

**APPROVED**  
**WARRICK COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**February 19, 2018**

The Warrick County Board of School Trustees met in regular session on February 19, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Services Building with all members present except Tim Mosbey. President Thomas Welch called the meeting to order. Mr. Schneider asked that we remember Mr. Kenny Klippel, long-time bus contractor for the school corporation, who passed away today. The moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Patron Concerns**

**Wayne Pfettscher**, 3866 Hwy 61 N, Boonville, IN comes before the Board with questions concerning the security of our schools. He asked what the plan is for making sure the students are safe while at school.

Mr. Schneider said that school safety is a huge priority in the Warrick County School Corporation and has been for many, many years. He stated that we are one of the few corporations that have a county-wide school safety team consisting of Administrators, law enforcement from the Indiana State Police, Warrick County Sheriff Department, Boonville, Newburgh, and Chandler Police Departments that meet once a month and are constantly reviewing our school safety plans and protocols. We have two safety specialists trained in the school district who are constantly looking at research and best practice; what the experts are recommending for schools. The corporation has instituted a Standard Response Protocol, which he encouraged every parent to become familiar with. This information can be found at the [Iloveyouguys.org](http://Iloveyouguys.org) website and the school corporation's website. It gives the terminology we use so that parents may be more informed. He stated, "From day one, our greatest safety features are our kids and our parents having a relationship with the teachers, administrators, school resource officers, counselors, or anyone in the school that when a student hears something that makes them feel uncomfortable, or if someone makes a threat, that they immediately report it to a school official." He said the school officials will take every threat seriously. It will be investigated until the threat is either determined credible or not credible.

Mrs. Nance noted that the School Safety Committee sent out an invitation a few years ago to everyone in the school community to attend the meeting, and only a handful of parents showed up for the meeting.

Mr. Schneider said that he wanted everyone to understand that the corporation will not publicly disclose everything the corporation does. Any school safety specialist will tell you that you don't tell everyone exactly what you do or they can devise a plan to go around it. "We share as much of the information as we can, but our number one priority is keeping our kids safe," he said.

Mr. Baker said that his observation is this: The Ford Center, courthouses and banks are all locked and guarded buildings, and they don't necessarily have children in them. He said he believes that all schools should be locked down, have cameras, alarms, and

## School Board Minutes – February 19, 2018 – Page Two

armed guards on the premises. He stated, “If all those other buildings can afford security like that, then why can’t we afford it for our kids?” He said this is not against our administration or staff. He said when it all comes down to it, the Board has to get the money and the county needs to have a discussion on how important they think it is. He said he wanted to make one thing clear, “I believe there is no place in our schools for guns; neither on teachers or guards inside our schools. It is just asking for an accident.”

**Chad Cupp**, 8200 Outer Lincoln Avenue, Newburgh, IN comes before the Board asking which elected official he needs to talk to or vote for to get the funding that is needed for school safety.

Mr. Schneider said he believes starting at the local level. He said to contact your local representative; Bacon, McNamara, Sullivan, Senator Becker, etc. Those individuals are the people that need to hear from you. He said to emphasize to them that you support the schools and additional funding for school safety. In 2017 Indiana ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia in expenditures per pupil for public education. “That is an embarrassment, and our representatives in Indianapolis need to know our kids deserve to have their schools funded adequately,” he said. He stated that we still probably won’t be able to do everything that needs to be done in the schools even with the funding, but every little bit helps.

Mr. Cupp also stated that the students at Castle High School were outside waiting to be picked up by parents during the lock-out. He felt that this was not safe and should be changed.

Mr. Schneider said that he would check into this.

**Jenny Wongler** 1309 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Boonville, IN comes before the Board requesting the Board change the athletic policy regarding allowing students not enrolled in a public school to participate on our athletic teams. She said that she feels that the parent’s choice of curriculum should not affect extra-curricular activities.

**Chad Hoffman** comes before the Board with concerns as to how the parents found out about the events of this morning. He stated that he found out via social media that there was a lock-out. He said that the only information he had seen was from another school that wasn’t involved in the lock-out. He said there needs to be some line of communication when something like this happens.

Mr. Schneider stated that the first thing they do is debrief. There was an email sent out, later than we would have liked, but the schools were dealing with dismissing 900 students. Their first priority was keeping the kids safe. He said that when that many parents show up to get their kids out of school early, it takes time and coordination to make sure the students go home with the person they are supposed to go home with. He also said that the panic created through social media makes it difficult for school personnel to do their job. “As adults, we need to maintain a sense of calm in these situations”, he said. He also said that getting information out earlier should have happened; it will

## School Board Minutes – February 19, 2018 – Page Three

happen the next time. But noted again, the first priority was making sure the schools were safe and the lock-out was in place.

Amy Wells, comes before the Board to say that she was in the Castle South Middle School office at 6:30 a.m. and Mr. Hood informed her of the threat. She stated that she has a handicapped child at the school that cannot run, but left her at school because she has full confidence in the staff to take care of her. She said that when parents start running to the school to get the kids, it scares them. She said she watched the staff and law enforcement doing everything possible in taking care of the situation.

