

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

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

Regular Session

October 09, 2023

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 October 09, 2023. The meeting was live streamed on social media as well.

Members Present: Mrs. Terri Barnhart, Mr. Kevin Boyer (online), Mr. Steve Stichter, and Mr. Wes Rettinger

Members Absent: Mr. Ken Miller

Others Present: Mr. Jeremy Riffle–Superintendent; Mr. Tom McFarland–Business Manager; Mr. Orion Lemler–Triton Social Media; Mrs. Christine Cook–Elementary Principal; Mr. Nate McKeand–Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Jackie Gorski–Times Union

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Barnhart called the Regular Session to order at 7:00 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consensus Agenda

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #5871 –#5877, #5951-#5979, and #5983-#6055 in the amount of \$661,918.96; payrolls #18 – #20 in the amount of \$760,484.45 for a grand total of \$1,422,403.41; and to approve the minutes of the regular session held on September 11, 2023. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 4 – 0.

Patrons' Comments

None

Personnel

Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation Mr. Rettinger moved, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the resignation of Kathryn Nelson as an elementary instructional assistant and Amy Chizum as HS boys track coach. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Gayle Lemler as a part time evening custodian and Abby Dreibelbis as a substitute teacher, Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Rettinger moved to approve Christy Hooley, Anna Damron, and Paul Harms as high school band volunteers, Mr. Stichter seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Riffle recommended the approval of Dan Stichter as a volunteer an activity bus driver, Mr. Rettinger approved, Mr. Boyer seconded and the vote carried 3-0-1. Mr. Stichter moved to approve basketball, wrestling, and cheer coaches, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Riffle recommended to approve Jodie Vermillion's request for sick bank days during maternity leave, Mr. Rettinger moved, Mr. Stichter seconded and the vote carried 4-0.

Business

Mr. Rettinger moved to approve the 2024 budget, Mr. Stichter seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the appropriation reduction resolution, Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Miller motioned to adopt the corporation policy (volume 35, No 1) Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 4-0.

Superintendents Report

Continuous Improvement – Triton Gives Back, in its fifth year, continues to become better and better. Thank you to our incredible counseling team for the time and effort put into this worthy cause. Thank you to our teachers and students for their willingness to serve our community. The gesture does not go unnoticed and the community has shared their thanks for our students and their willingness to give back.

Shared Leadership – Transportation completed rear door evacuations. Bourbon PD, Warsaw PD, KCounty PD, and Indiana State Police were able to assist in the K-9 drug search last week. Tom, Barry, Rodney, Nate, Christine have been seeing bond projects through in each of their buildings or areas of influence. Fall break the varsity football team will help remove elementary desks and chairs for so the new desks can replace them. In the weight room, flooring and equipment will be removed and replaced with new for our students and community. Eventually, the lights on the tennis courts will be replaced, again with the help of the K21 Health Foundation but also the help of trusted vendors and local businesses.

Social Responsibility - Congratulations to the Distinguished Young Woman of 2024: Congratulations to Cheyenne Hawley on taking home the crown. Winners of several scholarships included: Ciara Howell, Jocelynn Falkner, and Addyson Viers. These are four incredible young ladies who continue to model what it looks like to show Personal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Enthusiasm while thinking of others over themselves. I am very proud of you and the DYW Team for the efforts they put in each year to make this incredible scholarship opportunity possible. Also congratulations to Zach Greer and Adam Haran on earning scholarship money as Junior Mister.

Accountability - I reference the letter that was placed in front of you from a local business official explaining how impressed he was with our students at Dream Day. This same individual held us accountable two years ago when we had areas we could improve on. A couple of those areas were how students were dressed for such a great opportunity, how much time they were on their phones, how they addressed the guests, and the organization of the event. This year students were on task, focused on their individual conversation, only one student was on their cell phone, and students left a great impression on the businesses and colleges that were in attendance from all over the region.

High Expectations - We are very proud of the Spirit of Triton Marching Band and their success at Regional. Mr. Seel has very high expectations for his performers and we wish them their best next weekend, Saturday Oct 21st.

Triton Girls Varsity Volleyball is 25-5! Sectionals at Marquette starting on Thursday. Triton Cross Country continues to successfully compete each week and sectionals at Manchester this weekend. Triton Varsity Football is 5-3, had their sectional draw and is going to put the work in to compete for a sectional title. Triton Varsity Cheer had over 50 girls attend their clinic on Saturday. They will cheer at the junior high game this week. Triton Jr High Cross Country had 4 boys (achieved 2nd) and 2 girls (achieved 3rd) make all conference. Thank you Nancy Nordmann and Jenny Mevis for leading them well. Jocelyn Faulkner and Rory Heckaman achieved All Conference. Caden Large and Jaydon Heckaman achieved All Conference Honorable Mention. Girls and boys both placed third in conference. Men's tennis team went undefeated in conference play and won the HNAC Outright. Chloe McKinney a freshman golfer qualified for regional.

Congratulations to Sami Middaugh for being one of 9 delegates to the National 4H Dairy Conference. Caiden Amsden received an award from Officer Watkins for showing the Trojan Way.

Alignment – What is our common goal? Provide a safe learning environment for our students, staff and patrons to thrive. The actions, dialogue, and bickering that has taken place in our community over the last couple of weeks has been nothing less than disheartening. Many conversations have been had, expectations have and will continue to be set. I am asking that our parents model what they expect out of their sons and daughters. All the while I have been so pleased with our students' response while they are working to win regionals, beat a ranked opponent, etc. It is beyond my comprehension how we can continue to tear down, degrade, defame, and rip apart the people we share a community with. I encourage those who are in conflict with multiple people to deal with that by going to that person and rectifying your differences for the sake of our students, teams, and community. Just a reminder of what we strive for our students and community to live out. This does not claim perfection but let's remind ourselves of these words of accountability or alignment.

Trojan PRIDE - Personal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Enthusiasm/Trojan Way - Thinking of others over self

Evidence Based Decision Making - I think this is a very appropriate core value to give a shout out to our Triton School Corporation Counselors (Sarra Arvesen, Ashli Faulkner, and Stacey Scheetz), Miss Allie Shook (ED of Lifelong Learning Network, and Mrs. Jenn Felke Executive Director of the North Central CTE for Marshall and Starke County. Triton has a record number of students who are enrolled in CTE courses and internship opportunities. These ladies continue to work together to put on such events as Dream Day, Manufacturing Day, Discovery Field Trips, College signings, Audit Days, CTE Fairs, FAFSA Night, and the list goes on. We are incredibly blessed with a team who makes evidence based decisions for our students, gets to know their wants and desires, giving them the best shot to succeed in their futures.

Patrons' Comments

There were no comment patron comments.

Building Reports

Mrs. Cook gave a brief building report for the elementary. Mr. McKeand gave a brief building report for the high school.

Other

There were no other comments.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Triton Board of School Trustees, Mrs. Barnhart declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: November 13, 2023

President: Jenn Barnhart

Secretary: Steve Stichter

Wesley McKeand

Ken White
