

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
CLAY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

A Regular Session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at North Clay Middle School, 3 West Knight Drive, Brazil, IN 47834, on Thursday, March 12, 2009. Forrest Buell, Tina Heffner, Dottie King, Jennifer Kaelber, Brian Atkinson, Terry Barr, and Ted Jackson were present.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Atkinson, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Mr. Atkinson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Jackson offered the prayer.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Claims

B. Board Meetings

Regular Session Minutes for February 17, 2009

Executive Session Certification for February 17, 2009

C. Field Trips

None at this meeting

Mrs. Barr moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Dr. King seconded.

Prior to the vote, Mrs. Heffner asked when the appropriate time would be for Dr. Buell to change his vote on an item from the previous board meeting. Dr. Schroeder replied that there were two ways to do that: if the board votes to bring it back up, the board could vote again; or, when it comes to comments from board members, he could state his opinions at that time.

The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

III. Comments from Patrons

Jenny Moore referred to a study in Vigo County recommending school closures and a recommendation to close six schools in Anderson. She asked when the last time was that true building needs were assessed in our community and why ways to cut costs in non-academic areas had not been looked for in order to meet the individual educational needs of the children by providing a program to develop the skills necessary to earn a living and enjoy a high quality of life. She suggested that the reduction of just one school could free up funds for three additional teachers instantly with the reduction of ancillary staff at the closed facility. As Mrs. Moore sees it, instead of looking to see if the corporation might be in a position to save money that would allow more students more exposure time to teachers, this corporation is expanding its physical plant along with the financial obligation to maintain it. Mrs. Moore noted that long before the recent economic downturn, she had pleaded with the board to look into this possibility before engaging in a building improvement program that would expand financial obligations while continuing to discreetly cut back on academics. She added that elementary class

size has crept up and high school class offerings have slowly been decreasing over the past five or six years. The trend started with the cutting of upper-level foreign language classes, first at Clay City, then at Northview, which was followed by fewer sections of other courses and the grouping of AP courses to be offered at the same time of day. Meanwhile standards that have long been recognized as inappropriate, such as dropping the lowest grade, daily extra credit on homework and quizzes, and offering extra academic credit for boxes of tissues or mushrooms brought in to teachers, have still not been corrected. She believes that these are things that can be done to help achieve the mission of the corporation that continue to be ignored by a portion of the faculty and by the administrators who are their supervisors. Mrs. Moore described the early bird classes that were added over a decade ago as a raft for a few students who knew they needed more when what was needed was a bridge so all could cross. She noted that currently 90 of the 92 Indiana counties have been “building their bridges” for all of their students. She asked how many students have gone through the schools with that need unmet while adding weight rooms and making building improvements that might not be utilized fully. Mrs. Moore shared her opinion that the corporation has failed thousands of students while continuing to appease a few who think that buildings will help their education and their future choices. She concluded her comments by asking if the additional funds from closing a school would have been enough to add that seventh period and if the corporation has wasted time and money by not trying to find out.

John Nicoson, who lives on Highway 59, prefaced his comments by noting that he worked for 26 years in the coal mining industry for Peabody Energy, Amax, and Cypress/Amax Minerals Company. He was certified by the Bureau of Mines for 27 years. He is now employed by Hamon Custodis in the power plant construction business. For the past 34 years, he had to have knowledge of the EPA standards that are administered by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Mr. Nicoson read in the *Brazil Times* that the school board purchased a piece of property that borders the coal yard in Brazil. He would like to know if a Phase I site inspection was performed on this property before it was purchased to obtain information regarding possible site contamination. He suggested that this was possibly one of the most suspect areas for contamination in the city of Brazil due to its bordering the coal yard. Indiana has a responsible party transfer law: Either the buyer or seller has to be responsible for possible site contamination cleanup. He does not think the school board should put this obligation on the Clay County taxpayers. Only clean property with a Phase I site inspection should be bought with taxpayer money. Banks and bonding companies will require a Phase I site inspection permit to protect themselves from getting stuck with a possible site cleanup if any of their money is used for that purchase. He asked why the taxpayers shouldn't have the same protection that any bank has when they loan money to buy that piece of property. If this property is clean, the school corporation should have gotten a Phase I site inspection certificate stating this from the seller. He has no way of knowing if this was received or not. He added that the school corporation can have a Phase I inspection performed on this property, if the corporation bought it, before employees go on it. He has documentation from his calls to various companies, and the cost for this inspection runs \$2,000 to \$3,000. The possible coal yard contamination in Indiana consists usually of the following minerals: mercury; lead; arsenic; sulfur; benzene; and, asbestos. Mr. Nicoson asked if anyone in the school

