

# **WHITLEY COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS**

**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

**107 North Walnut Street**

**Columbia City, IN 46725**

**260-244-5771**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 18, 2007**

The Board of School Trustees of the Whitley County Consolidated Schools met in the Board Room at the Marshall Community Center on Tuesday, September 18, 2007. Present were: Nicki Baker, Tim Bloom, William Tucker, Bob Thomas, Jill Western, Deborah Hiss, Brooks Langeloh, J. Lynn Workman and Don Armstrong. Also present were Dr. Laura Huffman, Steve Bloomfield and Tony Zickgraf of Whitley County Consolidated Schools.

## **OPENING OF MEETING**

Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge was given by Selma Kauffman, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Little Turtle Elementary School. She was introduced by Dan Curless, Principal.

## **PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS**

There were three individuals who spoke to the School Board in regards to the Columbia City High School.

The first individual to speak was Mr. Gene Heckman, a community member, a tax payer, a township trustee, and a former school board member. Mr. Heckman shared his concerns and concerns of some of the tax payers he represents as township trustee. Other superintendents have told the community that they would pay the bonds off before building another school and buildings alone do not make the students. Township trustees and assessors say stop the tax increases. The six trustees will carry a “no” vote until other bills are paid.

The second individual to speak was Jim Fleck, a community member, a tax payer, and the Mayor of Columbia City. Mr. Fleck commended the School Board for an excellent job in evaluating the status of the present Columbia City High School and possible facilities to include and provide a quality 21<sup>st</sup> century school. Round one (1) and round two (2) processes involving the community were well executed and greatly appreciated.

Mr. Fleck asked the School Board to please consider the impact on Columbia City depending upon where the school would be located. The location of the high school itself is such a critical piece of the community considering that it serves as a gathering place for social, culture and educational events, and it also is a critical to maintaining a community center. What has happened to other communities that have selected to move the high school outside the town? Also why have some schools selected to stay at their old site.

What is the economic impact on businesses in Columbia City which receives retail business from the school's operation?

What is the impact of the school's location on present utilities such as, electric, water, storm water, and sewer? Over the course of the 20-year bond issue the City would incur a 1.5 million dollar loss.

What is the impact on the school's location at the present site for protective services such as police and fire? What will the impact be on Columbia City and County planning and zoning if a new location outside of town would be selected? What is the impact on the state, county, and city highway, street and road system if a new location outside of town is selected? What are the plans for supporting our economic development investments? A critical part is upgrading the job skills of our work force to maintain a competitive job market in our community.

Mr. Fleck finished by stating that now is the time to get all the players in the game to tell what the best alternatives will truly cost our entire community. The total cost is, after all, what the community needs to know.

The third and final public expressions speaker was Mr. Clay Bates. Mr. Bates began by sharing that Dr. Laura and Mr. Armstrong were both very helpful in speaking with him via telephone in regards to the website information and also thanked the School Board for allowing him to speak. Mr. Bates echoed the first two speakers and asked why sales tax couldn't be used to help pay for a new school.

Mr. Bates shared that he felt that the Marshall building and CCHS were good buildings yet but not given enough credit. His thoughts were that a new high school was not necessary considering the enrollment has been steady and that a new high school would not prove to be better for the students.

With a motion by T. Bloom and a second by D. Hiss the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to **amend** the agenda to add the items marked with an (\*) asterisk under new contracts and action items. There was little discussion prior to the vote. The discussion was if Mr. Clifford would still be working on the buses or if we would need to look for someone else.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

With a motion by B. Thomas and a second by J. L. Workman the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the **amended** (\*) consent items as listed. Prior to the vote, there was no discussion concerning the consent items.

Approval of Minutes for Board Executive Session on August 21, 2007

Approval of Minutes for Board Meeting of August 21, 2007

Approval of Minutes for Board Work Session Meeting of September 4, 2007

Approval of Vouchers/Education Expenses

Claim #2208 - #2272

08/22/07 – 08/31/07

Personnel:

**A. Resignations:**

1. Gina Mallott, CCHS Weekend Custodian, effective July 17, 2007
2. Anna Clark, Coesse Literacy Assistant, effective August 17, 2007

**B. Retirement:**

1. Victor Heiden, CCHS Groundskeeper, effective September 8, 2007

**C. New Contracts:**

1. Emily Clark, Floating Literacy Substitute at all elementary schools, effective September 4, 2007
2. Marcia Veith, NHES Long Term Substitute (Art), effective August 30, 2007
3. Tom Hesting, Bus Driver, effective September 4, 2007
4. Christina Steele, Coesse K-2 Literacy Assistant, effective August 27, 2007
5. \* John Clifford, CCHS Groundskeeper, effective October 1, 2007

**D. Transfers:**

1. None

**E. Leave of Absence:**

1. None

**E. Unpaid Leave of Absence:**

1. Tracy Gresley, NHES Media Asst., requesting 5 unpaid days beginning September 20 through September 26, 2007
2. James Franklin, ISMS Social Studies Teacher, requesting medical leave from August 27 through November 16, 2007

**F. Extra Co-Curricular Assignment:**

1. Lorene Perry, LTES Student Council (shared position), effective August 2007
2. Cindy Wakeman, LTES Student Council (shared position), effective August 2007
3. Lorene Perry, LTES Yearbook Sponsor, effective August 2007
4. Andrea Hudson, LTES After-School Intervention Coordinator (shared position), effective August 2007
5. Jan McCoy, LTES After-School Intervention Coordinator (shared position), effective August 2007
6. Kurt Kehmeyer, LTES Webmaster, effective August 2007
7. Maryanne Willcutts, CCHS Academic Competitions, effective August 2007

8. Tally Sheppard, CCHS Senior Class Sponsor, effective August 2007
9. Alissa Roberts, CCHS A.B.E.A.M.S. – Social , effective August 2007
10. Katherine Harrod, CCHS A.B.E.A.M.S. – Medical, effective August 2007
11. Sarah Furthmiller, CCHS A.B.E.A.M.S. – Agriculture, effective August 2007
12. Wayne Kreiger, CCHS A.B.E.A.M.S. – Business, effective August 2007
13. Jeff Clark, CCHS A.B.E.A.M.S. – Engineering, effective August 2007
14. Chad Moore, CCHS A.B.E.A.M.S. – Art, effective August 2007
15. Bob Brittain, CCHS Forensics – Debate, effective August 2007
16. Tally Sheppard, CCHS Chess Club, effective August 2007
17. Brad Crossland, CCHS Percussion Instructor, effective August 2007
18. Sandy Kohut, CCHS Circle of Friends, effective August 2007
19. Carolyn Hindbaugh, CCHS Show Choir Assistant – Vocal, effective August 2007
20. Beth Scharpenberg, CCHS Math Academic Bowl, effective August 2007
21. Karen Jagger, CCHS Freshman Class Sponsor, effective August 2007
22. Melissa Wilhelm, CCHS Freshman Class Sponsor, effective August 2007
23. Shane Barkley, CCHS Drama Director (3 plays), effective August 2007
24. Jesse Kimmel, CCHS FFA, effective August 2007
25. Bob Brittain, CCHS Forensic Director, effective August 2007
26. Karen Koday, CCHS Forensic Speech Assistant, effective August 2007
27. Kristin Swonger, CCHS Science Dept. Chair, effective August 2007
28. Kara Davisson, CCHS Girls Saturday Basketball Coach, effective Winter 2007
29. Ben Bunyan, CCHS Girls Saturday Basketball Coach, effective Winter 2007
30. Jason Fleming, ISMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball Coach, effective August 2007
31. Jill Usher, NHES Yearbook Sponsor, effective August 2007
32. Deb Elwood, MRES Mentor, effective August 2007
33. Beth Beckner, ISMS Mentor, effective August 2007
34. Heidi Moreno, ISMS Mentor, effective August 2007
35. Barb Pentagelo, CCHS Mentor, effective August 2007
36. Stacey Keener, CCHS Mentor, effective August 2007
37. Courtney Gordon, ISMS Mentor, effective August 2007
38. Linda Yoder, ISMS Mentor, effective August 2007
39. Becky Walter, MRES Mentor, effective August 2007
40. Heather Cook NHES Mentor, effective August 2007
41. Lori Heuer, LTES Mentor, August 2007
42. Angie Grable, Coesse Mentor, effective August 2007
43. Bob Brittain, ISMS Forensics – Speech, effective September 6, 2007

44. Greg Barkley, ISMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach, effective August 2007
45. Derek Yoder, ISMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach, effective August 2007
46. Ashley Cearbaugh, ISMS Girls Track Coach, effective Spring 2008
47. Travis Stangland, ISMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach, effective August 2007
48. Karmen Stoll, ISMS Winter Cheerleading Coach, effective Winter 2007-2008
49. Kendra DeWitt, ISMS Winter Cheerleading Coach, effective Winter 2007-2008
50. Ben Bunyan, ISMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach, effective August 2007

