

February 8, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mrs. Shuey. Mrs. Shuey led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. All Board members were present. Also present were Mr. Watkins, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Minard, Mrs. Watkins, Mr. Durrwachter, Mr. Cary, Mr. Hileman, Mr. Herrell, Mr. Lunsford, Mrs. Mongosa, Mrs. McCain, several parents and students, and local news media representatives.

On motion by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Comerford, the Board unanimously approved the public agenda with one addition, the memorandum of January 11, and the personnel report.

Addition to V. OPERATIONS, A. FACILITY RENTAL REQUESTS - additional request.

PERSONNEL

A. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS

1. Lance Berryman - retirement - 6th grade teacher with 22 years of experience - effective May 26, 2016
2. Sandy Lewis - resignation - Blair Pointe aide - effective February 12, 2016
3. Tonia Ray - resignation - Blair Pointe aide - effective February 5, 2016

B. LEAVES - no business

C. RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFIED POSITIONS

1. Katrina Baker - Blair Pointe ED class (Kristin Unger's maternity leave) February 29 - April 15

D. RECOMMENDATION FOR CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

1. Suzy Sites - Blair Pointe temporary aide - February 8 - 26, 2016
2. Emily Watkins - Blair Pointe aide beginning February 29, 2016
3. *Permission to hire* - Blair Pointe temporary aide - February 16 - April 15, 2016
4. Judy Wylam - Blair Pointe instructional aide, was a temporary aide through February 5, 2016, extend employment through the end of school year.

E. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS

1. Lizzy Makin - PJHS track assistant (lay) coach
2. Mike Meeks - PJHS softball head (lay) coach
3. Bobby Ansari - PJHS softball assistant (lay) coach
4. Frankie Wright - PJHS softball volunteer coach
5. Cody Siblisk - PHS track assistant (lay) coach
6. Darryl Smith - PHS track volunteer coach
7. Joe Werner - PHS track volunteer coach
8. Daniel Wyant - varsity softball assistant (lay) coach
9. Mike Gapski - jr. varsity softball head (lay) coach
10. Paige Blanton - jr. varsity softball volunteer coach
11. Clint Mathews - boys' golf head coach
12. Erin Brindle - boys' golf volunteer coach
13. Doug Muzzillo - boys' golf volunteer coach

F. REQUEST FOR CONFERENCE

1. Chelsea Wilkinson - Blair Pointe art teacher and art club sponsor - NAEA National Convention and workshops in Chicago - March 16-19, 2016 - Costs from Title IIA: registration \$225, meals \$150, lodging \$597, workshops and opening \$371

G. DONATIONS

1. \$150 - band \$75 and choir \$75 - anonymous
2. \$250 - Swing Choir's New York City trip - Webster Insurance Agency
3. \$250 - Swing Choir's New York City trip - Decision Information Systems

4. \$500 - Swing Choir's New York City trip - Dobbs Legal Group, LLC
5. \$500 - Swing Choir's New York City trip - anonymous donor
6. \$2,000 - PHS and PJHS low income student assistance program - to be used at the discretion of the guidance department program director for food, hygiene, house goods, etc. There are two signers set up for the account to be sure the funds are being used according to the agreement. Bank of Berne initiative - Jennifer Ash, Assistant Vice President, and Stacy Hall, assistant branch manager.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT - no comments.

II. RECOGNITIONS - Mr. Watkins stated it gave him great pleasure to present two Black and Gold awards. He introduced Rob Hileman to present senior Deshawn Bayless for an academic recognition. Mr. Hileman stated this is a program we started last year with Chrysler that is manufacturing based where students complete two levels and then can complete the third level as an internship with Chrysler that in turn opens the door for many opportunities including an opportunity with Ivy Tech for a full ride. Mr. Hileman stated Chrysler has figured out in the next 10 years 60% of their work force will be retiring. They are trying to find a way to connect to the schools and students like Deshawn. Mr. Hileman stated Peru has 32 other students in the program. He stated Deshawn is the first one from Peru and one of 11 students from area schools at this level. He added Deshawn is ranked at the top of the class. Mr. Hileman added we hope Deshawn is the first of many students to take advantage of this opportunity with Chrysler and Ivy Tech. Mr. Watkins stated Deshawn was nominated by Mrs. Merrick. Mr. Watkins extended his congratulations to Deshawn and his mother.

Mr. Watkins introduced senior Jesse Zvers, nominated by Mr. Cary, who has received a scholarship to attend Grace College. Jesse will be running cross country and track. Her brother also attends Grace College. Mr. Herrell is her cross country coach and was present to congratulate her as well.

