

**Crawfordsville Community School Corporation -Board of Education
Regular Meeting -Thursday, January, 14th, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.
Crawfordsville Middle School, 705 Wallace Avenue
Crawfordsville, Indiana**

MINUTES

I. Roll Call

Steve McLaughlin, Dr. Bowling, Dr. Ryker, Susan Albrecht, Kent Minnette, Brent Bokhart, Nick Hedrick and Kristi Tesmer were in attendance. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Ellen Ball, Kathleen Brown, and Marci Galinowski attended virtually via Zoom.

II. CHARACTER COUNTS!_{SM} Corporation - *Pillar of Fairness*

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Reorganization of Board

Kent Minnette made a motion to continue with the same slate of officers as in 2020. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2021 Officers are as follows:

- a. Election of President - Steve McLaughlin
- b. Election of Vice President - Susan Albrecht
- c. Election of Secretary - Kathleen Brown
- d. Election of Assistant Secretary - Ellen Ball
- e. Appointment of Legislative Liaison to the Indiana School Boards Association
Susan Albrecht nominated Kent Minnette as Legislative Liaison to the Indiana School Board Association. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Payrolls, Claims Vouchers, and Surplus Items

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

VI. Building Principal Report - Marci Galinowski, Principal Willson Elementary School

Ms. Galinowski informed the Board of the following updates and improvements:

- Enrollment Down
- 124 enrolled with 20 more expected to join.
- Two off-site learners - Hybrid Model - Learning done over Zoom
- Nine Distance Learning Students - COVID Reasons - Therapy is done over Zoom.
- Attendance Rate is 93%.
- No Student with positive COVID cases, although students have been quarantined.
- Teachers are doing a fantastic job embracing new technology to teach students.
- Making connections with Parents
- Students are doing great! Readers already!
- Focused on 2021-22 enrollment which is starting 1/19 with the majority being done online

VII. Old Business

Nothing at this time.

VIII. New Business

- a. Consider Resolution for Authorization To Sign Agreements for Alternative Services And Private Residential School Placements

Dr. Bowling explained that although rare, a student may have to be placed in a residential setting. Annually the State requires the Board to give a school staff member authorization to sign the contract(s) for those particular services due to costs involved for both the State and the school. Dr. Bowling recommended approval from the Board.

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve the Resolution for Authorization To Sign Agreements for Alternative Services and Private Residential School Placements. Ellen Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consider Memorandum of Understanding - Extending Paid Leave Due to COVID-19

Dr. Ryker explained to the Board the Memorandum of Understanding would be between the School Board and Crawfordsville Education Association (CEA). We will continue to offer the benefit of the COVID-19 Families First Coronavirus Response Act Leave. From April 1 through December 31, 2020, it was a federal mandate for employers with between 50 and 500 employees to offer the FFCRA Leave in which an employee could be away from work for 10 days of paid leave due to COVID related reasons and receive pay.

During that time, employees could also receive an additional ten weeks at $\frac{2}{3}$ pay to care for a child whose school or place of care closed due to COVID-19 related reasons. This option expired on December 31, 2020.

The Corporation would like to offer the FFCRA Paid Sick Leave for 10 days due to COVID reasons until March 31st. Dr. Ryker advised that discussion with CEA included the possibility that this additional leave could be extended at the end of March if needed.

The Corporation will not continue or extend the $\frac{2}{3}$ pay for extended coverage and additional extended 10 weeks coverage after December 31, 2020. Dr. Ryker advised the Board that we have become much more efficient with the staff (teachers) being able to work virtually from home which will eliminate them having to use sick days or paid leave days.

CEA met at an executive meeting on January 13th approving both the Memorandum of Understanding and the Resolution.

Steve McLaughlin asked if the school district is receiving federal funding from the CARES ACT to help pay for this? Dr. Ryker along with Dr. Bowling informed the Board that additional funds were received.

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding - Extending Paid Leave Due to COVID-19. Kent Minnette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Consider Resolution on Continuation of FFCRA Leave

Dr. Ryker explained that this would be retroactive from Jan 1, 2021 thru March 31, 2021. The only restriction on the FFCRA Leave description is that it would not include the $\frac{2}{3}$ pay for extended leave for an employee caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed due to COVID-19 related reasons.

Dr. Ryker recommended the Board to approve the Resolution on Continuation of FFCRA Leave.

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve the Resolution on Continuation of FFCRA Leave. Kent Minnette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Consider Transfer Resolutions

Dr. Bowling advised that the State allows the Board to transfer up to 15% of its revenue from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund when needed. During most of calendar year 2020, funds in the amount of \$300,000.00 were transferred monthly from Education Fund to Operations Funds to cover needed expenditures. In December, the monthly transfer was suspended to prevent exceeding the 15% threshold resulting in a very large balance in the Education Fund at the end of the fiscal year. The current balance of the Education Fund is now \$2.7 million with a target of \$1.5 million. The current balance of the Operations Fund is \$0 with a target of \$500,000.00. Therefore, Dr. Bowling recommended that the Board consider two transfers.

- Transfer \$1,180,561.00 from the Education Fund to the Rainy Day Fund
- Transfer \$500,000.00 from the Rainy Day Fund to the Operations Fund

Dr. Bowling advised once transfers are done account balances will be as follows:

Education Fund \$1,500,000.00
Operations Fund - \$500,000.00
Rainy Day Fund - \$1,384,065.00

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve the Transfer Resolutions. Kent Minnette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Personnel

- a. Recommend Wendy Schmitzer-Torbert - Nicholson - 2nd Grade Teacher
- b. Recommend Josey Aguilar - Hose - Kindergarten Teacher

- c. Recommend Alyssa Powell - CMS - FACS Teacher
- d. Recommend Rebekah Mason - Nicholson - Special Education Teacher
- e. Recommend Chelsea Wilkins - CMS Nurse - Part Time
- f. Recommend Stephanie Wilkinson - Nicholson Receptionist
- g. Recommend Sheridan Pool - Nicholson Teacher's Aide
- h. Consider Retirement for Bronna Utterback - Hose - Kindergarten Teacher
- i. Consider Resignation for Kandora Hargis - Nicholson - Grade 2 Teacher
- j. Consider Resignation for Candi Skaggs - Nicholson - Receptionist
- k. Consider Resignation for Luke Devitt - CHS - Science Teacher
- l. Consider Resignation for Cammie French - Hose - Receptionist
- m. Consider Resignation for Kristel Crowder - Nicholson - Special Ed Aide

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve Wendy Schmitzer-Torbert, Josey Aguilar, Alyssa Powell, Rebekah Mason, Chelsea Wilkins, Stephanie Wilkinson and Sheridan Pool as new hires. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve the retirement of Bronna Utterback. Kathleen Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Brown made a motion to approve the resignations of Kandora Hargis, Candi Skagg, Luke Devitt, Cammie French and Kristel Crowder. Ellen Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Change of Position

- a. Tanner Wilson from Nicholson 3rd Grade Teacher to Hoover 5th Grade Teacher
- b. Blair Wade from Nicholson Special Education Teacher to Nicholson 3rd Grade Teacher
- c. Amanda Calhoun from Hoover Teacher's Aide to Hoover Maternity Leave Grade 4 Teacher

Dr. Bowling explained that the change in position did require the Board to vote, but was provided to keep the Board informed of internal personnel movements within the school.

XI. Assistant Superintendent Report

Testing

Now in the preparation phase, the Corporation testing committee consisting of school test coordinators, corporation technology coordinators and Dr. Ryker is preparing for IRead-3 to be administered in March at Nicholson and Hoover. ILearn is replacing ISEP testing. This testing begins in April. We are expected to reach distance students. Now is the time to prepare for testing.

Safety Audit - Crawfordsville Sr. High School was selected for an Indiana Department of Education Emergency Preparedness Plan Review. After meeting with Dr. Ryker, CHS Assistant Principal Mr. Melton and Stephen Balko, Director of School Building Security from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), CHS was found to be in compliance

with all emergency preparedness/school safety requirements set forth under Indiana Code and Indiana Administrative Code. We have a strong corporation safety team.

Related Arts Project - We are currently working with CSO Architects and Ice Miller legal firm on the most appropriate delivery method for this project. The project areas consist of the Career Tech area, the Auditorium and the hallway around the Aquatics and Physical Education areas. We will advertise this month to have a project hearing on February 11th.

CHS Project

Areas Near Completion:

- 5 Classrooms
- 4 Restrooms
- Demo all of Temporary Areas
- Final Finishes
- Moving Security Doors per Fire Review

The completion date is set for the end of March, first of April.

XII. Superintendent Report

School Re-Entry

After Christmas break, school re-entry was successful on the whole with students/staff back in school.

COVID

- Montgomery County is Red
- 21% Positivity Rate - Target is 5%
- Weekly Cases Per 100,000 is 649 - Target is 10
- Seven Day Average of Positive Tests is 35.
- Staffing levels are stable with two new cases
- 15 New Students Cases
- Not seeing evidence of school spread cases.
- Teachers will not be prioritized for vaccines. Indiana is going with an age-based system.

Positive Notes

- There is an increase in the county vaccine supply.
- Legislative Session has started.
- The Education Bill - Funding will stay as whole and fully funded with no decrease and no increase.
- There is a bill in the state legislature to provide grants for all Indiana schools to target learning loss due to COVID. If this bill is passed, we will target reading interventions for students in grades K-2.

XIII. Other

None at this time.

XIV. Board Member Comments

Kent Minnette thanked Dr. Bowling and his Staff for the time and energy put forth to make athletics and after school activities available for kids in the midst of a pandemic. He also asked if the quarantine regime period could be less restricted and/or less aggressive which is currently isolating kids. The harms far outweighs the benefits of the students.

Dr. Bowling advised the Board that the Indiana Department of Health is the big sticking point in regard to relaxing quarantine restrictions as they continue to recommend 14-day quarantines as opposed to 10- and 7- day quarantine as allowed by the CDC. It would be better, in Dr. Bowling's opinion, if the guidance offered by those two agencies aligned.

XV. Patron Comments

Kristi Tesmer, School Psychologist representing the CEA stated, "The teachers appreciate the opportunity to stay home working virtually to be able to stay connected with their students."

XVI. Adjournment

Susan Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kent Minnette seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.