

**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 North Clay Middle School, 3 West Knight Drive, Brazil, IN 47834, on Thursday, November 12, 2009. Terry Barr, Dottie King, Tina Heffner, Jennifer Kaelber, Ted Jackson, Brian Atkinson, and Forrest Buell were present.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Jackson, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Mr. Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mrs. Heffner offered the prayer.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Claims

B. Board Meetings

Regular Session Minutes for October 8, 2009

Executive Session Certification for October 8, 2009

C. Field Trips

None at this meeting

Dr. King moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and Mrs. Heffner seconded. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

III. Comments from Patrons

Les Webster, a bus driver for the school corporation as well as a Clay County taxpayer, spoke regarding the need for a new bus garage. He referred to what he described as the antiquated facility in which his bus and all other buses in the corporation are maintained by the mechanics. He shared that, although the facility might be sprinkled with OSHA violations and safety hazards, the mechanics get the job done and every bus passes inspection every year. As Mr. Webster sees it, intelligent people often times find that, when an issue is denied or rejected, reevaluation and reconsideration of that issue finds that it becomes the most economical, efficient issue available. The City Coal Yard facility is a dead issue for the location of a new maintenance facility. Mr. Webster believes that everyone in the room would concur that a new facility is needed; however, the priority for that has not surfaced to the top. He is here tonight to urge the board to reevaluate the facts, to reconsider personal reasons for saying no, and to bring the City Coal Yard facility back to the table for the location of a new maintenance facility.

IV. Old Business

A. Order of School Board Agenda: Second Reading

As was presented in the first reading, it is recommended that the school board meeting agenda be changed so that the superintendent's report would be followed first by new business, then personnel, then board member comments, then future agenda items and would conclude with adjournment.

Dr. King moved to approve the recommendation to change the order of the school board agenda. Mrs. Kaelber seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

B. Bus Garage

Dr. Schroeder stated that the board had been presented with eight different options for the bus garage. Five of the options have been crossed out. The three options remaining include moving to the site of the Jackson Township Elementary School with a total projected cost of nearly \$1.3 million and moving to the site of the Van Buren Elementary School with the same projected costs. A concern with either of these options would be the increase in ongoing transportation costs from year to year. The option left (Option 4) would be to stay on the current lot. The total cost of this option would be approximately \$909,500. A major disadvantage of this option is that there is not a lot of room to spread out; however, the corporation recently purchased a small lot from The Brazil Times that has provided additional parking space. Also, the old creamery building has been torn down, which has provided more parking spaces in that location. In addition, the corporation purchased the property on North Depot Street to be used for the maintenance shop, and additional parking spaces could be provided in that location. Dr. Schroeder stated that it is time to get something done. A building that has three or four bays, is more energy efficient, offers a better way to dispose of used oil and fluids, doesn't leak, and addresses electrical issues as well as heating and cooling issues, is needed.

Dr. Schroeder referred to the fact that original estimates by architects to build a new transportation building had been approximately \$4 million. This was rejected as being too costly. Another estimate had been \$1.8 million, but it also was too costly. The estimate is now \$900,000 to build a new building and money has been moved out of the Debt Service Fund and Bus Replacement Fund, and has been put into the Rainy Day Fund. If the project comes in at the estimated cost, there is enough money to pay for this and there would be no need to borrow money.

If Option 4 is chosen, the recommendation would be to hire an architect to look at the space, to give ideas and to say that it is feasible. This would not mean that the project would go forward; it would be brought back at a future meeting with some plans for approval before moving forward.

Mr. Fowler's biggest concern is that the bus garage not be moved to Jackson Township or Van Buren, which would result in increased costs that the transportation department could not afford. He believes that staying on the current lot is the best option that is left.

Dr. Schroeder does not want to get to the point with the Quonset hut where it is not insurable. He also mentioned the issue of OSHA violations. Mrs. Heffner asked what specific OSHA violations there were to be concerned about. Dr. Schroeder replied that there were a lot of things: electrical, leakage, disposal of liquids, slick floors, etc. Mr. Reberger added that there are lots of major fallacies with the building. The corporation has gotten by with this because no one has ever inspected the building and made the corporation bring it to code.

Mr. Atkinson and Dr. Schroeder clarified that the recommendation is just to hire an architect to look at the site and see if the corporation can do what it wants to do on that site. Mr. Atkinson further clarified that regardless of the vote tonight, the transportation department would still be in these facilities at the end of this school year. Dr. Schroeder added that if a plan is approved and the project moves forward, he would hope to move forward with the building project by spring of 2010.

