

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a Regular Session to order at 7:15 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, Mark Fort, Kevin Knott, Melissa Toth, Timothy Wehr
- **Central Office Staff:** Gary Storie, Superintendent; Jena Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Stephanie Madison, Corporation Treasurer
- **Media:** Knightstown Banner, New Castle Courier Times
- **Patrons:** Approximately 17 patrons

I. Call to Order

The Board President called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Six members were present; Leah Kopp was not in attendance. The Pledge to the American Flag and a moment of silence was observed.

II. Minutes

The following minutes were previously submitted for approval: August 17, 2011, September 21, 2011, and October 5, 2011. Mark Fort moved to approve all minutes as submitted with a second by Timothy Wehr. Motion carried 6-0.

III. Claims

Steve Dalton gave a report on behalf of the finance committee. He then moved to approve the claims as submitted. Timothy Wehr gave the second and the motion carried 6-0.

IV. Public Comments –

- Shirley Heck, Carthage/Kennard Principal – Stated she wanted to publically recognize Carthage Secretary, Tracy Edwards. Due to her diligence and attention to detail, she notified the school nurse of a concern regarding a student in that building. She was able to identify a potential crisis and avert an emergency. She wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge this exemplary employee.
- Jim Hope – 120 N. McCullum, Knightstown – Presented his opinion regarding the contract settlement listed on the agenda. He does not believe our teachers deserve a raise until the school grades are higher than a “D”. He also said the corporation needs to have someone appointed to head our schools and evaluate how often teachers take off and how often they are in the classroom teaching. He also said his daughter received a good education at CAB and he does not think our teachers are doing their job and wants to see this study to make sure the kids get the education they need.

- Gerald Leonard, 6675 S. Grant City Road, Knightstown – Stated that based on the agenda for the meeting, a Technology Assistant may be hired. He asked how the corporation could find the money for this position when they may be facing a lay-off in the future. He would like to know how the corporation could afford this new position.
- Keith Ferrell, 2925 S. 400 W., New Castle – Expressed his concern the teachers are not properly placed. He stated it is the corporation’s responsibility to make sure our teachers are licensed. “My second grade son is being taught by someone who should be endorsed in History if they teach that subject. We have a KIS Assistant Principal who is a secretary because she doesn’t have the right endorsement.” He said with all the “new things” we should make sure our teachers have the right license. He stated this was not about funding; it was about educating our kids. He believes that somewhere along the line the corporation got side-tracked. He stated he had not been proved wrong yet, and stated someone with proper qualifications should have been hired. The School Board President stated all our teachers meet Highly Qualified Standards and if he had a complaint, he should file it with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). The President then read the IDOE standard for highly qualified teachers at the sixth grade level.

V. Old Business –

Status of Contract Negotiations – The Superintendent informed the Board that the Classroom Teacher Association ratified the proposed 2011-2012 Master Contract. He is recommending the Board ratify the same contract for the current school year. He then explained some highlights in the contract.

1. No incremental raises would be given this year.
2. A one-time stipend of \$420 per teacher would be given with nothing added to the base salary.
3. A grievance procedure is stipulated.
4. A \$20 stipend to work an athletic event, with no changes to the ECA schedule.
5. Seven meetings per semester were agreed upon.
6. Working hours are no longer negotiable, but are discussable.

Steve Dalton stated the committee had spent a reasonable amount of hours and he believes a good agreement has been reached. Steve Dalton moved to ratify the contract presented with a second by Wade Beatty. The Board President thanked administrators and teachers for working through this process under the new legislation. Motion carried 5-1 with Timothy Wehr casting the negative vote. The Superintendent stated after a little clean-up the contract would be available for distribution.

2012-2013 Balanced Calendar – The Superintendent stated this was still an informational item to keep in the forefront. He briefly explained this was not a year-round proposal; school would begin the first of August and end the last of May. Essentially there would be nine weeks of school then a two week break. The breaks would occur in October, December and March. He then stated he was waiting on the calendar from New Castle as we have the same students in Special Services and Vocational students.

VI. New Business

Adopt 2012 Budget – The Superintendent gave a short synopsis of the proposed budget. He stated the required public hearing took place on October 5, 2011. Kevin Knott moved to present the budget as presented with a second from Mark Fort. There was much discussion then the motion carried 6-0.

