

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

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

Regular Session

August 9, 2021

The Board of School Trustees of Triton School Corporation, Marshall and Kosciusko Counties, met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM, in the Administration Office, 100 Triton Drive, Bourbon, Indiana, on August 9, 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.

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. Nate McKeand – Jr./Sr. High School Principal, and Mr. Kenny Barnhart – Triton Social Media.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consensus Agenda

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #3154 – #3347 in the amount of \$447,137.55, payrolls #14 – #15 in the amount of \$352,842.62, for a grand total of \$799,980.17; and to approve the minutes of the executive and regular sessions held on July 12, 2021. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Patrons' Comments

There were no patrons' comments.

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held for any patrons wishing to offer suggestions relating to upcoming collective bargaining. Informal bargaining will begin later in August. No patrons commented regarding the collective bargaining.

Personnel

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve all of the ECA contracts and all of the status-quo teacher contracts for the 2021/2022 school year. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 4 – 0 – 1. Mr. Stichter recused himself from voting (as per IC 35-44.1-1-4).

Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried 5 – 0, to approve the following personnel items:

- Hire Mr. Logan Lynd for a part-time position in the Elementary cafeteria;
- Hire Mrs. Arianna Bontrager as a long-term Substitute Teacher to fill a maternity leave at the Elementary;
- Hire Miss Hannah Snyder as a Sixth Grade Teacher;
- Hire Mrs. Christen Ritchison as a Kindergarten Teacher;
- Hire Mrs. Annie Cline as a Crossing Guard; and
- Hire Miss Kennedy Krull as the Varsity Softball Coach.

- Personnel (Cont.) Mr. Miller moved to hire Miss Leigh-Taylor Eads as an Instructional Assistant at the Elementary. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 4 – 0 – 1. Mr. Boyer recused himself from voting (as per IC 35-44.1-1-4).
- Other Business Subsequent to Mr. Riffle's request, Mr. Boyer moved to allow the Administration Office to place a legal advertisement for the Capital Projects Fund Plan and Bus Replacement Plan. Mr. Stichter seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.
- Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to re-adopt the Teacher Appreciation Grant.
- Mr. Rettinger made a motion to approve the agreement with National Purchasing Cooperative, d/b/a BuyBoard® as suggested by Southern Bleacher Company for the new bleachers at the football field/track. Mr. Stichter seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.
- Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to purchase a carpet cleaner from Tepe Sanitary Supply in the amount of \$15,632.44.
- 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.**
- Triton will be using a more robust system for evaluation and student data this school year. Administrators were trained last week and staff was trained today on how best to use this tool for their own growth and how to utilize this tool for student data to drive instruction.
- Triton School Corporation Staff participated in professional development today. Learning new things is part of our everyday life and we will continue to do our best to be up to date on the latest instructional techniques, growing trends, and research based methods to maximize student growth.
- Shared Leadership: We work as a team. Each member provides essential leadership in support of our common goals.**
- The maintenance department, under the direction of Mr. Bruce Gephart, has done a tremendous job this summer working on cleaning the buildings and making sure things are in good working order for the arrival of staff today and the students on Wednesday. Several of them also spent the weekend working the Summerfest as a way to be a resource and keep things running smoothly. Mr. Gephart is currently directing an electric crew that will be repairing our digital sign and installing receptacles outside door 1 at the Jr./Sr. High School.
- 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.**
- A successful Bourbon Summerfest was held on the Triton School Corporation campus this last weekend. There was something for everyone. Triton Scholars were able to

Superintendent's
Report (Cont.)**Social Responsibility (continued):**

participate and make money for many of their clubs or organizations. Thank you to Mr. Lonnie Berkey for organizing this successful event for our community at large. So many individuals played an important role to make this event a success. It was a great weekend for Bourbon and surrounding communities.

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.

Mr. Riffle identified the following instructional goals:

- Reading: Increase percent of students reading at or above grade level to 85% by the end of the school year.
- Math: Increase overall pass rate on standardized tests by at least 20 percentage points.

Implementation of NWEA/Pivot will allow a more focused effort for small group instruction.

Mr. Riffle identified the following institutional goals:

- Get back to the basics – focus on small group instruction;
- Proactively address attendance concerns – Clearly communicated expectations/conferences/ revised handbook;
- Harness the power of the data through a more focused effort on grade level and department collaboration around data;
- Continue to refine the SAT process to identify student needs/intervention;
- Next Level Leadership (Collaborate with NG3, Counselors, Athletic Director and Building Level Leaders for Freshman-Senior Leadership Academy);
- Implementation of Next Level Programs of Study/Graduation Pathways
- Create a high performing guidance team/definition of roles and how to best meet student needs, and increase involvement at the elementary level;
- More communication clarifying the WHY? discipline/handbook decision/late work;
- Complete the strategic planning process and focus on continuous improvement

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

Mr. Jordan Breeden, Mrs. Carol Bules, and Mr. Troy Sherk deserve to be congratulated for their efficient and diligent work this summer. New fiber was installed between the Jr./Sr. High School and new Chromebooks were delivered and prepared before school was out last year. The technology department made our teacher workspaces much more efficient by removing excess wiring and putting together a technology guide. Mrs. Bules has been busily inputting students into new and existing programs. Mr. Breeden was able to find a no cost solution to phone extension issues and the fuel master reader. Cameras are ordered and prepared to be installed. Security cameras were also linked to one system making this more efficient. The Internet has been updated at the bus garage, baseball diamond, football field, and the Ernie Watkins Pavilion.

Superintendent's Report (Cont.)

***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.**

Over the last two weeks, the Triton Administrative team and directors have engaged with new teachers, new bus drivers, and substitute teachers in order to explain and reinforce expectations for those individuals who will be working with our scholars. Triton Administrators have also engaged with hospital personnel, business owners, and patrons about some exciting opportunities coming our way through CTE, C3, and local partnerships that will continue to bless Triton School Corporation and our community.

Patrons' Comments

There were no patrons' comments.

Building Reports

Mrs. Cook gave an update on events at the Elementary and Mr. McKeand reported on events at the Jr./Sr. High School. The Elementary currently has 530 students enrolled, and the Jr./Sr. High School has 395 students.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Triton Board of School Trustees, Mrs. Barnhart declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: _____ September 13, 2021

President: *Jan Barnhart*

Secretary: *Steve Stichter*

Kevin R. Boggs

Wm. M. A.

Ken White