

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

An organizational and regular session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Auditoria of Clay City High School, 601 North Lankford Street, Clay City, IN 47841, on Thursday, January 13, 2022. Ryan Keller, Michael Shaw, Lynn Romas, Charley Jackson, and Amy Burke Adams were present.

**SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION**

**A. Nomination and Election of Officers**

Mrs. Adams nominated Lynn Romas for board president. Mr. Romas nominated Tom Reberger and declined his nomination from Mrs. Adams. With no other nominations, Mr. Reberger was declared president by acclamation.

Mr. Jackson nominated Lynn Romas for board vice president. Mr. Keller nominated Amy Burke Adams; however, Mrs. Adams declined the nomination. Mr. Romas was then declared vice president by acclamation.

Mrs. Adams nominated Charley Jackson for board secretary. With no other nominations, Mr. Jackson was declared secretary by acclamation.

Mr. Jackson nominated Andrea Baysinger for board assistant secretary. With no other nominations, Mrs. Baysinger was declared assistant secretary by acclamation.

**B. Appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer**

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the appointment of Mark Shayotovich as treasurer and Sheri Yocom as deputy treasurer. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**C. Approval of Employee Bonds**

Mr. Jackson moved to accept the recommendation to bond the following employees and positions:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Mark Shayotovich, Corporation                          | \$300,000 |
| Sheri Yocom, Corporation                               | \$300,000 |
| Clay City Jr/Sr High School Extra-Curricular Treasurer | \$100,000 |
| Clay City Jr/Sr High School Building Principal         | \$100,000 |
| Clay City Jr/Sr High School Athletic Director          | \$20,000  |
| Northview High School Extra-Curricular Treasurer       | \$220,000 |
| Northview High School Building Principal               | \$220,000 |
| Northview High School Athletic Directors               | \$20,000  |
| North Clay Middle School Extra-Curricular Treasurer    | \$65,000  |
| North Clay Middle School Building Principal            | \$65,000  |
| North Clay Middle School Athletic Directors            | \$20,000  |
| Clay City Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer        | \$20,000  |
| Clay City Elementary Building Principal                | \$20,000  |
| East Side Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer        | \$20,000  |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| East Side Elementary Building Principal                | \$20,000 |
| Forest Park Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer      | \$20,000 |
| Forest Park Elementary Building Principal              | \$20,000 |
| Jackson Township Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer | \$20,000 |
| Jackson Township Elementary Building Principal         | \$20,000 |
| Meridian Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer         | \$20,000 |
| Meridian Elementary Building Principal                 | \$20,000 |
| Staunton Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer         | \$20,000 |
| Staunton Elementary Building Principal                 | \$20,000 |
| Van Buren Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer        | \$20,000 |
| Van Buren Elementary Building Principal                | \$20,000 |
| Cumberland Academy Extra-Curricular Treasurer          | \$20,000 |
| Cumberland Academy Building Principal                  | \$20,000 |
| All other employees (Corporation Blanket Bond)         | \$50,000 |

Mr. Keller seconded. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of approval.

**D. Designation of Newspapers for Legal Advertisements**

Mr. Jackson moved to accept the recommendation that Clay Community Schools designate *The Brazil Times* and *The Parke County Sentinel* as the official newspapers for legal advertisements. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**E. Appointment of Members to Bid Opening Committee**

It was recommended that the following individuals be appointed to the bid opening committee:

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. Jeffery Fritz    | Superintendent                |
| Mr. Mark Shayotovich | Director of Business Affairs  |
| Mr. Jesse Trunnell   | Director of Extended Services |

Other staff members can be asked to serve on the committee if the bid being considered warrants their service.

Mrs. Adams moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**F. Establishment of Meeting Times and Dates**

Mr. Keller moved to accept the recommendation to continue to hold regular session school board meetings on the second Thursday of the month in the board room of the Central Administrative Office at 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN, and to keep the start time of meetings at 7:00 p.m. It was added that the Board does have the latitude to change times and move the location if so desired. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**G. Appointment of Corporation Attorneys**

It was recommended to keep Jeff Boyll as the corporation's local attorney, not on a retainer, and on an as-needed basis. It was noted that free legal advice was available

through the Indiana School Boards Association. Additional recommendations were to use Bose, McKinney, & Evans for major legal issues, Barnes & Thornburg for financial matters, and Lewis & Kappes for negotiations.

Dr. Shaw moved to accept the recommendations for corporation attorneys. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Board Vice President Lynn Romas led those in attendance in the pledge, and Superintendent Fritz offered the prayer.

**II. Consent Agenda**

**A. Claims**

**B. Board Meetings**

Regular Session Minutes for December 9, 2021

Executive Session Certification for January 4, 2022

**C. Field Trips**

Clay City Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> Grade class to McCormick's Creek State Park in Spencer, Indiana, for an overnight campout, May 18-20, 2022.

**D. Personnel**

**A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

1. Certified

|                    |      |                     |
|--------------------|------|---------------------|
| a. FMLA            | CCHS | Elisa Daniel        |
| b. FMLA            | FPE  | Mavery Bridgewaters |
| c. FMLA            | CO   | Leslie Cesinger     |
| d. FMLA            | NCMS | Kelli Lee           |
| e. FMLA            | VBE  | Gail Williams       |
| f. FMLS (New Hire) | NCMS | Cari Withers        |

2. Non-Certified

|                           |     |                   |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| a. FMLA                   | ME  | Jacqueline Fisher |
| b. FMLA                   | CO  | Stephanie Jackson |
| c. Medical                | FPE | Elizabeth Lamb    |
| d. Not Eligible for Leave | ESE | Brenda Ziels      |
| e. Not Eligible for Leave | NHS | Veronica Wiltsee  |
| f. FMLA                   | NHS | Jami Klimis-Wythe |

**B. RETIREMENTS**

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Certified                 | None |
| 2. Non-Certified             | None |
| 3. Place on Retirement Index | None |

**C. RESIGNATIONS**

|                                 |       |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 1. Certified                    | None  |                   |
| 2. Non-Certified                |       |                   |
| a. IA (Resource Rooms)          | ESE   | Brittney M. Hodge |
| b. Bus Aide (effect. 10/29/21)  | Trans | Tiffany Monnett   |
| c. Food Services (7-hour)       | CCHS  | Sherry Griffith   |
| d. Custodian (effect. 12/21/21) | NHS   | Madison Hightower |

|   |          |                   |
|---|----------|-------------------|
| e. Bus Mechanic (effect. 12/29/21)            | Trans    | Damon Shepard     |
| 3. ECA Resignations                           | None     |                   |
| 4. ECA Lay Coaches                            | None     |                   |
| <b>D. TRANSFERS</b>                           |          |                   |
| 1. Certified                                  |          |                   |
| a. Traveling Social Studies Teacher           | CCHS/NHS | Courtney Townsend |
| 2. Non-Certified                              | None     |                   |
| <b>E. EMPLOYMENT</b>                          |          |                   |
| 1. Certified                                  |          |                   |
| a. Removed                                    |          |                   |
| b. Removed                                    |          |                   |
| c. Secondary Math Teacher (Temp)              | CCHS     | Kasey Waite       |
| d. Elem. Teacher (1 <sup>st</sup> Grade/Temp) | MES      | Dawn Meeker       |
| e. Secondary School Counselor                 | NCMS     | Julia Fritch      |
| 2. Non-Certified                              |          |                   |
| a. Evening Custodian (185-day)                | VBE      | Erik R. Peterson  |
| b. IA (Title One/29-hour)                     | VBE      | Megan D. West     |
| c. Bus Aide (29-hour)                         | Trans    | Yvette Baskin     |
| d. Food Services (7-hour)                     | CCHS     | Maria Gentry      |
| e. Evening Custodian (185-day)                | NCMS     | Erick Barnett     |
| f. IA (1:1/29-hour)                           | MES      | Alex Reyes        |
| g. Custodian (185-day)                        | NHS      | William Phelps    |
| h. Occupational Therapist Assist. (PT)        | Corp     | Kim Hess          |
| 3. Other                                      | None     |                   |
| <b>F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR</b>                    |          |                   |
| 1. Extra-Curricular Certified                 |          |                   |
| a. Girls' Tennis Coach                        | NHS      | Joni Sutherland   |
| b. Assistant Director of Musical Performance  | NHS      | Logan Williams    |
| 2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified             | None     |                   |
| 3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach                 |          |                   |
| a. 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' BB Coach      | NCMS     | Luke Lancaster    |
| b. Boys' Varsity Golf Coach                   | NHS      | Same Grimes       |
| c. Varsity Softball Coach                     | NHS      | Kathy Vossmer     |
| d. Assistant Softball Coach                   | NHS      | Steve Woerner     |
| e. JV Softball Coach                          | NHS      | Ashley Hughes     |
| f. Director of Music                          | NHS      | Tammy Emmert      |
| g. Varsity Assistant BA Coach (33%)           | NHS      | Tony Trout        |
| h. Varsity Assistant BA Coach (33%)           | NHS      | Mitch Lancaster   |
| i. JV Assistant BA Coach (33%)                | NHS      | Luke Lancaster    |
| j. Winter Guard Director                      | CCHS     | Emily Fatch       |
| 4. Supplemental                               |          |                   |
| a. Assistant Softball Coach                   | NHS      | Steve Clark       |
| b. Assistant Softball Coach                   | NHS      | Lindsey Clark     |