corporation told the board members that this property was clear of contamination, either the building or the ground. He stated that if anyone did, that person gave the board false information unless he has a Phase I site inspection certificate. According to the Indiana Department of Land Management, no one in the school corporation is qualified to give the board that information. This information can be given only by a certified site inspector. Mr. Nicoson suggested that the school health department should know that these cancer-causing agents, if present, may prevent school employees from using this property until cleared by a Phase I site inspection. Mr. Nicoson then referred to what he described as Schmidt Associates trying to sell the corporation a bus garage for \$2 million. Mr. Nicoson read in the paper where the Schmidt representative predicted a \$400,000 clean-up of the City Coal Yard site. In Mr. Nicoson's opinion, that individual must think the area is pretty contaminated. He would like to know why a Phase I site inspection wasn't done on that property before it was bought with taxpayer money. He believes that every school being renovated will have to have a Phase I inspection done. He doesn't believe that property should be bought without going through the proper channels. He stated that the people that he has spoken with at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management agree with him.

IV. Old Business

None at this meeting

V. Superintendent's Report

- Science Fair: Dr. Schroeder noted that 167 students participated and he thanked Jamie Elwell and Rachel Sparks for coordinating the event. He also thanked all of the other teachers that gave up their time to help set up and judge the event.
- ISTEP+ testing: This has been completed for applied skills and writing. The next part of the testing, multiple choice, will be held from April 27 to May 6. The GQE (Graduation Qualifying Exam) was also given during the ISTEP+ testing time.
- North Central evaluations: Dr. Schroeder stated that they were at Clay City last week and will be at North Clay next week. Northview went through that process earlier in the year.
- Federal Stimulus Package: Dr. Schroeder shared that, at this point, no dollars have been received. The State of Indiana has not yet received any dollars either. It is anticipated that within the next month or so, the corporation will start to get some of those dollars. Most of the dollars that come to the school corporation will do so through the special ed department, the IDEA, or Title I funds. There are specific rules as to how those dollars can be spent. The corporation will wait for determinations from the State of Indiana through which the dollars will flow to get an idea of the rules and regulations. There is also a State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, and the governor and legislature will determine how that is spent. Dr. Schroeder cautioned that this is one-time money for the period 2009-2011 and it should be spent on non-recurring costs.
- Graduation: Dr. Schroeder noted that the State of Indiana has not yet made a decision on waivers. If nothing changes, right now the last student day would be Friday, May 29th, and the last teacher day would be Monday, June 1st. Graduation would be at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 29, at Northview, at 11 a.m. on

Saturday, May 30, for Cumberland Academy at North Clay, and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, at Clay City Jr/Sr High School.

- Title I School Improvement: Dr. Schroeder reported that the corporation is off of “Improvement” status due to necessary gains being made, thereby not requiring further sanctions. He thanked all administrators and faculty and staff for the improvement.
- Marilyn Adamson: Dr. Schroeder congratulated Mrs. Adamson, a teacher at Jackson Township Elementary, for being honored with “Educator of the Year Faculty Award” from Jr. Achievement for this area.
- Randy Eppert: Dr. Schroeder also congratulated Mr. Eppert for winning a Lilly grant. Mr. Eppert plans to make math videos and post them to the Internet.
- Business Professionals of America: Each year this group is quite successful. Five students placed from 2nd to 5th position and qualified for nationals. Two students received honorable mention.
- Clay City Jr/Sr High School sectional champs: Dr. Schroeder offered congratulations to the basketball team on the first boys’ sectional title in 33 years. He wished them the best of luck at the Martinsville regional. Clay City will play the second game on Saturday against Jac-Cen-Del.
- May school board meeting moved: Dr. Schroeder and Mr. Fowler will be attending the Indiana Association of School Business Officials meeting on May 14, so he would like to move the regular May board meeting to May 21.

