

NORTH PUTNAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
AUGUST 18, 2022 MINUTES

The members of the Board of School Trustees of the North Putnam Community School Corporation held a regular session meeting on Thursday, August 18, 2022, 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: Mark Hoke
Heather Lawson
Eric Oliver
Ron Spencer

Board members absent: Travis Lambermont
Joanie Knapp
Amber Greene

Superintendent present: Nicole Allee

Attorney present: Dan Taylor

I. SUPPORT

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

Mark Hoke called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Mark Hoke, Heather Lawson, Eric Oliver, and Ron Spencer.

B. Approval of Agenda:

There were no changes to the agenda.

C. Recognition: Celebrating Success – Beth Waterman, Principal, Roachdale (Honoree: Valerie Lenihan):

Valerie Lenihan, Teacher at Roachdale Elementary, is the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award for August.

Valerie Lenihan graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Education. She has taught at Roachdale Elementary for twenty-one years. She is a valuable teacher and we appreciate her hard work. She enjoys puzzles and spending as much time as she can with her grandchildren. Congratulations to Valerie Lenihan. We are very proud of her.

D. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

E. Consent Agenda:

An addition was made to the personnel report. Greg Lowe, Instructional Assistant, was added for Bainbridge Elementary.

Ron Spencer motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented with the one addition. Eric Oliver seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

F. Approval to Dispose of Surplus Items:

Dr. Allee noted that the quality of the item will determine sale or resale.

Eric Oliver motioned to approve the disposal of surplus items. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

G. ECA Bus Pay:

Ron Spencer discussed \$18 per hour regardless of driving or sitting. The school would be charged as in the past.

Ron Spencer motioned to approve the bus pay at \$18 per hour and the school charged the same amount. Eric Oliver seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

II. PROTECT

A. Approval of Property Casualty, Workman’s Comp, and Liability Insurance by HBG:

John Parmley, HBG Insurance, provided the Board with a comparison of the costs relative to last year. Workman’s Comp is based on past claims. If we look at cost now and factor in inflation, we are paying about the same as three years ago. Mr. Parmley did check the replacement costs for our buildings against newly built schools and he believes we are covered.

Mark Hoke motioned to approve the above insurance as presented. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

B. MOU-Putnam County Health Department:

Dr. Allee noted that the Putnam County Health Department received a grant from the state to provide a nurse to be present and in the schools to help with COVID. The nurse can provide presentations to classes or help a teacher/nurse with any type of program they may be interested in. The nurse could help with an onsite vaccination trailer, if we choose, record keeping, and vision/hearing exams. The nurse would be in each school district one day a week at our nurse’s discretion. This has been reviewed by Dan Taylor, Corporation Attorney, and he wanted to make sure they understand the nurse will be paid by the Putnam County Health Department and is not an employee of the school corporation. He has done many MOU’s similar to this and it is an important document. The Board had discussions and questions about liability responsibility and workman’s comp. Mr. Taylor noted that the nurse would be under our workman’s comp. He said he believes the county is moving insurance to us since they are providing a nurse for free. Dr. Allee said her work will be primarily paperwork and educational presentations in the classrooms. If we do not want to have a vaccination trailer, we do not have to and this may limit our exposure to risks.

Eric Oliver motioned to approve the above MOU with the Putnam County Health Department as presented. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 3 – 1 vote (Ron Spencer nay).

III. ENGAGE

There were no topics.

IV. EDUCATE

A. Staff Evaluation Plan:

Dr. Allee provided the Board with the Staff Evaluation Plan from last year since nothing has changed. We will use RISE for teachers and administrators. An Evaluation Rubric will be used for counselors and special education, but based on their respective organizations.

Ron Spencer motion to approve the above Staff Evaluation Plan as presented. Eric Oliver seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

B. Kindergarten Report Card:

They have streamlined the Kindergarten report card. Rodney Simpson noted it is standards based and follows the DOE grade-level standards. He worked with all classroom teachers at each level to prepare the report card. Students will have quarterly assessments. Beth Waterman commented that it clearly explains the mastery of skills. It excludes items not directly related to the standards. Dr. Allee further explained the expectation of skills needed to be attained before promotions are enumerated.

Eric Oliver motioned to approve the above Kindergarten report card as presented. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

V. DEVELOP

A. Permission to Advertise Budgets, Tax Rates and Levies for 2023 (Budget Estimate and Current Tax Levies, CPF Plan Notice of Expenditures, School Bus Replacement):

Tanya Pearson noted it's time to advertise the 2023 budget. The assessed value increased from \$554,175,036 to \$661,684,540, which is an increase of \$97,509,504. Last year, we advertised the tax rate of \$1.6776 and this year we are going to advertise the rate as \$1.5911. Our ADM has increased from 1,296 to 1,360. ADM final count for 2022-2023 will be in September. We budgeted for the maximum levy in operations. After the DLGF reviews the 2023 budget, the tax rate should be around \$1.06 or maybe a little more. She did increase the Debt Service to keep the tax rate level.

Heather Lawson motioned to grant permission to advertise the 2023 budget as presented. Eric Oliver seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent (Dr. Allee):

The assessed value increased across the state for most districts. We are looking for ways to manage the tax rate. We want it to be consistent and normal and we have worked with consultants to determine the best ways to manage this. We sell a GO bond yet this fall. We have some facility maintenance issues and equipment needs. We will continue to review the best way to broadly take care of brick and mortar issues that have been mentioned by the Board in work sessions as well as patrons in meetings last year.

B. Treasurer (Tanya Pearson):

We are still in the process of being audited by the state. They will wrap up soon. She added the Form 9 to ensure the Board sees it. They will need to sign this along with the claims.

C. Director of Operations (Terry Tippin):

He has received only positive comments about MyStop. The drivers and administrators have worked very hard to make sure this year runs smoothly. He has heard only positive feedback about the new drop off and pick up process. He believes it is much safer.

D. Director of Student Services (Rodney Simpson):

He shared the iLearn numbers. We had the highest scores in the county in all areas. They were even higher than surrounding and larger schools. The fourth graders did an amazing job. We had 86% of third graders pass iRead. That's down a little, but still good. They are meeting with Title I teachers. They are continuing to meet and train on PowerSchool. They are attending a curricular meeting with the county and the state. Mark Hoke asked how the new position has been for Mr. Simpson. He said it has been good.

E. Administrators:

Brandon Wagler said the start of the school year has been great at Bainbridge Elementary. The teachers have done a great job. The building has not been too warm. He gave kudos to our SRO, James Collings.

Jason Chew provided a report. The beginning of the year has been smooth. We have homecoming in three weeks. There will not be a parade, but they are having a carnival. We received the SAT data and he wasn't extremely pleased. In their defense, it was the first time to give the college assessment to every student in the school.

Bucky Kramer thanked the custodial staff for their hard work. Everything looks nice. Enrollment is up. Sixth grade orientation was successful. We have added some new instructional assistants. He thanked Rodney Simpson for the data review. The new courses are giving the students more selection. He thanked the SRO for being in the buildings.

Beth Waterman thanked Officer Collings and the custodians. The Ivy League Kids program is going well. The playground was delivered yesterday. The company is working Saturday to complete it. We have had a great start to the school year.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS:

Ron Spencer said he has heard nothing but good things tonight and from parents. He received good comments about MyStop. He thanked Dr. Allee for the Board Retreat. Eric Oliver has heard good things. Heather Lawson likes the parking lot and pick up in the back. The campus looks great. She thanked the high school for the calendar. Mark Hoke liked the high school report. It has been a smooth beginning to the year. He has heard good comments from busses to drop off.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Heather Lawson moved for adjournment of the meeting. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 – 0 vote. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 22, 2022 at the high school.

Travis Lambermont, President

Heather Lawson, Member

Mark Hoke, Vice President

Eric Oliver, Member

Joanie Knapp, Secretary

Ron Spencer, Member

Amber Greene, Member