

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a Reorganization Meeting to order at 9:00 am. 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, Mark Fort, Kevin Knott, Leah Kopp, Melissa Toth, Timothy Wehr
  - **Central Office Staff:** Gary Storie, Superintendent; Jena Schmidt, Administrative Assistant
  - **Board Counsel:** Seamus Boyce
  - **Media:** Knightstown Banner, New Castle Courier Times
  - **Patrons:** Approximately 12 patrons
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- Call to Order – Timothy Wehr called the meeting to order at 9:00 am followed by the Pledge to the American Flag and a moment of silence. He then stated he had an agenda for the scheduled Special Meeting on July 13, 2011 as well as the agenda notes for that meeting. He did not have an agenda for the current meeting which was called by the Superintendent. He asked for comments.
    - Mark Fort stated he believed the meeting being held was illegal. He went on to say he was not personally called, nor was Steve Dalton to ask if they were available. He also stated his understanding was that a personal hand-delivery of the notice should have occurred for all members. Board Counsel clarified the statute stating mail is not defined. He also said this would not be a Public Access Counselor issue it would be a corporation issue. Mark Fort then went on to say he did not care who was the President, that is minor, he felt the Board should “do the right thing.” He also went on to clarify his understanding of the legal process for delivery of meeting notices.
    - Timothy Wehr stated this was the third attempt for the reorganization meeting. The first attempt was scheduled at the last Regular Session; however three members later identified conflicts with the meeting so the Board President cancelled that Special Session. A second attempt was scheduled and a quorum was not present to conduct business. Timothy Wehr wanted it known that he and Mark Fort were in attendance both the 13<sup>th</sup> and today.
    - Kevin Knott attempted to comment and Timothy Wehr stated comments were closed.
- II. Board Reorganization – the first order of business was the election of Officers.
- President
    - The office of President was opened for nominations. Mark Fort nominated Leah Kopp for President, there was not a second, therefore nomination failed. Kevin Knott nominated Wade Beatty with a second from Leah Kopp. Nominations were closed and roll call vote was taken. Wade Beatty was elected President 4-1-1 with Mark Fort voting for Leah Kopp and

Timothy Wehr abstaining. The meeting was turned over to newly elected President Wade Beatty.

- Vice President
  - Nominations for Vice President were opened. Leah Kopp nominated Melissa Toth with a second from Wade Beatty. Timothy Wehr nominated Leah Kopp, she declined the nomination. Nominations were then closed. A roll call vote was taken and Melissa Toth was elected Vice President 4-2 with Mark Fort and Timothy Wehr casting the negative votes.
  - Nominations for Secretary were opened. Kevin Knott nominated Leah Kopp with a second from Melissa Toth. Timothy Wehr nominated Mark Fort with a second from Mark Fort. Nominations were then closed and roll call vote was taken. Leah Kopp was elected Secretary 4-2 with Mark Fort and Timothy Wehr casting their votes for Mark Fort.
- Appoint Corporation Treasurer – Board President stated according to corporation by-laws next on the agenda was the appointment of the Corporation Treasurer. The Superintendent recommended retaining Michelle Swift as corporation Treasurer. Timothy Wehr moved to approve the recommendation as presented with a second by Mark Fort. Roll call vote was taken and the motion failed 2-4 with Wade Beatty, Kevin Knott, Leah Kopp, and Melissa Toth casting negative votes. Board Counsel stated the current treasurer would remain in the position until replaced.
- Approve Date, Time, & Place of Regular Session Meetings – Wade Beatty moved to keep with current schedule of holding Regular Session Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm and held in the Knightstown High School Media Center. Mark Fort seconded the motion. With no further discussion, motion carried 6-0.
- Ratification of Policies and By-Laws - Wade Beatty moved to accept the existing Policies and By-laws from the corporation. Kevin Knott seconded the motion. After some clarification these were the policies developed with the assistance of Neola, motion carried 6-0.
- Ratification for Authorization for Board President to set committees as needed – Wade Beatty stated, according to by-laws this ratification was necessary. After some discussion Melissa Toth moved to give Board President authorization to give the Superintendent authority to designate committees as needed over the next twelve months. Leah Kopp gave the second and with no further discussion, motion carried 6-0. The Board President then asked any member who desired to serve on a committee to contact the Superintendent.
- Legal Counsel – Wade Beatty moved to appoint Church Church Hittle & Antrim as legal counsel for the Board. Timothy Wehr gave the second and motion carried 6-0.
- Legislative Liaison – Wade Beatty moved to keep Timothy Wehr as Legislative Liaison for the upcoming year. He has served in this capacity for the past three years. Mark Fort seconded the motion. With no further discussion motion carried 6-0.

