

**NOTE: These are “proposed” minutes and will not be approved until the May 2,, 2017 School Board Meeting**

4:00 p.m.  
Administration Center

Tuesday  
April 11, 2017

BOARD MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – President David Black called the April 11, 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, Assistant Superintendent, Michelle Willey, Director of Transportation and Jeff Palmer, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - Mrs. Allen introduced Curt Schwartz, Principal at Jefferson Elementary, who came to speak about the Waterford technology program being used by his teachers. Mrs. Brickner, an Instructional Coach at JES, brought some of her kindergarten and first grade students who are going to a show a personal tutorial on Waterford and how it is being utilized. Mrs. Van Daele, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, also came to talk about using Gynzy (another type of learning software) in her classroom.

- Mrs. Van Daele demonstrated how students use Gynzy, an on-line interactive whiteboard software program. It’s a resource that gives teachers resources for different subjects at your fingertips. A teacher can click on the grade they teach which will direct them to the subjects of LA, Math, Social Studies and Science. Teachers can create lessons then post them at grade level in a folder which they share with other teachers. One of her favorites is a “Jeopardy” game which she created. It’s fun to have this resource at the teacher’s fingertips.
- Mrs. Brickner had her students demonstrate how they use the Waterford program in the classroom and in the computer lab. This program was funded with grant money. It is a reading intervention tool for grades K-2. The program grows with the child and this is the first year implementing it at Jefferson. The teachers will have data where they can see how each student is doing, which aligns with their NWEA data. It will help pin-point where students are and what they need help on. Students can use this software at home in the summer to continue learning. Six students logged onto the software to show and answered questions from board members on what they are learning. The board thanked the students for coming to the board meeting.
- Mr. Schwartz said the computer lab is another component they have added into the curriculum this year. Mr. Miller (Technology Director) and Mrs. Stajkowski (Technology Coach) worked with a Technology committee of teachers who developed essential technology skills that they want students K-12 to have. The issue they were having is how to teach those technology skills. They “weaved” that computer lab time into the rotations that will not add it to the teacher’s plates. Teachers will help students use tools like Excel, PowerPoint, Graphs, etc. before they go to the Intermediate school. Mrs. Allen said Jefferson is piloting the implementation of those skills. We need to have students able to take a test on-line and have them ready to do that. Mr. Black questioned with this being a pilot program will it go district wide at some time. Mrs. Allen yes, it will. Mr. Gayler said it is amazing that 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will know Excel. This is really awesome. He also asked if we have the resources or computers to implement this in all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms. Mrs. Allen said for K-3 this is their refresh year (when they get all new computers in their buildings). All their labs will be refreshed and we are going to aim for more devices in the classroom. We’ll have more information about that in the coming months. Mr. Black said the advantage he sees working in business of having kids able to start having the understanding for what they are learning in technology and working in Excel, is huge. These kids are vertically integrated as they go and will be farther ahead. By the time they are seniors this will be outdated and they will learn different things. However, the basis for the understanding is there and that’s the important thing and he is glad to hear that is what they are doing. Mrs. Allen thanked all the children for coming.

EXPRESSIONS FROM PATRONS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA –

- Minutes from the March 21, 2017 school board meeting
- Claims Lists
- Personnel List
- March 2017 Financial Statement

EMPLOYMENT:

Administration Center

Classified: Carlie Davis, Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, Replacing: Marilyn Cook  
Start Date: May 8, 2017

Northridge High School

Classified: Ross Jones, Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, 43230-1, Start Date: April 12, 2017  
Martin Wilson, Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, 43230-1, Replacing: Jon Bowen  
Start Date: April 12, 2017

Orchard View Elementary School

Classified: Kimberly Mast, Building Secretary, Replacing: Carlie Davis  
Start Date: April 13, 2017

RESIGNATION:

Northridge Middle School

Certified: Erin Wagner, Full time 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher, Effective Date: End of 2016-17 school year  
Classified: Cassie Riegsecker, 6.5 Hour Autism Para, Effective Date: April 7, 2017  
Peggy Milliken, 12 Month Custodian, Effective Date: March 31, 2017

Transportation Department

Classified: Barbara Hertsel, Bus Monitor Sub, Effective Date: March 28, 2017  
M. Darlene Cross, Bus Driver, Effective Date: May 26, 2017

Jefferson Elementary School

Certified: Linda Swihart, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Effective Date: May 31, 2017

Northridge High School

Classified: Haely Owens, 6.75 Hour Life Skills Para, Effective Date: April 7, 2017  
Brittany Rogers, Color Guard Instructor, 43202-3, Effective Date: April 4, 2017  
Brittany Rogers, Winter Guard Instructor, 4303-3, Effective Date: April 4, 2017

Orchard View Elementary

Classified: Carlie Davis, Building Secretary, Effective Date: May 7, 2017  
Kimberly Mast, 6 Hour Special Education Assistant, Effective Date: April 12, 2017

EMERGENCY LEAVE:

York Elementary School

Certified: Nicole Sheridan, Kindergarten Teacher, .5 Days, May 15, 2017  
Classified: Judy Mater, 7.5 Hour Building Assistant, 4.5 Hours, March 30, 2017

Heritage Intermediate School

Certified: Jay Hochstetler, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, .5 Day, March 17, 2017

Northridge High School

Certified: Ronald Thomas, Social Studies Teacher, 1 Day, March 30, 2017

FMLA LEAVE:

Northridge Middle School

Certified: Lauren Bailey, Blended Learning Teacher, From August 10, 2017 to October 6, 2017  
Judith Mantyla, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Teacher, From August 9, 2017 to October 24, 2017

RETIREMENT:

Transportation Department

Classified: Dorothy Coplin, Bus Monitor, Effective Date: March 28, 2017  
Mary Bortrager, Bus Driver, Effective Date: May 26, 2017  
Jennielee Smeltzer, Bus Driver, Effective Date: June 3, 2017  
Sandy White, Bus Driver, Effective Date: May 26, 2017

TRANSFER:

Northridge Middle School

Certified: Erin Wagner, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher, to: .5 Science Teacher  
Start Date: August 7, 2017  
Classified: Ann Parker, 6.5 Hour Special Education Assistant to: 6.5 Hour Autism Para  
Effective Date: April 10, 2017

Transportation Department

Classified: David Bowman, Bus Driver to: Sub Bus Driver  
Effective Date: March 28, 2017

Heritage Intermediate School

Classified: Tera Gascho, 6 Hour Autism Para to: 7.5 Hour Building Assistant  
Replacing: Samantha Hartzell, Start Date: April 17, 2017

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO PROCESS AND RELEASE CLAIMS AS NEEDED – This is something the board does when we only have one board meeting in a month. This is done so we can process and write checks during the time between this meeting and the one on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to approve the request to process and release claims as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SCIENCE TEXTBOOK ADOPTION – Mr. Yoder, Principal of Orchard View and the person in charge of the Science Adoption at the high school and elementary schools would like to readopt the books they currently have. The middle school would like to adopt something new but at this point in time it would make more sense to wait a year to do that due to the cost. The textbook samples have been at the administration center since the beginning of March for the public to view. Mr. Souder moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to approve the Science Textbook Adoption as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE – Mrs. Allen reminded the school board members the Spring Regional meeting is in Plymouth on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Allen addressed the changes in the transportation department/bussing for the next school year and also important information regarding the school budget.

