

NORTH PUTNAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
JULY 20, 2023 MINUTES

The members of the Board of School Trustees of the North Putnam Community School Corporation held a regular session meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2023, 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: Joanie Knapp
Mark Hoke
Amber Greene
Heather Lawson
David McCollough
Ron Spencer

Board members absent: Eric Oliver

Superintendent present: None

Attorney present: Dan Taylor

I. SUPPORT

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

Joanie Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Joanie Knapp, Mark Hoke, Amber Greene, Heather Lawson, David McCollough, and Ron Spencer.

B. Approval of Agenda:

The Board requested to suspend the rules to add an agenda item.

Joanie Knapp motioned to suspend the rules and add an agenda item for discussion on the date of the next Board meeting. Ron Spencer seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 0 vote. This will be added as Item J under the support agenda.

C. Public Comments:

Representatives from the Putnam County Health Department were in attendance. They are the school liaison for North Putnam. They are happy to help with anything needed at the schools. One of them is a retired educator and could help with curriculum and games at recess if needed and the other is the new medical office manager. They will be bringing a lot of things to the community. They have a vaccine trailer now and they can come to the schools if needed. If the Board needs anything, they can contact them.

A maintenance staff member commented that we have panic buttons that have not been working for a while. These need to be fixed as soon as possible. He asked who is taking care of the disc golf course and what is going on with it. The HVAC at Bainbridge Elementary continues to be a problem.

A patron discussed the cross country fundraiser listed on the agenda. She hopes to see the community come out for the 12 hour run/walk relay on the North Putnam Track. If they have any questions, she is happy to help them. There are a lot of parents supporting the event and lots of activities planned. This will be held on September 15th and 16th.

D. Consent Agenda:

Heather Lawson requested that the first item on the personnel report be voted on separately from the rest of the list. Ron Spencer thought that the last minutes should have noted the Board wanted to come back at another meeting on a recommendation for disc golf and how it was going to be handled. The other Board members agreed that this was what they requested. Terry Tippin noted that at the first Board meeting when disc golf was approved it was supposed to be self-maintained. At the last meeting, the Board asked us to investigate and make sure it didn't look bad. We had a couple of meetings with the disc golf group and they discussed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He will check on this for the next Board meeting. Ron

Spencer commented that we need clear direction on who is taking care of it. He doesn't think we need an MOU. It should be us taking care of it. Dan Taylor noted that once we have something on our grounds it becomes our responsibility. Since it's our property, we are responsible for it legally no matter what arrangement we have. Terry Tippin will research this some more and get back with the Board. This will be added for the next meeting.

Heather Lawson motioned to remove the first item on the personnel report. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 1 vote (Ron Spencer nay).

Joanie Knapp thanked Mary Lee Rippy for 44 years of service and being such a big part of North Putnam. We were very fortunate to have her.

Ron Spencer motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented with the change to the personnel report. David McCollough seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

E. Authorization to Engage ISBA to Begin Search for New Superintendent:

Joanie Knapp noted they have met with Steve Norton, ISBA, to do some preliminary work in the search for a superintendent.

Amber Greene motioned to approve the authorization to engage ISBA to begin search for new superintendent. Ron Spencer seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

F. Approve Appointment of Interim Superintendent:

Joanie Knapp motioned to table the appointment of an interim superintendent in order to conduct interviews. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

G. Approval of School Lunch Price Increase:

Terry Tippin noted lunch prices are dictated by a price adjustment calculator from the Department of Education (DOE). He provided a list of new prices for breakfast and lunch. This is based on the consumer price index. Ron Spencer asked how we compare to other schools. Terry Tippin is not sure.

Heather Lawson motioned to approve the school lunch price increase as presented. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

H. Approval of Ivy League Kids Program:

Rodney Simpson noted that last year we started a new after school Ivy League Kids Program. It's time to renew that contract. We had up to 10 to 15 students at one time. This program is no cost to the corporation. They were set up at the Back to School night and registration. Information about the program also was sent home to parents.

Mark Hoke motioned to approve the above Ivy League Kids Program as presented. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

I. Approval of Titan School Solutions Credit and Debit Software for School Lunch:

Terry Tippin said that when we went to the PowerSchool point of sale we had to go away from the program we had for school lunch. Chartwells works with a company that is already chosen as the point of sale service. Titan School Solutions would be the online portion of this that Chartwells works with currently. The service fee to pay online for school lunch is \$2.60. He noted there were other options, but this was the cheapest. Heather Lawson asked if there are other software companies. Terry Tippin said there are, but he recommends this one because they work with our system. Tanya Pearson noted there is no fee to pay at the building. The fee is for online payments only.

Ron Spencer motioned to approve Titan School Solutions credit and debit software for school lunch as presented. David McCollough seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

J. Board Meeting Date for Next Month:

Joanie Knapp requested to move the Board meeting scheduled for August 17, 2023 to August 16, 2023.

Joanie Knapp motioned to move the next Board meeting to August 16, 2023. Amber Greene seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

II. PROTECT

A. Review of Back to School Plan:

Each school is required to have a Back to School Plan that explains when students should stay home if they are sick.

David McCollough motioned to approve the above Back to School Plan as presented. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

B. Approval of Teacher Appreciate Grant (TAG) Policy:

This is the same as in past years. We must approve a TAG Policy each year. The only change is the date. This has to be submitted by September 15, 2023.

Heather Lawson motioned to approve the above TAG Policy as presented. Amber Greene seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

C. Approval of School Resource Officer (SRO) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Town of Bainbridge:

Last year’s MOU expires on July 31, 2023. This is the same wording as last year, but with a 5% increase. The School Safety Grant is \$60,000, so this still stays within that amount.

Mark Hoke motioned to approve the above MOU with the Town of Bainbridge as presented. Ron Spencer seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

D. Amendment to Media Center Policy:

Dan Taylor noted the amendment would modify the Chapter 7 Board Policy to comply with the new law that allows parents to request the removal of books in the library. This needs to be in place by January 1, 2024. If a request is made, the Board decides the issue and applies the statute on whether it is harmful to minors. The person who made the request can appeal it. This brings us into compliance with the two new laws that require it. Jason Chew noted the media centers are logged so they know what books are in there.

David McCollough motioned to approve the above amendment to the Media Center Policy as presented. Amber Greene seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

III. ENGAGE

There were no topics.

IV. EDUCATE

There were no topics.

V. DEVELOP

There were no topics.

VI. REPORTS

A. Treasurer (Tanya Pearson):

She has put in the budget for 2024, but she will need to update and upload it tomorrow. The Insurance Trust voted today for a 4% increase to health insurance.

B. Director of Operations (Terry Tippin):

There have been issues with the freezers outside. A compressor was needed at the middle school and high school and those were replaced. They started working on the panic buttons as soon as school was out. When

they switched over our electronic door system, somehow these were not involved in the switch. These will be installed by next week. The door project has started. August 2, 2023 is registration from noon to 7:00 p.m. Computers will be set up for parents who want to come in and register. National Night Out is scheduled for July 31, 2023 at the fairgrounds.

C. Director of Student Services (Rodney Simpson):

He provided information on estimates for textbook rental. He has been very conservative. Everything is for one year because we do not know what the exact student count will be until October. He found a Mystery Science Program that will be good for our students. Most students will be \$151 for textbook rental. Heather Lawson asked if there are renewable grants to help with the corporation costs. He said there could be. He will bring something forward when the numbers come through. Heather Lawson thanked him for the information.

D. Administrators:

Beth Waterman spent last week in Chicago at a Conscious Discipline Conference. This is a great opportunity to bring to our teachers. We are very excited for our staff and this process. This is a corporation wide program.

Bucky Kramer spent last weekend in Iceland. It was a great trip. Every staff position is filled. He said PowerSchool is a good system.

Bart Simpson said it was a great summer for all sports and they had a lot of camps. This Saturday, North Putnam is hosting the cheer competition. Fall practices start at the end of this month.

Jason Chew provided SAT data from last school year. The Class of 2023 was the first class to be given the test by the state. They are giving college ready assessments to juniors. When reviewing the data, our students beat everyone in our county in English and Math. We make sure to push students to take challenging courses so they succeed and are prepared for the future.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS:

Ron Spencer appreciates all the hard work. They need to keep communication open. David McCollough thanked everyone for the hard work. Heather Lawson would like to discuss the graphics design course later. She thanked Denver McMurtry for speaking and all of his hard work. Mark Hoke asked the administrators if there is anyone who we would like to be the voice for North Putnam on the WREB radio. They can let him know. Joanie Knapp thanked Mary Lee Rippey again and said she is amazing. She thanked everyone for working so closely together during the transition time.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Amber Greene moved for adjournment of the meeting. Heather Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a 6 – 0 vote. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 16, 2023 at the high school.

Joanie Knapp, President

Eric Oliver, Member

Mark Hoke, Vice President

Ron Spencer, Member

Heather Lawson, Secretary

David McCollough, Member

Amber Greene, Member