

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Board of Education
Regular Meeting - Thurs., Aug. 20, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.
Crawfordsville Middle School

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

All Board members and Administrators were present except Kent Minnette. Also present were Marci Galinowski, Brent Bokhart, Preston Bost, Ann Stanley, Diana Wilbert, Greg Hunt, Stacey Guard, and Nick Wilson

2. CHARACTER COUNTS!SM Corporation – Caring

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve Previous Meeting Minutes with changes made, Construction Accounts Payable Vouchers, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Patron Comments

Dr. Preston Bost came before the board thanking the board, teachers and staff for their efforts in reopening the schools under extraordinary conditions. Regarding mandating face coverings for teachers and students within the schools, Dr. Bost requested the board and its subcommittee explore a more robust policy on face covering than is currently required under Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-39. Specifically, he requested that the subcommittee consider mandating the wearing of face coverings for all students and teachers during in-person instruction, except for the narrow circumstances identified by the Centers of Disease Control until the spread of coronavirus in Indiana has been controlled.

Dr. Bowling advised that this would be shared with the different teams and faculty. All agree that masks are a very important part of what the Corporation is trying to do in keeping students and staff safe.

Dr. Ryker stated that he has enjoyed working with Dr. Bost on his concerns and commended him for progressing his concerns in a cordial manner to the Board. Dr. Ryker completed a walk through of the highschool with Dr. Bowling and Mr. Hunt, and he reported that he felt as though our schools are currently following the Executive Orders of Governor Holcomb. He acknowledged that once secondary schools bring all students back for in-person learning, more discussion on mask wearing will be needed.

6. New Business

1. Permission to Advertise 2021 Budget

Dr. Bowling discussed that we are currently down 90 students due to kindergarten parents choosing to delay the start of school for their children, parents opting for homeschooling during the pandemic, and parents choosing virtual schools. The result will be a loss in the educational fund of approximately \$500,000.00. Legislation is currently working to address school funding for district students who opted for full distance learning. Full time distance students are currently funded at 85% of the amount of in-person students.

Dr. Bowling shared a spreadsheet with the Board members for the projected budget for

2021. Ellen Ball made a motion to approve the advertisement for the 2021 Budget. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Personnel

1. Consider Resignation of Savannah Dinius – Hose Teacher’s Aide
2. Consider Resignation of Stacy Adams – CMS Assistant
3. Consider Resignation of Kelsey Feese – Nicholson Music Teacher
4. Consider Resignation of Sarah Rogers – Hoover Aide
5. Consider Resignation of Carrie Olofson – Hose Aide
6. Consider Resignation of Peggy Boyd – Hose Aide
7. Consider Resignation of Hailey France – Walnut Support Aide
8. Consider Resignation of Sherri Heggemeier – CMS Teacher’s Aide
9. Consider Resignation of Linda Chapman – CMS Aide
10. Consider Resignation of Christie Thomas – Hoover Assistant
11. Consider Resignation of Tyler Thompson - CMS ELA Teacher
12. Consider Resignation of Kylene Simpson – CTE Administrative Assistant/Career Coach
13. Consider Resignation of Lillian Hess – Willson Aide
14. Consider Resignation of Cori Crossley – Hose Receptionist
15. Consider Resignation of Kaylee Fletcher – Hoover Life Skills Aide

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve the resignations of Savannah Dinius, Stacy Adams, Kelsey Feese, Sarah Rogers, Carrie Olofson, Peggy Boyd, Hailey France, Sherri Heggemeier, Linda Chapman, Christie Thomas, Tyler Thompson, Kylene Simpson, Lillian Hess, Cori Crossley, and Kaylee Fletcher. Susan Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Consider Extended Leave for Jennifer Motz – Hose - 1st Grade Teacher

Dr. Ryker added that it is recommended that following the qualified twelve (12) weeks FMLA leave, Jennifer Motz be allowed to have an extended, unpaid leave of absence not to exceed one (1) year based upon IC 20-28-10 with board approval.

Susan Albrech made a motion to approve the extended leave of Jennifer Motz. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Recommend Amanda Isajewicz – Nicholson Music Teacher
18. Recommend DeDe Groves – CMS ELA Teacher

Ellen Ball made a motion to approve the recommendations of Amanda Isajewicz and DeDe Groves. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Recommend Susan Sizemore – Hose Aid
20. Recommend Joni Jefferies – Hose Media Specialist
21. Recommend Tracy Moon – CMS Teacher’s Aide

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve the recommendations of Susan Sizemore, Joni Jefferies, and Tracy Moon - Susan Albrech seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Change of Position

1. Concetta Horman from CMS Aide to CMS Assistant
2. Morgan Howard from Hose Library Assistant to Hose 1st Grade Teacher
3. Cami Myers from CMS Aide to CMS Assistant

Dr. Bowling explained that the change in position information was for the Board's information only. Board approval was not needed.

9. Assistant Superintendent Report

Dr. Ryker shared that transportation is moving along well. A letter had been sent out to all parents and staff looking for part-time positions for substitute bus drivers. The transportation department is delivering meals to hybrid students and distance learners. Bus drivers are working extra hours to deliver meals.

The Corporation is looking for substitute teachers. A letter outlining openings was sent to the entire school community in hopes that staff and parents may help find potential employees.

Maintenance workers have started the process of upgrading to Merv 13 filters in the schools. Due to older equipment, Hose Elementary will only be able to be upgraded to Merv 10 filters.

New water fountains with bottle fillers have been installed in all buildings.

Highschool construction. Phases I, II II are almost complete while beginning Phase IV. Susan Albrecht stated that people have suggested to her about installing speed bumps to eliminate high travel speeds due to from the parking lot past the baseball field and tennis courts heading to Co. Rd. 150 S. There is currently staffing posted to oversee drivers.

Kathleen Brown added that she received concern for trees that have died that were recently planted. Dr. Ryker added per contract, the construction company will be replacing approximately seven of the nine trees along with new shrubs to be installed at a later time.

The Corporation has created a new position, COVID Emergency Manager, This new position will provide communication with all of our registered nurses in each building. Amy Bales, CMS Nurse has moved into this position. This is a full time/all day position that will continue through Labor Day which will consist of testing communication with the health department, staff, and parents. School nurses are now able to funnel all COVID related issues to Amy.

10. Superintendent's Report

Positives

Teachers, principals, and staff members are working very hard and going above and beyond in their efforts.

Students have been very compliant with masks, handwashing, etc. The transportation reported that only one student did not show up with a mask at the bus stops. All other students did.

Students/teachers are glad to be back to in-person instruction. Parents have shown a great deal of understanding concerning the hybrid model.

There are zero confirmed positive COVID-19 cases since school has started.

Challenges

Secondary teachers are currently teaching three different groups of students: in-person, hybrid, and full distance. This is very stressful and not sustainable for the entire school year.

There are issues with full distance education at the elementary level with teachers teaching two levels. Parents of full distance students are concerned that instruction is not appropriately geared to their students level.

Technology skill levels among grandparents and great grandparents raising kids who are full distance learners is creating frustration for both them and the teachers. We have parents/grandparents attempting to support e-learning that have never used email before.

At the secondary level, too many full distance students are not participating appropriately.

We are concerned about teacher burnout - especially at the secondary level. In addition to the issues involved with teaching in three different modes (in-person, hybrid, and full distance), students are bombarding teachers with emails because they either want or need extra support.

COVID Metrics

Montgomery County is currently using the positivity rate based on a seven-day roll average and the 14-day incidence rate per 10,000. These metrics were developed in conjunction with the Montgomery County Health Officer, Dr. Scott Douglas. The Corporation's 7-day rolling positivity rate is currently 3.8 %. The target for full in-person return is 5%. The current incidence rate is 8.421. The target for full in-person return is 5. All county schools are using these metrics to guide the decision-making process.

Funding

Legislation will be needed to address school funding for distance students. Our issue is the uncertainty concerning the 85% funding for full distance students combined with the drop in enrollment. We, as well as other schools in the state of Indiana, are waiting on legislation to gain clarity on these issues. Until those decisions are made, we can rely on our Rainy Day Fund to help us through the financial crunch for this year.

11. Board Members' Communication

Steve McLaughlin extended his appreciation to CHS Principal Greg Hunt and his staff for the graduation ceremony.

Susan Albrecht reported that she and Steve McLaughlin had filed to run for reelection to the school board, and that there were no other challengers that filed by the August 21 deadline.

Bowling announced and congratulated Marci Galinowski recently for receiving her Ed. S. Specialist Degree.

12. Adjournment

Ellen Ball made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.