

**NORTH PUTNAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
NOVEMBER 19, 2020 MINUTES**

The members of the Board of School Trustees of the North Putnam Community School Corporation held a regular session meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2020, 7:00 P.M. at North Putnam High School, Large Group Instruction Room, 8869 N CR 250 E, Roachdale, Indiana.

Board members present in person:                   Dustin Osborn  
                                                                  Travis Lambermont  
                                                                  Joanie Knapp  
                                                                  Ron Spencer  
                                                                  Darrell Wiatt

Board members present by Google Meet:       Mark Hoke

Board members absent:                             Amber Greene

Superintendent present:                         Nicole Singer

Attorney present:                                 Darren Chadd

**I. PUBLIC MEETING**

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance:**

Ron Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Amber Greene, Dustin Osborn, Travis Lambermont, Joanie Knapp, Ron Spencer, and Darrell Wiatt. Mark Hoke was present by Google Meet.

**B. Approval of Agenda:**

Dr. Singer stated that any additional personnel changes have been noted with an asterisk.

**C. Public Comments:**

There were no comments from the public.

**II. CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

**A. Celebrating Success – Rodney Simpson, Principal, Bainbridge Elementary (Honoree: Kristy Lippencott):**

Kristy Lippencott, Teacher at North Putnam High School, is the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award for November.

Kristy Lippencott graduated from the University of Indianapolis and Olivet Nazarene University. She has taught students at North Putnam for 32 years. She does an amazing job with the students. The students in her class work at college level. She is very helpful to all students and staff. She enjoys anything related to sports, running, and playing basketball. She loves animals and has a horse, three mini donkeys, a goat, and a dog. She is very valuable to North Putnam High School. Congratulations to Kristy Lippencott. We are very proud of her.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA (All Board Approvals for Personnel are Pending an Expanded Criminal History Check and completion of appropriate new hire paperwork)**

- A. Approval of Minutes-October 8, 2020, Regular Session Board Minutes**
- B. Approval of Claims for Payment and Payrolls**
- C. Donation Report**
- D. Personnel Report**

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the above consent agenda as presented. Ron Spencer seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

#### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Approval of High School Trip to Costa Rica (Spring Break 2022) – Jordan Baire (Spanish Teacher):**  
Jason Chew noted this is a trip using World Strides, which is the same company used for the middle school trips to Italy and Iceland. Jordan Baire commented that it would be a seven day trip and the students will have hands on experience and be able to interact with local children and members of the community. The cost is \$3,000 per person to attend. She hasn't checked yet to see how much interest there is. Mark Hoke asked if fundraising would be done. Jordan Baire noted she would love to do fundraising and hopes enough could be raised to cover the cost of the whole trip. Travis Lambermont asked how many people have to sign up for this. She said the minimum is six.

Dustin Osborn motioned to approve the above trip as presented. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

- B. Approval of Chapter 6 Board Policy:**

Dr. Singer noted that previously the changes were minimal, but this chapter had significant changes so red line version was created for the Board to easily see all of the changes. She noted that expulsion appeals from parents will not be heard by the Board. The parent still has an appeal process, but it is through the Circuit Court. Ron Spencer wanted to clarify that the appeals process to the Circuit Court is not an addition to the policy, but it has always been in there. Dr. Singer responded that this is correct. The immunization requirement due date of twenty days after the enrollment of a student will be extended through Thanksgiving of this year. The policy change is to allow for what is presently listed with the addition of parents communicating pending vaccination appointments with the school.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the above Chapter 6 Board policy changes as presented. Darrell Wiatt seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

- C. Virtual School Handbook Amendment:**

Dr. Singer noted that with all of the changes since July, they had to amend the handbook. Kindergarten through fifth grade can move to virtual any time during the school year. Ron Spencer asked how many students attend virtually. Kathy Sykes noted that there are 15 students in grades K-5, 18 students in grades 6-8, and 25 students in grades 9-12. Jason Chew noted a concern for the high school has been credits for students. Virtual and in person are different curriculums and do not match up. Scott Miller noted they have students taking classes that give them high school credit, and so it affects this if they go from in person to virtual. The Board likes the flexibility for all students.

Dustin Osborn motioned to approve the above Virtual School Handbook amendment as presented. Ron Spencer seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

- D. Approval of 2021-2022 School Calendar:**

Dr. Singer noted that August 5, 2021 will be the first day for teachers and students will begin on August 9, 2021. All snow days would become eLearning days.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the above 2021-2022 school calendar as presented. Darrell Wiatt seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

- E. Approval of Transfer Resolution for 2021 (Budget):**

Tanya Pearson noted we have done this the past couple of years. When the funds are transferred between the educational and operational funds, it is the standard procedure for us to transfer fifteen percent.

Travis Lambermont motioned to approve the Transfer Resolution. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

- F. Micro Credentialing of Teachers:**

Dr. Singer noted that through the Title IV grant and partnership with Equitable Education Solutions, we have the opportunity for eight teachers and one administrator to receive advanced training in best practices for math and reading/language arts. We have been doing curriculum work with Equitable Education

Solutions for the past two years. Each staff member will participate in a specific monthly topic and work, in a virtual setting, on their own for an additional six hours per month. After completing, each staff member will receive a \$2,000 stipend covered by the grant, 50 professional growth points, and will be able to train other staff to share their learning. Recommendations were received by building administrators and they selected the following staff members to participate in the professional development. Bainbridge Elementary chose Laurie Hensley and Julia Nesbitt; Roachdale Elementary chose Julie Black and Heather Conner; the middle school chose Matt Couch and Andrew Hardy; and the high school chose Mildred Enicks and Kyle Morgan. Brandon Wagler will be the administrator.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the above micro credentialing of teachers. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

## **V. REPORTS**

### **A. Superintendent:**

Dr. Singer asked the administrators to share their plans at this meeting if we have to move to hybrid learning. Dr. Heavin and the Department of Health nurse have been very helpful as well as Mrs. Unger. Their goal is to keep us in school as long as possible. Staffing issues have been a concern and not having enough subs. The administrators have plans in place if this happens. We received the TAG money. A portion of it went to Area 30 and ONT teachers and the rest went to our teachers. We received notification from Riley Children's Hospital that our school corporation has been recognized as a Riley corporation, which means our schools donated enough dollars that it equals one dollar per student. She wanted everyone to have a nice Thanksgiving. The corporation is closed November 25, 26, and 27.

### **B. Treasurer:**

They had the annual IASBO meeting virtually this week. They received updates from leaders on new laws. They had a meeting Thursday with Komputrol and discussed all of the new updates. We are working on teacher contracts and getting the retro pay out.

### **C. Director of Operations:**

Terry Tippin noted that the number of meals has increased drastically since August. All of our meals are one hundred percent reimbursable until the end of the school year. We have discussed offering an evening meal. The County Commissioners and the Safe School Commission put together an app for all employees to have on their phones for an intruder alert. The red button for a violent intruder goes out to every law enforcement officer and first responder.

### **D. Administrators:**

Scott Miller congratulated our School Resource Officer, Adam Logan, for graduating from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Janice Goldberg was selected as the ONT Teacher of the Month. They received a \$500 donation from the Putnam County Community Foundation to help out with anything needed. Their support is greatly appreciated. Their hybrid plan is similar to the high school plan. He will let Jason Chew explain the plan.

Jason Chew commented that they will have Google meet classes. They want to make sure the students are learning and expectations will be different this time around. We are going to allow a broader flexibility for students to move from in person to virtual and back. We would prefer any changes were done at a break, but need to provide some flexibility. He gave kudos to the nurse and health aides. They have done a great job. The teachers have done a great job too. They are doing twice as much work this year. He hopes next month to bring forward the courses of study. North Putnam TV will be live streaming a lot of the content for the high school. Brandon Wagler noted they gave a goal to Mr. Brooks and his class to come up with a Veteran's Day Program and they did a great job with this. The videos were all student led and student produced. Some of the students wrote thank you notes to the veterans. He also feels the teachers are doing a phenomenal job. They received a \$500 donation from the Putnam County Community Foundation. Their support is greatly appreciated. He thanked Dustin Osborn and Darrell Wiatt for their support while on the Board.

Roger Busch noted that, with the addition of new coaches and everyone being indoors, winter activities have been a task, but the coaches are doing a great job. All four gyms are used every day from morning until night. The swimming competitions cannot have spectators this year. Mr. Brooks and his class will film and live stream swimming as well as wrestling. Boys' and girls' basketball is off to a good start. As of today, we are in the yellow, so winter Senior Night is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Bucky Kramer noted that everything has been good with middle school athletics. The challenges they face are cancellations from other schools. The teachers are doing an outstanding job.

Beth Waterman was unable to attend the meeting. Rodney Simpson provided an update for Roachdale. Things at Roachdale are going well and they are focused on learning. They will have benchmark testing next week and anticipate a great growth. The students learned about Veteran's Day. They have been doing professional development with Joe Kwisz, ONT. They received a \$500 donation from the Putnam County Community Foundation. Their support is greatly appreciated.

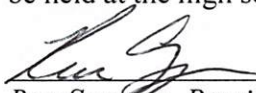
Rodney Simpson had a virtual Veteran's Day Program as well. He attended the IPLI virtual conference. The second benchmark assessment is coming up in December. They received a \$500 donation from the Putnam County Community Foundation. Their support is greatly appreciated. Mrs. Hensley's class will work on a book of our community and our school. They received funds from the FFA at the high school for gifts for students. They received some backpacks from Youth Philanthropy. They had their virtual Spell Bowl last week. Robotics will do something virtually also. The Mary Allison Children's Trust Fund donated money to the school for a safety program and extra money for students who need clothes. For their hybrid plan, the teacher would come in and teach from their classroom and the grade levels would be split out for the week. They will do some live teaching as well as videos. The teachers are doing a great job.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS:**

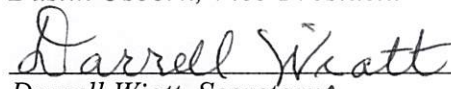
Joanie Knapp feels we have good things going on right now. She congratulated Grace Elmore and Grace Timm for being Lilly Scholarship finalists. The Alumni Association gave service awards. Congratulations to Kate Skirvin on being nominated by the Indiana FFA to receive the Honorary American Degree. She enjoys the Wednesday live athletic updates. She wanted to thank all staff and teachers for working so hard. Mark Hoke congratulated Mrs. Lippencott for being selected as Teacher of the Month. Travis Lambermont commented that we have one more contract to discuss and it has to be done by the end of the year. This is the superintendent's contract. He wanted to make sure we are going to plan a special meeting or add it to next month's agenda. Ron Spencer responded that this is the plan. Ron Spencer thanked everyone as well. He thanked Darrell and Dustin for their time on the Board and appreciates their efforts. Dustin Osborn gave kudos to everyone for the hard work. Darrell Wiatt thanked the staff for doing such a wonderful job. He thanked the Board members for the planter and donation made in honor of his late wife. All thoughts and prayers were appreciated.

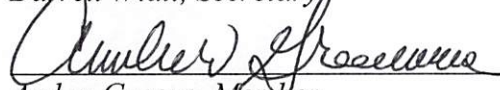
**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

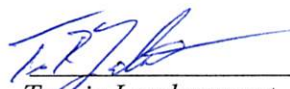
There being no further business to come before the Board, Joanie Knapp moved for adjournment of the meeting. Travis Lambermont seconded the motion and it carried by a 6 – 0 vote. The next meeting will be held at the high school.

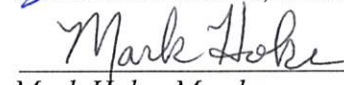
  
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Ron Spencer, President

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Dustin Osborn, Vice-President

  
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Darrell Wiatt, Secretary

  
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Amber Greene, Member

  
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Travis Lambermont, Member

  
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Mark Hoke, Member

  
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Joanie Knapp, Member