

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

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

Regular Session

February 14, 2022

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 February 14, 2022. The meeting 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.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Mr. Jeremy Riffle – Superintendent; Mrs. Anita Haines – Corporation Receptionist; Mr. Tom McFarland – Business Manager; Mr. Nate McKeand – Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Mrs. Christine Cook – Elementary Principal; Mr. Orion Lemler – Triton Social Media; and Mr. Tom Worsham – Patron.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consensus Agenda

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #3815 – #3974 in the amount of \$471,044.09, payrolls #1 – #2 in the amount of \$384,804.00 for a grand total of \$855,848.09; and to approve the minutes of the finance meeting, reorganization session and regular session held on January 10, 2022. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Patrons' Comments

There were no comments from any patrons.

Personnel

Mr. Miller moved, Mr. Boyer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to accept the resignation of Mr. Terry Scott as the Bus Mechanic.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Debra Green as an Evening Shift Custodian at the Jr./Sr. High School. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Rettinger made a motion to hire Mr. Ronald (Joe) Scott as a Part-Time Bus Mechanic retroactive to his start date of January 31, 2022. This was followed by a second from Mr. Boyer. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Boyer seconded, and the motion carried 5 – 0, to hire Ms. Allie Ogle as an Elementary Instructional Assistant for a maximum of four (4) hours per day.

Personnel
(Cont.)

Subsequent to Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Miller moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried 5 – 0, to utilize Mrs. Linda Bowdler and Mrs. Janelle Bontrager to fill a maternity leave commencing in March and concluding at the end of the school year.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to hire Mr. Caleb Dudeck as a Junior High Wrestling Assistant Coach. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Other
Business

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the 2022/2023 school calendar as recommended by Mr. Riffle. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Rettinger moved, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the motion carried 5 – 0, to approve the quote from Direct Fitness Solutions to purchase weight room equipment in the amount of \$38,589.00.

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the summer school program. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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.

Our second strategic planning workshop led to three areas of improvement: Teacher Quality, Social/Emotional Needs of Students and Staff, and Effective Instruction. Our third workshop will take place on Friday and our hope is to begin to narrow our focus to begin to create ways to meet the needs brought forth by the group.

Mr. Riffle congratulated our Scholars who competed at the Band ISSMA Competition on Saturday. Congratulations and great work to all who represented Triton School Corporation, their families, and our community by using their talents for good. We had 14 soloists and all received gold ratings! There were five ensembles with four groups receiving gold and one group receiving a silver rating. Mr. Will Weissert, as a soloist, and the High School Brass Quintet are all advancing to the State level of competition. Quintet Members are Mr. Will Weissert, Miss Trynidyl Milton, Mr. Wesley Reynolds, Mr. Dannon Titus and Mr. Brady Young.

The Triton Cheerleaders hosted a cheer competition on February 12 at the Trojan Trench. They won first place in their division and also had the best score overall, receiving a 283 out of a possible 300 points. Mr. Riffle congratulated the team and offered congratulations to Miss Lilee Stetzel who won the cheer jump contest.

Mr. Elijah Cox competed at semi-state in East Chicago two weekends ago and gave it his best. He has put a lot of time and effort into this goal and his teammates were integral in his training for this competition. Coach Arvesen and Coach Bass are persistent in creating a thriving program and continue to invest in these athletes in a positive way.

Mr. Riffle congratulated Miss Sadie Barber and Mr. Connor Large on becoming the Triton High School Winter Homecoming King and Queen.

Superintendent's
Report (Cont.)

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

The Triton High School Athletic Department is proud to announce the eleventh class to be inducted into the Triton Athletic Hall of Fame. The class of 2022 includes 2000 graduate, Mrs. Melissa (Nifong) Branam as the female athlete; 1989 graduate, Mr. Randy Hooley, Jr., as the male athlete; former volleyball, girls' basketball, and track coach, Miss Gayle Perry; and contributors, Mr. Bill Keyser and Mrs. Marcia Keyser.

The Induction Banquet will take place on February 26th. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM at the Back Forty Banquet Center in Bourbon. Triton's Athletic Director, Mr. Rick Yarbrough, will serve as the Banquet's emcee for the evening. Tickets will be available for purchase from February 3 through February 19 at a cost of \$25.00 per ticket.

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.