## G. CHANGES

1. Certified
  - a. Director of Musical Performance      NHS      Brenda Buchannan
2. Non-Certified
  - a. IA/MA (29-hour)      VBE      Andrea Williams
  - b. Request to be placed on IA Pay Scale Step 1      NHS      Kent Bass
3. ECA-Lay Coaches      None

## H. VOLUNTEERS

1. CLASSROOM      None
2. ATHLETICS/ECA
  - Clay City Jr/Sr High School      None
  - Northview High School
    - a. Removed
    - b. Boy's Golf Coach      NHS      Nick McCullum
    - c. BA Coach      NHS      Charley Jackson
    - d. BA Coach      NHS      Derek Hannahs

## I. TERMINATIONS

1. Non-Certified
  - a. Evening Custodian (effect. 12/16/21)      NCMS      Eddie Bryan

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

### III. Comments from Patrons

Stephanie Schopmeyer, a parent of four children in Clay Community Schools, started by congratulating the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Clay City Girls' Basketball team on their win. She stated she is not envious of the board members, administrators, teachers, school nurses, students, and other parents. She shared an event where she witnessed a school board member shopping at a local shopping center after our county had turned to red right before Christmas break. She stated the shopping establishment had signage and an employee at the front doors recommending patrons wear a mask; however, said school board member chose not to wear a mask. Despite her anger, she was glad that he was not forced to wear a mask, but rather could make his own decision. She is asking, as a parent, that she would get that same right to make the decision on how to protect her children. She mentioned that at the last school board meeting one of the board members suggested a revision on how we might handle COVID in our schools, and it has not yet been addressed. She urges the school board members to revisit how we handle COVID, because she believes what is in place is not working.

Cheryl Schopmeyer voiced that she has been sharing information with the board for the last several months regarding masks and the dangers of masking children who are not sick. She still sees logic that is being defied and protocols that cannot be enforced to stop a virus that cannot be stopped. She expressed her concerns with COVID testing and its reliance. She spoke with a health department official who stated the recommendations being made are based on cases and contact tracing is virtually impossible to keep current. She believes we rely on modern medicine too much and

ignore natural and holistic medicine and wonders what the statistics are for children and mental health issues. She stated that depression, suicide, and anxiety are rising and questioned if it could be the draconian measures that are forcing them down a path that they otherwise would not go down. She believes the issue that needs to be addressed is who decides? Regarding masking, she respectfully asks the board to add that to their agenda for the next board meeting. She also adds she would like to know more about the ESSER funds.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. CCS School Board Policy Revisions- Second Reading**

Information regarding several proposed policy revisions recommended by Neola was presented at the December 9 regular session, and no changes were proposed during the first reading.

Mr. Keller moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

#### **V. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- New employees Kasey Waite, Dawn Meeker, Julia Fritch, Erik Peterson, Megan West, Yvette Baskin, Maria Gentry, Erick Barnett, Alex Reyes, William Phelps and Kim Hess were welcomed to the school family.
- Prayers were extended to the family of Paisley Rowe, a student of Forest Park, and the Butt's boys who were involved in a serious car accident over the weekend.
- A praise to the athletic departments at CCHS and NHS were extended for their great GPA for the 1<sup>st</sup> grading period. CCHS: Girls Golf-3.76, Boys Cross Country-3.25, Girls Cross Country-3.78, Volleyball-3.78, Student Athlete Average: 3.64. NHS: Girls Golf-3.86, Tennis-3.82, Volleyball-3.76, Girls Cross Country-3.72, Boys Cross Country-3.53, Girls Soccer-3.52, Boys Soccer-3.29, Football-3.12. Northview had 26 varsity students with a 4.0 GPA.
- Congratulations were offered to Mark Shayotovich, Director of Business Affairs, for being selected as the Region 7 IASBO School Business Official of the Year for 2021.

