

November 9, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Shuey. The new Elmwood Pre-school class led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then sang. All Board members were present. Also present were Mr. Watkins, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Minard, Mr. Frye, Mr. Badry, Mr. Cary, Mr. Miller, Ms. Spiker, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Hopkins, several parents and students, and local news media representatives.

On motion by Mr. Stanton, seconded by Ms. Rice, the Board unanimously approved the public agenda, the memorandum of October 12, and the personnel report as presented.

PERSONNEL

- A. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS - no business
- B. LEAVES - no business
- C. RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFIED POSITIONS - no business
- D. RECOMMENDATION FOR CLASSIFIED POSITIONS
 1. Mary Miller - Elmwood Instructional Assistant
 2. Randall Dague - part-time SRO
 3. Stephenie Coppler - part-time SRO
 4. Nathan Freeman - part-time SRO
- E. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS
 1. Chris McKinney - PJHS head wrestling (lay) coach
 2. Brett Worden - PJHS assistant wrestling (lay) coach
 3. Dustin Reich - PJHS volunteer wrestling (lay) coach
 4. Andrew Boggs - 8th grade assistant boys' basketball (lay) coach
- F. REQUEST FOR CONFERENCE
 1. Alize White, PHS student - JAG National Student Leadership Conference in Arlington, VA - December 3-5, 2015. Expenses paid by JAG.
- G. DONATIONS
 1. \$100 - PHS Kiefer's Cooking Club - donation from Melinda Willis to purchase baking supplies for any cooking projects.
 2. \$500 - PHS Swing Choir - donation from Swing Choir alumni for Carnegie trip
- I. PUBLIC COMMENT - Scott Thompson spoke as President of the PCEA. He distributed and read a prepared statement expressing his frustration and disappointment about the process of discussions held about the possible schedule change. At the end of his statement he asked the Board to table this item until all questions and concerns have been addressed. Mrs. Shuey thanked Mr. Thompson for his comments.
- II. RECOGNITIONS - Mr. Watkins announced the graduation rate of 97.16% was just released for the PHS class of 2015. He stated he is extremely happy with that rate. He noted an educational baton is passed from Elmwood to Blair Pointe to PJHS and then PHS. This is a team effort with the schools, parents, community, staff, and students. He stated he is concerned about the 3% who did not graduate and vowed to continue to address that percentage.

Mr. Watkins acknowledged staff members who write grants which gives PCS the opportunity for additional funding for our students and schools. He stated Linda Watkins writes the high ability G/T grants and Lori Badry writes Title grants along with Paul Frye. He stated this work is done behind the scenes but is very important. He noted these grants were recently approved by the state.

Mr. Watkins congratulated Mr. Brimbury, Mr. McClure, and Mr. Durrwachter for a fantastic athletic season. He stated their evenings are very late with athletic events and the duties and responsibilities that go along with the events.

Mr. Watkins was very proud to announce our very own Sarah Graham, head counselor at PHS, was selected at the Indiana Secondary Counselor of the Year. He stated she is a vital part of PHS and works tirelessly to be sure our students are where they need to be and get the resources and help they need for their secondary education as well as preparing for their education after high school.

Mr. Watkins also acknowledged Dave Moon and Mr. Hanson for their money saving efforts. He stated Mr. Moon saved the corporation \$10,000 on a shipping quote through his personal connections by working with Guyer the Mover.

Mr. Watkins thanked Mr. Scott Thompson. He stated he appreciates the work he has put into the schedule discussion. He also thanked the principals and staff for their time in considering a possible schedule change.

III. PROGRAM

- A. ELMWOOD PRE-SCHOOL PRESENTATION - Mr. Frye thanked the Board for their support of him in his first year as Elmwood Principal. He stated the pre-school program has been well received by the community and noted there is a waiting list of ten students. He took the Board and audience to the pre-school room for a tour and discussion with Sarah Maxwell, pre-school teacher. He stated the area the pre-school is set up in is ideal for expansion within the building. The pre-school has their own restroom as well. Mr. Frye said they have received grants to help purchase materials for the classroom. Ms. Maxwell thanked the Board and stated pre-school is her passion. She reviewed the schedule the students follow and noted the progress since their first day. She stated many of the students think they are playing and don't realize they are learning. She stated although the day is structured, the students have choices of what they do. The students also have art, music, PE, and computer time. She stated one student was not attending five days a week and told his mother he wanted to come every day. She said the students were disappointed with the long fall break weekend because they wanted to go to school! She extended an open invitation to the Board to stop by and visit the class any time. The Board thanked her sharing the activities of a pre-school day.
- B. BOARD PARTICIPATION REPORT - Mr. Watkins stated we have a very active Board. He thanked the Board members for their attendance and participation. A copy of the report is in Supplementary Minute Book #14, page 34.
- C. AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT - Mr. Watkins stated we need officers as substitutes for absences. The officers will work with Mr. Frushour. He requested approval of an agreement of indemnification with the Miami County Sheriff Department. Mr. Stanton made the motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Comerford asked if our legal counsel reviewed the agreement. Mr. Hall stated this is the same language we have with the City on their agreement. Mr. Wolfe asked if the officers will be in uniform. Mr. Hanson responded yes. Dr. Quin asked if there will be additional costs or expenses. Mr. Watkins replied there will not be additional expenses. He stated it will be a lot like a substitute teacher. The vote was taken and passed by 6-1 (Dr. Quin opposed). A copy of the signed agreement is in Supplementary Minute Book #14, page 35.
- D. FIRST READING OF NEOLA BYLAWS - Mr. Watkins reviewed the process we will need to go through to be in compliance with Board bylaws and policies. He stated he is working with Dr. McKaig, NEOLA representative. He noted there will be a first

reading at one Board meeting and then the next month those will be presented for a second reading and adoption. A new set of bylaws and policies will be presented at the next meeting as well for a first reading. This cycle will continue until the Board is up to date and in compliance. He asked the Board if they have questions to please let him or Mrs. Shuey know and he will address those questions with Dr. McKaig. The documents presented were: 0100 Definitions, 0130 Functions of the Board, 0140 Membership of the Board, 0150 Organization, and 0160 Meetings. Mr. Watkins stated the blue print is updates and the red print is exclusions from the NEOLA lawyers. Mr. Hanson said NEOLA has proposed seven updates since our NEOLA bylaws and policies were last updated. He noted updates will be out twice annually after we are caught up. We will be going through one section at a time. The next section will be personnel. He stated these are all former NEOLA updates. The policy the Board is reviewing is where we left off three years ago along with the updates that are being recommended to bring us up to date.

- E. 2016-17 STUDENT/TEACHER SCHEDULE - Mr. Watkins stated ECA is leaving and the ISTEP test is coming to the high school. That poses problems as English and math are only two trimesters and not year round. Structural changes need to be made for the best interest of the students. Mr. Watkins stated we have students taking Accuplacer, AP, PSAT, SAT testing without being in those classes. We want to be the best in the county and state. AP numbers are below state average. Heartland Career Center is on a semester schedule and this causes schedule and grading conflicts for our students. Transfer students coming into Peru Schools are hampered because of the schedule transition. PJHS elective classes have been cut and the students are not getting the rounded education recommended by the state. The majority of the PJHS teachers are in favor of this change. SAT or ACT prep can be addressed with this schedule change. Mr. Watkins stated trimesters work, but we can offer our students more by moving to semesters. He stated he has weighed and looked at trimesters and semesters. He highly recommended the Board move from trimesters to semesters for the 2016-17 and beyond. He stated Mr. Thompson is right on many of his issues and those issues will be addressed if the Board approves the recommendation. He added there will be a Tiger Time. The teachers will continue to have collaboration. We are not going to lose the good. We are going to enhance what we have and correct scheduling issues and classes the students do not have when they are testing. Mrs. Shuey offered Mr. Cary and Ms. Spiker an opportunity to speak. Mr. Cary stated we are very confident in the process. He knows not everyone will agree on the decision. Mr. Cary and Ms. Spiker have talked individually with teachers and students as well as groups. He noted it will not be a decision everyone will agree with but he feels strongly it is in the best interest of the students. Ms. Spiker stated she really thought the PJHS staff would be against this change. She stated only two people have come to her with questions. They are for the change. She noted there is also a modified semester schedule that can be considered if we change to semesters. Mr. Cary stated the teachers who have expressed their concerns are concerns the administration has as well. Dr. Quin asked why are we just being exposed to this possible change tonight. He stated he appreciates both the administration side and the teacher side of this change. He stated his concern about student burn out and the limit of classes the students can take. He added he understands concerns about being away from math and English. He asked why can't we address that concern on trimesters? Mr. Cary stated Ms. Spiker and he talked at the October Board meeting. Mr. Cary noted that to offer math and English all year on the trimester schedule teachers would have to be added. Mr. Watkins stated he wanted to find a compromise. He noted he talked with Mrs. Graham and Mr. Hall about math and English year round. The cost would be to add three extra teachers to meet those needs but then other areas or costs would have to

be cut including raises. He stated a modified schedule could be a seven period day on Monday, four period day on Tuesday, seven period day on Wednesday, three period day on Thursday, and a seven period day on Friday. The modified block has not been discussed but stated this is a consideration to address the specials that like the longer period of time. Mr. Hanson stated the majority of the core classes and PLTW classes are two term classes. On trimesters the student can earn 60 credits. With the semester schedule the student can earn 56 credits over the same four-year span. He also noted the ability to link courses to both halves of the class and having the same teacher versus switching teachers. He said we are addressing the schedule change now because the curriculum guides go to students in December. Students are asked for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choice for classes. On trimesters there are not as many choices for them because they have to meet the mandated classes. Many times to the students are put into classes that fit their schedule rather than their interests. On semesters there would be more opportunities to meet the requests and interests of the students. Discussions started taking place last spring. Mr. Hanson said we have met in Meet and Discuss several times. We can expand our curriculum on a semester schedule. PJHS students can only take one elective for the year. He said that is a concern of his as curriculum director. We want students to have more choices as they develop their interests and career paths. He understands teachers will have more classes to prepare for and more students will be seen each day. Dr. Quin asked about the credits. Mr. Hanson stated the state is looking at a new diploma track for next year. He added we will wait to see what that looks like before changing credit requirements. Mr. Comerford commented Marcia did an excellent job with the minutes from the October meeting of describing Mr. Cary and Ms. Spiker's presentation. He stated his disappointment is when you read the minutes and then Mr. Thompson's comment, it doesn't appear the individuals involved were in the same room. He stated personally one of the things his kids were disappointed in was the lack of preparation for SAT and the curriculum that would challenge them for their next opportunity. They did not feel they had as many classes and that hurt their opportunities to get into the classes they wanted to get into at the next level. He thinks it sounds like this change will help. We need to challenge the upper echelon of students. Mr. Cary stated when you look at the semester schedule the teachers of core classes will have the students an extra 10 hours a year. He noted there are changes from the HLC talking about dual credit requirements as well as a statewide shorter of teachers able to teach dual credits due to bumping the dual credit requirements up. He noted all schools will be affected very heavily. A semester schedule will allow us the opportunity for distance learning with IVY Tech or even getting professors on loan along with Maconaquah and North Miami. Mr. Wolfe asked about the parent meeting and requested a parent meeting be held. Mr. Cary stated he did a phone dialer, letters went home, and he put it on twitter and invited parents to ask questions or come in and talk. Mr. Wolfe asked about teacher status. Mr. Watkins stated this is not a maneuver to cut teachers. We are fine this year and we are able to give a 4% raise to teachers and not increase insurance benefit premiums. This schedule change is not designed to cut teachers. Mr. Cary stated we talked about that early in the discussions and stated if that was going to happen they were not going to move forward. Ms. Spiker stated her teachers are excited about being able to expand the subjects they can offer. Dr. Quin asked Mr. Watkins if he was looking at a balanced calendar. Mr. Watkins stated if we move to a semester schedule he would like to consider a balanced calendar. He stated a task force of teachers, parents, and administrators will meet and discuss the 2016-17 calendar and that option. Dr. Quin stated that makes semesters more favorable. Mr. Watkins stated we have gone through many changes and change it is hard. He said if we focus on the kids and work collaboratively we will be fine. He said we

will need to continue to work together. He knows this is a tough decision. Mr. Cary said to make it clear, in speaking with the guidance department a decision needs to be made this evening to allow time for curriculums to be offered. Mr. Wolfe asked about when the decision on the regular or modified semester schedule will be made. Mr. Hanson responded the curriculum guides are printed in December. Whether we go to a modified or traditional day will not matter for a curriculum guide for a semester schedule. Mr. Cary said the teachers want as much time as possible if there is going to be a change to allow them time to plan accordingly. Mrs. Shuey said we are going to be able to improve the opportunities for our students. She added we are here to make sure our students have different aspects of their education to learn. We should not be afraid of change. We still have excellent staff. Mrs. Shuey thanked Mr. Cary, Ms. Spiker, and Mr. Thompson. She called the question. Mr. Stanton moved to change from trimesters to semesters, seconded by Ms. Rice seconded, approved by a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Quin abstained).

IV. BUDGET

A. CLAIMS - Mr. Hall presented and reviewed claims. He asked the Board members for questions. Mr. Hanson asked the Board to spread the word that Miami County College Success Coalition will pay for one college application per senior as well as reimbursement of the SAT fee. Ms. Rice asked if the charges from Wabash Schools have settled down. Mr. Hall replied they are palatable. Mr. Comerford asked about concrete repairs and if the company was local. Mr. Hall replied the company was local. Dr. Quin asked about the cost for asbestos inspection and if it is recurring. Mr. Hall responded we have an annual retainer for an asbestos expert. He said part of that bill is for inspections he does on fall break. He stated the asbestos we have is encapsulated. Mr. Comerford said there are several software renewals. Mr. Hanson stated those are annual and part of the e-rate bill and we will be reimbursed 80% of the cost. He noted many of the renewals are yearly and deal with technology or curriculum. Mr. Comerford moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Stanton, unanimously approved.

