

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a Regular Session to order at 7:21 pm. The meeting was held at Knightstown 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, Melissa Toth, Timothy Wehr
- **Central Office Staff:** Gary Storie, Superintendent; Jena Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Michelle Swift, Treasurer
- **School Administrators:** Scott Ritchie, Chris Bundy
- **Classroom Teacher Association:** Jane Rodgers, President; Karen Gardner, Vice President
- **Media:** Knightstown Banner, New Castle Courier Times
- **Patrons:** Approximately 31 patrons

I. Call to Order

Steve Dalton called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

II. Minutes

April 20, 2011 - Regular Session

Leah Kopp moved to approve the minutes as presented. Kevin Knott gave the second, motion carried 7-0.

III. Claims

Steve Dalton gave the report on behalf of the Finance Committee. He then moved to accept and approve claims in the amount of \$526,577.62 as presented. Mark Fort gave the second. Motion carried 7-0. The Superintendent presented a claim for the new administrative offices. The claim was in the amount of \$100,000 from our School Construction Bond as the project is about half done. This will need to come from our funds due to the fact the revenue from the old building went into the construction fund. Wade Beatty moved to approve the claim with a second by Mark Fort. After some discussion, motion carried 7-0.

IV. Public Expression

- Jim Hope, 120 N. McCullum St., Knightstown – Stated he had solicited and obtained 103 signatures on his own from community members who are against the solar project. He presented the signatures and said he would like to bring this project before the community in the form of a referendum. The Board President clarified part of his statement regarding the amount of funding received.
- Dawn Wineman, 7410 W. 750 S., Knightstown – She indicated she would like to solicit feedback regarding the grading scale and attendance policy she had previously presented to the Board. She also wanted to schedule a meeting with the Superintendent on this same

matter. The Superintendent responded that he would make time, but would like to include some of the building principal's. There was some further discussion and then board member Kevin Knott thanked her for the information.

- Lisa Cook, 130 N. Street, Knightstown – Presented a petition she solicited with 175 names. She indicated she does not know how much debt the corporation is in, but does not understand why this Board is considering even more. She does not feel that now is the time. She also stated she supports energy efficiency, however she said “this is a public school system, your (the Board) job is to ensure that our children get the best possible education with what we have. We cannot afford any more.”
- Richard Voris, West Street, Knightstown – Presented additional signatures as well as a letter from the Governor's office which states, he believes, this project is not following law. He also attempted to obtain copies of the petitions but was told by voter registration this matter would be handled under normal business, so no petitions were available to him. The Board President clarified the solar projects were not “artificially segregated” so the letter provided did not apply. There was more discussion regarding law between the patron and Board.
- Norma Keller, 238 E. Brown Street, Knightstown – Stated she was very proud of this school system. She went on to say she had made several phone calls to educate herself on this matter. During her conversation with the Facilities Director at Carmel Clay, she was asked questions she did not know. So she would like to ask the Board. 1. What engineering firms have been approached? 2. How many consultants have been contacted? 3. How many bids were received? She went on to say that during her conversation with Anderson Highland, they informed her that the school had removed their solar panels after eight years due to lack of efficiency. The Superintendent tried to answer her questions stating we have relied heavily on Johnson Melloh as they started the project. He also stated the Board received bids from three or four vendors. However, the project has changed as we have moved along. He also stated the corporation had a way to go and getting specifics on mechanics and engineering of the projects have not been completed.

V. Old Business

- a. Board Policies – #5722 School-Sponsored Publications and Productions – The Superintendent recommended the adoption of this policy. He has reviewed this with the policy committee and amendments are pursuant to changes in law. He stated Neola has recommended the revision of this policy to follow case law. He stated this would be adopted on second reading. After some discussion, Wade Beatty moved to accept on second reading with a second by Melissa Toth. Timothy Wehr moved to amend the motion to specific pages presented. This amendment was incorporated into original motion. After much discussion, Kevin Knott called for the question. Motion to accept policy as written was carried 6-1 with Steve Dalton casting the negative vote.
- b. Solar Project Update – Kurt Schneider from Johnson Melloh was in attendance and presented more information about the proposed project. He began by giving some background on his company and what they have already completed and why they have proceeded in the way they have. He also fielded several questions from the community. Timothy Wehr volunteered to dispatch a bus on a Saturday to transport patrons from the community to the Johnson Melloh facility. Steve Dalton closed this portion stating the Board is attempting to reduce taxes – not increase them.

VI. Personnel

- a. Resignations/Retirements – The Superintendent recommended approval for the following personnel items.
 - i. Retirements:
 1. Terrance Dukeman – The Superintendent stated this was beyond the deadline, however due to extenuating circumstances he is recommending approval to offer the incentive granted to other 2011 retirees. He also stated the CTA is not opposed to this addition. Kevin Knott moved to accept recommendation and extend the benefit package. Mark Fort gave the second, motion carried 7-0.
 - ii. Resignations
 1. Nelson White – Timothy Wehr moved to accept the resignation with a second by Wade Beatty. Motion carried 6-1 with Leah Kopp casting the negative vote.
- b. Maternity Leave – Kristen Crawford – Melissa Toth moved to approve the maternity leave as presented with a second by Leah Kopp. Motion carried 7-0.
- c. New Hires – Wade Beatty moved to approve the following recommendations with a second by Melissa Toth. Motion carried 7-0.
 - i. Alexa Anderson – Band/Choir Teacher at KHS
 - ii. Melissa Combs – Guidance Counselor at KHS
 - iii. Jared Evans – Mathematics Teacher at KHS
 - iv. Mark Luzadder – Physical Education Teacher for Grades 7-9
 - v. Eric Nielsen – Social Studies Teacher at KHS
 - vi. Aaron Burton – 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher at KIS
- d. ECA appointments – Kevin Knott moved to approve the following ECA appointments with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.
 - i. Alexa Anderson – Summer Band Director (\$4779); Director of Bands (\$3017); Director of Vocal (\$3017)
 - ii. Melissa Combs – Guidance Department Head (\$757); Vocational Department Head (\$757)
 - iii. Jared Evans – Varsity Wrestling Coach (\$4971)
 - iv. Mark Luzadder – Assistant Varsity Football Coach (\$2342)
 - v. Eric Nielsen – Summer Baseball (\$1720); Varsity Baseball Coach (\$4205)

VII. New Business

- a. Science Textbook Adoption – The Superintendent requested this item be tabled until June 1. Melissa moved to accept the request with a second by Wade Beatty. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. KHS Student Handbook – The Superintendent recommended approval of changes to the KHS Handbook. Wade Beatty moved to table this item to a later meeting. Melissa Toth gave the second. Motion carried 7-0.
- c. Retirement Incentive – The Superintendent stated this item was approved under Personnel items.
- d. 2012 Budget Considerations – The Superintendent informed the Board that due to changes in the way the state formulates funding, our corporation will see a shortfall. He gave a short presentation for 2012 Budget Profile & Cost Reductions. The proposal includes the elimination of some support staff positions. However it does not include a

reduction in force of teachers. He also requested access to approximately half of the Rainy Day Fund. He stated with the use of cash reserves and half of the rainy day fund, the corporation should have a balanced budget. Wade Beatty moved to proceed with elimination of positions and utilize rainy day fund up to \$150,000. Leah Kopp gave the second. After some discussion, motion carried 7-0.

VIII. Superintendent Reports

- a. Financial Report – The Superintendent gave a financial status report. He also indicated the construction fund balance on the fund report.
- b. Wade Beatty requested to have an appropriation report as well as the fund report be included in materials.
- c. Other –
 - i. ISBA Regional Meetings will occur in May.
 - ii. Melissa Toth said that due to a large staff turn-over this year and in an effort to welcome those new employees and start building community pride, she would like to start a planning committee for a Panther Pride Picnic. This would include employees and their family to a pitch-in at the new athletic facility. She was met with approval to proceed.
 - iii. Leah Kopp reminded the Board that their portion of the scholarship should be paid promptly to central office.
 - iv. Kevin Knott stated he had attended the reception for all retirees and wanted to extend his gratitude and appreciation to those individuals for their dedicated service. Melissa Toth also wanted to recognize and thank those who planned this event, CTA and the Family & Consumer Science department.

IX. Public Expression

- Don Johnson, 5110 S. Greensboro Pike, Knightstown – Asked the Board for a reason that a coach has not been approved for cross country for fall 2011? There was some discussion that the coach had requested to be tabled while he made a decision on coaching. The Superintendent stated he would look in to the matter.
- Richard Voris, West Street, Knightstown – Gave an analogy to the Board and said we only have 10 cents and can't afford any more.
- John Swartz, 7704 Hyland Meadows Dr., Knightstown – In his opinion, unless we get aggressive to try and solve our problem, we should expect to stay in a bad situation. He said he understands this is a poor town, and the desire to put this project to a referendum and a vote; however his belief, after speaking to several people, is several have the faxed mixed up.
- Ralph Hecht, Grant City Road, Knightstown– Wanted clarification that the Board is still in the initial 'looking phase' of the solar project. He was confused at some of the comments from the Board and Superintendent. The Superintendent stated the solar project is a performance based project. This type protects the school because all bids would include a cost guarantee or consumption of energy. There would be contingencies. There was discussion between Ralph Hecht and Kurt Schneider regarding a general contractor. The Board President then recognized the submission of 300+ names on a petition; however, those individuals don't come to the meetings for information concerning the project. Mr. Hecht then stated his appreciation in searching for ways to save money. There was much heated

discussion about the current taxes patrons are paying and what the cap on their property might be.

- Lisa Cook, 130 N. Jefferson, Knightstown – Stated she was “capped out”. She stated she could not afford any more money. She then wanted the Board to know they were elected to represent the community, and like it or not, the community does not want the project.
- Dawn Wineman, 7410 W. 750 S., Knightstown – Stood and exclaimed the comments from the Board were low, petty and unprofessional. She was disgusted and asked they please speak professionally.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Wade Beatty moved to adjourn at 9:22 pm.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBER