

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called their regular session to order at 7:09 pm. The meeting was held at the Knightstown Community High School located at 8149 W. US 40, Knightstown, IN 46148. Those in attendance were:

Attendance:

- Board Members: Wade Beatty, Steve Dalton, Mark Fort, Leah Kopp, Kevin Knott, Thomas Schaetzle, and Timothy Wehr
- Central Office Staff: Gary Storie, Superintendent; Jena Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Michelle Swift, Corporation Treasurer; Lori Swincher, Payroll Benefits Coordinator
- Building Principal: Scott Ritchie
- Classroom Teachers Association President: Tom Crawford
- Media: Jeff Eakins, Bethany Tabb
- Patrons: Approximately 75 patrons

I. Call to Order

Roll call was taken and all members were present. Kevin Knott requested all in attendance to stand for the Pledge to the American Flag followed by a moment of silence.

II. Minutes

The minutes of:

March 10 – Observe the Building Corporation Meeting

March 17 – Regular Session

March 23 – Strategic Planning

April 8 – Strategic Planning

The above minutes were presented to the board. Leah Kopp moved to approve minutes as presented with typographical corrections noted. Tim Wehr made the second, motion carried 7-0.

III. Claims

Wade Beatty reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. He moved to approve claims as presented in the amount of \$939,104.57. Leah Kopp gave the second. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Public Expression

- Keith Ferrell – 2925 S. 400 W., New Castle, IN – Asked the Board their intentions regarding Kennard Elementary School. He expressed his views regarding the possible closing and wondered where the money goes. He also stated his displeasure that Kennard Elementary does not have representation on the current Board. The two members from Greensboro Township were included in the redistricting in August. Kevin Knott clearly stated no decision has been made regarding Kennard Elementary School. He stated this Board wants to clearly communicate, in an open forum, any issue facing the corporation.
- Richard Riggle – 211 Illinois Street, Shirley, IN – Read a prepared statement and presented a petition to the Board stating the opposition of closing Kennard Elementary School. He stated he does not want this issue to ever come before the Board for discussion.
- Shirley Heck – Carthage/Kennard Elementary School Principal – She made a correlation between Kennard and Carthage Schools to that of a small Charter School. She stated the many benefits this type of atmosphere provides and how it benefits students.

