

NOTE: These are “proposed” minutes and will not be approved until the October 18, 2016 School Board Meeting

4:00 p.m.
Administration Center

Tuesday
October 4, 2016

BOARD MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – President David Black called the October 4, 2016, meeting of the Board of School Trustees to order at 4:35 p.m. Board members present were: Mr. Black, Mr. Gayler and Mrs. King. Board members absent were: Mr. Miller and Mr. Souder. Others in attendance included Jane Allen, Superintendent, James Bromley, Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Palmer, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Michelle Willey, Director of Transportation.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Goodman introduced Rob Nisen to talk about the middle school math program. Mr. Nisen indicated the middle school started a new math initiative last year (i.e. Honors Math, Mathcounts, and MERGE Math).

- MERGE is a math support class that is taught in one semester. It consists of one 6th grade, one 7th grade and one 8th grade class. Using NWEA testing students can get their scores immediately. If they are having problems the tests will indicate what area they are having problems. Then the teacher can help that student succeed in the areas they are struggling in. The goals in having this class is to help boost confidence, improve the NWEA scores, improve ISTEP scores and have students enjoy math.
- New to MCS in the fall of 2015 - NMS offered pre-algebra to sixth graders. This class has grown to 37 sixth graders. Those sixth graders will take Algebra in seventh grade and high school geometry in eighth grade. Currently there are approximately 70 students in the program and expect to have about 90-100 next year. This program is designed to accelerate and enrich high ability students whose instructional level is actually two grades above. Other schools in Elkhart County and across the state have been doing this program. This makes MCS attractive to our patrons and to tuition transfers coming to our school corporation.
- There are different competitions we can participate in. We had the opportunity to go down to the state capital to meet the State Superintendent, Glenda Ritz. There were eleven sixth graders that were recognized in the state and two were from Northridge. Also in eighth grade there were nineteen outstanding scholars recognized and NMS had two. Using the NWEA scores they set a growth and set goals. The average growth on NWEA for sixth graders was 16 points...we had one student that grew 46 points. That was really exciting to see.
- The extra-curricular Mathcounts Team. Mathcounts is a nationally premier competition. It is a nationwide initiative to increase math interest. The program has grown from 15 students to approximately 30 students at MCS ... the top qualifiers can win scholarships and full-rides to universities like Purdue, etc. The teams that win the National Championship get to go to the White House. At the competition in February at Notre Dame we finished 1st, and later we finished 5th in state (ahead of Honeycreek and Carmel, which was exciting). This year, three times a week (Monday morning), we have approximately 40 students coming early in the morning (7:30 a.m.) to work on math. All of this builds excitement with the kids.
- Dr. Goodman added two years ago the same students that were in Mathcounts participated in the Academic Superbowl and we were state champions. Mr. Nisen was coach of the state championship math team. Dr. Goodman said when you heard him mention we beat Honey Creek School last year, that’s his “Newman”.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Nisen to explain the competitiveness with Honey Creek School. Mr. Nisen said another teacher, Robert Fisher, has taught Honey Creek 44 years and has been to the White House several times. Mr. Black said so that’s the “bar” and Mr. Nisen indicated that’s what it is. Mr. Nisen said they do enjoy teaching all the students and classes, it’s exciting. Mr. Black said some of the time you think of extra-curricular as athletic and not academic he is thrilled to see how competitive this has become. The initiative at this point and time, this is yours today. You are doing an excellent job. He would like to come in some Thursday morning to just sit in the background and watch the enthusiasm. Mrs. King said what Mr. Nisen shared and how he shared it would make such a difference to our legislators. Because they don’t understand – all they think about is accountability and all they know is ISTEP testing. That is their measure of accountability. Mr. Nisen said earlier that education is about opportunity. This is a huge example of letting those kids set that bar higher and higher for themselves. It’s a personal goal to do better than they did last week. What Mr. Nisen shares on FACEBOOK - the stories about Honey Creek, it gets our community very excited about what is happening in our schools. Especially today you have school of choice as part of the environment we are in. It is so important that you tell those stories. There is a lot of success going on that the general public doesn’t know and doesn’t hear about. Continue to share those stories not just to the board but especially on social media. This is what we need to have pride in our school and community and it starts with telling your stories. The board thanked Mr. Nisen for what he is doing.

EXPRESSIONS FROM PATRONS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA –

- Minutes from the September 20, 2016 school board meeting; 2017 Budget Hearing; Lease Amendment Hearing and Additional Appropriation Hearing.
- Claims Lists
- Personnel List

EMPLOYMENT:

Administration Building

Classified: Barbra Hertsel, Substitute Bus Monitor, Start Date: October 5, 2016
Robert Fink, Bus Driver, Start Date: October 4, 2016

Northridge Middle School

Classified: Heather Stutzman, 4 Hour Building Assistant, Replacing: Autumn Grey
Start Date: October 6, 2016

Northridge High School

Classified: Dawn M. Covey, 5 hour nine month custodian, Replacing: Mary Coddens that moved to the NMS
Start Date: October 5, 2016
Laura Vincent, Concession manager, Replacing: Teresa Riegsecker
Start date: October 5, 2016
Bradley Frank, Athletic Secretary, Replacing: Teresa Troyer
Start date: October 5, 2016, Pending Back Ground Check Return

RESIGNATION:

Northridge High School

Classified: Teresa Troyer, Athletic Secretary, Effective Date: October 7, 2016
Carrie VanDeventer, Life Skills paraprofessional, Effective Date: October 11, 2016

Heritage Intermediate School

Classified: Lynette VanDaele, 3 Hour Noontime Assistant, Effective Date: October 5, 2016

REQUEST for EMERGENCY LEAVE:

Orchard View Elementary:

Classified: Kimberly Griffith, Requested 3 Hours of Emergency Leave, August 17, 2016

FMLA LEAVE:

Middlebury Elementary School

Classified: Kathleen Hartzler, 6 Hour Cafeteria Worker, October 5, 2016 to January 4, 2017

Mr. Gayler moved and Mrs. King seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2017 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND PLAN – Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to approve the 2017 Capital Projects Fund Plan as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2017-2028 BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN – Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to approve the 2017-2028 Bus Replacement Plan as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2017 BUDGET RESOLUTION – Mr. Gayler moved and Mrs. King seconded a motion to approve the 2017 Budget Resolution as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A 1% STIPEND FOR ALL CLASSIFIED AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF IN JANUARY 2017 – Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to table this agenda item to the next school board meeting on October 18, 2016 because there was not a quorum for the vote due to conflict of interest. The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE DATE – Mrs. Allen said currently for a student to be enrolled in Kindergarten they have to be five (5) years of age by September 1st. She requested approval from the board to change this date to August 1st. There will be an entrance appeal process. Parents who have a child that is born after August 1st and they don't think their child needs to wait another year, we have a test/assessment we give to the child to determine if they are ready for kindergarten as we see their need to be ready. This would have to be done in the spring – and we will let the buildings know and we will advertise it that way. We will also need to change the policy and bylaw if this is approved. Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to approve changing the Kindergarten Entrance date to August 1st beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DONATIONS TO NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL – Mrs. Allen requested board approval of the following donations to Northridge High School.

- Hi-Mileage Car: Regan/Tracei Lehman - \$500
- Athletics: Nancy Miller Memorial - \$621
- Vocal Music: Nancy Miller Memorial - \$1,090

Mr. Gayler moved and Mrs. King seconded a motion to approve the following donations to Northridge High School as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DONATIONS TO HERITAGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL – Mrs. Allen requested approval of a donation from the HIS PTO in the amount of \$6,000. This would help fund the Olweus program for the upcoming school year. Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to approve the donation of \$6,000 from the HIS PTO as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

FIELD TRIPS – Board members reviewed the list of field trips. Mrs. King indicated her pleasure in seeing a field trip on the list that Dr. Goodman is taking students from the middle school to Elkhart County Businesses and the Career Center. Most of the school corporations in Elkhart County along with the Horizon Educational Alliance are doing that this year. It is pretty exciting that they are bringing students into the workplace and getting them engaged in the process of what kind of career they would have in their future. So many times we are conditioned to "I'm going to move away, there's nothing here for me to do". There's a lot of things happening in Indiana and especially here in Elkhart County. This is a great opportunity for our kids to see what is going on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE –

- Middle School Boys & Girls Soccer teams won their tournaments this weekend. Both teams had undefeated seasons.
- The NHS Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams got 2nd place in the NLC Tournament this weekend.
- This Wednesday is the soccer sectional for the NHS boy's team.
- This Thursday is the first game for the girl's soccer in the sectional.
- The board tour of the schools will be on Monday, October 10th.
- There was a lot of publicity today in Middlebury because of the Torch Relay. Channel 22 interviewed some of our middle school students will have segments on TV tonight at 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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

EXPRESSIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS –

- Mr. Black thanked Dr. Goodman for bringing Mr. Nisen over to show the board his presentation on middle school math. It's exciting to hear students being excited about academics.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

ADJOURNMENT – Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to adjourn the October 4, 2016 meeting of the School Board of Trustees at 5:08 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved with a vote of 3-0. The next scheduled school board meeting will be on October 18, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Administration Center.

David Black, President

Joanna King, Vice President

Robert Souder, Secretary

Scott Miller, Member

Paul Gayler, Member