VI. Board Member Comments

Dr. Buell stated that the February board meeting was unique in that board members were sent agendas at two different times. He read both agendas. He voted “yes” on the items regarding the building program, and it was not his intent to do so. He provided a written explanation of his thinking about the building project to the other board members and Dr. Schroeder. He noted that his vote wasn’t critical to the issue passing. If it is possible to take his “yes” vote off, he would like to do that, but he will leave it up to the board. Regarding executive sessions, Dr. Buell believes that things are discussed in executive session that should not be discussed in those sessions; rather, they should be discussed in public sessions. He would like to streamline what is discussed in executive session. Mr. Atkinson interjected that the issue is on the agenda for discussion tonight.

Dr. King added her congratulations to the Clay City basketball team, and she wished them the best of luck. She also added her congratulations to the Science Fair students and BPA students. In addition, Dr. King offered her congratulations to Marilyn Adamson and Randy Eppert on their recognition for what they are doing in the teaching area. She concluded her comments by extending her prayers to employee Jerri Garrison and Jerri’s family.

Mrs. Heffner stated that she thinks it is great that Clay City is headed to the basketball regional. She also acknowledged the efforts of the BPA students and the students that participated in the Science Fair and the teachers who helped make it happen. She appreciates all of the hard work that is being done by the teaching staff and the student participation.

Mrs. Kaelber also congratulated everyone including Randy Eppert and Mrs. Adamson, and the Science Fair with its awesome turnout. She added that, although she is not a morning person, she is very much looking forward to getting up on Saturday and going to watch Clay City: Go Eels!

Mr. Jackson commented on the successful Science Fair. He stated that it was good to hear about the improvement in AYP. He wished the Clay City basketball team the best of luck, and he knows they will do well.

Mrs. Barr also congratulated everyone, and she knows Clay City must be very excited right now. She expressed her appreciation for the e-mails from teachers and students that let the board members know what is going on. Regarding the Title I improvement, Mrs. Barr congratulated everyone involved.

VII. New Business

A. Elementary Building Project

Kyle Miller of Schmidt Associates and Jim Boots of The Skillman Corporation presented information and updates regarding the building renovation project. Mr. Miller and Mr. Tom Ning reviewed the process to date. They will be looking for board approval to go into the design and development phase and for board approval of the secondary security projects. Mr. Miller referred to the 1028 Hearing that was held a year ago. He described a “broad-brushed” approach to the projects at that time. The main criterion was to bring all elementary schools up to the level of Jackson Township. Since the time of the 1028 hearing there have been meetings with Dr. Schroeder, Mr. Reberger, Mr. Fowler, The Skillman Corporation, and principals. Site surveys have been completed and Schmidt Associates has researched all of the different drawings that Mr. Reberger has. One concern expressed by board members: Why did the numbers change? Mr. Miller explained that it is simply because the design team knows a lot more now than they did then. For instance, at Clay City, after meeting with Mr. Russell, Mr. Reberger, and the staff and going through the building, they now know that the mechanical system is in pretty good shape. The original estimates assumed that the mechanical and electrical systems would need upgrades.

Mrs. Heffner asked when Clay City’s mechanical/electrical system was last updated. Mr. Reberger replied that it was updated four years ago at a cost of \$850,000 for a complete new HVAC system, new T8 lighting, and new water heaters.

Mr. Miller continued the discussion of Clay City Elementary by noting that the building had been recently painted and the roof only needs touching up over the cafeteria. A big savings for Clay City Elementary is in site work. They now know that the site works very well the way that it is now and there is minimal site work to be done. Those are the main reasons why Clay City is a lower number.

Regarding some of the other buildings, Mr. Miller explained that at East Side, Meridian, and Staunton, the square footage increased after they got to know more about the buildings. The good news: the project is in budget, and all of the buildings, with the scope that is in place, will be equitable with Jackson Township. The numbers may shift a little bit, but there won’t be big shifts in numbers.

Mrs. Heffner noted that she had toured Meridian Elementary with Mr. Reberger and she was really impressed with the heating and cooling system. In regards to Meridian, she asked how much money would go to site preparation and what cost would there be in mechanical and electrical. Mr. Reberger stated that Meridian Elementary and Clay City Elementary were done at the same time. He added that a little bit of money would be spent on the mechanical system at Meridian, but it would be purely adding the mechanical system to the new addition. As for the existing system, it is an Energy Star award-winning building for 2008.

Mr. Reberger reminded the board members that the numbers were fluid and would keep shifting; however, the bottom line is that the project is within budget. One other point that Mr. Reberger emphasized: While the budget number does not change, it does not mean that the goal is to spend every dime. Rather, the budget number is the "cannot exceed" number, and every effort is being made to stay below that number. Mr. Miller added that even as bad as the economy is, the good news is that construction bids are coming in very low these days. Right now, he expects to get some pretty good bids, and if that is the case, they should be able to stay under those budget numbers.

Mr. Miller next discussed Jackson Township Elementary and the sewer project. He noted that the project will take a much shorter route than anticipated and the initial estimate of over \$1 million is now down to between \$700,000 and \$800,000. That number coming down has helped in areas where the numbers went up.

Mr. Jackson asked to clarify if there would be an elevator at Meridian Elementary, which there will. At Staunton, Mr. Jackson asked why there were now two areas being added to a wing instead of one. It was explained that after analyzing the building and seeing how it worked and talking with staff, it was determined that everything could not be added to one wing. The public spaces need to be on one side to allow for lockdown of classroom spaces so that after hours people would not be wandering the hallways of the classroom wing.

Dr. Buell asked how many schools would need roof replacements. Mr. Ning explained that, in general, every school except Jackson Township has some roof replacement. In response to Dr. Buell's question as to how bad the roofs were, Mr. Reberger replied that the Clay City Elementary roof was put on the late-1990's, with the exception of the existing cafeteria area, which used to be the old high school general shop. A retrofit skin was put on that section in 1990 and is now due to be replaced, which is in the budget. At East Side, the roof was put on in 1986. All of the existing roofing will be replaced with the exception of the gymnasium, which has a DURO-LAST skin. At Forest Park, the special ed wing was built in 1985 and has the original roof. The rest of the building was roofed in 1989. That building will essentially need 100% new roofing. Jackson Township was re-roofed when the renovations were completed. At Meridian, everything but the main academic classroom wing will be re-roofed. The main part was re-roofed last year over Christmas break. Staunton has all been re-roofed since the late 1990's. The gym and the area next to the gym have DURO-LAST skins. There is still good life expectancy, so the only roofing will be the additions at Staunton. At Van

Buren, sections have been re-roofed one section at a time over the past 5 or 6 years, so the gym, the main body of the building and the kindergarten area has DURO-LAST skins. The area referred to as the 1970's section, which is the existing cafeteria and library area, is receiving an extensive amount of renovation and will receive new roofing.

Dr. Buell suggested addressing all of the roofing projects at the same time up front. Mr. Reberger responded to Dr. Buell's comment by noting that the mechanical work would be done first to avoid having plumbers and steamfitters climbing on new roofs. The roofs will be among the last phases of the projects. The base spec for roofing will be the DURO-LAST skins.

Mr. Jim Boots of The Skillman Corporation stated that the projects are subjected to two basic tenets: budget and equity. Mr. Boots noted that there would be three times in the coming months that the school board will be presented with a snapshot of the building/renovation project. He added that right now the schematic design is 30-35% complete. At this time, the project is well within the maximum budget and there is a comfortable contingency margin.

Mrs. Heffner noted that the community had seen different values during the remonstrance process. In order to be able to explain the variance, she would like to have more detail to take back to the taxpayer. Mrs. Heffner referred to the fact that project estimates for some buildings were increased by over \$600,000 while the estimate for Clay City Elementary had the largest cut (from over \$2 million to under \$1 million). To clarify, Mr. Reberger explained that one of the things that created the major swing is that the original "broad brush" estimate was determined two years ago before the design team knew that Clay City Elementary had just received a new HVAC system. In essence, Clay City Elementary received \$850,000 of this program four years ago that nobody else got at that point. Mr. Reberger added that things have been done out of Capital Projects over the last four to six years that were needed from a timing standpoint. Mr. Miller suggested preparing an update summary. (NOTE: the construction project updates now appear on the corporation web page www.clay.k12.in.us)

Mr. Victor Landfair presented a pre-construction schedule with dates of future board meetings as well as a project master schedule. In order to get the best pricing in the marketplace, four bid packages have been created. The projects have been lumped together based on similarity and construction cost volume as well as other parameters. Bid Package #1, which is ready to be bid now, will include security projects at Northview High School, North Clay Middle School, and Clay City Jr/Sr High School. Approval to bid these projects is needed to allow these projects to be accomplished this summer. Bid Package #2 is for the Jackson Township Elementary sewer project and, because it is a shorter time frame and requires a specialty contractor, it will be bid as a stand-alone project. Bid Package #3 is for Staunton Elementary, Meridian Elementary, and East Side Elementary. These three will be bid together because of the similarities in some aspects of the projects. These are the three addition projects and there are a lot of commonalities in the additions. Bid Package #4 is for the renovations at Clay City

Elementary, Forest Park Elementary, Jackson Township Elementary and Van Buren Elementary. It is desired to award bids for Bid Package #1 this spring, for Bid Packages #2 and #3 in August, and for Bid Package #4 in September. This will require the board to review documents and give incremental approvals.

Mrs. Heffner's question: Will the security projects be completed first because they are cheaper overall? Mr. Landfair clarified that the security projects were chosen for the first project because the scope is well-defined and the construction duration is very short. It can be completed this summer.

Mr. Landfair pointed out that there would need to be special board meetings on June 25, 2009, and July 23, 2009, for approval of final documents in order to release the two sets of big packages. Tonight, final construction document approval is needed on the security projects so those projects can go out to bid. In addition, approval of the schematic design of the elementary school projects is needed.

Mr. Jackson asked to make two separate motions. He then made a motion to approve the construction document for Bid Package #1, which includes the security projects at Northview High School, North Clay Middle School, and Clay City Jr/Sr High School. Mrs. Heffner seconded. The motion was approved by a 6-1 vote, with Dr. Buell opposed.

As for the second motion, Mrs. Barr asked for a brief explanation on exactly what the board would be making a motion to approve. Mr. Landfair explained that schematic design is the first of three stages and it represents approximately 30—35% of development or refinement of the project documents before going to bid. The design team will come back in about two months to ask for approval of design/development when approximately 50% of the design is complete. In another month or two after that, the team will come back for approval of construction documents, which is 100% ready and can be built from. Mr. Boots interjected that, if it is the board's desire to grant approval, they will be committing the school corporation to nothing other than allowing the projects to move into the next phase and further refine and keep working on the projects. Dr. Schroeder added that the bond sale would not come until construction documents are completed, and they are looking at fall right now. Mr. Boots commented that his team has been in constant contact with Mr. Qualkinbush to make sure that all of the bases are covered for the security projects. The team has also been in contact with Mr. Maggos to make sure he is aboard on the schedule, which impacts his financing, and he has agreed that the schedule will work well with his financial schedule.

Mrs. Barr made a motion to proceed with the schematic design phase and Mrs. Kaelber seconded.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Jackson commented that he has been for these projects all along and he is going to vote in favor of this. But he is disappointed to know that after all of the work that has gone into this there are so many changes and such a variance. He asked to get information regarding the changes early next week in order to be able to

answer questions from community members. Mrs. Barr suggested having a summary when changes are made.

Dr. Buell expressed his concern about the project. He believes the corporation has some major educational problems at the middle school and Northview. As he sees it, the corporation is not renovating the educational processes in those buildings. He feels very uneasy about where education will be at the end of nine years when these projects are paid off. He is concerned that there have been no educational goals projected. He thinks there should be different options and all options should have educational values. All the corporation is doing is renovating buildings. He believes the corporation is taking elementary students down the same path as North Clay and Northview.

Dr. King addressed Dr. Buell's comments by stating that she had been on the project from the beginning. The committee really did look at the education of the students. One of the reasons that she has been an advocate of this building project is that she has spent a lot of time thinking about the education of students and she is convinced that the most disenfranchised kids in the county are in those town schools. Those buildings aren't of the same caliber as the other buildings and yet those teachers go into those schools and spend face-to-face time with the neediest kids and they become family to those kids. She added that the scores at the Title I schools have made the greatest gains. When the committee discussed closing schools, they did not discuss closing Clay City Elementary, Jackson Township Elementary, or Van Buren Elementary; they discussed closing the Title I schools and building a big school. She could not in good conscience say to close the town schools and put all students in a big school because it is cheaper. She believes that the corporation has to keep the elementary schools small and keep the town schools open to allow students to walk. She believes this is a chance to make a difference for the most needy kids in the county.

The motion was approved by a 6-1 vote with Dr. Buell opposed.

B. Summer School Classes, 2009

Because ISTEP+ has been moved from fall to spring, Jump Start is not being proposed at the elementary schools this year; rather, remediation will take place during the school year. The GQE (Graduation Qualifying Exam) will still be offered in the fall, so Jump Start will be offered for those students. The board was asked to approve the classes.

