

**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 the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN 47834, on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. Tom Reberger, Michael Shaw, Andrea Baysinger, Ron Scherb, Kevin Kumpf, Amy Burke Adams, and Shane Wiram were present.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Board President Kevin Kumpf led those in attendance in the pledge and offered the prayer.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Claims

B. Board Meetings

Regular Session Minutes for October 11, 2018

C. Field Trips

1) Northview High School volleyball team members to Muncie, IN, November 2-3, 2018, to participate in volleyball state tournament finals, requiring overnight stay

2) Meridian Elementary 5th grade students to Conner Prairie, April 4, 2019, to provide students the opportunity to interact with history, with travel provided by Turner Coaches

3) Clay City Elementary 5th grade students to St. Louis, MO, May 27, 2019, to observe animals in habitats and witness US landmarks, requiring out-of-state travel

D. Personnel

A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. Certified

a. FMLA/Maternity	NHS	Allison Rissler
b. FMLA/Maternity	ME	Jamie Dickerson
c. FMLA	FPE	Mavery Bridgewaters
d. FMLA	CCE	Joanie Mitchell
e. FMLA	NHS	Pete Kikta
f. FMLA	CCE	Lou Ann Kern
g. Employee Not Eligible for Leave	NCMS	April Lovett
h. Employee Not Eligible for Leave	ESE/FPE	Mellissa Murphy
i. FMLA	NCMS	Marlene Halfhill
j. FMLA/Maternity	ME	Colleen Osborn
k. FMLA	FPE	Megan Miller

2. Non-Certified

a. Employee Not Eligible for Leave	JTE	Jamie Hofmann
b. Employee Not Eligible for Leave	ESE	Ashley Patterson
c. Employee Not Eligible for Leave	NCMS	Heather Wilson

B. RETIREMENTS

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified		
a. 33.75-hour/week Instructional Assistant	NCMS	Janice Davis
<i>Effective 12/31/2018</i>		
3. Place on Retirement Index	None	
C. RESIGNATIONS		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified		
a. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	FPE	Tabatha Heitzman
b. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	NCMS	Heidi Patterson
c. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	CA	Lisa Hathaway
3. ECA Resignations	None	
4. ECA Lay Coaches	None	
D. TRANSFERS		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
E. EMPLOYMENT		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified		
a. 29-hour Library Instructional Assistant	CCHS	Janell Grafe
b. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	CCE	Brian Jones
c. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	NCMS	Kerri Erwin
d. 5-hour/day Food Services	NCMS	Danielle McCluskey
3. Other	None	
F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR		
1. Extra-Curricular Certified		
a. Varsity Club Sponsor	NHS	Josh Trout
b. Jr. High Boys' Track Head Coach	CCHS	Ryan Swearingen
c. Department Chair – English	CCHS	Joy McDonald
2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified	None	
3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach		
a. 7 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	NCMS	Brittany Fagg
b. 6 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	NCMS	Matt Stuckey
c. 7 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	CCHS	Jeremy Booe
4. Supplemental	None	
G. CHANGES		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
3. ECA-Lay Coaches	None	
H. VOLUNTEERS		
1. CLASSROOM		
<u>Clay City Elementary</u>		
a. Peggy Wright		

Staunton Elementary

- a. Stephanie Reeves
- b. Rebecca Taken

Van Buren Elementary

- a. Monica Boyd
- b. Hayley Johnson
- c. Jennifer Toth
- d. Amy Tucker
- e. John Whitesell

North Clay Middle School

- a. Amy Cleveland

Van Buren/North Clay/Northview

- a. Mark Vitz

2. ATHLETICS/ECA

Clay City Jr/Sr High School

- a. 7th Grade Girls' Basketball – Jamie Booe

Northview High School

- a. Wrestling Coach – Caleb Nicosin
- b. Band – Garrison Gottsche
- c. Band – Taylor Hanson
- d. Band – Zachary Hewitt
- e. Band – Liahona Lukens

North Clay Middle School

- a. Cadet Corp – Kendra McCrea-Bailey
- b. Matthew Stuckey

I. TERMINATIONS

None

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

III. Comments from Patrons

Korbin Allen, Vinny Bonomo, Karlie Kellett, and Cassidy Kellett, all students at Northview High School, each shared comments regarding the installation of a synthetic surface for the football field at Northview.

During Mr. Allen's comments, he offered thanks to everyone involved with the recent renovations and improvements to the schools, and he shared his opinion that they were all proud to be students at Northview. He, as well as the other three students, urged the Board to vote yes to a turf sports field and upgraded sports complex. Mr. Allen believed the field and outdoor track area to be unsafe and to look bad. As he saw it, they now have a nice up-to-date school with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, but the outdoor sports complex is not up to that standard. After stating that he felt safety for athletes and students should be a top priority, Mr. Allen commented that having an upgraded turf field and nice sports complex would open up so many opportunities for students, band members, and athletes. It would also open up the possibility to host larger events that would spotlight the school and its programs and be profitable for the

community. He concluded his comments by urging the Board to vote yes for turf as an investment for the youth, the school system, and the community.

Karlie Kellett, a member of the NHS soccer team, shared her experiences playing on different types of surfaces; she had found turf to be the best and most reliable that she had played on. Ms. Kellett believed turf would provide many benefits for Northview athletics, as well as the community. She referenced instances during the season when practices had to be canceled or moved indoors due to wet field conditions; with turf, they would not have to give up their practice time because of the durability turf would provide. It was Ms. Kellett's assertion that turf would not only be safer for her and her teammates, it would also allow them to play their game at a higher level, and she referenced the fact that during sectional, regional, and other high-profile games, they played against teams that train on turf year-round. She believed teams with that training were given advantages that her team did not have, such as speed of play and better control over the ball. Referring to what she deemed top-quality training facilities available to them indoors, she suggested having them outdoors as well, which would, overall, bring the school to the next level. Ms. Kellett noted that she, being a senior, would not have the opportunity to play on the turf; however, she believed that with a turf field, Northview soccer, along with the other teams, organizations, and our community, would benefit tremendously.

Kassidy Kellett, also a member of the NHS soccer team, referenced her experiences playing on synthetic turf fields at other facilities, which she believed had made her touch and footwork on the ball a lot better. It was her opinion that her teammates would benefit from those same opportunities. Ms. Kellett's final comment was that she was super-excited about the opportunity to play on turf every day.

Vinnie Bonomo, a football and track athlete, offered his thanks to the Board for approving the new auxiliary gym and weight room at Northview. He shared his opinion that approval of the new turf field would be the next improvement that would help Northview athletics progress to the next level, with increased participation on a nicer field and decreased cancellations due to weather. As he saw it, the field would be something that students, staff, and the community would all be proud of.

IV. Old Business

A. Building Project Update

Mr. Lance Gassert of Garmong Construction Services provided an update of the building projects at Clay City Jr/Sr High School and Northview High School.

At Clay City, a walkthrough for the board members had been conducted prior to this meeting. Mr. Gassert stated that the project was essentially wrapped up, with a few loose-end items being completed. The Garmong construction trailer and temporary fencing have been removed, and the landscaping has been installed; the last trailer will be moved this week. The administration suite is in full use and is complete. The new front entrance has been completed. There is a little bit of work they will have to come back for in the spring (some final roof coating and touching up some landscaping spaces with final seed and straw), but it had been a successful project, finishing ahead of schedule and on budget.

At Northview, they just recently took over the foreign language space, which is adjacent to the new Student Activities Center; that space will be converted and creates a corridor from the Student Activities Center into the school. Masonry work will start next week in that space, terrazzo work will start in December, and that is all slated to wrap up in February. The new special needs suite will be completed in December, as well as Phase I of the new art room and the shops below it. Northview is still on track to finish at the end of February.

B. Board Policy Appendix G – CCS Hepatitis B Exposure Control Plan – Second Reading

Mrs. Adams moved to accept Board Policy Appendix G – CCS Hepatitis B Exposure Control Plan. Mr. Scherb seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

V. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- A welcome to the school family was offered to the following: At Clay City Jr/Sr High School, Janell Grafe; at Clay City Elementary, Brian Jones; at North Clay Middle School, Kerri Erwin and Danielle McCluskey.
- Condolences were offered to the friends and family of Tyler Layne, a senior at Northview High School who recently passed away.
- Congratulations were offered to the Northview High School football team for their undefeated regular season and the Northview High School volleyball team for being state runner-ups in the IHSAA tournament.
- Recognition was given to both the Clay City Jr/Sr High School and Northview High School bands for their good showings in the ISSMA state finals.
- Recognition was given to Staunton Elementary for receiving an award as a Blue Ribbon school at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. last week.
- Veterans who work for Clay Community Schools were recognized, as follows: Clay City Jr/Sr High School – Clarence Johnson; Jackson Township – Don Fritsch; North Clay Middle School – Jon Russell, Garicke Rubin, and Lynn Wise; Northview High School – Jerry Bruer, Mark Raetz, Rex Hane, and Mike Tisdale; Transportation – Howard Hughes, Lonnie Boyce, Bob Harmon, William McCullough, Earl “Ed” Payton, Doug Rolison, Gregg Stearley, and Kevin Tague.
- Everyone was wished a Happy Thanksgiving.

VI. New Business

A. Request to Accept Donation from the Jackson Township Elementary PTO

Mrs. Adams moved to accept the donation of \$3,696 from the Jackson Township Elementary PTO, to be used to purchase six Elmo Projectors for the school. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

B. Approval of Conflict of Interest Statements

Mrs. Baysinger moved to approve the Conflict of Interest Statements that had been presented in the board packet. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

C. Indiana Bond Bank Fuel Purchasing Program

Mr. Scherb moved to approve a resolution that would allow the school corporation to continue participating in the Indiana Bond Bank Fuel Purchasing Program. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Under discussion, Mr. Scherb commented that they were basically buying puts and calls to protect the price on this fuel; he asked if the bond company did that or if Mr. Shayotovich did that. Mr. Shayotovich replied that was not exactly how it worked; rather, it is a very likely hedge against fuel prices. Each year the collar is set, and if the fuel prices at the time of purchase for the school corporation fall inside that collar, the school corporation pays a small administrative fee. If for some reason they were to spike well above that collar, the bond bank would provide the school corporation with a supplemental payment to offset the cost of any spike in fuel costs that would maybe be unexpected. On the contrary, if they were to dip below that collar, then the school corporation would pay the bond bank back but would be saving a considerable amount on fuel as well. The program costs the school corporation somewhere between \$2,500-\$3,000 a year in administrative fees.

Mr. Scherb then referred to information in the resolution that stated that the bond bank was buying puts and a call, which Mr. Scherb deemed to be the purchase of a cap. He asked to clarify that Mr. Shayotovich did not do that. Mr. Shayotovich replied that the bond bank did that in order to set that collar.

Mrs. Adams noted that the school corporation had begun participation in this program around 2008 when the economy was taking a wild ride, and it had been very much worth it. She suggested taking a look every few years at how the program was working for the school corporation and whether it was still appropriate. Mr. Shayotovich noted that it had been very consistent, as far as costs, to be in the program, and the elimination of the risk was well worth the minimal cost the school corporation pays to be in the program.

The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

D. Non-Certified Insurance Rates

Mr. Reberger moved to accept the non-certified insurance rates. Dr. Shaw seconded.

Under discussion, Mr. Scherb asked if the rates were for school bus drivers also. Mr. Simpson stated that the rates were; they were for all non-certified employees.

The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

E. Buildings & Grounds Report

A report had been provided in the board packet. Mrs. Adams had a question regarding the status of the block wall at the softball dugout, the patio and retaining wall and aprons at the baseball field, the railing at the baseball patio and softball bleacher area, and the stairwell to the upper press box, all at Clay City. She noticed that those were listed as being in process, and she wanted to know if any progress had been made on those items. Mr. Howard stated that the work was already done; they are waiting to

finish some loose ends. They are waiting on the handrailing to be manufactured, and there are a few touch-up things to be done at the softball dugout involving mortar work. As for an estimated completion date, Mr. Howard believed the work would be done in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Howard is to let the board members know when that work has been completed.

Mr. Wiram asked to add to the list the stairway on the east side of the gym at Clay City, where people walk down to the parking lot; rebar had been sticking out of those steps for years. Mr. Howard noted that they had been waiting for the contractor trailers to be taken down; they have taken down the fence and moved the trailers, so they could now get in there to make those repairs, probably in the next couple of weeks.

F. Synthetic Surface

At the October 11, 2018, regular session, Mrs. Andrea Baysinger requested that a vote be taken by the Board in November regarding a synthetic surface to replace the existing natural surface at the NHS Football field. A recommendation was made for approval to direct the administration to move forward with plans to replace the existing natural surface with a synthetic surface and to pay for this from Rainy Day Funds.

Mrs. Baysinger moved to accept synthetic surface for the football field and to pay for it from the Rainy Day Fund. Dr. Shaw seconded.

Under discussion, Mr. Scherb asked Mr. Shayotovich if the school corporation had a percentage of its General Fund or budget that could be used on projects like this. Mr. Shayotovich replied that there was a law on the percentage of the CPF budget that could be used on sports facilities; he offered to check the changes to the law for 2019. He pointed out that this would be considered a piece of academic equipment, and it would be used across curriculum and band and PE. When talking about the particular law that Mr. Scherb mentioned, it would be for something like a wrestling mat. Mr. Scherb thought it referred to extra-curricular activities of any kind; Mr. Shayotovich agreed, noting that it referred to something specific to extra-curricular activities. Mr. Scherb then stated that he knew there had been discussion with the DLGF about this project and about how this project is applied; Mr. Scherb again asserted that there was a fee, or certain percentage, that could be used. To this, Mr. Shayotovich stated that he could say, with 100% confidence, that this particular project would not fall under that percentage limitation; if it were, there would be about 150 schools that would be non-compliant, and he was sure that was not the case.

Mr. Scherb next returned to an issue that had been brought up last month as to whether this project would have any effect on any educational or vocational programs. His question: How in the world can you say you're going to spend a million dollars and then tell us it's not going to affect an educational or a vocational program? Mr. Kumpf responded, stating that if Mr. Scherb came up with any educational or vocational subject that he wanted to add to the school corporation, Mr. Kumpf didn't think this would prevent that from happening. In reply to Mr. Kumpf's comment, Mr. Scherb noted he had heard that a teacher had asked her principal for a set of classroom textbooks that would stay in the classroom and would be used to complement the laptop computers; she had been told that the textbooks could not be afforded.

Mr. Scherb then segued into the topic of the sixth-grade students at Clay City Elementary not using Chromebooks; he asked Mr. Wiram if he realized that and if he knew why. Superintendent Fritz answered the question of why by explaining that the sixth grade teachers at Clay City Elementary and Clay City Elementary Principal Mr. Owens had contacted Dr. Rayle and him, and they did not want the Chromebooks; rather, they wanted a traditional-style classroom, as they have in grades K-5. They wanted to keep the sixth grade an elementary-style classroom, so it was their request to not get Chromebooks; the administration honored their request. Mr. Scherb wanted to know why those students were using the old Dell computers. Superintendent Fritz's response was they wanted to keep those computers as supplements, but they did not want to use Chromebooks as their learning device. Mr. Scherb then wanted to know if North Clay had the same choice. Superintendent Fritz explained that North Clay is a middle school, a 6/7/8 building, so it would work as a 6/7/8 building. To this, Mr. Scherb asserted that North Clay had been told they had to use the Chromebooks, but Clay City Elementary had been told they could make the decision. Superintendent Fritz countered that North Clay had never, as a sixth-grade unit, approached the administration to ask if they didn't have to use the Chromebooks.

At this point, Mrs. Baysinger interjected that she had a motion on the table regarding a vote, and the Board was being off topic; Chromebooks did not have much to do with the vote on the table. When Mrs. Adams pointed out that there was a section called discussion, Mrs. Baysinger stated that discussion was to be relevant to the vote at hand, and she asked to keep it there. Responding to Mr. Scherb's comment that they were talking about the question of whether putting in turf was going to affect education or vocational programs, Mrs. Baysinger shared her opinion that redoing the basketball court at Clay City would affect education similarly to the way redoing the football field would. She stated that they were investments in our schools.

Dr. Shaw's point of view was that there wasn't any question it would be directly related to education; a co-curricular activity and the increased activity that would go along with this surface would only help improve the education of our students and increase the accessibility of students. It was only going to improve education. He referred to research that showed that kids who get involved in extra things do better in life. As he saw it, that's a part of what education is, it's not just classroom. In his opinion, the answer, simply, was yes, this had a lot to do with education, directly. Mr. Scherb wanted to know if Dr. Shaw was saying that the turf itself would cause students to get involved. Dr. Shaw's response: Yes. Mrs. Baysinger added that was exactly what the students had said.

Next, Mr. Scherb stated that he thought this was a great idea to put in the turf, but not for the taxpayers to pay for it. He asserted that if the school corporation was going to take a million dollars out of the budget and put in a turf, there was something wrong with the budget. As he saw it, the only one answer was that the budget was out of control, if that kind of money could be spent for turf. He then made the comment that there were those who thought that this was a no-brainer, a win-win, a popular idea; as he saw it, it was not. Mr. Scherb stated that a lot of people in this county were upset that the school corporation was doing this, and he referenced an old wives' tale that said sometimes you can win a battle, but you're going to lose a war. He predicted that's what was going

to happen; the taxpayers were going to say, hey wait a minute folks, if you can spend a million dollars on this turf, we're going to take control of our tax programs, we'll take away taxpayers' money, and we're going to put it in county roads and county bridges; we're going to put it someplace else in the county instead of putting it into an artificial turf. It was Mr. Scherb's assertion that future superintendents and future school boards could very well pay for what he deemed to be greed to do this.

Another assertion by Mr. Scherb was whether, with the beautiful new facility out there, the double gymnasium with the eight-lane jogging track and air conditioning, a PE teacher was going to take students out of a classroom when it is 95 degrees to play on that artificial turf, 1,330 hours per year. A patron in the audience declared, speaking for a teacher she knew, that teacher would do that; that teacher goes out every day.

Returning to the discussion of Chromebooks, Mrs. Adams' first question was whether enough Chromebooks had been purchased for the Clay City sixth grade. Superintendent Fritz responded, noting that Chromebooks had not been purchased for Clay City Elementary because they did not want them.

Mrs. Adams' second question: At what point does any principal have the right to disregard a directive of the school board? It was her assertion that the Board had voted for those Chromebooks to be implemented county-wide, to ensure the education provided in the south was equal to the education in the north. It was Mrs. Adams' contention that the Board had covered the issue of principals making directives against school board policy, such as cell phones and so forth, in the past. She then reiterated her question: Why does a school principal get to disregard a directive of the school board? Superintendent Fritz explained that there had been no directive given by the school board that they were going to use Chromebooks. It had been voted on that a number of Chromebooks would be bought, and to his knowledge, Clay City Elementary had not been specified. He did not remember whether it had been mentioned during the board meeting, but they looked at specific needs of every building. He pointed out that the elementary levels have different needs than the secondary buildings and the middle school building. When looking at Clay City Elementary's scores, they have historically done very well; they service their students as an elementary classroom, and they want to maintain that. Superintendent Fritz reiterated the fact that both sixth-grade teachers and Mr. Owens had come to the administration and made that request. The administration talked about it and looked at the pros and cons; it was felt they had a legitimate request, and it was honored. Superintendent Fritz had spoken to Mr. Owens today, and Mr. Owens had said he had received zero complaints from any parents about this. Mrs. Adams stated that she was going to request, as a future agenda item, purchasing enough Chromebooks for Clay City in case they change their mind. She still did not think that principals had the authority to disregard the technology advancement that this Board had determined.

Another question posed by Mrs. Adams: Why do we have a Rainy Day Fund, and why is it called "Rainy Day"? Answering her own question, Mrs. Adams shared her opinion that it called "Rainy Day" because that money is set aside for emergencies, such as a roof flying off of a school, where something has to be done immediately before insurance or other means are enacted. She added that money had been placed into

the Rainy Day Fund because of the efforts of present and past business affairs managers and past board members and members of this present board. It was her contention that the Rainy Day Fund had allowed the school corporation to get through 2008 and the economic crash that took place in this nation. She noted that school boards around us at that time were RIF'ing, or laying off teachers; Clay Community Schools did not RIF anyone, everyone kept their job. The school corporation found ways to manage and had been frugal with tax dollars and had guarded them as good stewards of the public money. Mrs. Adams observed that the economy is unpredictable, and, although right now the market is being enjoyed as it is, a downturn, or correction, in the market, is expected. Also, international events will impact us, in one way or another. Mrs. Adams would hate to think that the school corporation would squander one million dollars on a turf that is not necessary and did not prevent the football team from doing a wonderful job this year and then find out in a year that the school corporation was in an economic crunch but didn't have the funds saved to keep teachers or instructional aides in the classroom or to keep bus drivers all going. She asserted that the boys on the football team had proved this year that they did not need a million dollar turf. She rhetorically asked if the school corporation needed to improve what it had, which she believed they absolutely did, and if a fantastic natural grass surface could be made, which she claimed the school corporation should have always had. As for whether it could be done for \$300,000-\$400,000, Mrs. Adams thought it could, and she asserted that the school corporation could hire a full-time groundskeeper and pay them \$100,000 and let that person keep grounds of all of the fields, even the fields in the south. Mrs. Adams believed it to be irresponsible to name a field after anyone and to spend a million dollars on it when it's not necessary. Although recognizing what Dr. Shaw had said about extra-curricular activities keeping kids involved, which she agreed they absolutely do, Mrs. Adams wanted to know how many kids out of all the kids in this county that go to school to be educated would actually benefit from that \$1 million. It was Mrs. Adams' contention that the school corporation had needs in the classroom; she brought up a previous comment she had made about getting blinds in a math classroom at North Clay so the kids could see the board. Mrs. Adams pointed out that decisions made by the Board are sometimes not popular and are sometimes not easy to make; sometimes saying no to someone is going to upset them, because it is emotional to some people. They want new things, but sometimes it simply can't be afforded. When taking money out of the emergency fund, it needed to be a logical decision, not an emotional one.

Mrs. Adams concluded her comments by stating that she was not opposed to artificial turf being provided by a sponsor, nor was she opposed to the students who would use it. She suggested having fundraisers and bringing the community together; she also suggested the Board could maybe match some funds. She does not, however, want to look a teacher in the eye, or an IA or bus driver, and say there was a crash, and money was spent when times were good, and there is no money to pay them; she hopes it never comes to that. As for how the Rainy Day Fund got to where it is, Mrs. Adams credited people who had asked in the past for records from the buses being turned in and had asked how money could be saved. She believed that to be the people who built the Rainy Day Fund. She reminded everyone that it was called "Rainy Day" for a reason. Having said that, Mrs. Adams offered congratulations to the football team on their accomplishments. She stated that when she does cast her vote, and it will be a

no, it was not at all anything personal towards anyone in this room, any team. She did not want to be the Grinch, but she did want to be able to make sure all of the school corporation's expenses are covered, for five years, ten years, or fifteen years out.

Mr. Wiram commented regarding the computers. He believed the plan had been to pass the Dell computers down to the sixth grade classes; they never had Chromebooks to begin with. He asserted that if anyone went against Michael Owens, he would fight them personally; the man is a great man and is his son's principal. Mrs. Adams interjected that no one was disparaging Michael Owens. Mr. Wiram then continued his comments by noting he would have no problem with what Mr. Owens would want to do; he is a good guy.

As for his viewpoints on turf, Mr. Wiram commented that he would probably abstain from voting because although the school corporation has the money to do that, it probably wasn't financially responsible. Also, while expressing his opinion that the Board had done a great job in the renovation projects in keeping things fair from north to south, he believed this would take a 90-degree turn, and he thought that needed to be noted. He added that he would love to vote for it, and he thought it was deserved. Mr. Wiram deemed it to not be a north/south thing; however, the Board had to be consistent and fair, and that was why he would be abstaining.

Dr. Shaw wanted to go on record so that everybody would know that he felt the synthetic turf would be a positive step forward for this community, and he was very thankful for the support that they had seen. He believed that his vote was a logical decision.

Mr. Scherb shared that the part that bothered him was that this decision had been made two or three years ago by most of the Board, which Mr. Kumpf disputed.

Mr. Scherb then asked why this administration had refused to acknowledge that there was a local company that could plant grass for \$60,000. He asserted there was a local company that had proposed to take care of the football field, with fertilizer, and the company even proposed to irrigate it and cut the grass with a lawnmower that had a vacuum machine on it for less than \$20,000 a year. Mrs. Adams added that she thought an effort should be made to maintain the field and improve the current field. If within a year, no progress has been made, she would say, by all means, we can't handle our business, go ahead and bring in the synthetic turf. Superintendent Fritz noted that the administration had reached out to the company that Mr. Scherb had referred to, a company that Mr. Scherb had talked to when they had bought hay off of him, and it was found that they had never worked any football fields. The gentleman with the company actually thought it was a no-brainer; if he had his vote on it, he would say to get turf. Mr. Scherb countered that the gentleman had specifically mentioned Kevin Kumpf and had been offended by statements that had been made at a prior meeting by Mr. Kumpf about digging a post hole versus putting in a swimming pool. When Mr. Kumpf's reply to a question from Mr. Scherb regarding power seeding was no, Mr. Scherb asserted that Mr. Kumpf had not talked to the gentleman.

Mrs. Baysinger called for a vote.

Mrs. Adams wanted to know what the rush was on this artificial turf. She noted that the successful football season was over, and she asked why the Board couldn't take time to try to improve the current field and why the Board was rushing to spend a million dollars. Mr. Kumpf's response was that it had been brought up as an agenda item to vote on; whoever brings it up, that's their right to do so. The Board had heard Mrs. Adams' side of it and Mr. Scherb's side of it, and all they were wanting to do was give their opinions and arguments against it. The Board now needed to take a vote on it.

Mr. Scherb stated that his question had not yet been answered, the question being why this local company had not been given an opportunity to maintain the field for the last three, four, five years; he asserted that the company had made the proposal several years ago. Mr. Kumpf pointed out that they were taking a vote on whether to do turf or grass, not on who was going to upkeep the grass if the Board went that route.

Mrs. Adams reiterated her question: Why are we rushing into this? Mrs. Baysinger noted that the Board had talked about it for the last four months, which Mrs. Adams did not believe was a long time for discussing the expenditure of a million dollars. Mr. Kumpf commented that he didn't want to make this north/south; Mrs. Adams countered with "Let's vote-it's north/south", a comment with which multiple board members disagreed.

Mrs. Baysinger had requested information about the cost of a basketball court per usage versus the cost of a football field per usage, and she referred to what she deemed to have been a great presentation provided during last month's board meeting, as it related to the number of athletes. While acknowledging the estimates could be related to usage because of the smaller school, the estimate for the basketball court, which the school corporation will be doing in the spring of 2019, was projected to cost \$24 per usage per square foot over time, and the estimate for the football field was projected to cost \$16. Mrs. Baysinger did not want to make it north/south; she thought it was great they were working with Clay City. Mrs. Adams questioned who had provided the information to Mrs. Baysinger; Mrs. Baysinger stated that the estimates had been based on the numbers from the presentation last month; Superintendent Fritz had done the math, and she had received the estimates from him. The estimates had been based on how many kids would use it and what the cost was. Mrs. Baysinger did not want to make it north/south because she felt the school corporation invested equally; it seems more because it is a larger project.

Prior to a vote, Superintendent Fritz re-read the recommendation, as follows: "At the October 11, 2018, regular session, Mrs. Andrea Baysinger requested that a vote be taken by the Board in November regarding a synthetic surface to replace the existing natural surface at the NHS football field. Your approval to direct the administration to move forward with plans to replace the existing natural surface with a synthetic surface and to pay for this from Rainy Day funds is recommended."

The motion was approved by a 4-2-1 vote, with Mr. Scherb and Mrs. Adams opposed and Mr. Wiram abstaining.

Following the vote, Mr. Scherb commented that it would be interesting to see what the taxpayers would do in the next couple of months. He mentioned things like remonstrance and petitions; he believed there were several options the taxpayers still had.

VII. Board Member Comments

Amy Burke Adams addressed the patron in the audience who had spoken earlier and informed her that board members could not interact with the public when they were discussing actionable items. She was not ignoring her when her comment had been made, she just couldn't interact. She thanked her for her contribution.

Andrea Baysinger agreed with the assessment Superintendent Fritz had made during his Superintendent's Report, that it had been a great month to be a member of Clay Community Schools' academic and sports teams; she hoped to continue to see that success.

Michael Shaw offered his thanks to all of our great veterans. He then stated that he thought Clay City looked great during the walk-through tonight. He asked for everybody to continue to pray for Tyler Layne's family and friends following the awful tragedy a couple of weeks ago. Dr. Shaw next thanked the students who had spoken during the meeting; he appreciated that, and he thought they all did a fabulous job. He concluded his comments by sharing his opinion that approval of the surface was a very positive step forward for our community and our school. He believed there was no doubt that co-curricular activity, which would go up with that, is directly related to education.

Tom Reberger noted that over the past couple of years, \$33 million had been spent to make the facilities better in Clay Community Schools. He asserted that if they had said when the program was started that it was going to be \$34 million instead \$33 million, nobody would have thought anything about it. He added that the Board tried to wait and be prudent and see if they were in a position where they could do the synthetic turf. As he saw it, the school corporation was financially in a position to do this, and it was needed. He observed that ten years ago it would have been a want; it is a need, to many, now. He believed some kids could be saved from some serious injuries, and it is also something for the community to be proud of. Mr. Reberger then wanted to assure people in the Clay City area that the Board would make sure they had comparable facilities. He was not saying turf for a field where they didn't have a football team; rather, he was saying that in the spring they are going to be proud of their outdoor facilities. He noted a lot of work had been done already. The Board is trying to do the best it can and be as fair as it can to everyone.

Ron Scherb made a rebuttal to Mr. Reberger's comment. He asserted that if it had been \$34 million and if the synthetic surface had been included in the renovation project before it was approved, there was a group of taxpayers that would have voted against it, and they probably would have filed a remonstrance against the entire project. When the synthetic surface was pulled out, everybody said they were going to work with the schools and let it go.

Kevin Kumpf commented that Clay City Jr/Sr High School looked fantastic, as did Northview. In regard to sports teams, Mr. Kumpf noted that in the past month they had done a fantastic job representing themselves as well as the school corporation.

VII. Future Agenda Items

Ron Scherb stated that he had a question from an employee wanting to know why the school corporation could not hire high school seniors to do jobs after school, such as custodians. He would like to hear the negatives and positives.

Mr. Scherb's second request was in regard to dyed diesel fuel. He would like for Superintendent Fritz to explain to him why the school corporation's school buses do not use tax-exempt dyed diesel fuel. As a point of reference, he suggested calling the Clay County commissioners to find out how they are doing this for the trucks they drive on the highways without paying taxes on the diesel fuel. He also suggested contacting the Vigo County School Corporation; Mr. Scherb had been told that they are buying this tax-exempt diesel fuel for their buses and have been for several years. Mr. Scherb would like to find out why Clay Community Schools was not doing that. In response to Mr. Reberger's question as to whether this had been discussed numerous times before, Mr. Scherb stated that it had been discussed several times, and nobody had been willing to take the steps. As Mr. Reberger remembered it, he had heard that Vigo County was not paying the tax when they pay for the fuel, then they get a bill at the end of each month and they cut a separate check. Mr. Scherb suggested finding out from them how they pay that tax on tax-exempt diesel fuel that has no taxes on it.

The third request from Mr. Scherb involved the six-foot chain link fence that had been installed at the Clay City baseball diamond. He would like to see a billing invoice on that six-foot chain link fence that the company sent on how much the fence cost, and maybe even the spec sheet on how they had to install that. It was agreed that this request would not be an agenda item; rather, Superintendent Fritz would send this information to all of the board members.

Fourth, Mr. Scherb referred to what he deemed to be obvious confusion about the sixth-grade laptop computers. He noted that Mr. Wiram seemed to think Clay City was exempt; however, Mr. Scherb believed that in the beginning, laptop computers were bought for grades six through twelve. He wanted to know where the discrepancy came in that they were now not requiring the teachers to use them. Superintendent Fritz reiterated his previous explanation, which was that the sixth-grade teachers and Mr. Owens had requested they not get Chromebooks. That request had been honored, to allow them to maintain the elementary classroom setting there, K-6 instead of K-5. To this, Mr. Scherb replied that it made no sense why they were making two different rules for sixth-grade students. Mr. Scherb then stated that he wanted, as an agenda item, an explanation as to why the school corporation had two different sets of rules for sixth-grade students.

Amy Burke Adams asked for an agenda item to purchase enough Chromebooks for the sixth grade at Clay City. She explained her rationale by noting that the Chromebooks were going to last what she surmised would be five to six years, so even though the principal now and the teachers now voted or discussed it, it was a decision that would affect the next four, five, six years. She recommended buying the same Chromebooks that had been bought for everyone else; then, if they want to put them in a closet right now, put them in a closet, and if they want to pull them out in January, they could start using them next year. In Mrs. Adams' opinion, the people now did not

have the right to make a decision for the next few years that would impact the next few classes. In order to have the ability to have equal opportunity education, she proposed to put on the agenda to buy the Chromebooks, and she asked how many would be needed. After Mr. Scherb stated that 68 would be needed, Mrs. Adams suggested buying 70 Chromebooks so they would have them, and they would be the same model as the ones that had been implemented everywhere else in the county. That way, they would have the option of using them if somebody changed their mind or the next year's class wanted to use them. She asserted that they had made a decision for four classes when, actually, they didn't have the right to do that. Superintendent Fritz countered that they did have the right to do that; however, Mrs. Adams rejected that notion and stated that they did not have the right to do that because there was a curriculum for the entire county, and the idea of having a curriculum was making sure the kids all over were learning the same important things. When Superintendent Fritz pointed out that a curriculum was different than instructional practices, Mrs. Adams stated that she knew the tools were the Chromebook, and she pointed out that she had a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, so she knew what curriculum was. She again stated that her agenda item would be to propose to buy 70 Chromebooks for Clay City Elementary that would be there to use when they wanted them. Mr. Reberger questioned whether that would imply that North Clay was going to be given the option of using Chromebooks, which they were already using, or going back to the Dell laptops. Mrs. Adams replied that if they didn't have this tool available to them, they really didn't have a choice. All she wanted was the same opportunity for the kids in Clay City, 6th grade. She concluded her request by stating that the teachers could use them as they saw fit, but if they didn't have them, they wouldn't have them available.

Ron Scherb added one more agenda item: He requested a hard copy of Jeff Fritz's superintendent contract, both the original and revised versions. He also requested a copy of Kim Tucker's contracts. Superintendent Fritz stated that he would send all of those to the Board.

VIII. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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