- Dawn Goodman – 9258 W. 234, Shirley, IN – She stated her family moved to the area for the sole purpose of attending Kennard Elementary. She explained her reasons to keep Kennard open and talked about the teachers and staff and how they care about the students.
- Martin Meltzer – 109 N. Main Street, Kennard, IN – Stated his children are graduates of KHS. He expressed the nicest thing about Kennard was being able to watch his children go and return from school from his back door. He stated his disappointment when the topic came up. He hates to see the community go down any more than it already has.
- Beth Coy – 202 E. Madison, Kennard, IN – Stood and spoke on behalf of the Kennard Town Board, they are fighting to keep the school open. “Our community needs the building we are currently struggling and don’t know what we would do if the school was gone.” Her daughter attends Franklin College and chose that school because it was small just like Kennard. She is thriving because of the foundation she received at Kennard. The Town Board will do what we can to support the efforts to keep Kennard open.
- Melissa Markson – 1273 S. SR 234, Kennard, IN – Stated her desire to move from IPS schools. While searching, found Kennard. Her desire is for her child to attend Kennard Elementary School She has become involved in the school and stated she understands the money issue, but “I don’t understand why so much money is being spent on things that don’t matter. Education is important.”
- Michael Bourdeau – 206 E. Jefferson Street, Knightstown, IN – Asked the Board for their time frame for making a decision regarding the closing of a school. Kevin Knott stated “as of now we do not have a timeframe.” He said the Board is in the beginning discussion stage and as discussion progresses, answers will be made during public sessions.
- Linda Skeel - 106 N. Main, Kennard, IN – Stated her grandson disliked his school at Lawrence and she did not want him to experience the same difficulty her son did in that same school system. She said her grandson has made a complete “turn-around.” The small school has been able to make him love school again and “I don’t find that in bigger schools. I think it would be a tremendous loss to lose that type of atmosphere.”
- Joyce Vickery - 1757 S. 400 W., New Castle, IN – “I have had children in Kennard since they opened. My children attended there, my grandchildren are going to that school. They need the feeling of a small school setting where people know them and care about them. I don’t want them to get lost.”
- Julie Snyder - Clerk-Treasurer of Kennard – Asked if reasons other than finances were the factors in closing the Kennard School. Kevin Knott stated the Superintendent will give a presentation to explain the questions.
- Tina Klare - 100 N. First St., Kennard, IN – Stated her appreciation to the teachers and students. She wanted special thanks given to Mrs. Heck and Mrs. Robertson. “They know my voice and that is an awesome feeling.” She would hate to see the special services given to her child be lost.
- Jeff Johnson – 11 N. Main, Kennard, IN – Told of his experience of participating in being the principal for the day. He said the staff has an incredible love for the students and their jobs. He asked for a round of applause for the staff. He went on to state “I understand money. . . please this affects people.”
- Jessica Riggle - 211 Illinois St, Shirley, IN – She stated she would not want to see our numbers turn our children into numbers. Her family utilized the school choice option so her child could attend Kennard.
- Amy Cupp - 1724 S. 400 W., New Castle, IN – Said she herself attended Kennard; she does not want to see the school closed. She asked if other options had been discussed, such as closing and selling KHS and fixing the other buildings.
- Kevin Vickery - 116 S. Main Street, Owner of Goods Candy – He stated he did not have children in the school; however his staff has children and grandchildren attending Kennard. He believes losing the school would be a blow to the community. “If it is about money and finances, if I can make it work, you can.”

- Emily McCorkle - 7837 S. 975 W., Knightstown, IN – She is a Kindergarten teacher at Kennard Elementary. She asked if the Board had any discussion regarding Full-Day Kindergarten. She presented a compilation of area schools and stated other than Shenandoah; CAB is the only corporation in the area that does not offer this program. She expressed her concern and asked discussion, to get this in place, could be considered. She would like to see CAB get “caught up with those other schools around us.”
- Tracey McDaniel - 7654 W. County Line Road, Knightstown, IN – She also stated her desire to get Full-Day Kindergarten in place. She has a child in pre-school, and is concerned. She believes he needs consistency that an all day option can provide.
- Jr. Doubman - 102 Plum Street, Kennard, IN – Expressed his opinion - the elementary school is where kids get a start to move them on their way. “What you teach in the elementary will take over once you get in the upper grades. I was proud of all mine and I appeal to the Board and especially our representatives to find other ways.”
- Virginia Peters - 110 S. Main Street, Kennard, IN – “A building no matter how big it is doesn’t mean anything. It is the teachers that is the backbone of the school.”

