

**Crawfordsville Community School Corporation  
Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 6:00 P.M  
Crawfordsville Middle School - 705 Wallace Ave.**

**MINUTES**

**I. Roll Call**

All Board Members and Administrators were present at the meeting with Kent Minnette arriving late. Also present were Brody Hill, Emna Adair, Kylie McFarland, Tami Haas, Aaliyah Strawser, Jason Wear, Ann Stanley, Jennifer Hesler, James Thompson, Diana Wilbert, Katharyn Savens, Alexis Carson, Megan Foster, Dawn Watt, Sonni Eden, and Tina McGrady (Journal Review).

**II. CHARACTER COUNTS!™ Corporation - *Pillar of Caring***

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Building Principal Report - None at this time.**

**V. Consent Agenda: Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items**

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda including Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items. Susan Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Old Business**

a. Consider 2022-2023 School Food Prices

Dr. Ryker informed the Board that there are no new price increases, they will remain the same as last school year with free breakfast still in place. Andrew Nicodemus, Business Manager, has been working on receiving outstanding student/staff balances. No action is required at this time.

**VII. New Business**

a. Project Hearing: New Administration Center and Maintenance Improvements to School Facilities

Indiana law requires that when a school corporation proposes to construct or renovate a school building at a cost in excess of one million dollars it must first hold a public hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to inform the public as to the proposed Project; and to allow all interested parties, taxpayers, and patrons of the School Corporation to voice their opinions as to the Project and ask any questions. Notice of the public hearing was published in *The Journal Review* and in *The Paper* on August 3, 2022.

This project is needed to address a long-overdue replacement of the administration center. Our current facility only has 3,500 square feet of office space and does not provide adequate meeting space, professional development space, board meeting and event space, and requires significant upgrades to house our current corporation administrators, directors, coordinators, and support staff. Renovation of the facility to meet these needs was considered. If this project is approved, the building will receive a new roof and have minor renovations so that it may continue to serve as our receiving and maintenance areas.

The proposed project would place the administration building on the south side of the athletic parking lot at CHS. This site allows us to use ground that is surveyed, has utility access, and has a parking lot, all of which will provide significant savings. It is estimated that we need 8 to 9,000 square feet to provide for current staff and board and professional development needs. The project would cover other site and facility improvements and include funding for technology.

Dr. Bowling explained the tax impact of the \$4,000,000.00 project. The anticipated gross impact on the debt service fund is .4213 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed evaluation based on this year's AV. However, because we will have debt that will be paid off over the next couple of years and the way we plan to structure the debt for the bonds that will fund this project, the true tax increase is around ten cents.

President McLaughlin added that this is a much-needed and long overdue project. We have taken care of all other buildings and this is just the last piece of making sure that we have the best for our corporation.

The hearing was then opened for all interested patrons to testify and/or ask questions concerning the construction of a new administration center and maintenance improvements to school facilities, including site improvements and the purchase of technology (collectively, the "Project"). Being none, the hearing was closed.

i. Consider Project Resolution (Exhibit A)

Dr. Ryker advised Exhibit A is the project resolution that states the project will be at a cost of more than one million dollars and establishes the estimated costs of the project, the tax impact, and the timing of the impact. Dr. Ryker recommended that the Board approve the resolution.

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve the Project Resolution (Exhibit A). Ellen Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed Unanimously.

ii. Consider Resolution Determining Need for Project (Exhibit B)

Dr. Ryker advised Exhibit B states the Board has determined there is a need for the project and therefore, recommended that the Board approve the Resolution Determining Need for the Project.

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve the Resolution Determining Need for Project (Exhibit B). Kent Minnette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. Consider Resolution on Form of Lease (Exhibit C)

Dr. Ryker advised Exhibit C states that the School Corporation is funding this Project through lease financing, as it has done with other past construction/renovation projects. Lease financing is used by school corporations across Indiana in order to borrow for renovation and construction. This type of financing does not count against the School Corporation's Constitutional debt allowance. Dr. Ryker recommended that the Board approve the Resolution Approving Form of Lease.

Dr. Bowling added that is the same form of financing used for the elementary, middle school, and high school projects.

Ellen Ball made a motion to approve the Resolution on Form of Lease (Exhibit C). Kent Minnette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

iv. Consider Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures (Exhibit D)

Dr. Ryker advised Exhibit D states that if the School Corporation pays any preliminary costs related to the project prior to receiving bond proceeds, it may reserve its ability to be reimbursed from bond proceeds after the closing. In order to do so, the Internal Revenue Service requires that the School Corporation declare its official intent to reimburse. The adoption of this resolution will reserve the School Corporation's ability to reimburse itself. Dr. Ryker recommended that the Board approve the Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures.

