

NORTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
EXECUTIVE SESSION & REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
LANCASTER ELEMENTARY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019
4:15 & 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 August 29, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Angie Topp called to order the executive session of the Board of School Trustees. Present at the meeting were Angie Topp, President; Scott Elzey Vice-President; Gene Donaghy, Secretary; Karen Harris, Member; Corey Krug, 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.

To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process.

We further certify that no subject matter other than the subject specified in the public notice was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned and moved into regular session.

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Call to Order

Public notice of the date, time and place of the Board meeting had been previously posted according to statute on Thursday, August 29, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Angie Topp called to order the regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees. Present at the meeting were Angie Topp, President; Scott Elzey, Vice-President; Gene Donaghy, Secretary; Karen Harris, Member; Corey Krug, Member; Superintendent Scott Mills, IT Director Jeff Miller, NMS Principal Tim Wilson, NMS 7th Grade Teacher Christina Allen, Dana Wannemacher Barton Coe Vilamaa, Jennifer Nes, Glen Werling News Banner; and 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.

Recognition

A reception with cookies and punch was held prior to the Board meeting to recognize retirees and new employees.

Superintendent Mills recognized NWCS retirees and presented them with a certificate and plaque. Those present were:

Karla McCartney – Teaching Assistant 23 years
Julie Harvey – Teacher, 25 years
Teresa Schisler – Teacher, 32 years
Gail Gronau – Central Office Payroll, 34 years

Those retirees unable to attend were:

Jody Gates – Teaching Assistant, 20 years

The building principals then introduced their new teaching staff.

LES 5th Grade Student Presentation

LES Principal Ginger Butcher introduced students from Miss Bates' 5th grade class, Miss Bates was unable to attend. In a letter to Butcher and Assistant Principal Adam McAfee the class had proposed an idea for the playground which included some painting, fundraising, paint simulating games to help students get their wiggles out, imaginations run wild. The students shared that when it rains students are stuck on the blacktop with nothing to do and they had some ideas. They had some ideas for brain breaks for the classroom also. The students are at a research stage and shared a video of their ideas for the playground. They are applying for a \$250 Tri Kappa Grant. The students came up with the idea during Genius Hour when they work on different projects. Superintendent Mills asked if the Board needed to take action and Butcher explained that they were still in the planning stage. The Board applauded the students for their presentation and work on the project.

Public Comment

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

Approval of the Minutes

Superintendent Mills recommended approval of the minutes of the executive session, hearing and regular meeting of August 20, 2019. 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.

Education Fund	7,247.74
Operations Fund	116,688.49
School Lunch	4,459.70
Curricular Materials Rental	21,146.00
Formative Remediation- 2019-20	6,950.00
NESP Grant	479.40
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Total of all funds	\$156,971.33
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Totals by Clearing	
School Lunch Clearing Account	55.00
ECA Clearing Account	37.00
IPAD Repair Parts-Covers/Cases	275.05
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Total of all clearing	\$367.05
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Grand Total	\$157,338.38

Personnel

Superintendent Mills presented the following personnel items.

Leave:

Amy Hipsher – NMS Band Director
Rebecca Gordon – OES 2nd Grade Teacher

Recommendations:

Amber Hackworth – OES Mentor Teacher to Lori Garde
Kristina Riley – OES Bear Care Supervisor
Graham Stoppenhagen – NMS Teaching Assistant
Ryan Bolyn – NHS Volunteer Assistant Football Coach
Mouang Saechao – OES Pre-school Teaching Assistant
NHS FFA Volunteer Sponsors - Wendy Bailey, Ami Crow, Macy Baker, Bobbie Shull, Gina Kiess, & Kevin Morris.

Donations:

\$800 – Park United Brethren Church for Needy Families Student Lunches.
\$500 – HOPE Ministries, Inc. for Supplies for OES Students.
\$192.30 – AETNA, Anonymous
NHS Boys' Basketball Program \$93.00 and Swim Team \$99.30
\$100 – Six Mile Church Missions for NHS students.
\$750 – Anonymous to NHS Volleyball Team
\$200 – Ruoff Mortgage/Kevin Pritchard to NHS Personal Finance Budget Challenge Simulations.
\$140 – Ossian Retired Staff to OES for Field Trips
\$500 – Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union #166 to NMS Robotics Club

Trips:

NMS 6th Grade Technology – Roembke Manufacturing
NMS 8th Grade Excaliburs, 9/17/19 and 8th Grade Valiants 9/18/19 to Old Fort, Sweet Breeze Canal Boat, & Allen County Court House.

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

2020-21 School Calendar

Superintendent Mills requested approval of the 2020-21 School Calendar. Mills included an update using January 18th and April 2nd as eLearning if needed for a make-up day, and February 15th would be a regular school day, if needed also June 6th for high school graduation. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the 2020-21 School Calendar as presented. (See Attached)

Barton Coe Vilamaa – Project Update

Architect Dana Wannamacher of Barton Coe Vilamaa shared a list of progress on the projects at Norwell High School and Ossian Elementary. (See Attached)

Superintendent Mills shared that he received an email asking if there were any plans to do anything with the middle school. Mills shared that he has had some conversations with Wannamacher, that the Lancaster debt will be retired in 2022, and there is a great potential to begin a project at the middle school starting in 2022. Mills said that the money we are using to pay the Lancaster bonds could be used for a middle school project and would have no additional tax impact. Mills asked Wannamacher to share information regarding the present condition of Norwell Middle School and what we should be thinking about right now for a project there.

Wannamacher presented information about the middle school repair needs, structure, walls, roof, underslab plumbing, heating & cooling system and lighting. Wannamacher said you begin to ask, “Is it worth preserving?” He discussed that the 2nd floor walls cannot be replaced by masonry because the structure could not support the weight and the media center area ramps are at the correct level but far too long for ADA compliance. Wannamacher wondered what is the community’s expectation would be after millions of dollars were spent and what would they expect the final product to look like. He discussed potential timelines and options proposed such as, consideration of building a new school, renovation of the existing structure, or a combination of both. Also discussed were the time needed for design, budget, public polling, how quickly you want to do the project, public hearings, maybe a referendum, approval, contractors, bidding, construction, and Construction Manager at Risk (CMA). Mills thanked Wannamacher for sharing the information. Secretary Gene Donaghy asked if the middle school gym and pool would be able to stand alone. Wannamacher said that structurally they could but they may or may not have exterior walls, and be fed differently from a heating & cooling and electric prospective.

Permission to use School Facilities, Non-School Field Trip Organizational Meetings

NMS 7th grade teacher Christina Allen requested permission to use the school facilities for non-school field trip organizational meetings. Allen explained that the meetings were for a

NMS 7th Grade, New York City trip. Mills explained that our field trip policy requires a non-corporation sponsored trip to seek Board permission to hold meetings or organizational activities that are associated with the trip at our schools. This trip is not affiliated with NWCS and it would just be offering Allen the opportunity to hold the meetings in our schools. Mills recommended the Board approve the request. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the request as presented. (See Attached)

Section 257 Requirement for TRF Reduction

Superintendent Mills shared with the Board the Section 257 requirement for the Teachers Retirement Fund reduction. Mills said the new law basically states that Governor Holcomb contributed \$150,000,000 from the states reserves to make teachers retirement “whole”. By making teachers retirement whole the people that are in the post 1996 group would have a 2% reduction in the amount of money the schools have to send to TRF to support teachers retirement. Mills said the law states that schools have to identify how much money is saved from that 2% and what our intention is to do with that money. The corporation has \$150,691.98 in savings that we don’t send to TRF for all certified employees, because of that we have \$134,986.50 coming from the bargaining unit members. Mills recommended the board utilize those monies, \$134,986.50, to be used to help increase the base salary of the members of the collective bargaining unit. Mills said after accounting for social security taxes of 7.65%, and the TRF contributions that are the responsibility of the corporation, the remainder could fund the teacher increases. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved the recommendation as presented. (See Attached)

