

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Edinburgh, Indiana

January 11, 2010

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on this date at the Administration Building, 202 S. Keeley Street, Edinburgh, IN 46124 with Cathy Hamm presiding. All members were present.

Also attending were Richard Arkanoff, Jackie Crawhorn, Susan Pence, Brooke Phillips, Allison Kearns, Josh Edwards and Paula Wright.

Everyone present was led in prayer by Mr. Streeval and the Pledge of Allegiance by Mrs. Hamm.

REORGANIZATION

A. President, Vice-President and Secretary

Mrs. Hamm opened nominations for Board President. Mr. Streeval moved and Mrs. Taulman seconded a motion to approve the Board positions as status quo, Cathy Hamm as President, Ron Streeval as Vice-President and John Hoskinson as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Appointment of Treasurer & Deputy Treasurer

Mr. Streeval moved and Mr. Hoskinson seconded a motion to approve Tammy Lewis as Treasurer and Carrie Brown as Deputy Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Board of Finance

Mr. Streeval moved and Mr. Hoskinson seconded a motion to appoint the officers of the Board of Finance to be the same as the officers of the Board of School Trustees. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Appointment of ISBA & Policy Liaison

Mr. Streeval moved and Mr. Hoskinson seconded a motion to appoint Kim Weddle as the ISBA Legislative Liaison and Policy Liaison. The motion passed 4 yes, 1 abstention. Mrs. Weddle abstained.

E. Athletic Council

Mr. Hoskinson moved and Mrs. Weddle seconded a motion to appoint Ron Streeval as Board Representative to the Athletic Council. The motion passed 4 yes, 1 abstention. Mr. Streeval abstained.

F. Board Meeting Date

Mr. Streeval moved and Mrs. Weddle seconded a motion to approve the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. as Board meeting dates. The motion to establish board meeting dates to be held the 3rd

Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted, passed unanimously. Mr. Arkanoff stated once the Corporation Calendar has been set, some exceptions may need to be made.

G. Board Salary & Per Diem

Mr. Streeval moved and Mrs. Weddle seconded a motion to keep the board salary at \$2,000 per year and the per diem rate for special meetings at \$50 per meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Appointment of School Physician

Mr. Hoskinson moved and Mrs. Weddle seconded a motion to appoint Dr. Kozarek as school physician for 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

A. “Difference Maker” Presentation

Mrs. Phillips presented the “Difference Maker” award to Susan Pence who makes a difference in so many ways at East Side. Susan has been one of those teachers that steps up and does what is needed without being asked. Both students and adults in the building adore her. Among other things, Susan does the yearbook. East Side received a grant from Johnson County Community Foundation for a mentoring program for High Ability students. A parent wrote and completed the grant but a liaison was needed in the building. Susan has been that liaison and has done a lot that she does not get compensated for, but she does this because she wants to, not because she expects to be paid. Mrs. Pence stated she feels honored to be able to work for East Side.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Hamm invited public comments regarding agenda items. There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the December 21, 2009 and January 6, 2010 Meetings
2. Claims for Payment – Claims #9257 through and including #9329 and payroll date of 01/04/10.
3. Personnel – Recommendation to hire Allison Kearns as Middle School Special Education teacher effective January 5, 2010; resignation of Barb Goldsmith as high/middle school custodian effective December 22, 2009; recommendation to hire Janet Knox as high/middle school cafeteria cook for 3 ¾ hours per day effective January 5, 2010; recommendation of hire Patricia Burton as high/middle school cafeteria cook for 5 hours per day effective January 5, 2010.
4. Donations: \$4,000.00 from Roger and Deloris Taylor for Clothe-A-Child Fund.
5. Review the Annual Report of Investment

6. Cancellation of Old Checks #59090, 27398, 60110, 14798, 14806, 14841, 15153, 15167, 15177, 15183, 15187, 15203 and 15210.

Mrs. Taulman moved and Mrs. Weddle seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Arkanoff introduced Allison Kearns, the new Middle School Special Education teacher. Mr. Edwards stated Ms. Kearns is licensed to do about anything in the Special Education area and has jumped right in. Ms. Kearns was the best candidate interviewed and Mr. Edwards stated he received great reference comments including that one of her strengths is how calm and collected she remains and how she always puts students' needs first. Ms. Kearns stated she graduated from IUPUI in Elementary and Special Education and is looking forward to working with and getting to know everyone. The Board welcomed Ms. Kearns to the corporation.