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve the Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures (Exhibit D). Susan Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Consider CMS 8th Grade Springfield Trip Request

Alexis Carson, a Teacher at CMS, advised the Board that the trip will take place on October 15th during Fall break. The trip will consist of visiting the Lincoln

Museum and Lincoln's birthplace. The students will travel by chartered bus at the cost of \$55.00 per student. Fundraisers and working concession stands help to raise funds to cover the costs.

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve the CMS 8th Grade Springfield Trip. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Consider CHS Dance Team Trip Request

Students Brody Hill, Emma Adair, and Aaliyah Strawser, team leaders of the high school dance team, requested approval from the Board to attend the 2023 National Dance Team Championship. The dance team has been invited to attend once again in 2023. The event takes place in Orlando, Florida on February 9th thru 12th at the Orange County Convention Center consisting of dance teams representing all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Thirteen CHS members will be competing at the event and will be excluded from school on February 9th and 10th with arrangements being made with teachers to make up school assignments. Costs will be covered by fundraisers and working event concessions leaving no costs to the attending students.

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve the CHS Dance Team Trip. Ellen Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Consider Policy 6421 (8510) Procedures for Lunch & Meal Account

Dr. Ryker advised this policy was previously Policy 8510 (the number is being changed to match ISBA coding.). The proposed 6421 covers how meal accounts are to be used by parents, students, and the corporation. The proposed language increases the debt limit from \$25 to \$40 and outlines that students will still receive a full meal and be billed for it after reaching the debt limit but will not be able to add al-a-cart items. Anyone that fails to maintain a good credit history and/or a student or staff member abuses the policy, charging meals may be refused. Procedures for schools on the communication of balances are also provided. Dr. Ryker therefore, recommended that the Board approve Policy 6421 and retire Policy 8510.

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve Policy 6421 (8510) Procedures for Lunch & Meal Account. Susan Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Consider JUUL Litigation

Dr. Bowling advised the Board that we were informed through the Superintendent Association and the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association about a class action lawsuit where schools are joining from all over the nation against the manufacturers of JUUL (e-cigarettes). The Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on E-Cigarette Use Among Youth.

Our high school and middle school have students getting in trouble with experiencing e-cigarettes and this needs to be addressed. Dr. Bowling, therefore, recommended the Board approve the resolution giving us the authority to enter into an agreement with the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP to initiate the litigation.

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Manufacturers, Distributors, and Sellers of Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping Products. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Permission to Advertise 2023 Budget

BUDGET COMPARISON

Fund	2018	2019	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Fund
General	\$ 18,374,384	\$ 19,308,777	\$ 15,354,711	\$ 16,025,557	\$ 16,826,835	\$ 17,668,177	\$ 18,618,006	Education
Debt Service	\$ 3,210,381	\$ 3,353,811	\$ 3,353,811	\$ 2,410,000	\$ 2,453,117	\$ 3,583,518	\$ 3,721,285	Debt Service
School Pension Debt	\$ 424,055	\$ 418,420	\$ 418,420	\$ 421,466	\$ 423,118	\$ 416,297	\$ 423,642	School Pension Debt Service
Referendum Exempt Debt Service	\$ 1,892,000	\$ 1,880,000	\$ 1,880,000	\$ 2,727,000	\$ 2,873,685	\$ 2,875,345	\$ 2,871,125	Referendum Exempt Debt Service
Capital Projects	\$ 2,200,567	\$ 2,222,573	\$ 7,744,719	\$ 7,018,442	\$ 7,369,364	\$ 7,737,832	\$ 8,124,724	Operations
Transportation	\$ 1,050,667	\$ 1,103,200						
Bus Replacement	\$ 419,326	\$ 464,880						
Rainy Day	\$ 330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 392,538	\$ 857,168	\$ 319,435	\$ 1,000,000	Rainy Day
<b>Total: Property Tax Funds</b>	<b>\$ 9,196,996</b>	<b>\$ 9,442,884</b>	<b>\$ 9,442,884</b>	<b>\$ 8,558,466</b>	<b>\$ 8,749,920</b>	<b>\$ 9,875,160</b>	<b>\$ 10,016,052</b>	<b>Total: Property Tax Funds</b>

Dr. Bowling explained the comparison/changes for the budget from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023. For example, the Capital Projects, Transportation, and Bus Replacement Funds are now part of the Operations Fund. Custodians and maintenance workers used to be paid from the general fund and now must be paid from the operations fund. The Education Fund is used solely for educational expenses.

