

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a Regular Session to order at 7:36 pm. The meeting was held at Knightstown 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; Phyllis Haines, Payroll/Benefits
- **School Administrators:** Scott Ritchie, Don Scheumann, Chris Bundy, Christine Jordan
- **Classroom Teacher Association:** Jane Rodgers, President; Karen Gardner, Vice President
- **Media:** Knightstown Banner, New Castle Courier Times
- **Patrons:** Approximately 72 patrons

I. Call to Order

Steve Dalton called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Roll call was taken and noted all members were present.

II. Minutes

December 15, 2010 – Regular Session

Leah Kopp moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mark Fort gave the second. After some discussion, motion carried 7-0.

III. Claims

Timothy Wehr gave the report on behalf of the Finance Committee. Mark Fort moved to accept and approve claims in the amount of \$1,586,619.81 as presented. Kevin Knott gave the second. After some discussion regarding claims for maintenance vehicle repairs, motion carried 7-0.

IV. Public Expression

- Board President opened the meeting up for public expression after stating procedures for public expression.
- James McDaniel, 7654 W. County Line Road, Knightstown - Parent – Expressed his concern regarding the inconsistencies of classroom sizes from one school to the next. In his opinion, he does not feel this is fair to teachers and is concerned that he was not given the option or knowledge of class sizes between schools. He is asking for a solution. He is also concerned his children are not receiving Title I Reading services, he believes, his children are entitled to. He also expressed concern regarding a recent incident with a Board Member and believes it may put his student at risk. His final comments were about the Football Coach. He asked if any board members had ever attended a football practice, he also stated he saw his latest review and in his opinion it was completed in five minutes. He stated he had never seen coach Prescott act in an unprofessional manner. The Superintendent stated he would be glad to answer questions regarding classroom sizes and services at each building and asked that the patron call his office. A board member asked how a patron had access to employee reviews. It was stated by another member this was the decision of the coach to share his copy of the review with individuals.

- Aaron Fields, 323 S. Madison Street, Knightstown – Parent of football player – Stated he has two sons in the school corporation and his oldest has played football for four years. He believes since his son has played for this long, he has a good idea of how things work. He wants to speak for kids from the past as well as those in the future. He said his son, before his freshman year, has continually done everything the staff has asked him to do. He also said would do so to this day, if asked. He then stated he has asked for game film of his son for four years. He understands if a student is seeking an athletic scholarship, the parents must do much of the legwork. He then said he did not receive any game film for the first two years. During his son's junior and senior years, he received film after the season was completed. He requested the film throughout the year, as colleges were seeking players. He received the film on December 17, 2010, well after the season was over. He then said his tipping point happened when he was notified by an Eastern Hancock student, that he received game film within four days. His concern was, if his son would do so much for this coach, why couldn't the loyalty be given both ways. In his opinion, small schools do not receive much exposure. Therefore, you need game film and thinks if the kids are the top priority, he should not have had to hound a coach for the film. If kids are the reason we are here, he shouldn't have to do back flips to get a coaches attention for his son. For that reason, and many more, he believes the coach has had his chance and sees coaching as a privilege not a right. If this coach does not understand that, he missed the mark. It is all about the kids you are coaching. If the kids are there for you, you should be there for them.
- Joseph Kortz, 6390 N. 1000 W., Morristown – Parent of football player – He believes if the football coach truly showed professionalism, this many parents would not be attending this meeting. He also stated parents, as well as himself, has gone to the coach on many occasions. He also stated there were several who felt going to the coach would result in less playing time for their children. He said a letter from parents was passed around during a game, players were told during that game that if parents did not stop, their child would be asked to leave the program. He then said his son was injured most of this year, but hoped to play during his high school career. He also said the coach can bring in God or whoever he wants, but there is a great lack of communication between the coach and parents. When a concern is raised, they are shut down. He does not think there is any communication between coaching and parents.
- Aaron Fields, 323 S. Madison Street, Knightstown - Parent – Responded to a question from a board member asking if concerns were regarding the entire coaching staff of head coach only. He believes it is the head coach. In his opinion, the head coach 'drives the bus'. He feels the rest of the coaching staff works well.
- Larry Adkins, PO Box 32, Greensboro – Grandparent of football player – Would like to know from the coaching staff how the school could have 17 kids standing on the sidelines and the majority of those with injuries. He believes the only place you get hurt is at practice. He said this is unheard of. "You don't kill your own kids." He also said during practices or a game, in very high heat, kids were only allowed a drink after they dropped to do push-ups. He said this was not professionalism. He does not think you hurt your own kids and you don't embarrass them in front of other schools by doing push-ups.
- Mary Adkins, PO Box 32, Greensboro – Grandparent of football player – Expressed her belief that the head coach does not feel he is accountable to parents or Board. The students were told they could go "whine to mommy's and daddy's or have your mommy's and daddy's run to School Board, I'm here to tell you, I'm here to stay and there's nothing you can do about it." She also said he does not recognize any awards, unless it is one he receives. She also thinks the coaching staff should be helping get kids to college, we should be very proud of the accomplishments of Lane Fields. She also believes the coach lacks respect for students, parents and the school board. She asked the Board to listen to the parents concerns. She also stated many students refuse to play football because of the head coach.

- Cynthia Neal, 8757 S. 625 W., Knightstown – Parent of football player – Stated she is here to tell of an incident during her son’s freshman year. Her son was attacked during a football game by a teammate. After the game she and her husband met with the head coach. The coach also met with the other family as well. The following morning, she received a text from the teammate’s mother who apologized for the incident. She called the mother and was told the head coach had told the teammate’s parents that the Neal’s were upset and asked they not speak to them. Mrs. Neal notified the coach, and asked to see the parent-player contract signed before the season. The contract clearly stated if a player was struck in anger, that player would be removed from the team. However, special accommodations were made for the teammate who struck my son. The coach made a trip to the young man’s home, when my son was not worthy of the same meeting. My son didn’t get the constructive criticism and encouragement he needed. This speaks volumes about this man’s (coach) integrity. I can confirm the kids were all told if parents didn’t stop, they would be asked to leave the team. She also stated that during a game, injured kids were not worthy to wear uniforms. She believes it is time for a change.
- Tommy Masters, 8919 W. 550 S., Shirley – Student – Stated he was one student who did not return to the football team because of the coach. He felt if he did one thing wrong, he was treated as if he were stupid. He said, when things go wrong, the coach ‘freaks out’. He said there is yelling and cursing. He then said if there was a different coach, he would play.

V. Old Business

- Solar Project – The Superintendent gave a brief presentation on Solar Energy. He asked the board to consider a special meeting to present more detailed information and have an opportunity for the public to ask questions.
- Board Policy #8120 – The Superintendent gave a brief explanation of changes. Kevin Knott moved to accept the policy as presented. Mark Fort gave the second. Motion carried on second reading 7-0.

VI. Personnel

- The Board President asked that Personnel be moved to this section of the meeting.
 - Terminations/Resignations –
 - Kelli Wiley – KHS Chemistry Teacher
 - Judy Rector – KHS Line Cook
 - New Hires –
 - Shea Idlewine – KHS Chemistry Teacher
 - Holly Buchanan – KHS Line Cook
 - Amy Cruse – Carthage Special Education Adie
 - Therese Hamilton & Karla Willis – Kennard After School Tutoring
 - Karen Brading - Title I ARRA Math Coach
 - Timothy Wehr moved to approve all above except Shea Idelwine and all non-Athletic ECA’s, KIS Academic Coaches, Scott Pickrell, Jena Schmidt, and Michelle Swift. Mark Fort gave the second. Motion carried 7-0.
 - Melissa Toth moved to approve the letter of intent for Shea Idlewine, KHS Chemistry Teacher. Leah Kopp gave the second. After some discussion, motion carried 7-0.
 - ECA Appointments
 - Dan Clevenger – Girls Varsity Track - \$4398
 - Donny Martin – Boys Varsity Baseball - \$4331
 - Billy Garris – Junior Varsity Baseball - \$2879
 - Carissa Brammer – Junior Varsity Softball - \$2583
 - Anthony Darling – Junior High Wrestling - \$1137

- Matthew Kennedy – Assistant Junior High Wrestling - \$861
- Robert Allen – Boys Varsity Golf - \$2868
- Cynthia Henry – Girls Varsity Golf - \$2868
- James Jahrsdoerfer – Varsity Cross Country - \$3347
- Anthony Probst – Volunteer Baseball Coach
- Ryan Davis – Volunteer Golf Coach

Melissa Toth moved to approve all the above recommendations with the exception of James Jahrsdoerfer. Her motion included tabling that decision. A second was given by Wade Beatty. Motion carried 7-0.

- Non-Recommendation for Bob Prescott as Varsity Football

The Superintendent stated he had received several calls expressing concerns about Coach Prescott and some calls of support. He stated he respected the non-recommendation of the Athletic Director. However, his recommendation would be to give the coach an opportunity to improve. The Board President then stated he has been a friend of the coach for many years. He stated he does not necessarily believe everything has been done the right way, but believes no one is perfect. He then said that Coach Prescott has done things the community will never hear about. He said he was a good man with a big heart. Another member stated his thanks to the patrons for their comments and for personally contacting him as their representative. A second member also expressed thanks for coming and contacting her. She also stated she wants everyone to know all concerns and comments have been sincerely and honestly considered. A roll call vote was taken to renew or non-renew Robert Prescott as Varsity Football Coach. Wade Beatty-Non; Steve Dalton-Renew; Mark Fort-Non; Kevin Knott-Non; Leah Kopp-Non; Melissa Toth-Non; Timothy Wehr-Non. Motion carried 6-1 to approve recommendation on Non-renewal of Robert Prescott as Varsity Football Coach.

VII. New Business

- Board Policy #5722 – Policy for presented for informational purposes only. This policy will be brought back next month. Melissa Toth asked each member to take the time to read the policy and provide input to the policy committee. Leah Kopp moved to table the policy with a second by Melissa Toth. Motion carried 7-0.
- KHS Handbook Revisions – The Superintendent presented information on the recommendation of revising the 2% grade reduction in the student handbook. The principal is requesting additional time to meet with the handbook committee.
- Service Vehicles – The Superintendent explained the reason for this item. The meeting was turned over to Nelson White for some clarification. A proposal was presented to lease additional service vehicles for transportation and maintenance department. After a lengthy discussion Kevin Knott moved to table this matter and bring more information next month. A second was given by Leah Kopp. After a short discussion motion to table was carried 5-2 with Steve Dalton and Mark Fort casting the negative votes.
- Neola Administrative Guidelines – A Representative from Neola was present to discuss the purpose of Administrative Guidelines. He stated the Administrative Guidelines are equally as important as policies. He encouraged the board to think seriously about administrative guidelines. He also stated the cost for these items would be \$8350. Wade Beatty moved to approve the purchase of Administrative Guidelines with a second by Melissa Toth. After some discussion, motion carried 7-0.

VIII. Superintendent Reports

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

- Appropriation Transfer Report – The Superintendent stated we are currently undergoing a State Board of Accounts audit and may have a recommendation next month to transfer funds into a Rainy Day Fund.
- Other – The Board was informed of upcoming ISBA Conference opportunities.
- Kevin Knott asked about the status of immunizations. The Superintendent stated we are 100% compliant. He will have the nurse follow-up that appointments were kept.
- Timothy Wehr asked for approval for an extension on the concession stand. He asked if that had been previously approved. The Superintendent stated there are no funds for this extension.

IX. Public Expression

- Jim Hope, 120 N. McCullum Street, Knightstown – Expressed his concern regarding an additional \$4 million bond for the proposed Solar Project. He said just a few months ago, the Board stated a company suggested putting in solar panels. He thinks before this Board issues more Bonds, it should put it to a community vote. He said he does not believe we should get a \$4 million bond that will cost us \$6 million to repay. The Superintendent stated this is just an idea.
- Joseph Kortz, 6390 N. 1000 W, Morristown – Parent – He wanted to thank the Board for the opportunity to speak regarding the principles and values. He quoted Mark Twain and stated based on his experiences, he hopes we can go forward from this and can build a sports program which includes students, parents, and coaches. He appreciated the opportunity to say what is in his heart.
- Jennifer Rosier, 6433 S. Greensboro Pike, Knightstown – Parent of football player – She stated her son really enjoyed playing football as a freshman and looked up to his coaches. She stated she doesn't understand what happened but wanted to comment that she personally had not experienced any bad interactions. She also asked that when hiring a new coach, the corporation look for a coach that remembers these boys are a football team and not in the military. However, with a group of that many boys you will need some type of structure. She also says everyone loves the Athletic Director. She is hopeful conditioning will take place in an effort to cut down on potential injuries. Her desire is to find a coach who can respect the boys.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Wade Beatty moved to adjourn at 9:48 pm.

PRESIDENT

MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBER

SECRETARY

MEMBER

MEMBER