

**Crawfordsville Community School Corporation  
Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Thursday, March 14th, 2024, at 5:30 P.M  
Crawfordsville Middle School, 705 Wallace Ave.**

**MINUTES**

- I. Roll Call:** Called to order at 5:30pm  
**Present:** Steve McLaughlin, Kent Minnette, Monte Thompson, Kathy Brown, Rex Ryker, Brent Bokhart, Doug Lengerich, Sean Gerold, Tami Haas, Tina McGrady, Kris Sims, Jennie Sims, Lexi Carson, Graham Gerold, Silas Hartlett, Aiden French, Alea Seward, Maria Seward, Kenley Lain, Gabe Elizondo, Aubrey Finney, Carter McDorman, Averie Cavies, Isabel Gerdes, Tom Bray, Lori Bray, Louisa Chasteen, Gabriella Saidian, Caroline Bowling, Emily Miller, Takeshi Greiner, Shawn Greiner, Stacey Guard, Chastity French, Rachel O’Neal, Cami Lain, Amy Dennison, Phil Dennison, Charissa Ajayi, Laurie Vellner, Kathy Heiderman, Kylie McFarland  
**Absent:** Susan Albrecht
- II. CHARACTER COUNTS!<sup>SM</sup> Corporation - Caring**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Vouchers, and Surplus Items**  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote: 4-0
- V. Building Principal Report - Tami Haas - Student Presentation - Teacher Leadership Team & Advisory Council CMS**
- a. Staff Highlight for their work toward High Reliability School Certification. Mrs. Haas thanked the staff present for their hard work during this process over the past several months.
    - i. CMS recently completed their certification process to become a High Reliability School. They have been working to make CMS a safe, collaborative, and inclusive school. Students and parents are able to provide input and have a voice on how the school should run in order to improve it.
  - b. The Student Leadership Team presented their work during this current school year. Subjects such as attendance, vape incidents, student involvement, and safety were all topics that were addressed.
    - i. Attendance this school year has gone up almost 10% from last year. Clubs, teams, and incentives like The Shield Trip and 8th grade challenges give students a reason to come to school and engage in fun activities.
    - ii. Over the past five years, the vaping rate at CMS has gone down by 80%. Increased knowledge of the dangers of vaping and the added vape detectors that were recently installed in bathrooms are helping make great strides at diminishing vaping at CMS.
    - iii. Student involvement has gone up by 15% in various activities such as After The Bell Clubs (cooking club, VEX Robotics, Anime, Disney & Weightlifting), Academic teams, various sports, the student suggestion box, multiple leadership opportunities and advisory class challenges.

- iv. Recently CMS and CHS have adopted the Sandy Hook Save Promise Club. It includes an anonymous reporting system that allows students to inform higher ups of incidents of bullying, violence, self harm, etc. CMS has also increased awareness about the suicide hotline (988). At the beginning of the school year, students filled out a survey detailing how safe they felt at CMS. This survey yielded great results, showing that a majority of students feel very safe and secure at their school.

## **VI. Old Business**

- a. Consider 2025-2026 Calendar  
Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote: 4-0

## **VII. New Business**

- a. Consider 8th Grade 2024 Springfield Trip - Tami Haas  
Students presented information in a request to attend a field trip to Springfield, IL on October 16, 2024 visiting the Presidential Museum, Lincoln's Tomb, Illinois State Capitol Building, and Lincoln's Boyhood Home. Students will also be reading the book *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. This book is about Lincoln's assassination with the timeline and events that happened after he was killed. The trip relates to the book by giving students an in-depth understanding of the events that happened during that time.  
Kent Minnette made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Vote: 4-0
- b. Consider High School National Honor Society Chicago Trip - Charissa Ajayi  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote: 4-0
- c. Consider change to May's Regular Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, May 7, 5:30pm @ Nicholson  
Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote: 4-0
- d. Consider Approval of the Digital Learning Grant Application  
Kent Minnette made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Vote: 4-0
- e. Consider Mark Melton as Principal of Athens Virtual Academy  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Minnette. Vote: 4-0
- f. Consider Kris Sims as Assistant Principal of Crawfordsville High School  
Kent Minnette made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Vote: 4-0

## **VIII. Personnel**

- a. Consider Ellen Rooze Retirement - Nicholson 3rd Grade Teacher
- b. Consider Kristy Reese Retirement - Hoover Physical Education Teacher
- c. Consider Lissa Fairfield Retirement - Nicholson 3rd Grade Teacher
- d. Consider Connie Lafoe Retirement - Nicholson Day Custodian  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Vote: 4-0
- e. Consider Emily Murphy Resignation - Hoover Secretary  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Vote: 4-0
- f. Recommend Takeshi Greiner - CHS Science Teacher  
Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote: 4-0

**IX. Business Manager Report-** Nothing new to report.

**X. Assistant Superintendent Report - Dr. Brent Bokhart**

A. School Safety

- a. BTAM Training - Administrators, counselors, SROs, and nurses attended a Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training held at HHSB. Dr. Melissa Reeves led the training. It was a beneficial training gaining understanding on conducting an assessment, strategies of intervention and monitoring, and best practices of working with parents and the community.
- b. Hoover to CHS Reunification - Hoover will be completing a reunification drill on Monday, March 18th. Amber Reed attended the IDOE School Safety training and attendees were asked who all practiced reunification and the list is small. CCSC continues to value the safety of staff and students, as this will be our second reunification drill this year with the first occurring in the fall with CMS to CHS.
- c. Middle school mental health summit took place on February 22nd at HHSB. We had 12 students (4 from each grade) from CMS participate in this county event. A full report will be available in late April to early May for review. Amber Reed has done an excellent job facilitating both our CHS students in the fall and now our middle school students recently in these summits.

