

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

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

Regular Session

March 8, 2021

The Board of School Trustees of Triton School Corporation, Marshall and Kosciusko Counties, met in Executive Session at 6:30 PM and in Regular Session at 7:00 PM, in the Triton Jr./Sr. High School Media Center, 300 Triton Drive, Bourbon, Indiana, on March 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).

****** EXECUTIVE SESSION ******

The Executive Session was called to order at 6:30 PM. Mrs. Barnhart, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Stichter, Mr. Miller, Mr. Rettinger, Mr. Riffle and Mr. McFarland were present.

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: Personnel as per I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9).

No other subject matter was discussed during the Executive Session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

Adjournment The Executive Session adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consensus Agenda Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #2668 – #2808 in the amount of \$359,451.27, payrolls #4 – #5 in the amount of \$383,435.30, for a grand total of \$742,886.57; and to approve the minutes of the regular session that was held on February 8, 2021 Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Patrons' Comments There were no patrons' comments.

Personnel Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Boyer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to hire Mr. Zach Shafer as the Junior High Golf Coach.

Mr. Riffle apprised the Board that Mrs. Christen Ritchison has indicated that she will not be able to fill the leave of absence for Mrs. Samantha Phenix. He recommended utilizing Mrs. Susan Stackhouse as a long-term substitute teacher to fill the leave of absence for Mrs. Phenix. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Mr. Riffle's recommendation as presented. Mr. Miller second and the motion carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Boyer moved, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to hire Mrs. Kandace Haines as the Trojan Singers Sponsor.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to hire Mrs. Justina Faulkner as the Junior High Girls' Track Coach. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Personnel
(Cont.)

Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to hire Mr. Mark Elliott as the Varsity Boys' Baseball Coach and Mr. Ryan Kaufman as the Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach.

Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Miller made a motion to hire Ms. Madilyn Anderson as the Junior Varsity Softball Coach and to utilize the volunteer services of Ms. Alexandria Stevens in the softball program. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the extra-curricular contract for Spanish Club and Trojan Singers. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Other
Business

Mr. Rettinger moved, Mr. Boyer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the quote from Central Michigan Paper in the amount of \$2,584.16 for the purchase of copy paper.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to purchase 225 Chromebook computers that will be used to replace the current computers being used by students in grades three, five, and six. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the attached resolutions opposing House Bill 1005, Senate Bill 412 and Senate Bill 413 and any other bill expanding vouchers and/or creating Education Savings Accounts. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. All of the aforementioned Bills directs funding away from Indiana public schools.

Mr. Stichter moved to accept the anonymous donation from a local business in the amount of \$10,000.00 and per the donor's designation, the funds will be used to show appreciation to our school staff. This was followed by a second from Mr. Rettinger. The motion carried 5 – 0. Mr. Riffle stated that a second donation in the amount of \$500.00 from parents of former students was also received and designated for staff appreciation.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the list of items from Triton School Corporation for the FFA auction that will be held virtually on April 10, 2021. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

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.

Mr. Riffle reported that we had our first Saturday digital learning day to make up for the February 5th instructional day that was canceled due to the weather. We will continue to monitor the need for a make-up day if there is any surprise weather in the future but for now, we will not be doing another digital learning day.

The Technology Integration Specialists, Director of Technology, and Building Level Leaders will be meeting on Wednesday to continue to review, listen, and make a plan for continuous improvement for both digital learning and classroom instruction. In the coming months we will compile information and create a plan for a classroom upgrade using Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) monies.

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

Everyone has pitched in to continue to make progress and continue to keep our scholars safe. During our Directors/Principals meeting last Wednesday, through discussion, we found a couple of holes in our processes and made quick work to get them resolved.

On February 17 there was a water main break at the Jr./Sr. High School. The Triton Maintenance Department, Bourbon Town Department and Etna Green Town Department worked together to find a solution to resolve the concern. As a result of all of those parties working together and communicating, we believe that we avoided what could have been a much larger problem.

Superintendent's
Report (Cont.)

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.

Mr. Riffle expressed his appreciation to a couple of families in particular who have given sacrificially to our students and the programs that we have and will continue to put in place. This includes two family gifts, one in the amount of \$10,000 and another in the amount of \$500, some of which was asked to go toward blessing the Triton School Corporation Staff which is how the popcorn and donuts were purchased today.

Triton School Corporation received a United Way Grant in the amount of \$7,500 that will be used to continue to invest in our students social emotional health and provide our staff with the knowledge needed to continue to support our scholars overall health and decision making. We will welcome Mr. Nathan Harmon back for a presentation and small group meetings, and Tall Cop Says Stop will provide insights to our teachers.

Mr. Riffle thanked the Bourbon Fire Department for escorting our sectional champion boys' varsity basketball team back to campus Saturday evening.

Mr. Riffle apprised the Board that we are currently working with Bourbon town officials in an attempt to encourage a new business to locate their facility in this area. We are also coordinating with the town on where to place both past and updated school signage.

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 congratulated the Triton jazz band on a great performance last Thursday evening and for many of the same individuals for their collective performance in the ISSMA Solo and Ensemble competition on February 20. He also commended Miss Lilly Hubert and Miss Madeline Ritchison for placing fifth at the state DECA Competition.

Mr. Riffle reviewed Senate Bill 1005, and House Bill 412 and 413 and the resolution passed earlier this evening by the Board and he explained why it is not best for Triton School Corporation.

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

Congratulations to Miss Lexia Hostrawser (First Team) and Miss Taren Yates (Honorable Mention) on being named to the HNAC All Conference Team.

Mr. Riffle stated that we are excited to welcome Head Varsity Baseball Coach, Mr. Mark Elliott, to the Triton coaching family.

The boys' and girls' basketball teams both received exemplary sportsmanship reports from the IHSA the last week of February. Mr. Riffle stated, "I think this is an expectation and I think we encourage our athletes when they lose to say little, and when they win to say less."

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

Last week we began meeting with trusted architects to begin the process of finding the best solution for secure entrances at Triton Jr./Sr. High School and Triton Elementary School. We are in the initial stages of working with the bond council about how to obtain a tax neutral bond, and how to best use those dollars to keep our buildings safe and to keep our campus up to safety code.

Mr. Riffle apprised the Board that preschool enrollment night is April 6. Mrs. Cook will share more on the upcoming kindergarten round up and preschool enrollment night when she provides the Elementary building report.

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.

Mr. Riffle noted that he continues to be very impressed with the effort our staff and scholars are giving. Just nine days away from a much deserved spring break and we continue to provide our scholars with a safe learning environment, great instruction, and people who care for their well-being and future.

Triton Elementary Staff reached across Triton Drive recently to thank the Triton Jr./Sr. High School Teachers for their continued dedication and effort for Triton scholars. The favor was returned to our entire corporation today when they were treated to Bailey's kettle corn and donuts.

Patrons' Comments

Mrs. Anders inquired virtually about receiving copies of the resolutions that the Board adopted earlier this evening. Mr. Riffle will send copies to her.

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 7:39 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: _____ April 12, 2021 _____

President: _____
Jane Barnhart

Secretary: _____
Steve Stichter

_____ *Kevin R. Boyer*

_____ *Ken Hill*