Mr. Jackson asked about the need for the buses to be on the site and if that would be met on the current site. Dr. Schroeder stated that if the corporation was in dire circumstances and costs had to be cut resulting in more buses staying on the lot, it would be difficult to do that. But he does not foresee that happening in the next few years. Mr. Misner added that the lot would hold 20-25 buses of the 75-bus fleet. There would be no room for growth.

Mr. Atkinson stated that he is not against the bus garage, but he does not believe that this site is the best place to put it. He would like to see the bus garage built on a bigger piece of property, maybe outside of town closer to Northview and North Clay. Mrs. Heffner interjected that she had heard that concern from the community. Another point that she brought up was the increase in fuel costs if the facility is moved. She asked if consideration had been given to looking at re-routing. Mr. Misner replied that the routes would not change: The change would be in the distance that drivers would have to drive from where they currently are to other sites.

In response to Mrs. Heffner's question about OSHA violations, Mr. Misner and Mrs. Barr stated that what can be fixed is fixed; however, the corporation could not afford to bring the eighty-year-old building completely up to code. Mr. Atkinson offered his opinion that there probably would have been a bus garage two or three years ago if agreement could be reached on where to put it. Mr. Misner added that the corporation is trying to do what is best for the safety of the employees and the kids. Mrs. Heffner stated that safety was her concern with the City Coal Yard property, and if that property had already received EPA Phase I and Phase II clearance, she would be a lot happier.

Mrs. Kaelber believes that everyone counted too much on one option that was wanted and when that option did not work out, the corporation is now grasping at straws to make a temporary solution. She believes there has to be a better permanent solution.

Mrs. Barr stated that, as a board member and a member of the community, she is absolutely appalled that people have been allowed to work in the conditions that they have worked in and the kind of building they have worked in for as long as they have. She commends everyone that works there; they do an outstanding job. Since she has been on the board and listened to the board, she has always heard that the board watches out for the taxpayer's money. A charge was given to find the most economical, workable solution and in good conscience she believes that is what was done. She now feels that the board is second-guessing them and trying to come up with other options without being concerned with the cost or what is reasonable and the most economical strictly because they don't like the site. Mr. Atkinson responded by agreeing that the

people do a fantastic job, but he has been on the board for nearly four years and the majority of the board for four years has said that that was not a good site.

Dr. Schroeder stated that back in March, a solution that didn't involve the coal yard was offered. However, the Wallace property did not appraise high enough to meet the asking price. It was the first option, but it didn't work. He does not view this proposal as temporary; he believes it is a permanent solution. Many, many options have been looked at.

Dr. King moved to approve the recommendation. Mrs. Barr seconded.

Mr. Jackson asked if the feasibility study would include transitioning from the old building to a new building. Mr. Misner responded by noting there would be a four or five step process. Mr. Jackson then stated that he had been on the board for eight years, and before these eight options there had been at least a dozen others prior to that. He believes it is disheartening, and he believes both departments will make the most of that site. He hopes a precedent is set when the feasibility study is done that the best is put on that site, maybe even beyond what is needed because year after year the corporation gets such an excellent report from the transportation department. He feels that this has been unfortunate; however, it is a seven-member board. He knows this will work because they will make it work.

Dr. Schroeder pointed out that if the board does not think it is feasible, it can vote to not go ahead. It will not be as expensive of a project as others that have been proposed. Mr. Atkinson asked for clarification of the recommendation. The recommendation is to have an architect look at the site and present a plan for a building and how everything would fit together. If the board doesn't like it, it can say no. This vote only approves the study: It does not approve putting a building on the property.

Mr. Atkinson stated that he would be willing to support having the study done although he still does not believe that the current site is the place to put a building. Mr. Misner asked if Mr. Atkinson had any ideas for where to put the bus garage. Mr. Atkinson responded by stating that he believes that area of town is not a good place. If the bus garage cannot be put on property that the corporation already owns, Mr. Atkinson would prefer to keep it as close to the Northview/North Clay campus as possible. He referred to the bus garage at the Mill Creek Community School District, which is on the same property as the schools, and how well it worked by being so close to the schools. Mr. Atkinson is not trying to put anyone in a bad situation, but wherever it is going to be, it will be there for fifty years. Mrs. Heffner agreed that this was a concern for her also, and she would like to pursue the area around Northview/North Clay. She believes there is still room for discussion.

