

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a Regular Session to order at 7:01 pm. The meeting was held at Knightstown High School located at 8149 W. US 40, Knightstown, IN 46148. Those in attendance were:

**Attendance:**

- **Board Members:** Wade Beatty, Steve Dalton, Leah Kopp, Kevin Knott, Melissa Toth, Timothy Wehr
- **Central Office Staff:** Don Scheumann, Interim Superintendent; Jena Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Stephanie Madison, Corporation Treasurer
- **Administrators:** Scott Ritchie, Jane Rodgers
- **Media:** Knightstown Banner, New Castle Courier Times
- **Patrons:** Approximately 15 patrons

I. Call to Order

The Board President called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Six members were present; Mark Fort was not in attendance. The Pledge to the American Flag and a moment of silence was observed.

II. Minutes –

Leah Kopp moved to approve the April 18, 2012 minutes as previously submitted. Melissa Toth gave the second. Timothy Wehr stated he would like to amend the minutes to include a statement he made during the meeting in support of an executive session. Timothy Wehr moved to table the minutes until next regular session with a second from Steve Dalton. The motion to table carried 6-0. The minutes will be verified through the audio recording.

III. Claims

Timothy Wehr gave the financial report on behalf of the Finance Committee then moved to accept the claims as previously submitted. The total amount of claims was \$782,949.05. Wade Beatty seconded the motion. Leah Kopp asked about a payment of \$750.00 to Church Church Hittle & Antrim. The Corporation Treasurer stated this was the cost for the attorney to review e-mails as part of a record request from The Banner. With no further discussion, motion carried 6-0.

IV. Public Expression

- Rodney Schmidt, Knightstown – Stated he had four points he would like to make. He asked that the resources be used appropriately. He stated Mark Fort was adamant with him that it is against policy to delete e-mail and he requested an executive session to discuss this. Rodney Schmidt stated a board member should understand the rules for executive session and when one can be held. He encouraged the board to read and

understand their responsibilities as well as their policies as one specifically instructs to “diligently delete old mail”. Rodney Schmidt also stated he had a discussion with Steve Dalton, and in an e-mail sent from Mr. Dalton it states his e-mail cannot be secure or error free and encourages e-mail not be used because it cannot be used to be accurate or complete. An archive system was put in place over a year ago, “let’s move on.” An additional point he wanted to make was there seemed to be a misunderstanding of the separation of church and state. With the school bussing children to a church outside the district, and may be on-going – this should be investigated. He also stated the Board should feel obligated to provide employees a safe working environment free from physical intimidation. He asked if this had been investigated to see if any wrong doing occurred. His final point should be the safety of the children. There were two board members who were adamant that the superintendent be immediately released due to failure to lock down schools. Then he asked what specifically those board members have done to improve the emergency procedures if this were to happen again in the future. To his knowledge this has not been done and therefore, a personal grudge was really the reason for their stance on the superintendent and not truly the safety of our children. Finally he encouraged the board to be enablers and not stumbling blocks as a new superintendent is working to raise the grade of our corporation.

- John Swartz, Knightstown – Stated he believed the security at the high school to be secure. He went on to state he recently worked the polls with seven high school students. He stated they were all National Honor Society students. They were all nice kids and he enjoyed talking with them about why they were there and he thought it to be a positive experience.
- Timothy Wehr, Carthage – Stated students were also present at Rush County polls.
- Tom Crawford, Knightstown – Stated Rodney Schmidt mentioned the same guideline he was going to reference regarding deletion of e-mail. He also stated there was much discussion about board policy prior to adoption. He mentioned the guideline specifically states an employee should diligently delete or you may lose your privileges.
- Steve Dalton, Knightstown – Read part of a policy that was referenced by two patrons. Policy #5440.01. He asked Tom Crawford who instructed employees to delete e-mail. Tom Crawford stated permission was given from Bruce Sowers because teachers had been contacting him regarding their e-mail account not functioning due to storage space issues. Steve Dalton stated his issue is the by-laws and policies need to be cleaned up because there seem to be some conflict. He also stated board policy cannot break the Henry County retention policy.
- Keith Ferrell, Greensboro – Stated the e-mails are about one thing and he believe the truth must be found. You need a solid foundation before you can move forward. He said if you get to the bottom of the e-mail and the truth then maybe you can move forward.

- The Interim Superintendent met with the finance committee, new superintendent, and Johnson Melloh to discuss the findings on the HVAC system at KHS. Kurt Schneider met and gave a spreadsheet detailing the recommendations from JM for repairs. The estimate is \$27,409.25. This does not include replacement of a boiler at an estimated cost of \$15,000. The Facilities Director will work on some items cited and hopes to be able to repair some at a cost savings to the corporation. He is hopeful to have some repairs, agreed upon with Johnson Melloh, completed by June 1. There is some concern that some of these controls are still not operational, Johnson Melloh will return to review those concerns at their cost. Kevin Knott questioned why the system at KHS is in need of repair when the system at KIS is operational after nearly 40 years. Don Scheumann stated part of the problem is a broken valve that was never addressed and the result caused corrosion within the pipes. Steve Dalton asked if there were funds available within the Capitol Projects Fund. The Corporation Treasurer stated she was concerned and this amount would definitely need to be reviewed. Melissa Toth asked if the items presented were worst case scenario, and if amounts would be reduced if completed in house. The Interim Superintendent stated we are working with our employees in an effort to keep spending down.

#### VI. Recognitions

The Interim Superintendent gave a brief report on recognitions and upcoming events. Leah Kopp stated the School Board Scholarship was awarded to David Warwick. She also reminded each board member of their responsibility to submit payment for their portion of this scholarship in the amount of \$100. The Interim Superintendent reminded the board the graduation ceremony will be held on June 3 beginning at 2 pm. Melissa Toth congratulated staff and students for all the end of year banquets and ceremonies recognizing our kids. Recognition was then given to the track teams for winning the county track competitions.

#### VII. New Business

- FFA Leadership Field Trip – Melissa Toth moved to approve the leadership field trip with a second by Leah Kopp. Wade Beatty praised that program and reminded the patrons a state president was elected from this corporation and this is a worthy program and deserved support. Kevin Knott also stated the sponsor does a good job at providing details on each trip. With no further discussion, motion carried 6-0.
- 2013 Budget Calendar – A calendar of events was submitted to the board detailing specific items the corporation will follow. Kevin Knott moved to approve the calendar with a second by Timothy Wehr. Motion carried 6-0.
- Title I Participation – The Interim Superintendent stated approval is required from the board to participate in the Title I federal program. Timothy Wehr moved to approve participation in the 2012-2013 school year. Melissa Toth gave the second. There was some questions regarding the school wide programs. With no further discussion, motion carried 6-0.

- IREAD Faculty – The Interim Superintendent recommended the employment of Honey Hunt to teach this remediation program. Melissa Toth moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Leah Kopp. Timothy Wehr asked if an assessment would follow the remediation. Don Scheumann stated it would. Motion carried 6-0.
- Summer School Faculty – The Interim Superintendent recommended the employment of Greg Branson and Rachael Shepherd for 7-8 remediation and 9-12 credit recovery. Melissa Toth moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Kevin Knott. Motion carried 6-0.

#### VIII. Personnel

- Resignations/Retirements/Terminations
  - None at this time
- New Hires
  - James Gorman – Carthage/Kennard Evening Custodian – Leah Kopp moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Melissa Toth. Motion carried 6-0.

Leah Kopp moved to change the date of the June Regular Session to June 27, 2012. Members checked their calendars and verified their availability. Melissa Toth gave the second and with no discussion, motion carried 6-0.

Timothy Wehr stated that with the current state of our finances and the corporation treasurer concerned about the funding of a new lawn mower, he moved to approve the purchase of a new mover to be paid for by the athletic department. Timothy Wehr presented information on a John Deere lawn tractor. Timothy Wehr moved to purchase a lawn mower to be used by the athletic department and remain at KHS and be strictly for the use of the athletic department. Steve Dalton gave the second and motion carried 6-0.