MClass Report – A Presentation was given by Jediah Behny, Knightstown Elementary Principal. He presented information on some academic benchmarks achieved by our students through the MClass assessments. This assessment is currently being used with students in grades Kindergarten through two. He also welcomed any member of the Board to come to his office and he would explain this assessment. There was some discussion between the Board and the Principal. The Board then thanked Mr. Behny for his presentation.

Technology Assistant – The Superintendent stated he was not requesting action on this position at this time. He said he was still in communication with the Technology Director to develop a plan of needs. The Superintendent did state the Technology Department is overwhelmed with state reporting, student data as well as general upkeep of programs and equipment. He did suggest the Board consider the possibility of a position; however, such a position would be entirely contingent upon the CPF budget ability to support it. He stated the Technology Director would be presenting a report at the November regular session. The Superintendent informed the Board one issue he is aware of is the response time for support. The Superintendent also wanted to make sure the Board understood there was a position in that department that was vacated and not replaced. He also wanted to make it clear the posting in the packet was simply a sample of what may be posted if funds are available to support it. There was much discussion between the Board regarding compensation and availability of funds related to needs. The Superintendent reiterated this was an informational item only.

Policy Updates – The Superintendent provided updates recommended by Neola. These changes reflect a change in law or just updates as called for by circumstances. These policies will be brought to the Board in November and presented for first reading. The board President asked the members to review and provide input prior to the policy committee meeting set on November 2.

VII. Personnel –

- Resignations
 - Sam Sparks – Bus Driver
 - Carrie Underwood – KIS Guidance Secretary
- Employment
 - Gaylena Hannon – KHS Cafeteria
- ECA
 - KHS
 - Alexa Myers – FAC Sponsor - \$255
 - Athletic

- Cheryl Hammer – Girls 7th Grade Basketball - \$2436
- Samantha Jackson – Girls 8th Grade Basketball - \$2436
- Mel Matlock – Boys 8th Grade Basketball - \$2436
- Eric Nielsen – Asst. Varsity Wrestling - \$3011
- Cynthia Hammer – Girls Varsity Tennis - \$2660
- Darren Haines – Volunteer Boys Basketball

Melissa Toth moved to approve all personnel recommendations as presented. Kevin Knott gave the second and motion carried 6-0.

VIII. Superintendent Report –

The Superintendent presented all reports for the Board. The Corporation Treasurer asked for approval to use \$2500.00 of the Emergency Allocation from CPF. This is to cover an insurance deductible for damages to the tennis courts during a storm. Wade Beatty moved to approve the request with a second by Melissa Toth. Motion carried 6-0.

IX. Other – The Superintendent stated job descriptions have been provided as requested.

X. Public Expression –

- Jim Hope – 120 N. McCullum, Knightstown – Had questions regarding a printing teacher who was paid at top of the scale to be a “hall monitor.” He also had questions about the football coach being paid an annual salary of \$73,000. He asked if these rumors were true. The Board stated this was false information.
- Gerald Leonard, Grant City Road, Knightstown – Quoted from the posting for a Technology Position and stated if it was in fact presented to see the caliber of applicants, he would not be happy if he were such an applicant. The Superintendent stated a real vacancy was available at the time the posting was sent. Mr. Leonard asked which position was open. The Superintendent responded.
- Shirley Heck, Carthage/Kennard Elementary Principal – Wanted to make sure the Board understood how very intricately that technology is integrated within our curriculum. It is very difficult and important that we keep technology working. She wanted to make it clear how important this service was as they weigh the pros and cons for such a position.
- Tyler Roberts, KIS Teacher – Wondered if consideration could be made to create a ‘super user’ in each building to assist with some technology needs. Training would need to take place, but this could be a possible solution to help with some needs.

XI. Board Comments

Melissa Toth stated she wanted to make it clear that the discussion regarding technology was in no way a reflection or problems with the current Technology Director. He has been given enormous tasks with limited resources. She wanted to state his willingness to go above and beyond when needed.

Kevin Knott wanted to express his thanks to the Superintendent for his close scrutiny of the budget. He looks forward to more discussion regarding the fiscal impact on the corporation.

Wade Beatty stated Keith Ferrell requested his signature on a document and he felt it would have more impact if each member of the Board signed the document from the Indiana Department of Education which states the requirements for a Highly Qualified Teacher.

XII. Adjournment

With no further business Steve Dalton moved to adjourn at 8:29 pm.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBER