

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

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

Regular Session

June 8, 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 June 8, 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, 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 #1795 – #1914 in the amount of \$399,302.89, and payrolls #10 – #11 in the amount of \$376,152.65 for a grand total of \$775,455.54; and to approve the minutes of regular session held on May 11, 2020. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Patrons'
Comments

There were no patrons' comments.

Personnel

Subsequent to Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the following personnel items:

- Extend administrator contracts by one year and remaining as "status quo" as follows:
 - Mr. Jeremy Riffle, Superintendent; contract length is 3 years; and the base contract amount is \$106,650.00;
 - Mrs. Christine Cook, Elementary Principal; contract length is 2 years; and the base contract amount is \$79,800.00;
 - Mr. Mason McIntyre, Athletic Director/Dean of Students; contract length is 2 years; and the base contract amount is \$77,602.00; and
 - Mrs. Melissa LaShure, Data Assessment & Curriculum Coordinator; contract length is 2 years; and base contract amount is \$63,300.00.
- Approve a stipend payment in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Mrs. Margo Lemler for the Grab and Go lunches;
- Approve the Independent Contractor Agreement with Mrs. Jonna Watson for school psychologist services (*Note: Mrs. Watson is not an employee of Triton School Corporation*);

Personnel (Cont.)

- Hire Mr. Derek Eveland as the Varsity Volleyball Coach;
- Hire the following for coaching positions for the 2020/2021 school year:
 - **FOOTBALL:** Mr. Rodney Younis as the Varsity Football Coach; Mr. Zach Whittaker and Mr. Lee Bragg as Varsity Assistant Football Coaches and each of them will receive the full stipend amount; Mr. Jeremy May and Mr. Brock Vermillion for a shared position as Varsity Assistant Football Coaches and each of them will receive half of the stipend amount; Mr. Kyle Bell and Mr. Brandon Haines for a shared position as Varsity Assistant Football Coaches and each of them will receive half of the stipend amount; Mr. Matt Arvesen as the Junior High Head Football Coach; and Mr. Bryon Overmyer as a Junior High Assistant Coach;
 - **VOLLEYBALL:** Mrs. Jamey Baker as the Varsity Assistant Volleyball Coach;
 - **CROSS COUNTRY:** Mrs. Nancy Nordmann as the Junior High Cross Country Coach;
 - **GIRLS' GOLF:** Mr. Blake Schori as the Varsity Girls' Golf Coach;
 - **CHEERLEADING:** Mrs. Kim Stetzel as the Varsity Cheerleading Coach for fall and winter seasons;
 - **BOYS' BASKETBALL:** Mr. Jason Groves as the Varsity Basketball Coach; Mr. Blake Schori as the Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach; and Mr. Taylor Long as the Junior Varsity Basketball Coach;
 - **GIRLS' BASKETBALL:** Mr. Adam Heckaman as the Varsity Basketball Coach; Mrs. Paige Miller as the Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach; and Mrs. Justina Faulkner as the Junior Varsity Basketball Coach;
 - **WRESTLING:** Mr. Matt Arvesen as the Varsity Wrestling Coach;
 - **BASEBALL:** Mr. Tyler Hensley as the Varsity Baseball Coach; and Mr. Jake Burnett as the Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach;
 - **BOYS' GOLF:** Mr. Blake Schori as the Varsity Golf Coach; and Mr. Matt Arvesen as the Junior High Golf Coach
 - **GIRLS' TENNIS:** Hire Mr. Adam Heckaman and Ms. Lana Hostrawser as the Girls' Varsity Tennis Coach (*Note: The pay for this position is being split with Ms. Hostrawser receiving \$500.00 and Mr. Heckaman receiving the remainder of the stipend for this position.*);
 - **SOFTBALL:** Mrs. Shannon Houlihan as the Varsity Softball Coach; and Mr. Earl Barger as the Varsity Assistant Softball Coach;
 - **TRACK:** Ms. Amy Chizum as the Varsity Boys' Track Coach; Mr. Jeremy May as the Varsity Girls' Track Coach; and Mr. Thomas Cody as the Varsity Assistant Track Coach.
- Hire Mr. Zach Shafer as a Math Teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School; and
- Transfer Miss Leah Alderfer from her current position as a Sixth Grade Teacher to the position of Elementary Music Teacher.

Other
Business

Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt the new and revised Corporation policies as recommended by NEOLA. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the quote from Jackson Excavating in the amount of \$85,000.00 for demolition of the old gym.

Other
Business (Cont.)

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the quote from Specialty Systems of South Bend in the amount of \$36,600.00 for the removal of asbestos at the old gym. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Miller moved, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the motion carried 5 – 0, to place for auction the contents of the old gym.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to grant permission to the Administration Office to place a legal advertisement in the *Pilot News* and in the *Times Union* for the Annual Financial Report. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Miller moved to approve the Fifth Grade fundraiser requests to have a craft show, Texas Roadhouse Night, and Hacienda Night for the Camp Amigo trip and supplies. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Rettinger moved, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to increase student lunch prices by \$0.10 per day at the Elementary and the Jr./Sr. High School. (*Note: Elementary student lunch prices will be \$2.20 per day, and daily student lunch prices at the Jr./Sr. High School will be \$2.60.*)

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve “Graide Network” to replace “Criterion”. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the “escalator/de-escalator” pricing bid from Prairie Farms for milk and dairy products; and the pricing bid from Aunt Millie Bakery for bread and bakery items for the 2020/2021 school year. (*Note: NIESC, of which Triton is a member school corporation, secured the bid pricing for milk/dairy and bakery products on behalf of the member school corporations.*)

Mr. Miller moved to approve the Elementary and Jr./Sr. High School Student Handbooks as presented for the 2020/2021 school year. This was followed by a second from Mr. Rettinger. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the Elementary textbook rental fees as presented and to also increase the technology fee by \$15.00 to a total of \$40.00 for all Elementary students. 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.

Parent end-of-the-year surveys are being created and each building will be asking for feedback on how we can continue to improve future digital learning initiatives. We will also be arranging an opportunity for parent input as we continue to plan for a safe re-entry to school on August 5. We remain persistent in looking at our technology plan to ensure we are setting our Corporation up for future success.

Superintendent's
Report (Cont.)**Shared Leadership: We work as a team. Each member provides essential leadership in support of our common goals.**

The Indiana Department of Education released their "COVID-19 Health and Safety Re-entry Guidance on June 5. While they make many recommendations, my interpretation as the Superintendent of Triton School Corporation, leads me to believe that they provide a great deal of information, yet few mandates regarding appropriate steps to continue instruction this fall. Basically, there is a repetitive use of the word "should" instead of "shall" thus leaving the decisions up to the local health departments and school corporations.

Mr. Riffle and area superintendents have been meeting weekly with the Marshall County Health Department. Marshall County superintendents are coordinating their efforts and attempting to provide for the best possible outcomes as we plan to safely re-open our schools.

Mr. Riffle stated, "With the release of this document, I believe that this planning group will move into the actual stage of planning as opposed to open discussion over what we may be instructed to do. Please understand that we are all committed to the health, safety, and education of our students. As we make firm re-opening decisions, we will be sharing this information to keep our constituents informed and updated on our progress."

On Monday of last week, Mr. Riffle began meeting with each member of the Triton Leadership Team (Technology, Maintenance, Transportation, Jr./Sr. High School and Elementary building level leaders) in preparation for a safe re-entry to school next fall. Some items that parents can begin to prepare for are as follows:

- Students will wear a mask when on the bus, when in populated areas, and when transitioning in the buildings. Parents will be asked to provide masks for their scholars. Students will not be required to wear a face mask all day long, unless directed by the parent. Physical distancing will be adhered to as much as possible while we remain persistent in finding the most common sense, age appropriate solutions to keeping our scholars safe while on campus.
- Per Indiana Department of Education guidelines on safely returning to school, transportation routes will be limited to one pick up route and one drop off route. However, our transportation discussion concluded that this guideline may be too restrictive for Triton parents and their childcare needs. More information will be coming, similar to what has already been sent out through the Triton School Corporation EZ Routing parent portal. Parents who signed up for more than one drop off per stop will be contacted.
- Triton has invested in bottle fillers as all drinking fountains will be turned off at the beginning of the school year. Teachers will provide additional information when school resumes this fall.
- Due to the fact that each building has its own complications with implementation, building specific videos will be sent out in the coming weeks outlining what the school day will look like at each building and the safety measures we will take to protect our students in an effort to provide them with the most safe and age appropriate learning environment possible.

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 has communicated with both the town and the township about the old gym timeline and a couple of the items that may be important to them. He reviewed the timeline once more and stated the auction of the contents from the old gym will be held in August or September. The demolition will take place during fall break in October.

The Bourbon Police Department will be utilizing the Jr./Sr. High School parking lot on June 24 for their Emergency Vehicle Operations.

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.

“Celebration of Accountability”: Triton School Corporation and the Triton Board of School Trustees will congratulate the class of 2020 at their commencement exercise on July 12 at 2:00 PM in the Trojan Trench. Students will have the opportunity to invite six guests which allows us to abide by social distancing guidelines while allowing most families to be on the bottom set of bleachers. Seats will be assigned by a lottery and family units will be escorted to their assigned seat by a Triton staff member. Graduation will be televised live on Facebook Live and YouTube Live. This live feed can be found on the school website or by following the Triton Trojan Facebook Page. This feature will be great for a family watch party or for a future keepsake.

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

Despite a difficult end to the school year, and what looks to be an interesting start to the new school year, Mr. Riffle expressed assurance that we will continue to maintain high expectations for our staff and students as we strive to provide the best possible education in our region.

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

This core value is being utilized daily in our current state of unknowns. Mr. Riffle continues to meet with the county health departments, state and local officials, local leaders, and the Triton Leadership team to do what is in the best interest of Triton scholars and staff.

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.

We talk a lot about Trojan PRIDE, The Trojan Way, demonstrating high character qualities through NG3, and Kids HOPE USA. Mr. Riffle stated, “I am proud of our teachers over the last 10 weeks who have shown these character qualities that we stress. Have we made mistakes? Yes. Have they worked hard to pull together an Alternative Learning plan that was in its infancy before we began implementation? Yes, they have and I am proud of them. I am also proud of our scholars who have shown grit in the face of some turbulent circumstances.”

Superintendent's Report (Cont.)

He continued, "We are human, and we will continue to make mistakes, but I can promise our Board, our scholars, and our community, that we will continue to work hard for you, give our very best, hold each other accountable, and do everything we can to prepare our scholars for their future and make our community proud."

Patrons' Comments

There were no patrons' comments.

Building Reports

Mr. Riffle provided reports for both of the buildings.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Triton Board of School Trustees, Mrs. Barnhart declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Steven D. Stichter, Secretary

Approved: _____ July 13, 2020

President: Joan Barnhart

Secretary: Steven D. Stichter

Kevin R. Fagan

Wm. M. A.

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