

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
NORTHEAST DUBOIS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION

March 18, 2019

Vol. 2019 No. 6

Mary Pankey, President

Bernard Knies, Vice-President

Kelly Knies, Secretary

John Siebert, Member

Brennan Schepers, Member

NORTHEAST DUBOIS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Board Work Session of the Board of Trustees in the Dubois Middle School Multi-Purpose Room:
Northeast Dubois County School Corporation

This meeting is a meeting of the School Board in public for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and not to be considered a public community meeting. There will be time for public participation at the end.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President, Mrs. Mary Pankey.

ROLL CALL:	Mrs. Mary Pankey, President	Present
	Mr. Bernard Knies, Vice-President	Present
	Mr. Kelly Knies, Secretary	Present
	Mr. John Siebert, Member	Present
	Mr. Brennan Schepers, Member	Present
	Mr. William Hochgesang, Superintendent	Present

OFFICIAL GUESTS:	Mr. Arthur Nordhoff, Jr., Attorney	Absent
	Mrs. DeAnn Meyer, Treasurer	Present
	Mrs. Gretchen Brinkman, Deputy Treasurer	Present
	Mrs. Tina Fawks, Principal	Present
	Mr. Ryan Case, Principal	Present
	Mrs. Brenda Ferguson, Principal	Present

NEWS MEDIA:	<u>NEWSPAPER</u>	
	Daily Herald, Leann Burke	Present
	<u>RADIO</u>	
	WITZ, WQKZ,	Absent
	<u>TV</u>	
	WJTS -TV,	Absent

UNOFFICIAL GUESTS: Brian Dodd, Denise Schroering, Judy Haase, Shawn Dooley, Kate Schmitt, Mary Sendelweck, Jami Gress, Andrea Rickelman, Chris Hasenour, Clarence Reckelhoff, Jennifer Ashby, Kelly Beck, Beth Cave, Duane Thewes, Kris Buechler, Ashley Seger, Kelly Bieker, Pat Seger, Carla Seng, Blake Schroering, Erin Kalb, Brandi Dodd, Sue Striegel

BOARD PUBLIC WORK SESSION
March 18, 2019

PRESENTATIONS

William Hochgesang read a prepared report summarizing the process and how the Corporation got to this point. He had previously presented this report at the February Board meeting. He also shared the results from the Survey. The Board then discussed the Survey results.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Brennan Schepers: High support of consolidating buildings. He had had the opportunity to walk the buildings and to meet individually with many staff members. He felt the survey results and the conversations have been helpful. He asked what consolidating might look like.

George Link: We will meet with staff on multiple occasions as we move forward.

Discussion: If 60% want tax rate steady, then we need to work accordingly. We want to preserve our qualities that were identified as strengths: small school, good teachers and staff, lowest tax rate in the county. We can preserve what we have. We can thrive! It's time to make some decisions.

George Link: There are three options: Stay status quo; 4 buildings down to 3 buildings; 4 buildings down to 2 buildings.

Three Building Configuration: Without cutting any teaching positions, save \$217,500 (costs thru reduced other staff, utilities, maintenance, etc)

Two Building Configuration: Total annual savings of \$450,000-\$500,000. Includes elimination of two teachers in the coming years pending class size.

George shares the potential for two buildings and what it might look like.

John Siebert: What are the downsides?

George Link: You have room to grow with the plan presented.

Brennan Schepers: Concerned with having rooms for small group; Worries about moving the Library; If only have a few grades of 3 sections, unnecessary expenses; Don't close DES now. We don't want to invest where no future is likely.

Bernard Knies: If we continue with DES, maybe PK-2?

George Link: If three buildings: PK-3; 4th grade to 8th grade at the Middle School; 9th grade to 12th grade at the High School.

Mary Pankey: We need to decide our first priority. Do we need gr 7-8 at HS for labs, etc? Lower level space of MS; Entryway of MS (library); How do 7-12 schools keep segregation of grade levels?

Bernard Knies and **Ryan Case** shared about a PK-12 school where they seem to have no issues.

Kelly Knies: looking for a way for another hallway to segregate jr/sr students

Bernard Knies: questioned the access to front parking

Tina Fawks and **Ryan Case** commented on current/future thoughts in regards to the space needed for Special Ed.

Tina Fawks: There is flexibility in the Special Ed configurations.

Mary Pankey: We need another work session.

George Link will work on cost for options.

Mary Pankey: What is our first priority?

George Link: Build a first class facility if go 7th grade - 12th grade; we don't have the enrollment or the finances to duplicate spaces in multiple buildings.

Bernard Knies: We need to look at 7th grade-12th grade option with efficiencies.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Clarence Reckelhoff: Are we leaning toward two or three buildings? Work on high school first to update labs/STEM spaces. Then look at other buildings secondarily.

Blake Schroering: Payments to stay steady, how many years needed to pay for what we want to do.

Shawn Dooley: What happens to Dubois Elementary if it is closed?

Erin Kalb: What about using DES for auxiliary gym? Hosting tournaments that we lose money on now by not utilizing.

Chris Hasenour: Prepared statement: We need to update High School labs. Suggestion: Don't renew debt service fund; Renew education fund referendum; Corporation can run a campaign maintaining four buildings, three sections per grade, after school programs; Most debt service funding does not directly impact student education; What are cost savings if closing one or two elementary buildings? Costs 1% to run CE; 2% to run DE (not staff costs).

Ashley Seger: Think about the younger students so they don't bounce from school to school. Mary Pankey agreed with only one move for students.

2019---46 **ADJOURNMENT**

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned at 8:33p.m.

Motion by	Bernard Knies
Seconded by	Kelly Knies
Vote	5-0

The Board will meet in Executive Session following the regular meeting. I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b) (2(A), 3 & 9) relating to: collective bargaining, school safety, and job performance evaluations.

1. Call to Order
2. Review & Discuss
3. Adjournment