2019 Budget Workshop

Superintendent Mills discussed with the Board and guests the 2020 NWCS School Budget Draft. Mills presented a power point covering items such as Budget Considerations, 2020 Funds, Revenue Sources, Basic Grant, Other Sources of Revenues, 2020 budget, what the Debt Service Pays for, Referendum Debt, Education & Operations Funds, Basic Grant, NWCS ADM since 2009, Education Fund Proposed Budget as of 9-4-2018 (\$15,100.0000), Operations Fund Proposed Budget as of 9-3-2019 (\$8,900,000), and Capital Projects Plan, Bus Replacement Plan, and Rainy Day Fund. Mills asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. He said he would have additional budget information at the next board meeting and will also request permission from the board members to post the school board budget to the Gateway government website. After it is posted, a public hearing will be held on the budget at the board meeting on October 5th. The budget will then be considered for adoption by the board at the board meeting on October 19th. (See Attached)

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Mills shared information about State Road 1 closures and that some buses could be delayed getting back to the elementary schools after the high school/middle school routes. Mills also reported that ILearn results would be released tomorrow and a press conference would be held in Fort Wayne that he is planning to attend.

Strategic Planning meeting will be September 16, 2019.

The next School Board meeting will be September 17, 2019.

Adjournment

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

Angie Topp, President

Scott Elzey, Vice-President

Gene Donaghy, Secretary

Karen Harris, Member

Corey Krug, Member

NORTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC PLANNING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019@6:30 PM
EXECUTIVE SESSION & REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
4:45 P.M. & 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 September 12, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Angie Topp called to order the executive session of the Board of School Trustees. Present at the meeting were Angie Topp, President; Scott Elzey, Vice-President; Gene Donaghy, Secretary; Karen Harris, Member; Corey Krug, 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.

To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process.

We further certify that no subject matter other than the subject specified in the public notice was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned and moved into regular session.

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

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 12, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Angie Topp called to order the regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees. Present at the meeting were Angie Topp, President; Scott Elzey, Vice-President; Gene Donaghy, Secretary; Karen Harris, Member; Corey Krug; Member, Superintendent Mills, IT Director Jeff Miller, Jennifer Nes, and 3 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.

Public Comment

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

Approval of the Minutes

Superintendent Mills recommended approval of the minutes of the executive session and regular board meeting conducted September 3, 2019. 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.

Education Fund	33,092.49
Operations Fund	183,225.98
School Lunch	32,965.10
Curricular Materials Rental	8,014.96
School Lunch Donation	305.84
LES-Makerspace Mini-Grant	85.57
<u>Autism Summer School Donation</u>	<u>108.40</u>
Total of All Funds	\$257,798.34
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<u>Totals by Clearing</u>	
Group Insurance Retiree Health	<u>855.00</u>
Total of all Clearing	855.00
Grand Total	\$258,653.34

Personnel

Superintendent Mills presented the following personnel items.

Resignations:

Jonathan Baker – NHS Social Studies Teacher
Sarah Heath – OES Special Education Teacher
Michelle Wallace – OES Teaching Assistant

Leaves:

Jennifer Sander – OES 3rd Grade Teacher

Recommendations:

Maddie Bates – LES Robotics Co-Coach
Megan Davis – Bus Driver
Jenelle Rindahl – NHS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach

Donations:

NHS Personal Finance Budget Challenge Simulations Donations

\$750 - Ossian State Bank

\$312.50 - American Mortgage Service Company

\$312.50 – Edward Jones

Anonymous Donations

\$200 – to NHS Volleyball

\$300 – to NHS Girls Basketball

Don & Tony Flecks Trenching donated work preformed at HS/MS \$2500

Trips:

NHS Girls Basketball Overnight trip to Indianapolis

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

Permission to Advertise 2020 Budget

Superintendent Mills asked the Board to approve permission to post the 2020 School Budget and advertise it on the State of Indiana Gateway governmental website as required by law. Mills stated that the Budget Hearing would be held October 1, 2019 and would go to the Board for approval on October 15, 2019. Following review by the Board and responses to questions posed, the Board approved posting/advertising the budget. (See Attached)

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mills shared that NWCS would be marching in the Bluffton Street Fair parade on Thursday, September 19th at 6:00 PM. He encouraged board members to attend.

The next School Board meeting will be October 1, 2019 at Norwell Middle School.

Adjournment

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

Angie Topp, President

Scott Elzey, Vice-President

Gene Donaghy, Secretary

Karen Harris, Member

Corey Krug, Member