

**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 Thursday, December 13, 2018. Tom Reberger, Michael Shaw, Andrea Baysinger, Ron Scherb, Kevin Kumpf, and Amy Burke Adams were present. Shane Wiram was absent.

Prior to the Call to Order, bids for school bus bodies and chassis were opened. Bids were received as follows:

	Special Needs Bus (1 to be purchased)	14-Passenger White Activity Bus (3 to be purchased)
<b>KERLIN</b>	\$102,175.00	\$55,257.00
<b>BLUE BIRD</b>	\$101,825.00	\$61,350.00
<b>MIDWEST TRANSIT</b>	\$104,200.00	\$54,188.00

After taking into consideration trade-in values and wheelchair options, a recommendation will be made at the January board meeting.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 November 13, 2018

**C. Field Trips**

None at this meeting

**D. Personnel**

**A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

1. Certified

a. FMLA	FPE/SE/VBE	Amy Kaufman
b. FMLA	CCHS	Susan Anstead
c. FMLA	NCMS	Aimee Wyeth
d. FMLA	VBE	Gail Williams
e. FMLA	NCMS	Jennifer Harbour
f. FMLA	FPE	Beverly Farnsworth
g. FMLA	NHS	Chris Mauk

2. Non-Certified

a. FMLA	CCE	Tammy Forsythe
b. FMLA	NHS	Rex Megenhardt

**B. RETIREMENTS**

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

a. Food Services Director	CORP	Patty Dyer
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*Effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year*

b. Custodian <i>Effective on January 31, 2019</i>	SE	Cindy Grove
c. Food Services <i>Effective on December 31, 2018</i>	NHS	Dianne Priest
d. Custodian <i>Effective on December 31, 2018</i>	CCHS	James "Brent" Graham
3. Place on Retirement Index	None	
<b>C. RESIGNATIONS</b>		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified		
a. Cafeteria Assistant Manager	NHS	Becky Nees
b. Cafeteria Manager	NHS	Christina Jones
c. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	ME	Dawn Meeker
d. Food Services Asst. Manager	NCMS	Christina Reberger
e. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	SE	Lauren Keene
f. Bus Driver	TRANS	Melissa Gambill
g. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	NCMS	Christina Young
h. Custodian	FPE	Jack Cassidy
i. Cafeteria Manager	ME	Debra Green
3. ECA Resignations	None	
4. ECA Lay Coaches	None	
<b>D. TRANSFERS</b>		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified		
a. Cafeteria Manager	ESE to NHS	Monica Barnett
b. 4-hour to 6-hour Food Services	NCMS to NHS	Heather Wilson
<b>E. EMPLOYMENT</b>		
1. Certified		
Temporary Elementary Teacher	JTE	Christine Wilkes
2. Non-Certified		
a. 7-hour Food Services	NHS	Vicki Hoffman
b. Interim Food Services Director	CORP	Patsy Woolery
c. Maintenance (0-2 years' experience)	CORP	Bryant Pestoff
d. 185-day Custodian	NHS	Hayley Clark
e. 5-hour Food Services	CCHS	Melissa Graham
f. 6-hour Food Services	NHS	Erica Bonilla
g. 6-hour Food Services	FPE	Amelia Martin
h. Secretary/Treasurer	FPE	Kaylee McCollum
i. 5-hour Food Services	NCMS	Brenda Krider
j. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	CCE	Janet Orman
k. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	SE	Kay Garrison
l. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	NCMS	Christy Frye
3. Other	None	

## F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- |   |      |                 |
|---|------|-----------------|
| 1. Extra-Curricular Certified                   | None |                 |
| 2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified               | None |                 |
| 3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach                   |      |                 |
| a. 50% Assistant Wrestling Coach                | NCMS | Pat Brown       |
| b. Head Wrestling Coach                         | NCMS | Sarah Tellechea |
| c. 50% Assistant Wrestling Coach                | NCMS | Tony Sanabria   |
| d. 50% 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball  | CCE  | Rusty Rhodes    |
| e. 50% Elementary Sport                         | CCE  | Rusty Rhodes    |
| f. 50% 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball  | CCE  | Meghan Shidler  |
| g. 50% Elementary Sport                         | CCE  | Meghan Shidler  |
| h. 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball Coach | CCHS | Jeremy Booe     |
| 4. Supplemental                                 | None |                 |

## G. CHANGES

- |  |      |                 |
|--|------|-----------------|
| 1. Certified                             | None |                 |
| 2. Non-Certified                         |      |                 |
| a. 5.75-hour Food Services to 6-hour     | ESE  | Shania Draper   |
| b. 4-hour Food Services to Manager       | JTE  | Kendra Gearld   |
| c. 5.75-hour Food Services to Manager    | ME   | Jennifer Royer  |
| d. 5-hour Food Services to Asst. Manager | CCHS | Jessica Jackson |
| e. 5.5-hour Food Services to 6-hour      | CCHS | Kyra Stemler    |
| f. 6-hour Food Services to Asst. Manager | NCMS | Chanise England |
| 3. ECA-Lay Coaches                       | None |                 |

## H. VOLUNTEERS

### 1. CLASSROOM

#### Clay City Elementary

a. Amanda Jean Baumgartner

#### East Side Elementary

a. Norma Michael

#### Jackson Township Elementary

a. Denise Buck

### 2. ATHLETICS/ECA

#### Clay City Jr/Sr High School

a. Girls' Basketball Coach – Travis Strauch

b. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball Coach – Elizabeth Effner

c. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball Coach – Scott Sawyer

d. Elliott Booe

e. Elizabeth Harden

#### Northview High School

a. Girls' Basketball Coach – Ashley Hughes

b. Band – Anne Siples

#### North Clay Middle School

a. Wrestling Coach – Scott Wiley

b. Wrestling Coach – Caleb Nicosin

#### North Clay Middle School/Northview High School

a. Cody Barnard

## I. TERMINATIONS

None

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the consent agenda items. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

### III. Comments from Patrons

**Jack Tucker** stated that he and his wife, both in their eighties, wanted to address the Board regarding safety. He commented that they support the school tremendously and support the kids. In doing so, they attend most of the athletic events during the football and basketball seasons, and they, above all, support the baseball team; he noted that his grandson had pitched Northview to a state championship in baseball a few years ago. Mr. Tucker shared that he had talked to a lot of older people who no longer attend games, especially football games, because they cannot get up the steps to higher seats that would allow them to see the game. After reading in the paper about millions of dollars being spent in renovations to the schools and a million dollars being put into AstroTurf, Mr. Tucker believed he spoke for every grandparent or great-grandparent that had ever been to a ballgame when he shared his opinion that handrails going up those steps were needed; with the handrails, they could get up the steps and see the ballgame.

**Bob Medworth** referenced 1977 when he came to town and when the Brazil High School marching band practiced at Forest Park, on the grass. He shared that whenever it rained, the marching band during its practices would quickly make ruts and ruin the wet field and would then no longer be able to practice; that was a huge hindrance on the band being good. When Northview High School was built, his world changed because the band was able to practice on the asphalt parking lot. If it quit raining at 6:00, the band could practice at 6:05; the band was instantly better because of that. Mr. Medworth then stated that he thought the turf was a fantastic idea because they were now solving that same problem for all of the band's performances. He did not know how many performances the band had lost in the past few years due to wet conditions on the field, but he believed that every performance mattered. He added that performing in front of their peers was one of the best things that could be done for the band members. Mr. Medworth pointed out that performing at Northview on the grass football field was now the only time the Marching Knights ever marched on grass; every contest they attend is on turf. He believed it would be an advantage to all of those kids. Another comment from Mr. Medworth was in regard to the band splitting up a lot for practice; with the turf, they would now be able to send a group to the turf for practice without first looking for paint to line the field. To conclude his comments, Mr. Medworth stated that he had been at Northview a lot over the past few weeks while working on the Christmas Spectacular, and he deemed the renovation to be incredible. He believed everyone involved in that should be congratulated, and he offered his thanks for that, on behalf of everyone.

**Craig Trout**, teacher and head baseball coach at Northview, added his thanks for the renovation and all the considerations on the new synthetic surface. He noted that, as a coach and teacher, he frequently talks about culture, and, when talking about the culture of both Clay City and Northview, the amount of uptick in pride that people have about the facilities, the classrooms, and all the technology has all been fantastic. In regard to the synthetic surface, Mr. Trout commented that he talks to his kids about being student/athletes, not just athletes, and the amount of pride that comes from being

in that culture for the teams being able to perform in front of their peers, and PE students getting to enjoy it is something he deemed to be really awesome. Having traveled all over the state in his years as a football coach and a baseball coach, Mr. Trout had been around a lot of really well-done facilities and, when talking to players, to coaches, and to kids who go to those schools, he sees the amount of pride they have in those type of things and what it does for them just to go to school every day and have that pride. Mr. Trout also observed that the synthetic surface would not just be a football thing or a band thing or a soccer thing; rather, it would be an “everybody” thing. It made him really proud to be from this community and see this being done. He concluded his comments by saying thank you to the Board for all they’ve done and for all of their hard work.

**Tim Lackey**, a parent of three children in Clay Community Schools who are all soccer players, shared his excitement, as well as the excitement of his children and a lot of soccer families, about the new field, and he thanked the Board for that. Something that he and the others involved in soccer were looking forward to was the opportunity to host a sectional contest; with the new field and new set-up, he believed they would have a chance to do that. He again thanked the Board and expressed his appreciation.

**Simon Lackey** shared his perspective as a soccer player who would actually be using the new field. He noted that, with the current field, there are a limited amount of bleachers; with the new synthetic surface, they would be able to have all of their fans come and they wouldn’t have to bring lawn chairs or sit on the ground. The fans would also be better able to see the game, and the players would be able to see the fans. He, too, mentioned the possibility of hosting sectional games. As he saw it, the new field would, quite literally, give them an even playing field with the other schools, and he thanked the Board for that.

**Patrick Maroney**, the new advanced PE teacher at Northview as well as the strength/conditioning coach, added his thanks for the new synthetic turf. It was his opinion that fans would see better sporting events. Mr. Maroney shared that all Northview students were required to take two semesters of PE, which would give them the opportunity to experience the new surface. He added that the surface would allow them to incorporate new activities into the curriculum, and classes would be able to go outside more often to utilize the new facility because of better ground conditions. As the strength/conditioning coach, the new surface would open up new possibilities for him. It was his point of view that physical activity was what kids needed, more than anything; if students want good grades in the classroom, they should be physically active. Mr. Maroney referenced research that showed physical activity would increase brain activity as well as focus in the classroom. He believed the new synthetic turf would allow him to expand on his training; more sprints could be done instead of being on the hard surface of the fieldhouse and running on concrete, which would in turn would save the kids’ joints, ligaments, tendons, and muscles. He concluded his comments by again thanking the Board, on behalf of the whole PE department at Northview.

#### **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.

Mr. Gassert noted that Clay City is substantially complete, and they are still finishing up a few punch-list items there.

At Northview High School, they will be sealing the terrazzo tomorrow and have now cleared out and are starting on the last three areas; the last phase of construction commenced officially, as of today. This phase includes the second art room, the shop that is known as Technology 2, and the last area of business. It is planned for this work to wrap up the end of February. The special needs suite will be moved in to over Christmas break, and use of that area will begin at the beginning of the year. On the outside of Northview, demolition of the existing lift station has commenced.

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

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- A welcome to the school family was offered to the following: Christine Wilkes, Vicki Hoffman, Patsy Woolery, Bryant Pestoff, Hayley Clark, Melissa Graham, Erica Bonilla, Amelia Martin, Kaylee McCollum, Brenda Krider, Janet Orman, Kay Garrison, and Christy Frye.
- An update of the Extended Services report was distributed to the board members.
- Thanks were offered to everyone for a successful and productive first semester; all are looking forward to and are deserving of a nice Christmas break.
- A very Merry Christmas was wished to all in the school family.

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

##### **A. Request to Accept an Anonymous Donation of a Basketball Rebounder for Northview High School**

Dr. Shaw moved to accept the anonymous donation of a basketball rebounder for the NHS Athletic Department. Mrs. Baysinger seconded.

Prior to a vote, Mrs. Adams expressed her appreciation for the donor's generosity; the motion was then approved by a 6-0 vote.

##### **B. Recommendation to Approve Secondary Course Changes**

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the secondary course changes. Mr. Reberger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0-1 vote, with Mr. Scherb abstaining.

##### **C. Classified Employee Raises**

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the classified employee raises as presented. Mrs. Baysinger seconded.

Under discussion, Mr. Scherb asked what a 1.3% pay increase would be. Superintendent Fritz responded, noting that it would depend on what a person was making. Mrs. Adams clarified that it was 1.3% across the board; Superintendent Fritz added that was the average of what teachers received, so they reflected the same thing for classified employees.

The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

**D. Resolution to Establish Initial Funding for the Education Fund**

Director of Business Affairs Mark Shayotovich provided a resolution to transfer all funds from the General Fund into the newly created Education Fund. As of January 1, 2019, the General Fund will no longer exist. The transfer will be consistent with statewide practice and comes at the recommendation of the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

Mrs. Adams moved to accept the establishment of initial funding for the Education Fund. Dr. Shaw seconded.

Under discussion, Mr. Kumpf asked if this was state law; Superintendent Fritz confirmed that it was.

The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

**E. Resolution to Establish Initial Funding for the Operations Fund**

Mr. Shayotovich provided a resolution to transfer all funds from the Capital Projects Fund, the Transportation Fund, and the Bus Replacement Fund into the newly created Operations Fund. As of January 1, 2019, the Capital Projects Fund, the Transportation Fund, and the Bus Replacement Fund will no longer exist. The transfer will be consistent with statewide practice and comes at the recommendation of the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

Mrs. Adams moved to accept the establishment of initial funding for the Operations Fund. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

**F. Approval of Conflict of Interest Statement**

Mrs. Baysinger moved to accept the conflict of interest statement as had been presented in the board packet. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

**G. Students as Custodians**

As requested by Mr. Scherb at the November 13 regular session, Mr. Ernie Simpson, Director of Human Resources, provided information, including both strengths/benefits and questions/potential drawbacks, to the board members as to why students are not used as custodians in Clay Community Schools. There was no discussion.

**H. Red Dyed Diesel Fuel**

As requested by Mr. Scherb at the November 13 regular session, information was provided in the board packet as to why Clay Community Schools does not use red dyed diesel fuel. Superintendent Fritz noted that this would be the sixth time in five years that the topic of red dyed diesel fuel had been discussed.

Superintendent Fritz then stated that he had addressed this issue with Mr. Scherb in January of 2017. At that time, he had contacted the Indiana Department of Revenue and had been told that no tax advantage for school buses was given to use red dyed fuel. Also at that time, Superintendent Fritz had contacted the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents and had asked them to send out an email across the state to ask the question as to whether other school corporations were using red dyed

fuel and, if so, were there any advantages. The few corporations that responded stated that there was absolutely no tax advantage to using this fuel in buses. The Vigo County School Corporation had recently been contacted; they do use this fuel, but they had stated that there was no advantage. Instead of paying taxes on the front end, they pay them on the back end, and there is paperwork to be done. Superintendent Fritz also checked with the Clay County Highway Department last month. He had been told they do use red dyed fuel in some of their equipment, but the rules were pretty confusing.

Last month, Superintendent Fritz contacted the Indiana Department of Revenue again, and he had been told that red dyed fuel could be used in buses, but there would be additional monthly paperwork required. IDOR had also reiterated that taxes were either paid when fuel was purchased or at the end of the month. In addition, IDOR had stated that when buses drive on the roads, all tax advantages are forfeited; there was absolutely no benefit for school buses using red dyed diesel fuel.

When IDOR had been asked why some school corporations used red dyed diesel fuel, they had been stymied; they did not understand why any school corporation would do that. They had added that there was a great deal of misconception with the use of red dyed diesel fuel for school buses and other equipment.

Under discussion, Mr. Scherb referenced a print-out from the Indiana State Police website regarding stipulations on who uses red dyed diesel fuel, how it is used, and the penalties. Mr. Scherb noted that Indiana Code 6-6-2.5 referred to vehicles that were exempt from special fuel penalties, such as bulldozers and farm equipment. Mr. Scherb also noted that it was stated in the Indiana Code that some exceptions were school buses with a registered dyed fuel user permit and not-for-profit educational organizations.

Mr. Scherb then referred to Marshall Nuckolls. He stated that Mr. Nuckolls drove a school bus for 50 years, and he always used dyed diesel fuel; he never paid taxes on it. Mr. Nuckolls had told Mr. Scherb that when using red dyed fuel, you had to get the permit, and that permit would be stapled to the title of the school bus.

At this point, Mr. Scherb produced a receipt for dyed fuel he had purchased today. He noted that down at the bottom of the receipt, zero taxes were shown—no federal taxes, no state taxes, no sales tax, nothing. What Mr. Scherb found confusing about this conversation was how a tax could be paid on a fuel that has no tax and is tax-exempt.

Mr. Kumpf's question was whether the red dyed diesel fuel had been started with farming, with the purpose of the red dye being to make sure it wasn't used for personal reasons. Mr. Scherb countered that there were exemptions. To Mr. Kumpf's question about Mr. Scherb's receipt being for farm implements, Mr. Scherb replied that it was for dyed diesel fuel; it didn't say anything about farming. He then said to just forget it, they weren't going to do it anyway.

## **I. Chromebooks for CCE 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

As requested by Mr. Scherb and Mrs. Adams at the November 13 regular session board meeting, information regarding the rationale for the decision to not place Chromebooks

in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms at Clay City Elementary was included in the board packet. It was suggested that a motion and a vote on Mrs. Adams' request to purchase 70 Chromebooks for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms at Clay City Elementary could be entertained at the discretion of the board.

Prior to consideration of a motion, Superintendent Fritz reviewed discussion held during the November board meeting. He reiterated that Clay City Elementary Principal Michael Owens had contacted him some time ago, prior to the new 1:1 rollout and purchase, about his and his 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers' desire to return to a traditional elementary classroom environment and move away from the 1:1 classroom setting. Superintendent Fritz next noted that there were seven elementary buildings in Clay Community Schools, six of those being K-5, and one (Clay City Elementary) being K-6. Mr. Owens and his teachers had shared with Superintendent Fritz their concern that Clay City Elementary was expected to be both an elementary and a middle school at the same time. Superintendent Fritz pointed out that in an elementary setting, the teachers are required to prepare for and teach multiple subjects. However, a middle school is quite different; an eighth grade science teacher or a 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher or a 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher only prepares for that particular subject. Mr. Owens and the CCE 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers had requested a set of laptops, and this had been honored; they kept the Dell laptops, and they asked to be placed back on the textbook adoption cycle, the same as all the other elementary grade levels. Being placed on the textbook adoption cycle for the Clay City Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> grade has already been planned, with probably the most important adoption, which is reading, in process now. Superintendent Fritz restated the fact that Mr. Owens and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers had asked that the students maintain an elementary setting and use technology as a supplemental tool. He then shared that after working at the elementary level for many years and also working at the middle school level, he had found there was a stark difference in the instructional practices and the environment. He noted that Mr. Owens had also worked in a secondary and an elementary building.

Superintendent Fritz next stated that at the November board meeting Mrs. Adams had suggested that Mr. Owens did not follow a Board directive regarding the Chromebooks. He noted, for the record, that on February 8, 2018, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of Chromebooks for Cumberland Academy, Clay City High School, North Clay Middle School, and Northview High School; Clay City Elementary was not included in that agenda item. He also referenced comments made during the November board meeting suggesting that Clay City parents had been upset by the decision; to date, Mr. Owens has not received any complaints from parents.

Observing that the Board could certainly choose to purchase the Chromebooks, Superintendent Fritz stated that it was his recommendation to honor the wishes of the Clay City Elementary principal and his teachers. He believed it served that school and building very well.

Mrs. Adams made a motion to accept her request to purchase 70 Chromebooks for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms at Clay City Elementary. Mr. Scherb seconded.

Under discussion, Mrs. Adams refuted a statement that had been attributed to her regarding teachers using Chromebooks as primary instructional tools. She asserted that she had never requested they use them as primary instructional tools; nothing replaces the teacher.

Mrs. Adams asked if the Clay City Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were using laptops right now that had been handed down. Superintendent Fritz replied that they were. She then asked if that technology affected the traditional classroom setting. Superintendent Fritz's response was that they were not using the laptops as the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the middle school would be using them; the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the middle school is not on the textbook adoption cycle for the most part, so they use the laptops. In response to Mrs. Adams' observation that they have technology in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at Clay City, Superintendent Fritz stated that it is used as a supplement. Mrs. Adams shared her opinion that at this point it is old technology, so by buying the Chromebooks, those students would be given new technology, like the 6<sup>th</sup>-graders in the north have. As she saw it, they already have technology in the classroom that's old technology, and it is not replacing the traditional instructional methods delivered by the teacher. What she had proposed was to purchase those Chromebooks so they replace and bring new technology, the same that the kids in the north have, into that 6<sup>th</sup> grade so they would actually have an equal playing field with the kids in the north.

Superintendent Fritz asked how Mrs. Adams would propose the parents pay for that. Mrs. Adams' assertion was that the parents wouldn't pay for it this year; she suggested buying them out of the Rainy Day Fund or any other fund and placing them for their use without charging them any fee this year because, at this point, she felt it was the school corporation's oversight. The kids and teachers would then learn to use them and implement them as they do the laptops they now have that are the old technology.

Superintendent Fritz then asked how Mrs. Adams would propose paying for them moving forward. Mrs. Adams mentioned using a technology fee that is charged each year. To this, Mrs. Knust stated that there was a technology fee, but there was not a textbook fee in the middle school or high schools because they went to 1:1; as they move forward with textbook adoption, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are taking part in that, and when new books are adopted, parents will pick up the fee for that new textbook. With the next adoption, which will be language arts, they will pick up the fee for that. So their textbook fees will then be what a Chromebook fee would be. If Chromebooks were to be added to the textbook fee, their fees would be doubled.

Mrs. Adams wanted to know how it was being done this year at North Clay. Mrs. Knust responded by stating that North Clay was paying a technology fee; they do not pay a textbook fee because textbooks have not been adopted for North Clay for the past four years. Mrs. Adams then wanted to know at what point the school corporation would move to that with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Clay City. Superintendent Fritz stated that their request was to move away from that.

Mrs. Adams next wanted to know if they were polling each school and asking them what they want and if it was possible all of the schools could go in different directions in instructional methods. Mrs. Knust's reply was that when just working with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade

at Clay City, that involves two teachers for 60 students, and they are teaching English, math, social studies, science, health—all subjects, with those two teachers, in a classroom. When going to 1:1 technology at North Clay, the health teacher prepares the curriculum for health, and they are responsible for that. That holds true with every subject. It is an entirely different daily approach at Clay City; in a contained classroom, they can go to a 90-minute block of reading and a 60-minute block of math. At North Clay, they have 8 periods a day, so they may have part of their reading in one place and then a reading lab where another person is responsible. Clay City does have a different approach; they are covering the same standards, but they do rely more on a textbook. Mrs. Knust asserted that asking those teachers to come in and be responsible for creating everything and then be responsible for teaching everything was really difficult.

It was Mrs. Adams's suggestion to use the Chromebooks as supplemental, where the kids would learn how to use them. As she saw it, if the kids in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the south didn't have access to the Chromebooks, by the time 7<sup>th</sup> grade would roll around, they would already be one year behind in the new technology from the kids from the north. Mrs. Knust noted that they had the laptops, which basically would do what the Chrome browser would do; they are still utilizing technology. Mrs. Adams then wanted to know how they were utilizing the old laptops. Mrs. Knust gave an example of a writing assignment where the technology could be used to do that. She really did not feel that this group of students would be lacking anything.

Although Mrs. Adams liked to hear that they would not be lacking, she wanted to know if they would benefit or if it would put them ahead. That's where she thought the new technology would be important. Mrs. Adams stated that she felt really strongly about buying 70 Chromebooks. She asked for an estimate from Mr. Shayotovich for the cost of doing that, which he estimated to be between \$15,000-\$20,000. Mrs. Adams then asked how long the old laptops would be used, if the Chromebooks are not approved today. She asserted that if the teachers wanted to implement the Chromebooks on some subjects or activities, at least the kids would have the ability to be exposed to that new technology. If they have them, then the teachers can choose how to use them and when to use them.

Superintendent Fritz again posed the question as to how the Board, if it decided to do this, would propose to pay for the Chromebooks moving forward. For all of the other students who have Chromebooks, the parents are paying the Chromebook fee, not a textbook fee. He asked if the Board would propose that the Clay City students would get Chromebooks for free or would pay double fees, a textbook fee and a Chromebook fee. He suggested looking at how the vote went before deciding on that. Mrs. Adams wanted to know if parents had paid a technology fee for the handed-down laptops; Superintendent Fritz replied that it had been a very minimal fee, as the other elementary students had paid. To Mrs. Adams assertion that they had paid something as a technology fee so basically they had already paid for it, Superintendent Fritz offered the explanation that there were two different kinds of technology fees. Additionally, Mr. Shayotovich explained that laptops from the first 1:1 program had been moved down to the elementary schools, which had been the plan all along because they didn't need the same power or the same type of device to run the things they do at the elementary level, and elementary students had been charged a vastly reduced technology fee.

Mrs. Adams then suggested that, since they had already paid even a minimal technology fee for this year, that would be the fee the school corporation would accept; the technology would be upgraded to Chromebooks and they would not be charged any more for this year for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. That would provide another year to decide how to propose a technology fee for the future 6<sup>th</sup> graders of Clay City.

Mr. Reberger wanted to know if the Dell computers would run the software the curriculum required at the elementary level; the answer was yes. Mrs. Adams then asked why those computers had been replaced with Chromebooks. Mr. Reberger's response was that when moving kids from the K-5 elementary schools to 6<sup>th</sup> grade at North Clay, it was the logical time to make the change; for the people at Clay City having a self-contained classroom setting and one teacher for several different subjects, they were using the Dell computers and supplementing the textbooks being used with the appropriate software related to those textbooks. As Mr. Reberger saw it, a logical time to make a transition to a new piece of hardware would not be when going from a 5<sup>th</sup> grade room to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade room next door; rather, it would be when moving to the next building, in a totally different setting, which is what happens with the North Clay students when they move from the elementary to a totally different setting. Mr. Reberger noted that he was not opposed to every student in the corporation having a new Chromebook, and he also noted the possibility that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at North Clay could have used the Dell laptops; however, he believed moving to a new setting was the logical time to make the transition to new hardware.

A question from Mrs. Adams: Are the old laptops considered new technology to the 6<sup>th</sup> graders if they're hand-me-downs? Mr. Reberger replied that, if they run the software that the curriculum requires, it doesn't matter whether it's a Chromebook or a \$1,200 desktop. Mrs. Adams countered that it would be new to them, even though it would not be new technology.

Superintendent Fritz returned to the original point, which was that this had been a recommendation by Mr. Owens, and he and his teachers felt like this was best for their school. It seemed to be working very well for them; Clay City Elementary always has great results and had been a four-star school many times. He noted that the elementary buildings without a 1:1 technology do very well, and he again pointed out that the elementary setting and instructional practices are completely different than a middle school setting. Superintendent Fritz commented that Mr. Owens didn't bring many recommendations to him, but when he did, Superintendent Fritz listened, and he thought it was a very sound recommendation.

Mr. Scherb's comment: If it was working, why not move all of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students back to elementary schools where they had been? Mr. Kumpf suggested bringing it up for an agenda item.

Mrs. Adams referred to 2010 when she had become a member of the school board; one of the common themes they had worked to try to address had been that there was a perceived inequity with the south. One of the things she wanted to do was to try to create perceived equity between the north and the south. As she saw it, if people in the

south were now saying hand-me-downs were just fine, that would be undermining the message that she had been receiving for years by many parents from the south. She felt that spending \$21,000 for Chromebooks for 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the south so they could have the same technology as the 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the north would go a long way in proving the Board was continuing to try to equalize the difference that had been perceived and was committed to making sure all kids, in whatever area of the county, are educated equally. She commented that she could not imagine a teacher or a principal rejecting new technology for their classroom.

Mr. Kumpf pointed out it hadn't been the north that had made the decision for Clay City Elementary. He commented that he felt the Board should honor a principal's request from the two teachers at Clay City Elementary and let them run their classrooms as would seem to be best for their students. He believed it would be best to vote this down and assure Clay City 6<sup>th</sup> grade that if they should ever change their mind, then the Board would make sure the Chromebooks were purchased for them. To this comment, Mrs. Adams responded, stating that she did not realize schools could determine what they were going to plug in to and what they were going to opt out of. Superintendent Fritz countered that the schools didn't, the Board did, because it was an agenda item that was voted on in February and unanimously approved. Mr. Kumpf added that Clay City Elementary wasn't included in that.

Another point made by Mr. Kumpf was that during the last board meeting Mrs. Adams had made the comment as to why a school principal got to disregard the directive of the school board; he believed Mrs. Adams ought to strike that comment or apologize for it to Mr. Owens. Mrs. Adams commented that it was nothing personal towards Mr. Owens. When something had been brought to the Board, her assumption was that everyone was included in that group. For her, it was very strange to think that any principal, no matter who it would be, could choose to make such an impactful decision on the development of the students under his charge. Superintendent Fritz countered that the principal didn't choose; rather, the principal brought a recommendation to him, which he brought to the Board, which the Board voted on, unanimously. He noted that Mrs. Adams was not at that board meeting. Mrs. Adams stated that had she realized, through discussion, that a school decided to opt out, especially a school in the south, then that would have been further discussion, and it would have been something she would have been concerned about at that time. Going forward, she does not believe principals can determine what textbooks are adopted as a county; she added that technology is adopted as a county, and the policies are as a county.

At this point, Mr. Reberger observed that they were drifting way afield of the topic. He stated that he appreciated Mrs. Adams' opinion; however, he believed they were creating an illusion of a problem that didn't exist, as it related to the Chromebooks.

The motion was defeated by a vote of 2-4, with Mr. Reberger, Mrs. Baysinger, Dr. Shaw, and Mr. Kumpf opposed.

#### **J. Presentations of Plaques to Outgoing Board Members**

Although Mr. Wiram was not present to accept his plaque, Mr. Kumpf offered thanks to him for his time and service to the community. He then presented Mr. Scherb with a

plaque commemorating his years as a member of the school board and thanked him for his service.

## **VII. Board Member Comments**

**Tom Reberger** recognized the retirees that had been on tonight's agenda, some with whom he had worked and a couple that he had hired. With response to the handrail issue at Northview, he noted that it was a topic that was being discussed, and research is ongoing on that; there is a plan in the works on that. As for the board members leaving the Board, Mr. Reberger deemed Mr. Wiram to be a good man. For Mr. Scherb, Mr. Reberger observed that he and Mr. Scherb had not always agreed on everything, but he believed Mr. Scherb's heart was in the right place. He noted Mr. Scherb's eight years as a board member, serving two years as president. He commented that Mr. Scherb had done an admirable job.

**Michael Shaw** offered a "Ditto" to Mr. Reberger's comments. He, too, supported patron Jack Tucker on the handrail issue, and he suggested looking at the feasibility of switching the stands at the Northview football field so the home side isn't looking into the sun. Dr. Shaw observed that another great year was almost in the books for the school corporation, and he complimented Superintendent Fritz and his supporting cast for doing a great job; it was his pleasure as a trustee to support him and the fine work that he does. Dr. Shaw looked forward to another great year.

**Andrea Baysinger** thanked the public, once again, for attending the meetings and voicing their support on decisions the Board makes. She noted that decisions are made with the kids and the well-being of the school corporation in mind. She urged them to come back in January.

**Ron Scherb** deemed his time as a board member to have been a fantastic experience, and he was very humbled. He mentioned Kenny Yegerlehner and Gerald Runyon who had been on the very first Clay Community Schools board, and Steve Grigsby, a former board member who had recently passed away; he had so much respect for those people who had sat on this Board. A lot of those people had been the ones who had encouraged him to be a board member; that had not been on his list, and he noted that he had stepped out of his comfort zone in becoming a board member. When he and his daughter had a conversation a couple of nights ago, she had told him that they warned him that he wouldn't like it because he was always trying to fix something. If somebody broke a rule, he wanted to make sure those people knew they broke a rule, and it didn't always work that way. His daughter had been right because it didn't work out the way he hoped it would, but he was very proud of the things that had been accomplished. He specifically mentioned the central office building, noting that every time he goes by this building, he would remember the conversations that had been started when someone had approached him and asked if the school corporation would be interested in buying the old American Legion building. He considered it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and he believed the building to be a perfect, beautiful facility; they saved the taxpayers so much money when they did it. He felt the same way with the bus garage. One of the things that got him involved in discussion with the schools had been a proposal to build a \$4.2 million bus garage. He noted that the Williams property had been bought for \$225,000, with a total of \$600,000-\$700,000 by the time it had been renovated, and it was a beautiful facility. Little things like that were big things to him and things he will always cherish. Mr. Scherb commented that he had enjoyed most of this job. He noted that he would always cherish his conversations with Rob Miller and Kim Tucker. He

thanked all the people who had supported him. Even today, he had received three phone calls from people apologizing for not being able to come to the meeting. He noted that a lot of people wanted to come tonight; there were a lot of taxpayers that were not happy with the decision of artificial turf. He commented that they had been worried about the parents paying for a Chromebook, but nobody mentioned who was going to pay for the artificial turf, and he deemed it to be a very serious problem. Mr. Scherb believed the superintendent and the Board should be reaching out to these people that are not happy and saying they want to work with them as to how the turf could be paid for, with everybody being satisfied. To conclude his comments, Mr. Scherb thanked his family; his family had been great. He then thanked everybody and stated that it had been an awesome experience.

**Amy Burke Adams** wished everyone Happy Holidays. She noted the end of a wildly successful year, and she hoped everyone got some well-deserved rest over the holidays. Adding to what Mr. Reberger and Mr. Scherb had said, Mrs. Adams commented that they were making an impact while they were here in this role, but it wouldn't end with them and it didn't begin with them. She referred to what she deemed to be a long line of greats, including Rob Miller, Brian Atkinson, Terry Barr, Tina Heffner, Dottie King, and Forrest Buell. She put Shane Wiram and Ron Scherb in that category too, and she hoped that maybe in two or four years they would be back again; the fact that they are committed, interested, and want to give something back to their community is pretty powerful, as it is for anybody who does that. She welcomed the new school board members who would begin serving in January, and she looked forward to working with them. She was certain they had the same dedication, the same commitment, if not more since they had spent their entire careers investing in this community. She concluded her comments with mention of events occurring during Mr. Scherb's tenure to which he contributed, among which were the bus garage, the ending of the renovation project at the elementary schools, the beginning of the new renovation project of the secondary schools, and this central office. She noted this group had accomplished a lot, and she had enjoyed working with Mr. Scherb and Mr. Wiram. She looked forward to working with everybody over the next four years.

**Kevin Kumpf** agreed with everything everybody had said. He wished everybody a Merry Christmas.

## **VII. Future Agenda Items**

None at this meeting.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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