GENERAL FUND	276,663.56
CAPITAL PROJECTS	38,297.21
TRANSPORTATION OPERATING FUND	15,128.48
TRANSPORTATION BUS REPLACEMENT	418.00
POST-RETIREMENT/SEVERANCE FUND	11,916.55
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND	69,315.19
TEXTBOOK RENTAL FUND	5,730.00
INSURANCE WELLNESS CLINIC	377.02
PARENT/STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUND	124.75
GIFTED AND TALENTED 2015	247.50
COLLEGE SUCCESS COALITION	149.00
TITLE I 2015-16	2,159.82
PARENT NURTURING PROGRAM	1,967.27
TITLE II 2015	14,944.31
TITLE II 2015-16	53.32
TITLE VI-B RURAL/LOW INCOME	4,000.00
RURAL & LOW INCOME 2015-16	380.00
GROUP INSURANCE	16,089.79
ANNUITIES	45.46
FRINGE BENEFITS	405,412.87
TOTAL	\$ 863,420.10

B. FUND MONITORING REPORT - Mr. Hall reviewed the fund monitoring report for the month of October. He noted for the second time this year there were three pay periods in one month. Therefore there is deterioration of operating balance of the general fund of \$109,000 more than we took in for the 10-month period. That will turn around to a surplus of approximately \$300,000 by the end of the year. He stated the cash flow is down to \$81,000 in transportation. We will receive the second property tax distribution in December. He stated we should be able to get to December without a deficit in that fund. He noted he is still closely watching the school lunch fund. Ms.

Rice moved to approve the fund monitoring report, seconded by Mr. Comerford, unanimously approved.

V. OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

A. REQUESTS TO USE FACILITIES

1. Boys Scouts' fall recruitment - Blair Pointe cafeteria - Thursday, November 19, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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

- B. RECOMMENDATION TO PURCHASE BUS - Mr. Hall stated we are part of the Wabash Valley Region 5 Co-op. They quoted buses. He recommended the purchase of a 78 passenger bus with cameras, a six-cylinder Cummins diesel in-line engine, three-year unlimited mileage on the body warranty, and three-year 50,000 miles chassis warranty for \$86,368. He noted bus 5 has a bad engine. They offered \$300. We stated we can get more than that by scrapping the bus. Dr. Quin asked if the money will go into the transportation fund. Mr. Hall replied it will go into the bus replacement fund. Dr. Quin asked what the approximate miles were on bus 5. Mr. Hall responded he did not know the mileage of bus 5 but our mileage fleet wide is less than 30,000 per year. He recommended the purchase from Kerlin's. Mr. Wagner asked about lighting on the sides of the chassis. He said the buses do not show up well at night. Mr. Hall said he would look into that as he is not sure of the legalities. Mr. Wagner moved to approve permission to bid for a new bus, seconded by Mr. Stanton, unanimously approved.

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

- A. SUPERINTENDENT - Mr. Watkins thanked the veterans on the Board and thanked them for their service. He also thanked the veterans in the audience. He reminded the Board there is an annual Veterans program at the high school open to the public Wednesday morning.

Mr. Watkins stated the football team will be honored next month with Black and Gold awards.

Mr. Watkins thanked Mr. Thompson, Mr. Cary, Ms. Spiker, and the committees for their work over the past several months on the consideration of a schedule change and their recommendation. He stated we will be better with this schedule move.

Mr. Watkins thanked Mr. Herda for his coverage in the newspaper.

Mr. Watkins shared the announcement in the paper about Mr. Stanton's personal artwork exhibit at the high school in the student art gallery in the commons area on November 13 and 14 during the Quigley Jazz Festival.

Mr. Watkins thanked Mr. Frye for hosting the Board meeting this meeting and Ms. Maxwell for sharing a review of a school day for our cute as a button preschool kids. He thanked Mrs. Badry and Mr. Hanson for getting this program set up. He thanked the Board for supporting the recommendation.

Mr. Watkins ended the meeting with 97.16%. We make a promise to our students they will graduate! We are fulfilling our commitments and promises. We will continue to strive for 100%.

Mr. Hanson stated Mrs. Watkins received a voice message from a citizen in the Fort Wayne area. Four of our Blair Pointe classes visited Biz Town and had lunch at McDonald's in the Glenbrook Mall. The citizen went out of her way to contact Mrs. Watkins to let her know she was very impressed with the respect and behavior of our elementary students and commended the students and teachers.

B. BOARD -

Mrs. Shuey stated she was happy to know our staff recovered from the volleyball game with Maconaquah and North Miami. Mr. Hanson stated \$1,000 was raised through the benefit game for Helping Hands.

Mrs. Shuey wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Shuey also announced an executive session will be December 1st at 4:00 p.m. at the Administrative Center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Stanton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Secretary,

Tim Comerford

/mm