

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

**\*\*\* BOARD MINUTES \*\*\***

**Regular Session**

**December 9, 2019**

The Board of School Trustees of Triton School Corporation, Marshall and Kosciusko Counties, met in Executive Session at 5:15 PM, and Regular Session at 7:00 PM, in the Administration Office, 100 Triton Drive, Bourbon, Indiana, on December 9, 2019.

Members Present: Mrs. Terri Barnhart, Mr. Kevin Boyer, Mr. Steve Stichter, Mr. Ken Miller, and Mr. Wes Rettinger.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Mr. Jeremy Riffle – Superintendent, Mr. Tom McFarland – Business Manager, Mrs. Anita Haines – Corporation Receptionist, Mr. Robert Ross – Jr./Sr. High School Principal, Mrs. Christine Cook – Elementary Principal, Mrs. Melissa LaShure – Director of Curriculum and Assessment; Mr. Ted Fisher – Technology Director, Mrs. Samantha Phenix – Elementary Teacher, Mr. Brandon Young – Jr./Sr. High School Teacher, Mr. Trent Barnhart and Mr. Brandon Kitch – FFA Members.

**\*\*\* EXECUTIVE SESSION \*\*\***

The Executive Session was called to order at 5:15 PM. Mrs. Barnhart, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Stichter, Mr. Miller, Mr. Rettinger and Mr. Riffle 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 5:45 PM.

**\*\*\* REGULAR SESSION \*\*\***

Mrs. Barnhart called the Regular Session to order at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Consensus  
Agenda**

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #1173 - #1353 in the amount of \$399,149.94, payrolls #23 – #24 in the amount of \$432,350.88, for a grand total of \$831,500.82; and to approve the minutes of the regular session held on November 11, 2019. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

**Patrons'  
Comments**

None.

**Personnel**

Subsequent to Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the following personnel items:

- Approve a \$100.00 performance stipend for each classified staff member that was employed by January 1, 2019;
- Hire Mr. Jason Arvesen as the Junior High Wrestling Coach;
- Hire Mrs. Nancy Miller as a Part-Time Night Custodian at the Elementary (*NOTE: Mr. Miller recused himself from voting on Mrs. Miller's employment and the vote was 4 – 0 – 1 on this item.*);

## Personnel (Cont.)

- Approve the maternity leave request of Mrs. Brittney Brosman from approximately January 7, through March 30, 2020;
- Approve Mrs. Katie Smith's maternity leave request beginning on approximately March 30, 2020, and continuing for a period of eight weeks;
- Approve a maternity leave request from Mrs. Creigh Graham beginning on approximately March 19 and continuing through May 28, 2020;
- Approve a maternity leave request from Mrs. Holly Sellers from approximately January 24 through April 27, 2020.

Mr. Boyer seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0, with the exception as noted for Mrs. Nancy Miller.

Other  
Business

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

- Approve the Science study trip to Iceland in March 2021; Mr. Ross provided additional information about the study trip.
- Approve the first reading for revisions/replacements/new Corporation Policies as recommended by NEOLA;
- Grant permission to the Administration Office to advertise for bids on bleachers for the Jr./Sr. High School;
- Grant permission to the Administration Office to advertise for bids for restoration of the tennis courts;

Mr. Brandon Kitch and Mr. Trent Barnhart gave a presentation on the National FFA convention that was held in Indianapolis.

Superintendent's  
Report

Mr. Riffle reported that the budget order has been received from the Department of Local Government Finance for our 2020 budget. We need to cut approximately \$700,000.00 from our 2020 budget.

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. I appreciate Tom's work on the budget and capital project priorities. We continue to prioritize becoming more ADA Compliant while also making sure we are advancing our instruction and classroom materials and supplies for even more efficient instruction and classrooms. We are thankful that our teachers and instructional assistants will realize their increase in their base salary, insurance contribution, and stipend on the December 20<sup>th</sup> payroll.

**Shared Leadership:** We work as a team. Each member provides essential leadership in support of our common goals. Mr. Riffle expressed his appreciation to Mr. Mason McIntyre, Mr. Todd Zeiger, and Attorney Tim Shelly for working together to come up with a plan for moving forward with the Old Gym, a timeline for an RFP, and how best to work with our community in the process. We had an Old Gym Community Meeting on August 14th at 6:00 PM. In addition to a presentation, we allowed time for questions from the community. The timeline for the Request for Proposals was also presented. Proposals are due by 4:00 PM, on March 13, 2020. Proposals will be reviewed and a decision will be made by April 30, 2020. The decision could be acted upon at the May 11, 2020, School Board Meeting. In addition, Indiana Landmarks published a nice article recently asking for a Champion for the Old Gym. This was posted on our Facebook page to continue to remind interested individuals of the timelines for submitting an RFP to the Board. That deadline is March 13, 2020.

**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. I am excited to continue to make Triton School Corporation a safe and inviting campus. The partnership between the Town of Bourbon Police Department and Triton School Corporation is going well and is keeping our scholars, staff, and community safe. Congratulations to Marshall County for being named a Stellar Community. This designation will continue to infuse money into this area with the purpose of improving quality of life initiatives across the county. These moneys come from both state and federal grant dollars and will be used to fund several ongoing initiatives and some start up initiatives in the coming year.

Superintendent's Report (Cont.)

**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. Thank you to the town council and their continued support of Triton initiatives. We are currently working on the possibility of a Triton Student being appointed to the Town Council as a non-voting member of the council for two purposes: 1). Learn about town governments and local municipalities; and 2). Represent the Triton Student Body and the younger generation within our community and help come up with creative ideas for involving our youth. We continue to have discussions on how best to continue to expand our unilateral agreement with the Town to ensure the safety of our pedestrians and scholars as it relates to allowing our town law enforcement jurisdiction on our campus.

**High Expectations:** Our learning organization requires that we maintain high expectations for one another and for self. Congratulations to the robotics team of Brady Heckaman and Lennon Geyer for sealing their birth to the State Robotics Tournament at Lucas Oil Stadium on March 7, 2020. I am also proud of our sports teams as they continue to show perseverance, mental toughness, and determination to continue to improve and I want to thank our coaches who continue to invest in our scholar athletes, their character, and their academic success.

**Evidence Based Decision Making:** We make decisions after careful consideration of the most compelling research and data analysis. Data meetings continue to take place and middle of the year testing will give us a good measure of where our scholars are at and where we can continue to improve. We had our quarterly technology meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, Melissa LaShure and Britney Brosman discussed what they learned at the HECC Conference about E-Learning. On Friday, six members of our staff will be traveling to Yorktown to be part of a professional development about how to best roll out an E Learning initiative, and how to do so without the possibility of sending devices home.

**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. Trojan PRIDE continues to be a focus from Pre-K-12th grade. Like expectation, consistency and follow through of these expectations continues to be a focus this year. Thank you to everyone who is making this important in their classrooms and in the buildings.

Patrons' Comments

None.

Building Reports

Mrs. Cook provided a report on events at the Elementary and she gave a presentation on the Elementary School Improvement Plan.

Mr. Ross reported on happenings at the Jr./Sr. High School and he presented the School Improvement Plan for 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 7:42 PM.

Steven D. Stichter, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ January 13, 2020

President: *John Barnhart*

Secretary: *Steven D. Stichter*

*Kevin R. Egg*

*W. M. A.*

*Ken Mill*