Under discussion, Mrs. Barr asked if all of the proposed classes would receive financial reimbursement from the state. Dr. Schroeder replied that the state has two types of summer school: Category 1, which is reimbursed to a certain percent dependent upon how many schools in Indiana offer summer school, and Category 2, which has no reimbursement. All of the proposed classes are Category 1. Last year the corporation received between 61% and 67% reimbursement.

Mrs. Barr moved to approve the summer school classes. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

C. Student Handbooks: First Reading

Assistant Superintendent Kim Tucker stated that a meeting was held with building principals and those individuals were asked to give their changes at the building level along with changes that would impact the corporation as a whole. A few minor changes were made with regards to some language in discipline, and language that was the same as language in the athletic handbooks was dropped from the student handbook.

D. Computer Bids

The computer technology committee met and is asking for 100 computers and screens for replacement at Jackson Township, 10 new computers and screens for NovaNet at Northview and 90 new computers and monitors for one-on-one computing in the English Department at Clay City Jr/Sr High School. They will be paid for out of the Capital Projects Funds. Existing computers will be used for spare parts and monitors will be surplus. Approval is recommended.

Mrs. Barr moved to bid out computers. Mr. Atkinson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

E. Transfer Money to Rainy Day Fund

Dr. Schroeder stated that the corporation has some money in the Debt Service Fund that is recommended to be moved to the Rainy Day Fund to be used for the bus garage. If \$550,000 is moved, it will allow the corporation to not have to borrow that money. In July and August, the issue will be looked at again to see if there are any additional monies. If it is decided to not do anything with the money that it is recommended to be moved, then the money could be saved until another project is available or for whatever the board chooses, except for salaries and fringe benefits. The resolution, if approved, would be sent to the Department of Local Government Finance. For this particular year, if the bus garage is to be done in total, there is not enough funding set aside at this point. Mr. Fowler would have to do an amendment or it would have to wait until 2010 in order to expend those Rainy Day transfer funds. Other monies in the Rainy Day Fund include \$2.6 million. They are reserved to pay for teacher retirements that were not bought out entirely in 2004 and are considered sacrosanct. If the bus garage could be paid for totally out of the Rainy Day Fund, the corporation could bypass the whole bonding process and the costs associated with it.

Dr. Schroeder pointed out the fact that Debt Service is traditionally not used for hiring teachers or for operational costs: It is used to pay off debt. Mr. Fowler explained that the reason there is extra money in the Debt Service Fund is because Old National gave the corporation an incredible rate on a temporary loan, and excise taxes came in a little higher than expected.

Mr. Atkinson read the resolution into the minutes. Mrs. Barr moved to approve the Rainy Day transfer. Mrs. Heffner seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

F. Bus Garage Alternatives

Dr. Schroeder stated that the \$53 million building project that was originally proposed had a transportation complex in it. It also had an administration building. When the project was cut down to \$26 million, the transportation complex and administration building were cut out. The plan for the transportation part was to wait until the next phase, which is 8½ to 9½ years down the road, when the projects that were left out of the original proposal would be addressed. However, in October of 2008, Indiana Insurance required a structural engineer to indicate whether the old creamery building that housed transportation/maintenance storage was safe. It was not, so it was torn down. Mr. Reberger had storage issues, so that is why the white building was approved for purchase at the previous board meeting.

Information regarding seven transportation and maintenance building proposals was then presented. The proposals were put together by Mr. Fowler, Dr. Schroeder, Mr. Misner and Mr. Reberger. Dr. Schroeder's only recommendation: to not choose an option that will increase transportation operating costs by another \$40,000-\$46,000.

A synopsis of the options:

1. Move Transportation to Jackson Township – Total cost \$1,721,500*
Additional Operational Costs - \$40,140
2. Move Transportation to Van Buren Elementary – Total cost \$1,721,500*
Additional Operational Costs - \$46,830
3. Stay on Current Lot/Purchase Coal Yard – Total cost \$1,699,00*
4. Stay on Current Lot – Total cost \$1,334,000*
5. Purchase Vacant Dodge Dealership – Total cost \$1,188,500*
Additional Operational Costs - \$3,345
6. Purchase "Romas Building" – Total cost \$1,596,000*
Additional Operational Costs - \$43,485
7. Purchase Wallace Property – Total cost \$991,500*
Additional Operational Costs - \$3,345

*Less \$69,000 for the cost of the white building that has already been purchased

Dr. Schroeder pointed out that, with the action the board took tonight of moving \$550,000 to the Rainy Day Fund, there might be a possibility of completely paying for either option 4, 5, or 7, depending on budget numbers in July. If not, and a general obligation bond is needed, only half that amount would need to be bonded. He added that all projects are under \$2 million, so there is no petition/remonstrance involved. Also, any property that is purchased must be appraised by two appraisers and, by law, the two appraisals are averaged together to determine the purchase price. Dr. Schroeder, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Misner, and Mr. Reberger would recommend choosing option 7; however, it is up to the board to decide what to do.

