

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Edinburgh, Indiana

October 16, 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. Mrs. Taulman was absent.

Also attending were Rebecca Sager, Jackie Crawhorn, Tesha Whitlock, Wendy Whitlock, Dave Shewmake, Rachel Piercefield, Marah Piercefield, John Hoskinson, Cheyenne Ford, Debby Marchetti, Susan Pence, Angel Tarvin, Rebecca Morrison, Nancy Garrett, Rick Piercefield, Susan Piercefield, Ryan Piercefield, James Todor, Debbie Yates, Ron Streeval, Barry Barnett, Paula Wright, Rich Arkanoff, Kevin Rockey, Patty Ford, Roger Ford, Kim Hobdy, Roberta Jackson and John Strader of *Central Nine Career Center*.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

Mrs. Hansen moved and Mrs. Hamm seconded a motion approving the minutes of the September 18, 2006 meeting as presented. The motion passed 4 yes, 0 no.

CLAIMS APPROVED

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion approving claims #4444 through and including #4588 and payroll dates of 09/29/06 and 10/13/06 for payment. The motion passed 4 yes, 0 no.

PRESENTATION

A. C-9 Presentation (Roberta Jackson)

Roberta Jackson of Central Nine Career Center thanked Dr. Sager and the Board for allowing her to make a presentation. Dr. Jackson shared with the Board the vision plan for the C9 Career Center which included the goals, student success, new and enhanced programs, enhanced image, college partnerships and facilities update and renovation. Mrs. Jackson introduced John Strader, the C-9 principal. She described new courses to be offered and explained the proposed renovation and new construction projects. Dr. Jackson stated costs are allocated based on percentage of assessed valuation per the operating agreement. Initial tax rate estimates are a little less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a penny based on our current figures and will not go over 6.9%. Edinburgh's estimated share would be \$96,260. Mrs. Jackson stated the Board received invitations to C-9's Governing Board Banquet on November 9th. Dr. Jackson answered questions for the Board. Dr. Sager and the Board thanked Dr. Jackson and Mr. Strader for their presentation.

B. East Side CAMP and Focus

Debbie Yates, East Side Principal, thanked the Board for allowing them the opportunity to share their School Improvement process with the goals of learning and literacy. She explained that time in the classroom often becomes the constant and learning becomes the variable. They want to shift that

and think of learning as being the constant and look at time and support as being the variables. Angel Tarvin explained how Special Education fits into this and the Response to Intervention model that is required to use only research-proven strategies. Rebecca Morrison reported on her job responsibilities as Literacy Coach. James Todor and Susan Pence, CAMP Director, reported on CAMP activities. Susan explained the intelligences and gave examples of activities that fit each. Paula Wright presented how Title I fits into the School Improvement Plan. Three students, Tesha Whitlock, Marah Piercefield and Cheyenne Ford told about their experiences in the CAMP. Mrs. Yates explained the 30 minute Focus time and reported that the teachers first decided what essential things they wanted to teach and when. The second thing was to agree upon common assessments. Finally, the teachers brainstormed about what could be done to help the students learn. These ideas are currently being implemented. Dr. Sager and Board members thanked the East Side group for their presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel Report

Dr. Sager informed the Board that Barbara Wheeler was hired as Special Education Assistant to replace Anna Waugh and Gary Phelps was hired as High/Middle School custodian.

B. Approval of Substitute Instructional Assistant Rate

Dr. Sager stated that some Focus groups are led by instructional assistants. In order to support that program as much as possible substitutes will be needed when two or more assistants are absent. Dr. Sager recommended a substitute instructional assistant rate of \$7.85 per hour which equals the non-certified sub teacher rate. Mr. Shepherd moved to set the substitute instructional assistant rate at \$7.85. Mrs. Hamm asked if only one substitute would cover if two assistants were out. Dr. Sager stated that only one substitute would be provided. If both Focus groups are in the morning or afternoon, a substitute will be used for a half day. If that doesn't work, a full-day sub would be used. The motion approving the substitute instructional assistant rate of \$7.85 per hour passed 4 yes, 0 no.

C. Approval of Donations

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mrs. Hansen seconded a motion approving a \$41.65 donation from Target "Take Charge of Education" program to East Side. The motion passed 4 yes, 0 no.

