

## EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Edinburgh, Indiana

April 17, 2006

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

Also attending were Rebecca Sager, Jackie Crawhorn, Curtis Rooks, Roger Records, Marie Records, Pam King, Faith King, Mindy McCashland, Deb Jones, Curt Chase, Lindsey Chase, Katie Jerome, Kim Hobdy, Alex Turner, Steve Turner, and Kelly Turner

Everyone present was led in prayer by Mr. Shepherd and the Pledge of Allegiance by Mrs. Pierse.

Mrs. Pierse read the Corporation Mission Statement and one statement from the Corporation Goals.

### MINUTES APPROVED

Mrs. Hansen moved and Mrs. Hamm seconded a motion approving the minutes of the March 20 and March 25, 2006 meetings as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### CLAIMS APPROVED

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mrs. Hansen seconded a motion approving claims #3631 through and including #3747 and payroll dates of 03/31/06 and 04/14/06 for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

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

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **A. Classroom Walk-Through/Engaging Instruction**

Dr. Sager presented the Board with Classroom Walk-Through reports for East Side, Middle School and High School that had been generated by the principals. She asked that the Board look over the reports at their leisure and call her or the building principals with any questions. Dr. Sager stated Kim Hobdy, Deb Jones and Mindy McCashland were going to make presentations on engaging instruction.

Kim Hobdy presented examples of engaging instruction with the help of students Faith King and Alex Turner gave a presentation on "Spinning Characters". Alex and Faith told about two books they read and compared the different characters in each book and how the books were alike. Mrs. Hobdy stated the project board was completely student generated. Mrs. Hobdy then presented her Power Point program which showed her students coming up with questions for the characters and other students "Spinning" into the characters. Mrs. Hobdy stated she was proud of her students' work and comprehension.

Deb Jones made a presentation to the Board on some of the ways she keeps her middle school math students excited about learning. The students play problem-solving games that incorporate math, geography, etc. Students work in groups, but are told that in order to win the game all groups have to complete their puzzles. If all groups complete their puzzles they have achieved world peace. Groups that have completed their puzzles will cheer on the other groups so that they can all receive bonus points for achieving world peace, which teaches skills and teamwork. Mrs. Jones stated she had a hard time changing her style of teaching and not being so structured, but she learned that different styles of teaching can be fun, and students are sometimes more willing to learn.

Mindy McCashland, high school Spanish teacher, gave a presentation on how she is achieving engaging instruction. She asked students why they often say they want to quit school and the answer was that they were bored. One of the ways she has found to engage students is teaching through music. She also feels if she is more enthusiastic about teaching, students will be more enthusiastic about learning. Games such as Verb Monopoly are played, and students also perform different restaurant skits and weather reporting in Spanish. Ms. McCashland then asked everyone to join her in a Spanish alphabet song.

Dr. Sager stated it is obvious that teachers can not teach the way they used to because students and the world have changed. She praised these three teachers for their teaching styles. Mrs. Pierce stated she noticed that each presentation made was not about one subject, but incorporated different subject areas. Mrs. Hansen stated she could attest to Ms. McCashland's effective teaching approach through first-hand knowledge.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **A. Approval of Personnel Report**

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion approving the resignation of Ryan Vermilion as Middle School Special Education teacher, Varsity Football Coach and Strength Coach. Dr. Sager stated Mr. Vermilion has accepted a position at Winchester High School. The motion passed unanimously

Mr. Shepherd moved and Mrs. Taulman seconded a motion approving the recommendation from Rusty Albertson to hire Curt Chase as Varsity Boy's Basketball Coach. Dr. Sager stated Mr. Albertson's recommendation included that Mr. Chase instills discipline and demands hard work from his players. He is firm and fair and has a passion for basketball. Mr. Albertson also stated that Mr. Chase understands the current athletic department goals of sportsmanship and the hard work expected from both the players and coaches. Mr. Shepherd stated he feels Mr. Chase will bring in a freshness to the program that the former coach, Steve Todd, has built from the bottom up. Mr. Shepherd stated he also trusts Mr. Albertson's opinion and recommendation. Mrs. Hansen stated Mr. Chase could count on Board support when it comes to instilling discipline. Mr. Chase thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the school and community and stated he and his wife are excited about settling here and being part of the community. The motion to hire Curt Chase as Varsity Boy's Basketball Coach passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hansen moved and Mrs. Hamm seconded a motion to approve the resignations of Chris Wright as East Side Custodian, Bob White as Varsity Girl's Basketball Coach, Holly Wehr as Varsity Volleyball Coach, Rachel Ramey as Middle School Cheer Coach, Kellie McCullough as Middle School Cheer Coach, and Shannon Lacey as 5/6 Cheer Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion approving Thelma Bailey as high school custodian. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hansen moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion approving Shannon Lacey as middle school Cheer Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Taulman moved and Mrs. Hansen seconded a motion approving Donnie Burton as Volunteer Golf Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion approving non-renewal of Robin Sandberg's non-permanent teaching contract as high school English/Journalism teacher. Dr. Sager stated the position will be posted. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Memorandum of Understanding for Varsity Assistant Track Coach**

