

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a Regular Session to order at 7:06 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
- **School Administrators:** Scott Ritchie, Don Scheumann, Shirley Heck
- **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 7:06 pm. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

II. Minutes

February 16, 2011 - Regular Session

March 9, 2011 – Special Session

Leah Kopp moved to approve the minutes. Mark Fort gave the second, motion carried 7-0.

III. Claims

Timothy Wehr gave the report on behalf of the Finance Committee. He then moved to accept and approve claims in the amount of \$736,467.80 as presented. Wade Beatty gave the second. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. 1028 Public Hearing declared open at 7:10 pm. The Superintendent gave a presentation on the proposed Solar Energy Project. At the conclusion of the presentation the hearing was opened for public comment. The Board President informed the public of the format to be used during the public expression portion of the hearing. The meeting was opened for public opinion at 7:23pm.

- Don Scheumann, KIS Principal – Stated during a convocation earlier today, presenters discussed how the local communities currently utilize fossil fuels. He then expressed his opinion that solar energy is a viable solution and was asked how solar energy is acquired when the sun is not out. Johnson-Melloh Solutions, Inc. (JMS) stated during the pouring rain yesterday at his facility, the solar panels still produced solar energy during the storm. He stated that some kind of revenue will be created each and every day.
- Donald Stoten, Ripley Township – Stated at the last meeting, patrons were encouraged to go home and do research. He did what was asked and created a memo for each Board Member with his findings. He said his findings show several reasons for the debt the school already has. He also said during the last meeting it was clear to him the community cannot afford more property tax.
- Richard Voris, Knightstown – Stated he had personally called a Board Member and asked if they had contacted any of the sources from other states to verify the information that was presented is accurate. The Board President stated the Board had completed lots of research

on the topic and this hearing is a preliminary finding. He mentioned if at any time the Board discovers issues they are not comfortable with during future steps, the solar project can be halted and stopped at any time up until bonds are issued.

- Rod Cushingam, Knightstown – He informed the Board he currently has solar panels in his backyard and the lightning strikes, dirt, and maintenance on those panels is horrible. He said in his opinion this project seems to be a little bit bigger than what the Board should be doing. This project has a lot of money going out. He also said he personally, in 17 years with solar panels, has yet to break even. He also stated “Do I feel good about it? Yes. Would I do it again? NO” He said the panels would be set in place and would not track the sun for optimal energy and asked who would be responsible for insurance and maintenance on the carports. JMS state they would hold the insurance and the type of panels to be installed has not been determined, they chose carports as they require less maintenance. However, to install track panels would increase the cost of the project.
- Steve Nelson, 804 W. South Dr, Knightstown – Stood and told the Board he is aware that decisions have to be made and also understands the public elected you to make those decisions. He said his hopes were that the Board would keep in mind the cost of capital and the amount of return the corporation would receive. He also reminded them to keep in mind and understand the cost of technology always starts high and reduces over time. He also stated he is aware that everyone cannot be satisfied.
- John Swartz, 7704 Hyland Meadows Dr., Knightstown – Stated he believes to be the only person in the room in favor of the solar project. He reiterated a previous statement that he does not believe a referendum to be a good idea because patrons would not research the project and inform themselves of details.
- Jim Hope, McCullum Street, Knightstown – Stated this project is a serious step. He also asked that if this project is so important for the community, why is the Board not putting it to a community vote in a referendum. He said the Board should go out and see what the community wants and not vote as they personally want. He said “this is not your vote as individuals; it is your job as an elected official to see what they (community) wants.”
- Don Johnson, Greensboro Pike, Knightstown – Began by saying he was for solar energy, however his issue is with the documents and information provided to the community by the Board is not sufficient. According to his review of presented materials, the SREC savings would remain the same for the entire 19 years. Therefore, what the Board is saying is the SREC certificates would always be one strong price. He then stated some research he found based on information from Ohio and in his opinion he sees an increase in demand and a continual decrease in SREC certificate revenue. He does not believe the numbers will remain as strong as presented. He also stated he would have liked to e-mail some of his research to the Board, but the web-site only lists one e-mail address. JMS responded to some of his questions and concerns.
- Ralph Hecht, Grant City Road, Knightstown – Agreed with Mr. Johnson’s statements. He believes the output of the panels that is presented to be a best case scenario situation. He said the solar project seems to be constantly changing. He would like to know how many panels are being considered. JMS responded to the patron, stating they are not presenting best case scenario but current case scenario.
- Pat Voris, Knightstown – Stated the state has already cut funding to the corporation. The property values are decreasing in the community and his personally appraised for \$25,000 less. Therefore, your amount you are receiving is decreasing as well. Where will the funds come from?
- Tom Allison, Knightstown – Said he has lived long enough for this to be the second round of solar energy discussions. He then told the Board during World War II milk was delivered in electric cars. Gas stations could supply refills on natural gas. He said this project amounts to gambling and he implored the Board, if they were going to move forward to please use their own money, not the tax payers.

