

**NORTH PUTNAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**JUNE 18, 2020 MINUTES**

The members of the Board of School Trustees of the North Putnam Community School Corporation held a regular session meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020, 7:00 P.M. at North Putnam Middle School, Media Center, 8905 N CR 250 E, Roachdale, Indiana.

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

Board members absent:    None

Superintendent present:    Nicole Singer

Attorney present:    Dan Taylor

**I. PUBLIC MEETING**

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

Ron Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Ron Spencer, Amber Greene, Mark Hoke, Joanie Knapp, Dustin Osborn, Travis Lambermont, and Darrell Wiatt.

**B. Approval of Agenda:**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**C. Public Comments:**

There were no comments from the public.

**II. 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-May 21, 2020, Regular Session Board Minutes**

**B. Approval of Claims for Payment and Payrolls**

**C. Personnel Report:**

Dustin Osborn asked what teaching position Ryan Burress would be doing. Dr. Singer noted he is qualified to teach several different positions and as we plan for the school year we will determine where the best fit is. She will notify the Board of his position once it is determined.

Mark Hoke motioned to approve the above consent agenda as presented. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approve Resignation of Jason Lafever:**

Jason Lafever turned in a letter of resignation. Dr. Singer is recommending the Board does not approve the letter of resignation.

Dustin Osborn motioned to deny the letter of resignation for Jason Lafever. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 - 0 vote.

**B. Approve Contract Cancellation of Jason Lafever:**

Dr. Singer is recommending a cancellation of the teacher's contract for Jason Lafever.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the contract cancellation of Jason Lafever. Dustin Osborn seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**C. Administrative Contract Recommendation for 2020-2021 School Year:**

Dr. Singer noted the recommendation is to extend contracts at the building level to Jason Chew, Brandon Wagler, Scott Miller, Bucky Kramer, Rodney Simpson, and Beth Waterman and limited term employment contracts to Roger Busch and Terry Tippin.

Darrell Wiatt motioned to approve the building level contracts as well as the limited term employment contracts. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it was denied with a 3 – 4 vote (Dustin Osborn, Travis Lambermont, Amber Greene, and Mark Hoke nay). Amber Greene asked if the two limited term employment contracts could be separated out and voted on individually. Amber Greene motioned to extend the contracts by one year for Jason Chew, Brandon Wagler, Scott Miller, Bucky Kramer, Rodney Simpson, and Beth Waterman and all are on teacher contracts. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

Mark Hoke motioned to extend the one year limited term employment contract to Terry Tippin, Director of Operations. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote. Dustin Osborn motioned to not renew Roger Busch's limited term employment contract for next year. Ron Spencer asked if by not renewing this contract it moves him to an at-will employee. Dan Taylor commented that he will at the end of his term. Amber Greene seconded the motion and it died with a 3 – 3 – 1 vote (Ron Spencer, Darrell Wiatt, and Joanie Knapp nay and Mark Hoke abstained). Travis Lambermont asked where this stands since the motion died. Dan Taylor commented that he could still be the athletic director, but without a contract.

**D. Student Lunch Prices 2020-2021:**

Terry Tippin included the new lunch prices for the 2020-2021 school year. This is figured using the state calculator. We will be increasing all meals by five cents. He noted that as of May we finished the year in the black with \$30,562.

Dustin Osborn motioned to approve the meal price increase of five cents as presented. Darrell Wiatt seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**E. Appointment of Title 1 Program Administrator:**

Dr. Singer noted this is the same as last year. We are required to have someone certified as the Title I Administrator and we need to secure the funds. She is recommending Rodney Simpson as the Title I Administrator.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve Rodney Simpson as Title I Administrator. Dustin Osborn seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**F. Permission to Apply for Grants:**

Last year, Dr. Singer asked for permission to apply for grants. She is asking for the same permission this year. Some of these grants are for federal dollars and some are not and this is why she asks the Board for permission. Dustin Osborn asked if the administrators can apply for grants too. Dr. Singer noted they can, but she is the final sign off.

Joanie Knapp motioned to grant permission to apply for grants. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**G. Disposal of Outdated Equipment at Roachdale Elementary:**

Dr. Singer noted they went through and cleaned up items that were not being used or were broken. Ron Spencer asked if these items could be donated to a non-profit organization. Dr. Singer commented that if

things are in good shape, then we could have a sale. Items that are damaged or missing parts will be disposed.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the disposal of outdated equipment at Roachdale Elementary. Ron Spencer seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**H. Edmentum Program License Renewal:**

Jason Chew noted this is the credit recovery program for students. They have used this in the past. We receive a great price because we have been with them for so long.

Mark Hoke motioned to approve the Edmentum Program License renewal. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**I. Approve Transfer into District Dates:**

Dr. Singer would like approval to solidify the date to transfer into the district from a school of a different legal settlement to be prior to Count Day. These days are determined by the DOE and can vary year to year. Currently, there is one Count Day, but if a second Count Day were to be added, the students would be allowed to transfer in prior to the second date.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the above transfer into district dates as presented. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**J. Resolution for Suspension of Board Policies during COVID-19 Pandemic:**

Dan Taylor noted this suspends Board policies and provides flexibility for things related to COVID-19.

Ron Spencer motioned to approve the above resolution as presented. Amber Greene seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**K. Resolution to Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund and Operations Fund:**

Tanya Pearson stated that, with the delay and everything going on with COVID-19, we need to transfer funds of \$250,000 from the Education Fund and \$250,000 from the Operations Fund to the Rainy Day Fund.

Travis Lambermont motioned to approve the above resolution to transfer funds as presented. Darrell Wiatt seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**L. 2020-2021 School Calendar Adjustment:**

A recommendation from the DOE was to review school calendars and use school breaks as distance eLearning. These days would then be known and they could plan appropriately for these. She discussed with the administrators what this would look like for each building. They are proposing eLearning on the following previously scheduled vacation days of October 12, 2020 through October 15, 2020 and November 25, 2020. The last student day and last teacher day would be five days sooner in May.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve the above 2020-2021 school calendar adjustment as presented. Ron Spencer seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 2 vote (Dustin Osborn and Amber Greene nay).

**M. Teacher Day Adjustment:**

On the corporation calendar approved in November for the 2020-2021 school year, a teacher work day was designated as a floating day to occur between July 27, 2020 and August 5, 2020. After discussing this with the Teacher's Association, it is recommended the floating day be moved to a required day to occur on August 5, 2020. This additional teacher work day at the beginning of the school year will allow administration to plan and set enhanced training for distance education that may likely occur during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19. If a teacher has commitments on this day that cannot be altered, the Teacher's Association recommended the staff member be allowed to use a personal day and not be charged a second personal day since the day off would follow a school holiday. The administration was

in agreement with this. The recommendation is to approve August 5, 2020 as a scheduled and required teacher work day in place of the floating day previously approved.

Joanie Knapp motioned to approve August 5, 2020 as a required teacher work day. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 – 2 vote (Dustin Osborn and Amber Greene nay).

**N. Early Release Cancellation:**

After discussions with the Teacher’s Association and review of the DOE Back to School Plan, we would like to capture as many instructional minutes and face-to-face time with students as possible as we are anticipating being forced to move to an extended distance education platform at some time during the school year. We are recommending the cancellation of early release Wednesdays for the 2020-2021 school year. This would give an additional two hours of instruction each month. We believe this is valuable time that can be spent working with students to meet their instructional needs. All students and teachers would attend school and work the same time each day of the week. Dustin Osborn commented that last month Amber Greene made the motion to revert back to the previous calendar, which included early release Wednesdays. He asked if this is superseding that motion. Amber Greene confirmed that she did make the motion at the last meeting to keep the early release the same. Dan Taylor noted this can be brought back up and amended. Scott Miller commented they need to stay consistent Monday through Friday and cancelling the early release would help accomplish this. Amber Greene asked what teachers prefer. Dr. Singer met with teachers and this is what they want and they are fine with cancelling early release on Wednesdays.

Travis Lambermont motioned to approve the cancellation of early release Wednesdays. Joanie Knapp seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**O. Virtual Classroom Educator:**

We have 20 students interested in attending virtual class next school year and 20 who are undetermined. We plan to contact those the ones who are undetermined. We would present this to the Board in July if we get enough students who are interested in this. Dr. Singer is wanting to post the position for Virtual Classroom Educator. Dustin Osborn asked what the cost would be for this position. Dr. Singer noted the cost of the teacher depends on their experience. Dustin Osborn commented this is being created due to COVID-19 and he asked what happens to this position when things go back to normal. Dr. Singer noted that federal relief money would help pay for this and funds would be good through September 2021. This may become highly popular and we could decide to keep it as part of our curriculum. This would be a part of the collective bargaining.

The Board took at recess at 8:52 p.m. and the regularly meeting began again at 8:56 p.m.

Ron Spencer motioned to approve the above Virtual Classroom Educator as presented. Mark Hoke seconded the motion and it carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**IV. REPORTS**

**A. Superintendent:**

Dr. Singer noted they received information that Governor Holcomb is committed to keeping education funding the same through 2021. She is planning for a shortfall in the future, but we are good short term. She appreciates the efforts of the teachers in helping to plan for the school year.

**B. Treasurer:**

Tanya Pearson stated it helps that Governor Holcomb is not cutting the budget. The DOE has not released their funding formula, but they have a meeting scheduled for June 30, 2020. We will be able to project more then. She commented that we are financially stable.

**C. Director of Operations:**

Terry Tippin noted that June 30, 2020 is the last day for the feeding program. The number of meals being picked up is starting to decrease.

**D. Administrators:**

Jason Chew congratulated Ruby Sullivan and Jayden Simpson as being state winners in FFA. They have several students getting Hoosier degrees. Prom is scheduled for July 11, 2020 at the Bainbridge Community Building.

Scott Miller noted the new bleachers are in and they look great.

**V. BOARD COMMENTS:**

Dustin Osborn commented that last week he was approached about transportation for children of staff. He asked if we will have help for those teachers. He doesn't want to lose good staff because of this. Terry Tippin noted they are reverting back to transporting like they have done in the past. Amber Greene noted that she meant to vote no for action agenda item L. This will be adjusted on the minutes under that item and the vote is now 5 – 2 (Dustin Osborn and Amber Greene nay). Joanie Knapp wanted to thank the teachers, administrators, and staff during all of this. Mark Hoke has received emails lately about morale being down and he wants to encourage staff to follow the proper channels when they have concerns and know that the Board members do listen to their concerns. Ron Spencer thanked all of the staff for their hard work.

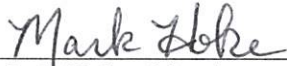
**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Joanie Knapp moved for adjournment of the meeting. Dustin Osborn seconded the motion and it carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

  
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Ron Spencer, President

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Travis Lambermont, Member

  
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Dustin Osborn, Vice-President

  
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Mark Hoke, Member

  
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Darrell Wiatt, Secretary

  
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Joanie Knapp, Member

  
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Amber Greene, Member