Lara Hoffman comes before the board to say that her confidence in the school corporation dropped since she did not receive a message regarding the lock-out. She said she knew the chaos it was going to cause within the school. She said her son said he felt the anxiety within the school and if someone had alerted the parents, they could have sidestepped the hysteria. She felt she should have been contacted by the school and law enforcement as soon as it happened so she could have chosen whether or not to take her child to school.

Cory Mason comes before the Board stating that there are apps where you can text families to let them know what is going on. She said that if there was anything she could do to help, as a parent, to get the ball rolling for funding, to please let her know.

### Reports

Mr. Schneider introduced Ms. Taunya Kirsch, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at Yankeetown Elementary School and asked her and the Spell Bowl participants to come to the podium to report on their competition.

Ms. Kirsch stated that all of the team was not present this evening. Those in attendance were: **Addison Burge, Emma Marrett, Kristin Martin, and Ellen Greenwell.** The team competed in the Spell Bowl competition and were ranked second runner-up in the state of Indiana. The competition is not a spelling bee. The students have to write the words, and the handwriting does count. She said they did an amazing job.

Mr. Schneider and the Board congratulated the team on a job well done.

### 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 February 5, 2018
- B. Approve Claims 1-245 and sign the docket
- C. Approve the Requests for Professional Leave
- D. Approve adding outstanding check balances to the fund from which they were originally written

Motion carried.

Consideration of Items for Board Action

- A. President, Tom Welch recessed the regular Board meeting and convened a Public Hearing on an additional appropriation for the general obligation bond proceeds.

Mr. Welch asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience. There were none.

Mr. Welch declared the Public Hearing closed and reconvened the regular Board meeting.

- B. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve Resolution 2018-4 Approving Additional Appropriations for the proceeds of the General Obligation Bond, as presented. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Jeff Baker to approve Resolution 2018-5 Approving Final Approval to Secure a General Obligation Bond, as presented. Motion carried.
- D. A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Candace Nance to approve adding two high school courses for the 2018-2019 school year; Indiana Studies and Ethnic Studies, as presented. Motion carried.
- E. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Jeff Baker to accept a donation to Lynnville Elementary School of an all-school access license to “Typing Agent”, a keyboarding software program, from LNB Community Bank valued at \$891.48, as presented. Motion carried.
- F. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Brenda Metzger to approve the purchase of a non-bus vehicle, as presented. Motion carried.

Consideration of Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Tish Wagner, Director of Special Education, presented recommendations for employment, and requests for leaves of absence. Upon her recommendation:

- A. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Jeff Baker to employ **Alicia Wesselman** as Cafeteria Manager at Loge Elementary School. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to employ **Michaela Colter** as Cafeteria Manager at Castle High School. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to employ **Lori Shutts** as Preschool Speech/Language Pathologist at Loge Elementary School. Motion carried.

- D. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to employ **Elizabeth Ray** as Speech/Language Pathologist at Chandler Elementary School. Motion carried.
- E. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Steven Wilson**, Social Studies teacher at Castle North Middle School, a medical leave of absence beginning January 7, 2018 with an unknown return date, using sick/personal days and FMLA. Motion carried.
- F. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Mandy Wargel**, Custodian at Boonville Middle School, an extension to her previously approved medical leave of absence that began September 9, 2017 with a return date of February 13, 2018. The new return date is to be determined by her doctor. Motion carried.
- G. A motion was made by Jeff Baker and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Marla Hendrickson**, Special Education teacher at Boonville High School, a medical leave of absence beginning February 27, 2018 with a return date of April 24, 2018, using FMLA. Motion carried.
- H. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the request of **Jennie Garrison**, cafeteria employee at Oakdale Elementary School, an unpaid personal leave of absence beginning March 8, 2018 with a return date of March 19, 2018. Motion carried.
- I. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Jeff Baker to approve the request of **Stephen DeVillez**, Librarian at Castle High School, a medical leave of absence beginning February 21, 2018 with a return date of March 8, 2018, using sick/personal days.

Mrs. Wagner next reported on the following retirement:

- A. **Sherry Taber**, Supervisor of School Psychologists/Early Childhood, effective June 20, 2018

## Reports

Mr. Schneider commended the Administrators and teachers, especially at Castle North and Castle South Middle Schools, on how today's situation was handled. He said, "As teachers and administrators, you never know what the day will bring, and what landed on their plate today was handled very, very well." "It was a good day today. The threat was determined to not be legitimate as it pertains to our corporation. Every kid was safe today. Every kid went home today. It was a good day."

Mr. Schneider said that we will learn from today. While most things went very well, there are improvements to be made and they will be looked at with a critical eye.

He underscored the fact that the law enforcement in our county is committed to school safety. This Board, the administration, the teachers, and the entire corporation are 100% committed to the student's safety. "We are going to do everything in our powers to make sure our kids stay safe," he said. He encouraged all parents to stay calm when these

**School Board Minutes – February 19, 2018 – Page Six**

things do happen and have confidence that their law enforcement and schools will do everything they possibly can to keep the kids safe.

**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, March 13, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

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

**Policy and Curriculum Committee Meeting** – Monday, March 5, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Services 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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