- *“We stated a few weeks ago in a board meeting that we were changing the number of stops we allow students to have for riding the bus. Currently we allow 2 stops for the morning and 2 for the afternoon. For example, Joey can be picked up at mom’s house some days and the babysitter’s the other days. Joey can also be dropped off at either the baby sitter’s house or the Boys/Girls Club. For us to put Joey on a bus for pick up in the morning and drop off in the afternoon, Joey has to have a seat on 2 different buses every day. That means that for every child we allow 2 stops, we need 2 seats. We are short bus drivers and have been all year. As of right now, we are going to begin next year short 5 drivers.*

*By allowing only 1 pick-up and 1 drop-off per student, that frees up all of those unneeded seats on all of the buses. This will allow us to create accurate bus routes with full buses, lessen the number of buses necessary and hopefully streamline our bus service. Currently we always have empty seats because of the students who are riding on their other stop for the day. I know this is not what some parents want to hear and I am sorry for the inconvenience. However, we are doing everything we can to provide the best service possible for our students and their families.”*

- *“I thought it would be worth noting that our legislature will soon be finishing up another long session in the state house and we appreciate all that they do to serve their constituents. We will also soon be heading into budget planning and creating for 2018. We budget by determining what we need to fund our debt service, capital projects, transportation, and bus replacement costs for that year. We estimate the Assessed Valuation of our district and set a tax rate that is fair and appropriate for us to receive the funds necessary. When the property owners in our district receive their tax bills, they see that part of their taxes go to our school district. We are very thankful for the support that our community provides our schools.*

*When we create our budget, everything we have in our budget has to be approved by the school board and the state level. We have done that every year and did that in 2008. We were paid taxes in 2008 by our school district property owners and we spent the funds appropriately according to our budget that was approved by the board and the state of Indiana. However, we were notified about 2 weeks ago that one of the companies in our taxing district appealed their assessed valuation in 2008 and their appeal was recently approved. That means that we have to pay back money we received in 2009 from this company plus interest in the amount of \$495,085. That amount of money is over \$100 a student and if it was in general fund it could pay for 10 brand new teachers.*

*For us that means that although we did not assess the property involved, we are responsible for giving back the money plus 8 years’ worth of interest. We encourage you to contact our legislators and help them understand that the process for tax appeals should be revisited to at least shorten the process. We will pay back the funds because we follow the law. However, if we would have known this was coming we could have at least budgeted for it. A lot of the things we planned to do with our approved budgets in Debt Service, Capital Projects, Transportation, and Bus Replacement will have to be cut to handle the cost of this unplanned burden.”*

- Mr. Black said one of the concerns that he and Mrs. Allen talked about was the statute of limitations on appeals, but every time you have a corporation as large as the one she just mentioned that gets an appeal heard and ok’d, there are other corporations that are within our district that will be looking at theirs now and could create more problems for us going forward. This is unfortunate that it takes so long, and we have been at the bottom of the totem pole for years and years and it was about 5 years ago when we finally got a little relief and now all of that relief is being wiped out with one swoop of the pen in Indianapolis. This can be devastating. His concern is also for some of our surrounding districts. He wonders if this might affect them also.

- Mr. Gayler asked if we had a breakdown of the principal and interest. Mrs. Allen said no she did not. That burns him that it's the principal amount plus interest. Who is at fault? Mrs. Allen has left messages at the county and she hasn't received any information. Mr. Mike Yoder was very helpful but he can only tell us so much. Mr. Gayler said this is a fight worth fighting to get some answers.

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

EXPRESSIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS –

- Mr. Souder said it just sad to hear that information about the interest we have to pay back because someone was dragging their feet and couldn't make a decision. Our community has to pay and that's just really sad, he doesn't see anything they could do at this point. But we can voice our opinion.
- Mr. Black thanked Mr. Schwartz for bringing the kids, parents and teachers and giving us a bright spot for our meeting today.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to adjourn the April 11, 2017 meeting of the School Board of Trustees at 4:45 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved with a vote of 4-0. The next scheduled school board meeting will be on May 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Administration Center.

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David Black, President

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Joanna King, Vice President

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Robert Souder, Secretary

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Scott Miller, Member

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Paul Gayler, Member