#### **VI. New Business**

##### **A. Resolution for Interest Deposits**

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the resolution for interest deposits. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

##### **B. Resolution to Transfer Appropriations**

Mrs. Adams moved to accept the recommendation to approve the resolution to transfer appropriations. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**C. 2022 Transfer of Funds Certificate**

Mr. Keller moved to approve the 2022 transfer of funds certificate. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**D. Resolution to Prepay Claims**

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the resolution to prepay claims. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**E. Resolution to Transfer from One Fund to Another**

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the resolution to transfer from one fund to another. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**F. Resolution to Execute Monthly Transfer of Basic Grant Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund**

As a result of HEA 1009, the monthly basic tuition grant must be fully deposited in the Education Fund. Some of those funds are needed to pay for expenditures that are now paid from the Operations Fund. These transfers are necessary to fund those expenditures and are consistent with guidance provided by the State Board of Accounts and the DLGF.

Under discussion, Mrs. Adams wanted to reiterate that is something that happens every January, and it gives the staff the authority to do what they need to do.

Mr. Keller moved to accept the recommendation to approve the resolution to execute monthly transfer of basic grant funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**G. School Bus Bids**

At the August 12, 2021, regular session, the board approved the request to solicit bids for new school buses through CIESC. Director of Extended Services Jesse Trunnell provided a recommendation for the approval to purchase seven (78) passenger buses Four diesel and three gasoline buses with air conditioning and extended warranties will be purchased.

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the recommendation of school bus bids. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**H. Building Project Bids**

Information was provided to the Board by Director of Extended Services Jesse Trunnell regarding bids for the NHS entrance doors and CO renovations/HVAC projects.

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the recommendation of bids provided. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**I. Board Policy 3220.01 – Teacher Appreciation Grant – Revision**

Information from Dr. Tim Rayle was provided to the Board regarding a request to revise Board Policy 3220.01 – Teacher Appreciation Grants. Since the revision only involves adding some minor wording, it is requested that the board waive the second reading.

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the revision of Policy 3220.01. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**J. Rural and Low-Income School Grant**

Kathy Knust requested permission from the Board to complete and submit the application for the Rural and Low-Income School Grant. Approval was recommended.

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**K. Request for Permission to Advertise for Bids for Chromebooks**

Mr. Keller moved to grant permission to Bill Milner, Director of Technology, to advertise for bids for 1000 Chromebooks for kindergarten, fourth grade, and eighth grade students. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**L. Parke County Public Library Board Appointment**

A request from Parke County Public Library Director Lindsey Bishop was included in the board packet regarding the need for the CCS Board of Trustees to appoint a member to the Park County Public Library. It was recommended to appoint Mr. Randy Kneeland.

Mr. Jackson asked how often this gets voted on and if they do this for Clay County also. Superintendent Fritz believes it happens at least every four years and confirmed we do this for Clay County also.

Mrs. Adams thanked Mr. Kneeland for his years of service.

Mr. Jackson moved to appoint Mr. Randy Kneeland as a member to the Park County Public Library. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**M. 2-Hour Delay Waiver for Cooks and Classified Instructional and Office Staff**

As per the Classified Handbook, it was recommended that the board waive the 2-hour delay time missed by Cooks and Category II and III Classified Instructional and Office Staff for January 7, 2022.

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the recommendation. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**VII. Board Member Comments**

**Charley Jackson** extended thanks to Kathy Knust and Dr. Rayle and prayers to the Butts boys and hoped for a full recovery.

**Amy Burke Adams** recognized Kayden Sawyer, a member of the CCHS Student Council, by greeting her at the entrance and being very professional. Congratulations were offered to Mark Shayotovich and the athletic teams for their success and a welcome to new hires to the CCS family.

**Ryan Keller** echoed comments made prior and prayers to the Butts family and Rowe family.

**Lynn Romas** offered congratulations to Mark Shayotovich and will be thinking of the boys in the car accident and the Rowe family.

**VIII. Future Agenda Items**

Mrs. Adams requested a report of the utilization of the ESSER funds for the school year 2020-2021 be presented by Mr. Mark Shayotovich at the February regular session meeting. Mr. Shayotovich commented that he does a report at the February meeting that includes this.

**IX. Adjournment**

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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