

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
CLAY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

An organizational and regular session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Board Room of the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN, 47834, on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Dr. David Bess, Dr. Michael Shaw, Charley Jackson, Andrea Baysinger, Tom Reberger, Amy Burke Adams, and Cheryl Schopmeyer were present.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board President Tom Reberger led those in attendance in the pledge, and Superintendent Rayle offered the prayer.

II. Comments from Patrons

None

III. Consent Agenda

A. Claims

B. Board Meetings

Regular Session: Thursday, March 10, 2025

C. Field Trips

None

D. Personnel

A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. Certified

a. Maternity Leave (25-26 School Year)	ESE	Catie Long
b. FMLA	CCE	D. Brent Vaught
c. FMLA	NCMS	Dava Boor
d. FMLA	NHS	Emily Goff
e. FMLA	NHS	Shelley Minor
f. FMLA	FPE/MES	Christy Casassa
g. FMLA	NHS	Silvia Weir
h. FMLA	VBE	Susan Maurer

2. Non-Certified

a. FMLA	NHS	Kasey Buell
b. Not Eligible for Leave-Approved Absence	NCMS	Broc Leslie
c. Not Eligible for Leave-Approved Absence	MES	Chyaunna Redman
d. Not Eligible for Leave-Approved Absence	ESE	Heidi Hamilton
e. Not Eligible for Leave-Approved Absence	ESE	Peggy Irwin

B. RETIREMENTS

1. Certified

a. Title One Teacher (5/23/25)	ESE	Raeann Parr
b. Title One Teacher (5/23/25)	MES	Jennifer Hawkins
c. Special Services Teacher (end of 25-26 School Year)	NCMS	Don Bryan

2. Non-Certified

a. Payroll Clerk (6/27/25)	C.O.	Mary Mershon
b. Secretary/Treasurer (5/23/25)	NCMS	Tracy Clark

c. Central Office Secretary (4/25/25)	C.O.	Jorita Wilson
3. Place on Retirement Index		
a. Service Appreciation II (8/1/25)	NCMS	Don Bryan
C. RESIGNATIONS		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified		
a. Food Services (3/7/25)	NCMS	Leslie Douglas
b. Instructional Assistant (3/24/25)	FPE	Stephanie Lear
3. ECA Resignations	None	
4. ECA Lay Coaches	None	
D. TRANSFERS		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified		
a. C.O. Secretary (From MES Secretary/Treasurer)	C.O.	Michelle Kibbe
E. EMPLOYMENT		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
3. Other	None	
F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR		
1. Extra-Curricular Certified		
a. JH Boys' Track Coach	CCHS	Ian Steiner
2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified	None	
3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach		
a. JH Girls' Track Coach	CCHS	Tara Arthur
b. JH Track Assistant Coach	CCHS	Melanie Laswell
4. Supplemental	None	
G. CHANGES		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
3. ECA-Lay Coaches	None	
H. VOLUNTEERS		
1. CLASSROOM		
a. Classroom Volunteer	CCE	Sharadeth Deeter
b. Classroom Volunteer	CCE	Jeffery Backfish
c. Classroom Volunteer	CCE	Nicole Romas
d. Classroom Volunteer	CCE	Loree Dulin
e. Classroom Volunteer	FPE	Jessica Ramsey
f. Classroom Volunteer	JTE	Brittney Morris
g. Classroom Volunteer	JTE	Tessa Stearley
h. Classroom Volunteer	JTE	Suellen Wegner
i. Classroom Volunteer	JTE	Payton Siddons

j. Classroom Volunteer	JTE	Greg Sanders
k. Classroom Volunteer	SE	Whitley DeSmith
l. Classroom Volunteer	SE	Courtney DeWeese
m. Classroom Volunteer	SE	Gregory Wheeler
n. Classroom Volunteer	SE	Erin Burns
o. Classroom Volunteer	VBE	Meganne Stepp
p. Classroom Volunteer	VBE	Raven Hite
q. Classroom Volunteer	VBE	Marissa Chrisman
r. Classroom Volunteer	VBE	Katie McMahon
s. Classroom Volunteer	VBE	Chastity Henrichs
t. Classroom Volunteer	VBE	Tashiana Riley
u. Classroom Volunteer	CCHS	Nolan Mishler
v. Classroom Volunteer	NCMS	Matt Westfall
w. Classroom Volunteer	NCMS	Lavett Wilson
x. Classroom Volunteer	NCMS	David Wilson
y. Classroom Volunteer	NHS	John Norris
z. Classroom Volunteer	NHS	Dianna Wetnight
aa. Classroom Volunteer	CCE/CCHS	Traci Skelton
bb. Classroom Volunteer	CCE/CCHS	Forrest Skelton
cc. Classroom Volunteer	CCE/CCHS	James Patterson
dd. Classroom Volunteer	CCE/CCHS	Matthew Jackson
ee. Classroom Volunteer	ME/NCMS	April Tryon
2. ATHLETICS/ECA		
a. JH Track Assistant Coach (Vol)	CCHS	Noah Seidensticker
3. BAND	None	
I. TERMINATIONS	None	
J. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY		
a. Instructional Assistant (3/14/25)	FPE	Stephanie Lear
K. NON-RENEWAL		
1. CLASSIFIED	None	
2. ATHLETICS/ECA	None	
L. RESCINDING OF RESIGNATION		
1. Certified		
a. Principal (4/11/25)	CCE	Brent Vaught

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Baysinger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

IV. Old Business

A. Student Handbook Changes – Second Reading

Information regarding the proposed changes to the student handbooks was presented at the March 13 regular session, and no changes were proposed during the first reading.