D. Discussion of Vocational School Participation

Dr. Sager stated the recent recommendation to update and add new programs to C-9 has led the administration to look seriously at other issues that have been a concern for some time. Those concerns include student perceptions that there is a negative image of Edinburgh, students feeling intimidated by the larger schools, the small number of students that attend classes at C-9, the 45 minute drive to C9 and back, and a changing focus of the C9 program. The cost of the renovation/new construction plan will make it more difficult to complete needed projects in the

Edinburgh schools. Dr. Sager recognized that C9 is an excellent program, and it will be a difficult decision to go elsewhere. Dr. Sager stated she, Cathy Hamm, Traci Foltz, Rich Arkanoff and Kevin Rockey visited Blue River Career Center in Shelbyville and C-4 in Columbus and were impressed with both programs. Each Center has different strengths and options. Dr. Sager explained both programs. The Blue River Career Center would be approximately a 30 minute bus ride. They have fewer vocational options, but they do have credit recovery classes. It has a more small school feel where our students would be more comfortable. Blue River offers a Facilities Maintenance program for low functioning and special education students. It is an impressive program that teaches students valuable custodial and light maintenance skills. Each school has 4-5 slots available in each program. The cost per pupil is approximately \$2,675 compared to the C-9 cost per pupil of \$3,800 last year and \$3,900 this year. Dr. Sager stated the Blue River Board is made up of a Board member from each participating school and she believes they would welcome our participation. Dr. Sager stated C-4 in Columbus is an approximate 20 minute bus trip, and their programs are housed at Columbus North, Columbus East and McDowell. C-4 offers the same programs as C-9 with the exception of aviation and the addition of agriculture science and ag business. The enrollment at C-4 is on a first come, first serve basis beginning in January. The programs are one, two or three hours. Students would have to option to pick up an academic class at East or North. Dr. Sager stated the Director and Assistant Director of C-4 were very helpful and seemed to be willing to do whatever would benefit students. The Board is made up of the participating school superintendents. The cost of C-4 is approximately \$2,100 per student for a two hour program. Dr. Sager answered Board members questions. She stated that C4 is made of the four counties of Bartholomew, Jackson, Decatur and Brown County schools. Board members commented on different issues concerning the decision. Mrs. Pierse stated she would like to see a survey sent to the students which listed everything offered at C-4 and C-9 and get student input. The Board decision will be based on the recommendation of the administration. Mr. Rockey stated that at C-9 Edinburgh is the smallest school to participate in the program, whereas at C-4 we will be there with other smaller schools such as Crothersville and North and South Decatur. This will probably make a difference in how comfortable our students will be. Mrs. Hansen requested that a spreadsheet be created to compare the elements of all programs.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Revision to Policy #7.5, Student Discipline

Dr. Sager stated the court has interpreted that a School Board must vote to hear all expulsion appeals or vote to hear no expulsion appeals. A sample policy from Southwest Allen County Schools was included in the Board packet. The Southwest Allen County Board reads all the hearing documentation in an executive session and then decides whether or not to hold a face-to-face meeting with the parent and student before voting in an open meeting on their decision. Lisa Tanselle, attorney with ISBA, stated their policy is legal. Mrs. Hansen moved and Mrs. Hamm seconded a motion to adopt the Southwest Allen County version of the policy to read all the expulsion appeal documentation and then vote in an open meeting whether or not to hear the appeal. Mrs. Hamm stated she had a problem with hearing expulsion appeals. Administrators and hearing officers should be allowed to make the decision, and the Board should not have a part in that decision. Mrs. Pierse stated our current policy is written to hear all appeals. Dr. Sager stated currently there has been one appeal in 4 ½ years, but if the Board chooses to change the policy to hear all appeals, there will most likely be more appeals. Mrs. Hansen stated she feels that the ultimate disciplinary act is expulsion of a student. She expressed that we currently have good administrators but is concerned what could happen in the future if we have different administrators. She expressed that he least we can do for

families is review the expulsion documentation. Mr. Shepherd stated he agreed with Mrs. Hamm that the Board should hear no expulsion appeals. The administrators are hired to deal with expulsion issues, and they take it very seriously. He expressed concern that if the Board overturns one of their decisions that would send a message to students that administrators were not supported. Mr. Shepherd stated he does not feel it would be a good idea. Mrs. Pierse stated she is also concerned about how well the families could present documentation as opposed to the administrator's documentation. It doesn't seem that it would be equitable. Dr. Sager stated in most hearings the parents provide no additional documentation. Mrs. Hansen stated she feels by reviewing the documentation the Board will be put on the spot to take ownership of their decisions. The vote to approve the Southwest Allen County policy was 1 yes, 3 no. Mrs. Pierse, Mrs. Hamm and Mr. Shepherd cast the dissenting votes.