The Board congratulated both students on their achievements and success.

III. PROGRAM

A. VIDEO CONFERENCING - VIRTUAL LEARNING - Mrs. Watkins welcomed the Board to Blair Pointe. She introduced Dan Durrwachter, the assistant principal and Mrs. Terri McCain, 5th grade teacher. She informed the Board Mrs. McCain is an outstanding teacher who is a go-getter! She is tenacious about her ideas and helping students learn. Mrs. Watkins also introduced Mr. Justin Lunsford, Technology Integration Specialist, who has been helping Mrs. McCain and many of the teachers at Blair with their technology integration. Mrs. McCain explained since the class was ahead of schedule last November with their history lessons, she wanted something history related that was unique and technology related to keep their attention through December as the holiday season approached. She contacted Doug Meyer who in turn connected her to CILC website. She said she reviewed what was available and Mr. Meyer set her up with three live conferences. She stated the class has already done three, and she is preparing to do more. Mr. Lunsford explained the CILC website is basically a video conference clearing house that links schools to content providers. The kids get to interact with the authors. He stated Mrs. Doud's high school PLTW watched an autopsy and kidney transplant. He added this spring they will watch a knee replacement. He stated at Blair Pointe they have talked with a French fur trader, celebration of Native American cultures, puppet making, following the buffalo, tips on biographies and nonfictional features which is important for ISTEP, and one on the Pursuit of Liberty: Virginia and the American Revolution. Mrs. McCain stated what is neat is that Jean-Paul LeFranc, the French Voyageur, was in Michigan and the students got to talk

with him on the big screen TV. She stated one of the video conferences took place at the Smithsonian and artifacts from the American Revolution, a place she cannot take her class on a field trip. This stated this has been a great opportunity for the students to experience people and places. Mr. Lunsford stated with the equipment we have the person doing the video conference can see our students and interact with them. Students Olivia, Madison, Jacob, and Emily shared what they enjoyed about the various video conferencing. Mr. Hanson stated Mr. Meyer was a resource who brought a wealth of knowledge as a former CILC employee. He said he has budgeted to put one of these conferencing units in each of the buildings. He said the presentations are a one on one with the presenter. He added this has been a very positive experience for our students. The Board thanked the students, Mrs. McCain, and Mr. Lunsford for their presentation.

B. PL221 PLANS - Mr. Hanson stated this has been a frustrating process over the past 2½ years. We did not receive our data until last month to complete the plan. A new process was started and we went through that training and began to implement. The state changed their mind. He said it has been hard to implement what we wanted to before ISTEP testing begins in two weeks. He stated next fall we should be back on schedule. He said in addition to our strategic plans, you are going to see a lot of similarities but nothing has really changed from years past. He noted we have to meet 12 standards to be compliant with the state and be accredited. These plans are the last requirement to meet the standards. These were reviewed at the January meeting. He requested Board approval for each of the school's PL221 plan for the 2015-16 school year. Ms. Rice moved to approve the plans, seconded by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Hanson stated a summary will be prepared before the 2016-17 plans are presented to the Board. The plans were unanimously approved. Mr. Watkins thanked the principals and their committees for their hard work.

C. CONSIDERATION OF NEW PHS COURSES - Mr. Cary, PHS Principal, requested approval of 15 new courses to be offered at PHS for the 2016-17 school year. These courses were discussed at a January high school meet-and-discuss. He stated most of the classes are being offered because we are changing to semesters and will offer more dual credit opportunities. He noted some of the classes are simply renamed to match the state classes. He stated not necessarily will all the classes be taken, but they would like to add them to the curriculum guide. Mr. Comerford asked how many students need to sign up for the class to be offered. Mr. Cary replied that depends on the other classes and staff available. Mr. Hanson stated they like to see at least 15 students in a class. Dr. Quin asked if the classes will be offered each semester. Mr. Cary responded it depends on the class as some are one semester and some are both semesters. Mr. Comerford asked if the college prep class would be team taught. Mr. Cary responded we will have to see what options we have as the schedule is built. He said he would love to have nine weeks with a math teacher and nine weeks with an English teacher as Logansport does. Mr. Cary said we have to be careful in sections that are offered because that takes away from other areas. He also noted some classes are offered as independent study if a student needs a class to graduate. Mr. Hanson stated every year the DOE releases state approved courses which are reviewed by our teachers and selected as classes to offer at PHS. He stated we are able to offer more this year because we have changed to a semester schedule.

English L202
English 112
AP Studio Art 2D
AP Studio Art 3D
AP Studio Art, Drawing
Digital Applications and Responsibility
Entrepreneurship and New Ventures

Technical/Business Communication
 Quantitative Reasoning
 College Entrance Preparation (ACT, SAT, PSAT, Accuplacer prep)
 AP Music Theory
 Applied Music/Percussion
 Applied Music/Rock Band
 Piano
 ASL-2 (American Sign Language)

Mr. Stanton made the motion to approve the classes, seconded by Mr. Comerford, unanimously approved. The Board thanked Mr. Cary and his teachers.

- D. FIRST READING OF NEOLA BYLAWS - Mr. Watkins reviewed five policies as a first reading. He stated we are laying out some controversial policies that will be addressed at the end of the year. The policies at this time are recommended due to Federal or state law. He stated if the Board wishes to pull a policy for further discussion, we can do that. He stated we went through the bylaws first and now we are reviewing the personnel policies. He stated the blue text is insertions and the red text is deletions.
- pol130 Administration - Conflict of Interest - new
 - po3113 Professional Staff - Conflict of Interest - new
 - po3120 Professional Staff - Employment of Professional Staff
 - po4113 Support Staff - Conflict of Interest - new
 - po4120 Classified Staff - Employment of Classified Staff

IV. BUDGET

- A. CLAIMS - Mr. Hall presented and reviewed claims. Mr. Stanton moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Ms. Rice, unanimously approved.

GENERAL FUND	429,087.43
DEBT SERVICE	117,000.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	56,983.53
TRANSPORTATION OPERATING FUND	4,518.53
TRANSPORTATION BUS REPLACEMENT	435.00
POST-RETIREMENT/SEVERANCE FUND	134,370.42
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND	78,547.32
DONATION/SPECIAL ED. TEACHERS	134.07
PARENT/STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUND	4,737.51
COLLEGE SUCCESS COALITION	60.00
TITLE I 2015-16	2,199.20
PARENT NURTURING PROGRAM	208.30
TITLE II 2015-16	1,344.23
GROUP INSURANCE	15,752.70
ANNUITIES	22.73
FRINGE BENEFITS	<u>411,963.21</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,257,364.18

- B. FUND MONITORING REPORT - Mr. Hall reviewed the fund monitoring report for the month of January. He stated this is the first look at the new budget for 2016. He noted for the first time in eight years our general fund receipts and disbursements are the same amount. He stated the disbursements for January from the general fund looks out of proportion because the \$140,000 W-MAP payment for January, February, and March came out in January and will balance out over the year. He noted the school lunch fund did not have many days in it because of the holidays so there is less reimbursement in January. January is a full month of expenditures thus there will be a deficit for that month. Mr. Wagner moved to approve the fund monitoring report, seconded by Mr. Stanton, unanimously approved.
- C. BOND USE REPORT - Mr. Hall reported on how the 2013 and 2014 bond funds were used. The proceeds from the 2013 bonds were mostly spent at the high school and were \$4,179,189. The majority of that money has been spent with \$783,550 remaining. He noted there were asphalt repairs from both bonds. The work has been completed, however, we have not been billed for it yet. He said there is \$538,018 for development of the 14 acres north of the Roxy in this bond. Most of the 2013 bond

money has been spent. He said there is a new roof on the high school that is finally done. A lot of technology infrastructure was also spent from the 2013 bond. The 2014 bond proceeds were \$4.2 million. There was \$38,641 spent for bond issuance. He noted there is \$300,000 set aside for roofing at PJHS and \$252,000 for Elmwood. He added a lot of money was invested in technology infrastructure and hardware from this bond as well and the JHS media center renovation. He said a walk-in freeze was purchased at placed in the store room at PJHS which was a wise investment due to soft tissue injuries. He said we will be putting in condensing boilers. They have been bid twice and were too high and will be rebid this spring. Ms. Rice asked about stadium handrails for the bleachers in Tig-Arena which was discussed at the athletic council meeting. Mr. Hall said the quotes were too high (\$80,000), so we are looking at other options such as maybe just a couple sections. Mr. Wolfe asked about the backup generators. Mr. Hall responded we thought that was a good idea at the time but have since decided it was something that was not really needed. Mr. Hanson responded the UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supplies) have been added to each of our servers which is basically a large battery that stores energy. They will provide 30-45 minutes of energy if our power would go down so that information will not be lost. Mr. Wolfe asked where was the money spent that was designated for the generators. Mr. Hall responded it was spent somewhere else.

- D. 2016 BUDGET REPORT - Mr. Hall reviewed the 2016 budget report and history. He stated we received our budget order shortly before the last meeting. He asked the Board to keep in mind the debt service, Capital Projects, transportation, bus replacement, and when we had it the school pension fund were tax supported. He said the assessed valuation has bounced around over the past several years. That is the tax base our levy divides into to calculate the rate. He noted we will lose 19% to the circuit breaker in transportation. He pointed out we do not have enough funding to pay for what it costs to run the student transportation system. He stated part of the temporary fix is the school pension debt levy. We have paid off those obligations. The levy yielded \$87,000 in change beyond what we needed to pay that off. He said he will transfer that \$87,000 balance to the Rainy Day Fund. He stated he will then have an additional appropriation hearing and resolution to transfer the \$87,000 from Rainy Day to student transportation. That will be a one time fix for this year. Mr. Hanson said there were some school corporations hugely affected by the circuit breaker that have no funding for student transportation, other corporations have more than they need. He stated we were the 13th largest cut in transportation funding due to circuit breaker cuts. Mr. Hall said it creates a huge inequality on funding for students. He pointed out we are losing \$747,000 with the next highest loss in the county is \$1,400. He stated it is ironic the bill to limit the tax levies increased the tax levies. Mr. Comerford asked if there was legislation or a plan in our budget to replace the \$87,000 that is being transferred. Mr. Hall responded the transfer is a one-time fix for this year and we will be back to supplementing transportation from the general fund. He said the good news is we have \$200,000 more in the general fund this year than last year. Mr. Wolfe asked if we could shift the bus drivers wages to the general fund? Mr. Hall responded three years ago we did some of that on the fuel side. We are fortunate fuel costs are lower.

V. OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

A. REQUESTS TO USE FACILITIES

1. PHS Tig-Arena - NSA umpire clinic - February 20, 2016 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - PCS teacher/coach will be in attendance
2. Blair Pointe cafeteria - annual Rotary Spell-A-Thon - Wednesday, March 2, 2016 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
3. Blair Pointe kitchen and cafeteria - annual Tri Kappa Easter Egg - March 4 and 5, 2016 (cafeteria and custodial

fees will be charged)

4. Tig-Arena - Sunday, March 6 and March 13 - Cal Ripkin baseball tryouts - conducted by PHS baseball staff, supervised by Coach Brimbury
5. Tig-Arena - Sunday, February 28, and Sunday, March 20 - youth baseball coaches clinic - conducted by PHS baseball staff, supervised by Coach Brimbury
6. Administrative Center conference room - Saturday, March 12 - Circus Board - board retreat - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
7. PHS Auditorium - November 11, 2016 - annual Kiwanis Veterans' Day program - 10:00 a.m. - noon
8. PJHS gym - Saturday, February 13, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Miami County Girls' Softball sign ups. David Ply, PCS custodian, is president of the softball league and will be present.

On motion by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Comerford, the Board unanimously approved the request to use the facilities with a waiver of the facility rental charge.

- B. BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED PROPERTY - Mr. Hall requested the Board accept a third donation from Russ Bellar of 7.261 acres with frontage on Broadway. This land is adjacent to the first donation of 14 acres that is north of the Roxy and the second donation of three smaller lots south of the Roxy. Ms. Rice moved to approve the land donation, seconded by Mr. Comerford, unanimously approved. The Board thanked Mr. Bellar for his donation.
- C. 2016 ROOFING BIDS - Mr. Hall stated seven bids were received for reroofing the single story section of PJHS and three or four sections at Elmwood. He stated the bid range was between \$543,000 and more than \$1,000,000. He said the bids were split in case the bidder could not have the capacity to do both buildings at the same time. He recommended the Board accept the recommendation of Kari Vilamaa from Barton, Coe, Vilamaa. The low bidder was Northern Indiana Roofing & Sheet Metal of South Bend for a total of \$543,624. He said the low bid actually came in lower than what the architect projected. He informed the Board this bidder is not a company who has worked on a PCS project before. The architects have had projects with them. Mr. Wagner moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Stanton. Dr. Quin asked of the architect actually does a background check on the company. Mr. Hall responded if they have not worked with the company they will contact references. Mr. Wolfe asked if the project foreman reports directly to him. Mr. Hall responded technically no because they are a contractor, however, the architect is responsible for being sure the work is done correctly. The architect is onsite every week, and he meets with them regularly. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

