

January 2024 Business and Administration Reports
January 11, 2024

- I. Roll Call
Present: Steve McLaughlin, Rex Ryker, Brent Bokhart, Susan Albrecht, Kathy Brown, Kent Minnette, Monte Thompson, Andrew Nicodemus, Lisa Tyler, Heidi Plunkett, Rita Rothernburger, Tina McGrady, Diana Wilbert, Stephanie Wilkinson, Mark Melton, Jay Strickland, Jacquie Voliva +1, Lexi Carson, Sara Nicodemus, Anders Nicodemus, Stephanie Wilkinson
- II. CHARACTER COUNTS - Trustworthiness
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. **Reorganization of Board**
 - a. Election of President - **Steve McLaughlin was nominated by Kathy Brown, seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote 4-0**
 - b. Election of Vice President - **Kathy Brown was nominated by Susan Albrecht, seconded by Monte Thompson. Vote 4-0**
 - c. Election of Secretary - **Susan Albrecht was nominated by Kathy Brown, seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote 4-0**
 - d. Election of Assistant Secretary - **Monte Thompson was nominated by Kathy Brown, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 4-0**
 - e. Appointment of Legislative Liaison to the Indiana School Boards Association - **Kent Minnette was nominated by Kathy Brown seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 4-0**
- V. Consent Agenda - **Motion to approve was made by Monte Thompson seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote 5-0**
- VI. **Building Principal Report** - Heidi Plunkett, Director- Willson
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Consider Policy 8550 Service Animals - Public Events (Second Reading)
Susan Albrecht made a motion to pass Seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote 5-0
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Consider Resolution for Authorization to Sign Agreements for Alternative Services and Private Residential School Placements
This resolution allows Dr. Ryker to agree on alternative services and placements for our students. I recommend the board approve.
Kathy Brown made a motion to pass seconded by Monte Thompson. Vote 5-0
 - b. Consider Distribution of Early Literacy Achievement Grant Funds
Dr. Ryker recommended to table this item until next month while he inquired about the distribution of funds.
 - c. Consider Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement
This agreement was approved by the Crawfordsville Education Association, which had prior approval from the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board. This is the same CBA that was sent for review via email on November 6th. Dr. Ryker recommended the board approve the ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Kathy Brown made a motion to pass seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 5-0
 - d. Consider Application for opening of virtual school
Crawfordsville Community School Corporation has a vision to provide students to be responsible, productive citizens in a global society. Within our mission, we are called to support a variety of paths to academic success and lifelong learning and provide

programs to overcome obstacles that interfere with learning. By adding an accredited virtual school to the school offerings of Crawfordsville Community School Corporation, we can provide students with an alternative path toward an accredited Indiana High School diploma.

To provide this programming, we present the vision of opening the Athens Virtual Academy of Indiana (AVA) under Crawfordsville Community School Corporation. The Athens Virtual Academy of Indiana will serve students in grades 7 through 12 and will open on July 1, 2024, for a potential summer session. The first fall semester day will be August 7th, 2024.

Before making a recommendation, the team was glad to answer any questions.

Kathy Brown asked “What are partner schools?”

Dr. Rykers response: A partner school would be a school corporation that we have agreed that if their student has applied to enroll in our virtual school we will not accept them as a transfer student but would remain a student of their residential district and that corporation would reimburse us for services provided. This could also apply in the case where if CCSC does not have a staff member to conduct a class, the other corporation could fill that position. Dr. Ryker has met with North Montgomery Superintendent and would like to continue collaborating with other schools around CCSC.

Monte Thompson asked “What is the anticipated Need?”

Dr. Rykers response: The need is based on the number of courses. When enrollment reaches 80-100 students it starts to become self-sufficient. 1400 courses is the metrics used to determine this need which could equate to about 100 students.

Susan Albrecht asked about the full time principal.

Dr. Rykers response: After this Virtual school is approved by the board, it will be recommended that current Assistant Principal of CHS, Mark Melton, would become the principal of AVA. He has been excellent at finding avenues to get students through graduation. Mr. Strickland and his staff have had conversations about how to handle the staffing.

Susan Albrecht asked, how will teachers who are interested in this AVA work these hours?