- Vocational Board – The Board President stated since our corporation belongs to a cooperative, it is necessary to appoint a Board Member to this governing Board as they have a vote during meetings held throughout the year. Melissa Toth moved to recommend Leah Kopp to this position, Wade Beatty gave the second. Tim Wehr nominated Mark Fort and Fort seconded. Motion carried 4-2 with Mark Fort and Timothy Wehr casting their votes for Mark Fort.
- Set Stipend for Board Members – Timothy Wehr moved to keep the current stipend at \$2000. Kevin Knott gave the second and motion carried 6-0.
- Establish Board Committees – The Superintendent stated he would recommend continuing with a Finance and Policy committee. He asked if any member was interested to please let him know. He also stated a negotiations committee would also need to be established.

### III. Comments –

- Knightstown Banner – Asked for clarification on the statute which states a corporation treasurer must be appointed during reorganization meeting and how that related to the current treasurer continuing until replaced. Does that mean the current treasurer is in place until the next reorganization meeting? Board Counsel stated since the attempt was made, current treasurer would remain until replaced. The Superintendent was asking for more time; however he can make a recommendation if the matter needs to be settled. He also stated he did not want a dispute at a later date. Questions about if this failure to re-appoint the current treasurer also applied to employment with corporation was asked. Board Counsel did not have an answer for that question.
- Dawn Wineman – Asked counsel his opinion on the statement that the current meeting was illegal. She then asked members if they were upset over the 72 hour prior notification. She stated that her belief of this dispute was childish. The Board President then referred to by-laws which state notification practices and his belief the meeting was not illegal. There was more discussion regarding the definition of notification by mail and that ‘mail’ is not defined. Dawn Wineman then stated all must have been notified because there are six members present.
- Tom Crawford - Expressed his opinion as it related to the Treasurer. In the past a temporary treasurer had been appointed until a permanent was ratified. He feels it would be cleaner to appoint a temporary treasurer in this instance and appoint a permanent one at the next Regular Session.
- Jim Hope – Asked if it was proper to go backwards on the agenda and discuss a treasurer since that issue was closed earlier. The Board President stated all discussions were not closed until the meeting was adjourned.
- Dawn Wineman – Asked if the corporation has a treasurer since the recommendation was declined. The Board President stated the current employee remains until replaced.
- Mark Fort – Stated he felt the corporation would be set-back and it was his understanding that the current employee was doing a good job in that position. He then stated he would like to know the reasoning for the negative votes. Wade Beatty clarified he would state his personal opinion and not the opinion as Board President.

He felt because of the relationship between treasurer and the former transportation coordinator; and the current allegations; the treasurer failed to provide the necessary oversight of corporation funds. There was some discussion regarding how transportation claims were handled and who was involved in the processing and approving.

- Kevin Knott – Stated he has read several recent articles in the local media regarding the reorganization meeting of the School Board. He wanted to state the last regular session the Board voted 6-0 on an agreed upon time and date. The President at that time found it necessary to cancel that meeting and schedule another one. He responded to the President stating he was unavailable on July 13. It was his understanding a majority of the board notified the President they were not available on the 13<sup>th</sup>, however a majority was available on the first scheduled meeting on July 1. He also stated he was glad to see six present at this meeting. He asked the Board to move forward and not lose focus on the education of our students.
- Timothy Wehr - Commented and asked if the Board was going to work together to try to not schedule vacations within the time frame reorganization had to occur.
- Mark Fort stated his understanding that a vacation was cut short to allow a fourth vote during this meeting. Kevin Knott responded.
- There was much discussion among the Board regarding the appointment of a Corporation Treasurer and what was required by statute.

IV. Adjournment – With no further business to come before the Board Timothy Wehr moved to adjourn at 10:04 am with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 6-0.

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PRESIDENT

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MEMBER

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VICE PRESIDENT

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MEMBER

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SECRETARY

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