

Board Meeting
May 25, 2007

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called their meeting to order at 12:01pm. The meeting was held at Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Administration Office located at 345 N. Adams Street, Knightstown, IN 46148. Those in attendance were:

- Board Members: Wade Beatty, Debi Ware, Kevin Knott, Leah Kopp, Larry Selvidge, Ron Womack, and Michael Fruth
- Office Staff: Superintendent Dave McGuire, Business Manager David Bundy, Administrative Assistant Jena Schmidt, Treasurer Michelle Swift
- CTA President: Tom Crawford
- Media: Jeff Eakins
- Approximately 7 patrons

I. Organization of the Meeting

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call – all members present

Reports from Business Manager

Mr. Bundy requested permission to advertise bids for milk and fuel for the 2007-2008 school year.

Mr. Bundy then gave a short report informing the board the Corporation will likely need to borrow money until county tax money is received. The County Auditor's office stated it would likely be mid-August before any tax money would be received from the county and state. This will leave the corporation with a shortfall. The Auditor's Office will be delaying the mailing of tax statements to county residents until additional information has been received from the state.

There were a few questions from the board regarding the dollar amount that will be needed. Mr. Bundy stated the Indiana bond bank has a formula that will determine what funds will be needed to meet the needs of the corporation. He also stated the loan will be repaid once state and county tax money has been received.

Debi Ware made the motion to approve the advertisement of bids with a second from Kevin Knott. Motion carried 7-0.

Patrons addressing the Board

Mr. Thomas Crawford – Did not wish to speak at this time.

Mr. Christopher Holland – Mr. Holland thanked the board for providing the opportunity to speak. He read from notes and expressed his frustration at the school board and

corporation administration for their lack of attendance at band and choir events. He mentioned the Summer Blast that to be held on June 19, 2007.

Ms. Cynthia Neal – Ms. Neal expressed her concern of the decision regarding the reduction in force of teachers, on the heels of instituting a raise for the transportation director and food service director. She questioned the hiring of a new administrator. She asked for open discussion and Mr. Fruth stated, this was a time for her to express her opinions, there would be no discussion.

Mr. Jeffery Weiland – Mr. Weiland read a prepared statement regarding his frustration over recent actions of the school board in respect to the Reduction in Force. He stated his support of the board in the past with the building of the new facility and his participation on the planning committee. He stated he is aware of the current state of accountability in the NCLB mandated by the state. He expressed his awareness of the dilemma faced by all corporations by the state officials. He also stated his opinions on the atmosphere at the high school. He believes it is not pleasant. In closing, he asked that other considerations or plans be made instead of cutting the choral department and the gifted/talented program.

At this time Michael Fruth read into the minutes the written notice requesting recommendation on cancellation of the teaching contract of Jan Crouch, dated May 15, 2007 by Dr. David B. McGuire. The written notice is attached. Mr. Fruth mentioned the school board has heard this recommendation during a previous meeting. He then opened the subject for discussion and questions.

Mrs. Leah Kopp stated she was the parent of 5 children and grandparent of 8. She has spent many hours debating this situation. She stated she loves choir, but as a board member she must look at both sides. She stated that a program would not be cut; it would be given a new avenue to exist.

Mr. Kevin Knott then stated that this was one of the most difficult decisions this board of trustees has had to contemplate. The board has been presented with both sides of the issue. Dr. Pavy stated multiple reasons. Mr. Knott stated the school board is here to provide educational services to the children. He also stated, as a member of this board, the responsibility lies to do what is best for the students and to give them an opportunity to strive to be the best they can be.

Mr. Ron Womack then stated that when Dr. McGuire addressed the board, he gave other avenues to consider and we looked at other resources that are available to help in areas to be eliminated. He stated that one of the worse parts of this job to eliminate positions.

Mrs. Debi Ware stated that decisions will need to be made today. She also stated that if funds become available in the future, programs could continue. She also stated again for the public that there are line items and funds that cannot be utilized across the board.

Mr. Larry Selvidge stated the board has a reasonable expectation of continuity. He stated that drama is an extra-curricular activity and choir could also co-exist in the same fashion. He mentioned that drama is not taught in the classroom, however, it is well attended and supported by the entire student body. He stated the choir will just be given a separate avenue for which to flourish. He also stated that mental health services are a source of great concern and he is hopeful a way will be found to give the help to those kids who need it.

Mr. Michael Fruth reminded the patrons this would not be a vote on a particular program, however, the state mandates that certain classes be maintained, and the board must act fiscally responsible. The board has heard a recommendation from the superintendent and also listened to Mr. Crouch during a special session. He also commented that the corporation had the added expense of two attorneys' and a court reporter to hear during the hearing Mr. Crouch announced his plans of retirement.

Mr. Wade Beatty made the motion to accept the recommendation of the superintendent and to accept the Reduction In Force to make sure there are fiscal means available to keep programs in place to meet scholastic needs of the students. Larry Selvidge made the second, with no discussion, motion carried 7-0.

With no further business to come before the board Mr. Knott motioned to adjourn at 12:34pm.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBER