

NOTE: These are "proposed" minutes and will not be approved until the January 3, 2017 School Board Meeting

4:00 p.m.
Administration Center

Tuesday
December 6, 2016

BOARD MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – President David Black called the December 6, 2016, meeting of the Board of School Trustees to order at 4:00 p.m. All Board Members were present. Others in attendance included Jane Allen, Superintendent, James Bromley, Assistant Superintendent, Mark Snyder, Director of Business Services, Michelle Willey, Director of Transportation and Jeff Palmer, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ISTEP Report. Mr. Bromley presented information regarding the Spring 2016 ISTEP+ RESULTS

The ISTEP+ scores were released and have been published in the newspapers. The scores have gone down state-wide as everyone knows. Middlebury is not any different than the rest of the state. When you look at the whole state average where 35% of 10th graders pass math - that is pretty sad. It's not just our scores in Middlebury (where we are used to much higher scores). Mr. Gayler questioned if there was any valuable data we can use from the report? Mrs. Allen said "no – not one number is valuable". The NWEA test scores will be valuable with information, this is not. Mr. Black said there will not be any changes in ISTEP+ going forward for at least 1 year, possibly 2 years. Mr. Bromley indicated we will have this test at least for 1 more year (2018). Everything at this time is unsure. Mr. Gayler asked if we had this data from previous years and if so, he would like to see that. Mr. Bromley said he could get that information to him. Mrs. Allen said normally in the county we are usually 2nd and 3rd and in the middle school 1st in math (we run in the high 80's and 90 in the middle school). Fairfield, Wanee and MCS are usually 1, 2 and 3 across the board. This has no reflection on how we teach, what we teach or who we teach – nothing has changed but the test. As far as she is concerned this is worthless information. Mrs. King said this is so frustrating on so many levels and her compassion goes out to kids who are subjected to this and the stress they feel. She is for accountability and high standards but this is just asinine. When you continue to look at a "wheel that is broken" and you continue to keep using it! Her challenge is for legislators to come to our schools and see what the children are learning and what is happening. And for them to take the test and see what the children face with the stress and pressure. She believes every child has an incredible ability to learn and she feels we are doing our children a great disservice to use this as a measuring stick, because it is not an accurate one. Mr. Black indicated this is a definite explanation for the theory of insanity "doing the same thing over and over again" and expecting a different result. Our legislators expect a different result and they are getting a different result but you can't validate it. This is "worthless information".

EXPRESSIONS FROM PATRONS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA –

- Minutes from the November 15, 2016 school board meeting
- Claims Lists
- Personnel List

EMPLOYMENT:

Northridge High School

Certified: Stephanie Priem, Jr. Class Sponsor, 5340, Start Date: December 7, 2016
Stephanie Priem, Sr. Class Co-Sponsor, 6340, ½ stipend, Start Date: December 7, 2016
Aundrea Smeltzer, Sr. Class Sponsor, 5341, Start Date: December 7, 2016
Aundrea Smeltzer, Jr. Class Co-Sponsor, 6340, ½ stipend, Start Date: December 7, 2016

Classified: Shawn Puckett, Assistant Wrestling Coach, 43260-3, ½ stipend, Start Date: December 7, 2016
Matt Reverman, Head Girls Tennis Coach, 23125-1, Start Date: December 6, 2016
Jennifer Carlson, Assistant Cheer Coach, 43298-1, Start Date: December 7, 2016
Michelle White, 6.75 Hour Life Skills Para, Replacing: Cari VanDeventer
Start Date: January 3, 2017

Northridge Middle School

Classified: Jordan Elliott, 6.5 Hour Autism Para, Start Date: December 7, 2016
Catherine Stokes, 6.5 Hour Life Skills Para, Replacing: Lynette Krugh
Start Date: December 7, 2016
Nicole DuBois, 7.5 Hour EL Assistant, Replacing: Lori Firstenberger
Start date: December 7, 2016
Lisa Nixon, 6.5 Hour Autism Para, Replacing: Sally Whitson
Start Date: January 4, 2017

RESIGNATION:

Jefferson Elementary School

Classified: Catherine Stokes, 3 Hour Cafeteria Worker, Effective Date: December 6, 2016

Northridge Middle School

Classified: Sally Whitson, 6.5 Hour Autism Para, Effective Date: November 28, 2016

Mary Coddens, 12 Month Custodian, Effective Date: November 30, 2016

Heritage Intermediate School

Classified: George (Bob) Derr, 12 Month, Second Shift Custodian, Effective Date: December 7, 2016

Michelle White, 5.75 Hour Autism Para, Effective Date: December 16, 2016

Northridge High School

Classified: Laura Vincent, Concessions Manager, Effective Date: December 1, 2016

Middlebury Elementary School

Classified: Lisa Nixon, 5.5 Hour Instructional Assistant, Effective Date: December 16, 2016

EMERGENCY LEAVE:

Jefferson Elementary School

Certified: Curt Schwartz, Principal, 1 Day, November 29, 2016

Classified: Wanda Moore, Bookkeeper, 1 Hour 45 Minutes, November 16, 2016

Administration Center

Classified: Marilyn Cook, Payroll Clerk, 2 Days, December 7 (1/2), 8, 9 (1/2)

FMLA LEAVE:

Middlebury Elementary School

Certified: Karen Johnson, Kindergarten Teacher, From November 21, 2016 to January 9, 2017

Northridge High School

Certified: Donna Stajkowski, Technology Integration Coach, From December 5, 2016 to January 3, 2017

Administration Center

Classified: Cliff Wolf, Head of Maintenance, From December 27, 2016 to January 9, 2017

TRANSFER:

Orchard View Elementary School

Classified: Laura Baker: 6.5 Hour Special Needs One-to-One Para, to:
6.5 Hour Mixed Ability Special Education Assistant, Start Date: January 4, 2017

Northridge Middle School

Classified: Kathy Fackelman, 3.5 Hour Cafeteria Worker, to: Jefferson Elementary School, 3.5 Hour Cafeteria Worker
Replacing: Catherine Stokes, Start Date: December 6, 2016

Jamie Gregory, 6 Hour Cafeteria Worker, to: York Elementary School, 6 Hour Cafeteria Worker
Start date: December 6, 2016

LEAVE 3430:

Jefferson Elementary and Middlebury Elementary School

Certified: Emily Holt, Art Teacher, From April 26, 2017 to April 26, 2018

Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

REQUEST TO PROCESS AND RELEASE END-OF-YEAR CLAIMS – Mr. Gayler moved and Mrs. King seconded a motion to approve a request to process and release end-of-year claims as needed. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

APPROVAL OF 2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR – Mr. Souder moved and Mrs. King seconded a motion to approve the 2017-2018 school calendar as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0. See the attached calendar which was approved.

APPROVAL OF NORTHRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL ASST. PRINCIPAL – Mrs. Allen recommended Randy DeShone to fill the position of Northridge Middle School Assistant Principal. He was the top candidate out of 24 candidates, has 30 years of teaching experience and 3.5 years as an Assistant Principal and Dean of Students. He is better known as a man of character and is really good with students. Mrs. King moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to approve Randy DeShone as the new Assistant Principal at Northridge Middle School. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES ON 1ST READING - **School Board Policies – New and Revised**

These policies were created and/or revised to reflect the current state of the law.

0120 – Board Powers *Revised*

- This policy reflects the “Home Rule” explanation for the Board and changes the statute number.

0123 – Philosophy of the Board *Revised*

- Changes in some of the wording from “requirements” to the word “obligation” are the biggest differences in this revision. The changes keep the policy legally correct.

2271 – College and University Programs *Revised*

- This policy change reflects the new requirements for dual credit courses for students to receive college and high school credit. It also provides the requirements for the High School Fast Track program that allows students who do not finish high school to get their High School Equivalency (HSE) in an expedient manner.

2421 – Career and Technical Education Program *Revised*

- This policy change reflects the new requirement for teacher accreditation to teach the Career and Tech Ed classes.

2510 – Adoption of Curricular Materials *Revised*

- This policy change contains the wording and stipulations that allow the school district to write off student fees that are unpaid after a certain period of time. The State Board of Accounts requires that districts have a policy in place in order for them to accomplish the write-off process.