The Education Fund has grown from 2019 to 2023 due to an increase in teachers' salaries. The small increase in the Debt Service Fund is due to the new central office if completion is done in time. The School Pension Debt is used to pay off pension obligations. The Referendum Exempt Debt Service is solely used to pay the debt for Crawfordsville Middle School. The Operations Fund increase is due to increases in salary and increases in the costs of goods, services, fuel, and school buses. The Rainy Day Fund is used for any unforeseen costs that could occur during the year.

Dr. Bowling recommended that the board grant him permission to advertise the 2023 budget.

Susan Albrecht made a motion to grant permission to advertise the 2023 budget. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **VIII. Personnel**

- a. Consider Resignation of Jessica Ryker - Assistant at CMS
- b. Consider Resignation of Dave Cutchin - Math Teacher at CHS
- c. Consider Resignation of McKinzie Welcher - Assistant at CHS
- d. Consider Resignation of Leslie Peacock - Director of Student Services at Nicholson
- e. Consider Resignation of Taylor Malayer - English Teacher at CHS
- f. Consider Resignation of Denise Virgin - Teacher's Assistant at Hoover
- g. Consider Resignation of Ali (Wagner) Bittinger - Administrative Assistant at Hose
- h. Consider Resignation of Alexandra Roth - Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) at Willson

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve the resignations for Jessica Ryker, Dave Cutchin, McKinzie Welcher, Leslie Peacock, Taylor Malayer, Dennis Virgin, Alli (Wagner) Bittinger, and Alexander Roth. Kent Minnette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Recommend Katharyn Sabens - ELA Teacher at CMS
- j. Recommend Kathy Kern - Music Teacher at Hose
- k. Recommend Abigail Everling - Assistant at CMS
- l. Recommend Addison Conrad - Special Education Assistant at Nicholson
- m. Recommend Mackenzi Landrum (Cannici) - PE Teacher at Hose
- n. Recommend Zoe Baker - Assistant at Hoover
- o. Recommend Craig Carrell - Assistant at CHS
- p. Recommend Nicole Kyger - Temporary ELA Teacher for Two Maternity Leaves at CMS
- q. Recommend Kylie McFarland - Assistant at CMS
- r. Recommend Julie Randles - Assistant at CMS
- s. Recommend Amber Reed - Director of Food Service and Student Wellness
- t. Recommend Sarah Sieferman - Assistant at CHS
- u. Recommend Grace Vaught - Occupational Therapy Assistant at WCISSC
- v. Recommend Jaala Springer - Aide at Willson
- w. Recommend Ariadna Eufrazio - ENL Assistant at CHS
- x. Recommend Megan Wilson - Administrative Assistant at Willson
- y. Recommend Lindsey Joern - School Psychologist at WCISSC
- z. Recommend Carol Starlin - Literacy Coach at Nicholson
- aa. Recommend Mary Scheidler - Counselor at Nicholson
- bb. Recommend Cole Wemer - Assistant at CHS

Dr. Ryker advised the board that a large number of aide and assistant positions reflects on positions that were open last year and have more frequent turnover. There were a few that were created for this year such as the ENL Assistant position.

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve Katharyn Sabens, Kathy Kern, Abigail Everling, Addison Conrad, Mackenzie Landrum, Zoe Baker, Craig Carrell, Nicole Kyger, Kylie McFarland, Julie Randles, Amber Reed, Sarah Sieferman, Grace Vaught, Jaala Springer, Ariadna Eufrazio, Megan Wilson, Lindsey Joern, Carol Starlin, Mary Scheidler, and Cole Wemer as New Employees. Ellen Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. Change of Position**

- a. Heidi Plunkett from Special Education Teacher at CHS to Preschool Director at Willson
- b. Paqxtonne Muncie from Assistant at Hose to 1st Grade Teacher at Hose
- c. Morgan Thompson from 3rd Grade Teacher at Nicholson to Reading Interventionist at Hose
- d. Heather Rock from Administrative Assistant at Willson to Administrative Assistant at Hose
- e. Katherine Lueking from part-time Nurse at Willson to full-time Nurse at Hoover
- f. Morgan Hodge (Howard) from 1st Grade Teacher at Hose to 3rd Grade Teacher at Nicholson
- g. Diana Shelton from part-time Math Tutor to Math Teacher at CHS
- i. Angela Risner from Aide at CMS to Assistant at CHS

Dr. Bowling advised the Board of internal position changes. Board approval is not required. This is for informational purposes only.

## **X. Associate Superintendent's Report**

### Facilities

- CHS HVAC Controls - Wrapping up.
- Hose HVAC Controls - New controls are installed in each room for better temperature control.
- CHS Boiler Project - Currently in progress.
- Willson HVAC Project - Bids will be received on August 19th. Prep work is to be done during the school year with completion set for next summer.

### Safety and Wellness

- Mark Melton, CHS assistant principal, and Dr. Ryker spoke with the Superintendent of Jay County Schools regarding preparing, partnering, etc. their schools for safety. The most valuable item they have put in place is an anonymous reporting system provided through the Sandy Hook Foundation for

minimal to no costs, giving students the ability to put in anonymous reports 24/7. We have a meeting set to meet with the Sandy Hook Foundation in September.

### Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

- The Formative Assessment Grant which is used to pay for NWEA MAP (k-8) and PSAT (10) was submitted to the IDOE.
- SAT/PSAT Formative Assessment - This will help us know where students are at and help prepare them for testing.
- Corporation Elementary Organization PLC:
  - The elementary organization committee is continuing to meet and has narrowed the focus of our inquiry to explore whether two primary and one intermediate elementary building would more effectively educate and serve our students.
  - This is an exploration of possibility, it has not been determined, and over the next month, we will determine how best to receive input from teachers and parents.
  - Due to our current community distribution, three K-5 Buildings based on old boundaries provided a significant demographic imbalance in population, and socio-economic status (real reasons that we organized into our current organization).
  - By staying with a 4-5 and dividing the corporation into an east K-3 and a west K-3 boundary that travels 231 and South Boulevard out Ladoga Road we find balanced populations and demographics
  - Two K-3 buildings provide one less transition and four years in a primary setting which we believe leads to more consistent behavior, increased vertical alignment, a greater sense of community, and a greater focus on reading to learn.

### Professional Development

- Math Vertical Alignment Seminar - Set in the week of September 4th.
- 6-12 School spirit challenge. We had a meeting with secondary administrators, athletic directors, dance, band, cheerleading, and football boosters to discuss our presentation on Friday nights to better organize our entertainment for fans. The goal is to establish common practices that will be maintained over the years. We are also bringing back the tradition of everyone singing the school song together after the game. This will take a little time because very few students and staff know the school song. By homecoming, we hope to have the most knowledge of the song 6-12. The challenge is whichever building makes the most progress in learning the school song will save their principal's facial hair style. If CMS loses, Mr. Bokhart must wear a mustache, and if CHS loses, Mr. Strickland has to shave his mustache.



## **XI. Superintendent's Report**

### Teacher First Day

- United Way Kick-off Campaign - Met with teachers to collaborate on how to get them involved to give back to the community. Several of the United Way programs are actual school programs.
- Food Trucks were set up in the high school courtyard. Lunch was provided for the entire staff to join together with good food and good company. It was a good way to start the school year.

### Wabash College

- Met with Leann Parrish who has been funded through a grant looking at ways to get more involved with the community. Relationships with local schools are an important part of this grant. We are looking at ways for CCSC to work with Wabash students coming out of college who might be interested in teaching.

### "Celebration of Life" for Dick Haslam

- Legend for Crawfordsville - Trester Award Winner
- He is certainly a big part of Crawfordsville's history.
- A true Athenian - "Entered to Learn - Went Forth to Serve"

### Employment Relations Board

IEERB has assigned someone to take a look at the process we use to negotiate the contract with our teachers for this year. The purpose of the review is due to a provision in our contract where we move teachers who have been with us for seven years up the salary scale. IEERB's concern is that this provision violates state statute which requires that experience constitute no more than 50% of any salary increase. We hope to tweak our existing language to keep this provision in place. This process will hopefully give us the answers we are looking for to be able to keep this in place.

### Marching Band

- New percussion carriers have been ordered. The existing carriers have long since exceeded their useful life.

### Enrollment Projection

- We currently project relatively stable enrollment of about 2,370 students for 2022-2023 which is well within the normal range for our schools over the long term.

**XII. Other** - None at this time.

## **XIII. Board Member Communication**

Kent Minnette complimented Principal Strickland and Coaches on the athletic banquet put on for the student athletes. Very well attended. Impressive event.

**XIV. Patron Comments** - None at this time.

**XV. Adjournment**

Ellen Ball made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion.  
The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.