

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

A regular session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held in the Commons of North Clay Middle School, 3450 W State Road 340, Brazil, IN 47834, on Thursday, October 7, 2021. Ryan Keller, Charley Jackson, Amy Burke Adams, Tom Reberger, Lynn Romas, Andrea Baysinger, and Michael Shaw were present.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board President Tom Reberger 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 September 9, 2021  
Special Session Minutes for September 9, 2021, and September 20, 2021  
Executive Session Certification for September 9, 2021

**C. Field Trips**

Northview High School Winter Guard to Dayton, Ohio, April 6-9, 2022, to compete in WGI World Championships, requiring out-of-state travel and overnight stay.

**D. Personnel**

**A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

1. Certified		
a. FMLA – Intermittent Leave	NHS	Rochell Reberger
2. Non-Certified	None	

**B. RETIREMENTS**

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

**C. RESIGNATIONS**

1. Certified		
a. English Teacher (effective 12/22/21)	NHS	Amanda Fortner
2. Non-Certified		
a. Food Services	VBE	Sara Williams
b. IA (Effective 9/7/21)	SES	Kay Garrison
c. Admin. Sec. (effective 10/15/21)	TRANS	Lisa Stevenson
d. Bus Driver	TRANS	Vivian McKenzie
e. Food Services	JTE	Cheryll Mitchell
f. Food Services (effective 9/30/21)	NHS	Vicki Hoffman
g. IA (effective 10/11/21)	VBE	Melissa Ray
3. ECA Resignations	None	
4. ECA Lay Coaches	None	

#### D. TRANSFERS

- |                                      |      |               |
|--------------------------------------|------|---------------|
| 1. Certified                         | None |               |
| 2. Non-Certified                     |      |               |
| a. 185-day Custodian (260-day @ NHS) | FPE  | Steve Gilbert |
| b. 260-day Custodian (185-day @ SE)  | NHS  | Lisa Freeman  |

#### E. EMPLOYMENT

- |   |       |                   |
|---|-------|-------------------|
| 1. Certified                            |       |                   |
| a. SPED Teacher (effective 9/7/21)      | NHS   | Aaron Edwards     |
| b. Building Trades Teacher              | NHS   | Andy Sebastian    |
| c. 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher        | JTE   | Lillian Padget    |
| 2. Non-Certified                        |       |                   |
| a. Food Services                        | JTE   | Ashley Purcell    |
| b. Food Services                        | NHS   | Christina Clark   |
| c. Maintenance/Driver Helper            | TRANS | James Baskin      |
| d. Title One Parent Liaison (3 days/wk) | VBE   | Keli McCoy        |
| e. 185-day Custodian                    | NHS   | Madison Hightower |
| f. 185-day Custodian                    | NHS   | Paul Neely        |
| g. 185-day Custodian                    | NHS   | Rodney Howald     |
| h. Transportation Specialist            | TRANS | Casey Walls       |
| 3. Supplemental                         | None  |                   |

#### F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- |  |      |                     |
|--|------|---------------------|
| 1. Extra-Curricular Certified                  |      |                     |
| a. Asst. Varsity Boys BB Coach (50%)           | CCHS | Michael Owens       |
| b. Freshman Boys Basketball Coach              | NHS  | Jason Setliff       |
| 2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified              |      |                     |
| a. Asst. Varsity Boys BB Coach (50%)           | CCHS | Bradi Oberholtzer   |
| 3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach                  |      |                     |
| a. Varsity Girls Basketball Coach              | CCHS | Jason Sindors       |
| b. Asst. Varsity Girls Basketball Coach        | CCHS | Charles Blane Crabb |
| c. 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade GBB Coach (50%)       | CCHS | Nathan Stoelting    |
| d. 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade GBB Coach (50%)       | CCHS | Thomas Rea          |
| e. 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach | CCHS | Caden Cannon        |
| f. 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach | CCHS | Pat Shay            |
| g. Assistant Wrestling Coach                   | NHS  | Pat Brown           |
| h. JV Girls Basketball Coach                   | NHS  | Matt Stuckey        |
| i. Varsity Asst. Boys BB Coach (50% pay)       | NHS  | Michael Medearis    |
| j. Varsity Asst. Boys BB Coach (50% pay)       | NHS  | Billy Pettiford     |
| k. JV Boys Basketball                          | NHS  | Fred Powers         |
| l. Head Wrestling Coach                        | NCMS | Sarah Tellechea     |
| m. Assistant Wrestling Coach                   | NCMS | Donald Wiener       |
| n. 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach | NCMS | Alan Goff           |
| o. 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach | NCMS | Ian McIntyre        |
| p. 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach | CCE  | Anthony Steward     |
| 4. Supplemental                                | None |                     |

- |   |       |                   |
|---|-------|-------------------|
| G. CHANGES                                |       |                   |
| 1. Certified                              | None  |                   |
| 2. Non-Certified                          |       |                   |
| a. Executive Secretary (effective 1/3/21) | CO    | Torie Fox         |
| 3. ECA-Lay Coaches                        | None  |                   |
| H. VOLUNTEERS                             |       |                   |
| 1. CLASSROOM                              | None  |                   |
| 2. ATHLETICS/ECA                          |       |                   |
| <u>Clay City Jr/Sr High School</u>        |       |                   |
| a. Band Assistant                         | CCHS  | Adam Rice         |
| <u>Northview High School</u>              |       |                   |
| a. Assistant Boys Basketball              | NHS   | Jacob Cummings    |
| b. Assistant Girls Basketball             | NHS   | Troy Batchelor    |
| c. Band Booster                           | NHS   | Courtney Chastain |
| d. Band Booster                           | NHS   | Devon Kinne       |
| e. Band Booster                           | NHS   | Amber Slater      |
| f. Band Booster                           | NHS   | Holly Toney       |
| I. TERMINATIONS                           | None  |                   |
| J. NON-RENEWAL                            |       |                   |
| 1. Bus Mechanic (effective 9/1/21)        | TRANS | Albert Head       |

Mr. Keller moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Baysinger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

### **III. Comments from Patrons**

Cheryl Schopmeyer opened her comments by referencing the governor’s extension of the masking recommendation; she had been very disappointed in that. It was her assertion that recommendations were being made by those who don’t know, and she shared several reasons why she believed masks to be harmful. She also shared her concerns about cleaners or chemicals being used in the schools. As for parents’ rights, she stated that the best way to preserve parental rights was to challenge anything that usurps their authority. She added that we do not live in a democracy run by the majority; rather, it is a republic, and the power lies in the people. She implored the Board to recognize parental authority and cease to dictate medical solutions. She did believe that as a group the Board was trying to do what was best for everyone; however, she did not agree that the Board was making the best choices. Mrs. Schopmeyer claimed that her comments were representative of a group of at least fifty families. She shared her belief that teachers should not ask children about their vaccination status. To conclude her comments, Mrs. Schopmeyer asked the Board to stand against medical tyranny and advocate for freedom of choice.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. English Language Teacher of Record Job Description – Second Reading**

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the job description titled ELL Teacher. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**B. Classified & Bus Driver Handbook Revisions – Second Reading**

Mr. Romas moved to approve the revised classified and bus driver handbooks. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**C. Administrator Handbook Revisions – Second Reading**

Mr. Romas moved to approve the revised administrator handbook. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**V. Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- Overall, school is going very well. Although not a normal year, it has gone very smoothly; he appreciates the work of the school family. He acknowledged that it had been difficult for parents as well, and he appreciated the efforts of everyone.
- From two weeks ago to last week, the school corporation went from 24 positive cases down to 11, and this week is at 11 again. Two weeks ago, there were 126 quarantined, and last week it was down to 94. We are down to 78 this week. Clay County moved back to “orange” yesterday, so the school corporation went back to the masks “recommended” status instead of “required”. Masks are, however, still required on school buses, as per CDC and DOE guidelines.
- A welcome to the school family was extended to new hires Aaron Edwards, Andy Sebastian, Lillian Padgett, Ashley Purcell, Christina Clark, James Baskin, Keli McCoy, Madison Hightower, Paul Neeley, Rodney Howald, and Casey Walls.
- Torie Fox was introduced as the new executive secretary, replacing Mindy Godsey who will be retiring in December.
- Dana Bottomley was congratulated for being named a 2021 McDonald’s Outstanding Educator.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Adoption of 2022 Budget, Capital Projects Plan, and School Bus Replacement Plan**

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the 2022 budget, Capital Projects Plan, and School Bus Replacement Plan. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**B. Indiana Bond Bank Fuel Purchasing Program**

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the resolution that would allow the school corporation to continue participating in the Indiana Bond Bank Fuel Purchasing program. Mr. Romas seconded.

Under discussion, Mrs. Adams shared her belief that this was an excellent program that the school corporation had participated in for several years and had saved a bundle. It was a good, forward-thinking program.

The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**C. 2022-23 CCS School Calendar**

Superintendent Fritz reviewed the following objectives as goals he planned to meet:

- End the first semester prior to Christmas break (this is important for secondary buildings, with regard to semester exams)
- Keep a similar number of days in the first and second semesters, with a few more days in the second semester to compensate for the instructional time lost due to standardized testing
- Start school a few days after the first of August
- Maintain a full week at Fall Break (this is scheduled during the Covered Bridge Festival and is very beneficial with regard to traffic issue during this very busy week)
- Maintain the Wednesday off prior to Thanksgiving
- Maintain one week at Spring Break
- Include one day off between New Year's Day and Spring Break (snow day, if needed)
- Include two planned eLearning days

Superintendent Fritz stated that this calendar had worked well; it is very similar to what has been used for the past several years

Mrs. Baysinger moved to approve the 2022-23 school calendar. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

#### **VII. Board Member Comments**

**Michael Shaw** welcomed the new folks on board. Also, he expressed his appreciation for the work between the administration and the teachers in being able to get a contract in place in what was seemingly a relatively easy process.

**Lynn Romas** added his welcome to the new people. He congratulated Dana Bottomley for her award, noting that he had worked closely with Dana when he was at Northview. He deemed her to be an outstanding lady that really has kids in her heart and who was really deserving of the award.

**Ryan Keller** congratulated the new hires, Torie Fox, and Dana Bottomley.

**Charley Jackson** shared his appreciation for all of the people that continued to work to help Clay Community Schools be a better place to work and also all staff that works hard every day to keep this program going.

**Amy Adams** welcomed the new hires for joining us and being a part of our family. Mrs. Adams then commented on the new school calendar, which she noted was based on the model that had been used for the last few years. Her observation was that since a calendar similar to the one just approved had been implemented a few years back, the students tended to retain more knowledge over the summer and were better rested, therefore there were fewer discipline issues or reports. She also observed that higher grades result from calendars like this, which in the end means increased graduation rates. She believed it to be a great calendar, one that works best for all.

**Tom Reberger** offered a "ditto" to the preceding comments.

#### **VIII. Future Agenda Items**

**Ryan Keller** requested adding to the November board meeting discussion and a presentation of a safe route to school trail option that would connect the city of Brazil to the high school and the middle school.

**Lynn Romas** asked for a report on the therapy dog. Van Buren Elementary Principal Gail Williams, who attended this meeting, stated that the dog would be at the board meeting next month.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Reberger commented that he appreciated the courtesy of the audience, and he appreciated the fact that everyone felt comfortable coming to the board meetings and speaking and saying what they thought. The Board respected their opinions and encouraged their opinions. He then referenced the 2022 budget that the Board had passed at this meeting, stating that it was good the community had faith in this school board and the administration that was developing this budget because the Board just approved a \$50 million budget for that calendar year. The Board takes it seriously when they talk about what they are going to do with it; they are going to make sure the money is spent wisely and students get the most benefit they possibly can from that money.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

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