

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

A regular session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN 47834, on Thursday, August 13, 2015. Tom Reberger, Kevin Kumpf, Scott Hill, Fred Froderman, Ron Scherb, Amy Burke Adams and Shane Wiram were present.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Board President Ron Scherb led those in attendance in the pledge and offered the prayer.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Claims

B. Board Meetings

Regular Session Minutes for July 9, 2015
Special Session Minutes for July 30, 2015
Executive Session Certification for July 9, 2015

C. Field Trips

None at this meeting

D. Personnel

A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. Certified

a. FMLA

JTE

Nanette G. Brown

b. FMLA

CCE

Louann Kern

2. Non-Certified

None

B. RETIREMENTS

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

None

3. Place on Retirement Index

a. Step 8

NHS

Kerin Downey

C. RESIGNATIONS

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

a. 33.75-hour Instructional Assistant

NHS

Holly Neil

b. 29-hour Instructional Assistant

NHS

Michelle Poole

c. 185-day Custodian

NHS

Cathy Farris

d. Instructional Assistant

CCHS

Chris Booe

3. ECA Resignations

None

4. ECA Lay Coaches

D. TRANSFERS

1. Certified

2. Non-Certified

E. EMPLOYMENT

1. Certified

2. Non-Certified

a. 29-hour Sp Serv Inst. Asst	SE	Janna Short
b. 29-hour Sp Serv Inst. Asst	CCE	Jamy Whitaker
c. Bus Driver	TRANS	Greg Stearley
d. Bus Driver	TRANS	Roy Greenwood
e. Bus Driver	TRANS	Crystal Bryan
f. Bus Driver	TRANS	Megan Shaw

F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR

1. Extra-Curricular Certified

a. Elementary Sport Clubs	SE	Garrett Thatcher
b. Elementary Student Council	SE	Kimberly Parent

2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified

None

3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach

None

4. Supplemental

None

G. CHANGES

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

None

3. ECA-Lay Coaches

None

H. VOLUNTEERS

1. CLASSROOM

None

2. ATHLETICS/ECA

Northview High School

a. Volunteer Boys' Tennis Coach

NHS

Hannah Pond Hughes

b. Volunteer Football Coach

NHS

Marty Hendricks

3. OTHER VOLUNTEERS

None

I. TERMINATIONS

J. OTHER

None

Mr. Reberger moved to approve the consent agenda items. Mr. Kumpf seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

III. Comments from Patrons

None at this meeting

IV. Old Business

A. Sunrise Coal Mine Update

Director of Extended Services Mike Howard provided the Board with an update on seismograph readings and observations taken of benchmark locations at Clay City High School with regard to the Sunrise Coal Mining operation located near the school. Updates are to be provided to the Board every three months.

Mr. Howard noted that, after monitoring benchmark locations at the schools, there appeared to be no movement or new cracks/defects in the building structure. Also, he noted that Sunrise Coal had granted him access to their blasting record-keeping website so that he could monitor the data that is recorded at one of the seismographs located on the property. A sampling of blasting reports that Mr. Howard provided to the board members indicated blasting velocity readings well below regulatory limits.

Under discussion, Mrs. Adams wanted to know if the regulatory agencies conducted their own readings and, if they did, would Mr. Howard have access to those readings. Mr. Howard offered to check with Sunrise Coal for an answer to that question and to give board members that information in the next quarterly report, if not sooner.

Mr. Scherb wanted to know if Mr. Howard had ever been in the Clay City Jr/Sr High School building at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Howard stated that he had, many times, and had felt and heard the blasting.

B. Clay City Jr/Sr High School Track Update

Prior to Mr. Howard's update, Superintendent Fritz stated that there had been a change order for the track, and he would be making a recommendation to the board to approve the change order following the update.

Mr. Howard reported that the track project had kicked off in early July and was progressing nicely at this point. He noted the footprint of the track had been widened, which will enable the Clay City track and field group to have a full eight lane track with a safety border on the interior and exterior, a key improvement that would make the track compliant with IHSA guidelines. Wabash Valley Asphalt and S & G Excavating, two of the contractors working on the project, have installed a new temporary road on the south side of the track and field complex, and they have agreed to dress that up at the conclusion of the project and leave it as an access road for the school corporation. The new access road would support the plan to minimize or virtually eliminate any vehicle traffic on this new track once it is done because the track is not made for driving a vehicle or making a sharp turn, even on a golf cart or a gator-type vehicle. The high jump area has been removed, as well as the shot put area. The long jump approach has yet to be removed, but when that is done, there will be a new launch board and a containment area with a berm around the sand pit. The pole vault area will have a new plant box and the runway will be brand-new. The track surface has been removed, and the perimeter drain has been installed. Patriot Engineering performed some proof rolls of the subgrade about two weeks ago and found that there were some soft soils in the subgrade. Further testing was done, and the recommendation from the contractors was to perform an undercut in several areas around the track to remove the "soupy" soil that is not going to dry out. Geotherm fabric and rock will be put in, which will enable moisture to pass through the subgrade, through the rock, and out from under the track to alleviate this problem. Mr. Howard believed it to be well worth the time and effort to do this so that the track would last another thirty to forty years without any sub-grade issues. He stated that Superintendent Fritz's recommendation would be to approve a change order, which, according to the approved contract, would move money from contingencies to cover this additional work of proof rolling and undercutting, keeping the price of the track the same as what was originally approved.

At this point, Superintendent Fritz recommended approval of a change order in the amount of \$15,000. He explained that other options for additions to the track will be built into the CPF Fund at some point later on. The full price will not change; rather, some options will be moved around.

Prior to a vote on Superintendent Fritz's recommendation, Mrs. Adams asked for a follow-up to the verbal report with a written report, and Mr. Howard stated that he would forward the report to the board members.

Mr. Wiram moved to approve the change order. Mr. Hill seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

V. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- After commenting on the great start to the school year, Superintendent Fritz stated that he and other central office administrators had made visits to all of the schools and facilities within the school corporation, and it had not seemed like the first day of school; it was going so well it seemed like mid-year. He was very pleased and very appreciative of the teachers, support staff, bus drivers, maintenance personnel, custodians, cooks, IA's, office staff, and administrators, and he offered his thanks to all.
- There were several open houses over the course of the past week or so, and they were well attended.
- A welcome was offered to new employees Janna Short and Jamy Whitaker who will be instructional assistants, and Greg Stearley, Roy Greenwood, Crystal Bryan, and Megan Shaw who will be bus drivers.

VI. New Business

A. Request for Permission to Advertise the 2016 Budget, 2016 Capital Projects Plan, and the 2016 School Bus Replacement Plan

Mrs. Adams moved to advertise the 2016 budget. Dr. Froderman seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

B. Request for Permission to Advertise for Bids for Buses and Fuel

Mr. Kumpf moved to grant permission to advertise for bids for buses and fuel. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Prior to a vote, Mr. Reberger asked how many buses the school corporation was bidding. Mr. Howard replied that the bid would be for six or seven buses.

The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

C. Secondary Renovation Project – Financial and Legal Information

Belvia Gray with H. J. Umbaugh and Associates, financial advisors to local governments, provided board members with preliminary financing options for the secondary renovation project. Ms. Gray noted that all current indebtedness for the school corporation would be repaid after 2018, which would provide an opportunity for

the school corporation to be looking at larger scale needs for future project planning. Because the scope of any potential project is unknown at this time, Ms. Gray presented options for financing \$20 million, \$32 million and \$40 million. All of those options would allow the school corporation to maintain current and anticipated levies in the Debt Service Fund. Repayment terms for the options ranged from nine years to nineteen years.

Jeff Qualkinbush with Barnes & Thornburg stated that he believed the school corporation was on a good time frame to continue down the path that had been discussed with board members. He pointed out that the reason for staying on that current path would be because once the project architect and project manager have been hired, they would take the next 60 to 90 days to look at the secondary facilities and come back with some recommendations, which may include recommendations in addition to what had already been suggested in the facilities assessment. Once that has been accomplished, Mr. Qualkinbush and Ms. Gray would come back and assist the school board in financing options and the legal implications of those and look at having a 1028 preliminary determination hearing at the December board meeting. Mr. Qualkinbush stressed that it was extremely critical to have a 1028 hearing at that point in time because if the school corporation would be requested by the community to go through a local voting process on that, the school corporation would want that to happen in May; otherwise, it wouldn't happen until November, which would cost an entire construction season. Mr. Qualkinbush asserted that with inflation and interest rates staying in check, the school corporation is in a really opportune time to be able to do a significant amount of work at these secondary facilities with little, if any, impact to the community from a tax rate standpoint.

Under discussion, Mr. Scherb wanted to know if a referendum was automatic. Mr. Qualkinbush replied that it was not; rather, in Indiana, both for the petition/remonstrance process that was potentially applicable to the elementary school project and also with the size of the project that the school corporation is talking about now, the requirement is for that process to be triggered by 100 community members signing a petition after the December board meeting when a decision has been made as to whether to proceed with the project. He noted that if the community would accept the fact that the tax levies are acceptable where they are and they don't want to see a "tax break", then the school corporation would not have to go through the referendum process, which would accelerate the design/construction periods. Without a referendum, it might even be possible to start construction as early as next spring or summer. If the school corporation has to go through the referendum process because it was requested by the community, then it would probably be the end of next year before the first shovel of dirt would be turned. Mr. Qualkinbush reiterated that a referendum is not automatic; it has to be requested.

Mrs. Adams requested a copy of the information that had been presented, and Mr. Shayotovich was to send that information to the board members.

D. Request to Hire a Project Architect for the Middle School/High School Renovation Project

Dr. Froderman moved to accept Superintendent Fritz's recommendation to hire Fanning & Howey as the project architect for the middle school/high school renovation project. Mr. Kumpf seconded.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Scherb offered his thanks to Superintendent Fritz, Mike Howard, and Mark Shayotovich for taking the time to talk to some of the applicants. Mr. Scherb, who had also been a part of the interviews, noted that all who were interviewed were asked the same questions.

