

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called their regular session to order at 7:01 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, Kevin Knott, Leah Kopp, Thomas Schaeztle, and Timothy Wehr
- Central Office Staff: Gary Storie, Superintendent; David Bundy, Business Manager; Jena Schmidt, Human Resource Specialist; Michelle Swift, Treasurer; Bruce Sowers, Technology Director
- Classroom Teachers Association President: Tom Crawford
- Media: Jeff Eakins, Bethany Tabb
- Patrons: Approximately 16 patrons

I. Call to Order

Kevin Knott called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and asked for roll call. He then led the pledge to the American Flag followed by a moment of silence.

II. Minutes

The minutes of August 19, 2008 Regular Session and September 2, 2008 Special Session were presented. Leah Kopp moved to approve minutes as presented with a second by Wade Beatty. Motion carried 7-0.

III. Claims

Wade Beatty presented a report on behalf of the Finance Committee. After the report Wade Beatty moved to approve the claims that totaled \$937,431.47. Mark Fort gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

IV. Commendations/Recognitions

Five high school students were recognized for their willingness to volunteer for child care during the Carthage Elementary School Parent Orientation Night. Christine Brokamp also recognized Knightstown Alumni Association for their generosity in supplying software for ISTEP preparation.

V. Public Expression

There were no patrons who expressed their desire to speak.

VI. Old Business

Mileage Reimbursement Policy (First Reading) – The Superintendent presented the policy and recommended approval on first reading. After a brief discussion, Wade Beatty moved to accept the policy as presented as a first reading. Leah Kopp made the second and motion carried 7-0.

Cell Phone Policy (First Reading) – The Superintendent presented the policy for approval on first reading. He stated the policy was discussed with the Classroom Teachers Association. He also stated he would like to delete the phrase ‘privately owned’ on page two. The corporation will no longer provide cell phones to employees; however, the Superintendent is recommending approval for a stipend to be paid for personnel approved by the superintendent. The Superintendent will determine the amount of the stipend up to \$30 per month. Kevin Knott requested discussion from the board regarding this policy. After a lengthy discussion, Thomas Schaetzle moved to accept policy as written with the noted change on first reading. Steve Dalton made the second motion carried 5-2 with Timothy Wehr and Mark Fort casting the negative votes.

Purchasing Policy (First Reading) – The Superintendent stated this policy would cover extra services such as professional or technical services that would render services for more than 90 days and require a fee more than 90 days. He also stated he used the current policy on Purchasing and developed language to cover contract services as the board directed. He also confirmed, by law, a majority of the board is required to pass any service contract. The Administration Office currently has a procedure in place requiring approval from building administrator, and Business Manager prior to any purchase. After some discussion, Steve Dalton moved to accept the policy as written on first reading. Mark Fort gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

Open Enrollment Policy (Second Reading) – The Superintendent presented a brief explanation of the policy. Prior to the start of school, parents may request their student attend an elementary school outside their boundary. There are requirements on the part of the parents should the request be approved. As a result of discussion with the Classroom Teacher Association, they request the limit of 24 students be lowered to 22. Kevin Knott also clarified initial enrollment would be 20 prior to August 1 and 22 after August 1. Kevin Knott moved to accept as presented with changes noted. Leah Kopp gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

KHS ECA/Food Service Director (Tabled from August) – The Superintendent stated his recommendation remains the same, the Food Service Director and KHS ECA positions be combined. Steve Dalton asked about a severance package. The superintendent suggested 25-30 days. Thomas Schaetzle asked if there were any new developments that might affect the recommendation. The superintendent stated no, it is not his desire for an employee to lose their position, however this is a necessary move. He also stated no other positions are available at this time. Mark Fort moved to accept the recommendation. Thomas Schaetzle gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

VII. New Business

Kevin Knott, at this point, opened the floor to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments from the patrons on approval of additional appropriations. He stated the corporation has requested additional appropriations in the amount of \$250,000 to be added to the general fund. The Superintendent stated the corporation does not currently have appropriations pay the bills. He also clarified the corporation is not asking for more money, just the authority to spend it. There were no comments from the public. Kevin Knott stated the taxpayers were given ample opportunity to speak, and then respectfully closed the public hearing. The Superintendent requested the board adopt the additional

appropriation in the amount of \$250,000. Mark Fort moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Timothy Wehr gave the second. The superintendent clarified this would be for 2008. Motion carried 7-0.

The board proceeded with the adoption of the 2009 Budget and appropriate resolutions. Steve Dalton moved to accept the Proposed 2009 Budget in the amount of \$14,552,499.00 as presented. Wade Beatty gave the second and the motion carried 7-0.

