

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called their meeting to order at 7:28 pm. The meeting was held at the Administration Office located at 345 North Adams Street, Knightstown, IN 46148. Those in attendance were:

- Board Members: Michael Fruth, Wade Beatty, Debi Ware, Kevin Knott, Leah Kopp, Larry Selvidge, and Ron Womack
- School Board Attorney: Michael Wallman
- Central Office Staff: Dr. Ray Pavy, Superintendent; David Bundy, Business Manager; Administrative Assistant, Jena Schmidt; Michelle Swift, Treasurer; Payroll/Benefits Clerk, Lori Paul
- School Personnel: Raymond R. Willsey, Susan Leonard, Shirley Heck, Christine Brokamp, Carol Willsey, Julie Anderson, approximately 20 teachers
- CTA President: Thomas Crawford
- Media: Jeff Eakins, Bethany Tabb
- Approximately 35 patrons

**I. Organization of the Meeting**

- A. Call to Order at 7:28 pm
- B. Roll Call – All school board members present
- C. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Board Communication
  - ISBA Fall Conference-October 1-2, 2007. Six members are registered to attend
  - ISBA Regional Meeting-October 11, 2007 – Please contact Central Office if you are planning to attend this session
  - IASP Due Process-November 9, 2007 – time and place to be determined
  - ISBA Current Issues in Special Education – November 16, 2007
  - ISBA Employee Discharge-held statewide

**II. Budget Approval**

All steps have been taken for publication of the proposed budget. A budget hearing for a final approval and adoption will be held in October. After a brief discussion:

- Wade Beatty motioned to approve the 2008-2020 Capital Projects Fund Plan. Debi Ware made the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Kevin Knott motioned to approve the 2008-2017 Bus Replacement Plan. Leah Kopp made the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- Larry Selvidge motioned to approve the 2008 - General Fund, Debt Service, Pre-School Education Fund (form 4) as well as tax rates (form 5). Wade Beatty made the second. After some discussion the motion carried 7-0.

**III. School Improvement Update**

- Susie Leonard, Knightstown Community High School Guidance Counselor, gave a presentation on the updates to the CORE 40 diploma. The board thanked Mrs. Leonard for her time and dedication to the students.

#### **IV. Recognition**

##### **A. Public Recognition**

- ❖ Recognition to Chief of Police, Danny Baker, for his continued willingness to help whenever needed.

##### **B. Student Recognition**

- ❖ Diana Trautmann and Jamie Beatty as the first recipients of the Knightstown High School ACE award. (Academic Champion for Excellence)
- ❖ All CAB students for a wonderful start to the 2007-2008 school year.

##### **C. Staff Recognition**

- ❖ Thank you to Carol Robertson & Beverly Brammer for taking time to train on new software.
- ❖ Thank you to Bruce Sowers for getting computers ready for training.
- ❖ All Faculty & Staff of CAB for a great start to the school year and for exhibiting professionalism and dedication to all students.

#### **V. Consent Agenda Items**

- Debi Ware made the motion to accept August 21, 2007 and September 4, 2007 minutes as presented. Ron Womack made the second. Motion carried 7-0.
- Kevin Knott gave the financial report on behalf of the Finance Committee. Kevin Knott then motioned to approve the claims as presented with a second by Wade Beatty and the motion carried 7-0.

#### **Personnel Items**

- Resignation of Anthony Hamilton as Technology Assistant and Courier effective September 21, 2007.
- Employ Jason Groce as Technology Assistant and Courier effective September 24, 2007 at an hourly rate of pay of \$10.00. This position is full-time with optional benefits.
- Employ Lori Paul as Payroll/Benefits Clerk effective September 6, 2007 at an hourly rate of \$12.00. This is a full-time position with benefits.
- Employ Timothy Edwards as head custodian at Knightstown Intermediate School at an hourly rate of \$12.12. This is a full-time position with benefits.
- Employ Carol Willsey as Title I Aide at Kennard Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$7.70.
- Employ Lisa Byrd at a temporary Title I Aide at Carthage Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$7.70.
- ECA-
  - Approve Karen Trent as a National Honor Society Sponsor and remove Angela Plank
  - Approve Robert Prescott and Daryl Keesling as KHS Senior Class Sponsors
  - Approve Mark Rozzell and Judy Neal as Carthage Elementary School History Club sponsors.

