

February 11, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Wagner led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. All Board members were present. Also present were Mr. Watkins, Mr. Durrwachter, Mrs. Conley, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Watkins, Mr. Snyder, Officer Keller, students, a local news media rep, and patrons.

On motion by Mr. Comerford, seconded by Ms. Justice, the Board approved the agenda, the memorandum of January 14, and the personnel report by a vote 5-2 (Dr. Quin and Mr. Wolfe opposed).

PERSONNEL

A. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS

1. Pat Polk - resignation as 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys' travel basketball coach, effective end of 2018-2019 season

B. LEAVES

1. Kristin Fuller - Elmwood teacher, Leave of Absence, April 22 - May 24, 2019

C. RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFIED POSITIONS

1. Marie Guyer - Temporary 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, January 15 - Friday, May 28, 2019

D. RECOMMENDATION FOR CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

1. Adela Romero - Elmwood instructional assistant, effective January 15, 2019
2. Sheila Prather - PHS temporary library aide, effective January 18, 2019
3. Tara Slagel - Kindergarten temporary teacher, February 25 - May 24, 2019

E. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS

1. Caleb Bragg - PHS boys soccer head (lay) coach
2. Gayle Raber - PJHS softball head (lay) coach
3. Blane Holland - PJHS softball assistant (lay) coach
4. Brad Eaglin - PJHS softball volunteer coach
5. Aaron Uttinger - PJHS softball volunteer coach
6. Jeff Dicken - PJHS baseball head (lay) coach
7. Alex Dicken - PJHS baseball assistant (lay) coach
8. Robert Dwyer - PJHS baseball volunteer coach
9. Tricia Sederholm - PJHS soccer assistant coach
10. Megan Bishir - Elmwood 1<sup>st</sup> grade lead teacher replacing Mr. Polk who transferred to PHS

F. REQUEST TO ATTEND CONFERENCE - no business

G. DONATIONS

1. \$100 - PHS Band for general use from anonymous
2. \$200 - PHS Choir for general use from anonymous

H. AGREEMENTS - no business

Board action is required to approve the consent agenda.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

II. RECOGNITIONS/BLACK & GOLD AWARDS - no business

III. PROGRAM

- A. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR PUBLIC AGENDA - no business

B. BLAIR POINTE UPPER ELEMENTARY SAFETY PATROL

Officer Keller highlighted the school's safety patrol. The safety patrol is operated by 6<sup>th</sup> grade Blair Pointe students. Officer Keller also gave each of these students a Black and Gold award to be presented during their lunch time in front of their peers. Officer Keller stated that Blair Pointe safety patrol was started in 2014 by our former SRO Officer Ricks. We use a modified version of the AAA school safety patrol program. The AAA school safety patrol membership is an honored position with millions of young men and young women having served since the program began in 1920. Upon joining the safety patrol, each student becomes one of the 654,000 students in 34,500 schools nationwide that provide a valuable service to their school and their classmates. Here at Blair Pointe membership in the safety patrol is offered to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Officers are selected for their leadership, courtesy, dependability, attitude towards others, integrity, interest in their job and scholastic standing by their 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Once selected, parents must agree to students participating and each member must attend a training. In 2014, the Blair Pointe safety patrol had 9 students join, this year we had 51 students serving. The 51 students that are being recognized tonight, have helped our school to operate in a safe and efficient manner. This group has grown and matured so much, it has been my honor to guide them. The fact that these young leaders were willing to step up says so much about the mentors and parents they have in their lives. Thank you to the parents for sharing your young leaders with us. Most of all, thank you to the members of the safety patrol. Your service to this school and your classmates is greatly appreciated. Officer Keller then introduced the morning shift squad leader, Samantha Gornto, for a speech she had prepared. Samantha stated that safety patrol means a lot to her. She thanked Officer Keller and stated that it wouldn't be possible for them to do their job without him. Mrs. Watkins stated that she couldn't be prouder of our kids. She said they are representing every day, directing and leading by example. It's a pleasure to have the students official with their belts and I thank you for all you do each day.

