

**APPROVED**  
**WARRICK COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2018**

The Warrick County Board of School Trustees met in regular session on January 8, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Services Building with all members present except Jeff Baker. President Thomas Welch called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Tim Mosbey to keep Thomas Welch as School Board President, Dorothy Kroeger as Vice-President, and Candace Nance as Secretary. There were no other nominations. Motion carried.

Attorney, Mark Neff issued the Oath of Office to the President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

**Patron Concerns**

The following patrons come before the Board to express their concerns for the change in the EXCEL program:

**Heather Sommerville, 5999 Spyglass, Chandler, IN**  
**Jennifer Braden, 1888 Pebble Beach, Newburgh, IN**  
**Ghandar Ramanathan, 4730 Mansfield Drive, Newburgh, IN**  
**Shilpa Gaitonde, 7811 Scottsdale Drive, Newburgh, IN**  
**Killol Thakore, 7811 Scottsdale Drive, Newburgh, IN**  
**Divya Patel, 8655 Cayman Ct., Newburgh, IN**  
**Stacy DeMaree, 4700 Fieldcrest Place Cir., Newburgh**

The current program is for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The change in the program includes 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades in EXCEL in the elementary school, with 6<sup>th</sup> grade going to the Honors classes at the middle school. They voiced their desire to have the program continue through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade:

When asked by an audience member on what basis the decision was made to discontinue the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the EXCEL program, Mr. Schneider stated that this issue was discussed at length at the December 12, 2017 meeting the Corporation had with the parents. He said that EXCEL is a self-contained classroom; not a curriculum. The EXCEL program will be moved to grades 3, 4 and 5 so that it is in the elementary schools, which are typically self-contained classrooms. Once moving to the middle school, students are not in self-contained classrooms. The curriculum they will have in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Honors classes will be just the same curriculum they would have had in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade self-contained EXCEL classroom.

Mr. Schneider stated that the parents were informed that Ms. Schaperjohn would head the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Honors classes next year in order to have a great transition from EXCEL into the Honors program. Ms. Schaperjohn is currently the 6<sup>th</sup> grade EXCEL teacher. "I can promise you, if we didn't think this was better for kids, we wouldn't do it", he said. He

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said this will be good for the kids. The corporation is adding a whole grade level to the Gifted and Talented program by moving it to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The Department of Education has agreed that this is best practice for the students.

### Consideration of Routine Items

A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the following Routine Items, as listed:

- A. Approve the minutes of the School Board meeting held on December 18, 2017
- B. Approve Claims 1-88 dated December 26, 2017 and sign the docket
- C. Approve Claims 1-170 dated January 8, 2018 and sign the docket
- D. Approve the Requests for Professional Leave

Motion carried.

### Consideration of Items for Board Action

- A. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve change order for Tecumseh High School athletic field project to install an irrigation system on the practice football field, as presented. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the request to proceed with issuing a General Obligation Bond, as presented. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Lynda Glover to accept a donation of 9 Ipad tablets from the Lynnville PTO through the Christian Science Society of Boonville to Lynnville Elementary School valued at \$3,500.00, as presented. Motion carried.
- D. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Candace Nance to accept a \$2,500.00 cash donation from Vectren Corporation to Chandler Elementary School to be used in Mrs. Gossman's ED classroom, as presented. Motion carried.

### Consideration of Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Tad Powless, Director of Human Resources, presented recommendations for employment and requests for leave of absence. Upon his recommendation:

- A. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Lynda Glover to employ **Kim Derk** as Temporary Behavior Consultant. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Tim Mosbey and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to employ **Katie Ubelhor** as Temporary Fifth grade teacher at Elberfeld Elementary School. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to employ **Heather Avery** as Temporary Art teacher at Elberfeld/Lynnville Elementary Schools. Motion carried.