Dr. Rykers response: Teachers may receive a period during the day to instruct their course. Another option would be outside school hours. The AVA teacher would receive compensation based on student activity and completion of a course.

Patron Comment: How will this affect the alternative school?

Dr. Rykers response: For students who can do a complete virtual setting they could enroll for the AVA school. For those who still need adult guidance, they would remain at the alternative school. This ultimately will free up space at the alternative school.

Dr. Ryker recommended the board approve our application for the Athens Virtual Academy of Indiana to be recognized as an accredited virtual school for the State of Indiana, and we are available to answer questions.

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote 5-0

e. Consider eLearning Day for April 8, 2024 (Eclipse)

On December 22nd, Kathy Brown, Brent Bokhart, Amber Reed, and Dr. Ryker met with a community group to discuss the Solar Eclipse for April 8th, 2024. Part of the discussion was about our plan to attend school with an early release for our elementary and a regular dismissal for our secondary students. Local and State emergency management and INDOT were present, and due to concerns that there could be a significant population traveling 74 and 231, felt it would be best if we were not in school to not put an extra burden on emergency resources if there are any issues.

With this information, we should join our county schools in having an eLearning day for our students and staff. We have historically avoided eLearning; however, this unique situation is a great opportunity for us to explore the potential use of eLearning.

We revived our distance learning committee and developed an eLearning plan from the pandemic days. If approved, we will provide a blended approach with PK-5 having packets and 6-12 having assignments delivered via Canvas. Packets will be provided for 6-12 students who do not have internet access. PK-5 teachers will be available for office hours from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm to help students and parents via email, Dojo, or Canvas. Teachers will be available by phone and email for any administrator needs from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Teachers need to be in a location with internet access and the ability to communicate via email or Dojo. Administrators will be available via phone and email from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. Teachers who are unavailable via phone and internet must use a personal or sick day. Dr Ryker recommended the board approve using an eLearning day for April 8th, 2024. **Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Vote 5-0**

f. Consider Authorization of Lion Electric Grant Application

This is authorization to continue to explore the Clean Bus EPA Grant for acquiring electric buses. Price points continue to be challenging, with our most recent quote for an electric bus being \$345,000. We also have some infrastructure to upgrade to handle the chargers, as voltage capabilities need to be increased to around \$40,000. Authorizing the Grant Application would allow us to submit and still have the door open to receive up to \$200,000 from the Clean Bus EPA Grant, but can withdraw if the challenges are too great to overcome. I recommend the board authorize Lion Electric to submit a grant application to pursue the opportunity.

Monte Thompson asked "What is the calculation of fuel vs. electric charges?"

Dr. Rykers response: We spend 50-200k on fuel per bus in one year. The current cost of an EV Bus is not a savings but clean energy.

Dr. Bokharts response: Charging could be done overnight during non-peak hours on the grid. Conversations will involve CEL&P if we move forward with this.

Kent Minnette asked about maintenance for these Electric Busses.

Dr. Bokharts response: We visited other schools to learn more about this as well.

CCSC's Master Technician Luke Brinkerhoff joined them and came away with a positive outlook for this possibility.

Steve McLaughlin asked about the infrastructure upgrades and cost?

Dr. Bokharts response: One charger would service 2 buses. The cost is unclear at the moment and will be researched before decisions are made.

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 5-0

IX. Personnel - I recommend the Board approve the resignations and recommendations for hiring.

- a. Consider Kim Scanlon Resignation - CMS Administrative Assistant
- b. Consider Taran Hatch Resignation - Nicholson Life Skills Aide
- c. Consider Ann Stanley Retirement - Hoover Art Teacher

Ann is completing her 32nd year of teaching. She has been a strong elementary art teacher and advocate for essential arts in elementary schools. She has plans to pursue her love of art. Her experience and her passion for art and the essential arts will be missed. Congratulations to Ann for reaching this moment in both her personal and professional lives, and I recommend the board approve her retirement.

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 5-0

- d. Recommend Debbie Clapp - Hose Media Center Assistant
- e. Recommend Kiersten Schefke - CMS Front Office Assistant

- f. Recommend Sarah Walden - Willson Speech Language Pathologist
Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote 5-0
- X. Change of Position - This informs the Board of position changes and does not require any action.
 - a. Tara Walters from Corporation ECA Treasurer to Payroll Specialist
 - b. Robert Roark from Substitute to Hoover Life Skills Aide
- XI. Business Manager Report: Andrew Nicodemus
 - a. Debt Collection
 - 1. Letters went out to individuals with outstanding inactive lunch and/or curricular materials balances. Payment is due by Jan 19, 2024, before we submit it to the respective collection agency.
 - b. Grants
 - 1. Received approval for our K-12 competitive robotics grant. With this approval, we were awarded an additional \$8,013 in grant funds for use as needed. We are working on the modifications for this grant.
- XII. Assistant Superintendent Report: Dr. Brent Bokhart
 - a. ILEARN Pilot Opt-In - The state testing is going through another change following the update of the standards this past early summer. ILEARN is being updated to include checkpoint assessments on prioritized standards throughout the year. There would be 3 of them, which then leads to an overall shortened summative in April. Schools will be required to participate in this testing system beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Schools have an opportunity to opt-in to the testing system for the 2024-2025 school year, which we have decided to do, as it will give us an opportunity to see and learn how to use the new checkpoint assessments that will be given during the year.
 - b. The final report from the 2nd high school youth summit has been released from the summit that occurred on October 26th. The general themes that were in the report were 1) general anxiety about the future and participants' self image, 2) systemic problems and approaches to addressing mental health in school, and 3) gathering together as a broader community. The wellness coalition will meet on January 29th to discuss and review further the findings in the report.
 - c. We have been pushing the past few years on the teen vaping epidemic. The 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey found that about 2.8 million youth currently use a tobacco product, which was up from 2.5 million in 2022. We have continued to initiate preventative measures including the Catch My Breath at the middle school and SRO engagement as well. We recently planned additional measures in our Safe Schools Grant to receive funding for vape detectors at the middle school and high school. In combination with money received from the JUUL settlement we will be acquiring and installing these sensors early this semester.
- XIII. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Rex Ryker
 - a. Congratulations to Andrew Nicodemus for completing the Chief Business Official certification process through the Indiana Association of School Business Officials. The knowledge, skills, and connections he gains from his certification and connection with IASBO greatly benefit our corporation and his professional development.

- b. Elementary schools participated in an hour of coding
- c. CHS production of *Charley's Aunt* and the *Winter music concert*
- d. CHS Wrestling team is county champs - the first time since 2009.
- e. Sugar Creek Classic Champions
- f. I've been asked about the Athenian Way. I think I can best describe it with anecdotes such as moving from praising our basketball team for winning their 5th Sugar Creek Classic to now recognizing them for going caroling to two local nursing homes and the homes of a few individuals who have devoted an amazing amount of time supporting our student-athletes such as Gary and Sheri Linn and Susan Ehrlich. I also want to remind you that last month, we recognized our wrestlers for helping out another school. Excellence in caring and achievement – that is the Athenian Way.
- g. Crawfordsville Schools contacted Kelly Taylor at Montgomery County Community Foundation regarding child care needs of some of our employees. In November she shared a grant opportunity through the Family and Social Services Administration. Brittany Cooper wrote a Grant with the information she received from a survey of our staff. Governor Holcomb announced that we have been granted 200k for Employee Childcare needs. A later meeting will help clarify our options to help our families. We're thankful for our community supporters.
- h. There have been whispers of a new Athenian walking the halls, so we are looking for someone new in our schools.

A. *Reminders and Announcements*

1. Please see the [Athenian Oracle](#). The opportunities provided by our staff and the achievements of our students are exceptional. I'm proud to say I'm an Athenian.
2. Board Appreciation Month - Thank you to the Board for the opportunity to serve our school community as the superintendent.
3. *Our next board meeting is at 5:30 pm at Hose Elementary on Thursday, February 8th.*

XII. Other

XIII. Board Members Communication

XIV. Patron Comments

XV. Adjournment - Steve McLaughlin called for a motion to adjourn. Kathy Brown made the motion seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote 5-0
Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.