Steve Dalton moved to accept the Resolution to adopt the 2009 Proposed Capital Projects Fund as presented. Leah Kopp gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

Steve Dalton moved to accept the Resolution to adopt the 2009-2021 Bus Replacement Plan as presented. Mark Fort gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

Steve Dalton moved to accept the Resolution to Reduce Budget Line 1, 2 or 11 as presented. A second was given by Wade Beatty and motion carried 7-0.

Sale of Central Office Property – Kevin Knott read a statement of his thoughts regarding the central office property and building. He stated he has had a conversation with the superintendent regarding the feasibility of this action. He also stated he is not recommending burdening the tax payers with another construction project. He would like to explore ways to manage the tax dollars, and ask the community to provide input to the board regarding this issue. Kevin Knott opened the discussion to the board. Thomas Schaetzle asked if a determination of value had been obtained. Steve Dalton stated the corporation is currently spending approximately \$24,000 per year in utilities for the administration building. David Bundy confirmed that is a close estimate and stated most of the expense is for gas heat due to the outdated boiler systems. Steve Dalton asked if a title search had been completed. Gary Storie informed the board nothing had been done regarding this issue. Kevin Knott moved to begin a title search and look into obtaining a report on environmental issues. Mark Fort gave the second. After some discussion the motion was amended to defer to legal counsel regarding environmental issues and limit motion to title search only. Wade Beatty stated fact finding was all that would be necessary at this point. The Superintendent was directed to gather information and bring a report to the regular session in October. After further discussion Kevin Knott withdrew his motion and Mark Fort agreed. Timothy Wehr offered to go to the Henry County Courthouse to do as much research as possible.

Internet Grades – Steve Dalton brought the topic of internet grades to the floor. He has spoken to some constituents who have shown an interest in the capability of internet grades. He also stated this software would allow students and teachers to view grades on their home computer. Kevin Knott expressed some concern regarding an annual fee to keep the program running. Thomas Schaetzle asked if this program would conflict with current negotiations. Wade Beatty stated his desire to hear from our teachers before we spend \$3-4 thousand. Leah Kopp requested before a vote was taken to hear from the Classroom Teacher Association President, Thomas Crawford. Kevin Knott stated he would be heard during the public expression section on the agenda. With no further discussion, Steve Dalton moved to approve the purchase of the internet grade component for STI with a second by Kevin Knott. Motion carried 5-2 with Wade Beatty and Leah Kopp casting the negative votes.

Bond Refunding – Presentation given by Lonnie Therber from Therber & Brock – Lonnie Therber explained the options available to the corporation. The bonds could be refinanced to allow the corporation access to some revenue to put to use. There was a lengthy discussion between Lonnie Therber and the

board. The Superintendent stated he has discussed various options with Lonnie Therber and his associates. Gary Storie reiterated some of Lonnie Therber's comments and encouraged the board to give this option serious consideration. Wade Beatty asked what the recommendation of the superintendent would be. Gary Storie stated he has had more time to digest the information, but it would be his recommendation to move forward, retain the services of Therber & Brock as Financial Advisor and Ice Miller as Bond Counsel. Steve Dalton moved to proceed, establish parameters and hire Financial Advisors. Wade Beatty gave the second and the motion carried 7-0.

After discussion it was decided school legal counsel was also needed as well as representation on the judgment bond against the corporation. Therefore, Wade Beatty moved to hire the school attorney, Mike Wallman, with a second by Leah Kopp. Motion carried 7-0.

VIII. Personnel

The Superintendent recommended approval to accept the resignation of Christianne Masters as temporary grade one teacher at Kennard Elementary School and Susie Bundy as 7th Grade Cheerleading Coach. Leah Kopp moved to accept as presented with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.

The Superintendent recommended approval to hire Tisha Schultz as temporary grade one teacher at Kennard Elementary School. Leah Kopp moved to accept as presented with a second by Steve Dalton. Motion carried 7-0.

The Superintendent recommended approval for the following ECA appointments.

- Mark Rozzell – Carthage Elementary Historical Club Sponsor - \$99.00
- Karla Willis – Kennard Elementary Historical Club Sponsor - \$99.00
- Carissa Brammer – 5th & 6th Grade Spell Bowl Coach - \$109.00
- Patricia Keesling – 8th Grade Class Sponsor - \$157.00
- Derek Hornsby – 9th Grade Class Sponsor - \$284.00
- Karen Trent – English Academic Coach for KHS - \$204.00
- Vickie Kamps – Semester I French Club Sponsor - \$78.50

Kevin Knott moved to accept as presented with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.