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- D. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to employ **Debra Finn** as Temporary Program Assistant at Chandler Elementary School. Motion carried.
- E. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Candace Nance to approve the following cafeteria transfers:  
**Cathy VanScyoc** – 3 hours to 4.5 hours at Castle High School  
**Kristina Barth** – 3 hours at Castle High to 3.5 hours at Tecumseh High School  
**Lindsay VanFleet** – 3.5 hours at CSMS to 3 hours at Castle High School  
**Dawn Wheeler** – 3.5 hours to 3 hours at Castle High School  
Motion carried.
- F. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the request of **Michele Ward**, Business teacher at Boonville High School, a maternity leave of absence beginning February 7, 2018 with a return date of August 7, 2018 using sick/personal days and FMLA. Motion carried.
- G. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Darla Black**, Program Assistant at Chandler Elementary School, a personal leave of absence beginning January 3, 2018 with a return date of February 5, 2018. Motion carried.
- H. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Leah Eubank**, cafeteria employee at Castle North Middle School, a medical leave of absence beginning January 3, 2018 with an anticipated return date of January 19, 2018. Motion carried.
- I. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the request of **Kim Eidson**, cafeteria employee at Newburgh Elementary School, an extension to her previously approved medical leave of absence that began August 16, 2017 with a return date of January 3, 2018. The new anticipated return date is now March 12, 2018. Motion carried.
- J. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Debra Scott**, Custodian at Castle High School, a medical leave of absence beginning December 22, 2017 with a return date of February 6, 2018 using sick/personal days and FMLA. Motion carried.
- K. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Richard Ellis**, Bus Driver Route #230, a medical leave of absence beginning November 20, 2017 with a return date of April 2, 2018. Motion carried.
- L. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the request of **Lois Jackson**, Custodian at JH Castle Elementary School, an extension to her previously approved leave of absence that began October 6, 2017 with a return date of January 3, 2018. The new return date will now be April 3, 2018. Motion carried.
- M. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the request of **Amy Johnson**, cafeteria employee at Boonville Middle School, a medical leave of absence beginning January 3, 2018 with a return date of February 26, 2018. Motion carried.

Mr. Powless reported on the following resignations:

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- A. **Nicole Zollman**, Temporary Fifth grade teacher at Elberfeld Elementary School, effective December 20, 2017.
- B. **Courtney Diedrich**, Fourth grade teacher at Oakdale Elementary School, effective December 20, 2017.
- C. **Rebecca Stoutenborough**, SLP at Chandler Elementary School, effective May 24, 2018.

Mr. Powless next reported on the following retirements:

- A. **Mary Russell**, Developmental Preschool teacher, effective May 24, 2018.
- B. **Missy Fanok**, Counselor at Castle High School, effective July 1, 2018.

### Reports

Mr. Schneider thanked the Board for approving an additional First grade for Elberfeld Elementary School for the second semester.

Ms. Nance wanted it on the record that she was more than willing to speak to the EXCEL parents regarding the changes, but she was interrupted by audience members. She said that they asked for the Board's opinion and then didn't want to listen.

Ms. Nance also wanted to apologize to the parents if they misunderstood her email regarding attending the Policy and Curriculum meeting held prior to the Board meeting. She said they evidently interpreted it as meaning that they could speak at the meeting; when her email stated that the public does not generally speak. She wanted it on record that she does apologize for this misunderstanding.

Mr. Schneider stated that the parents had previously been given information on what the program is going to look like next year. Although it is not finalized, the program will be as good, or better, than the current program.

Mr. Schneider said that he understands that change is hard, but for the parents to come in and attack the school corporation that the change is not about the kids is inaccurate.

Ms. Nance stated that she is here for all of the students. The corporation has over 10,000 students, and she has to think of all of the students.

### Other Board Business

**Construction, Technology & Maintenance Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 7:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

**Transportation & Special Education Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

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**Personnel, Food & Nutrition, and Custodial Committee Meeting** – Monday, February 5, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Service Building.

A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Lynda Glover to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

These minutes were approved by the Warrick County Board of School Trustees on the 22nd day of January, 2018.

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Candace Nance, Secretary of the Warrick County  
Board of School Trustees

Attested:

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Thomas Welch, President of the Warrick County  
Board of School Trustees

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