

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD  
NORTHEAST DUBOIS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION

January 29, 2019

Vol. 2019 No. 3

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Mary Pankey, President

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Bernard Knies, Vice-President

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Kelly Knies, Secretary

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John Siebert, Member

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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 6:31 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: Ruth Leistner, Alan Matheis, Amy Mitchell, Kim Miley, Mary Poston, Erin Kalb, Kate Schmitt, Sue Striegel, Philip Bieker, Andrea Rickelman, Chris Hasenour, Kelly Bieker, Kristen Breeding, Rachelle Hasenour, Nick Hasenour, Pat Seger, Jami Gress, Shawna Verkamp, Duane Thewes, Ryan Wininger, Kris Buechler, Beth Cave, Ashley Seger, Eric Reuber, Kurt Sermersheim, Glenda

Reckelhoff, Judy Haase, Kevin Kalb, Shawn Kalb, Carla Seng, Joe Seger, & Denise Schroering

BOARD PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
January 29, 2019

**OPENING REMARKS**

**George Link:** Time table is revised so bonds can be sold by the end of the year. Could take a number of work sessions. Tonight's focus is to provide quality, competitive education, eliminate need for referendum, and financial responsibility. Encouraged all Board members to chime in because all opinions matter.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

**Mary Pankey:** Address to the Public: This is a Board meeting. After the Board discussion there will be time allotted for public comments and questions. Three areas of focus: Technology, Science, STEM, Engineering, Vocational. Important to have great facilities for students

**John Siebert:** Quality, high competitive education is important. Need a vision for how we grow, implement some processes (STEM classes, etc.), reasons to want to stay/go to Northeast Dubois

**Bernard Knies:** Project Based Learning is a necessity, facilities need to be accommodating

**Kelly Knies:** Buildings need to look good to attract students. Facelift is needed to buildings, design within buildings, how many buildings do we need? Best use of space.

**Brennan Schepers:** Look to increase enrollment. It is a Southern Indiana issue, not just Northeast Dubois. Quality education and class sizes. What is the ideal number across grades? Do we have enough space? How many sections do we need?

**Mary Pankey:** Three years ago we hoped enrollment would stabilize. The issue is fewer children in families. The problem is not so much from losing to neighboring schools. We need to be realistic. We need to get our best bang for our buck long term. It needs to still benefit us for 5, 10, 20 years down the road. We need to make hard decisions. George Link says we can fit in two buildings at some point.

**George Link:** County rate for students going off to college 75%. 30-35% actually complete a 4 year degree. What happens to the other 25% of our students when they leave High School? Young adults are not returning home to Southern Indiana.

Declining in enrollment is due to low birth rate. Good job at bringing outside into our district.

**Kelly Knies:** We need to make employers, not just employees. Kids don't know the the next step.

**Brennan Schepers:** We offer Dual Credits. Can students obtain credentials while still in high school?

**Tina Fawks:** Vocational programs are offered.

**Bernard Knies:** Hub 19 is currently working on WorkPlace training.

**William Hochgesang:** Stackable creditals with new courses thru VUJ

**Tina Fawks:** Hub 19 offers work ethics certification. Will gather end of senior year intentions.

**George Link:** Where are the graduates going that are not going on to post high school education? Be more prepared graduates.

**Mary Pankey:** some things out of our control

**Tina Fawks:** staffing for new curriculum is not needed

**George Link:** Look at what we do with the non-mandated curriculum (this is what we can control)

**Tina Fawks:** HOSA; Education Professions (48 within 3 corps), Culinary Arts - numbers did not warrant to keep the program; Lost River Coop; Patoka Valley Coop

**William Hochgesang:** programs shared among neighboring corps. County schools are working together to help all students. Shared program. We all benefit. Per student money.

**John Siebert:** Safety and security. Segregation of students by age spans

**Mary Pankey:** Since we have until the end of year to secure bonds, do we start with what we want to do?

**George Link:** need to tell me everything you want so all can go into considerations

**Mary Pankey:** underutilized space and how best to use those spaces? Renovation of underutilized spaces into classrooms?

**Kelly Knies:** what do we modify/change first for a smooth transition.

**Mary Pankey:** We need to have a sequence of events

Opportunity to “do it right”; referendum allows us the time to make the decisions  
I don’t see a reason to disrupt any students until we know the plan.

No desire for another referendum.

Move all at one time

If we can eliminate a teacher due to class size, that is fine, but not rushing into changes.

**Kelly Knies:** we have 5 years until referendum is over.

**Mary Pankey:** some people are saying we can raise taxes to make a better plan. But, we want to balance what is best for students, best for teachers, and best for our taxpayers.

**Kelly Knies:** spend money wastefully or wisely. Not for spoiling....

**George Link:** purpose of this evening: What do you want to see in the schools? Then I can return with options.

**Mary Pankey:** start with a wish list, then prioritize. Hearing concerns that we are not taking care of current schools while working thru this process. As long as we have four schools, we will take care of four schools. We have delayed keeping 4 schools as long as we can. Spend money on buildings or on educational programs. If enrollment doesn’t change we will need to reduce buildings. We need to find the way to do the best things for all students. Look at the benefits of consolidation of buildings: collaboration, best plan for all students. Look at the most sequential plan to not disrupt education more than necessary. If we have the time, then do it in the timeline that disrupts the least.

**William Hochgesang:** we want our teachers to have what they need to do a good job.

**Bernard Knies:** STEM needs to be invested in; what does that require? Have a structure that best meets those needs. Some are special classes that need to be made available.

**Mary Pankey:** need more classrooms; Curriculum changes; staff add certifications; We have the staff resources

**George Link:** STEM K-12

**Bernard Knies:** Classroom education is primary, but Athletics plays into the social development; need facilities that allow for it.

**William Hochgesang:** All extra-curricular is important.

**Kelly Knies:** if we went to 2 schools would we need another gym.

**George Link:** I'd never say "have to," but I would certainly recommend it. Not a big competition gym, but for smaller needs.

**Kelly Knies:** would we need to put a cap on how many students we accept if we go to 2 schools?

**George Link:** I would not consider that. (Barr Reeve looked at capping Kindergarten; worried about losing their small school feel; 20% of students are from out of districts) Southeast Dubois is in a similar situation. They just started out with more students to lose than we have. Over last 10 years they have lost around 300 students.

**Bernard Knies:** I don't think recruiting students from another school is a sustainable model. We need to build a corporation so people want to live here. Don't count on pulling in from other corps

**John Siebert:** how do we grow our preschool program/feeder system?

**Mary Pankey:** our preschool is important. Great STEM programs can be important. We need more classrooms.

**Kelly Knies:** one thing that we have going for us is we are a small school; everybody wants to be big; being small is a positive. High school needs better signage to know entrances.

**John Siebert:** does George Link have enough teacher input

**George Link:** Yes, would like to have more meetings with staff.  
STEM; Before/after school programs

**William Hochgesang:** the YMCA approaches us yearly.

**DeAnn Meyer:** we post every year to ask about interest in a latchkey program? We seldom get more than a 1 or 2.

**George Link:** wants to connect with YMCA to discuss how to maximize space.

**Mary Pankey:** 5 days a week preschool. Need the space

**George Link:** will plan space for “next steps”

EX: if preschool grows, know how/where that would happen (look beyond today)

**Mary Pankey:** when debt falls off,

**George Link:** will start looking at all wish list items

**John Siebert:** we need to look at needs, then talk to the Bond Council to see what we need to do to get where we need to get the right way.

**George Link:** need to minimize the number of moves for students

**Kelly Knies:** raising taxes would be very painful

**William Hochgesang:** we are 11th from the bottom in the state funding; extra funding is based on TNF, etc students

**William Hochgesang:** when I started as supt, I looked at a daycare option but wasn't appearing to generate funds. Need to allow preschool some days, daycare the rest of the days

**George Link:** wants us to survey the community on daycare needs. (maybe do a Survey Monkey)

**Kelly Knies:** we need to live within our means

**Brennan Schepers:** first need to determine our needs

**Mary Pankey:** critical needs must be met first

**John Siebert:** when/how to survey students

**William Hochgesang:** we need to talk to those who have graduated (what did they need that maybe we didn't prepare them for)

**George Link:** when to meet with students

**Tina Fawks:** during home room schedule

**Brennan Schepers:** we need to determine class sizes so we have a target on future planning.

Possible plan of moving grade 4 to MS; If need 3 sections for lower grades;  
Start at the high school and work backwards

**Mary Pankey:** special needs kids & rambunctious kids all affect class sizes

**Tina Fawks:** elective class sizes should not be the same as core classes. I don't want to eliminate options for students because of class size requirements.  
We are very student-centered in scheduling.

**Mary Pankey:** biggest disadvantage with two elementary schools- cannot divide class sizes evenly and based on needs. There are advantages to all kids learning with others with special needs. Opportunities that we can afford our students.

**Ryan Case:** current enrollment shown on the screen. Grade 4 moving to 2 sections would be difficult

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Alan Matheis:** Is the referendum a better deal than the bond issue? Back off of bonds a bit and referendum will be a better deal.

**William Hochgesang:** clarified when another referendum can be run.  
Must first max out tax caps before a capital projects referendum can be requested.  
Plan makes sense but is against the law in a school setting.

**Mary Pankey:** we try to do what we can without raising taxes.

**Kevin Kalb:** If everyone pays the same amount, then raise the tax rate. But some of us are getting hit again and again. Very nice schools in Jasper, SE and NED. Remodeling the looks would be good. We don't have good sports facilities; only 1 softball field. It is tough, but when competing.....

**Erin Kalb:** other schools also have nice facilities that they can host events that bring in money to the schools

**Ryan Wineinger:** Look at what is already available (VUJC, CRANE, collaborative opportunities) Flexible spaces; After school options; re-evaluate; gym was discussed, can that then be used for after school or childcare opportunities

**Kelly Bieker:** Does the board plan to respond to the questions I asked at the last school board meeting. People are willing to pay more but what can be done for what students pay for at the start of the year.



**William Hochgesang:** State mandates Book bills - only for the cost of materials for a class We cannot charge tuition for a public education.

**Erin Kalb:** Fewer babysitters, more need for an after school program. Some parents have to take their children to a sitter in Jasper; will they begin to question if they should send their kids to school in Jasper because there is available childcare there?

**Kim Miley:** with survey, need to do more than just remind and facebook in order to get surveys out to all

**Kelly Beck:** Classrooms may appear to be empty at times, but are often used for special needs with IEP requirements (by law).

**Beth Cave:** Have we explored a Language Lab at the high school? Latchkey program - some meet in cafeteria, gymnasium, place to store materials

**George Link:** Suggests next Monday be used to work on questions for a survey. We can also re-evaluate the date of the third meeting at that time. If every board member would come prepared with a few questions that they would like to include, that would be beneficial.

### **FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

Wish list gathering

Meeting with staff

Student info.  
Wish List  
Science, Engineering, STEM K-12  
Classrooms  
Growing Feeder Programs (preschool)  
After School Programs  
What is the appropriate class size at each level?

2019---29      **MEETING DATE**

It was recommended that the meeting scheduled for February 12, 2019 be cancelled and rescheduled. The date will be set at the February 4, 2019 meeting.

Motion by      Kelly Knies  
Seconded by    Brennan Schepers  
Vote              5-0

2019---30      **ADJOURNMENT**

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned at 8:02 p.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