5112 – Admission to Kindergarten *Revised*

- This policy revision changes the entrance date for Kindergarten to August 1.

5200 – Attendance *Revised*

- This policy was changed to add the language that allows students to participate in the State Fair with no penalty for missing school. It states that students shall NOT be recorded as absent for the days missed for the State Fair, being a Page for the Legislature, etc.

5460 – Graduation Requirements *Revised*

- This policy reflects the change in requirements for teacher accreditation for courses required for graduation. This will also reflect the new ruling by the Higher Learning Commission concerning Dual Credit courses. The policy also adds the wording for “certificate of course completion” to replace the “certificate of attendance” wording.

5461 – Credit for Courses Completed Before Students Enter Grade 9 *Revised*

- The changes to this policy allow for students to get high school credit with coursework completed in the middle school setting. The new definition describes that students will be given high school credit but not necessarily complete requirements for graduation.

5540 – The Schools and Governmental Agencies *Revised*

- This change revises the policy to reflect that the statute concerning interrogation of students was repealed in the state law. Consequently, that language is being removed and the policy will more accurately reflect the state law.

6111 – Internal Controls and Standards *Revised*

- This revision presents the requirements with regard to the financial statements used with reasonable assurance required by the Federal Government. It also provides for us to set the materiality thresholds for cash and other assets.

6152 – Student Fees and Charges *Revised*

- Policy revisions allow us to refund fees when students leave the district before the end of the school year and write-off fees unpaid that are above a specified amount after a certain number of years. The State Board of Accounts requires that the policy be in place before we are allowed to do any of the refunds or write-offs.

8510 – Wellness *Revised*

- The revisions to this policy provide wording changes and a section that defines the wellness committee for the district more inclusively.

8531 – Free and Reduced Priced Meals *Revised*

- This policy allows us to be compliant with the State Board of Accounts concerning the accounting and auditing procedure of the Food Service Accounts and Free and Reduced Lunch Program for the district.

8540 – Vending Machines *Revised*

- This policy revision reflects the changes in the law concerning when vending machines are allowed to be operational and how they must be stocked. The USDA’s Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Smart Snacks for Schools regulations override school and district in this policy.

8606 – Bus Drivers and Cellular Telephone Use *NEW*

- This new policy reflects the new legislation that defines and prohibits texting, emailing, and using a cellular device while driving a bus. This policy includes any employ transporting any student in any vehicle for any purpose.

8451 – Pediculosis (Head Lice)

- Removed sentence that says “are known to spread diseases”.

Mr. Gayler moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to approve the revisions/new school board policies on 1st reading as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

FIELD TRIPS – The school board reviewed the list of field trips.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE – Mrs. Allen wished everyone a wonderful holiday. Board members are invited to Goshen Community Schools is having an open house for those board members who have served on December 12th.

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

EXPRESSIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS –

- Mr. Miller welcomed Mr. DeShone to the school corporation.
- Mr. Souder welcomed Mr. DeShone we have a wonderful person working with us together.
- Mrs. King also welcomed Mr. DeShone and thanked the administrators for coming to the school board meetings and appreciates all they do. It shows the team effort they put into helping raise this next generation.
- Mr. Gayler thanked the administrators for all that they do – it means a lot. He also welcomed Mr. DeShone to the school corporation.
- Mr. Black also welcomed Mr. DeShone – he’s heard many great things from the other administrators about bringing him onboard.

OTHER BUSINESS – Mrs. Allen was in Indianapolis last Sunday and Monday when she was out shopping she stopped at a Steak n Shake restaurant. One of our graduates, Jack Hesser, was working there as a waiter, He worked that room and had everyone in the room laughing – what a waiter!. He is teaching science at IPS and he talked to Mrs. Allen about teaching middle school kids and it was thrilling for her to hear. Congratulations to Jack and to the success of our programs at MCS. Jack will change those kids’ lives – it’s a wonderful thing!

ADJOURNMENT – Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to adjourn the December 6, 2016 meeting of the School Board of Trustees at 4:35 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The next scheduled school board meeting will be on January 3, 2017 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