Mr. Jackson asked if there were any other suggestions for sites. Mrs. Kaelber stated that she believes there needs to be more options put together and brought to the board instead of grasping at straws. Mrs. Barr suggested that the administration look and see if there would be adequate ground around Northview/North Clay and, if not, see how

much it would cost to purchase ground and bring that information back at the same time as the feasibility study.

The motion was approved by a 5-2 vote with Ted Jackson and Forrest Buell opposed.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Schroeder noted the following:

- Congratulations were offered to the Clay City Jr/Sr High School S.A.D.D. chapter for receiving a Project Ignition \$2,000 Grant, sponsored by State Farm Insurance. They were one of twenty-five schools across the country to receive a grant out of six hundred applicants.
- Congratulations were offered to the Northview High School volleyball team for winning their sectional, which was the first time that Northview has won a volleyball sectional since 1996.
- The Northview band was congratulated for becoming state champs for the second year in a row. The Clay City band was congratulated for making the semi-state round. Pride in both bands was expressed.
- The sale of the bonds for the building projects is nearing. The school corporation received an A+ rating, which will help the corporation get a better interest rate when the bonds are sold.
- Thanks were extended to the Clay County Health Department, Lynn Stoelting and everyone involved in the process of providing the vaccine for the H1N1 virus. Over 2,200 individuals were inoculated. Kids under nine will have to come back for a second shot and times will be arranged by the health department. A tentative schedule will be: December 1—12 to 5—Jackson Township and Forest Park; December 2—5 p.m.—Jackson Township and Forest Park; December 3—Clay City schools. The corporation was the first in the area to go through this process.
- Northview technology students that participated in the Tech Trek program at Indiana State University were congratulated. There were 500 competitors, and the Northview students received one first place, two second places, and one third place. Thanks were offered to sponsors Jim Latta and Tony Migliorini.
- Indiana is going to a growth model for ISTEP; it will be new this year. Scores will be released in phases. This will not change how AYP and PL221 are calculated. Once this information is released, scores can be accessed via the internet.
- Auctions were conducted for surplus items at the bus barn area, at Van Buren, and at Clay City. Most of the items sold.
- Regarding finances in Indiana, \$300,000,000 less was received in the first quarter of the biennium than what had been projected. The governor is trying to protect public safety and education spending from cuts. A concern: not only might the corporation not receive increases in funding, there may be cuts in funding. The school corporation is in good financial condition right now; however, if there is no new money, the whole state will be in trouble, including this corporation. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett has cautioned school corporations to be careful with personnel costs.

VI. Board Member Comments

Dottie King added her congratulations to the Northview band. This is her 15th year to have a student in the band. She noted that it is always exciting when they win, but this year was different. The band lost a friend and fellow band member when Halie Hite died in a car accident, so when they were announced as champions this year, it was much more subdued. She believes that in their hearts they did it for Halie. This reminded Dr. King of how good it is to live in a small town and to have teachers that care. This teacher led 170 kids through the grief process and reached out to the family.

Tina Heffner offered her congratulations to the band also. As a Christian, when she heard about the double rainbow at the semistate, she thought that was really awesome and it shows that God cares about each one of us. Mrs. Heffner is excited about any clubs, teams, or classes, and students and teachers that are making the most of their opportunities with the education system that is provided in this county.

Ted Jackson echoed what has been said. He added that the corporation had two cross country teams that made it to regional competition and he congratulated them. He commented on the H1N1 flu shot clinics, which he deemed to be very organized and efficient. They did a really good job, and he appreciated the efforts of the community to offer that to students and faculty.

VII. New Business

A. Modular Building Bid

A bid of \$3,000 was received from New Covenant Fellowship Church for the East Side modular. It is recommended that the bid be approved.

Mr. Atkinson moved to approve the bid. Mrs. Heffner seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

B. Bus Bids

Three bids were received for three 66-passenger buses and four 78-passenger buses. The recommendation is to buy three 66-passenger buses from McAllister Power Systems for \$195,684 and to buy four 78-passenger buses from Midwest Transit for \$253,752. These were the lowest bidders and those deemed to be responsible.

Mrs. Heffner moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Atkinson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

C. Fuel Bids

Each year, bids are rejected because it is believed that the open market offers better prices. Ceres Solutions and Hunter Oil submitted bids. It is recommended that the bids be rejected and that these two vendors be contacted to purchase fuel on a daily basis.

Mr. Atkinson moved to approve the recommendation. Mrs. Heffner seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

D. Corporate Authorization Resolution

First Financial Bank needs the authorization to allow the principal, the bookkeeper, and the Director of Business Affairs of Clay Community Schools to endorse checks.

Approval is recommended.

Mrs. Heffner moved to approve the corporate authorization resolution. Mrs. Kaelber seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

E. Students Charging of Meals: First Reading

Dr. Schroeder explained that the Division of School Nutrition came in and indicated that the corporation had to have a school board directive to do what has been done in the past relative to charging meals. Past practice has been to allow elementary students to charge up to three meals; after that, they will be provided with something to drink and a sandwich. At the high school level, no charges are allowed. Carolyn Kumpf, Director of Personnel, Data and Food Services, added that this seems to be working well. If a student's account is getting low, they are notified. This would make official the practice that has been followed for the past three and a half years. The first reading requires no vote. This will be brought back at the next meeting for approval.

F. Energy Management Program Report

Energy Educator Jim Clausen presented information relative to the savings realized through the Energy Education program. Highlights included energy savings of \$1,151,116, which is 22%, during the period of October 2004 through September 2009 and 10-year projected savings of \$2,457,000.

G. Technology Update

Bill Milner presented an update of projects that have been completed this past summer. The technology employees added three additional one-to-one classrooms at Clay City Jr/Sr High School. LCD projectors, white boards, desks, and thirty computers were added to each of these classrooms. Carpeting, electrical upgrades, and paint were also provided in these classrooms by Tom Reberger's maintenance workers. All English classrooms at the high school level now have the one-to-one computers. A new student information system called Power School was installed for the corporation as well as a new grade book system called Power Teacher. The transition to the new system will be an ongoing process throughout this school year and into the start of the next school year. Mr. Milner shared that he and Kathy Knust had applied for and received the Enhancing Education through Technology grant, which will help to expand the one-to-one initiative. The grant will provide \$196,000 for math and science classrooms at the secondary level. This will allow rooms to be outfitted for LCD projectors and interactive whiteboard technology. In addition to that technology, 155 laptop computers and access points will be added at Northview, Clay City and North Clay. With the help of the technology committee and principals, the three-year technology plan has been updated and submitted to the state. In the past year, there have been upgrades to the student information system and the cafeteria system. Also, the new online application system was implemented. The technology department continues to add more services to improve student learning and help with the communication process for parents and

teachers. Dr. Schroeder pointed out that the one-to-one classrooms were done through grant money. Around 200-250 computers were purchased with the grants. The corporation is also working with some stimulus money to upgrade where possible. Dr. Schroeder also noted that some schools are now taking ISTEP+ testing online as a pilot. Mr. Milner added that the band width was increased over the summer, which has helped greatly this year.

In response to Mr. Jackson's question about fiber optics, Mr. Milner stated that all schools except Clay City and Jackson Township are connected by fiber optic lines. He is working on getting those schools connected as well. Mr. Fowler interjected that the goal would be to get permission to advertise for that next month and accept bids in January. If the bids come in as expected and e-rate funding comes through, construction could start next fall.

Kathy Knust spoke regarding the three Enhancing Education through Technology grants that have been received over the last two-and-a-half years. The grants totaled \$535,000 on three competitive grants. The first two grants, along with support from the technology fund and Mr. Reberger's maintenance staff, enabled the one-to-one computers, the white boards, the LCD projectors and the Criterion writing program to be installed. Mrs. Knust, Ms. Tucker, Mr. Milner, and Mr. Fowler have met with a grant consultant for the Department of Education to aid in implementing the technology purchased with the grant into the curriculum. Requirements have been fulfilled for the first two grants. The third grant will be used for technology improvements in the areas of math and science. Professional development is being provided.

H. ISTEP+ Recognition

Dr. Schroeder stated that this issue had been discussed at the administrative team meeting and almost all buildings in various capacities recognize students for ISTEP+ participation and achievement. He believes that it is important for the kids to know that the teachers and administrators think the ISTEP+ is important.

Under discussion, Mrs. Heffner stated that she liked the idea of recognizing students that have improved. Dr. King stated that she is all for awarding student achievement in every level; however, she had heard about a school that had a party for students during the school day as a reward for achieving Pass Plus and she has concerns about students that may do their best but are not capable of attaining Pass Plus status and are therefore left out of the party. To go along with Dr. King's comments, Mr. Atkinson noted that ISTEP+ is not like every other program in the school; ISTEP+ is more of a program by itself. He stated a student that does not make the honor roll or a sports team knows that he/she can still graduate; however, if a student does not pass ISTEP+, it may mean that the student can not graduate. He suggests taking a little consideration of those students that haven't passed. Mrs. Kaelber agreed with both Dr. King and Mr. Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson believes that the high achievers can be commended without dumping more "I've failed again" on the kids that don't pass. Mr. Jackson stated that he believed the recognition was important for all kids. He added that recognition needs to be specific, sincere, and have value. Sensitivity is also important.

VIII. <u>Personnel</u>		
A.	Leaves of Absence	
	1. Certified	
	a. Maternity (FMLA)	JTE Amanda Sebastian
	b. Family Medical Leave	CCE Louann Kern
	c. Family Medical Leave	VBE Ashley Scott
	2. Non-Certified	
	a. Medical Leave	SE Rose Johnson
	b. Leave of Absence	CCE Linda Kinser
B.	Retirements	
	1. Certified	
	a. Retirement – January 2, 2010	KFC Julie Romas
	2. Non-Certified	None
	3. Place on Retirement Index	None
C.	Resignations	
	1. Certified	None
	2. Non-Certified	
	a. Instructional Assistant	CA Krista Wilson
	b. Instructional Assistant (Attendance)	NHS Lori Hughes
	3. ECA Resignations	None
D.	Transfers	
	1. Certified	None
	2. Non-Certified	None
E.	Employment	
	1. Certified	None
	2. Non-Certified	
	a. Bus Driver	TRANS Tina Pennington
	b. Instructional Assistant (Title I)	ME Mala Moody
	c. Interpreter	NCMS Rebecca Milner
	3. Extra-Curricular Certified	
	a. Basketball – Girls 7 th Grade	NCMS Kevin Kumpf
	b. Fall Play Assistant	NHS Chrystal Chrysler
	c. Math Super Bowl	NHS Deanne Leohr
	4. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified	None
	5. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach/Lay Sponsor	
	a. Basketball – Boys 8 th Grade	NCMS Shawn Hughes
	b. Elementary Sport (5 th Grade B-ball)	CCE Kasi Thatcher
	6. Volunteers	
	a. Basketball Coach	NCMS Brent Potter
	b. Basketball Coach	NCMS Scott Fosdick
	c. ECA Volunteer	NCMS Jon Brook Reinoehl
	d. ECA Volunteer	NCMS Jamie Williams

e. ECA Volunteer	NCMS	Mary Schroer
f. ECA Volunteer	NCMS	Nancy Ploch
g. ECA Volunteer	NCMS	Chuck Ploch
h. ECA Volunteer	NCMS	Jake Ooley

F. Changes

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

a. Jorita Wilson will be changed from the Guidance Secretary at North Clay Middle School to Secretary at Central Office working with Title I, Grants, Textbooks, Food Services, and Personnel. She will be paid at the same rate of \$12.02/hour as the other Central Office secretary. Benefits will be as indicated in the Classified Administrative Clerical Personnel Handbook.

3. Lay Coach

None

G. Termination

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

None

H. Information Only

None

I. Contracted Service Positions (non-employees)

- a. Reading Intervention Consultant
- b. Intervention Coaching Consultants

Amber Williams
Bonita Buddle-Ave
Jason Hopper
Michelle Taylor

These positions resulted from Federal Stimulus money through Title I. They will be considered independent contractors and will be paid on a daily rate.

J. Classroom Volunteers

Clay City Elementary

Forest Park (Kids Hope USA)

Tammy Forsythe

Judy Haase

Beth Price

Bryleigh Schopmeyer

Lori Miller

Jackson Twp

LEAAP Center

Margaret Dwyer

Jesse Pitts

Allison Taylor

Staunton

Staunton, Clay City Elementary & KFC

Jessica Keith

Linda Nicoson

Meridian

Kristen Beasley

Northview (EMERGE Program through Rose Hulman)

Jaclyn Day

Samantha Gregory

Elizabeth Paige Stewart

Kendra Albers

Jessica Rogers

Emily Dosmar

Mr. Atkinson moved to approve the personnel items. Mrs. Heffner seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

IX. Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Barr would like to follow up with the transportation discussion. From what she has heard tonight, she believes there seems to be big interest in having the transportation garage around Northview and North Clay. She would like to know if the corporation currently has property in that area available for a bus garage, and if not, where property would be available and how much it might cost. She would also like an estimate to purchase property and build a new transportation garage along with everything that would go with that, and what options would be available to fund that.

Mr. Jackson offered a second to what Mrs. Barr said. The reason that he voted against the recommendation earlier is because he feels the corporation is selling itself short. He will live with whatever the board wants to do.

X. Adjournment

Mrs. Heffner made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Kaelber seconded. With a 7-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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