B. Professional Development

- a. New Teacher Institute - Kicked off a professional development program for our newer teachers with its first seminar this past Tuesday. It was a great day with positive energy and collaborative discussion. Our principals that helped lead sessions did a great job and our mentor teachers, Stacey Guard, Rachel O'Neal, Jenny Veatch, and Andrew Swank all were excellent leading their cohort of teachers.

C. Operations

- a. School Testing
  - i. SAT Testing - Recently took place with our juniors completing the test this past week.
  - ii. IREAD - Also recently took place with our 2nd and 3rd graders taking IREAD last week. 2nd graders taking IREAD gives a good opportunity for teachers to monitor progress as students either pass or can fall in an on track or not on track scale.
  - iii. ILEARN - Will be coming up in April with grades 3-8.

**XI. Superintendent Report - Dr. Rex Ryker**

a. The Athenian Oracle

- i. Please take the time to look through the Oracle. There are so many amazing things happening in and around our schools. Our students and staff are rocking it.

b. Community

i. Community Foundation Lilly Grant GIFT VIII discussions

1. Steve, Brittany, Brent, and I have had various meetings with the Community Foundation and other local agencies concerning child care and services needs and supports for our multilingual or migrant population. It is such a blessing to work with community members who try to find ways to collaborate on solutions.

2. Brittany Cooper will be representing Crawfordsville Schools on April 16, 2024, @ 6:00 PM in the Crawfordsville High School commons at the League of Women Voters panelist discussion on the Science of Reading and supporting students as they learn to read; representatives from North Montgomery, Soutmount, and the Community Foundations Early Learning Center will join her to discuss how we approach reading instruction and intervention. Senate Bill 1, called the “retention bill” by some, provides more stern language for what must be done when students do not pass the IREAD3 test.

c. Academics

AP leadership team

- i. Dr. Bokhart and I have been working with the CHS administration team to provide an AP sequence that begins offering an AP option in the freshman year with AP World History. We are lucky to have students and staff that can handle this rigor and opportunity. We have had students attend Wabash College for Calculus II; however, in the past, if you were not on this path when you entered CMS, it was not possible. Madison has created two path options for students to begin as freshmen to reach that level of course offering. Few community schools our size or with our socioeconomic status offer these academic opportunities.

d. Celebrations

I'm proud that we had three science teachers recognized with awards.

i. From the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers

1. Jenny Veatch received the Clyde Motts Award for Outstanding High School Science Teaching
2. Shannon Hudson received the Edward L. Frazier Service Award

ii. Jarod Kaminski received and Academic All-Star Certificate of Merit and was nominated by CHS Senior, Whitman Horton

1. Boys and Girls swim teams won sectional titles. This was the boys 5th straight title.
2. Our motto is enter to learn, go forth to serve, and we have a few service projects highlighted in this month's Oracle. I remind everyone that this year we have a new goal or expectation that every student will be involved in a service project.

iii. The CMS ATeam helped with an Animal Welfare League Fundraiser.

iv. During kindness week at Nicholson Elementary, discovery club members shared crafts with residents of Lane House, the nursing home next door to Nicholson.

v. CHS National Honor Society supported sold ice cream to help Pam's Promise, a local women's shelter.

e. Announcements

On Friday, March 22nd we are having teacher candidates in for a teacher recruitment day. If any board member would like to join us for lunch, please let me know.

- i. 11:00 am: meet and greet at Crawfordsville High School (1 W. Athenian Drive, Crawfordsville, IN, 47933)
- ii. 11:30 am: Luncheon
- iii. 12:15 pm: Building and Classroom visits
- iv. 2:00 pm: Hiring Information and Opportunity Discussions

f. Administration building update

We will have a ground-breaking celebration and photo opportunity for the board on Wednesday, Apr 3, 2024 at noon.

g. Board appreciation

Our students and staff have these opportunities because of the support you provide to us as a school board. Today I was at a new superintendent seminar, where we had a session on Board Relations, and I'm confident that I have the most consistent, stable, wise, and caring board around. Thank you for your service. I'm Rex Ryker and I am an Athenian and I'm honored to serve as your superintendent.

**XII. Other**

**XIII. Board Member Communication**

**XIV. Patron Comments**

**XV. Adjournment**

Kathy Brown made a motion to adjourn seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion passed 4-0  
Meeting adjourned at 6:17pm

Patron's Comments are limited to 3 minutes per spokesperson for a total of 30 minutes.  
*The meeting site is fully accessible. Any person requiring further accommodations should contact the Superintendent at the School Corporation 's central office.*