With no further comments from the patrons, the hearing was closed at 7:59 pm. The Board President reiterated to all present that a yes vote this evening does not mean a go on the solar project. Jeff Qualkinbush, Bond Counsel clarified the process and confirmed the solar project could be stopped up until bonds are issued. There was further discussion, and then Wade Beatty moved to pass the 1028 Reimbursement Resolution seconded by Timothy Wehr. Motion carried 5-2 with Kevin Knott and Leah Kopp casting the negative votes.

V. Old Business

- There was no old business to come before the Board.

VI. New Business

- 2011-2012 School Calendar – The Superintendent stated the school calendar was discussed with both New Castle Schools who provide special area services and the Classroom Teachers Association. After some discussion, Kevin Knott moved to accept the calendar as recommended by the Superintendent with a second by Melissa Toth. Motion carried 7-0.
- Tax Anticipation Warrants – The Superintendent asked for permission to advertise a tax anticipation warrant, which is essentially a temporary loan until tax revenue is received from the county. The delay in receiving taxes from the county creates a cash flow problem. This loan would be against future tax receipts. He is asking for:
 - \$260,000 in Capital Projects
 - \$122,000 in Transportation
 - \$16,000 in Bus Replacement

Wade Beatty moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Timothy Wehr. After some discussion, motion carried 7-0.

- Summer School 2011 – Superintendent is requesting permission to submit an application to the Department of Education with intent to have summer school. He also shared specifics still need to be discussed with administrators and teachers, but an application is due in early April. He also stated summer school has been used for credit recovery and remediation in the past and anticipate the same for this year. Melissa Toth moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.
- Resolution on retirement incentives – The Superintendent stated the current Memorandum of Understanding is the third retirement incentive in a row and he suggests a similar incentive not be offered at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. He confirmed these type incentives do create a long term savings; however they also create a short term expense. He does not anticipate any such funds to be available in the future for such a MOU. Melissa Toth moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Mark Fort. After some discussion, motion carried 7-0.

VII. Personnel

- Resignations
 - Melissa Colwell – resigned as Speech/Hearing Therapist on February 22, 2011.
- New Hires –
 - Beth Willard as Speech/Hearing Therapist until a new candidate can be found.
- ECA Appointments
 - Cynthia Hammer – Varsity Tennis - \$2660

Leah Kopp moved to approve all the above with a second by Kevin Knott. Motion carried 7-0.

Retirements – The Superintendent informed the Board that an Intent to Retire has been received from four teachers. Those received are: Linda King, VeeAnn Schmidt, Judy Stevens, and Lerue Tramel. These four ladies represent 145 years service in education. The Superintendent and Board expressed their congratulations on their retirement and thanked them for their many years of

dedicated service to students. Leah Kopp moved to approve the retirements with a second by Kevin Knott. Motion carried 7-0.

The Superintendent had one additional item to come before the Board. He asked the Board to ratify his decision to place D. Scott Fields on administrative leave. Wade Beatty moved to ratify the administrative leave with a second by Mark Fort. Motion carried 7-0.

VIII. Superintendent Reports

- Financial Report – The Superintendent presented financial reports for the Board to review.

IX. Public Expression

- John Swartz – Asked the Board to define and explain administrative leave. The Superintendent explained it was a paid leave pursuant to state law.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Wade Beatty moved to adjourn at 8:36 pm.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBER