

July 11, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order at 6:30 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. Watkins, Mrs. Minard, Mrs. McCain, Mr. Weeks, Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Walker, Mrs. Hopkins, Tri-Kappa representatives, and local news media representatives.

On motion by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Comerford, the Board unanimously approved the public agenda, the memorandum of June 13, and the personnel report as presented.

PERSONNEL

A. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS

1. Meredith Pauley - resignation, PHS Spanish teacher and varsity girls' head soccer coach, effective June 21, 2016
2. James Guthrie - resignation, PJHS Social Studies teacher, effective June 21, 2016
3. Christine (Loftus) Crane - resignation, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, effective June 29, 2016
4. Linda Thibos - retirement, Elmwood Title I tutor, effective immediately
5. Ron Cunningham - retirement, Elmwood custodian, effective July 25, 2016
6. Mason Zimmer - resignation, JV assistant football (lay) coach, effective immediately
7. Kelsie Lilla - resignation, assistant girls' soccer coach, effective immediately

B. LEAVES - no business

C. RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFIED POSITIONS

1. Emily Watkins - K-2 grade teacher
2. Temkai Clark - PHS Spanish teacher

D. RECOMMENDATION FOR CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

1. Kelly Fishback - instructional assistant Elmwood

E. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS

1. Kelsie Lilla - varsity head girls' soccer (lay) coach
2. Terry B. Smith - varsity assistant boys' basketball (lay) coach
3. Travis Smith - JV assistant head boys' basketball (lay) coach

F. REQUEST FOR CONFERENCE

1. Mike Applegate - AP class near Cincinnati. Registration \$650, lodging \$342, meals \$150, mileage approximately \$260

G. DONATIONS

1. \$1,500 - two picnic tables to complete classroom seating at Blair Pointe's outdoor science lab. Tri Kappa previously purchased two picnic tables.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT - no comments.

- II. RECOGNITIONS and BLACK AND GOLD AWARDS - Mr. Watkins stated we did not have any Black and Gold awards this evening but he did want to recognize the Tri-Kappa Sorority donation approved in the consent agenda. He introduce the Tri-Kappa representatives: Holly Rogers, Jennifer Yates (President), Mary Courtney Shafer, and Linda Browning (Co-treasurer). Mrs. Watkins said she was very excited with the improvements to the outdoor lab with the cement walkway and patio. She stated with this donation two additional picnic tables will be purchased which will give enough seating for an entire class. She thanked Tri-Kappa for their donation stating they are a blessing.

III. PROGRAM

- A. BLAIR POINTE PRESENTATION - Mr. Watkins introduced Mrs. McCain and Mr. Weeks to share with the Board the Robotics grant and

International Space Station grant they received. Mr. Weeks stated Blair Pointe is one of twelve schools throughout the nation to receive this grant which will allow the students to communicate with the space station. He noted when they considered applying they were told the chances would be slim since there was already a school in the county who received the grant. They applied in April and found out in late May they were selected. He said they have been brainstorming since on how to involve all the students. Mrs. McCain will have her star party. The Fine Arts Festival will have a theme. Mrs. Fuller is going to work on a space themed lunch for the week of the communication. Mr. Weeks stated he will be contacting local media as well as in the surrounding counties. Mrs. McCain stated the communication will be sometime in March, April, or May. She noted they will find out sometime in February as it will depend on the astronaut's schedule and the space station's orbits. Blair Pointe students will go to the high school auditorium so they all have the chance to view the communication. Just a few students will have the opportunity to ask their questions directly to the astronaut. Mr. McAlpin, who helped with the Maconaquah program, helped Mr. Weeks and Mrs. McCain. Mr. Watkins said this is a very big honor. He stated our teachers are humble teachers and go out of their way to help the kids and do extra things for kids. Mr. Watkins stated this is going above and beyond. Our kids, school, and community will benefit from their extra efforts and this opportunity.

Mrs. McCain explained Mrs. Watkins sent her an email about an opportunity for a Robotics grant. She stated she wrote the grant in less than an hour and found out she received the grant which is a two-year commitment to start a PLTW program at Blair Pointe. She said she will manage this class as an extra-curricular activity. Stephany Astrup has offered to help her. They will be going to a training at Ivy Tech in Logansport on July 19 where they will receive the equipment and learn how to use it. She stated Mr. Bishir, PJHS PLTW, and her own son and his buddies who have gone through two years of PLTW will be helping her. Mr. Hanson stated these two teachers have spearheaded the possibility of Blair Pointe being STEM certified. He said we will be taking a hard look at that. He stated the teachers will be looking at how they can put science at the forefront across all activities at Blair Pointe.

Mrs. Shuey responded it is awesome to have a PLTW program at the elementary level. The program will continue to expand. Mrs. McCain noted Mr. Weeks also spoke with Colonel Larry Shaw, Commander at Grissom ARB, and he is willing to help with the space station program. Mrs. McCain was hoping to get a high school class involved to make the invitations. Mr. Hall stated he heard there were 1,400 applications to receive the grant. Mrs. McCain stated she wasn't sure how many applications there were but knew they are one of twelve, which included museums, boy scouts, girl scouts, etc. Mr. Hall asked how many minutes they will get to talk. Mrs. McCain responded she was not sure but knew Maconaquah had 11 minutes. Blair Pointe will be going to the high school for the communication to have a clearer signal and hopefully have more time to talk to the astronaut. Mr. Watkins thanked Mrs. McCain and Mr. Weeks for their inspiration. Mrs. Watkins stated it is amazing Blair Pointe was one of twelve nationwide to receive the grant. She noted the memories for the students about their 5th grade year will be 'Wow, we got to talk to an astronaut!' She thanked Jason Cary too for allowing Blair Pointe to use PHS and also thanked the tech department for helping. She stated all of Peru Schools is coming together to help the students!

- B. IREAD PRESENTATION - Mrs. Watkins updated the Board on the IREAD results and the final percentages. She stated they are very proud of the results. They started the year with a little over 60 students at risk. At-risk means that one or

more indicators they use are showing the student is not quite at level for reading comprehension. She noted the difference between IREAD and ISTEP is IREAD measures whether a student can read. ISTEP measures how well they can read. IREAD is basic recall. She thanked the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, and kindergarten teachers as well as Mr. Frye and Mrs. Badry for preparing the students and their foundation for success. Mrs. Watkins stated she cannot say enough about her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers. They are phenomenal from day one. She also thanked the awesome instructional assistants for their reading centers and pull out services. She stated the reading specialists are shared with Elmwood. They service 70 kids and individualize their efforts with each students. She is thankful we still have reading specialists. She also thanked Mr. Watkins and Mr. Hanson for allowing Blair to have the additional help with instructional assistants and curriculum. She gave a huge thank you to George Morris and Chris Butte stating they are amazing for making the technology work! She stated although the scores are still embargoed, she could say the three-year average is 96% and we are holding strong. No student will be retained this year. She reviewed the exemptions for not retaining students. She said Mrs. Roettger and Mrs. Zak do a wonderful job with the summer program and the students. Mr. Hanson said a positive about staying above the 90% threshold is that every summer Mrs. Watkins and Mr. Frye have to submit their reading plan. This allows us to continue to do what we have been very good at with the Reader's Workshop. Schools under the 90% threshold have to use state-approved curriculum which may or may not benefit our students. He stated we continue to train our teachers and evolve that process. The Board thanked Mrs. Watkins for her wonderful report.

- C. NEOLA POLICIES SECOND READING - Mr. Watkins reviewed the policies presented at the June meeting and requested approval. He stated he is about 75% through the policies.

po1422.02 NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE

po3122.01 DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

po3122.02 NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE

po3123 SECTION 504-ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

po3124 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS WITH PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

po3125 MENTOR PROGRAM FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

po3131 REDUCTION IN FORCE ("RIF") IN CERTIFICATED STAFF

po3140 TERMINATION AND RESIGNATION

po4122.01 DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

po4122.02 NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC

po4123 SECTION 504-ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

po4140 TERMINATION AND RESIGNATION

Mr. Stanton moved to approve the policies, seconded by Ms. Rice. Mr. Wolfe asked about resignations. Mr. Watkins stated once a resignation is turned in to him it is official. The Board must take action if the employee wants to retract the resignation. Mr. Wolfe also pointed out the Board has to vote on the termination of support staff. Mr. Watkins stated he makes the recommendation to hire or fire, but the Board takes the actual vote. Mr. Comerford asked about how Mr. Watkins will disseminate information to employees as stated in po 3122.02. Mr. Watkins stated he would check if it could be an actual copy or access to the policies. Mr. Comerford questioned if we will need to have a signed document the employee has received a copy of the policy. Mr. Watkins stated he will check if an electronic sign off is acceptable. The Board unanimously approved the policies.

- D. HEADSTART MOU - Mr. Watkins briefly reviewed the standard annual MOU with Head Start presented at the June meeting noting there are no changes from last year. He requested approval. Mr. Watkins stated we will have two full-day sections of HeadStart next year and the classes will be held

at South Peru. Dr. Quin moved to approve the motion, seconded by Mr. Wagner, unanimously approved. A copy of the signed MOU is in Supplementary Minute book #14, page 45.

IV. BUDGET

A. CLAIMS - Mr. Hall presented and reviewed claims. Mr. Stanton moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Comerford. Several questions were asked before the claims were unanimously approved.

GENERAL FUND	211,333.07
DEBT SERVICE	1,033,250.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	70,893.29
TRANSPORTATION OPERATING FUND	6,854.88
TRANSPORTATION BUS REPLACEMENT	226.00
RAINY DAY FUND 2003	1,714.09
POST-RETIREMENT/SEVERANCE FUND	16,628.05
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND	31,865.56
INSURANCE WELLNESS CLINIC	10,553.87
EARLY INTERVENTION FUND	1,690.11
READING BOOKS - L BADRY	350.00
DONATION/SPECIAL ED TEACHERS	1,571.57
PARENT/STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUND	1.17
GIFTED AND TALENTED 15/16	11,798.36
SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT	15,440.00
COLLEGE SUCCESS COALITION	2,664.44
TITLE I 2015-16	2,013.01
PARENT NURTURING PROGRAM	292.00
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION FUND	70.00
TITLE II 2015-16	1,296.08
GROUP INSURANCE	14,672.43
ANNUITIES	52.55
FRINGE BENEFITS	<u>165,335.16</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,600,565.69

B. FUND MONITORING REPORT - Mr. Hall reviewed the fund monitoring report for the month of June. He stated our first tax distribution check came in on schedule in June. He reported for receipts we are at 31% for Debt service and 46% Capital Projects. He stated the \$75,000 transfer should be taken out so that will be a little different in the general fund. He noted we are on schedule in the general fund because that is a different source of revenue. On the disbursement side of the general fund we are at 53% general year to date; last year 49.8% this time. He stated in Debt Service basically half of debt payments have been made for the year with the next one is due in December. Mr. Comerford moved to approve the fund monitoring report, seconded by Mr. Wagner, the motion was unanimously approved.

C. BUDGET CALENDAR - Mr. Hall referred to the list of statutory deadlines of when things have to occur. He stated the bold dates are the Board meetings. He stated typically we have a work session the week before the August Board meeting. He will request permission to advertise at the August 8 meeting, hold statutory hearings at the September meeting, and adopt the budget at the October 17 meeting.

D. RECOMMENDATION TO ENROLL IN HIP 2.0 - Mr. Hall stated this is a relatively new program (Healthy Indiana Plan). He stated it basically provides assistance to low income employees who can use help in purchasing health insurance. He stated it does not change what we do. The employee pays 2% of their income per month toward the insurance and the state gives them a \$4,000 per year account to put toward that gap between that 2% and the cost of the employee's insurance. Dr. Quin asked if this was optional to the employee. Mr. Hall responded it is and did not think we have anyone who would currently qualify. Eligibility is limited to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level which means a household of three with an income of \$28,153.44 or less would qualify. He also stated there is no cost to the employer for this service. He recommended PCS enroll in this premium assistance program for working Hoosiers. The enrollment is open. On motion by Mr. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Quin, the Board unanimously approved enrolling in the program.

E. RECOMMENDATION FOR BREAD AND MILK BIDS - Mr. Hall stated the bid recommendation is from the Wabash Valley Education Center for the 2016-17 school year. He noted the providers are the same as last year. The bread bid recommendation is Aunt Millie's. The milk bid recommendation is Prairie Farms. Dr. Quin asked why we are bidding low fat products when fat is good; sugar is bad. He recommended looking at whole milk and cheeses as it is much healthier for the body. Mrs. Fuller stated the state dictates what we can use. Mr. Stanton moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mrs. Rice, unanimously approved.

V. OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

A. REQUESTS TO USE FACILITIES

1. PHS auditorium - November 7-10 - Silent Hero play by a veterans' group about the Korean War to honor our veterans. Nov. 7 set-up, Nov. 8 & 9 performances at 7:30, Nov. 10 tear down during day. All veterans will receive free entrance. All proceeds will go to benefit a wounded warrior program for disabled veterans.

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. Mrs. Shuey stated she thinks this is a great idea to honor our veterans.

- B. CEP AGREEMENT / HOT LUNCH REPORT - Mr. Watkins stated he is very excited about this recommendation. He stated because we have a poverty level at Peru Schools that qualifies us, we can apply for participation in a CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) agreement which will allow all K-8th grade students to receive free breakfast and free lunch. Mr. Hall informed the Board PCS qualifies for free lunch and free breakfast for all students in grades K-8 beginning this school year. PCS qualifies for this federally funded program because our K-8 student population is over 40% direct certification as of April 2016. Direct certification is people who are receiving services from TANF, SNAP, and foster care. The high school does not qualify because they are only 29%. PJHS is over 40% and Elmwood is over 60%. The direct certification matches are multiplied by a factor of 1.6. He stated our estimate is this will generate about \$25,000 per month more income than the 2015-16 school year's reimbursements. He noted this will also benefit the general fund in a small way by allowing us to again charge part of the cost of cleaning the kitchens and the food service repairs to the food service program budget. He reminded the Board the food service workers did not receive a raise last year because the lunch fund could not support raises. He stated from a marketing standpoint, we will be the only school in the county saying we have free meals for all students in grades K-8. Mrs. Fuller added the students who owe money in their accounts know it and are embarrassed. She stated we will not see a child sitting in the cafeteria not eating because there will not be a need to keep track of their accounts. She stated many times the cafeteria workers would take money out of their own pockets so the students will eat. Mr. Watkins stated he is proud of Mrs. Fuller and her extra work to look into this program for the students. Dr. Quin asked why the high school is not being included. Mr. Hall replied we get a lot of ala carte purchases at the high school which is cash. Mr. Hall said the agreement it is a four-year commitment. We could opt out after the first year. Mr. Comerford questioned if we are in compliance with all the requirements. Mr. Hall responded we already do because we participate in the Federal program. Mr. Stanton moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, unanimously approved. Mrs. Shuey thanked Mrs. Fuller for her hard work.

- C. RECOMMENDATION TO SELL PARCEL OF LAND - Mr. Hall reminded the Board we have 21 acres of land donated by Russ Bellar. He informed the Board in preparation for installation of utilities for the athletic field development, discussion was

held with Crossroads Bank (former First Merchants building) to use their driveway as an access point off Broadway. He stated they are aware their drive is on our property which is a 33' section north to south. An easement was discussed and it is their preference to purchase the ground with the drive on it. They would give us an easement to use it for utility access until the final phase of the project is completed. Stephen Downs is working on this as he is the attorney for both parties. Dr. Quin expressed concerns about the easement and access. Mr. Hall and Mr. Hanson explained the exact location of the land, the easement, and the use of the land. Mr. Hall shared there is somewhat of an urgency to approve this so the project can continue on schedule. He stated the meeting with Crossroads went very well. Mr. Comerford moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Hall if he had a benchmark of what the .33 acres is worth to be sure we had enough money to cover the legal costs. Mr. Hall said the property was originally appraised so Mr. Bellar could have a tax write off so we do have a recent value. The motion to sign the resolution was unanimously approved. A copy of the signed resolution is Supplementary Minute Book #14, page 46.

- D. RECOMMENDATION TO BUY PARCEL OF LAND - Mr. Hall informed the Board the owners of the lot east of Elmwood (341 Jefferson St.) are eager to sell. The house is condemned and would be demolished. Mr. Hall shared a picture of the property with the overgrown grass. Mr. Hall said the taxes are current. Dr. Quin asked the size of the lot. Mr. Hall stated 50 feet of frontage on the alley and 150 feet in depth. Mr. Watkins made it clear the purchase price is not to exceed \$3,500. Mr. Wagner moved to approve the purchase, seconded by Ms. Rice. Mr. Wolfe asked where the funds will come from. Mr. Hall stated bond funds will be used to purchase the land. Mr. Wolfe requested if we purchase the land, the buildings be taken down immediately. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

## VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

### A. SUPERINTENDENT -

Mr. Watkins thanked Mrs. Fuller and Mr. Hall for working on the CEP. He stressed this will make a big difference in our children, parents, community, and scores. He said he is ecstatic we have this program and opportunity!

Mr. Watkins stated the school grounds look great! We have great facilities.

Mr. Watkins thanked Mr. Hanson for his job with advertising Peru Schools at the 4-H Fair, Circus City days coming up, and the recent mailing of 5,800 post cards. Mr. Hanson said the 4-H fair booth went well. He invited the Board to stop by our circus booth and promote Peru Schools.

Mr. Watkins thanked the custodians for their hard work. He said our facilities look great!

Mr. Watkins reminded the Board our first day for teachers is August 4. The students will return on August 5.

Mr. Watkins thanked our summer school teachers and their work with the students.

Mr. Watkins stated Mr. Hanson, Mr. Frye, and himself will be on 101.9 talking about Peru Schools from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Mr. Watkins thanked the press for their great coverage!

He applauded Lindsay Cary, Angie Legg, and Lori Hahn for being honored as the county's best teachers. He added Peru School Corporation was voted best school corporation in the county. He added he highly agrees.

Mr. Watkins announced Peru athletics received an A+ athletic

rating for their sportsmanship. He also noted Cameron Beauchamp is on the Indiana North All-Stars and will represent Peru in the July game. He wished them well. He was also voted 2<sup>nd</sup> team USA.

Mr. Watkins stated there will not be a meeting on July 25. The next meeting is August 8.

Mr. Hanson stated the school offices will open July 21. He noted the online registration has been going great. It opened July 1<sup>st</sup>. We have received a lot of positive feedback.

B. BOARD -

Mrs. Shuey stated she has received positive feedback from families about the online registration.

Dr. Quin stated he would like to reiterate and echo, with all kinds of data out there, if you want to be successful as an adult and child, reading is one of the most important things we can do. Thus, IREAD is very important and cannot be overshadowed. Secondly, he said full bellies help students read. He felt those are the two most important things we did this evening.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Shuey closed the meeting by saying, "May all your days be circus days!" With no further business to discuss, Dr. Quin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Secretary,

Tim Comerford

/mm