Wade Beatty motioned to accept all personnel items as presented with a second by Debi Ware. The motion carried 7-0.

**VI. Reports of Superintendent and Business Manager**

Dr. Pavy informed the board that the budgets will be published as required prior to the October meeting with the Department of Local Government and Finance. The budget will be published in the Rushville Republican, The Courier-Times, and Knightstown Banner. There were no other reports given.

Kevin Knott asked for an ADM update. Dr. Ray Pavy stated there may be a few conflicts to clear with other schools but at this time we believe to have an increase of approximately 24 students. He also informed the board that the corporation has two weeks to solve all conflicts prior to final submission.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

A report was provided by David Bradford regarding their questions from the previous board meeting. The question was asked as to the next steps towards repairing/replacing the track for the 2009 season. The Business Manager informed the board that sports facility money is limited by statute. This will need to be researched and money will need to be appropriated. He also informed the board that borrowing money for this activity will be very difficult. This may need to wait a few months for action, due to the fact that tax money has not been received from either Henry or Rush counties.

**VIII. New Business**

There was no new business to come before the board.

**IX. Board Policy**

There were no board policies to come before the board.

**X. Public Comments**

- Wade Beatty motioned to suspend the 20 minute time limit due to the many requests to speak. Each patron will be given up to 5 minutes. Kevin Knott made the second to the motion.
- Judy & Thomas Haase, PO Box 65, Knightstown, IN. Thomas Haase addressed the board stating he has been in business in the area since 1959. He is concerned about local businesses going out of business. He asks the board to rethink the issue of leaving Leakey Agency and going with an agency in New Castle. He stated he understands that you rely heavily on the agent. He commented that Mr. Leakey has been very good to the school and this community. He also expressed his disappointment at the abrupt close of the August meeting. Judy Haase declined to speak.
- Al & Joyce Kinnaman were not in attendance to speak.
- Robert & Janet Hahn were not in attendance to speak.
- Dawn Wineman, 7410 W. 750 S., Knightstown, IN addressed the board. Dawn Wineman had a question regarding the visitation policy that went into effect on September 1, 2007. She wanted clarification that the school board members could enter a school and classroom at any time after first checking in the office. This policy was confirmed by Wade Beatty. Her

next concern was the lack of air conditioning in the elementary school buildings. She stated several reasons and asked if a plan was in place and a goal in mind. Michael Fruth explained that companies have been in each building to compile their projections. It is not as simple as installing air conditioning, many factors must be addressed.

- James Maxwell, 9564 W. 750 S., Knightstown, IN addressed the board. James Maxwell stated his displeasure with the requirement of advanced notice given to address the school board at a regular meeting. He said the school corporation is the largest business in the community and the public is the largest stock holder. Michael Fruth informed him that after some research, many area schools have a similar policy that requires advance notice to speak at a public meeting.
- Tom Crawford, Classroom Teacher Association President addressed the board. He stated the need for a social worker at the elementary level. He stated the loss of a Gifted/Talented teacher, Business teacher, Choir teacher, mental health worker and an Elementary Social Worker with the recent reduction in Force, has created a hardship. Michael Fruth stated the board would like to provide assistance. We understand the current demands placed on the current staff. The budget continues to be strained and not all monies has been received in a timely manner. Michael Fruth would like to state on record, the board wants to provide assistance.
- Julie Anderson, Knightstown Intermediate School Guidance Counselor addressed the board. Julie Anderson expressed her concern with the lack of help at the Intermediate level. Students are in crisis, teachers are asked to go above and beyond, as well the parents being at crisis and needing help with their students. She asked to please re-think priorities when dealing with the budget and the need for a social worker at the elementary level. Kevin Knott asked if Julie Anderson could gather data on the types of issues currently faced.
- Susie Leonard, Knightstown High School Guidance Counselor addressed the board. Susie Leonard expressed her appreciation for what the school board accomplishes. She stated numbers could be compiled however a guidance counselor talks to the heart. She stated some changes have been for the good and some for the bad. Our students deal with multiple issues, from sex, violence, abuse, and the state mandates we must meet for graduation. In a family there are times when one parent carries more of a burden; however our elementary teachers are stretched too thin. Counseling and social work are not curricular subjects. However they are part of the support group and just as necessary in helping with teaching/coping skills. Part of being in a school family is helping students no matter what their problems whether academic or social. We need to be proactive rather than reactive to prepare our children for their future at KIS & KHS. Kevin Knott asked if data could be compiled. Ray Pavy stated Administrators could be asked the question, but unsure of anyone who could compile the data.
- Robert Myers, 641 N. Washington Street, Knightstown, IN addressed the board. He stated his opposition to the public being required to give 5 days' notice to speak at a public meeting. He stated he is a past superintendent and there was never a policy to that effect in the past. I do not approve of an advance policy to speak at an open meeting. He also shared his congratulations to all the people in attendance.
- Eric Cox, publisher of The Knightstown Banner did not give his resident address. He stated he was a resident of Kennard and taxpayer and was speaking as such and not as publisher of The

Banner. He also expressed his opinion that respect should be given both ways. He felt the board owed the public a chance to speak at open board meetings. They have a right to address their concerns to the board.

- Jeff Eakins – Editor of The Knightstown Banner, 24 N. Washington Street, Knightstown, IN. He wished to commend the board over the last school year on their willingness to provide records to the Banner. He encouraged the board to familiarize themselves with the open door law and executive session laws and to look at the statutes regarding public records. Over two years ago we asked questions of the board, the answers provided were redacted. We hope this board will rethink their decision to redact the information and provide a complete un-redacted copy of the memos. Michael Fruth stated the school board posted to discuss confidential records, but due to questions raised by The Banner, the board did not discuss any records during executive session. The only item discussed was pending litigation. Michael Fruth also asked that we seek Mr. Wallman’s opinion on what records to release to the Banner. Michael Wallman stated the administrative staff fully intends to comply with all laws. He will provide the board an explanation of confidential records. Jeff Eakins again spoke and encouraged every member of school board to look at an un-redacted copy of the four records.
- Heather & Jason Koehler, 5030 W. 900 N., Carthage, IN addressed the board. Heather stated that Dawn Wineman expressed most of her concerns. Her concern was the amount set aside for air conditioning. She stated that this was not a realistic goal. The climate is not going to get better. She would like to know where are we and where are we going to be in five years. As a second concern, she stated there is no fencing between the Knightstown Elementary building and State Road 109. She asked if there was a plan to fence this area in. Michael Fruth stated the goal of the board is to provide air conditioning to each elementary school. The board is actively working toward that goal and as more money becomes available in the future we will be willing to address this concern.
- Anthony Hibbert, 8631 W. 650 S., Knightstown, IN addressed the board. He expressed his thanks for the opportunity to speak. He read letter that was provided to the board regarding the track and its need for repair. He stated that on a personal note, he has goals and would like to accomplish those goals in track competition. He also provided the board with signatures of those concerned about losing the ability to have a home track season due to the condition of the current track at Knightstown Intermediate School.
- Dawn Wineman began to speak a second time. She stated that the people are taking time from their busy schedules and she asked for answers to their questions. Please provide us answers and do not defer us to the next meeting. Wade Beatty pulled a policy to answer her question. Michael Fruth stated the policies have a reason for being put in place.
- Michael Fruth thanked all patrons for the comments this evening.

## **XI. Items from Board Members**

- ✓ Kevin Knott responded to the Public speaking policy. He has personally gotten several calls on this issue. He stated it is his responsibility to be here as long as it takes. He also informed the public that he did some research and checked on other area school policies on public speaking. Four school corporations require a certain number of days notice to speak. He also informed them that our policy allows each patron 5 minutes, and others only allow 3 minutes.

Other corporations also require the statement to be given must be provided to the superintendent's office in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

- ✓ Leah Kopp informed the public that is not a new policy. A requirement to sign up prior to the board meeting was in the previous policy manual.
- ✓ Larry Selvidge expressed his appreciation to those that came to speak. He also commented on two things brought up by Eric Cox. He mentioned his phone number is not published; however, it is listed on the CAB web-site for anyone wishing to contact him. He also stated his desire to get air conditioning addressed. He not only has a son in elementary school, but a wife working in the building as well.

**XII. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the board Debi Ware motioned to adjourn at 9:20 pm.

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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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MEMBER

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MEMBER