

TRITON SCHOOL CORPORATION
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
100 TRITON DRIVE
BOURBON, IN 46504-1801

***** BOARD MINUTES *****

Regular Session

February 8, 2021

The Board of School Trustees of Triton School Corporation, Marshall and Kosciusko Counties, met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM, in the Triton Jr./Sr. High School Media Center, 300 Triton Drive, Bourbon, Indiana, on February 8, 2021. Due to the Center for Disease Control's direction on COVID-19 to not gather in groups, the Regular Session was live streamed on social media as well.

Members Present: Mrs. Terri Barnhart, Mr. Kevin Boyer, Mr. Ken Miller, Mr. Steve Stichter, and Mr. Wes Rettinger were present for all of the meetings.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Mr. Jeremy Riffle -- Superintendent; Mr. Tom McFarland -- Business Manager; Mrs. Anita Haines -- Corporation Receptionist; Mrs. Christine Cook -- Elementary Principal; Mr. Nathan McKeand -- Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Mr. Orion Lemler -- Triton Social Media; and Mrs. Carol Anders -- Reporter (via remote attendance).

Pledge of
Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consensus
Agenda

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #2633 -- #2728 in the amount of \$420,023.79, payrolls #1 -- #3 in the amount of \$565,270.33, for a grand total of \$985,294.12; and to approve the minutes of the executive session, finance meeting, reorganization session and regular session that was held on January 11, 2021, and to amend the minutes from December 14, 2020, in the last paragraph of "Other Business" to read as follows: *Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the first reading on the Board Policy pertaining to Title IX claims of sexual harassment as recommended by NEOLA. The policy outlines the process that will be used to address claims of sexual harassment and identifies the officials that will be responsible for conducting investigations. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion and it carried 5 -- 0. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 -- 0.*

Patrons'
Comments

There were no patrons' comments.

Personnel

Mr. Stichter moved to approve a seven week maternity leave request from Mrs. Samantha Phenix from approximately March 5 through April 26, and to approve Mrs. Christen Ritchison as the substitute teacher to fill Mrs. Phenix's leave of absence. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Miller moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried 5 -- 0 to approve Mr. Ronald (Joe) Scott as an Interim Bus Mechanic until Mr. Terry Scott is able to return.

Subsequent to Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Rettinger made a motion to approve Mr. Jason Thompson as a Varsity Assistant Wrestling Coach. This was followed by a second from Mr. Stichter and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Miller made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Tyler Hensley as the Varsity Baseball Coach. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion and it carried 5 -- 0.

Other
Business

Mr. Boyer moved, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the third reading and adoption of the Board Policy pertaining to Title IX claims of sexual harassment as recommended by NEOLA.

Other
Business (Cont.)

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the Joint Service and Supply Fund Agreement for Special Education for the Joint Educational Services in Special Education (JESSE). Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0. (Note: This is the formal agreement between the JESSE special education cooperative and participating school corporations.)

Mr. Riffle presented the school calendar for the 2021/2022 school year and he informed the Board that the Triton Teachers Association supports this model as well. Mr. Rettinger made a motion to adopt the 2021/2022 school calendar as presented. Mr. Stichter seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Following Mr. Riffle's request, Mr. Boyer moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to grant permission allowing the Administration to begin planning for summer school that will be held in June.

Mr. Riffle explained the need to update the school website. The site is difficult to navigate and maintain especially when changes are needed. Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the project proposal/agreement with Apheus Solutions, LLC, to create a new website for Triton School Corporation. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 4 – 0 (Mrs. Barnhart recused herself from voting).

Superintendent's
Report

Mr. Riffle identified the following core values that have been recognized since the previous meeting:

Continuous Improvement: As good as we are, we know that we can always achieve better results. We constantly try to find better ways of doing our work, and when we achieve our goals, we set higher targets.

Since we met last there has been a lot of great things happening. Our DECA organization prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges. Triton sent four DECA members for the hospitality services team competition recently. Hospitality services team members, Maddie Ritchison and Lilly Hubert received first place, and Emma Lemler and Sarah Weber received fifth place in this area of the competition. Jordan Cox was awarded fourth place in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Individual Series at the competition.

Mr. Riffle congratulated our seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball teams for winning their conference tournaments. Both of our junior high teams had a very successful winning record this year.

Mr. Riffle praised the Triton varsity wrestling program on their most recent success. Elijah Cox, Anthony Schuh, and Caleb Lemler advanced on to the regional competition. Advancing further to the East Chicago Semi-State wrestling finals was Caleb Lemler and Anthony Schuh.

Hunter McIntyre was commended for achieving the IFCA Academic All State.

Mr. Riffle lauded our Lady Trojan varsity basketball team for defeating Argos in the sectional championship overtime game on Saturday night.

Mr. Riffle conveyed his best wishes to Maddie Ritchison for participating in the upcoming State Distinguished Young Woman Competition.

Shared Leadership: We work as a team. Each member provides essential leadership in support of our common goals.

Reunification tours were taken with Mr. McKeand and Mr. Breeden to discuss and continue to review the Triton Emergency Preparedness Plan and Reunification Plan. Parents have received their child's reunification card that will be important to making the process of reunifying their child more efficient should the need ever arise.

Mr. Riffle expressed his gratitude to our community for their generous donations to our athletic department. A continued special thank you to the Triton Trojans Sports Network (TTSN) for continuing to broadcast several games each week for those who are not able to attend due to COVID restrictions. Mr. Riffle explained that the Triton Athletic Department is funded by our gate receipts and with those

Superintendent's
Report (Cont.)

Shared Leadership (Continued):

being down this year, it has taken our community donating to the cause in order to fund this year's athletic programs. Furthermore, we are still in need of generous donations in order to fund referees and transportation of our scholar athletes. The most efficient and easy access for this is embedded on the tritontrojans.org/donate website or you can tap the **heart/money sign** at the top of tritontrojans.org. These donations will go directly to athletics to make up for lost ticket revenue. Patrons that prefer to write a check for a tax deductible receipt can contact Mason McIntyre at Triton Jr./Sr. High School at 574-342-6505 or the Triton Administration Building at 574-342-2255. This link and an explanation of exactly what it takes to successfully fund athletics will be posted on the Triton Trojans Facebook Page.

Social Responsibility: We ensure that we are good partners within our community and that our students and employees support local individuals and organizations. We demonstrate wise stewardship of public resources and ensure that our graduates are ready to shoulder their civic responsibilities.

The Triton Senior Squad will be having a food drive this week, February 8 – 12, to support the Triton High School Blessing in a Backpack program. Patrons are encouraged to consider donating non-perishable food items to their favorite Trojan Scholars SLC so they have a chance to win a party for their Student Learning Community.

Three weeks ago, the Lions Club of Etna Green and Bourbon performed vision screening assessments on first, third, fifth, and eighth grade students. The screenings were handled in a very efficient manner and allowed us to meet the vision screening requirement from the Department of Education for all accredited schools in Indiana.

Saturday, July 10, 2021, will be the date for Brea's Run. Interested participants are encouraged to visit the Triton School Corporation Facebook page for details and should refer to the January 28th posting. The sign up and donation link can be found on that post. Flyers for this event will be distributed in the near future.

Mr. Riffle expressed appreciation to Mr. Chad Stepp for arranging the police/fire escort for both the Jr High Boys HNAC tourney championship and Lady Trojans sectional championship.

Accountability: Each person affiliated with the TSC system, including students, employees, parents/family members, and community stakeholders share accountability for our performance results and for providing personal best effort in support of our goals.

Triton Juniors are completing their ISTEP make-up tests this week. This continues to be a very important assessment for graduation and for future entrance to college and career pathway attainment.

Triton is accountable for the number of days we are in school like every other school in the state. Due to receiving a waiver from the SDOE, we are able to base our school year on hours. We have missed three days the last couple of weeks due to weather, therefore we will be wise stewards of the banked time remaining and perform our first ever Digital Learning Day on Saturday, February 27. It is important to understand that this is not Saturday School, as work will be posted on Friday night and students will have until Wednesday to watch the instruction and complete the assigned tasks by Wednesday. More details from each building will be shared with staff, students, and guardians in the coming weeks so everyone is 100% prepared for this process that will be important in the coming years for making up weather related days if waivers are not available. Presidents Day, which is February 15, will remain a vacation day due to the timing of the most recent cancellations.

High Expectations: Our learning organization requires that we maintain high expectations for one another and for self.

Last week we surpassed the 100th day of the school year. It is tradition to celebrate this day each year, however this year it has a little more significance than maybe some other years. We have been blessed to educate our scholars in person this year and our teachers, and staff deserve a heartfelt thank you for their service, dedication and commitment to our scholars. Mr. Riffle stated, "When I hear of other

Superintendent's Report (Cont.)

High Expectations (Continued):

cities and towns that have not gone back to school yet, it makes me incredibly thankful for our leadership, and staff who have and continue to give it their all for our students and community.”

Evidence Based Decision Making: We make decisions after careful consideration of the most compelling research and data analysis.

Mr. Riffle expressed his appreciation to the Triton community for their support and encouragement during the last couple of weeks of weather events. He also thanked Mrs. Laura Baker, Mr. Terry Scott, Mr. Bruce Gephart, and Mr. Brian Feldman for working hard to drive roads and in keeping our campus cleared of the snow and ice in order to keep our students and staff safe when they are on campus.

Alignment: We are most successful when everyone in our learning organization works together to achieve common goals. We can enhance efficiency and effectiveness by achieving alignment across our system.

Triton was encouraged to receive a \$5,000.00 grant to go towards the rebranding efforts of the Marshall County Promise initiative. This seed money will help with a successful restart of this program that puts \$25.00 into each kindergarten through third grade scholars Marshall County Promise 529 College Savings Account that is opened. Mr. Riffle stated, “I am excited that a representative of First Source Bank has taken interest in leading this program as a private sector partner and Ms. Kelsey Manson is excited, learning, and will do a wonderful job taking this program to the next level.

Patrons' Comments

Mrs. Carol Anders, Reporter, inquired remotely about the 2021/2022 school calendar.

Building Reports

Mrs. Cook gave an update on events at the Elementary.

Mr. McKeand reported on events at the Jr./Sr. High School.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Triton Board of School Trustees, Mrs. Barnhart declared the meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: _____ March 8, 2021

President: Lee Barnhart

Secretary: Steve Stichter

Kevin D. Boyer

Wesley A. ...

Ken Mill