V. Old Business

- Energy Savings Contract Vendors (RFQ vendors) – The Superintendent stated the Board previously passed a resolution to seek qualifications for providing an energy savings contract. He explained the process to receive these qualifications. The Corporation received two proposals shared during the Finance Committee Meeting. He recommended the Board approve the contract submitted by Performance Services. He went on to state the Board is under no obligation to pay Performance Services until they decide to move forward with a project. After some discussion among the members, Wade Beatty moved to approve the resolution for Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract with Performance Services. Leah Kopp gave the second, motion carried 7-0.
- Refunding of 2001 Bonds – The Superintendent stated this has been on the table for some time. The KHS Building Corporation has been meeting. There are three resolutions needing approval. Exhibit A – Resolution reapproving Building Corporation, Exhibit B – Resolution approving form of second amendment to Lease, and Exhibit C – Resolution approving continuing disclosure undertaking. These will generate approximately \$800,000 of savings and make approximately 1.2 million available to the Board for improvements to Knightstown Community High School and Knightstown Intermediate School. After some discussion, Steve Dalton moved to approve all resolutions and approval to advertise a Lease Hearing. Timothy Wehr gave the second, motion carried 7-0.
- Facilities Planning – The Superintendent stated the Board is far from any decision pertaining to the closing of a school. He gave a presentation explaining some of the rationale behind his presentation on facilities planning and the logic from the state on down. The Superintendent recommended moving forward and pursuing the possibility of closing Kennard Elementary. He also stated a town hall meeting would be needed before any final decision is made. Mark Fort stated his desire to look at all options and hear everybody. Steve Dalton said the decision is a difficult one. The Board has the utmost respect for Kennard Elementary School and staff. He also said the Board has to make decisions, not only about 80 students, but about all 1350 students, corporation wide. “The gravity of this is immense and we do not take it lightly. We have downsized by six support staff positions in the amount of over \$225,000.” He also expressed his appreciation to the Superintendent for bringing this to the table. Thomas Schaetzle asked if consultants have been considered. It is his opinion a professional would be able to identify options, as they have experience with this kind of decision. The consultant would drive an

interaction with the public. He believes the small investment would be well worth the expense to ensure the right decision is reached. He also stated other options are available to the building and “change is good.” Tom Mandon, Educational Services, stated the Board has been clear regarding their intent to remain transparent in all decisions. He stated their company would assure the community will have their say. Kevin Knott said this issue is not easy to contemplate or even discuss. He questioned the Superintendent’s presentation. The Superintendent went in further detail of the savings and expenses associated with the closing of Kennard Elementary. Steve Dalton explained school finances are unlike any other. Money cannot be taken from one fund and used in another. Kevin Knott asked the Board to provide guidance to the Superintendent on a direction to proceed. Mark Fort reiterated he wanted to look at all options with hard figures and then talk to the people. The Superintendent stated if the Board wanted to impact anything for next year, a decision would need to be reached by the end of June. Thomas Schaetzle again asked if it would be worth a small investment of \$10,000 to make sure the Board reaches the right decision. He asked if anyone on the Board had been through a decision like this before. An outside consultant would conduct meetings and do the research. He would approve a consultant to assist the Board in making the most important decision they would need to make. Kevin Knott asked if the issue should be tabled until a sample could be provided to the Board from a consultant. Timothy Wehr stated his desire to see the right decision made. “I don’t want to make a mistake that will affect community members.” Leah Kopp stated her experience in the closing of a school (Indiana Soldiers & Sailors Children’s Home). “I have lived it. I want to make sure we make the right decision.” Wade Beatty stated the Board cannot afford to make a mistake. Kevin Knott proposed Educational Services provide a sample study from a school of similar size and demographics. Tom Mandon stated his company can provide a sample that would not exactly mirror the same scenario, but would show the process clearly. Kevin Knott moved to table the discussion until April 29, 2009. Wade Beatty gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

- Kevin Knott moved to hold the Special Session-Strategic Planning meeting at Knightstown High School beginning at 6:00 pm on April 29. Leah Kopp gave the second and the motion carried 7-0.

VI. New Business

- The Superintendent stated the need to table the disposal of school computers until May. Bruce Sowers, Technology Director will be in attendance next month.
- Fuel bids – The Superintendent asked for discussion and for the Board to begin thinking about and provide direction on how to proceed. Wade Beatty stated the corporation could ask for multiple bid types. The advertisement would need to specify those types. He also explained some of the fuel prices and markets at this time. He went on to say this is the first time in seven years that fixed prices have not been the best choice for corporations. Steve Dalton moved to permit the Superintendent move forward in advertisement of bids with a second by Leah Kopp. Motion carried 7-0.
- Special Education Program – The Superintendent stated the corporation currently has 299 students receiving services from New Castle Co-op. The cost to the Corporation for this program is approximately \$903,344. The Superintendent stated he had attended a Special Education Board meeting earlier today. He said he may have the School Board consider giving notice to the cooperative at next month’s regular session. There may be some potential savings as well as the corporation gaining more control of the services provided to our students. Kevin Knott asked

the Superintendent to provide the School Board some data on how those services would be given to our students.

