

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

A Special Session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at North Clay Middle School, 3 West Knight Drive, Brazil, IN 47834, on Monday, September 14, 2009. Forrest Buell, Dottie King, Tina Heffner, Jennifer Kaelber, Ted Jackson, Terry Barr and Brian Atkinson were present.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Jackson, president of the board, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. 2010 Budget, Capital Projects Plan, School Bus Replacement Plan, and Levy Neutrality

Mr. Fowler requests that the board approve adoption of the 2010 Budget, Capital Projects Plan, School Bus Replacement Plan, and Levy Neutrality. This is a status quo plan. There is a slight concern regarding the circuit breaker impact as well as a concern that the Assessed Value is going to drop about \$15 million next year, which will impact the Capital Projects Fund. Other than that, there are no real concerns this year.

Mrs. Barr moved to approve the recommendation, without reading the Levy Neutrality Resolution, the School Bus Replacement Resolution and the Capital Projects Plan Resolution. Dr. King seconded. The motion was approved by a 6-1 vote with Dr. Buell opposed.

III. New and Revised Draft School Board Policies

These policies went through the first reading at the August 13, 2009, school board meeting. The changes were proposed because the Indiana School Boards Association recommends that new policies be adopted where there are no current policies and revised policies be adopted where current policies don't fit the need of what ISBA recommends.

Revised Policies:

- Policy 6430: This is the same as the ISBA sample policy except the third paragraph, which states, "See Policy 6435" (a proposed new policy).
- Policy 6531: There was a change in the number of credits required for graduation (to 41 credits from 40 credits).
- Policies 6541, 6542, 6543, 6544, and 6545: There were many changes to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), which have been incorporated into these policies.
- Policy 6810: This was taken verbatim from the ISBA's suggested policy, except for Item 5, which states that teachers providing homebound instruction shall hold an Indiana teaching certificate appropriate for the level of instruction for which assignment is made.
- Policy 8600: The state-required expanded criminal history check is included in the revisions to this policy, which supercedes the previous version of Policy 8600 that had been revised in 2007. As the policy is now written, volunteers would be

charged for the expanded criminal history check, the same as employees would be.

New Policies:

- Policy 6432: This policy was lifted exactly from the ISBA recommendation.
- Policy 6435: Discussion had ensued at the August 13 school board meeting regarding the length of time that a student could be removed from a class that was stated in this policy. The previous policy stated that a teacher could remove a student for one day from class; however, that is usually done at the elementary level. At the high school level where students change classes from period to period, it is not feasible to remove a student from every class throughout the day for misbehaving in one class. The policy originally called for a limit of five periods. It was suggested at the August 13 school board meeting that the limit be changed to one class period per incident.
- Policy 6470: This is exactly the same as the ISBA sample policy.
- Policy 8605: This policy is an amalgamation of Indiana Codes 20-26-5-10, 20-26-5-11, and 20-28-5-8 (c). It includes the duty to report conviction of criminal offenses to school officials who then must report the offense to local officials and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Regarding volunteers and payment for the expanded criminal history check, Dr. Schroeder stated that during the 2008-2009 school year limited criminal history checks were conducted for 269 individuals volunteering and 58 ECA lay coaches/volunteers. If those numbers hold up each year, it would cost the corporation approximately \$9,800 every year if the board chose to pay for the expanded criminal history check for volunteers. Dr. Schroeder pointed out that the law says that, regarding volunteers, the board can choose to check them or not check them. As far as employees, whether certified or non-certified, after July 1, 2009, they all must be checked if they have direct, ongoing contact with students. The law does not require checking existing employees.

Under discussion, Mrs. Heffner shared a concern that she had received over being required to pay for the expanded criminal history check when only volunteering intermittently. Mr. Atkinson added that, although \$9,000 is a lot of money, he has a problem with asking people to volunteer and then asking them to pay \$30 for an expanded criminal history check. Dr. Schroeder stated that the other criminal history search could still be in effect for volunteers, which includes the Indiana State Police limited criminal history search, Indiana Criminal Justice sexual offender registry, Dru Sjodin national sex offender registry, and Doxpop (a search of courts in the State of Indiana), and would cost the corporation \$416 up to 720 searches. He is concerned about what might happen if volunteers do not go through the expanded criminal history check, and he would rather be safe than sorry.

Mrs. Barr feels more comfortable with the same search for all people. She suggested the possibility of PTO's paying for the volunteer searches. Her concern is that if the corporation pays for volunteer searches, there might be individuals that would go through the expanded criminal history check and then never actually volunteer.

Dr. King brought up the point that volunteers would not be asked to pay for an expanded criminal history check every year, and Dr. Schroeder added that it is written in the law that an individual cannot be asked to pay for an expanded criminal history check more than one time in a five-year period.

Mrs. Kaelber expressed her concerns over the possibility of not requiring individuals that only work around students intermittently to undergo the expanded criminal history check. She believes that anyone who is going to work with children in this corporation should have this check. Discussion ensued regarding whether to require individuals that provide a one-time service, such as a presenter at a sports clinic, to be subject to the requirement. It was suggested that the policy be changed to state that anyone to be submitted to the board for formal approval as a volunteer would be required to undergo the expanded criminal history check.

Regarding the fee for the expanded criminal history search, Mr. Jackson stated that he goes back and forth on that issue. He thinks it would be good to point out that it is only once in five years. Mrs. Kaelber suggested that the volunteers be required to pay for the expanded criminal history check, and if it is found in the future that there are not enough volunteers and it is a big issue, it could be looked at again.

Dr. Schroeder concluded discussion of this policy by noting that this policy includes ECA lay coaches because they have ongoing contact with students.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Atkinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Kaelber seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. by a 6-0-1 vote with Dr. Buell abstaining.

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