

**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, 3450 W State Road 340, Brazil, IN 47834, on Tuesday, June 28, 2011. Jennifer Kaelber, Tina Heffner, Forrest Buell, Rob Miller, and Amy Burke Adams were present. Ron Scherb was absent. With the resignation of Dottie King at the June 9, 2011, school board meeting, her seat remained vacant at this meeting.

I. Call to Order

The special session meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Interviews of Applicants for Vacant School Board Seat

Three candidates attended the meeting to present information to and answer questions posed by the school board.

Marie Moore was first to introduce herself. She noted that she lives in Forest Acres and is a former school teacher who taught in Putnam County and other places both in and out of Indiana. Her original plan was to run for the school board in the next election if Dottie King did not seek re-election; however, with Dr. King's resignation, the opportunity to become a board member came sooner than she thought it would.

Next to introduce herself was Tammy Beasley who stated that she lives on Waterworks Road and has three children who have attended schools in Clay County. She commented that, although she has no experience, she has an interest in kids and bettering their education.

David Wise was last to introduce himself. He stated that he had previously served on the school board for 12 years. He pointed out that, while he had continued to live in the community, he had been absent from the community for the last ten years. Mr. Wise added that he has a burden for young people. His business has brought him back to Clay County and he is a full-time resident, so he would like to become involved once again in serving young people.

At this point, Mrs. Heffner posed questions to the board candidates. Following are the questions and the candidates' responses.

1) Why do you want to be on the school board?

- Marie Moore wants to be the school board because she has an interest in the community. Mrs. Moore and her husband encouraged people to present their ideas about whether they wanted to spend that much on the building/renovation project recently completed by the school corporation. Also, they held meetings to present candidates for the last school board election to the public. As a former school teacher, she feels the best place to affect education today is the school board itself.

- Tammy Beasley doesn't have any experience with the school board, but she has three children who have gone through the schools in Clay County. She feels she should do her part to help out.
- David Wise stated that he believes the definition of a successful life is service to others. He has always been actively involved in serving on various boards, and a common thread has always been to better children. He feels he has a lot to offer and a lot of knowledge.

2) What perspective can you bring to the school board?

- David Wise has 12 years' experience and during his tenure as a board member he took advantage of all of the opportunities the Indiana School Boards Association afforded board members to become better informed. He did this so that he could be the best board member he could possibly be. Also, he stated that he is a dedicated person as well as a problem-solver and he has the ability to bring people together.
- Tammy Beasley stated that she brings a good positive attitude on trying to work hard to improve things education-wise for students, both at home and at school.
- Marie Moore has had previous experiences with boards when she worked at Cloverdale as a part of the teachers' union. She believes this experience could be helpful in negotiations. Also, Mrs. Moore stated that, as a teacher, the total number of students that drop out of school really disappoints her. She believes that, as a member of the school board and the community as well as a former teacher, she can work to try to help that dropout rate.

3) Give a brief biography along with associations in the community.

- Marie Moore recently helped with the Teacher Appreciation Day at North Clay Middle School. Also, she has previously worked to get school board candidates known to the community. Mrs. Moore is not originally from Brazil. She is a member of the Putnam County Retired Teachers Association because the Clay County chapter never did send her an invitation.
- Tammy Beasley has volunteered at East Side Elementary and has chaperoned field trips. Her children have been involved in sports and she has helped with concession stands in connection with the sports.
- David Wise has not been active for the past ten years, but prior to that he served as a member of the Indiana Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana as a west central advisory board member. Also, he served as a member of the board of trustees of the Clay County YMCA. In addition, he has served as a member of the board of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wise was actively involved as the adult advisor to the Indiana Teen Institute through the Indiana Juvenile Justice Commission.

4) Where do you see public education heading in the next ten years?

- Marie Moore believes a lot of changes will be taking place. From what has happened recently in the legislature, she believes public education will be competing with private schools, and she is not sure that is a very wise idea. She also believes there will be a lot of problems to face in the future. She pointed out a problem at this time, which is money being available, and she does not see that going away for a long time. Mrs. Moore believes that a lot of parents are

very busy working, which will result in a change in society and in schools taking care of more social values of the students.

- Tammy Beasley's concern is with the dropout rates and finding out why so many students want to drop out. She would like to find ways to help them stay in school.
- David Wise sees dramatic changes in education. He agreed with Mrs. Moore that, because of what the legislature has done, schools will have to compete with private education, which he does not see as a bad thing. He believes schools need to go back to some of the very basic principles that he learned when he was in school. As board members and educators, Mr. Wise believes people need to become actively involved with the legislature, which he did when he was a board member.

5) What could Clay Community Schools do to improve education and the graduation rate for our students?

- David Wise stated that years ago, before it was popular around here, he was a strong advocate of the alternative school. He is glad to see that it came to fruition. He believes that we cannot afford to lose one child because ultimately, as a society, we are going to pay for that individual, whether we educate them or whether we pay for them in the penal system. Mr. Wise feels that the school corporation must do everything it possibly can to encourage them and get them through school.
- Tammy Beasley suggested the possibility of working with each student and asking them and getting their input.
- Marie Moore shared her opinion that in their freshman year at-risk students should be identified. She suggested meeting with 8th grade teachers to help identify the students who are at risk. As she sees it, if these students are worked with at that level, there will be a much better success ratio. Mrs. Moore believes that the school is not completely responsible; she believes that the community needs to advertise that it wants to increase its graduation rate and wants success of its students. It is her opinion that the schools cannot do it alone as the school board or as teachers. The whole community is needed to work towards one particular goal, which is that our students will be able to graduate and they are going to be able to do what they want to do with their life because they at least have a high school diploma.

6) How can we better prepare the students for the workforce?

- Marie Moore, a former vocational business teacher, noted that a lot of the curriculum has gone basically to post-secondary education, but she believes vocational training is still needed for students. As a practical arts coordinator at Cloverdale, she stated that those areas helped students quite a bit. She believes that every student needs some type of vocational training whether they are going to college or not.
- Tammy Beasley commented that students should meet with their counselors and find areas that they are interested in. Also, she suggested the possibility of volunteering in the community and at different businesses to give them experience.

- David Wise believes that young people need to be trained in life experiences. It has been his experience that the schools are not doing that. He is not sure how to do that, but he agrees with Mrs. Moore that it takes an effort by the entire community—employers, the school corporation, parents, clergy—all working together because kids face many difficult obstacles in life today.

Mr. Miller stated that the individual chosen to fill the board seat will be notified by tomorrow evening and will need to attend the special session on Thursday to be sworn in as a board member.

III. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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