

APPROVED
WARRICK COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
March 5, 2018

The Warrick County Board of School Trustees met in regular session on March 5, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Services Building with all members present. President Thomas Welch called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Patron Concerns

Tiffany Meyer, 2433 Anderson Road, Newburgh, IN comes before the Board as a parent of JH Castle Elementary School representing Castle parents with concerns regarding school safety. She said that she has researched what Warrick County has in place and she feels the corporation is behind on implementing certain safety features that may help in the prevention of a school shooter. She said she was told that if the PTO funded it then JH Castle Elementary could get certain safety features. She wanted to know if there was any plan for the other Castle schools getting these features in place, and if so, will the PTO's have to fund them, with no help from the Corporation.

Mr. Welch stated that the Corporation takes care of all of the schools in Warrick County, not just the Castle schools. He said we want to make sure all of the students of Warrick County are protected.

Mr. Schneider said that the Corporation is not behind on safety. Warrick County is on the leading edge of safety in schools. Equipment is something that is discussed on a regular basis with our corporation-wide safety committee which includes law enforcement from the Indiana State Police, the Warrick County Sheriff's Department, Boonville, Newburgh, and Chandler City Police, Administrators, and trained school safety specialists. He said schools are given money each year, and they then have to determine how to spend that money. He said the corporation does not get one single dollar allotted to school safety from the state. There are no additional dollars to spend on this. If money is spent on school safety, then we could be taking it away from somewhere else such as additional classroom teachers, additional Program Assistants, etc. "School safety is a top priority, and we spend a lot of time making our schools as safe as we humanly can. We always will," he said. He also said there is always more that can be done. He said that this week, the Governor did at least put it on the table to discuss funding school safety programs. "Schools were never designed to keep people out". He said a lot of things have been put into place such as the Standard Response Protocol, locking our doors, having a secure entrance in all buildings, and installing over 300 security cameras in our schools to make them safer.

Ms. Meyer asked if the community were to come together and raise money, could they pay to put in certain safety equipment at a particular school.

Mr. Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent, said that, first of all, the Corporation wouldn't ask the PTO to pay for these things. He said we also wouldn't have private people going out to try to get this done. The Corporation has people who set up these systems. He said he meets with the Principals every year, and they prioritize what they want in their buildings. The principal would need to let the Administration know what safety measures they want and discuss how to design it in the best way for their building.

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Mr. Schneider reiterated that it would need to be coordinated and that every school would be the same. In case of an event, everyone needs to understand what is expected. Everything will be the same for all of the schools. He said they will look at ways to get additional safety features into the budget.

Mr. Baker stated that all money the Corporation gets is dictated by the state. He said if you want to change that, the place to go is your state legislators and the people who create the rules and give us the money. They are the ones controlling exactly how much we have to spend. We can't spend extra because there is no extra. "They can change those rules by signing a piece of paper, but you have to make them think that it's important enough to change."

Mr. Schneider said he would be happy to get the addresses of our local legislators and encourage you to write letters and send emails asking for additional school funding for school safety. He said to tell them to not cut part of the budget to provide money for safety; tell them you are requesting additional money above and beyond what is currently provided.

Ms. Meyer asked if there was a way grants could cover these expenses.

Mr. Schneider said that grants are great for one-time expenditures, so there could be a problem if you want the money to continue to sustain a program.

Mr. Powless, Director of Human Resources, said that we did get two grants for safety this year. One covered some of the cost for our School Resource Officers and another was for equipment. The recommendations come from the School Safety Committee and they felt the greatest need was for more cameras this year. He said he will continue to pursue those two grants each year.

Mr. Welch asked Mr. Powless if the public is invited to their meetings.

Mr. Powless said technically no, but this next meeting will be open to the public. He said if you allow the public to attend all of your safety meetings, then the public knows all of your safety plans. He said he will be glad to share the Safety Response Protocol, generally, but he will not be saying anything specific about school safety plans.

Mr. Schneider said there has been a lot said about school safety. He said this needs to be a community effort. This takes teachers, students, parents, administrators, and local law enforcement. It is not just a Board or Administration responsibility. He thanked the parents here this evening for taking time to come and to be engaged and learn about the Standard Response Protocol.

Consideration of Routine Items

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

- A. Approve the minutes of the School Board meeting held on February 19, 2018
- B. Approve Claims 1-7 and sign the docket dated February 26, 2018
- C. Approve Claims 1-153 and sign the docket dated March 5, 2018
- D. Approve the Requests for Professional Leave

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Motion carried.

Consideration of Items for Board Action

- A. A motion was made by Jeff Baker and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the purchase of 3 non-bus vehicles. All three vehicles are part of the 2018 Non-Bus Vehicle Replacement Plan. The vehicles are one mid-sized to ½ ton pick-up truck for use by the Manager of Transportation and two cargo vans to be used in the maintenance department, as presented. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to grant permission to the Food and Nutrition manager to advertise for Food, Non-food, Bread, Dairy, and Paper products, as presented. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Lynda Glover to accept a donation of a “Buddy Bench” valued at \$454.48 to Lynnville Elementary School, as presented. Motion carried.

Consideration of Personnel Recommendations

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

- A. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Lynda Glover to consider non-renewal of teacher contracts serving in a temporary capacity for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Lynda Glover to consider non-renewal of temporary assignments of Support staff serving in a temporary capacity for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Jeff Baker to employ **Jeff Tron** as the eLearning Coach. Motion carried.
- D. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Lynda Glover to employ **Laura Kirtman** as School Psychologist. Motion carried.
- E. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Kimberly Elzer**, cafeteria employee at Boonville Middle School, a medical leave of absence beginning February 20, 2018 with an anticipated return date of April 4, 2018. Motion carried.
- F. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of **Vanessa Cormier**, cafeteria employee at Loge Elementary School, an extension to her previously approved medical leave of absence that began December 16, 2017 with a return date of February 2, 2018. The new anticipated return date will be April 11, 2018. Motion carried.
- G. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger 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 March 12, 2018. The new anticipated return date will be August 7, 2018. Motion carried.
- H. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Lynda Glover to approve the request of **Jane Baker**, FACS teacher at Tecumseh High and Tecumseh Middle Schools, a

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medical leave of absence beginning March 21, 2018 with a return date of April 25, 2018, using sick/personal days and FMLA. Motion carried with Jeff Baker abstaining.

Mr. Powless next gave the following report of return:

- A. **Mary Bird-Lowry**, Special Education teacher at Castle High School, is returning early from her previously approved leave of absence. The new return date will be April 2, 2018.

Mr. Powless reported on the following resignations:

- A. **Darla Black**, Program Assistant at Chandler Elementary School, effective March 2, 2018
- B. **Maribeth Chapman**, Part-time Custodian at Castle High School, effective March 8, 2018
- C. **Emily West**, Program Assistant at Castle South Middle School, effective March 13, 2018
- D. **Tammy Kerchief**, Special Education teacher at Newburgh Elementary School, effective May 24, 2018

Other Board Business

Construction, Technology & Maintenance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 7, 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, April 2, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Service Building.

Policy and Curriculum Committee Meeting – Monday, April, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Services Building.

A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Jeff Baker to make the start date of Policy 3901 - Criminal History Checks, Administrative Regulations effective June 1, 2018. Motion carried.

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 19th day of March, 2018.

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

Attested:

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