- A. SUPERINTENDENT - Mr. Hanson stated we received our new school grades and Performance Grant. He said both were pending legislation in the Senate and House. It was approved the schools would be held harmless on school grades thus the corporation is an 'A', the high school stayed a 'B', PJHS, Blair Pointe, and Elmwood will receive an 'A' for the 2014-15 school year. He noted the performance grant was supposed to be released in December. It was modified twice last week and we ended up with slightly more than \$56,000. He said there were changes made to the formula. He said there is a certain dollar amount per student that graduates if our graduation rate is above 90% or below 90%. We receive a certain dollar amount for every student that passes ECA or ISTEP. The third factor was a growth factor. That was changed this year. The stipulations were changed for growth in graduation rate and performance. Because we were so high last year and didn't have that much room for growth this year, we did not benefit from additional funding. He said it makes zero sense. He said he contacted our Outreach Coordinator and she referred to it as the Zip code grant and recommended we contact our

legislators which we have done. We will be setting up a meeting to discuss the lack of fairness in the grant money. We will divide our money to the teachers. He said it is very frustrating how it is calculated and we are not the only frustrated corporation. Mr. Watkins said he is very proud of our corporation grades and school grades and graduation rate. He stated it is hard by our students and teachers and the support of our community.

Mr. Watkins stated Peru recently had a water crisis. He stated there was a lot of work behind the scenes to keep the schools operational. Terry Fuller deserves a huge shout out securing water donations from K-Mart, Culligan's, and Walmart in Wabash and Logansport.

Mr. Watkins congratulated Melanie Kiefer for her students receiving funding from Donor's Chose.org for two projects - herb garden and new storage containers and vacuum sealer to better preserve food.

Mr. Watkins gave accolades to Ellen Terry, PJHS choir and band director. She is growing the program immensely. The choir students received 15 gold and two silver medals and a perfect score by Medora Oliver. The band students received 38 gold and two silver medals and two perfect scores for Jonah Huppenthal and Maddie Williams. The jr. high students received a total of 53 gold and four silver medals and three perfect scores at this year's solo and ensemble contest. Mr. Watkins added not to be outdone, Mr. Gornto, PHS choir director, shared the swing choir ensemble, Avery Jackson and Ben Hibbs as soloists, and Holly Huneryager piano received gold medals and will be going to state on February 20. He stated Cas Helton and Devin Webb received gold medals and Katlyn Stout a silver medal. Mr. Watkins stated Diane Haley, PHS band director, was not outdone at district competition with 14 gold medals, seven silver medals, and one bronze medal. To further the PHS awards, Mr. Watkins shared the art department's awards at the Scholastic Art Awards in Fort Wayne, the second largest region in the nation. The ceremony will be Sunday, February 14, at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne at 1:00 with the art work on display until the end of March. There were 19 Gold Key awards, three Silver Key awards, two honorable mention, and three Gold Key Art Portfolio award winners. Mr. Watkins stated some of the art students also participated at the Huntington University High School art show with 14 other schools. PHS received four awards with Sean Smith receiving Best of Show for his ceramic vessel. Mr. Watkins shared further student accolades for Andy Hobbs and the wrestling team with three wrestlers advancing to regionals - Peyton Sturgill 1st, Erik Hobbs 2nd, and DeShawn Bayless 4th. Mr. Watkins added we have a lot of people doing great things with our students because of their dedication.

Mr. Watkins thanked Mrs. McCain and her students for being here this evening.

Mr. Watkins thanked the donations that were approved in the consent agenda for the Swing Choir NYC trip.

Mr. Watkins thanked Mrs. Watkins and Mr. Durrwachter for hosting the meeting this evening. He also thanked the Board for their support and hard work.

Mr. Watkins thanked Daniel Herda and Mark Ramsey for their coverage of Peru Schools in the media.

Mr. Watkins introduced Rev. Reed. Rev. Reed invited the Board to the fourth annual Black and White Unity Ball on Saturday, February 27. He said he guarantees three things, good food, good fellowship, and good time.

B. BOARD -

Dr. Quin stated he would like to echo all the different

aspects of our educational programs. He said additionally it takes a lot of effort to put on the sectional and regional wrestling. He stated Andy Hobbs and all the people involved put on a first class competition.

Mr. Wagner said he looked at the playground prior to the meeting. He stated it looks very nice. Mr. Watkins stated they will be getting a gaga pit thanks to Andy Hobbs and his group as well as new basketball rims. Dr. Quin asked if Elmwood would be getting new equipment. Mr. Hanson replied they will be getting additional playground equipment.

Mr. Watkins informed the Board and audience the April 18 Board meeting location has changed to Heartland Career Center. Times will be determined as we will have a meal, tour, and then the meeting. Transportation will be provided.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Stanton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Secretary,

Tim Comerford

/mm