Dr. Bess moved to approve the student handbook changes. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

V. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rayle noted the following:

- Congratulations to Coach Ames and the Clay City High School boys basketball team for being the Semi-State runners-up.
- The NHS Winter Guard placed 9th in the National Championships.
- The NHS Indoor Percussion participated in the State championships.
- Kindergarten Round-ups have gone well.
- As we prepare to turn the corner into the month of May, our schools are gearing up for one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year. From concerts and athletic events to award ceremonies and end-of-year celebrations, there will be activities happening nearly every day across our schools. It's a time filled with energy, accomplishments, and memorable moments for students, staff, and families alike. I encourage everyone to stay engaged, support one another, and take time to celebrate the hard work and growth that have defined this school year.

VI. New Business
School Update

Throughout the 2024-25 academic year, the Board will receive monthly updates from a designated school. Mr. Michael Owens, Principal at Clay City Jr/Sr High School, presented the board with highlights of CCHS programs, accolades, and statistics.

A. New Diploma Requirements

Dr. Brady Scott provided an overview of Indiana's new high school diploma requirements recently approved by the Indiana State Board of Education. The presentation included a summary of the key changes set to take effect beginning with the Class of 2029, including the transition from the current "Core 40" and "Academic Honors" diplomas to the new "Indiana GPS" (Graduation Pathways System) diploma model.

The board members had a few questions for Dr. Scott:

- At what grade level do students choose a pathway, and if they decide to change, what happens? Students start learning about different pathways in middle school during the career exploration classes. They also attend a career fair in middle school to explore different careers, and they will continue to explore opportunities in their freshman year. Students will receive a standard schedule in their freshman year and choose a pathway in their sophomore year. It is encouraged that students not change their pathway in their junior year, as it would be very difficult to obtain the credits necessary.
- Can students still apply to any university with any of the diplomas offered? Yes, as long as students meet the requirements for graduation, they can apply to any college/university as they would have before.
- Regarding the Employment Seal, does this only apply to Clay County businesses, or can students look at other businesses outside of the county? The employment seal focuses on Indiana, not just Clay County.
- What happens if students have more than 3 unexcused absences? In the Readiness-Seals, there are several options that students can choose to help "check a box" to earn the seal. Meeting the attendance goal of having fewer than 3 unexcused absences is one of those boxes, it is not a requirement.
- Will the school corporation need to hire someone to keep track of this? School counselors will be responsible for this.
- What type of scheduling problems do you foresee? With the opportunities to earn 2 credits in one class, it could, in turn, eliminate classes.

- What does this look like for high achievers? Can students still qualify for valedictorian? Yes, students can still qualify for valedictorian through any diploma.

B. Textbooks and Supplemental Resources Adoption

Information from the Curriculum and Grants Coordinator, Kathy Knust, was included in the board packet regarding a request to approve the adoption of textbooks and supplemental resources and course changes. The Central Curriculum Committee, comprised of parents, students, teachers, and administrators, met on the 1st of April to review and discuss all textbooks and supplemental resources and course change information. All textbooks, supplemental resources, and course change recommendations were unanimously approved by the CCS Central Curriculum Committee members who were present at the meeting.

Dr. Bess moved to approve the textbooks and supplemental resources adoption recommendation. Mrs. Schopmeyer seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

C. Central Office Summer Hours

It was recommended to allow central office 260-day certified and classified employees to operate on a forty-hour, four-day work week beginning Monday, June 2, and continuing through Friday, July 18, 2025. The office would be open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and would be closed on Fridays.

Mrs. Schopmeyer moved to approve the central office summer hours. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

D. Request to Accept Proposal for Architectural Services

Proposals were requested for architectural services in connection with the 2025-26 facility and site improvement project. Information regarding the two proposals received was included in the board packet. Director of Business Affairs John Szabo recommended the hiring of Hafer for these services.

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the request for permission to request to accept the proposal for architectural services. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

VII. Board Member Comments

Dr. David Bess thanked Mr. Owens and Dr. Scott for their presentations. He congratulated the successful programs and noted that it has been a successful third quarter. He is anxious to wrap up the year and appreciates the good work the teachers and administrators have done.

Dr. Michael Shaw thanked Mr. Owens and Dr. Scott for their presentations. He shared that there are a lot of great things to be proud of.

Charley Jackson thanked Mr. Owens and Dr. Scott for their presentations and congratulated everyone on the success they have had.

Andrea Baysinger

Amy Burke-Adams thanked Mr. Owens and Dr. Scott for their presentations. She also shared information regarding the Easter Egg Hunt at the Villas of Hollybrook.

Cheryl Schopmeyer thanked Mr. Owens and Dr. Scott for their presentation. She gave a shout-out to Kathy Knust for being willing to share her knowledge and answer all the questions she has had. She also appreciated those who attended the meeting.

Tom Reberger agreed with everything that had been said.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

None

IX. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

The meeting was audio recorded, and copies may be requested by contacting the Central Administration Office.