Mrs. Hamm moved and Mrs. Shepherd seconded a motion that the Board would not hear any expulsion appeals. The motion passed 3 yes, 1 no. Mrs. Hansen cast the dissenting vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the community, Ron Streeval, Barry Barnett, John Hoskinson, and Kim Hobdy expressed reactions and made comments concerning the consideration of leaving the C9 program.

Mr. Rockey informed everyone that Friday night is the football sectional at Milan and Saturday is the volleyball sectional at Morristown.

Mr. Arkanoff congratulated the Middle School football team for finishing their season with only two losses, both of which were close games. Mr. Arkanoff commended Coach Billy Wiser for his commitment and for always coming to school to check his players' grades, etc. This is a strong group coming up to the varsity level.

Mr. Arkanoff commended Brett Munden on the discipline plan he has put together and implemented. Mr. Munden does a good job and always keeps a positive attitude. He is a great role model for the students and adults.

Mrs. Yates stated she was proud of East Side's presentation and enthusiasm for the CAMP and Focus programs.

Dr. Sager stated 40 Developmental Assets training for support staff will be conducted tomorrow at 1:30 in the high/middle school Library.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Mrs. Hamm stated she feels the goal for tonight's meeting was met by all the Board discussion on what is needed to help our students succeed and by looking at several different options. She stated she felt the meeting was fantastic, and she praised the Board and public for their discussion and interaction.

Mr. Shepherd stated he felt the goal was met by East Side's presentation and stated it was good to see them come in so excited. He expressed that the public comments were great. He added that as far as the students feeling inferior at C-9, if students allow it to happen, they are doing it to themselves. Edinburgh students will see that attitude due to past perceptions and present athletic

problems, but they have to be the ones to not allow it to affect them. He commended the Middle School football team and stated they gave Edinburgh something to look forward to in the future. The varsity team is also to be commended because they not only play every Friday evening, but they play every day. Our football program is a gift that many small schools do not have. It would be a shame to see that end. It may take a while to improve, but it can happen.

Mrs. Hansen stated she felt the goal was met through East Side's presentation and stated it is a life-long endeavor for teachers to learn to teach differently to meet student's needs. She also commended the Middle School football program and stated the team is well-disciplined well coached by Billy Wisner, Arty Wisner and Boyd Emerson.

Mrs. Hansen stated that she ran into Gerry Brand the other day and he asked that she say something for him at the Board meeting. Mr. Brand stated he appreciates Dr. Sager's Christian values and her professional values and he knows the community also appreciates them.

Mrs. Pierse stated that she received a letter from the United Way and asked if Dr. Sager would speak about it. Dr. Sager stated that the United Way is now requiring all grant recipients to have 503-C status. The Edinburgh Youth Program and the Adult Basic Education programs do not have that status, but she is meeting with United Way to see how those funds can come back to Edinburgh in other ways.

Mrs. Pierse stated she feels the Board goal for this meeting was met by East Side's presentation. If pre-school and K-5 students are excited about something they are much more inclined to be lifelong learners. Mrs. Pierse stated the students seemed to be really excited about CAMP and Focus. By discussing and looking at options concerning C-9 we are also doing what we feel will be best for our students.

Mrs. Pierse stated Becky Morrison's article on vocabulary was great and it is nice when peers can teach and help each other improve.

Mrs. Hamm asked everyone to let her know if they plan to attend the C-9 Governing Board Banquet on November 9th so that she can RSVP.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Hansen moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The motion passed 4 yes, 0 no.

BARB PIERSE, PRESIDENT

JANET HANSEN, MEMBER

CATHY HAMM, VICE-PRESIDENT

JACK SHEPHERD, MEMBER

ALICE TAULMAN, SECRETARY