Following discussion of the option that board members preferred, board president Brian Atkinson suggested moving Item L. (Community Committee for Bus Garage) up on the agenda to be discussed at this time. Mrs. Heffner proposed holding an open work session. It was decided that a tour of the Wallace property would be held prior to a

work session. Mr. Reberger will contact Mr. Wallace for an appropriate date and time, and the meeting will be advertised when a date has been chosen.

G. Third Kindergarten Teacher at Clay City Elementary

Mr. Jon Russell, principal of Clay City Elementary, presented information regarding the progress of kindergarten students. He noted that NWEA and DIBELS assessments had been conducted in the fall, and, on average, the kindergarten students scored higher than the average kindergarten student for Clay Community Schools as a whole. Mr. Russell noted that due to concerns about class size, another NWEA assessment was conducted for kindergarten students in November. As a result of that, a few issues arose. The data was analyzed and Mr. Russell met with the kindergarten teachers. A plan was devised to address the concerns regarding student achievement resulting in a half-time instructional assistant being hired and beginning work at the start of the second semester. In February, another parent meeting was held and data was reviewed. In three of the four areas assessed, the Clay City kindergarten students tested higher than the kindergarten students in other schools within the corporation. The students that are most needy are receiving the most minutes of direct instruction in reading. According to Mr. Russell, the bottom line is that kindergarten students at Clay City Elementary are performing very well and they are learning. Although they do have some large classes, they are making the grade due to the efforts of the parents, faculty, and staff. Mr. Russell also pointed out that Clay City Elementary made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) this year.

Under discussion, Dr. Buell asked when next year's enrollment would be established for kindergarten. Mr. Russell replied that kindergarten round-up for Clay City Elementary would be held on April 15 at 6 p.m. He has checked with area pre-schools and has determined there will be over 40 students. Historically, the typical kindergarten enrollment is around 60 students.

Mrs. Heffner asked if there would be three teachers if enrollment is over 30 per class. Dr. Schroeder stated that other classes would be looked at to see if any teachers could be moved down. He cautioned that what is done at one building will be expected at other buildings. Mrs. Barr pointed out that the instructional assistant helped tremendously. Mr. Russell added that Mrs. Kumpf has asked for principals to send her projected enrollment prior to spring break broken down by sections. Dr. Schroeder would like for the board to establish a class size range for administrators to follow.

Dr. Buell provided board members with a handout regarding his thoughts on class size. Regarding capping class size, he wondered about the possibility of equalizing student class size corporation-wide by moving students from schools with higher enrollment to schools with lower enrollment. He suggested calling for an Early Learning seminar to help solve the kindergarten question. He does not want to see kindergarten students go through what the students at Clay City and Jackson Township went through this year with the large class sizes.

H. Executive Sessions

Dr. Schroeder provided board members with the laws under which executive sessions can be held. He noted that the reason for the session is always listed on the executive session agenda, and certification of the executive session minutes is approved of by the school board. Votes are not allowed to be taken on any item during executive sessions and, as long as Dr. Schroeder has been superintendent of the corporation, no board that he has been associated with has ever voted in executive session on an item. Passing out information without discussing it or making announcements is legal and can be done. Personnel decisions are published according to what the executive session is.

Dr. Buell interjected that in some executive sessions he believes the law is not followed. Mrs. Barr responded by noting that sometimes the board may get off track and it is the responsibility of each board member to assure that the conversation doesn't stray off the original topic. Mrs. Barr added that situations had arisen in the past where there would be discussion needed regarding personnel, negotiations or a law suit and an executive session had not been advertised. To address this issue, the board began advertising an executive session for both before and after board meetings in case it is needed, although a session is not always needed.

I. Handout on Elementary Project

Dr. Buell had presented a letter to the board members explaining his proposal to postpone the pending building/renovation project for six months. He suggested the possibility of renovating every elementary school on a yearly basis by addressing the one with the greatest need each year until all have been addressed. Utilizing the money previously paid for previous projects that have been paid off would be his plan for financing the projects.

Under discussion, Mrs. Heffner asked Mr. Fowler if the budget could handle doing yearly renovations. Mr. Fowler explained that it could not be done on a yearly basis because the corporation could not tax enough in Capital Projects to do so. It would be impossible to tax for the amount necessary, so the corporation would have to bond every year, pay attorneys' fees every year, and pay all of the other bond financing fees every year. One \$26 million project would become seven \$3 million or \$4 million projects. Construction costs would be traded for fees, inflation, and all those items that aren't brick and mortar. There is a total budget of about \$3.1 million in Capital Projects, and only about \$500,000 of that is unallocated.

J. Review of Public Discussions on the Building Project

Dr. Schroeder reviewed a list of meetings that were held in connection with the elementary building/renovation project. Those listed: The school property tax control board meeting was held on November 20, 2008 and February 19, 2009; the 1028 Hearing and Preliminary Determination Meeting was held on February 18, 2008; community meetings were held on September 20, 2007, at Clay City and on September 27, 2007, at North Clay; building advisory committee meetings were held on March 13, 2007, April 4, 2007, April 30, 2007, May 16, 2007, May 29, 2007, and June 13, 2007; a meeting with concerned community members to discuss compromise was held on

October 22, 2007; special school board meetings on construction were held on July 10, 2007; August 2, 2007, August 23, 2007, December 27, 2007, January 3, 2008, January 16, 2008 and January 28, 2008; and, Terry Barr had indicated at a previous school board meeting that there were over 20 meetings involving 131 people at school level community meetings. Mr. Jackson also mentioned a list dated December 22, 2006, of committee members that were appointed, and, from January of 2007, a needs list from each building, a report from Mr. Reberger with recommendations pulled from his ten-year plan, and the report from ISU regarding community and student demographics and capital indebtedness for the school corporation.

K. Financial Discussion

There was no discussion at this time.

L. Community Committee for Bus Garage

See Item F. Bus Garage Alternatives

VIII. Personnel

A. Leaves of Absence

1. Certified

a. Family Medical Leave	ME	Lana Hendrix
b. Maternity Leave (FMLA)	NHS	Emily J. Gough
c. Family Medical Leave	Sp Serv	Samuel Trout

2. Non-Certified

a. Medical Leave	NHS	Jerri Garrison
b. Medical Leave	CCE	Gerry Pullum

B. Retirements

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

a. Secretary	JTE	Frances Georgette English
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3. Place on Retirement Index

None

C. Resignations

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

None

3. ECA Resignations

None

D. Transfers

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

None

E. Employment

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

a. Instructional Assistant	CA	Krista Wilson
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3. Extra-Curricular Certified		
a. Track – HS Asst. Girls	CCHS	Elissa Downey
b. Music Performance, Asst	NHS	Chrystal Chrysler
4. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified		
	None	
5. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach/Lay Sponsor		
a. Baseball – B-Team	CCHS	Blane Crabb
b. Softball, Asst.	CCHS	Loni Rhodes
6. Volunteer		
a. Softball	CCHS	Jason Sindors
b. Winter Guard	CCHS	Ryan Weber
c. Baseball	NHS	Richard McDonald
F. Changes		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
G. Termination		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified		
a. Custodian	NHS	Derek Eaglin
H. Information Only		
	None	
I. Classroom Volunteers		
<u>LEAAP Center</u>	<u>Staunton Elementary</u>	
Martha Sutherland	Sheenna Steuerwald	

Mrs. Barr moved to approve the personnel items. Dr. King seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-1 vote with Dr. Buell opposed.

IX. Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Heffner would like to discuss the possibility of holding board meetings at the elementary schools.

Mr. Jackson would like to go through the process that would allow Dr. Buell to designate his vote as he wishes as indicated in his letter.

Mrs. Barr would like an update of the Goals, Strategies, and Activities.

Mr. Atkinson would like to have someone give a synopsis of a program that allows suspended students to go to court and watch court proceedings rather than just sit at home. Mrs. Heffner suggested looking into whether community service is being utilized.

X. Adjournment

Mrs. Heffner made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Barr seconded. With a 7-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 pm.

The meeting was audio and video recorded and copies may be requested by contacting the Central Administration Office.