

The Board of School Trustees of the Nettle Creek School Corporation met in regular session on August 14, 2019. The following board members were present: Eric Richardson, Bob Clark, Dan Davis, Cary Rhoades, Shaun Lieberman, Marcie Houghton, and Lyle Finney. Guests: Laura Swain, Mandi Isaacs, Mindy Nolan, Lance Lumpkin, Tiffani Hokey, David Tyner, Emily Schaeffer, Stephanie Finney, Drew Cooper, Rebekah LaVere, and 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 6:31 P.M. at Hagerstown Elementary School Library. Dr. Williams certified compliance with the open meeting law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Finney/Lieberman moved to approve the Regular meeting minutes of June 26, 2019, Executive Session minutes of June 26, 2019. Motion carried 7/0.

Davis/Lieberman moved to approve the Regular meeting minutes of July 10, 2019. Motion carried 7/0.

Clark/Richardson moved to approve the Work Session minutes of July 30, 2019. Motion carried 7/0.

Clark/Davis moved to approve the addition to add the SLP Contract to the agenda. Motion carried 7/0.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

The board recognized Mrs. Finney. Mrs. Finney did state she is Mr. Finney's wife and that her opinions don't reflect on her husband. Mrs. Finney stated she attended a Northeastern board meeting and commended them on being interactive. She stated the meeting had a common theme, the students came first. Then she attended the work session at Nettle Creek on July 30th. She felt that all she heard regarding the schools coming together was legacy and personal opinions. Personal opinions don't always lead to great decisions. She suggested the Board get a plan together for the next 5, 10 and 15 years, include Administrators, teachers, and community members. She would like to see the board take the next four months to work with other School district board members, get a plan together and think about the students first.

The board also recognized Mr. Lumpkin. Mr. Lumpkin stated while him and Mrs. Finney are really good friends, he disagrees with her. He spoke with Jay County residents who informed him coming together with other schools, they felt would be a bad idea. He stated he feels like this is one size fits all approach and he doesn't agree with that. He feels that with academics, sports, the facilities, buildings, etc. are not a one size fits all. He thanked the board and informed them he fully supports them.

SCHOOL BOARD GROWS @ THE CREEK

None.

SCHOOL NEWS

Mrs. Hokey stated the school year is off to a really good start. Enrollment is up about 14 students from the end of school last year. She informed the board of a safety change. All students enter through the main doors which has went well. She met with the new SLP, Caroline Vail, and Mrs. Hokey is very eager to start working with her. She also wanted to acknowledge Mr. Hillman. He accomplishes a lot, always thinks of others, and has helped get the school year off to a great start.

Mr. Tyner also thanked Mr. Hillman for all of his hard work and how he is always so positive and is always thinking of the students. Mr. Tyner stated they had some scheduling issues at the beginning of school. When they printed mass schedules, it was not printing study hall, it would just leave a blank. The attendance reports are not working properly at this point. The One call that went out, did not go out to any new students. Mr. Tyner believes it was due to One Call pulling data from the old student data system. He commended Mrs. Huffine on stepping up and helping them through the issues with Power School. He also commended Mrs. Arnold on stepping into her new role as Guidance Counselor. She is very organized, has met with Junior and Senior students to be sure they are on the right track to graduation. Mr. Tyner met with Mr. Fisher from Five Star Technologies. They walked through the school and Mr. Tyner was shocked that within 24 hours, he had a building assessment from them. Mr. Tyner has also been networking with other Principals. He wanted to say how thankful he is to be at Nettle Creek Schools. He knows of several schools struggling to fill positions and he is lucky enough to say we are fully staffed. Mr. Tyner stated how lucky he is to have Mrs. Isom as the new Business Teacher. She comes with Master's Degree and ability to teacher multiple Business classes and is already discussing how they can offer a Marketing class next year. He also stated that Ms. Shelton is the new English teacher and comes with a Master's degree and will be able to offer multiple dual credit classes. He also shared a certificate he received in the mail from Ivy Tech stated how Nettle Creek saved students \$60,000 from the dual credit classes. He did say enrollment is up

approximately 15 students. Dr. Williams stated from the number he was given on Monday compared to the official enrollment numbers last school year, Nettle Creek enrollment is up 29 students.

Mr. Lieberman questioned about Power School completing the conversion or if it was not done correctly. Dr. Williams stated he has been in contact with Support and discovered only a limited number of people had access, that has now changed and we are now moving forward. Mr. Lieberman stated how the roll over started in mid-July and questioned why it was still not completed? Mr. Tyner answered by stating that again, they are limited on the information they have but are working through it. As stated earlier, all new enrollments did not receive the One Call, which he and Mrs. Hokey believe is because the call system is pulling old data from the old student data system. Mrs. Hokey also stated book rental fees did not roll over so they are working through that as well.

Mr. Lieberman asked if Five Star Technologies would be able to assist us with these issues. Dr. Williams stated he would reach out to them but can state that individual programs are on us. Mr. Rhoades did say that Power School should have some accountability on their end. Dr. Williams spoke up and stated that he understands that however, we had three people with administrative rights and of those three, two no longer work for Nettle Creek. So, we had to go back to get Administrative rights.

Mr. Rhoades asked if we have paid Power School yet. Mr. Cooper stated they are in the claims to be approved this evening. Mr. Rhoades said maybe we should consider holding the check a little longer to be sure the issues are resolved.

Mrs. Swain wanted to thank the Administrative team and how they have come together and are doing an outstanding job. She also thanked Ms. Valler, Elementary Technology Assistant, who has really stepped up to be sure everyone was ready for the start of school. Mrs. Swain also reiterated the job well done by Mrs. Arnold and how responsive she is by reaching out to parents. Mrs. Swain thanked Mr. Tyner for a successful Tiger Quest. It was the first year for such event. It was directed towards the 7th grade students to get more familiar with the building. Mrs. Swain also thanked Mr. Cooper for doing such a great job getting familiar with all the Title Grants and having such a great turnaround time for Purchase Orders.

Mrs. Swain stated she plans on meeting with the English and Foreign Language department after Labor Day.

Title II Grant came in at approximately \$43,000, which is up about \$2,100 from last year.

Mrs. Swain stated six new teacher's attended new hire orientation. This gave them the opportunity to feel more comfortable starting a new school year at a new corporation. She also stated she is working on scheduling one on one time with new teachers to train them more on things that will help them on their day to day duties.

The iLEARN and Biology results will be released the morning of August 15th. Mrs. Swain is very eager to be looing those results over.

Dr. Williams stated that the back drive to the Football field was graded and leveled. A load of new stone is coming to help maintain that drive. Dr. Williams has also reached out to obtain quotes for the possibility of blacktop for that drive. However, he wanted to caution the board on proceeding with this decision as that area stays wet and floods easily.

Dr. Williams stated that bus transportation is off to a great start. He did remind everyone that due to a new State Law, any student living on a major highway, must be dropped off on the same side of the road as their house. Due to this, some kids have an extra 15 minute bus ride. This is a safety issue and Mr. Hillman and his team has done an outstanding job working the kinks out of the routes in time for the start of the school year.

Mr. Cooper stated he has submitted the Annual Financial Report and it was published in the Nettle Creek Gazette. He is getting more familiar with the software and is making progress.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Mr. Davis thanked the guests for speaking. He stated the consolidation issue is a difficult one. He is not in favor of consolidation but would be interested in proposing the idea of a co-op with the other schools. He would like have direction from the board before attending the next meeting at Western Wayne Schools.

Mrs. Houghton stated her concerns regarding lunches at the Elementary. It is her understanding that after children do not pay for two meals, they are given a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, but still charged full price for the meal. She understands it is still considered a full meal as they are still receiving a fruit and vegetable and a milk, however, she stated that there are all forms of bullying and she feels like the children are being singled out.

Dr. Williams stated that the school policy states nothing is to happen until \$150 in debt is reached. He has reached out to Chartwell's to inform them of our policy.

Mr. Clark asked if Dr. Williams knew what the outstanding lunch debt is. Dr. Williams referred to Mr. Cooper. Mr. Cooper stated last he knew, it was approximately \$5,000.

Mrs. Houghton thanked Mrs. Finney for speaking her thoughts this evening. Mrs. Houghton said she just needs more time, more information and would like to collaborate with the other schools.

Mr. Lieberman thanked the guests as well. He said he would like to formalize a long term plan. He does agree with Mrs. Finney that the board has more questions than answers. He stated that with the information he has currently, he is not in favor but will listen to other ideas and is eager to hear more information from the upcoming meeting. Mr. Lieberman also stated how Mrs. Finney stated how Northeastern was thinking of the community as a whole, however, Nettle Creek students are his priority as that is who he represents.

Mr. Richardson suggested about looking at advertising for local businesses in return for a line of credit to not only assist with lunches but needy families for athletic equipment or whatever the need may be. Dr. Williams stated he would have to work with State Board of accounts on the logistics of this idea to see how or if this could be accomplished.

Mr. Finney asked Mrs. Hokey if Communities Schools assisted in need students with lunches. Mrs. Hokey said they do but at the same time there are so many hoops to jump through when it comes to Free and Reduced meals. She is working with parents to get the application completed.

Mr. Richardson suggested something be placed on the bridge going to the Football field. He stated how slick it gets when wet. Dr. Williams stated we would look into our options.

Mr. Rhoades also thanked the guests for speaking this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Williams stated the Safe Schools Grant has been applied for.

Mr. Clark asked what the timeframe was for receiving notice on this grant. Dr. Williams said it has changed so much in the past, that he is not sure of the timeframe but would look into it.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Davis/Richardson moved to approve Payroll and Claims as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

Davis/Clark moved to approve the Teacher Retirement Fund Savings. Dr. Williams stated due to the percentage change, it is recommended the savings be used to enhance Teacher's salaries. This will be discussed through Negotiations. Mr. Davis confirmed this money would be used just for teachers and Dr. Williams confirmed that the money could only be used for teaching salaries. Motion carried 7/0.

PERSONNEL

Clark/Richardson moved to approve the Personnel Report as presented. Mrs. Houghton had concerns about how many times an individual could quit and come back or if there is a policy. Dr. Williams advised to not get into approving policies as that could open the door for a lawsuit. Dr. Williams did state that the board could set up certain criteria that individuals would have to meet and have just cause for not hiring individuals that quit and return several times. Motion carried 7/0.

Davis/Clark moved to approve the contract with ProCare for the Speech Learning Pathologist. Dr. Williams stated he understands that this is another contracted service, however, if Nettle Creek didn't proceed, we wouldn't have an SLP. Motion carried 7/0.

BUDGET CALENDAR ADOPTION

Richardson/Clark moved to approve the Budget calendar adoption. Motion carried 7/0.

ELEMENTARY ENTRY MODIFICATION

Davis/Lieberman moved to approve the total cost of \$41,263 for the Elementary school entry modification. This is to take place over Christmas Break. Dr. Williams did advise the board that with any construction project, some things come up that could prolong the project to keep that in mind. Mr. Clark asked if the money would be coming from the Safety Grant. Dr. Williams stated it would not it would be coming from the bond fund. Motion carried 7/0.

OTHER ITEMS CONSIDERED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION/ACTION

Clark/Davis moved to approve the Authorization to sign agreements for Alternative Placements. Motion carried 7/0.

Richardson/Clark moved to approve the 90 day contract with 5 Star Technology Services. Dr. Williams also suggested that the board needs to decide the direction they want to take to find a Technology Director. Mrs. Houghton asked the Principals how they

felt with 5 Star Technology. Mrs. Hokey and Mr. Tyner both agreed that right now they feel we need a life preserver and neither have a better option. Dr. Williams stated he has an individual ready to take the max training that Power School offers. He also recommends two others receive training. Motion carried 7/0.

Dr. Williams brought it to the board's attention that they need to start thinking of their options and how they want to proceed with a Superintendent Search. Dr. Williams shared different options on how to handle the search and what qualifications they should consider. Small discussion was held.

Clark/Lieberman moved to approve the Indiana School Board Association handle the Superintendent search. It was stated that the ISBA charges \$2,000 plus mileage and it will be a National Search. They also take care of posting the job and all the advertising needed. Motion carried 7/0.

OTHER ITEMS ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Mrs. Houghton would like the Board to look into having a Board meeting in Perry Township.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 – Regular Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M. Elementary Bldg.

ADJOURN

There being no other items before the board, Davis/Lieberman moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:50 P.M.

7/0

Signed _____

The Board of School Trustees of the Nettle Creek School Corporation met in executive session on August 14, 2019. The meeting was conducted at the Hagerstown Elementary Building Library.

The following board members and administrative staff were in attendance: Eric Richardson, Bob Clark, Dan Davis, Cary Rhoades, Shaun Lieberman, Marcy Houghton, Lyle Finney, Dr. Williams and Drew Cooper.

No subject matter in the executive session, other than subject matter specified in the public notice, was discussed by the governing body. The executive session adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Signed _____

