

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

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

**Regular Session**

**October 10, 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 October 10, 2022. The meeting 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. Orion Lemler—Triton Social Media; Mrs. Christine Cook—Elementary Principal; Mr. Nate McKeand-Jr./Sr. High School Principal

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 #4595 –#4601, #4673-#4705, and #4710- #4784 in the amount of \$697, 215.38; payrolls #18 – #20 in the amount of \$677,106.65 for a grand total of \$1,374,322.03; and to approve the minutes of the executive and regular sessions held on September 12, 2022. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Patrons' Comments

None

Personnel

Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the resignation of Joe Scott as a full time bus mechanic. Mr. Rettinger moved to approve the resignation of Kyle Bell as 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball coach and the resignation of John Gardner as 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball coach, Mr. Boyer seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Boyer moved to approve maternity leave and use of 20 sick bank days for Kandace Haines, Mr. Stichter seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Riffle recommended the approval of Amy Whittaker as a high school chemistry teacher and ICP classroom supervisor, Mr. Miller approved, Mr. Boyer seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Boyer moved to approve Kim Stetzel and Kennedy Krull as Spirit Club Co-Sponsors, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Riffle recommended to Paul Williams as 7<sup>th</sup> grade class sponsor, Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Boyer seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Miller moved to approve Brandon Stuart as assistant varsity football coach, Mr. Rettinger seconded and it carried 5-0. Mr. Boyer moved to approve the winter sports coaches, Mr. Stichter seconded and it carried 5-0. Mr. Riffle recommended the approval of Ethan Cooper as a volunteer for high school band, Erica Gaham as volunteer high school band visual designer, Charles Lawrence as volunteer high school percussion instructor, Raquel Tuetle as a volunteer high school color guard instructor, Barbara Schwartz as a volunteer for high school band, Trynidy Milton as a volunteer high school band instructor, Karah Nelson as a volunteer high school band instructor, Mark Schwartz as a volunteer for high school band, Mr. Retting moved; Mr. Miller seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Jaela Meister and Nicolette Prater as substitute teachers, Mr. Boyer seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

## Business

Mr. Stichter moved to approve the 2022 budget, Mr. Boyer seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the appropriation reduction resolution, Mr. Boyer seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Miller motioned to adopt the corporation policy (volume 34, No 2) Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Miller recommended to approve upper deck bleachers, Mr. Stichter seconded and it carried 5-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve leasing the Plymouth school bus, Mr. Boyer seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

Superintendents  
Report

**Continuous Improvement** – Today, time was set aside at both buildings to engage with parents about how we can continue to partner with them to help our students succeed. Triton Jr/Sr High School also took time in the early afternoon to engage the staff about best instructional practice and what an instructional model would look like at the Jr/Sr High School.

**Shared Leadership** – Areas of focus at this time include multiple areas of the strategic plan including but not limited to:

## 1. Encourage Student Academic Success

**Parent Engagement** - Parent teacher conferences were held PreK-12th grade with the intentional hope to re-engage parents and help them know how important our partnership is in their child's success.

**Vertical Alignment** - Since we last met, the math department at the Jr/Sr High School met with the 6th grade math teachers to begin to lay a foundation for more purposeful engagement and vertical articulation of what is most important. The elementary, in their staff meeting last week discussed how best to measure and assess math progress with committee input but also teacher input. November will be the follow up vertical articulation meeting.

## 2. Foster Social Emotional Support

**Train Staff on de-escalation Strategies** - Since we last met, this was a focus at the Jr/Sr High School where Jenny Mevis and Michelle Waymouth discussed some of the behaviors we are seeing and strategies to combat this behavior as we strive for a more conducive learning environment.

**Social and Emotional Growth** - Second steps and character strong lessons have begun.

**Student Engagement Data** - Data is being tracked of how involved students are and how we can plug them into different groups.

## 3. Investment in Teacher and Staff Success

**PD/Collaboration** - Triton Jr/Sr High School, as mentioned, began working on what an instructional model looks like and come to consensus on consistent expectations. Remaining Professional Development days this year include late start days on November 17, and February 16, as well as the typical back to school professional development on January 3rd.

**Feedback Loop** – Better, more transparent communication between everyone continues to be a focus as we do our absolute best to close feedback loops.

**Onboarding** - New teacher training feedback was received and will be used to improve our ongoing efforts to provide a meaningful orientation and mentorship.

**Social Committee** - Continues to actively plan and look for ways to engage staff in fun activities to look out for their needs. A carry in at the elementary leading into fall break and the monthly meal deal at the Jr/Sr High School is always a great way to lift spirits and get people involved. The tailgate in September was a huge success.

**Social Responsibility** - Triton admin staff continues to be in collaboration with the Bourbon Police Department, Town Board, and Indiana State Police on how best to keep our staff and students safe. Steve Watkins has done an outstanding job being a resource, proactively engaging with students and staff as well as reacting to concerns if needed.

**Accountability** - Parent teacher conferences provide the opportunity for all parties involved in our students' education to take accountability and commit to finding ways to succeed.

**High Expectations** - Triton School Corporation is working really hard to get back to pre-pandemic expectations. I think we continue to maintain high expectations but like any business who gave a lot of grace the last couple of years, we are in the midst of the productive struggle or tension between grace and truth. This is never fully resolved however we know we can continue to be consistent, define our expectations, and follow through with them to the best of our ability. Congratulations to our Jr High Girls CC Team for winning conference. Congratulations to our Varsity Cross Country team that qualified for regional. Congratulations to our Marching Band for receiving a Gold Rating.

**Alignment** - I want to thank the Triton Teachers Association for a productive bargaining session. They will come before their membership on Thursday to present the tentative agreement. We will follow up with a public meeting once they have voted, which will then be followed up with a recommendation at the November Board of Trustees meeting.

**Evidence Based Decision Making** - Based on the data received at the beginning of the year, small group instruction, and research based intervention at the elementary we have set benchmarks for the year and will continue to work every day to reach these goals. Bond 2023 is underway. Evidence was used to try to make the most fiscally responsible decision we could and I am happy to share that we are working towards upgrades to our performing arts center, electrical, upgrades to building entrances/facilities and offices.

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 7:28 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: October 10, 2022

President: *Lee Barnhart*

Secretary: *Steve Stichter*

*Kevin R. Bogen*

*Wesley M. [Signature]*

*Kenneth V. [Signature]*