

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a Regular Session to order at 7:08 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, Timothy Wehr
- Central Office Staff: Gary Storie, Superintendent; Michelle Swift, Treasurer; Jena Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Lori Swincher, Payroll/Benefits Coordinator; Michael McKillip, Facilities Director
- School Administrator: Scott Ritchie, Don Scheumann, Christine Brokamp, Shirley Heck
- Schmidt & Associates – Kyle Miller
- Media: Jeff Eakins; Bethany Tabb
- Patrons: Approximately 10 patrons

I. Call to Order

Kevin Knott called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Roll call was taken and noted six members were present. Thomas Schaetzle was not in attendance, the Board President stated he had been called out of town for business.

II. Minutes

January 20, 2010 – Regular Session

February 3, 2010 – Special Session

The above minutes were presented to the Board for approval. With no comments, Leah Kopp moved to approve the previously presented minutes with a second by Steve Dalton. Motion carried 6-0.

- III. Claims – Steve Dalton gave a report on behalf of the Finance Committee. He then moved to approve all claims presented in the amount of \$783,091.02. A second was given by Wade Beatty. With no further comments, motion carried 6-0.

IV. Public Expression

- No patrons to address the Board.

V. Old Business

- Update on Construction/Renovation Project – Kyle Miller from Schmidt & Associates presented the Project Definition Manual for Board approval. He noted this was not the final design, and further adjustments may be made. He informed the Board his firm would return during the regular scheduled meeting in March to present final designs. There was some discussion from the Board. Mark Fort moved to approve the Project Definition Manual. Timothy Wehr gave the second; with no further discussion the motion carried 6-0.
- KIS Technology Renovation Updates – The Technology Director gave a short presentation on slated updates to take place at the Knightstown Intermediate School. He informed the Board the

funds would come from Capital Projects Fund that have been re-directed from what was originally set aside for elementary school air conditioning. He presented a four tier project plan. First to take place will be structured cabling. Upon completion second would be switching followed by a phone system. The fourth tier slated is a future project to include wireless capability for the building. The current projected total was \$117,500; this is less than the original estimate of \$140,000. There was much discussion between the Board and Technology Director regarding the technology upgrades. Definitive quotes will be brought to the Board at the next regular scheduled Meeting in March.

- Central Office Property – The Superintendent brought to the Board a notice that was received from School Board Counsel regarding the sale of public property. He recommended the notice be published twice in local papers and bids be opened during Finance Committee. He also stated this would fall outside the scope of the retainer for counsel. After much discussion, Kevin Knott moved to proceed after clarification regarding required legal language in item #17 was clarified. Mark Fort gave the second. After more discussion, motion was amended to include specific opening and closing dates. The Superintendent recommends accepting bids until March 15 at 10:00am and closing bids Wednesday, March 17 at 7:30. Kevin Knott restated motion be to be the advertisement will follow all guidelines of state statute and open and closing dates as indicated. Mark Fort agreed with the motion. With no further discussion, motion carried 6-0.
- Reduction in Expenditures – The Superintendent gave a presentation of cost reduction items for Board Consideration. The recommendations are a result of decreased revenue. He began his presentation stating ninety percent of the general fund is made up of salary and wages, therefore the recommendations will be people and jobs. He also stated his desire to stay away from the core mission of education and the classroom as much as possible. The items identified are:
  - Three support staff positions – High School Pass Room Aide, Custodian and Transportation Director for a total savings of \$105,677.
  - HVAC energy saving improvements for a total savings of \$75,000.
  - Elimination or reduction of certified extended contracts – Media Specialist and Guidance Counselor at KIS for a total savings of \$5,733.00.
  - Reduction of hours for central office custodian to 9 hours per week; KIS laundry to 6 hours per day; cancellation of school days some employees will not report; reduce second and third shift custodians to 7 hours per day. This will result in a total savings of \$52,915.
  - Ten percent reductions in consumables, twenty-five percent reductions in travel and the elimination of a take home vehicle of one employee for a total savings of \$21,800.
  - Fund transfers or cost shifting of assistant mechanic, contract for mowing services and custodial cafeteria work for a total savings of \$30,737.

This will bring a grand total savings of \$291,862 in 2011.

In addition to the above reductions, the Superintendent stated during a recent Special Education Board meeting, corporations were notified the basic grant from the State of Indiana may cut an additional one percent which will result in an additional \$80,000. After completion of his presentation, he recommended custodian and transportation director position be effective June 30, 2010 with all other cuts to be effective March 1, 2010. There was much discussion regarding the recommendations. Wade Beatty requested the exclusion of the Transportation Director until outsourcing idea was fully explored. Mark Fort stated he would also like to look at the possibility of administrator health benefits being paid by employee not corporation. He also stated he would like to explore the elimination of payment to school board members. Kevin Knott stated as a result of difficult times it is necessary to tighten our belts and all possibilities should be placed on

the table and researched. Steve Dalton stated at this point contracts could not be altered, however a reality that we do not expect our classroom teachers to give up 30% of their salary and in essence, that is exactly what you would be asking of administrators if you took that benefit. He believes the successes of the buildings are directly tied to excellent leaders. The discussion moved to reducing health care costs both for employees and the corporation. After much more discussion on the proposal, Kevin Knott asked how the Board desired to proceed. Steve Dalton moved to accept all recommendation of the Superintendent with a second by Mark Fort. Wade Beatty stated this has been explored for a short time and suggested the Transportation be removed. The Board was not in agreement and Wade Beatty asked that each Board member be polled. The vote was as follows:

- Wade Beatty - No
- Steve Dalton - Yes
- Mark Fort - Yes
- Kevin Knott - Yes
- Leah Kopp - No
- Tim Wehr – Yes

Motion carried 4-2.

- Lease of School Property – Advertisements for cash lease of farm ground was published in local papers and opened during Finance Committee. Nine bids were received. The Superintendent recommended rejecting all bids and offering the property to the Knightstown High School FFA program. Timothy Wehr moved to reject all bids and allow the FFA to farm the ground to enrich this successful program. The second was given by Mark Fort. Discussion recommended conducting an insurance review and submission of a business plan from the FFA. With no further discussion, motion carried 6-0.

#### VI. New Business

- 2010-2011 School Calendar – The Superintendent informed the Board this item is for information only at this point, it must first go through the discussion process with classroom teachers. A proposal from the Classroom Teachers and one from administration was presented and will be brought before the Board for final approval at a later date.

#### VII. Personnel

- Employment Approval – Line Cook at Knightstown High School – Alison Conway
- ECA appointments – Athletic Positions
  - Matt Martin – Boys Golf Coach - \$2954
  - Mike Wyatt – Boys Golf Coach – Volunteer
  - Billy Garris – Boys Baseball Coach – Volunteer
  - Tracy Fields – Boys Baseball Coach - Volunteer

Leah Kopp moved to accept all recommendations listed above with a second by Mark Fort.

Motion carried 6-0.

#### VIII. Superintendent Reports

- Annual Performance Report – The Superintendent supplied this report with a copy of the current fiscal goal. His recommendation is to maintain the same fiscal goal. Board approved.
- Financial Report – These reports were presented to the Board for their review.
- Other Items – The Board was informed of upcoming ISBA workshops.

#### IX. Other

- Indiana Football Digest has named Lane Fields-KHS Running Back, he will be presented as an elite 25 athlete and will be on the cover of that digest. Also, Lindsay Kennedy was presented as a merit scholar and Lilly Scholarship winner.

X. Public Expression

- Gerald Leonard, 6675 S. Grant City Road, Knightstown – Stated funds were made available in November to create an additional office position at Knightstown Elementary School, and the recommendation now is to cut positions. He asked how one can be funded with others cut. The Superintendent the decision has been a difficult one. He also stated that position was considered.
- David Bundy, 7460 Twin Oak Drive, Knightstown – Stated the administrator pay was structured with the health insurance benefit in mind and we have excellent administrators and should keep the structure in mind. He also stated his belief the health insurance situation overall is a real issue and should be looked at closely. He encouraged the Board to move in the direction to help those employees and move forward with implementing a more affordable health plan to enable those employees who struggle to pay for a more expensive plan. Kevin Knott stated the current health plan cost an annual premium of \$31,000 and is currently one of the highest for a public school in the state of Indiana.
- Jay McDaniel, 7654 W. County Line Road, Knightstown – Asked if the Board has a plan in place if future cuts are brought on by the Governor? The Superintendent stated tough questions would have to be faced and the hope is that the toughest times are behind us.
- Richard Riggle, Main Street, Shirley – Asked if more talk has occurred in legislature to allow schools the flexibility to cross funds and receive relief in general fund. The Superintendent stated the concept is in language however must go through legislature before it can be implemented.
- Janet White, Transportation Director – Informed the Board the Varsity Girls Basketball team won tonight in sectionals and will play Northeastern tomorrow night.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business Wade Beatty moved to adjourn at 9:31 pm.

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PRESIDENT

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MEMBER

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VICE PRESIDENT

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