- Field Trips – FFA to Purdue University for a Leadership Conference and 8th Grade Students to Washington DC and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Kevin Knott moved to approve both field trips with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.
- Wade Beatty asked about the previously approved trip to Mexico. He stated the State Department is recommending no travel to Mexico because of military outbreaks. The Superintendent stated the field trip is scheduled for June and the corporation will require some assurances and be diligent to make sure we do not put any student at risk.

VII. Personnel

- Retirements –
 - Judy Sadler – Grade Two teacher at Carthage Elementary School
 - Karen Sue Moore – Cook at Knightstown Community High School
 - Sandra Thompson – Cook at Knightstown Community High SchoolWade Beatty moved to approve the retirements with the sincere gratitude from the corporation and the Board for their service. Mark Fort gave the second, motion carried 7-0.
- Resignations – The Superintendent informed the board of the following resignations:
 - David Bundy, Business Manager effective April 17, 2009
 - Larry White from grounds and athletic field responsibilities only.
- Central Office Assistant – The Superintendent recommended the approval to create a Central Office Assistant position in place of replacing the Business Manager. He did state, he in no way, wanted to diminish the asset David Bundy provided to this corporation. The central office assistant would be an 11 month full-time support staff position at the rate of \$12.54 per hour. He also stated no benefits would be offered during the first 90 days. Timothy Wehr moved to approve the creation of this position and eliminate the position of Business Manager. Thomas Schaezle gave the second and the motion carried 7-0.
- The Superintendent recommended approval to hire Phyllis Haines for the Central Office Assistant position. Wade Beatty moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Timothy Wehr. Motion carried 6-1 with Kevin Knott casting the negative vote.

VIII. Superintendent Reports

- Superintendent Finance Report – was presented and the Superintendent stated approval for the Common School Loan Fund had been received. There was some discussion.
- Update presented on the Strategic Planning – A draft vision and mission statements were presented. Thomas Schaezle asked members to bring recommended changes to the next Strategic Planning Session.
- The Superintendent explained the Indiana State Superintendent has stated this would be the last year an application to waive student days due to inclement weather can be submitted. The corporation has requested a two day waiver for all students and an additional two day waiver for seniors. These would keep seniors from returning to school after commencement ceremony.
- Legal Services – The Superintendent recommended approval on the contract to retain David Day and his firm for the corporation's legal counsel at a monthly retainer of \$500 a month. Thomas Schaezle moved to approve the recommendation with a second from Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.

- The Superintendent also addressed his intention to offer full day kindergarten. The Corporation is awaiting word from the state regarding funding. At this point, a shortfall of a teacher and a half would be the corporation's expense. We could explore the possibility of tuition.

IX. Other

There was no other business to come before the board.

X. Public Expression

- Rodney Schmidt - 5321 S. Westwood Drive, Knightstown, IN – Encouraged the board to seek the professional consultation. He stated on an annual basis, the potential savings would be greater than twenty times what the consultant is charging.
- Tracy Back - 106 Martindale Street, Kennard, IN – Stated her son attends Kennard and is currently riding a full bus. She also stated her son has received a transplant and does not want him to get lost in the shuffle. He is well known at Kennard and they can alert her to any changes in his health, she wants to ensure that continues.
- Marissa Groce - 201 S. Vine Street, Kennard, IN – She asks the board give this decision some serious thought. This will affect the lives of many children. Even though children adapt, for the community, she asks other options be explored. She also asked all schools be given the same consideration. “I think it is unfair that your recommendation was to close Kennard and not all schools.” Kevin Knott stated it is a concern of the Board to have a consultant with lots of experience. He also wanted to state the Board will leave this meeting with no decision regarding the closing of any school. The Board wishes to maximize and receive all information possible.
- Jr. Doubman - 102 W. Plum Street, Kennard, IN – His displeasure with the presentation was the fact that only Kennard was considered as an option. He asked what the savings would be with other schools.
- Gerald Leonard - 6675 S. Grant City Road, Knightstown, IN – Regarding the Facilities Strategic Planning sessions, it is his opinion the impact you will place on the students and community on a decision like this, should take more than two months to have that plan in place. The Superintendent stated preparation is necessary to prepare before any financial hardships hit.
- Richard Riggle - 211 Illinois Street, Shirley, IN – Asked questions surrounding the energy savings contract and amount of money spent on this contract. The Superintendent explained the process and that payback would be received within a year.
- Roger Roberts - 2586 S. 625 W., New Castle, IN – Stated he has children at Kennard Elementary and he also attended Kennard Elementary. He said he found it hard to believe this was the first time the idea to close this school was thought of. He said he understands this may be the first public discussion, but it cannot be the first time this option has been discussed. He also stated the closing will kill Kennard and also affect the entire CAB school system. Kevin Knott stated this is an issue for the corporation and not for one particular community or school.
- Peter O'Donoghue - 1273 S. SR 234, Kennard, IN – Stated his teenage home was the Boy's school. He wishes to give his children opportunities he did not receive. He believes if the school is left it will be bull-dozed. He does not want the board to assume the students will attend Knightstown Elementary “we live in a free society, we will move to other areas.”
- Rudi Hanna - 1942 S. 500 W., Kennard, IN – Stated she is a foster parent and asked if the board could look into possible energy savings for Kennard. She does not want to move her family anywhere else. The staff at Kennard has always been supportive for her special needs students. “You will be taking the individualized feeling; community and small town feel from Kennard.”
- Kelly Frost - 111 First Street, Shirley, IN – Asked if Knightstown Elementary was big enough to accommodate the students from Kennard. She also asked why Kennard was singled out. The Superintendent stated Knightstown had plenty of classrooms and the possibility to close a school was mentioned during the March Regular Session. Thomas Schaetzle stated the Superintendent had brought

this to the table a couple of times and the Board requested numbers and other options. Many questions need answered before decisions are made. He also said nothing will be done behind closed doors; all decisions will be done in the public. He encouraged all to attend the meetings, as that is the time important discussions are held.

- Tina Klare - 100 N. First St., Kennard, IN – Stated she is consistently told out in the community that Kennard is closing. Steve Dalton stated this subject has been talked about for years, however, tonight “is the first time a School Board has seriously considered this.” Mark Fort informed her he had not seen any numbers before tonight. He also stated he would look at all the options.
- Debbie Duke - 520 N. First, Kennard, IN – Commented on her frustration about the government bailing out big companies, but neglecting our schools. She said “these kids are the ones who will be running our country. I don’t understand.”
- Richard Riggle - 211 Illinois Street, Shirley, IN – Asked about the feasibility of holding a special vote and letting the tax payers decide how to best save money. Timothy Wehr suggested the possibility of moving students back to elementary buildings and closing Knightstown Intermediate School. He wants to see figures and make sure all options are looked at.
- Jason Groce - 201 S. Vine Street, Kennard, IN – Asked the Board if a future option presented would focus on ways to keep Kennard open or will all options focus on closing other schools. He also wondered if percentages had been considered to see if Kennard and Knightstown merged, would it be enough to get Title I funds in that building. The Superintendent stated the school would qualify for those funds. Jason Groce then stated his concern regarding the one on one services Title I students receive. He would be willing to pay more and ensure those services remain intact. Kevin Knott expressed again his view to make the right decision and look at several options. Wade Beatty stated clearly that “as of tonight every school is open. There will be a study that will tell us what we should do.”

XI. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Wade Beatty moved to adjourn at 10:36 pm.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBER