

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WABASH COUNTY

A meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County, Indiana ("School District"), was held at the Administration Building, 204 N. 300 W., Wabash, IN, on April 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. (EST), pursuant to notice duly given to all members in accordance with I.C. 20-26-4-1, I.C. 20-26-4-3, I.C. 5-14-1.5 and the rules of the Board.

**MSDWC School Board met in regular session on April 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office. Seating was limited, and attendance was subjected to social distancing guidelines. All members of the public attending to provide comment were accommodated. We continued to livestream the meeting on Facebook Live. The public was able to comment in person or on Facebook Live during the appropriate times.**

Todd Dazey, President, called the meeting to order. Mike Keaffaber, Superintendent, Chris Kuhn, Assistant Superintendent, and Tim Drake, Chief Academic Officer, were present. A roll call of members on the Board were shown to be present as follows: Matt Driscoll, Kevin Bowman, and Scott Haupert. Absent was Christian Rosen. Also present were Janette Moore, Joel Martin, Jay Snyder, Mike McDivitt, and Steve Downs.

The pledge to the flag was recited.

Future Board meetings are scheduled May 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, at the Administration Building, May 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, at the Administration Building, and June 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, at the Administration Building.

Public Recognition:

The recommendation to approve the \$140.00 donation from the Wabash County Sheriff's Department for Southwood Elementary to purchase snacks for the Little Knights and Kindergarten classes was approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the \$100.00 donation (gift cards) from Harbor Freight for Southwood Elementary's Robotics was approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the \$300.00 donation from an anonymous donor for Northfield's Softball was approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the \$1600.00 donation from: \$500.00 from Hoffman's Nursery & Landscaping; \$500.00 from McKenzie Food, Inc.; \$300.00 from McKillip Seeds, Inc.; \$300.00 donation from Agro-Chem, Inc. all for Northfield Softball was approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the \$110.00 donation from Jonathon Flott for Northfield Track was approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Scott Haupert, and unanimously carried.

#### School Recognition:

From Janette Moore, Principal at Metro North Elementary. Last week, our kindergarten students participated in a field trip to Paradise Springs. As part of their trip, Northfield seniors, Keaton Stout, Ethan Galbraith, Clay Herring and Ben Kissel, brought history to life through reenactment and role playing. Our kindergarten students were the first customers for Arklight Historical Tours, the business idea created by these four NHS students.

Even though our school COVID closure was over a year ago, our parents are still supportive of the work of our staff during that unprecedented time. One parent recently shared her appreciation for Mrs. Stacey Bone, first grade teacher. She shared that during our closure, Mrs. Bone made sure every child felt like they had someone to talk to and was truly there for them. She commented that Mrs. Bone believes in her students and their dreams, she pushes them to be the best them that they can be.

Thank you to our Junior Achievement volunteers. Throughout the school year, we have had nine community volunteers teaching junior achievement curriculum supporting our economic standards. Our JA lessons have taken place in each of our K-2 classrooms. Thank you to our JA volunteers - Ben McFarland, Jennifer Nesler, Tiffany Weaver, Trisha Oswalt, Jett Snyder, Ashley Sheetz, Christine Chamberlain, and Brandi Stackhouse.

From Andrew McDaniel, Principal at Southwood Jr/Sr High School. Southwood Junior Senior High School would like to recognize those choir students who participated in the ISSMA District Vocal/Piano solo and ensemble contest. The district contest combined the state judging in one virtual event this year. SHS had 19 junior high students and 13 high school students enter 26 entries and brought home 22 gold ratings, 3 silver ratings, and one bronze rating. Vocal soloists receiving gold for district and state were Isaac King, Cage Dubois, Micah Dale, Isabel Davis, Katelyn Ranck, Olivia Cummins, Makenlie Lambert, and Lyndzy Silvers. Other SHS students receiving gold ratings were Emma Adams, Sarah Smith, and Isaac Bragg. Soloist Maddison Hunter received a silver rating. The small girls' ensemble of Olivia Cummins, Gracen Kelley, Isabel Davis, singing "Dance on my Heat" received a silver place rating. The small boys' ensemble of Micah Dale, Isaac King, and Cage Dubois, singing "Viva Tutti" received a bronze rating. At the junior high level, these students received gold ratings for vocal solos: Emily Lochard, Rachel Lawson, Fritz Kirk, Malia Mahan, Madison Grace, Grace Drake, Natalie Sutphin, Sylvia Bakehorn, and Makenzie Morman. The small girls' ensemble of Mazie Ghrist, Olivia Simpson, Rachel Lawson, Natalie Sutphin, Sylvia Bakehorn, and Isabel Ashba received a gold rating. The large ensemble of Grace Drake, McKenzie Moorman, Madison Grace, Sarah Grace, Meryn Norman, Aaliyah Bussard, Jordan Hartline, Taylor Cavins, Cooper Drake, and Logan Robberts received a gold rating. Lastly, Sylvia Bakehorn received a silver rating for her piano solo.

The Indiana Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) announced its top high school basketball all-state teams, including the "Supreme 15": list of top senior athletes on Friday, March 24. Carson Rich, Grade 12, made the Small-School All-State Team. Carson finishes his senior season in basketball as Southwood's #2 all-time leading scorer (1373 points), #2 in Most Points in a season (611 for the 2020-2021 season), and tied for #3 with most points in a game (40 points scored vs. Southern Wells and 40 points scored vs. Lakeland Christian--both in sectional play this year). He also finishes as the leader in most steals in a career (268), most steals in a season (109), and most steals in a game (11). We think it's safe to say he was pretty good!

Southwood Junior/Senior High School received an Exemplary Behavior Report for Boys Baseball with their game against Madison-Grant on April 19, 2021. The report reads, "It was clear that the coaching staffs for both Southwood and Madison-Grant have worked to instill the value of respect in their players, respect for their teammates, their opponents, and the umpires. Being able to officiate a game with this kind of positive atmosphere was a pleasure. Players were polite and respectful and approached the game the right way. I commend both programs for their efforts.

The SHS Community would like to thank Senior Sponsors Kari Johnson and Cynthia Bell for planning, organizing, and attending the Senior Trip to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, TN recently. Students were able to see incredible sights and had a great time. It's also important to recognize MSD Transportation Director, Mrs. Melissa Ball. She volunteered her time to drive a school bus with students, chaperones, and baggage to our destination and to various sites. Not only is it difficult to drive for a long stretch of time on the highway, Mrs. Ball adroitly navigated through narrow roads in mountainous areas to help us get to our destinations. We are very appreciative.

SHS is proud of the seniors who attended the Grow Wabash County Honor Student Luncheon on April 15, 2021. Those students were Braden Sweet, Maggie Ball, Marissa Jones, Homero Lopez, Breklynne Swisher, Mason Yentes, Aalyiah Douglass, Monica Hobson, Logan Barley, Emily DeVore, Mariah Brown, Zach Roudebush, Erin McGouldrick, and Alix Winer. We also resurrected the age-old tradition of ice cream after the event!

SHS would like to recognize seniors Alix Winer and AJ Getz. They both qualified and presented at the Regional Innovate Within Competition. Alix placed second and is in the running for the wild card spot for state. AJ did not place (they only recognize 1st and 2nd). Mrs. Johnson's Introduction to Business Class will be competing Wednesday in the County Competition.

Southwood Junior/Senior High School received word from US News and World Report that SHS has earned high National and metro area rankings in 2021. By earning a national ranking in the top 40% of schools in the nation, SHS achieved status as a US News Best High School. These rankings are based on student performance on state math and language arts assessment, student performance on college-level exams (Advanced Placement exams), and graduation rate.

From Joel Martin, Principal at Sharp Creek Elementary. Way to go SCE Wildcats on a fantastic job during the Battle of the Books Competition. This competition is sponsored and put on by the Wabash Carnegie Public Library. Students had to read 8 books and then answer many questions about the details in the books.

We scored two nearly perfect rounds of 11 out of 12 points! Team Members are: 6th grade- Dawson Texeria, Ashlyn Macy, Saige Martin, Kiana Bretzman. 5th grade- Collin Biehl, Montgomrie Dawes, Makaela Shoue, and Callie McClure. 4th grade- Alexis LaFerney, Patrick Nesler, Keira Oswalt, Sienna Stouffer, Addy Bretzman, and Chase Ross! They all did a fabulous job!

This year our SCE Math Bowl team competed in a virtual competition. Our team was made up of 14 members of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students (Electra Merrel, Sienna Stoffel, Jonathon Young, Easton McKillip, Gavin Lester, Joseph Hall, Nate Hodson, Brice Peterson, Jazmine Gill, Hayden Copeland, Chloe Youngblood, Eli Shoue, Saige Martin, Landon McLaughlin) Students worked hard to prepare for the competition by coming to practices on Monday and Wednesday mornings. They worked out numerous problems and challenged themselves. Their knowledge grew each practice. The competition this year was different, but we still had a great time competing and getting to work through challenging problems as a team. We ended up getting 18 of the 32 questions correct! Each member of the team played a key role in our achievement. All of the students did great this season!

From Mike McDivitt, Principal at White's Jr/Sr High School. He spoke about Terrance G the student who lost his life, tragically this past weekend from injuries he sustained in a car accident on his first 24-hour home pass. Terrance had made significant progress in his work towards graduation since his arrival on campus in November. While Terrance was working towards his Core-40 diploma, he has earned enough credits to be awarded his general diploma which we will present posthumously at a time yet to be determined to his family. Terrance will be remembered by his friends on campus as a gregarious leader that had a way to make connections with his peers that earned him the respect of all. His passing will be a tough one for many kids on campus.

Chris Whitacre has been teaching a girls' choir class since early March. This class is held twice a week and its an elective class students choose to enroll. Mr. Whitacre has done a super job of taking all different ability types and shaping them into a choir all the girls can feel good about. They had their first public performance two weeks ago when they sang happy birthday to Mr. Bowyer over the school intercom. Everyone (including Mr. Whitacre) was impressed with how well they performed. Mr. Whitacre has demonstrated initiative and leadership with the class and is making it into an experience many future students will benefit from.

From Jay Snyder, Principal at Northfield Jr/Sr High School. Our NHS Girls Softball team received an Exemplary Behavior Report from umpire William Ball, "Northfield's coaches, players, and parents grilled out and had purposely prepared enough food to invite our entire team to join them Saturday. I would like to nominate the Northfield Softball Team for their hospitality during our double header Saturday. It was a genuinely kind gesture, and it provided a very welcoming environment for our team to compete in."

From Erik Hisner, Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach from Eastern, “Eastern was playing NHS at Kokomo stadium and the first game with Taylor took longer than expected and we didn't start our game with Northfield until 8:00 pm. Their coaching staff and student-athletes were very understanding of the inconvenience, and handled the situation with great flexibility and class. This is a direct reflection of their head coach, Tory Shafer. He does a great job with the Norse baseball program, and teaches his student athletes to not only play the game the right way on the field, but also represent their school in a positive manner off the field. Eastern greatly appreciates how the Northfield Baseball coaches and student-athletes handled the situation and themselves on Monday night!”

Congratulations to Ashton Aderman, Patience Foudray, Logan Graft, Anna Hodson, Jazmyn Kelly, Anna Osborn, and Cody Yeiser for participating in and representing NHS in a virtual Battle of the Books competition on March 30, 2021. Thank you to Mrs. McKillip for sponsoring the team and providing this opportunity for our students.

NHS is proud of our seniors that earned the honor of being invited to attend the Grow Wabash County Honor Student Luncheon on April 15, 2021. Those Seniors that attended were Logan Cox, Michael Fisher, Emma Hoover, Abby Hunter, Jett Snyder, Toby Baer, Alex Hauptert, Emma Brainard, Addi Baker, Lindsay Carter, Elise Gottschalk, Chloe Miller, and Jenna Krom.

Thank you to, Ryan Sincroft and Shelly Myers, for planning the senior trip and Denise Stouffer and several junior parents for planning and chaperoning the prom and post-prom.

Public Comment: (Agenda Items Only)

No comments.

The Regular Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, March 23, 2021, were approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Kevin Bowman, and unanimously carried.

Claims were approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Scott Hauptert, and unanimously carried.

Payroll #18 and #19 were approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

Dr. Kuhn reviewed the March End of Month. Then he reported on the Education Fund and Operations Fund Cash Flow and the Transfers.

Personnel Recommendations:

The recommendation to approve the resignation of Megan Mission, Aide, Northfield Jr/Sr High School, effective the end of the 2020-21 school year; Roberta Herring, Aide, Northfield Jr/Sr High School, effective the end of the 2020-21 school year; Jori Pattee, Secretary, Southwood Jr/Sr High School, effective April 25, 2021 were approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Kevin Bowman, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the retirement of Susan Keefer, Choir Teacher, Southwood Jr/Sr High School, effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year; Cary Hammel, Math Teacher, Southwood Jr/Sr High School, effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year; Rhonda Kirby, Aide, Southwood Jr/Sr High School, effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year were approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Kevin Bowman, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the employment of Alina Reed, Jr. High Cheer Coach, Northfield Jr/Sr High School, effective 2021 season; Joseph Mitchell, Spanish Teacher, Northfield Jr/Sr High School, effective August 9, 2021, Alyssa Spann, Special Education Teacher, Northfield Jr/Sr High School, effective August 9, 2021 were approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Kevin Bowman, and unanimously carried.

#### Heartland Career Center Report:

Matt Driscoll reported on the recent board meeting. They approved an adult welding class. They applied for the Perkins Grant 2021-22. Approved the student scholarship program. Accepted a grant from Perkins Rural Grant to go toward the Ag program and Gene Haas grant. Senior Certificate Honors Program will be May 24, 2021 at the Honeywell Center.

One student got enough credits through Heartland Career Center and Vincennes University in the Criminal Justice program that she will only need to complete one more year of college for an Associate's Degree.

#### Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Mike Keaffaber recognized the students who competed in the regional Innovate Within Competition. The local competition is April 28, 2021.

He shared a graduate's advice that was given at her graduation from White's High School (Mollie's) to the student body.

He recognized the appreciation of the General Assembly who gave schools a significant increase in funding for the biennial, and also reminded everyone that ADM is another key to the factor of increased funding.

He is happy that we have been able to have proms, senior trips, and graduations coming up, with minimal restrictions.

#### Curriculum Report:

Tim Drake reported on iLearn testing. We have been working on accelerated learning through ESSER grants. He is very proud of what is being put together for summer school.

New Business:

Bond Hearing:

The Bond Hearing with the Board of School Trustees of the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County was held April 27, 2021, pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board, Todd Dazey. The President presided over the meeting. It was explained to the Board that under Indiana law, whenever a school corporation proposes to construct or renovate a school building at a cost in excess of one million dollars it must first hold a public hearing. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Wabash Plain Dealer on April 17, 2021.

It was further explained that at this hearing all interested people may give testimony and/or ask questions concerning the renovation of and improvements to school facilities throughout the School Corporation, including roofing and interior improvements at Northfield Jr/Sr High School and Southwood Jr/Sr High School. The purpose of the hearings is two-fold: (1) to inform the public as to the proposed Project; (2) to allow all interested parties, taxpayers and patrons of the School Corporation to voice their opinions as to the Project and ask any questions.

After the purpose of the hearings was explained, the presentations regarding the need for the Projects were given. An evaluation of the existing facilities was then presented, as well as a discussion of the details of the proposed Project. The estimated Project cost and schedule were then presented to the public. It was explained how this Project could be funded, and the potential tax rate impact the Project would have on the community.

After the above presentations, the President announced that the Board would now hear testimony and questions from the public.

At the conclusion of the public testimony and questions, the Board considered the Project Resolution to complete the Project. On a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Scott Hauptert, the resolution (Appendix A), and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to adopt the preliminary bond resolution (Appendix B) upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Kevin Bowman, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to adopt the reimbursement resolution (Appendix C) upon a motion made by Scott Hauptert, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve Strahm for the NHS/SHS ceiling replacement project quote and alternatives was approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve Intraset Technologies for the NHS/SHS Network upgrade Project quote was approved upon a motion made by Kevin Bowman, a second by Scott Hauptert, and unanimously approved.

The recommendation to approve the overnight/extended field trip for Sharp Creek Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> grade class to Camp Mollenhour, Silver Lake, IN, May 19-21, 2021, was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, a second by Kevin Bowman, and unanimously carried.

The recommendation to approve the overnight/extended field trip for Southwood Jr/Sr High School's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to Washington D. C., May 10-13, 2022, was approved upon a motion made by Matt Driscoll, and unanimously carried

Unfinished Business:

None.

Board Policy:

None.

Public Comment (All Agenda Items):

None.

Items from Board Members:

None.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

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TODD DAZEY, PRESIDENT

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KEVIN BOWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

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SCOTT HAUPERT, BOARD MEMBER

---

CHRISTIAN ROSEN, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

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MATT DRISCOLL, SECRETARY