

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called their regular session to order at 7:15 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
- Building Principal: Scott Ritchie, Don Scheumann
- Classroom Teachers Association President: Tom Crawford
- Media: Jeff Eakins, Bethany Tabb
- Patrons: Approximately 20 patrons

I. Call to Order

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

II. Minutes

June 9, 2009 – Regular Session

June 30, 2009 - Special Session

July 7, 2009 – Special Session

July 14, 2009 – Special Session

The above minutes were presented and Leah Kopp moved to approve all minutes as presented with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.

III. Claims

The Finance Committee presented a report. Wade Beatty moved to approve the claims as presented with the exception of claim #24090 being excluded. A second was given by Leah Kopp. Motion carried 7-0. Wade Beatty then moved to accept claim #24090 with a second by Tim Wehr. Motion carried 6-0-1. Mark Fort abstained due to conflict of interest.

IV. Public Expression

- Aaron Fields, S. Madison St., Knightstown – Asked if any plans or a deadline for a usable track at KIS or KHS had been made. He stated this was the third summer our children must pack up and travel. He also stated most meets caused students to get home around 11:00 pm. He had personally supplied food for the team as he has a son in track. He feels these students are being slighted and they deserve the same consideration as football, basketball and baseball players. Homework is also an issue. He asked if a timeline had not been set, have plans been made to utilize the track at the former Children's Home. Kevin Knott stated the Board has decided to take all options under advisement. He also stated a track is one item included in the list of considered projects. A timeframe has not yet been established, but it is a project as a possible use of the available funds. He also stated the Board is concerned and aware the students do not have a usable track.
- Jim Hope – McCullum St, Knightstown – He stated he had spoken to several Board members, the opinion is Knightstown is going to start growing. He asked "if this is a time when we should

be spending money?” He stated “things are bad and people are leaving town. Jobs are being lost.” He realizes the Board has borrowed money, but he does not believe now is the time to spend that kind of money. He asked if this was the best thing for the kids. “Are sports more important than an education?” He felt the Board should get back to necessities and provide an education.

- Abbie Wehr, Carthage – Asked those members who voted to put \$1.4 million at KIS what their thought process was. She believes grades five and six should be put back in the elementary buildings; she does not want elementary students on the same bus as high school students. Kevin Knott stated the Board consists of seven elected officials who each have individual voices. He stated KIS is on its way to becoming a four star school and are meeting and exceeding standards. Don Scheumann stated Kennard and Carthage are the only schools with separate buses for elementary students. Discipline is better, and standards are stronger. Abbie Wehr mentioned how funding could be found for air conditioning if the academics were so important. Kevin Knott expressed his reason for his vote was because of the academic success and the current immediate needs of that building. Abbie Wehr then stated when K-6 was in Carthage that school was also on the way to becoming a four star school. Don Scheumann expressed his experience in a K-6 school as well as a 5-8 school. He also believes kindergarten students should not be with sixth grade students. He strongly believes a K-4 split is a much better arrangement. He also stated he loves the students at Carthage and all students deserve air conditioning, however, Knightstown Intermediate deserves to be upgraded so they receive a better education. Thomas Schaeztle stated his vote was determined by all the items previously expressed. The Board has developed belief statements that were more aligned with education than athletics. As the Board moves forward, his hope would be to spend less at KIS. He desires to be prudent in spending. We want a better environment for our students. He stated the administration and staff have informed the Board many times, the split of students is best. Abbie Wehr stated her opinion, the problem is receiving a band-aid. Her desire would be to build an addition on the high school and move intermediate students in that space. Thomas Schaeztle stated the option available to this Board is to invest funds in KIS or KHS. Funds are not available to put in KHS in the degree required. KIS is in greater need of repair. He expects to get recommendations from architects in order to help spend prudently. He also would like to provide athletics, however, needed repairs take precedence. Steve Dalton stated he values the opinion of the Facilities Director who stated a cheaper repair to keep the building open for ten years. He also stated paving would not raise ISTEP scores. Abbie Wehr stated by closing KIS the corporation would save \$300,000 each year. She said that amount could be used toward academics.
- Marsha Redmon Greensboro Pike, – Knightstown – Asked where additional teachers would be placed that Mrs. Wehr spoke of. Timothy Wehr stated KHS has capacity for 660 students. He also wanted to express his great respect for Don Scheumann. Speaking of space, there are options, however Don Scheumann is correct as far as academics are concerned. The funds available can be for construction only, not for academics. He does not want to spend \$1.1 million at KIS if room is available at KHS. Kevin Knott stated the Board needs to look at the standards and quality of education received. Would we be able to put 7-12 in one building and continue with the advantages we currently have with programming and curriculum? Steve Dalton stated his opposition of spending that amount and feels he owes the taxpayers to do a complete study. Kevin Knott stated no decision regarding closing a school in this corporation has been made by this Board. He also stated this Board was aware a conclusion would be required when a unanimous vote was given to proceed with the refunding process. He also stated, that he personally has not decided to close any school regardless of his vote to spend funds the way they were divided.
- Dorothy Hatton, N. McCullum St, Knightstown – Stated when she taught and things were not working how she envisioned, she “needed a time-out”. She would need to re-work her plan. She stated this Board has the same problems. She expressed schools were needed in the community

and it was necessary to keep things going until something more could be done. With that being said, you “do the best you can with what you got.” Eventually there may not be a school at Kennard or Carthage, however, that decision will take a while. The funds should be spent as wisely as possible and make change when you can and when it is the right time. She then stated it is the responsibility of the Board to do this task and the responsibility of the community to complain. She told the Board “good luck in decisions.” She also stated the job of the Board is a difficult one.

V. Old Business

Architect – The Superintendent asked the Board to approve a firm to move forward with construction projects. He also stated either firm would do a good job. However, he stated if the Board requested a recommendation from himself or the Facilities Director, both would recommend Schmidt & Associates. He believes this firm would be an asset for the corporation. Leah Kopp moved to approve a contract with Schmidt & Associates as recommended by the Superintendent, with a second from Mark Fort. There was some discussion regarding the presentation of the firm. Motion carried 7-0. The Superintendent suggested the firm lead community forums. He also stated we identify projects where their assistance is needed and allow them to facilitate those areas. We should utilize their expertise to our benefit. Thomas Schaetzle then stated to the Board that it was important they work together to get the projects completed.

Field Trip Policy – After some discussion Wade Beatty moved to approve the Field Trip policy and forms on second reading. Thomas Schaetzle gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

Approve Closing on Refunded Bond Sale – The Superintendent stated this is for informational purposes. Bonds sold on July 8, 2009 and funds were gained in the sinking fund. \$2,000,000 is available to fund projects and \$260,000 to reduce debt.

Change Graduation Date – The Superintendent stated a conflict with Jubilee Days Parade and the scheduled KHS graduation. He requests moving graduation to Sunday, June 6, 2010. Scott Ritchie will work with the senior class to clarify start time. Wade Beatty moved to approve the date change with a second by Leah Kopp. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. New Business

Long Term Disability – The Superintendent informed the Board that the ISTA Trust which carried long term disability coverage for the corporation will no longer issue coverage after August 1, 2009. The Master Contract requires the corporation to offer this insurance. Several vendors have been contacted for quotes. The Classroom Teachers Association has requested coverage be granted through Madison National. The coverage and cost will not change if the Board approves this vendor. After some discussion Steve Dalton moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Wade Beatty. Motion carried 7-0.

Lunch Prices – The Food Service Director has evaluated her budget and provided cash flow projections. The Superintendent stated the fund continues to operate in the red, however the fund is slowly moving toward the black. He then stated, after analyzing, and with the economy the way it is, his recommendation is to keep lunch prices the same. Wade Beatty moved to keep prices the same with a second by Thomas Schaetzle. Motion carried 7-0.

Student Handbooks – Knightstown Elementary School requested approval of their student handbook. The changes were listed for the Board. After some discussion, Steve Dalton moved to approve the handbook with a second by Kevin Knott. Motion carried 7-0.

Support Staff Handbook – The Superintendent informed the Board this handbook has been a lengthy process and has included input from a committee represented by all employee classifications. The Human Resource Specialist stated Board Policy and Employment Notifications will also be included in the final handbook. The Board accepted the handbook on a first reading and the Superintendent asked members to notify him of recommended changes.

Transportation Handbook – After some discussion the Board approved the handbook on first reading. The Superintendent requested any changes be brought to his attention and the handbook will be brought to the Board on Thursday for final approval.

Criminal History Checks – Policy #3121 & #4121 - Personal Background Check – Discussion ensued regarding the recommended changes due to new legislature. The board approved the changes on first reading. Vendors were also discussed and will be brought back next meeting.

The following recommendations were highlighted by the Superintendent. The Board approved on first reading:

- #0144.2- Board Member Ethics
- #2464 Programs for Gifted Students
- #5460 Graduation Requirements

Bus Purchase – The Superintendent stated after the inspection of our fleet, the corporation has one bus that will cost more to repair than to replace. After some discussion, Timothy Wehr moved to approve the purchase of a bus with a trade-in recommended by the Transportation Director. Kevin Knott gave the second. Motion carried 7-0.

VII. Personnel

The Superintendent stated Knightstown Elementary School is eligible to receive Title I funds. A teaching position has been included in the budget. The position will be funded through Title I Grant and Title I Stimulus funds. After some discussion Wade Beatty moved to approve the position with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.

Retirement/Resignation – The Superintendent reported the resignation of a Title I Assistant.

Employment Approval – The Superintendent recommended approval of Stephanie Eaton as a Grade 1 teacher at Knightstown Elementary School. Thomas Schaetzle moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.

The following employment recommendations were recommended for approval:

- Bus Drivers for the 2009-2010 school year – Denise Akers, Randy Black, Charles Brammer, Bruce Brown, Randy Chandler, Louise Crawford, Nora Maxwell, Debbie McCoy, Mike McDonald, Eugene Meek, Charles Riggs, Deanna Sparks, Sam Sparks, Darlene Swallers, Lisa Wells, Larry White, and Bob Williams. Substitute Drivers: Alison Conway, Steve Franklin, Jeff Haase, Kevin Hiner, Jim Honeycutt, Donny Martin, Joe Patton, Bob Prescott and JoAnn Stoten.
- Carrie Allee and Judy Rector for cafeteria vacancies at Kennard Elementary and Knightstown High School respectively.
- Medical Leave request #2009-7-21-09-A
- ECA Positions recommended by Knightstown High School.

Wade Beatty moved to approve all recommendations with a second by Thomas Schaetzle. After some discussion, motion carried 7-0.

VIII. Superintendent Reports

Financial Report – The Superintendent supplied financial reports for the Board.

Programming Report – The Superintendent gave a report on the addition of full-day kindergarten presented at a previous meeting. He stated an additional 1.5 teachers will be required. He also stated reimbursement from the state level may increase.

Other Items – ISBA/IAPSS Fall Conference – A flyer was given to the Board members.

IX. Other

Set Meeting Time and date – The Superintendent stated a conflict with the financial report and the date of the scheduled regular board meeting exists. After some discussion, Wade Beatty moved to approve the third Wednesday of every month beginning at 7:00 pm and located in the Media Center at Knightstown High School. Leah Kopp gave the second and motion carried 7-0.

The Superintendent informed the Board an Executive Session has been set for July 23, 2009 beginning at 7:30 pm with an open session set for 8:30 pm. Kevin Knott stated he had been asked by constituents regarding public notices in the newspapers. He asked the media to publish public notices whenever possible.

X. Public Expression

- Jim Hope, McCullum St, Knightstown – Stated he believed the funds available could only be spent at the high school. The Board stated that was incorrect, it must be spent at KIS or KHS.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, Leah Kopp moved to adjourn at 9:33 pm.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBER