

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

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

**Regular Session**

**July 13, 2020**

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 July 13, 2020. 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. Steve Stichter, Mr. Ken Miller, and Mr. Wes Rettinger.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Mr. Jeremy Riffle – Superintendent, Mr. Tom McFarland – Business Manager, Mr. Nate McKeand – Jr./Sr. High School Principal, and Mr. Orion Lemler – Triton Social Media.

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

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

Consensus  
Agenda

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #1915 – #2017 in the amount of \$1,310,982.40, and payrolls #12 – #14 in the amount of \$542,267.24 for a grand total of \$1,853,249.64; and to approve the minutes of regular session held on June 8, 2020. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Patrons'  
Comments

There were no patrons' comments.

Personnel

Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the 2020/2021 increase in hourly rates of pay for classified employees that are eligible for step pay and a 2% stipend for those that do not qualify for step pay. Mr. Stichter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Stichter moved to accept the resignation of Mrs. Nicole Fender as an Elementary Teacher and this was followed by a second from Mr. Rettinger. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve Mr. Zach Shafer and Mr. Matt Arvesen as Technician Integration Specialists at the Jr./Sr. High School.

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

- Hire Miss Morgan Hall as a Physical Education/Health Teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School;
- Hire Mrs. Jennifer Schaetzle as a Second Grade Teacher;
- Hire Ms. Diane Murphy as a Second Grade Teacher;
- Hire Mrs. Jodie Vermillion as a Sixth Grade Teacher;
- Hire Mrs. Allison Stuart as a Preschool Instructional Assistant; and
- Hire Ms. Annie Cline as an Elementary Instructional Assistant.

Personnel  
(Cont.)

Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the following individuals for ECA positions:

- Hire Mr. Tony Plochow as the Varsity Volleyball Assistant Coach;
- Hire Mr. Thomas Cody as the Varsity Track Assistant Coach (*Note: this is retroactive for the 2019/2020 season only*);
- Hire Mr. Joe White as the Varsity Cross Country Coach;
- Hire Mrs. Tori Kistler as the Varsity Cheerleading Assistant Coach and the Junior High Cheerleading Coach;
- Hire Mr. Brad Gardner as the Boys' Varsity Tennis Coach;
- Hire Mr. David Seel and Mrs. Susan Dietzel as Drama Productions Co-Directors;
- Hire Mr. David Seel as the Director for Trojan Singers, the Director for Instrumental Music Competition/Performance, and as the Director for Vocal Music Competition/Performance;
- Hire Mrs. June Klotz as the ACES Sponsor;
- Hire Miss Emily Thomas as the Art Club Sponsor, and as the Yearbook Sponsor;
- Hire Miss Tracie Knisley as the DECA (FBLA) Sponsor;
- Hire Miss Dakota Cook as the FFA Sponsor;
- Hire Mrs. Kandace Haines as the Spanish Club Sponsor;
- Hire Miss Casi Painton and Mrs. Shawna Shively as Little Hoosiers Sponsors;
- Hire Mrs. Christina Hartman as the National Honor Society Sponsor;
- Hire Mrs. Jenny Mevis, Mrs. Tabitha Lisek, and Mr. Adam Heckaman as the Robotics Academic Team Sponsors;
- Hire Mr. Brandon Young as the Student Council Sponsor, and a Junior Class Sponsor;
- Hire Mrs. Michelle Waymouth as the Seventh Grade Class Sponsor;
- Hire Mrs. Nancy Nordmann as the Eighth Grade Class Sponsor; and
- Hire Mr. Jason Groves as a Junior Class Sponsor;

Mr. Miller moved, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the motion carried 5 – 0, to approve the following personnel items:

- Approve the “status quo” contracts for all of the teachers;
- Approve the Social Worker contract for Mr. Josh Van Houten;
- Approve the Speech Pathologist contract for Mrs. Sheryl Hochstetler;
- Approve the Assistant Athletic Director contract for Mr. Jason Groves; and
- Approve the Media Specialist contract for Mrs. Carolyn Alexander;

Other  
Business

Subsequent to Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the Jr./Sr. High School textbook rental fees for the 2020/2021 school year as presented. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Rettinger moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried 5 – 0, to approve the following fund raisers for the Jr./Sr. High School:

- High School and Junior High Football: pizza cards;
- Yearbook: chocolate sales;
- Junior Class: magazines and candle sales;
- Art Club: popcorn sales;
- DECA: Ben's Pretzel sales and Valentine beads;
- Cheerleaders: mini cheer clinics;
- FFA: meat/snack sticks, fruit and nuts sale, Marshall County toy tractor show, and the consignment auction;
- Boys' Basketball: apparel sales, and a dodgeball tournament;
- High School Wrestling: wrapping paper;
- Performing Arts: cheese and sausage sale and miscellaneous items for summer; and
- Athletic Department: Golf Scramble

Other  
Business (Cont.)

Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the quote from Edmentum in the amount of \$3,645.00 for the Study Island benchmark assessments; and the quote from McGraw Hill in the amount of \$12,961.48 for intervention materials for grades 3 – 6. Mr. Rettinger 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 expressed appreciation for the maintenance department and others working diligently to help make upgrades to our campus a reality. Current projects consist of: tennis courts, new elementary playground, new ceiling tiles in the Jr./Sr. High School hallways, new bleachers and railing in the Trojan trench that brings this facility up to code, and baseball dugouts. Mr. Riffle stated, "A great deal of time and effort has been expended into something that is not as visible and that is in the preparation for reentry to school. I thank Mr. Gephart and his crew for their dedication to the cause."

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

We believe the most effective instruction for a child happens in the classroom with our highly qualified teachers; therefore, Triton School Corporation will assume all students will be returning as normal. The district released its reopening plans Friday, giving staff and families an idea of what the school year will look like. Triton has been closed since March 16 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The first day for Triton teachers will be Aug. 4 and the students first day will be August 5 as previously planned. Families that do not feel comfortable sending their children back to school will have the option to continue with Digital Learning. Parents or guardians must complete and submit a formal request for online learning or contact the child's school. A form will be made available in the coming weeks.

When in school buildings, it will be expected that students and staff wear masks and maintain social distance as much as possible. Students will wear masks while on the school bus, in high traffic areas such as between classes, and in the bathrooms. Once in the classroom with their family group, students and staff will have the ability to mask down if this is in their best interest. We do ask that individuals provide their own cloth face coverings unless they are unable to do so, at which time the schools will attempt to make them available in the case of them getting dirty, lost, or misplaced. Students will be advised to use a clean/sanitized mask during each school day and to keep one in their backpack.

Schedules will be planned to minimize or eliminate large gatherings of students. All field trips for the first quarter have been canceled. This is not a change in philosophy, but an attempt to keep our scholars safe for the time being. This along with our entire Triton Blueprint, will be reviewed every 15 days in order to make the needed adjustments.

The district is encouraging parents to drop off and pick up their child if possible to limit the number of students riding buses. A map is being prepared to make this a more efficient process.

Hand sanitizing stations will be accessible for students and staff to use regularly throughout the day to prevent the unknowing spread of the novel coronavirus and COVID-19. Sneeze guards and other acrylic barriers are being used in the offices, cafeterias and other areas to increase distance between staff, students and the public. Visitors also will be limited and face restrictions upon entering the buildings.

Superintendent's  
Report (Cont.)

Water fountains will be shut off, and students and staff will use personal water bottles labeled with their names that can be refilled at water bottle filling stations that will be found in all water fountain areas. Regular, non-intervention wellness screenings will be conducted to ensure students and staff are not exhibiting symptoms of illness, including fever and cough. Anyone showing symptoms should remain at home and will not be allowed in the schools. Protocols have been developed should a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19, including closing schools.

Mr. Riffle stated, "We have met with the health department and local health officials and appreciate their guidance and input. One of the things I love about this community is the aspect of relationships and partnerships that we have. It is not that way in every community. This does not necessarily mean we will all agree, however, I think people know that we are doing our very best to keep their child's best interest at heart. All of our best laid plans are subject to change and if needed, further measures will be taken to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. I understand this plan doesn't answer every question about re-entry; however, we hope it provides a framework necessary for families to prepare and make the best decision possible for their scholar and home. One frequently asked question that has been asked since making the Triton Blueprint public on Friday was: 'Will the elementary students have recess?' The answer is "yes"."

**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 has been in communication with our town and will continue to be as it relates to their presence in our school building, during the start of school and dismissal, and how we can continue to work together for the betterment of our students and 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.**

Aside from keeping our scholars safe, providing them a great education is high on the priority list. A benchmark of providing a quality education is what we had the great honor and privilege of being a part of yesterday at 2:00 PM. We are so proud of the Triton graduating class of 2020 and wish them nothing but the best as they begin their journey of life. We hope that each of them can say that they learned valuable lessons at Triton School Corporation that will help propel them to be leaders and productive citizens in the community they choose to call home. Mr. Riffle expressed appreciation to Mr. Orion Lemler and Mr. Kenny Barnhart for their time and effort to ensure we could share this monumental occasion with our graduated extended family and friends.

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

Throughout the planning process this summer and as we start next year, Mr. Riffle said that he is confident that the staff of Triton School Corporation, under the current leadership, will rise to the challenge set before us. We will continue to improve on and set high expectations in the area of communication, instruction, and how we love, care and serve our community.

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

This core value continues to be utilized daily in our current state of unknowns. Mr. Riffle will continue to meet with the county health departments, state and local officials, local leaders, and the Triton Leadership Team members on a daily basis to do what is in the best interest of Triton scholars and staff.

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 couple of weeks, we have had five individuals who will be charged with helping lead our Digital Learning into the future, being trained and preparing to share and guide our teachers in preparation for digital learning this year. We will continue to improve in this area and do all we can to help provide the best possible instruction when we are unable to meet in the traditional classroom, whether this is due to weather related events or pandemic related events.

The old gym and a timeline for the auction and demolition of this 90 year old facility was discussed at the June 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. A "Request for Proposal" was shared with multiple local auctioneers and we will move forward by approving an auctioneer at the August Board Meeting. It would be preferable to have the auction in late August or September and the demolition leading up to or during fall break which is October 19 – 23.

Patrons' Comments

There were no patrons' comments.

Building Reports

Mr. Riffle provided a report for the Elementary, and Mr. McKeand provided a report 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 7:38 PM.

Steven D. Stichter, Secretary

Approved: August 10, 2020

President: *Lee Barnhart*

Secretary: *Steven D. Stichter*

*Kevin R. Bogen*

*Wesley A. A. J.*

*Ken White*