The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

E. Request to Hire a Project Manager for the Middle School/High School Renovation Project

Mr. Hill moved to accept Superintendent Fritz's recommendation to hire Garmong Construction Services as the project manager for the middle school/high school renovation project. Mr. Wiram seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

F. 1:1 Technology Update and Changes

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tim Rayle provided information to the board members regarding the following: laptop rollout for the 2015-16 school year; discipline for abuse; disabling of the USB ports and cameras on the laptops, with the option for teachers to request to have them enabled for class; changes to professional development; and, a technology training page on the school corporation's web site. Dr. Rayle also presented a video that had been developed by Mrs. Gilman and Mrs. Harbour regarding the "Do's & Don'ts" list on the correct usage of the school laptops.

G. Request from Sunrise Coal to Permit Mining Activities within 300 Feet of the Clay City Jr/Sr High School Property Line

Sunrise Coal Mine had submitted a written request to Clay Community Schools to allow mining activities within 300 feet of the Clay City High School property line. Current Indiana mining regulations require written approval from the school corporation to allow mining activities within 300 feet of school property. Sunrise Coal's written proposal, which included a \$100,000 offer, was provided to board members in the board packet. If granted, mining activities would be very close to the softball field, the new track, and the high school building; therefore, the administration did not recommend approval of the request from Sunrise Coal. Superintendent Fritz explained that a lot of thought had gone into this issue regarding the location, the issues the school corporation has already had with the building, and the public relations standpoint with the parents, faculty, and staff at Clay City. The administration could not, with all good conscience, recommend this, at least from an administrative standpoint.

Mr. Wiram moved to go with the recommendation of the administration to not approve the request. Mr. Kumpf seconded. The motion was re-stated to clarify the intent: Deny the request to work within 300 feet of school property. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

H. Board Policy 7210 – Development and Modifications Updates: First Reading

The updates were submitted by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Timothy Rayle, as per changes to the Indiana Code. No vote was required. The policy will be brought back to the September 10 regular session for a second reading and approval.

I. Board Policy 6960 – Student Handbooks Updates: First Reading

The change to the policy would add online access to the student handbooks as an acceptable alternative to hard copies of the handbook. No vote was required. The policy will be brought back to the September 10 regular session for a second reading and approval.

J. Proposed Changes to the Weighting of Secondary Final Exams

Mr. Kumpf moved to approve changing the weight of the secondary final exams from 20% of the semester grade to 15%. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

K. Proposed Changes to the Clay Community Schools Teacher Evaluation Instrument

Dr. Froderman moved to approve the changes to the teacher evaluation instrument. Mr. Reberger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

L. Request to Utilize Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) as the Clay Community Schools Formative Assessment Instrument

The State will provide each school corporation with Formative Assessment Grant money to pay for formative evaluation instruments. Stephanie Jackson, Kathy Knust, Tim Rayle, and Jeff Fritz attended a formative assessment vendor fair and were very impressed with the available options NWEA offers to students, parents, and staff members. The administration also met with the CCCTA and plans to provide ongoing NWEA training to teachers. Approval to utilize NWEA as the Clay Community Schools formative assessment instrument was recommended. Mr. Scherb clarified that NWEA would not replace I-STEP+ testing.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the request to utilize NWEA as the Clay Community Schools Formative Assessment Instrument. Mr. Kumpf seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

M. Information Communications and Technology Textbooks

Curriculum and Grants Coordinator Kathy Knust requested Board approval to order new textbooks for the Information Communications and Technology course and Advanced Information Communications and Technology course. The two courses are taught at both high schools. The first course is required for graduation and when combined with the advanced course provides students with dual credit from Ivy Tech. If approved by the Board, the textbooks will be ordered as classroom sets. Students will be charged book rental because the courses do offer dual credit. Book rental fees will be reduced significantly because students will use classroom sets. Approval was recommended.

Mrs. Adams moved to purchase the textbooks requested. Mr. Wiram seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

VII. Board Member Comments

Shane Wiram thanked everyone on the staff for starting the school year right.

Amy Burke Adams wished everybody a safe and productive school year.

Ron Scherb seconded Mrs. Adams' comment.

Scott Hill welcomed the new people aboard and shared his wish for a safe school year.

Kevin Kumpf also supported Mrs. Adams' comment.

Tom Reberger stated that it was going to be imperative on the board, administration, and everyone in the school community to keep the entire community informed of what the plans are for this building program. The key thing from day one that has been emphasized is that the community had been told what was going to be done with the elementary project and that it was going to be paid off as quickly as it could because there were needs at the secondary schools. The secondary people had been told to be patient because their turn was coming: It is here. Everybody needs to be kept in the loop and, hopefully, a remonstrance will be avoided. The need is there, and everybody is going to be treated equally and fair. There are good people handling the architectural and construction management side, and it has been shown that the school corporation has the financial ability to do this.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

Tom Reberger would like a preliminary enrollment report and how that is going to affect tuition support.

IX. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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