

NORTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018
5:30 P.M.

Public Comment

Scott Elzey asked if there was anyone present who wished to make a comment to the Board. No comments were made.

Call to Order

Public notice of the date, time and place of the Board meeting had been previously posted according to statute on Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Scott Elzey called to order the regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees. Present at the meeting were Scott Elzey, President; Donna Spear, Vice-President; Angie Topp, Secretary; Gene Donaghy, Member; Peggy Eschenbacher, Member, Superintendent Scott Mills, Tim Wilson, Jennifer Nes, Glen Werling (News-banner) and 11 guests.

NOTE: All actions of the Board were duly moved, seconded and adopted upon unanimous vote of the Board, and without dissenting vote or abstention, unless otherwise stated.

2019 School Budget Hearing

Superintendent Mills stated that the 2019 budget has been advertised as required and is available to view at the Gateway Indiana website. Mills shared that the proposed budget has a tax rate of \$1.28 per \$100 assessed valuation. He explained that the amount is intentionally inflated because once the budget is advertised the rate can be lowered but it cannot be raised. Mills explained the budgeting process, covering over the Rainy Day, Debt Service, School Pension Debt, Referendum Debt Fund-Exempt 2009, Capital Project Plan, Bus Replacement Plan, Education Fund, and Operations Fund that collectively total \$26,674,127. Mills stated that the Budget Hearing was opened for any questions or comments from the public. No comments or questions were offered from the public in attendance at the meeting. After ample opportunity for public input, the hearing was closed.

NMS Data Usage to Improve Student Learning

Norwell Middle School Principal, Tim Wilson presented a PowerPoint explaining the middle school's data collected to improve student learning. The data contains information starting when the student enters 6th grade and shows the progress of the student through 8th grade. He explained that the information collected includes the following: NWEA scores, attendance, discipline, Math Genius data, Reading Prompts, Surveys, and criteria for advanced classes. Wilson stated that the data helps NMS track where students should be placed. Wilson

also noted that the middle school has many new opportunities for student to participate in including, Spell Bowl Team, Robotics Club, Chess Club, and Exploring Club. The Board thanked Wilson for the presentation.

Approval of the Minutes

Superintendent Mills recommended approval of the minutes of the executive session and regular meeting of September 18, 2018 and special meeting September 17, 2018. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

Approval of Claims

Superintendent Mills asked if there were any questions concerning the claims. Following review by the Board and responses posed, the Board approved the claims as presented.

General Fund	8,981.91
Capital Projects	30,563.04
Capital Projects (Emerg Repair)	5,365.00
School Transportation	32,899.72
School Lunch	1,800.83
Curricular Materials Rental	23,400.00
Tchr Creativity-Canal Boat Tour	4,200.00
School Lunch Donation	245.10
FY19 Secured School Safety Grant	5,696.99
Non-English Speaking Program	149.99
Title I, 2017-18 School Year	381.52

Old Lancaster School Property – Permit City of Bluffton to conduct a Phase 1 Study

Superintendent Mills recommended that the Board approve the Indemnification Agreement For Real Estate Assessment with the City of Bluffton that permits the city to engage in a Phase I environmental study of the Lancaster Park. Mills introduced John Wicker, Bluffton Common Council member and Roger Thornton and thanked them for their involvement in the improvement of Lancaster Park. Vice-President Donna Spear asked that in future documents the legal description of the property should be included. The Board agreed. Member Gene Donaghy said that this is a great opportunity for both Bluffton and Northern Wells. John Wicker thanked the Board and Roger Thornton shared his appreciation to Superintendent Mills and the Board for building a bridge and moving ahead. He said that the Board focuses on the important and good stuff. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the Indemnification Agreement for Real Estate Assessment as presented. (See Attached)

Personnel

Superintendent Mills presented the following personnel items.

Leave:

Allison Harter
Jennifer Fruchte
Alecia Redenius

Recommendations:

NHS Winter Coaches (See Attached)
Miranda Moore – OES Teaching Assistant
Candace Batten – LES Bobcat Care Supervisor
Natalie Taylor – OES Building Technology Resource

Donations:

\$1228 Donation from Lancaster United Methodist Church for students in need.

Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the personnel items and donation as presented. (See Attached)

NWCS App/Bus Wifi/Live Streaming of Board Meeting

IT Director Jeff Miller presented information regarding updates to the NWCS App. Miller said that they are ready to promote the app and will be sending some information out about the app before pushing it forward. Miller asked for the Boards' input. Board members agreed that they were happy and that the NWCS App was easy to use and intuitive. Miller shared that we will receive a demo unit for wi-fi for the school buses and that the wi-fi would be used for longer ECA trips. This wi-fi would have the same filter as the schools have and would allow the students to access their homework. The Board agreed to try it out in the buses. President Scott Elzey asked for Miller to present a final plan for the cost. Member Gene Donaghy asked if the football field had wi-fi. Miller stated that it only has a weak signal and is not strong enough to get wi-fi at the football field. Miller also shared that to Live Stream the board meetings the cost would run \$3000 - \$4000 which is similar to Huntington. This would include items such as, mics, camera, and sound equipment. Miller said that he would like to go ahead and purchase the \$800 camera that could be used for the Live Streaming and test it out by using it for training videos. President Elzey asked the Board if there were any concerns and the Board had no concerns.

Overnight Trip

Superintendent Mills recommended that the Board approve an overnight trip for NHS Boys Basketball team to Mishawaka for a tournament on December 26-27, 2018. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the trip as presented. (See Attached)

Corporation Calendars

Superintendent Mills shared a draft of the 2019-20 school calendar. Mills noted that the calendar mirrors the 2018-19 calendar and that they match up for the most part with the surrounding schools. Mills noted that the calendar provides a later start with first student day as Aug. 12. Board Secretary Angie Topp questioned why the second semester was starting on a Tuesday. Superintendent Mills explained that the schools want to hold a teacher in-service that includes safety training on Monday January 6. This date is a better choice for at the beginning of a semester. Mills will meet with the Teachers Association to get their feedback. President Elzey thanked Mills for his work on the future calendars. Mills stated that he would ask the Board to take action on approving the 2018-19 School Calendar and future calendars also.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mills invited guests to feel free to contact him if they have any questions about the 2019 Budget and that he would be happy to review it with them on an individual basis. Mills also shared that the Exit Interviews would be up and running by next week.

October 15th – 19th is National School Lunch Week.

The next Board meeting will be October 16th at the Central Office.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the School Board meeting was adjourned.

Scott Elzey, President

Donna Spear, Vice-President

Angie Topp, Secretary

Gene Donaghy, Member

Peggy Eschenbacher, Member

NORTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
EXECUTIVE SESSION & REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018
4:45 & 5:30 P.M.

Executive Session

Public notice of the date, time, place and specific reference to the enumerated instance for which the executive session was held had been previously posted according to statute on October 11, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Scott Elzey called to order the executive session of the Board of School Trustees. Present at the meeting were Scott Elzey, President; Donna Spear, Vice-President; Angie Topp, Secretary; Gene Donaghy, Member; Peggy Eschenbacher, Member; and Superintendent Mills.

We hereby certify that the Board met in executive session for the following purpose in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b):

Collective bargaining.

For discussion of the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans, and systems.

The meeting was adjourned and moved into regular session.

Public Comment

Scott Elzey asked if there was anyone present who wished to make a comment to the Board. No comments were made.

Call to Order

Public notice of the date, time and place of the Board meeting had been previously posted according to statute on Thursday, October 11, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Scott Elzey called to order the regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees. Present at the meeting were Scott Elzey, President; Donna Spear, Vice-President; Angie Topp, Secretary; Gene Donaghy, Member; Peggy Eschenbacher, Member; Superintendent Scott Mills; NHS Principal David Parker; NHS Athletic Director Kelby Weybright; and 9 guests.

NOTE: All actions of the Board were duly moved, seconded and adopted upon unanimous vote of the Board, and without dissenting vote or abstention, unless otherwise stated.

Presentation by High School Principal David Parker

High School Principal, David Parker presented Identify, Values, and Vision – Redefining Culture from the Ground Up at Norwell High School. Parker shared that he met with each high school staff member over the summer in addition to sending out a survey to each one. He did this to try to set the table for what NHS needed to work on first. From his work Parker concluded that the HS staff did not believe that NHS had an identity. As a result, Parker stated that the students, staff, and administration at NHS needed to dive into creating Identity for NHS. Parker noted that the AIM of NWCS, the Graduate Profile, and the NHS School Goals all provide a positive influence; the expectation of high levels of achievement, as well as establishing an outstanding culture. However, Parker recognized that the students needed to be more included in the process to better bring out those characteristics. Parker led the use of roundtable get the students input and feedback. During roundtable, students openly shared their personal core values. The words describing those values were captured and used to create banners that are displayed around the school. The most prominent values for which NHS students wished to be known were: “hard working”, “friendly”, “achievers”, “honest”, “caring”, and “kind”. Parker noted that lots of good things are going on at NHS, but there will always be continual efforts to improve. He believes that the students are on board by stating, “we have motivated achievers, we know it’s going to take all of us, and this is who we want to be.” The Board commended Parker by stating that they were excited and appreciated what he was doing.

Approval of the Minutes

Superintendent Mills recommended approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting of October 2, 2018. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

Approval of Claims

Superintendent Mills asked if there were any questions concerning the claims. Following review by the Board and responses posed, the Board approved the claims as presented.

General Fund	61,251.46
Capital Projects	47,509.61
School Transportation	23,274.25
School Lunch	31,254.08
Curricular Materials Rental	645.00
High Ability 18	319.70
2018-19 High Ability Grant	4,520.00
Title III	2,345.63

Personnel

Superintendent Mills presented the following personnel items and donations.

Resignations:

Nikia Bradley – LES Teaching Assistant

Recommendations:

Donna Lepper – NHS Teaching Assistant

Cassandra Kreider – NHS Teaching Assistant

Christina Allen – NHS Assistant Swim Coach

Donations:

\$1000 to NMS Cross Country in Memory of Gabe Norris from Matt & Angie Norris, Crosbie Memorial Wiffleball.

\$50 from NHS Class of 1968 to NHS Life Skills Club

\$400 from Park United Brethren Church for needy families' student lunches

Donation of Buddy Bench to Ossian Elementary School

Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the personnel items and donations as presented. (See Attached)

Lancaster Park Update

Roger Thornton presented to the Board an update for the Old Lancaster School Property. Thornton introduced Bluffton Common Council member, John Whicker, Mark Miller representing the Caylor-Nickel Foundation, as well as Tim Babcock and Kelby Weybright who represented youth baseball. Thornton stopped to comment to the Board, "you have an outstanding leader and have made a good choice" in reference to NHS Principal, David Parker. Thornton shared that he believed that Phase I environmental study had been completed but the results were not available yet and that the negotiations between the City of Bluffton and NWCS regarding land sale/donation agreement need to be concluded soon. Thornton shared that they want a "Family Park Experience". Thornton presented a basic architectural drawing of the park that was provided by Engineering Resources of Fort Wayne. Miller shared that the Caylor-Nickel Foundation was planning to dissolve and foundation board members saw an ideal opportunity to re-purpose the foundation's 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status to the Lancaster Park committee. Thornton shared that Lancaster Township Trustee, Ken Isch, offered a potential grant of \$50,000 to the project. Thornton shared the next steps would include the land transfer which, would be good for both the school district and the city. Thornton cautioned the board to include a revisionary clause in any transfer agreement it signs with the city to ensure that the site will be used only as a park and at any time Bluffton decides to use the land for any other use, the land would revert to Northern Wells. Thornton encouraged the board to wait to sign an agreement due to the opportunity of a new grant from the Governor's office before the end of the year and to transfer title after that. Thornton added that the log cabin that is on the property would need to be removed and that there were plans to save the cabin and move it to the Norwell Middle School as a possible learning lab. Board President, Scott Elzey asked Thornton how long had he been working on the project. Thornton replied, "since June, there has been lots of support

and it's been fun!" Vice-President Donna Spear shared that she was excited about the cabin being saved and used at the middle school. Member, Gene Donaghy stated that the park is a huge opportunity to improve the quality of life in both Bluffton and Northern Wells and will also enhance opportunities for growth and connection of trails to the park. Elzey added, "We want to make it clear that this board is willing to do something that has never been done before in this community." Vice-President Donna Spear made a motion that NWCS will sell the Lancaster Park site to the City of Bluffton at a future certain date for the sum of \$10. The transfer will be made with a reversionary clause if the City fails to create a park within a reasonable amount of time. The date of the sale shall be timed as to allow the City of Bluffton to maximize grants and donations pledged to the development of the park. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved Spear's motion. (See Attached)

NWCS School Calendar 2019-20

Superintendent Mills requested approval of the 2019-20 School Calendar. Mills noted that the calendar mirrors the 2018-19 calendar. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the 2018-19 school calendar as presented. (See Attached)

2019 Bus Replacement Plan

Superintendent Mills recommended approval of a resolution to adopt the 2019 Bus Replacement Plan. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the resolution to adopt the 2019 Bus Replacement Plan. (See Attached)

2019 Capital Projects Plan

Superintendent Mills recommended approval of a resolution to adopt the 2019 Capital Projects Plan. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the resolution to adopt the 2019 Capital Projects Plan. (See Attached)

2019 School Budget

Superintendent Mills recommended approval of a resolution to adopt the 2019 School Budget. The budget had been advertised as required with a public hearing at the last Board meeting. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the resolution to adopt the 2019 School Budget. (See Attached)

Additional Hours for OES Treasurer for Billing

Superintendent Mills recommended that the Board approve additional hours for OES Treasurer, Jenni Coratti. The proposal would pay her overtime for 3.5 hours a week, which would equal about \$91 a week and paid from the Bear Care fund. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the additional pay as presented. (See Attached)

Master Teaching Contract

Superintendent Mills recommended that the Board approve the 2018-19 Teacher's Master Contract that had been ratified by the teachers. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the 2018-19 Teacher's Master Contract as presented. (See Attached)

Presentation of Official Enrollment Results for NWCS 2018-19

Superintendent Mills presented the official enrollment results for NWCS for 2018-19. Mills shared that enrollment is up again, it has been up 4 years in a row, the ADM report shows 2485.61 students as of 9-14-2018. Member Gene Donaghy asked why there was such a sharp decline in enrollment in 2008 and 2009. Mills said that some families moved away from the district during the economic recession to seek employment opportunities elsewhere and now employment opportunities have increased and people are moving into the district. Mills shared that some of those new move-ins are unaware that they are in the Northern Wells district. Mills said that we need to get the word out to those people so they know they are in our district and not the district of our friends to the south. Mills shared that 363 students have transferred into Northern Wells from surrounding districts. Donaghy shared that it is encouraging to see so many opportunities in Wells County. Mills shared a graph of Kindergarten enrollment since 2003 with the lowest enrollment of 154 to the highest this year of 203 kindergarteners. In an effort to Predict 2019 enrollment, Mills state he uses key factors such as change in enrollment from 5th to 6th grade, 8th to 9th grade, outgoing seniors vs incoming kindergarten students, and current 2018-19 class sizes to estimate next year's numbers. Mill predicts NWCS will have another enrollment increase next year. President Scott Elzey commended Superintendent Mills for his leadership and thanked him for the presentation. (See Attached)

November 6, 2018 Board Meeting Time

Superintendent Mills recommended that the Board consider moving the start time for the November 6, 2018 regular board meeting at Ossian Elementary School to 6:30 p.m. due to the elections and polls closing at 6:00 p.m. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the start time as presented. (See Attached)

Ossian Elementary Boiler Project

Superintendent Mills recommended that the Board approve the Ossian Boiler Project and award the bid to Project Design & Piping, Inc. of Fort Wayne, IN, with a contract sum of \$124,780. Mills shared that the budgetary estimate for the bid was \$225,000 and a great savings. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the boiler project bid as presented. (See Attached)

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mills thanked the Board and guests for coming to the Board meeting.

Member Gene Donaghy shared how nice the cross country field looks and that they do a great job. Donaghy also thanked Lowes for their “Lowes Hero Project” at LES to benefit our school and kids. Donaghy also asked when something will be done with the tennis courts. Mills shared that Barton Coe Vilamaa is working on a drainage project this fall around the courts and the plan is to resurface the courts after the spring tennis season is complete.

The next Board meeting will be November 6th at Ossian Elementary School with the change of start time being 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the School Board meeting was adjourned.

Scott Elzey, President

Donna Spear, Vice-President

Angie Topp, Secretary

Gene Donaghy, Member

Peggy Eschenbacher, Member