#### IX. Superintendent Report -

- Financial Reports were presented to the Board for their review. The Corporation Treasurer stated the deficit has improved. She also stated the outlook is better than what was projected. Kevin Knott asked about the Rainy Day Fund. The Treasurer stated nothing was transferred to that fund and supplies have been put on hold for next school year to gain better control over spending. Melissa Toth stated the Parent/Teacher Organization at the elementary levels are doing a lot to fill in for budget shortfalls and she wanted to thank those parents for their support and for all they do. Kevin Knott also wanted to congratulate Gary Storie for his efforts in getting the corporation on solid standing.
- ISBA Communication–Communication was included in the board packet.
- Superintendent Comments – The Superintendent wanted to publically recognize the board for allowing him to assist the corporation in the interim superintendent capacity. He stated it has been an eye opening experience and he has learned a lot and hopefully has been able to help until Amy Rauch began. He then stated he did not know the

formula for success, but the formula for failure was to try and please everyone. He made decisions based on what was best for the corporation and students. He believes the corporation is in store for great things.

- Superintendent, Amy Rauch – Thanked Mr. Scheumann for his service. She has heard only good things and the corporation is very lucky to have him. Also, she added that in her three days, she has been so impressed with all the workers and teachers and stated this position would be a wonderful adventure. She stated the corporation will go from a D to a B grade and higher. I have high regards for the teachers and students for their hard work. ECA and ISTEP testing went very well. I have been visiting the buildings and been welcomed in each. She has been able to get into classrooms and has been impressed so far. She thanked the board and looks forward to the next few years.

X. Public Expression –

- Gerald Leonard, Knightstown – Expressed his thanks to Don Scheumann for all the years he has given to CAB and really stepped up to the plate and thanked him for the things he has brought forward to the public and commended him for that. He also wanted to welcome Ms. Rauch and looks forward to her leadership.

XI. Board Comments:

- Leah Kopp – Read a prepared statement that began with the definition of transparency from the Websters Dictionary. She went on to speak about harassment allegations, Laugh N Learn program, and e-mails. She relayed her concerns regarding the time and money spent and believes the focus in the future should be what is best for students. She closed by stating she is a believer in open government, but believes the corporation is not hiding anything.
- Kevin Knott – Thanked Rodney Schmidt for mentioning the safety of our students. He recommended the board review policies. He asked that Amy Rauch look into these plans and review the policies. He then stated he was made aware of the transportation to the out of district pre-school in March. He spoke with the board president within a few days because he had concerns about open government, transparency, risk and liability. He was then made aware that this transportation has taken place since February of 2011. He stated there are pre-schools within our district, and he supports friends in other churches, but asked the previous superintendent to bring items to all seven board members. He thanked Mr. Scheumann for bringing this issue before the board and resolving the issue. He also thanked him for dealing with it with openness and honesty. He expressed concern at providing transportation outside the district when transportation is not provided to after school activities within the district. We are concerned about budgetary items and now the corporation is moving forward and the pre-school is moving forward – what better outcome can we ask for than that. He spoke with Mr. Scheumann and thanked him for moving us forward - it is the only way to go.
- Timothy Wehr – Stated the transportation was originally brought up during a Finance meeting. He stated Nelson White and Gary Storie discussed this. He thought it might

be inappropriate, but when he asked the superintendent he was not given an answer. He also stated that transportation does deliver to after school daycare locations with our busses. He then listed some daycares within our district where we drop off kids.

- Steve Dalton – Stated Gary Storie organized this transportation. He went on to state the fact of the matter is, when Laugh and Learn contacted me I put them in contact with the transportation director. He then stated the board member who brought up this information was being slanderous and this was an outright lie. He said somebody other than himself negotiated the price and this is not true and none of the facts or numbers provided is true. He stated it is time to move forward. In regards to the e-mails, there was a meeting on Monday and he requested Mr. Scheumann go through ten e-mail accounts to see what e-mails are there. He stated there are a lot missing e-mails and that is against the law. He stated he has no reason to doubt Bruce Sowers informed employees to delete. He does believe there is reason to investigate. He then read the law. There is an archive in place now; however, there may be items that are missing that may protect us from litigation. We can't go back unless we find out what we have, we need to find what is missing and what is not. He also stated he does not think we can find blame or pin this on anybody. He also stated it would be nice for someone to step up and acknowledge what has happened. The board moved to approve an archive system that was never put in place. We have one now to protect us.
- Kevin Knott – Stated he is now made aware that Timothy Wehr was aware of the transportation to the pre-school and questioned why this was not brought to the full board. Steve Dalton stated Gary Storie knew about this and did the negotiation and he is the one who sets the agenda.

XII. There was much heated discussion and Wade Beatty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

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PRESIDENT

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MEMBER

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VICE PRESIDENT

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