Triton is currently working with our town on a number of projects. Some of those projects are as follows:

- The possibility of Wi-Fi hotspots throughout our town and on campus to help those who need access to complete assigned tasks or get important information.
- Little league parking lot will be redone after the lift station is complete in time for soccer and little league baseball.
- New matching fencing will go along the south side of the property after the lift station is completed to clean up this area and create a consistent look.
- The town continues to communicate on such things as coverage for police presence, transportation concerns, and areas we hope to join together for improvement.
- Also, Miss Kaitlyn Bailey, who is now the leader of Food Truck Friday, is working on a plan to engage our community. The use of Triton School Corporation grounds may be an option for one of these events in October. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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.

With so much discussion as it relates to curriculum in the state, Mr. Riffle feels it is important for our community to know that we are currently working through the textbook adoption process for the subject of Math. Committees consisting of teachers, administrators, and parents will continue to work through this process and do what is best for our continued success and improvement in this area.

Superintendent's
Report (Cont.)

Accountability (continued):

Mr. Riffle posted some information about HB 1134 over the weekend so parents and patrons understand the concern with this bill and its impact on teachers.

- It is the biggest regulation of teachers and the teaching process in our state's history, requiring all materials and "bibliographic" information to be posted online by "August 1 each year." Ironically, this is coming from the supermajority that in former days claimed to oppose regulations.
- The August 1 posting must "identify specific textbooks, audiovisual, electronic, digital, library, or other learning materials, including the title and the author, organization, or Internet address."
- This is an unfunded mandate. Obviously, having every Hoosier teacher post their curriculum by August 1 each year would be a huge expense in time and money, but the bill ignores these expenses to school corporations. The fiscal impact statement says only that "requirements represent an additional workload" and "existing staffing and resource levels" could be "insufficient."
- By micromanaging teacher materials and activities, it shows that the General Assembly does not trust Indiana teachers. The blunt message of HB 1134 is: teachers are not trustworthy.
- This disappointing message will make the teacher shortage in Indiana worse as veteran teachers leave or retire and new teachers graduating from college decide to teach in neighboring states.
- The spontaneity and creativity will be taken out of teaching, confining teaching lessons to materials already on the web portal or materials to be posted within days of their use.
- These provisions will damage only public schools. Private schools are not covered by HB 1134, even though private schools have received over \$1 billion of state tax money since 2011.
- A barrage of curriculum complaints would be a serious burden for school administrators. Complaints must be given a response by the principal within five days, a decision that can be appealed to the superintendent, who must respond in 10 days. That decision can be appealed to the school board, which has 30 days to respond. The board decision can be appealed to the Indiana Department of Education which has 30 days to respond. The department's ruling can be appealed in court in a lawsuit. The potential in this bill for intimidating teachers is clear.

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

In our current reality, extending or expanding expectations has been extremely difficult. That being said, Mr. Riffle noted that he is so very proud of our teachers, instructional assistants, students, and staff for their recent flexibility and adjustment to the storm and working on implementing days of Digital Learning. On this note, February 21, Presidents' Day, will be a day off and will not be used as a make-up day.

Superintendent's Report (Cont.)

High Expectations (continued):

A continued thanks to our coaching staff for all of their hard work and dedication to making a difference in our students' lives. Those activities that are ongoing at this time are wrestling, basketball, baseball workouts, band, choir, FFA competitions, and cheerleading competitions.

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 the importance of expressing appreciation to our students, teachers, parents, and community for coming together during the recent storms. It took so many people to help with Digital Learning, plowing out, and continuing to work towards getting back to "in person" instruction. That being said, we continue to monitor our quarantine numbers and are hopeful that we will be taking one more step in the very near future to get back to some semblance of normalcy.

Southwest Allen County Schools near Fort Wayne recently made some changes that will likely be catching some steam in the coming weeks. Upon completing this report this morning, we have 0 cases at the Elementary, Jr./Sr. high school or staff to report.

Patrons' Comments

Questions from patrons were answered regarding the 2022/2023 school calendar, the new lift station that's being installed, and about Wi-Fi being available for residents of Tippecanoe and Etna Green.

Building Reports

Mrs. Cook provided an update on events at the Elementary.

Mr. McKeand gave a report 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 7:40 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: _____ March 14, 2022

President: _____

Secretary: _____

Steve Stichter

Kevin R. Boyer

Wesley M. [unclear]

Ken [unclear]