B. Discussion of Athletic Funding for Transportation

Mr. Arkanoff stated there was a need to discuss and consider the Athletic Department being responsible for paying for the driver and fuel for away athletic events beginning in 2010-2011. Since the recommendation was written, the Department of Local Government Finance has approved the budget and transportation funding, and it looks as if we may be able to put off the issue for another year. We believe we are going to be able to cover expenses with the Athletic Department picking up the fuel and the corporation picking up the bus driver fee. The recommendation would have been to charge a fee of some kind, with the fee being collected by the corporation rather than the athletic department. It has been discussed to charge a flat fee per sport season. Mr. Streeval stated one question he has is what would happen if the fee was paid "as you go" and the coach has one of his players show up for the bus but not have the money to pay his fee. Will the player get left behind? Mrs. Hamm stated it would need to be decided who will be responsible for collecting the fee. Mr. Arkanoff stated the hope is to charge a flat fee for the season and not collect a fee per trip. Mrs. Taulman stated one other issue would be a parent saying they are going to the game and can take their child with them. Would the athlete still be responsible for paying the fee? Mr. Arkanoff stated the school would need to look into concerns of liability. Mrs. Taulman asked if a student would still have to pay the fee if they qualified for free/reduced. Mr. Streeval stated if the corporation looks at the cost per year for all athletes, maybe groups such as the Boosters could help offset the cost. Mrs. Hamm stated another option may be to see if community members or businesses would like to sponsor one or two athletes. Mr. Arkanoff stated these are all good suggestions and concerns and he will work with Mr. Jordan to put together a plan in case funding does not work out.

C. Discussion of 2010-2011 School Calendar

Mr. Arkanoff and the Board reviewed and discussed 2010-2011 calendars from Franklin, Southwestern and Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation and stated one issue to look at is Spring Break and making sure C4 students do not lose any or much classroom time. Mr. Arkanoff stated he would bring the calendar back for further discussion next month once it is discussed with the teachers association.

D. First Reading of FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) Policy

Mr. Arkanoff presented and discussed the FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) policy for first reading and stated it was drafted by the Indiana School Board's Association and modified to fit our format. It is pretty cut and dry and required by the Federal Government.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Second Reading of Policy #7.26, Restraint and Seclusion Policy and Form

Mr. Arkanoff presented Policy #7.26, Restraint and Seclusion Policy and Form for second reading and recommended holding off on approving the policy due to some issues being discussed and clarification of changes by the Department of Education and Johnson County Special Services.

B. Update on School Construction Progress

Mr. Arkanoff stated the corporation is working with RQAW Architects to select an electrical company to do an initial walk through to identify all electrical needs to help them prepare their bids for the initial assessment. This needs to be done to properly identify and organize our current electrical systems in each building. Mr. Arkanoff stated over the years different markings have been made on circuit boards, etc. and those markings no longer match up. RQAW would like to have a company brought in to do that project. This is an outside bid process and will be paid for out of the bond. Mr. Streeval asked if this is an additional cost for the project and was it originally figured into the project. Mr. Arkanoff stated yes but they were told from the beginning that it may need to be done. Mr. Hoskinson asked if local companies will be used. Mr. Arkanoff stated three bids have been received and all three are local companies. Mr. Arkanoff stated the hope is to have the drawings to approve at the February Board meeting and then to begin taking bids. Mr. Streeval asked if bids will be approved in March. Mr. Arkanoff stated that is the plan.

C. Approval of Additional Board Goal of ECSC's Position on Forced School Consolidation

Mrs. Weddle moved and Mr. Streeval seconded a motion to approve the Additional Board Goal on ECSC's Position on Forced School Consolidation that reads, "It is the goal of the ECSC School Board to support the Superintendent in efforts to avoid consolidation by any means other than by our own choice, and to support efforts to collaborate with neighboring school districts in cutting costs and improving efficiency while also improving student performance. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Arkanoff stated he would take the Goal and put into the Legislative Fact sheet and present it to the Board as soon as possible.

D. Discussion of "Race to the Top" Grant and "Fast Forward" Grant

Mr. Arkanoff stated the Edinburgh Education Association informed him that they would not sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the "Race to the Top/Indiana Fast Forward" grant. The Board can still sign the grant and send it in, but would not receive any funds without the EEA's signature. Mr. Arkanoff stated he received an estimate from the Department of Education that if the school participated

in the “Race to the Top/Fast Forward” grant, we could receive as much as \$145,495. However, there are many strings attached to the money and many rules that have not been finalized. Mr. Arkanoff stated he can understand the EEA’s position on not signing the Memorandum of Understanding. The grant is “one-time money” that would have to be negotiated and many of the issues would require contract changes that the school and the Association may not agree on. There are too many unanswered questions. Mr. Arkanoff stated Nineveh Hensley Jackson’s Association may not sign but their School Board will sign the Memo of Understanding. Mr. Arkanoff stated he needs an answer from the Board tonight because the grant has to be completed and submitted by 5:59 p.m. tomorrow. Mrs. Taulman stated she agrees with the goal from the grant and doesn’t want to hurt the students by not signing the Memo of Understanding. Mr. Streeval stated his only concern is that the government will have another foothold on the Board. It would be nice to have the money but we don’t want to give up control. Mr. Arkanoff stated he and several other superintendents are having a hard time answering a definitive yes to many of the questions on the grant, one of which concerns teacher evaluations. Mrs. Taulman asked what the Board would need to do if they decided to sign the Memo of Understanding. Mr. Arkanoff stated the grant would need signatures from the Board President and the Superintendent and that a plan would have to be put together on how the school is going to fulfill the grant. Mr. Streeval stated if the Teacher’s Union refused to sign the Memo of Understanding he feels it would be an act of futility for the Board to sign since both sides have to agree to sign. Mr. Hoskinson asked Mr. Arkanoff what he would recommend to the Board. Mr. Arkanoff stated he would not be comfortable signing the Memo of Understanding. The Greensburg School Board voted not to sign the Memo of Understanding and will not apply for the “Race to the Top/Indiana Fast Forward” grant. The main reasons their School Board gave were that they felt that there was not enough detail about what signing on would mean; they felt that their teachers are already doing an excellent job while still working to improve; they felt the work load, by rushing to have a plan ready by April, was pressure that neither teachers nor other school employees need; they felt their relationship with their teachers is excellent and do not want to damage that relationship; and they feel that they do not need to have more “non-local hoops” to jump through and that their school corporation atmosphere and achievements speak for themselves and do not need outside governance. I could not say it any better, stated Mr. Arkanoff. Mr. Arkanoff stated he agrees with the goal and idea but he also agrees with Greensburg Schools. Mr. Streeval moved and Mrs. Weddle seconded a motion to not sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the “Race to the Top/Indiana Fast Forward” grant. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Phillips, on behalf of all building principals, recognized Brian Ingels, Curtis Rooks, Chris Wright and Roger Records for their speed in getting the school drives, parking lots and sidewalks cleared and salted. Mrs. Phillips stated when she got to school on Thursday everything was already taken care of. The custodians and maintenance department is doing more with less staff, but it is not evident. Mr. Arkanoff stated he did not realize until Thursday that Mr. Ingels helps with snow removal on his own time.

Mr. Phillips recognized Susan Pence with Lancer Pride for her leadership during Family Night at East Side. Family Nights are a Title I requirement and Susan has revamped them by aligning them with the Indiana Academic Standards for each grade level. Susan knows all the students and parents and Mrs. Phillips stated she has received a lot of positive feedback from the parents. Susan puts together packets for the families to take home and work on to help the student improve in different areas.

Mrs. Wright stated East Side couldn't function without Susan and stated it is a joy to work side by side with her and to have her on their team. Mrs. Pence stated she feels privileged to be able to work at East Side.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Arkanoff stated when the Qualified School Construction Bond process started it was said that the bonds would be at 0%. At the time we knew that rate was going to increase, and the current bond terms are now 2.5%. Mr. Arkanoff stated he wanted to clarify that issue. Mr. Arkanoff thanked the custodians who have been asked to do more with less staff. They are doing an excellent job and it is not evident that their numbers have decreased. Mr. Arkanoff commended Brian Ingels for helping clear snow Thursday. Mr. Arkanoff gave a special thank you to Ginger Kahl, Rebecca Morrison and Stephanie Taylor for all their help while working through some tough situations with the Association. Mr. Arkanoff stated he held FERPA training last week and thanked Dr. Easterday from Special Services of Johnson County for speaking at the training.

Mrs. Weddle thanked Susan Pence for all she does at East Side.

Mr. Streeval reminded everyone of the Varsity Boy's Basketball tourney tomorrow at Indian Creek. Mr. Streeval stated he brought up the issue of coaches and sponsors recruiting for clubs at last month's meeting and suggested that maybe during an Open House the different clubs could set up tables with information to give out about their clubs. This could help the middle school students learn what clubs and activities are available at the high school level and hopefully help get more students involved. Mr. Streeval stated there are currently five or six Varsity Football Head Coach candidates, according to Mr. Jordan, and hopefully the Board will hear something soon. Mr. Streeval stated he and Mrs. Taulman attended a "Hall of Fame" meeting prior to the Board meeting and they are hoping to put up thirty plaques by February 19th. The 19th is a home basketball ballgame and the plan is to have a recognition night. Mr. Streeval congratulated Susan Pence and stated he appreciates all her efforts. Mr. Streeval stated he also hears a lot of good things about Paula Wright.

Mrs. Taulman thanked Susan Pence for helping address standards and stated that it is an important thing to do if we're going to get our ISTEP scores up. Mrs. Taulman stated it is nice to hear about teachers who volunteer their time such as Brian Ingels.

Mrs. Hamm congratulated Susan Pence and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mrs. Hamm informed everyone that Emily Owens, at the beginning of tonight's girl's basketball game, is 14 points away from reaching 1,000 career points and is also close to breaking the school record in points. Mrs. Hamm congratulated Emily. Mrs. Hamm thanked the Board for putting their confidence in her by electing her as Board President.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hoskinson moved and Mrs. Weddle seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

CATHY HAMM, PRESIDENT

ALICE TAULMAN, MEMBER

RON STREEVAL, VICE-PRESIDENT

KIM WEDDLE, MEMBER

JOHN HOSKINSON, SECRETARY