

NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL CORPORATION

February 10, 2010

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at Northwestern High School. All board members were present including Ryan Snoddy, Harold Seamon and Sheila Lamb, and 2 interested parties. President Steve Long called the meeting to order and Greg Finley opened with prayer. The minutes of the January 14, 2010 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion made by Howard Eller and seconded by Lois Hartman. The agenda was unanimously approved on a motion made Ted Merrell and seconded by Greg Finley.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Due to inclement weather conditions and the cancellation of school earlier in the day, students were not recognized. February students will be honored along with the March students of the month at the next meeting.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. **President's Day/Snow Make-Up Day:** School **WILL BE** in session on President's Day (Feb. 15) as a make-up day, due to cancellation of classes on Jan 21st. Additionally, due to the cancellations this week, school will be in session on April 16 and May 24th.
- B. **ISBA Region 5 Spring Meeting:** Board members were provided information regarding the Region 5 Spring Meeting on Tues., March 16 at the Kokomo Country Club. Mrs. Lamb will make reservations for those attending.

II. CLAIMS AND FINANCIAL

Claims in the amount of \$117,797.01, \$137,539.71, and \$412,431.98, and payroll claim listings of \$323,253.70, and \$321,900.97 were unanimously approved for payment on a motion from Ted Merrell and a second from Greg Finley.

III. PERSONNEL

Howard Eller made the motion to approve the following personnel items presented. Lois Hartman seconded and the following were approved unanimously:

- A. Accept the resignation of **Trent Fine** as middle school Health and PE teacher, effective March 12, 2010.
- B. Accept the resignation of **Candee Anderson** as school nurse at Howard Elementary, effective January 29, 2010.
- C. Approve the employment of **Carrie Waters** as temporary replacement for Mrs. Kucholick during her maternity leave to begin approx. March 13, 2010 through the end of the current school year.
- D. Approve the request of **Jennifer Grzegorski** to return from FMLA leave. Mr. Owings further requests that Mrs. Grzegorski be assigned as temporary replacement for Tasha Rector during her maternity leave to begin Approx March 18, 2010 through the end of the current school year.
- E. Approve the request of **Mike Wise** for one day of unpaid personal leave on March 8, 2010.
- F. Approve the request of **Lisa Balmer** for two days of unpaid person leave on March 4-5, 2010.
- G. Approve the following individuals as substitute teachers for the 2009-10 school year: Christopher Pherson, William Cox, Estella Davis.

IV. CONSIDER ACTION TO ACCEPT DONATION(S)

Several donations have been received, including:

- \$250 from Merrell Brothers, Inc. for a boys' basketball fundraiser to support the American Cancer Society;
- \$100 anonymous donation to the Guidance Help Fund;
- \$2000 from Northwestern Boosters, Inc. to the Junior Class;
- Microwave oven from Brian and Janay Martin and family for Middle School Student Council; and

- \$100 from Ron and Amy Thompson for Middle School Student Council
- Greg Finley thanked patrons and community for their support of our students and programs, and made the motion to graciously accept these donations. Lois Hartman seconded and motion passed unanimously.

V. CONSIDER ACTION TO APPROVE A SPORTS CAMP REQUEST

Coach Berryman requested permission to conduct a Spring Training Baseball Camp on four Saturdays, beginning February 20. Ted Merrell made the motion to approve the camp as requested; Howard Eller seconded and motion unanimously approved.

VI. CONSIDER ACTION TO APPROVE A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT FOR THE 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR

Greg Finley made the motion, Howard Eller seconded, and the board unanimously approved Luca Kellers from Germany as a foreign exchange student for the 2010-11 Luca will reside with the Tim Hamrick family.

VIII. CONSIDER ACTION TO ESTABLISH GRADUATION DATE FOR 2010

Lois Hartman made a motion to establish May 29th as the graduation date for the Class of 2010. Ted Merrell seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

IX. CONSIDER ACTION TO CLOSE AND MERGE INACTIVE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Bour, NES Treasurer requested, per State Board of Accounts, to close 3 inactive extra-curricular accounts. Howard Eller made the motion, Greg Finley seconded and the board unanimously approved this action as recommended. Any balance in these accounts will be merged into the Student Activities Account.

X. CONSIDER ACTION WITH REGARD TO OVERNIGHT AND OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST(S)

Mrs. Zeck submitted a request for science fair competitors to participate in upcoming out-of-state and overnight competitions. Lois Hartman made a motion to approve participation as requested. Howard Eller provided a second, and the board approved unanimously.

X. RECEIVE INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TECHNOLOGY/WIRELESS HARDWARE APPLICATION

Mr. Simmons presented information with regard to iPod Touch technology as a learning and teaching tool. His presentation featured a wide variety of applications available through this technology and introduced the iPad that will soon be on the market. He would like to survey teachers to assess interest in integrating iPod Touch technology in the classroom, and then implement application training, etc. He and Mr. Snoddy indicated that some of the funding of this project could come from stimulus funds. By consensus, the Board authorized Mr. Simmons to move forward with this project.

XI. CONSIDER ACTION TO ADOPT OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board unanimously approved adoption of the 2010-11 Master Calendar following a motion from Howard Eller and second from Lois Hartman. School will start on August 17th and end June 1st. Christmas break begins December 22 and Spring Break is the 1st full week of April. Mr. Snoddy thanked Geana Moore, chairperson and her committee of Scott Shimer, Ron Owings, Harold Seamon, Howard Eller, Patty Zeck, Dan Robinson, Melody Wright, Dallas Calloway, Maddalena Nelson and Linda Wilson.

XII. CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING RATIFICATION OF THE MASTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND THE NORTHWESTERN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Howard Eller made the motion to ratify an agreement with the Teachers' Association. The board voted unanimously to approve following a second from Greg Finley. Included in the three-year agreement is a salary increase of 0% in 2009-10 with financial terms reopened in October 2010 and October 2011, \$150 increase in insurance stipend and one additional sick leave day. Every employee will receive a \$400 stipend, prorated on time worked. Additionally, contract language addresses job share provisions, and teacher in-service day is redesigned for parent-teacher conferences. Mr. Snoddy thanked the members of the association team along with the board team consisting of Harold Seamon, Tim Edsell, and Ron Owings, and recommends the board's ratification of the proposed agreement.

XIII. CONSIDER ACTION WITH REGARD TO SUPPORT STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS FOR THE 2009-10 CONTRACT YEAR

Mr. Seamon submitted the recommendation for administrative and support staff salaries and fringe benefits that reflects the master agreement salary increase of 0% in 2009-10 for all employee groups except food service, and he recommends a 1.5% salary increase. He further recommended a \$150 increase in insurance stipend and a one-time stipend of \$400, pro-rated on time worked for all support staff employees. Lois Hartman made the motion to approve as recommended. Ted Merrell seconded and motion passed unanimously.

XIV. CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF EXPENDITURE GOALS FOR THE 2009 BUDGET

Mr. Snoddy presented the expenditure goal for the 2010 budget: *“Northwestern School Corporation shall maintain the current levels (percentages) between the expenditures for the following expenditure categories: Academic Achievement, Instructional support, Overhead and operations, and Non-operating for the next fiscal year. However, increases in the Academic achievement expenditure category may not be possible due to the unique circumstance of the retirement of a number of experienced teachers being replaced by teacher’s at a lower salary level, as well as the increased cost associated with utility and transportation costs.”* Greg Finley made the motion to adopt this goal as presented; Howard Eller seconded the motion, and the board approved unanimously.

XV. CONSIDER ACTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE RAINY DAY FUND

Mr. Snoddy presented a Resolution to transfer \$125,000 from the Transportation Fund and \$75,000 the Capital Projects Fund to the Rainy Day Fund. Ted Merrell made the motion to adopt the Resolution. Greg Finley seconded and motion unanimously passed.

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

XVII. BOARD COMMENTS

Howard Eller commented with regard to the Race to the Top Program. “It is disappointing that the leadership of our teachers association would not sign on the Race to the Top Program to enable our schools to qualify for funds during these difficult economic times. The program allows for schools to withdraw if the details later reveal that the procedures are unfair to teachers. Our student achievement scores, year after year, rank our schools in the top tier in Indiana. The fact is our teachers and staff are doing a terrific job in their classrooms. Our teachers need to be at the table in discussing and implementing procedures that fairly evaluate the great job they are currently doing every day.”

There being no further business, Ted Merrell made the motion to adjourn, Howard Eller seconded and the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, March 10, 2010** –Northwestern High School Library – 7:00 P.M.

President

Vice President

Secretary