C. FOUR COUNTY COUNSELING

Mr. Watkins stated that we have had an agreement with Four County for some time. In this agreement, along with the Board, we approved Four County to be in our schools alongside our counselors. This has gone very well with counselors within each of our four schools. The agreement has made a positive impact on our schools. Krista Catt came to explain Four County's additional service options to Peru Community Schools. She brought Nicole with her to help better explain the services they are offering. Our counselors, currently, service students who are on Medicaid or students who are already in our wrap-around services. She states that Four County can also offer a licensed therapist to come to see the students in the building. Nicole stated that the licensed therapist would come in to help build skills, behavior modification, dealing with emotional issues, self-esteem, etc. The main goal is to teach the students tactics to handle these issues so that they can be in the classroom learning. This service will offer quick access and it will also take away the stigma on mental health. We can provide family therapy

offsite, but we can really meet the student here at school in the environment where they are the most comfortable. Nicole stated that there are three different options that the Board can decide is best for our school. The first option comes at no cost to the school: implement a therapist in the school that can see students with Medicaid. With a licensed therapist, we may be able to see some students with commercial insurance. One barrier for us is that commercial insurance does not always pay in a school setting. All we need is a space and wi-fi access. The second option: Commercial insurance can be seen on a group level for what ever age group would need it. We can do up to 6-7 groups a day from school to school. This plan costs \$325 per week. The third option: Student support system for about \$.25 per child per month. For 1,952 students, this plan would cost around \$488 per month to provide access for all students at your school. This provides an intake plus two sessions with a master's licensed therapist. These options are enhanced options for your choosing. The referral process will remain the same. Guidance counselors will contact the parents, consents and permission will be collected before any sessions will begin. Mr. Watkins is recommending option 1. We could bring back option #'s 2 and 3 if we feel the need to add. Mr. Watkins states there is a need for Four County in our buildings due to suicide, abuse, and emotional issues to try and be proactive and meet students before the crisis comes. Our students experience significant trauma and these counselors provide a great assistance to our school counselors who are already carrying heavier workloads. The social and emotional health of our students is important to me. More questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mullett moved to approve option 1, seconded by Mr. Comerford, unanimously approved.

D. TITLE 1 ADMINISTRATOR RESTRUCTURING

Mr. Watkins states that we went through an extensive Title 1 audit that started in September. After the review audit, a site audit was performed. We get \$550,000 Title 1 dollars per year. They sent about 10 people for the full audit. We are all cleared now. With the audit, it became evident that the person writing/authoring Title 1 was receiving 10 days of Title 1 monies to do so. Administratively, there are finances involved as well as other duties. I feel it best to disperse these responsibilities upon multiple administrators. I am proposing that we take the 10 days that we have always had and restructure them. Mr. Durrwachter will take 4/10 days, Mrs. Eddy will take 3/10 as a secondary author and Mrs. Watkins will take 3/10 days as a secondary author as well. These funds will be taken from the education fund. Mr. Ellis moved to approve the Title 1 administrator restructuring, seconded by Mr. Comerford. Approved by vote of 6-0-1. Ms. Justice abstained.

E. NEOLA SECOND READING - Mr. Watkins will reviewed eight (8) NEOLA policies for a second reading. It was mentioned that po4121 needs to be marked as a replacement instead of a new policy. Correction will be made.

po2700 Annual Performance Report  
po4120.08 Employment of Personnel for Extracurricular Activities  
po4121 Personal Background Checks  
po4430 Leaves of Absence

po5112 Entrance Requirements  
po6111 Internal Control Standards and Procedures  
po8340 Letter of Reference or Employment Reference  
po8600 Transportation

Ms. Justice moved to approve the NEOLA policies, seconded by Dr. Quin, unanimously approved.

- F. NEOLA FIRST/SECOND READING INFORMATION - Mr. Watkins states that the below policies have met the first Board reading requirement. He also states that we do not need any Board action until the policies are reviewed at corporate level meet & discuss. The \* policies will be reviewed at meet & discuss and the remaining will be covered in a meeting with Mr. Scott Thompson.

\*po3120.07 Employment of Casual Resource Personnel  
\*po3139 Staff Discipline  
\*po3141 Suspension of Teachers Without Pay  
\*po3220.02 Supplemental Payments for Teachers  
\*po3430 Leaves of Absence  
\*po3431 Administrative Leave of Absence with Pay or Temporary Administrative Reassignment of Teachers  
po5330 Use of Medication  
po5340.01 Student Concussions and Sudden Cardiac Arrest  
po5350 Student Suicide Awareness and Prevention  
po5460 Graduation Requirements  
po5517.01 Bullying  
po5771 Search and Seizure  
po7440 Facility Security Program  
po8455 Coach Training

