

The Board of School Trustees of the Nettle Creek School Corporation met in regular session on August 28, 2019. The following board members were present: Eric Richardson, Bob Clark, Dan Davis, Cary Rhoades, Shaun Lieberman, and Marcie Houghton. Guests: Belinda Locke, David Tyner, Mindy Nolan, Peggy Muller, Brooke Ullery, Brandon Albert, Rachel Albert, Rachel Sheeley.

CALL TO ORDER OF BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees was called to order by Mr. Rhoades at 6:33 P.M. at Hagerstown Elementary School Library. Dr. Williams certified compliance with the open meeting law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Davis/Richardson moved to approve the Regular meeting minutes of August 14, 2019 and Executive Session minutes of August 14, 2019. Motion carried 6/0.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

None.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Richardson updated the board regarding the latest meeting at Western Wayne regarding the district consolidation. Mr. Richardson stated this meeting came with a twist. Dr. Philhower stated that all schools would stay intact along with their Board of Trustees, however, they would form a governing board to oversee all Board of Trustees, and would assist with the choosing of programs.

Originally this plan was to consolidate for efficiencies, but Mr. Richardson still could not see what those efficiencies would be. Dr. Philhower stated Nettle Creek would not be a good fit as we offer similar programs as Western Wayne. Mr. Lieberman then asked where the proposed benefit of being independent would come from.

Dr. Williams answered by stating there would still be one enrollment, which could possibly mean more money depending on enrollment numbers. Depending on enrollment numbers, we could be able to offer new things that no other school has offered.

Dr. Williams stated there is to be a meeting September 3rd with the three schools (Western Wayne, Northeastern and Nettle Creek) Principals and Superintendent to discuss what programs each school currently offers.

Mrs. Houghton stated she has reached out to the public and received several responses. However, only two of those responses were in favor of the district consolidation.

Mr. Lieberman asked Mr. Richardson if the deadline to make a decision was still end of the year. Mr. Richardson stated yes, from his understanding, but nothing is concrete.

Dr. Williams stated that efforts are being made to form focus groups. A tentative meeting is set for October 2nd for the Nettle Creek Community.

Mrs. Houghton asked if it was possible to pull up the other schools budget records to see where they stand financially and how much debt they currently have. Mr. Richardson stated that from how he understands, each school would keep their own debt. Dr. Williams stated that by law, even under consolidation, all debt stays with the school due to property taxes.

Mr. Lieberman suggested we back off, he believes this is just the first step closer to consolidation. Mr. Lieberman stated even if we would hold a public meeting, he still doesn't see a decision happening by end of the year.

Mr. Davis stated he has spoken to several people within the Nettle Creek Community and surrounding communities who are against the idea of consolidating. Mr. Davis believes this is not the correct direction for Nettle Creek Schools. He stated we offered collaborations and it was denied. He is ready to end conversations. Mr. Davis doesn't see the proposal saving money, but rather costing money.

Mr. Rhoades agreed that holding a public meeting is not going to solve anything.

Richardson/Clark moved to approve ending conversations with Northeastern and Western Wayne Schools. Motion carried 6/0.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Davis/Richardson moved to approve Payroll in the amount of \$187,652.97 and Claims in the amount of \$218,984.02. Motion carried 6/0.

Mr. Cooper presented the Board with the proposed 2020 Budget. Hard copies were provided to Board members. Dr. Williams did ask that the Board keep in mind that when coming up with the new budget there are a lot of unknowns. It is better to overestimate than underestimate. The budget can always be decreased but cannot be increased.

Mr. Cooper informed the Board that he increased the Technology Budget due to the needs that have arose in that Department, he calculated health insurance rates high due to past history of increases each year, and increased the Transportation budget. Due to the age of our busses, we could possibly replace two rather than one.

Dr. Williams stated Nettle Creek has done an outstanding job for staying within budget. He commended the Board for a job well done for keeping an eye on the budget.

Mr. Davis also commended Mr. Cooper on a fantastic job on presenting the budget to them. He stated this was laid out the best that he has ever seen.

Mr. Lieberman did ask Dr. Williams if the budget would not get approved due to history of overestimating. Dr. Williams stated that the people that handle this basically have tunnel vision and only look at what is being presented.

PERSONNEL

Clark/Richardson moved to approve the Personnel report as presented. Please see attached list. Motion carried 6/0.

OTHER ITEMS CONSIDERED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION/ACTION

Davis/Lieberman moved to approve the donation of two books in Memory of Mike Toler. The books were donated by Georgia Templin and Peggy Heusman. The titles are *I Wish You More* and *The Boy Who Never Gave Up*. A label will be placed in each book noting "Donated in Memory of Mike Toler." Motion carried 6/0.

Clark/Richardson moved to approve a fundraising request from Belinda Locke. Mrs. Locke is wanting to raise money so that her students can take home a new book each month from September through May. Scholastic has books each month that are \$1. With Reading being such an essential part of each student's academic career, Mrs. Locke wanted to be sure each child had access to books. Motion carried 6/0.

Davis/Clark moved to approve the 3rd through 8th Grade Girls Basketball League fundraiser. This fundraiser is an annual tournament to help raise money for the Girls Basketball Program. Motion carried 6/0.

Clark/Lieberman moved to approve the JV and V Baseball Golf Outing Fundraiser. This will be held at Hartley Hills on October 5th. Motion carried 6/0.

OTHER ITEMS ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Williams brought to the Boards attention that the first meeting in October is during Fall Break, suggested having only one meeting in November and December. The Board agreed they would look into this and announce any possible changes.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 – Regular Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M. Elementary Bldg.

ADJOURN

Signed _____

