

NOTE: These are “proposed” minutes and will not be approved until the November 21, 2017 School Board Meeting

4:00 p.m.
Administration Center

Tuesday
November 7, 2017

BOARD MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – President David Black called the November 7, 2017 meeting of the Board of School Trustees to order at 4:00 p.m. All Board Members were present with the exception of Joanna King. Others in attendance included Jane Allen, Superintendent, Robby Goodman, Asst. Superintendent, Michelle Willey, Director of Transportation and Jeff Palmer, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT- Linda Grant and Doug Slabach from Northridge High School introduced the Foreign Exchange Students attending NHS for the 2017-2018 school year. School board members enjoyed asking the students different questions about what they like in the United States – sports, food, climate, when they started learning/speaking English and if it was a difficult language to learn.

- Timo Froelich, from Germany, host family is Ashley and Joe Kelley
- Emma Frigstad, from Norway, host family is Jessica and Matt Jones
- Melanie Blomkvist, from Sweden, host family is Jessica Jones
- Kuan-Yi “Spring” Mao, from Taiwan, host family is Jennifer and Jeff Meyer
- Marte Forhang, from Norway, host family is Angela and Michael Black
- Na-Duo “Felix” Lee, from Taiwan, host family is Stacy and Adam Fugate
- Javier Alvarez, from Spain, host family is Rose and Jerald Schrock
- Laia Mani Rodriguez, from Spain, host family is Lisa and Walter Cortes
- Ana Qingbei Martinez Morena, from Spain, host family is Kim and Steve Trethewey
- Ruth Corres, from Spain, host family is Amanda Knox
- Valentina Davila Rodriguez, from Colombia, host family is Glen and Nicky Cross

Board members thanked the students for coming to the meeting.

EXPRESSIONS FROM PATRONS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA –

- Minutes from the October 24, 2017 Public Hearing Meeting and School Board Meeting
- Claims Lists
- Personnel

EMPLOYMENT:

Northridge High School

Certified: Aimee Gingerich, Assistant Softball Coach, 43295-1, Replacing: Haley Nixon
Start Date: November 8, 2017

Savanna Kimmerling, English Blended Learning Extra Duty Teacher
Start Date: November 8, 2017

Classified: Teresa Riegsecker, Science Olympiad Assistant, Start Date: October 25, 2017
Teri Sheets, 3.5 Hour/ 3 Days/Week Cafeteria Worker, Replacing: Kimberly Young
Start Date: November 8, 2017

Northridge Middle School

Classified: Samantha Dance, 3.5 Hour Cafeteria Worker, Replacing: Rosemary Kirkdorffer
Start Date: November 13, 2017

Craig Adams, 8th Grade Girls A Basketball Coach, Replacing: Aimee Gingerich

Start Date: November 8, 2017

RESIGNATION:

Northridge Middle School

Certified: Megan Stanton, 8th Grade Girls B Basketball Coach, Effective Date: October 31, 2017
Aimee Gingerich, 7th Grade Girls A Basketball Coach, Effective Date: November 3, 2017

TERMINATION:

York Elementary School

Classified: Paige Bardo, 3 Hour Cafeteria Worker, Effective Date: October 26, 2017

TRANSFER:

Northridge High School

Classified: Laura Anderson, 3.5 Hour Cafeteria Worker, to: 6 Hour Cafeteria Worker
Replacing: Amy Rekeweg, Start Date: November 8, 2017

FMLA LEAVE:

Northridge Middle School

Certified: Hilary Roberts, 7th Grade Math Teacher,
From March 30, 2018 to beginning of 2018-19 school year

Mr. Gayler moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

CONSIDER OPENING TRANSFER TUITION ENROLLMENT FOR 2ND SEMESTER OF 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR – Mrs. Allen would like to open Tuition Transfers for the 2nd semester of the 2017-2018 school year. The window for open enrollment is November 8, 2017 thru February 1, 2018. Mr. Souder moved and Mr. Miller seconded a motion to approve opening tuition transfer enrollment for the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DONATION TO MIDDLEBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – The Middlebury PTO would like to donate \$590.23 to Middlebury Elementary School for Library activities. This money would help fund March Reading Madness and Guest Speakers. Mr. Gayler moved and Mr. Miller seconded a motion to approve the donation of funds to Middlebury Elementary as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

FIELD TRIPS – Board members reviewed the list of field trips.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE –

Graduation Pathways

- The requirements for high school diplomas could soon be changing for Indiana students. A special panel from the state was established to help teenagers become prepared for life after graduation day. Mrs. Allen said when the board traveled to Plymouth in October, 2017 for the ISBA board seminar/workshop it was stated there were some issues with the Pathways. This Pathway committee is making changes that determine how our students will graduate from high school. In October we had one new set of Pathway which consisted of three changes. Since then we now have six changes. Dr. Scot Croner, Superintendent at Wanees, suggested to all superintendents at the meeting to run their numbers of graduates. Of our 2017 spring graduates using the existing requirements MCS had 92% graduating. Using Pathway's new requirements those same students graduating would be 74%. It would be worse now with the newest changes they have come up with. Dr. Croner received information from the different school corporations across the state. Using the new Pathways requirements for graduation the school corporations are dropping between 20%-40% in the graduation rate, across the board. So, the superintendents are stressing everyone to contact our legislators and the Pathway committee. The goal in this is to create Pathways that are more meaningful for kids. Not to make the

requirements more difficult. These requirements should be able to be reachable and meaningful for students who are not going to go on to college. Dr. Croner said “The purpose for the graduation Pathway meeting was to create NEW opportunities for students to graduate with skills necessary for post-secondary success. Unfortunately the core proposal only adds burdensome layers on top of already college centric diploma requirements. This will not only further reduce our ability to help guide students in our region to high wage, high demand careers available from our great employers but it will decrease the number of high school graduates.” That is a problem. One of the local employers, Mark Melnick from Benteler Corporation, spoke to the committee today on behalf of employers who advocated for the reduction of the regulations and red tape. It is hindering our ability to innovate and create meaningful opportunities for students to connect with their employers. It’s a matter of help us – if you are going to make new pathways, that’s fine, but make them realistic and make them fit the kids rather than what someone thinks they should be. Mr. Gayler asked if we can share what some of the qualification changes are. One the things the committee has done is said the high school diploma needs to meet all the requirements. Previously we had kids that could meet most of them. Some students would get a waiver, especially the Special Ed or struggling students. Now you have to have all the following requirements to get a high school diploma:

- Have an Honors diploma
- Pass the SAT/ACT with a certain score
- Have 3 courses from IB, Dual Credit or AP (that you got at least a C in)
- A State recognized credentials (Industry)
- A project-based learning; a service-based learning or a work base learning experience.

Previously students needed the Core 40 Diploma and then you could get an Academic Honors Diploma or a General Diploma. This new requirement is from the IN Department of Education. Mr. Miller asked when this would take effect on the students. Mrs. Allen said it would be the students that graduate in 2022, which means it would be our current 8th graders. Mr. Gayler asked if there were any financial ramifications for our corporation to make sure these students are being educated in so many different ways. Mrs. Allen said we have IB and Dual Credits. But when the times comes and the dual credit teachers need accredited with the college requirements now - that is a piece (right now) that we aren’t going to be able to afford – to pay them to get those degrees that teachers are going to have to have. The other piece is they have to have enough people in project based learning, which is a lot of professional development that we have to support financially, as well as work-based learning. We have about 40 kids right now that are in those experiences. In the future we would have to increase (or triple) to fit that. We do a lot of service learning in our district. If you are in a sport for 1 year it counts, which Mrs. Allen found interesting. The sad thing is we want to keep kids in school so they want to graduate and some of this is going to prevent them from graduating. Mr. Gayler asked if the qualifications were the same for private schools and charter schools as well. Mrs. Allen said as far as they know that is true. Mr. Miller asked if any of our local congressmen/legislators are on the committee. Mrs. Allen said legislators are on the committee but she wouldn’t call them a focused group. A lot of parents, students, teachers and superintendents have gone down to testify their concerns and how this is going to affect them going forward. It’s a major issue right now. Mr. Miller asked if there was any feel on how our Governor or others stand on this. Is this something they are pushing for? Mrs. Allen thinks they are watching to see what happens. In our Elkhart County community, we want everyone to have something to do and we have no workers now. Our goal is to provide the best possible pathway for a kid to be successful in something they want to do, especially if they don’t go to college. Mr. Black said he has asked Mrs. Allen to explanation Graduation Pathways because he did not understand exactly what the Dept. of Education was trying to accomplish by this and now that we have had this discussion he’s still not sure what the Dept. of Education is trying to accomplish by doing this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TRAVEL – Board members reviewed the list of travel requests.

EXPRESSIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS – None

OTHER BUSINESS – None

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Stouder seconded a motion to adjourn the November 7, 2017 school board meeting at 4:38 p.m. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0. The next scheduled school board meeting will be November 24, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

David Black, President

Joanna King, Vice President

Robert Souder, Secretary

Scott Miller, Member

Paul Gayler, Member