Dr. Sager recommended approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Edinburgh Education Association and the Board of School Trustees for an additional Assistant Varsity Track Coach position on the EEA schedule. Mrs. Taulman moved and Mrs. Hansen seconded a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for an additional Varsity Assistant Track Coach. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hansen moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion approving Bob Straugh as Assistant Varsity Track Coach. Mrs. Taulman stated Mr. Straugh is a good role model for students. The motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Approval of Donations**

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion approving a donation of \$40.55 from Target for East Side student activities. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Sager recommended approval of \$1,000 from the Clothe-A-Child Fund to be committed to the 4 Community Fast Track program funded by the United Way and local business and industry. Johnson County Schools have been awarded over \$200,000 that will be used to put on a fair for free/reduced students in August during which students receive backpacks, school supplies and coupons for haircuts, shoes, etc. The fair is a family event with food, games and information on social and health services. Paula Wright is the liaison for our school and has been meeting with the group. United Way requires matching funds which will mostly be provided by local business and industry. Dr. Sager stated she spoke with Nancy West and it was agreed to commit \$1,000 from the Clothe-A-Child Fund. This amount will yield much more than the original commitment for our students. Qualifying families will receive letters inviting them to the Fair. Mrs. Hamm moved and Mrs. Hansen seconded a motion approving the commitment of \$1,000 from the Clothe-A-Child Fund to the 4 Community Fast Track program. The motion passed unanimously.

### **D. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request**

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion approving an out-of-state field trip request from Crystal Meekins to take HIP students to Kentucky Kingdom on May 31, 2006. Mrs. Pierse

stated she was glad to see the trip scheduled after school was out for the year. Mrs. Pierse stated Kentucky Kingdom is wonderful about working with student groups and keeping an eye on them. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **E. Athletic Handbook Revisions**

Mrs. Taulman moved and Mrs. Hamm seconded a motion approving the Athletic Handbook revisions submitted by Rusty Albertson, Athletic Director. Dr. Sager stated part of the revisions highlighted has already been Board approved. Mrs. Hansen discussed concerns she had about the cheerleading program changes. Dr. Sager stated the intent is to return to the traditional Varsity and Junior Varsity squads. Cheerleaders will have to work hard and earn the right to be on the Varsity squad. Mrs. Hansen stated she feels there should be more cheerleaders on each squad in order to give the opportunity to more students. Dr. Sager stated part of developing work ethic is having students know they have to work for their positions. Mrs. Hamm stated at cheerleading tryouts the girls that did not make the squad went away saying they were going to practice all year in order to be ready for tryouts next year. Mrs. Pierse stated students develop a sense of pride when they have worked hard to reach their goals. Mrs. Taulman asked who makes the decisions concerning the Athletic Handbook. Dr. Sager stated the Advisory Council which consists of the Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Directors, varsity head coaches, the high school principal, and Board athletic liaison. The motion to approve the Athletic Handbook revisions as presented passed 4 yes, 1 no. Mrs. Hansen cast the dissenting vote.

#### **F. Disposal of Worthless Property**

Mr. Shepherd moved and Mrs. Hansen seconded a motion approving the disposal of worthless property as listed: 4-5 teacher's desks, 2-3 wood and metal tables, 2 locker units, rusty shelving, old rugs, stationary bike, 2 storage cabinets, wood chairs, metal chairs, computer parts, wood shelving unit, 3 electric typewriters, 1-2 folding tables, computers, keyboards and printers. Mrs. Taulman asked how the property will be disposed of. Dr. Sager stated it would be hauled away. Mrs. Taulman asked if worthless property has been sold in the past. Dr. Sager stated yes, that there have been two sales in the past four years but these items and the sales usually consist of more work than they yield and some of these items have already been placed in a sale and were not sold. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **G. Approval of Revision of Policy #8.1, Entrance Age**

Mrs. Hansen moved and Mrs. Hamm seconded a motion approving the revision of Policy #8.1, Entrance Age, to comply with the new law changing the entrance age cutoff date to August 1<sup>st</sup> instead of July 1<sup>st</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **H. Board Policy Manual Revision**

Dr. Sager, Mrs. Pierse and Mrs. Hansen agreed to meet on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Administration Office to work on the Board Policy Manual. Mrs. Pierse stated she had received e-mails from Mrs. Hamm and input from Mrs. Taulman on some of the policy issues they felt needed addressed. The committee will complete and present the draft, and the Board will discuss the manual as a group at that point. Mrs. Pierse asked Board Members to forward any other input, questions or concerns before the committee's meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Mrs. Pierse reminded the members that she had read a statement from the Corporation Goals and asked each Board Member to consider that statement while making their additional items comments.

Curtis Rooks gave an update on the facilities and stated the 2005 summer renovations were 99.9% complete. During Spring Break the Indiana Insurance representative came to check the buildings and facilities and was very pleased and impressed with everything. The only suggestion they had was installing a fire extinguisher in the high/middle school kitchen like the one at East Side. Mr. Rooks stated they have already taken care of that. Dr. Sager stated two or three years ago when Indiana Insurance came by for inspection there was a long list of things that needed to be done. Jack Hobdy got busy and corrected everything on the list so it was much easier this time around.

Mr. Shepherd stated the presentations given by Mrs. Hobdy, Mrs. Jones and Ms. McCashland met the goal by showing different teaching methods, their enthusiasm and dedication. While Mrs. Hobdy was working with Faith and Alex you could see in their eyes that they looked up to and trusted their teacher.

Mrs. Hamm stated she also felt the presentations showed work toward meeting the goal. Mrs. Jones' comment about how hard it was for her to get away from her old way of teaching and her willingness to change shows that she loves what she does. All three teachers showed how excited they were about teaching and are all to be commended.

Mrs. Taulman stated the three presentations show that the school is heading in the right direction. Faith and Alex did a wonderful job and you could tell they were very excited about learning. Mrs. Taulman stated she has heard through the state that teaching to music needs to be explored. She has heard of places doing multiplication tables, etc. to music and it seems like a good approach to teaching.

Mrs. Hansen stated she feels the commitment the Board is making to update and change the Policy Manual is helping meet the corporation goal. The standards need to be set high.

Dr. Sager stated she feels the three teacher's presentations of different styles of teaching are helping meet the corporation goal. Teachers must realize that teaching styles need to change, and new approaches found. She encouraged the Board to continue to support and expect growth in this area.

Mrs. Pierse stated she feels the presentations were excellent and feels the three teachers are trying fresh ideas and are willing to modify their styles of teaching. Sometimes it may feel lonely being among a few willing to make changes and Mrs. Pierse congratulated them for continuing to do what they know is right for their classroom. The school needs to stay on track in the classroom and in athletics. We need to continue encouraging teachers to push forward and let them know to stay the course and be open to change.

Mrs. Hansen asked if Dr. Sager had received any feedback from the community on the one-day a week early dismissal at East Side. Dr. Sager stated no.

Dr. Sager stated the school received a United Way award for 2003-04 for leading the Johnson County schools in contributions.

Dr. Sager informed the Board that the Choir program “Godspell” was rescheduled for 5/13 with two performance times.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Hobdy stated that it has been proven that students learn better to music. She stated she tries to build her “Spinning Character” program each year by making it more in-depth. She has been impressed with the students’ grasp on the characters and how they are able to make the personal connection.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Hansen moved and Mrs. Taulman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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BARB PIERSE, PRESIDENT

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JANET HANSEN, MEMBER

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CATHY HAMM, VICE-PRESIDENT

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JACK SHEPHERD, MEMBER

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ALICE TAULMAN, SECRETARY