**G. *Extra Co-Curricular Resignations:***

1. Matt Urban, CCHS Math Academic Bowl, effective August 2007
2. Katherine Harrod, CCHS Science Department Head, effective August 2007
3. Christine Helms, ISMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball Coach, effective August 20, 2007
4. Kayla Hogue, CCHS Varsity/JV Assistant Cheerleading Coach, effective August 29, 2007
5. James Sittler, ISMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach, effective August 2007
6. Alison Oelschlager, MRES Math Academic Bowl, effective August 2007
7. Mary Stratton, NHES Yearbook, effective August 2007
8. Braden Mullett, ISMS Boys Basketball Coach, effective August 8, 2007
9. Trenton Kumfer, CCHS Assistant Band Director, effective August 24, 2007
10. Kathleen Brandon, ISMS Swim Team Coach, effective August 27, 2007

**H. *Volunteer Extra Co-Curricular Assignments:***

1. Jim Rose, ISMS Volleyball Coach, effective Fall 2007
2. Kelly Cearbaugh, ISMS Volleyball Coach, effective Fall 2007
3. Jason Fleming, CCHS Assistant Volleyball Coach, effective Fall 2007

**I. *Field Trip:***

1. MRES – 4<sup>th</sup> grade to Archbold, OH, September 27, 2007
2. CCHS City Lights, City Heat, City Soul (& back up band) to Findlay, OH, January 25-27, 2008

**J. *Donations:***

1. Accept monetary donation from Girls Soccer Boosters for the purpose of purchasing warm-ups and equipment for the CCHS team

2. Accept monetary donation from Daryle McGowen to help radio station WJHS
3. Accept Fit and Delicious Pizza from Pizza Hut for the purpose of Family Skills – teaching healthy eating at Indian Springs Middle School
4. Accept three film cameras from C. Moore’s Photography LLC for the purpose of photography curriculum

**K. *Permission to discard non-working equipment:***

1. Outdate technology items
2. Request for asset disposal from CCHS

**L. *The American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana Agreement***

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRESENTATION**

The administrators along with two staff members from Indian Springs Middle School presented their school improvement plan to the School Board. They shared the names of QUIT Liaisons from 2006-2007 and also the 2007-2008 school year. ISMS’ main focus for this school year will be primarily on literacy, math, attendance and school safety.

**ACTION ITEMS**

NEOLA – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Adoption – With a motion by J.L. Workman and a second by D. Hiss the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve & adopt the NEOLA policies as written. There was no discussion on this item prior to the vote.

CCHS Options (Establish preferred direction of project scope and planning for either renovating the existing CCHS or building a new high school) – With a motion by B. Thomas and a second by J.L. Workman and J. Western the Board voted 8-1, with D. Hiss voting opposed, to build a new high school and not renovate the present one. There was some discussion prior to the vote.

Proposal to Refinance Current Bonds – With a motion by W. Tucker and a second by T. Bloom the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the refinancing of current bonds. There was discussion prior to the vote.

Approval of 2008 Budget – With a motion by B. Thomas and a second by N. Baker the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to accept the 2008 Budget as submitted.

Approval of 2008 – 2017 Bus Replacement Plan – With a motion by B. Thomas and a second by N. Baker the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to accept the 2008 – 2017 Bus Replacement Plan as submitted.

Approval of 2008 – 2011 Capital Projects Plan – With a motion by B. Thomas and a second by N. Baker the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to accept the 2008 – 2011 Capital Projects Plan as submitted.

Resolution of Tax Neutrality - With a motion by B. Thomas and a second by N. Baker the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to accept the Resolution of Tax Neutrality as presented.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

There will be an Executive Session on October 2, 2007. I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (2) For discussion of strategy with respect to any of the following: (D) The purchase or lease of real property by the governing body up to the time a contract or option to purchase or lease is executed by the parties.

There will be a Board Work Session on September 25, 2007 beginning at 6:00 p.m., which is open to the public.

### **CELEBRATIONS**

Mr. Hoag celebrated the positive feedback regarding ISTEP testing this year. He also celebrated that the students are working hard.

Mr. Thomas celebrated the signs around town promoting ISTEP.

Mr. Armstrong celebrated the interest of the community members and people that have served on committees.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Don Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

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Don Armstrong, President

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Deborah G. Hiss, Secretary