- G. 7-12 PROGRAM

Mr. Watkins asked the Board for permission to create an exploratory committee to discuss and research the possibility of combining the two grades of the Jr. high (7&8) into the current physical structure of the high school. Topics to be explored: enrollment, staffing, operations, finances and program. Results reported back to the Board later. Mr. Watkins states that we are not in any hurry or immediacy to do this. The reasons I would like to form the committee is for enrollment and funding. We are anticipating under 1800 students for next school year. For the current SY we lost 71 students. We know that Schneider Electric is closing its doors. That's a loss of 300 jobs to our community. We need to study and do research to see how this could affect our schools. Mr. Downs wanted to make sure that it was understood that any committee appointed is subject to open door law. It would be an advisory committee that would report to this Board. Mr. Downs continued and stated that, a notice of public meeting would be required. Mr. Watkins states that he is hopeful that we do not lose as many students. This will not be a decision for the 2019-2020 school year. This will be a voluntary committee. I would like to create a committee with teachers, administrators, a Board member or two, and parents. We would slowly and methodically collect data. I believe if needed, we could save in operations, administrative, counseling, food service, custodial and minor electrical costs. Some Board members were concerned with how critical the beginning teen years are and how it could negatively affect the students being in a building with much older students. There were also suggestions of moving admin and other operations around to different buildings instead or even consolidation. Mr. Watkins

stated that these are all items that will be covered during the exploratory committee. Mr. Watkins states that he will have a formal sit down with Mr. Callane and Mr. Hanson to request for them to take options back to their Board members as well. This is not an easy thing to ask my Board. I believe strongly that our Jr. high model is effective. I'm worried that decreasing enrollment will push us into certain areas. Another Board member suggested adding a community political figure to the committee as well. Nothing is locked in at this point, this is only exploratory. Mr. Ellis moved to approve the creation of the exploratory committee, seconded by Ms. Justice, unanimously approved.

H. ELEARNING PRESENTATION

Mr. Watkins and Mr. Lunsford presented eLearning modules from our elementary and secondary schools. He outlined how it works on our weather day. Our kids are getting high quality lessons during these eLearning days. ELearning days are completed from Thursday through Tuesday. Our teachers prefer not to do eLearning the same week that we miss school. Mr. Watkins stated that this will be discussed during the next meet and discuss. Mr. Lunsford showcased a few classrooms from our teachers.

IV. BUDGET

A. CLAIMS - Mr. Durrwachter presented and reviewed the claims for Board approval. Questions were asked and answered. Ms. Justice moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Mullett, approved by vote of 6-0-1, Mr. Wolfe abstained, as follows:

EDUCATION FUND	753,950.16
DEBT SERVICE	117,750.00
OPERATING FUND	143,304.27
CAPITAL PROJECTS	726,806.91
TRANSPORTATION OPERATING FUND	192,954.26
TRANSPORTATION BUS REPLACEMENT	213,870.21
RAINY DAY FUND	11,090.04
CONSTRUCTION 2016 GO BOND	2,129.99
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND	53,927.30
TEXTBOOK RENTAL FUND	203.00
INSURANCE WELLNESS CLINIC	500.00
KICKS FOR KIDS	114.43
PJHS DONATION PROGRAM	145.00
DONATION/SPECIAL ED TEACHERS	60.51
HIGH ABILITY GRANT	1,186.58
TECHNOLOGY FUND	3,076.36
TITLE 1 2018/19	2,291.34
PARENT NURTURING PROGRAM	1,202.70
ADULT ED 18/19	45.00
TITLE IV A	250.00
GROUP INSURANCE	8,399.14
RETIREEES-TERM LIFE INSURANCE	506.35
FRINGE BENEFITS	380,545.21
TOTAL	<u>\$2,614,308.76</u>

B. FUND MONITORING REPORT

Mr. Durrwachter reviewed the fund monitoring report for the month of January. The YTD disbursement has a cash transfer. The cash transfer was done in January as a one-time transfer that does not directly impact what our budget has been previously approved for, this is only moving the cash balance over. Therefore, you see a negative number in the education fund. Between the two numbers in rainy day and operations, \$394,000 was moved.

State sources is what we receive in tuition assistance. We received \$913,000 plus the \$233,000. You are seeing the amounts as they are transferred. We are sitting in a good position with where our numbers are. Mr. Mullett moved to approve the fund monitoring report, seconded by Mr. Comerford, unanimously approved.