The Superintendent recommended approval to hire Vickie Kamps as the French Teacher for semester one. Wade Beatty moved to accept as presented with a second by Leah Kopp. Motion carried 7-0.

IX. Superintendent Reports –

Financial Reports – The Superintendent stated transportation fund is currently in the red simply because fall tax reimbursements have not been received from the county. Also included in the report is a tentative ADM count. The corporation has seen a considerable drop from last year's count, however is closer to state projections. A statement of current bank balances is also listed. The cash flow projection for the general fund is improved from last month. Gary Storie stated there are four months remaining, but the corporation seems to be moving in the right direction and we are hopeful that we will see food service out of the red by the end of the end of the year.

Safe and Drug Free Federal Grant – The Superintendent stated the direction for this grant may be different from the past. He suggested the board may want to consider the possibility of instituting a random drug testing policy for students involved in any Extra Curricular Activity or other privileges. He also stated some funds may be transferred from the Title II Professional Development Grant to this grant that

could be used to fund an additional person to work with younger children on various Safe and Drug Free issues. Kevin Knott requested the Superintendent bring a proposed policy on random drug testing to the next regular session. There was a brief discussion of what should be included in the policy.

The Superintendent also requested permission to use half a day of professional leave to attend a course sponsored by IASBO. The offered course is a requirement of his certification for Chief Business Official. He would also ask permission to attend the ISBA/IAPSS Annual Fall Conference. Kevin Knott moved to approve the professional leave as presented with a second by Wade Beatty. Motion carried 7-0.

The Superintendent gave a brief update on the interviews he has conducted on prospective candidates to provide legal counsel to the corporation. He will bring two candidates to the October Meeting.

X. Other

There were no items to come before the board.

XI. Public Expression

Tom Crawford – 6255 W. US Hwy 40, Knightstown, IN - representing the Classroom Teacher Association. He stated a student would have no excuse for being unaware of their grades. The CTA did research, and checked with multiple area schools as well as ISTA and satellite schools in Marion County. He also stated it was his understanding the current Student Management Program (STI) was getting older and would not support the home component the board was suggesting. He informed the board that quiet settlements have been granted due to a breach in confidentiality on similar software programs. He stated he was bothered that the board would not take the time to research and receive input in the proper way.

Steve Dalton responded and took exception that the board had not done research. He stated he has personally done exhaustive research and made phone calls that day.

Thomas Crawford stated the board seems to be shoving something through quickly instead of doing additional research and waiting to implement next year. He was concerned the board was not willing to work with the Classroom Teachers Association.

Steve Dalton responded that Mr. Crawford was entitled to his opinion.

Gerald Leonard – 6675 S. Grant City Road, Knightstown, IN – Stated he was not against the sale of the central office property. He expects an increase in expense down the road. He expressed his desire to see this board follow the master plan that was developed when the High School was built. In that plan there was a space for the future spot of a central office administration building.

Kevin Knott stated this board was aware of the master plan and will be taking those recommendations into consideration.

Patron – Name and address not given. Stated insurance costs would also be a cost savings on the central office administration building. Maintenance costs will fall into those savings as well.

Esther Brock – 6123 W. 750 S., Spiceland, IN – She expressed her thanks to the board for their time and effort. She asked if the decision to eliminate a person was decided in an open meeting. She also stated she supports the decision to integrate internet grades and she feels the board is on the right track regarding the central office property.

Kevin Knott stated 45 days notice would be given to the eliminated employee who is affected by the combining of two positions.

Carolyn Groce – 7557 W. 100 S., Shirley, IN – Stated she has completed some research regarding a four day school week and wondered if the board had given this idea any consideration. She felt this would help reduce costs as well as provide assistance in utilities. She stated if one hour and fifteen minutes were added to each school day, that would be equivalent to a four day school week. She also indicated there has been discussion in the past regarding the closing of schools and she thought this might be an alternative.

Kevin Knott thanks her for her time and research and stated this board had not had any discussion regarding the closing of any school.

Steve Dalton made the observation and questioned how this change would correspond to the requirement that students attend 180 days.

Carolyn Groce – stated in her research, it would require a change at the state level from days to hours and could be completed by the State Superintendent of Schools.

Thomas Crawford stated this had been discussed; however it was his understanding this change would require action on the part of the legislation.

With no further business to come before the board Mark Fort moved to adjourn at 10:14 p.m.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBER