

**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 Board Room of the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN, 47834, on Thursday, June 8, 2023. Ryan Keller, Michael Shaw, Lynn Romas, Tom Reberger, and Cheryl Schopmeyer were present. Amy Burke Adams and Andrea Baysinger were absent.

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. Comments from Patrons

None

III. Consent Agenda

A. Claims

B. Board Meetings

Executive Session: Thursday, May 11, 2023

Regular Session: Thursday, May 11, 2023

C. Field Trips

Clay City Jr/Sr High School FFA to attend the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, IL, on either August 29, 30, or 31, 2023. The exact date for attendance has yet to be determined. This is an out-of-state trip that required board approval.

D. Personnel

A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. Certified

a. FMLA	NHS	Emily Goff
b. FMLA	JTE	Larissa Goshen
c. FMLA	CCHS	Amy Dickison
d. FMLA	NHS	Craig Trout

2. Non-Certified

a. FMLA	ME	Michelle Kibbe
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B. RETIREMENTS

1. Certified

2. Non-Certified

a. Bus Driver (eff. 5/23/23) "Medical Retirement" CCS		Theresa Creed
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3. Place on Retirement Index

a. Retirement Index

b. Longevity Stipend

C. RESIGNATIONS

1. Certified

a. Social Studies Teacher (eff. 5/24/23)	NCMS	Michael Bryum
b. SPED Teacher (eff. 5/18/23)	CCHS	Danielle Pate

c. Art Teacher (eff. 5/24/23)	NCMS	Brett Haviland
2. Non-Certified		
a. IA (eff. 5/23/23)	NCMS	Renee Leslie
b. School Nurse (5/24/23)	ESE	Carol Johnson
c. Custodian (eff. 5/24/23)	FPE	Elizabeth Allender
d. Bus Aide (eff. 5/24/23)	Trans	Susan Deakins
e. Bus Aide (eff. 2/28/23)	Trans	Yvette Baskins
f. IA (eff. 7/31/23)	MES	Linda Barr
g. IA (eff. 5/23/23)	MES	Alexander Reyes
h. IA (eff. 5/23/23)	CCE	Summer Sparks
i. IA (eff. 5/23/23)	NCMS	Peggy Sanders
3. ECA Resignations		
a. Science Fair	NCMS	Glen Gill
b. Senior Class Sponsor	NHS	Amy Boor
4. ECA Lay Coaches	None	
D. TRANSFERS		
1. Certified		
a. Elem. Resource Teacher (SPED)	ESE/MES	Sarah DeLong
2. Non-Certified		
a. Custodian (eff. 8/7/23), from 260-185-day	VBE	Kelly Horsley
b. IA – SPED (eff. 8/9/23)	NCMS	Rhiannon Bussing
E. EMPLOYMENT		
1. Certified		
a. Elementary Teacher (2 nd Grade)	MES	Carrie Strain
b. Assistant Principal/Director of At-Risk Programs	CA	Karen Phillips
2. Non-Certified		
a. SLPA (185 days)	CCS	Sarah Ledgerwood
b. SLPA (185 days)	CCS	Krystyna Edgington
3. Supplemental	None	
F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR		
1. Extra-Curricular Certified	None	
2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified	None	
3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach	None	
4. Supplemental	None	
G. CHANGES		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
3. ECA-Lay Coaches	None	
H. VOLUNTEERS		
1. CLASSROOM		
a. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Sarah Misner
b. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Matthew Meuser

c. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Hayden Stockman
2. Band		
a. Band (Volunteer)	NHS	Spencer Chapman
b. Band (Volunteer)	NHS	Abigail Fry
3. ATHLETICS/ECA	None	
I. TERMINATIONS		
a. Custodian (eff. 5/26/23)	JTE	Rodney Frakes
J. Suspension Without Pay	None	
K. NON-RENEWAL	None	

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

IV. Old Business

A. CCS In-Person Instruction Plan

The United States Department of Education requires school corporations to review and revise, if necessary, their in-person instruction plans every six months. This information was provided to the board, and no changes to the plan were proposed. Prior to the vote on this item, public comments were entertained.

The public comment window opened at 7:03 p.m. Having none, the public comment window closed at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Keller moved to approve the CCS In-Person Instruction Plan. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 4-1 vote, with Mrs. Schopmeyer opposed.

V. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- Welcome to the new hires Carrie Strain, Sarah Ledgerwood, and Krystyna Edgington.
- Congratulations to the CCHS softball team for advancing to semi-state and for a fantastic season.
- He shared it has been an honor and privilege to serve Clay Community Schools for 40 years as a teacher, elementary principal, middle school principal, and now superintendent. He thanked the board for their support throughout the years, the friends he has made, and the wonderful memories he will cherish for a lifetime. He wished Dr. Rayle all the best and may God continue to bless Clay Community Schools.

VI. New Business

A. Vacation Day "Roll-over" for 260-Day Employees

CCS Director of Human Resources Chris Ross provided the board with information regarding the CCS 260-day employees' accumulated vacation days during June of 2021 and June of 2022. This group of employees was provided the flexibility to accumulate additional vacation days during this period to help ensure key personnel would be available to work during the

pandemic. The information developed by Mr. Ross provided a plan for these employees to gradually use their accumulated vacation days.

Mr. Keller moved to approve the vacation day roll-over for 260-day employees. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

B. Textbooks and Supplemental Programs Adoption

Information from Curriculum and Grants Coordinator Kathy Knust was included in the board packet regarding a request to approve the adoption of health and science textbooks for grades K-12, the UFLI Foundations supplemental reading program for grades K-2, and the Captain Cash financial literacy program for grade 3. CCS Central Curriculum Committee, comprised of parents, students, teachers, and administrators met on the 18th of May to review and discuss all textbooks and supplemental programs information. All textbook and supplemental program recommendations were unanimously approved by the twenty-six CCS Central Curriculum Committee members who were present at the meeting. Mr. Reberger and Superintendent Fritz offered their appreciation to Mrs. Knust and the committee for their hard work in this matter.

Mr. Romas moved to approve the adoption of health and science textbooks and supplemental programs. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

C. Operations Fund to Rainy Day Fund Transfer Request

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the request to make a transfer from the Operations Fund to the Rainy Day Fund for turf maintenance at Northview High School. Mrs. Schopmeyer seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

D. NCMS Chiller Purchase Update

Director of Business Affairs John Szabo included information in the packet regarding an update to the purchasing process for the new chiller at NCMS. At the May board meeting, Mr. Szabo and Mr. Hammond requested permission to begin the bidding process for a new chiller, however, it has become increasingly important to purchase the chiller in a timely manner. For these situations, state code gives school corporations the flexibility – in circumstances in which the school corporation deems that flexibility necessary – to make purchases outside of the normal process. Mr. Szabo has been in contact with representatives from the State Board of Accounts to ensure he has the documentation for this process.

E. Board Policy 2605 – Program Accountability Report

Superintendent Fritz shared highlights from the Program Accountability Report – Policy 2605. The full report was included in the board packet and will be made as part of the official minutes.

F. Vincennes University Field Experience Placements & Student Teaching

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tim Rayle provided information to the board regarding a request to partner with Vincennes University to place students for field experiences and student teaching with teachers in CCS. This is very similar to the partnership CCS has with other universities, and it was noted this is a great way to gain additional access to future teachers in the district.

Mr. Keller moved to approve the partnership with Vincennes University for field experience placements and student teaching. Mrs. Schopmeyer seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

G. Alongside App Request for the 2023-24 School Year

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tim Rayle provided information to the board to request access to the Alongside App for the 2023-24 school year to students in grades 7-12, including 6th-grade students at NCMS. For students to participate, parents would be required to opt their children into the program, and parents would be able to opt out of the program at any time.

Mrs. Schopmeyer shared she does not agree with this method of mental health assistance to students. She read a portion of the end-user agreement for the app and explained that it is not monitored by a human, they are under no obligation to keep the feedback confidential, and they post links to third-party websites which are not named. She added that she did online research regarding the pros and cons of using similar apps and also noticed the American Psychological Association did not have a recommendation for using apps. She questioned who is liable if the app fails and what happens if a crisis is detected on the weekend and who would be notified. She spoke with a representative from Alongside and he stated Chief Josh Clarke would be notified if a crisis was detected on the weekend; she is curious why parents wouldn't be contacted. She thought the student comments that were provided in the board packet were typical teenage comments, however, she didn't see any comments from parents. Dr. Rayle introduced a student that was part of the pilot program along with her mother to share their experience with the app. He explained there were 16 students with parent consent who experimented with the app over a three-week time period. The group met with representatives from the Alongside app at the end of the pilot program to discuss their experiences. The student present at the meeting believed this app to be very helpful for herself and her peers. She understands that this app is AI generated and not always monitored, but it was made by professionals. She shared she tested the app for anxiety attacks because that is something that is common among her peers. She said the app provided videos and exercises to help talk you down from an attack. She said some students do not want to talk to a real person for fear of being judged, but through this app, students are able to get the help they need without the judgment from a real person. Her mother shared that unfortunately, some children will not talk to a person or do not feel comfortable talking to their parents. She thinks, by proving this app as an alternative solution, it will help children talk about their emotions and worries and get help that they otherwise wouldn't have received if they hadn't spoken to anyone for fear of being judged. She shared that the app has trigger-words that would prompt different breathing exercises or writing prompts to help de-escalate students. The student shared the app provided several different writing prompts to help distract her from what she was originally worried about and she found that very helpful. Mrs. Schopmeyer asked the parent if she was okay with school officials being contacted and not her if there was a crisis detected. The mother responded that she would hope the school would contact her, but believed if there was a serious issue she would also need help to prevent the situation. She stated that kids don't always listen to their parents, so parents do need help from the school system and police in these circumstances to help protect their own children and the other children that might be involved. She stated that she feels she would be contacted by the school after safety had been put into place for her child and other children

regarding the matter. Chief Josh Clarke stated in this situation, he would be contacting the parents and working with the parents immediately following the crisis call from the app. Dr. Rayle is well aware this app does not take the place of a face-to-face counselor/therapist, but he has found that through the pilot, students were receiving helpful exercises to help them de-escalate their situation and provide guidance for future triggers. He shared that during the pilot program, he received several requests from other students who wanted to use the app. He stated the 16 students who were part of the pilot program were not 100% on board in the first couple of weeks, but by week three, they were all on board with getting this app and making it available to their peers. Mrs. Schopmeyer is not convinced this is a solution and shared she has spoken with parents who have different views regarding the app, but they could not attend the meeting. Dr. Rayle explained this app will be only available to students whose parents opt-in, meaning the parents must give permission for the student to gain access to the app. Mrs. Schopmeyer mentioned there are fees attached to the program and asked for an explanation. Dr. Rayle explained this is not a student fee that each child would pay. This is a program the Corporation will pay for upfront regardless of the number of students who participate. Mr. Reberger asked the student/mother if there were any attempts for indoctrination or swaying in a way that wasn't comfortable. The student replied the app did not focus on anything that made her feel uncomfortable but rather only spoke of the topics that were of concern of the students. Dr. Shaw shared that we are in a time when kids prefer online experiences to reality, and this app is another resource to help those students who are needing assistance; he sees no reason to not provide this. He shared kids use their phones, this app is easily accessible, and he supports it.

Mr. Romas moved to approve the access of the Alongside App for the 2023-24 school year. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 4-1 vote, with Mrs. Schopmeyer opposed.

H. SchoolCare Program

Mr. Keller moved to approve the SchoolCare Program. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

This program will provide additional resources for student reports, immunization statuses, etc. that can be utilized by the school nurses in CCS. CCS Director of Health Services Amber Sindors added this program is free of cost.

I. Donation Request for CCE

Mr. Keller moved to approve the request to accept a donation of playground equipment from the Clay City Elementary PTO for the school. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

J. Consideration to Name the Cumberland Academy Assistant Principal/Director of At-Risk Programs

Mr. Keller moved to approve Karen Phillips as the next Cumberland Academy Assistant Principal/Director of At-Risk Programs. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote. The position will consist of a 200-day contract, and Mrs. Phillips will receive the salary and benefits addressed in the CCS Administrator Handbook.

VII. Board Member Comments

Tom Reberger presented Mrs. Gail Williams and Superintendent Fritz with plaques showcasing their retirement and dedicated years of service to CCS.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

None

IX. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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