she is very proud that 63.8% of the ESSER funds is being spent on students and instruction. She said knowing how much of our budget is spent on kids every year and making that a priority is something I will always be proud of in Perry Township, because at the end of the day we are here to grow and teach kids, and help them to learn. Life gave us COVID-19 this past year and a half, and it has not been fun, and yet we continue to keep our eyes on children and instruction and making sure they are not the unfortunate result of something beyond our control. Thank you, Mr. Mapes, for guiding the district and making sure the kids are our focus.

Mr. Mertz thanked the parents and community for attending tonight's meeting. He expressed gratitude to the administrative team specifically in this room, but also to our teachers, our principals and our staff. It has been a hard year. When Marion County Public Health Department would announce a COVID-19 change or requirement, everyone in this room had to make it happen sometimes within hours. With a school district of approximately 17,000 students, it doesn't turn on a dime. Everyone did a phenomenal job.

Mr. Mertz stated he reached out to a teacher he knows and asked them 'what does elementary education look like when we are fully virtual.' She walked me through an entire lesson and all that it involves being totally virtual. Mr. Mertz thanked everyone and the teachers for a lot of behind the scenes time and work that a lot of people did not realize to make sure the kids received an education. We do have some learning gaps. It was a challenging environment for kids to learn in. Thank you to the administrators in this room who realize this, Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Mr. Mertz explained he was talking to some individuals who wanted to attend law school. They applied last year and decided they didn't want to do law school online, so they decided to wait and attend law school this year. Those students had the opportunity to wait a year. **Our** students do not. For students who want to go to law school this year, there is a one-year back-log. Who knows when this will be rectified? Some of these individuals realize they are going to have a learning gap in going to higher education. Thank you to our administration for planning and offering our students a robust 3-week summer school program this year and next year!

Mr. Mertz congratulated our 2021 graduates. The commencement programs were very nice. There was a lot of work put in by both high schools to ensure each high school's graduation went smoothly. It's always nice to see our graduates walk across the stage.

Mr. Johnson echoed the sentiments mentioned. He thanked those who attended the board meeting this evening. Parents and community members, it is important to attend board meetings. You have a voice. We as a board welcome your attendance and comments. We hear people complain via telephone calls and social media. We encourage people to attend board meetings and speak at the board meetings. Mr. Johnson thanked those who made comments and suggestions at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Johnson thanked all of the administrators, teachers, and staff for another successful year, even though we were COVID-19 bound, we were able to move forward. I pray this fall that we are all back to educate our students. I am proud I have been a part of Perry Township Schools for the past 37 ½ years. More than half of my life has been in Perry Township, and I tell people and my friends all over the city that I love where I live. We will continue to make strides. There will always be a hurdle that needs to be crossed. Our success will be clearing the hurdles, making sure we have no mis-steps and continue on to the next one. Thank you for attending. Mr. Johnson wished much success to our 2021 graduates, and we look forward to the freshmen coming into the high schools.

Mrs. Dale echoed the sentiments mentioned previously. She thanked those who attended the board meeting this evening. It is important for parents and community members to attend the board meetings. She stated the board members hear comments in many different forms, but it is important to attend board meetings and make comments in a formal setting.

Mrs. Dale thanked everyone who is working to make summer school happen. The summer school program is more intense than before, a lot of gratitude to our teachers, administrators, bus drivers and our food service staff, and everyone working to make this happen. Thank you.

Mr. Hernandez thanked Dr. Kovach for presenting the expansion of Central Nine Career Center. There is such a need for expanding programs and opportunities for our kids.

Congratulations to Mr. Andy Repay in your new position as Assistant Principal of Perry Sixth Grade Academy. Mr. Hernandez applauds the planning and the stewardship of the ESSER III funds for the kids.

He echoes the sentiments regarding the summer school program and thanked everyone who worked to make this rigorous three-week summer school program happen! Five thousand, three hundred (5,300) students are attending the rigorous 3-week summer school program. That is incredible! Thank you to those who attended the meeting this evening and shared your comments publicly with the board. You did so in a respectful manner and showed concern for our kids and community. We truly appreciate your comments and attending this board meeting. The Facilities group ... you guys have been so busy, so much work behind the scenes. I have served on this committee and people are unaware of the planning, ten-year plan and everything that goes into the buildings and maintenance projects. Graduation was special and fun. Thank you to the building principals for their work in ensuring a smooth and successful commencement. My sincere thank you to this group of administrators and everything you do.

Mr. Mapes asked Mrs. Carpenter to make an announcement. Mrs. Carpenter announced we are so excited for the accelerated learning grant approved for a partnership with Adult and Child that will allow us to have an additional adult and child staff member in every elementary, kindergarten academy, 6th grade academies and middle schools to support kids and any student that needs that support. The Adult and Child staff member will be called an SEL Specialist because we know our kids have been through a lot, we've talked about it, we've seen it – our kids have struggled. Even if a student has the best home life, the child has worried and stressed about the pandemic and not knowing what is going to happen. This staff person is going to be staffed in each of the above mentioned buildings for three (3) years. This partnership allows us to support our students emotionally and socially after living through the pandemic they have suffered. This gives us the opportunity and is very exciting. This will be announced to everyone later this week.

Mr. Mapes stated this accelerated learning grant is from HB1008 from state legislature. They placed \$150 million in the budget to support this . The grant is worth \$5.3 million over 3 years for Adult & Child's partnership with Perry Township Schools. Mr. Mapes echoed the sentiments of those before him. We have had a great year and a lot of people who were more than flexible and working hard to ensure students and families were served in PTS.

June, July and August are the busiest time for the administrative staff and those who support them as we prepare for the school year beginning on July 26. Thank you.

Mr. Hernandez stated in regard to the Adult and Child partnership, he has witnessed first-hand as an estate and guardianship attorney. Adult and Child is so important to so many of our kids. I am looking forward to this partnership.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hernandez sounded the gavel to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

See next page for board member signatures.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Absent 7-12-2021

James H. Hernandez President

Lee T. Shively Vice-President

Hannah Dale Secretary

Absent 7-12-2021

Emily Hartman Member

Scott Heller Member

Steve Johnson Member

Kenneth J. Merz Member