C. CLASSIFIED RECOVERY OF WAGES DUE TO ELEARNING DAYS

Mr. Watkins discussed the possible options with the Board on how the classified staff can recover some of their lost wages due to our current weather school closings. He stated that this is tough on our staff when trying to live on shorter wages. What I can do is allow the staff to make up the hours in their buildings as needed. This would take a Board action: to allow our staff that have vacation or personal days to use one in lieu of any of the days missed. Another suggestion: would be a possible weather stipend, but only for those that miss days, not including our essential staff. This would be something that would need to be voted in. Mr. Watkins states that he concerned about our classified staff losing wages that has been budgeted. The Board is requesting a policy be put in place. Mr. Watkins will bring a policy back to the Board to vote on. Mr. Watkins states that other superintendents were not in favor of a weather stipend for their corporations. I believe Maconaquah allows their classified staff to add a personal or sick day if they have them available. Mr. Watkins states that more discussion will be needed.

V. OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

A. FACILITY REQUESTS

1. Tig-Arena & Tiger Den - NCIPL power volleyball 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade travel league - Sunday, April 28 from 9 am - 5 pm. Will pay custodial fees.
2. Tig-Arena - Cal Ripken youth league tryouts and coaches' clinic - Sunday, March 3 from noon - 6:00 p.m. Coach Brimbury and baseball staff will be there, no custodians are needed, annual request.
3. Tig-Arena & Tiger Den - 3 on 3 basketball benefit tournament, Saturday, March 16 from noon - 5pm.
4. South Peru Gym & PHS Auditorium (rain location) - Community Band Festival - Saturday, July 6, 2019 all day. South Peru gym will be used as a practice location for the bands. If rained out, location will be moved to PHS auditorium.

Mr. Mullett moved to approve the facility requests, seconded by Ms. Justice, unanimously approved.

B. PERMISSION TO REQUEST THE FOLLOWING: BUS PURCHASE, QUOTES FOR LAWN CARE CONTRACT, WEIGHT ROOM FLOOR, JR. HIGH GYMNASIUM FLOOR (RE-COATING), AND HIGH SCHOOL TIG-ARENA GYMNASIUM FLOOR (REFINISHING)

Mr. Durrwachter is asking for permission to get quotes for these items. Some questions were asked and answered. Dr. Quin moved to amend the motion to include bus leasing quotes. Dr. Quin moved to approve seeking quotes, seconded by Mr. Mullett, unanimously approved.

C. COMPUTER DEVICE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET

Mr. Morris gave the Board information on our elementary and secondary plan for our electronic device distribution and costs for the program. Mr. Comerford moved to approve the device purchases, seconded by Dr. Quin, unanimously approved.

D. Interlocal Corporation Agreement (reviewed under budget)

Mr. Watkins states that Mrs. Terry Fuller wants to enter this as another option to save money when shopping for food. This is to save money for when shopping at Gordon Food Services. This agreement is at no cost to us. Mr. Ellis motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Comerford, approved by a vote of 5-0-2, Dr. Quin and Mr. Wolfe abstained. A copy of the agreement is in supplementary minute book #14, page 112.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

A. SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Watkins made the following remarks with thank you's and congratulations included:

- Dr. Gornto - District Solo/Ensemble Contest Winners
  - Division I
  - Hailey Ewer -GOLD (Advancing to State Contest!!)
  - Jacenya DeHoyos -Silver
  - Division II
  - Jamie Guyer -Gold
  - Jasmyn DeHoyos -Gold
  - Kyiah Elmore -Silver
  - Abigail Stout -Bronze
- Wrestling
  - Sectionals
  - Tori Forrest 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - Cole Sailors 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - Semi-State
  - Cole sailors
  - Tori Forrest
  - Dian Constable
  - Zion Ryan
- Gymnastics
- David Weeks record - celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> victory
- Eric Thompson - celebrated 200<sup>th</sup> victory
- PJHS & PHS - scholastic in Fort Wayne Regional Art and Writing. Sixty winners total, all gold keys go to Nationals in Washington for national competition. Mike Applegate, Nora Majors, Adam Zwiebel
- NJHS fish fry
  - Colin Quin
  - Angie Legg
  - Parents
  - Students
  - Community
- Dual credits/Heartland
- Chuck Hight, maintenance, custodial
- Terry Fuller - completed FSA audit
- Winter sports coaches and volunteers for our events, AD's

- Teachers and students for all the extra work for eLearning lessons and plans.
- Thank you, Blair Pointe principals, staff, and students, for hosting us this evening.
- Thank you Board

B. BOARD MEMBER

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Quin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Secretary,

Tim Comerford

/dc