

**Crawfordsville Community School Corporation**  
**Board of Education - Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 5:30 P.M.**  
**Crawfordsville Schools Administration Building**  
**1000 Fairview Ave.**

**School Board Meeting Minutes**

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- I. **Roll Call** - Steve McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm  
Present: Steve McLaughlin, Rex Ryker, Brent Bokhart, Susan Albrecht, Kathy Brown, Andrew Nicodemus, Doug Lengerich, Tami Haas, Halyn Hall, Katy Whitecotton, Ciara Wilke, Brenden Warren, Katherine Douglas, Amber Reed, Tina McGrady, Karyn Douglas, Alexis Carson, Stephanie Wilkinson  
Absent: Kent Minnette, Monte Thompson
- II. **Spotlight on Excellence** - Brenden Warren & Thomas Bowling (not present)  
Brenden Warren was given a gift for being one of Crawfordsville's first mascots. Donning the suit of Alexander the Athenian which debuted in January 2024. Brenden and Thomas Bowling, both Seniors, worked together to bring Alexander to life. They will both write a note to future "Alexanders" with advice or about their experience, in a book that will carry through the years.
- III. **Consent Agenda: Previous Meeting minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items**  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve minutes and vouchers, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0
- IV. **Old Business**
- a. Consider Policy 4307 Wireless Devices Prohibition (Second Reading)
- i. This is in response to Senate Bill 185 which requires each school corporation to adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that governs student use of a wireless communication device. Changes from First Reading include dropping the word "Possessing" at the beginning of the policy and adding language referencing the student handbook for times outside of what the policy covers. This policy allows us to comply with legislation while allowing schools to continue to develop further rules and procedures in the future for student communication devices. I recommend the board approve this policy.  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0
- V. **New Business**
- a. Consider Crawfordsville Dance Team National Trip - Members of the CHS Dance Team presented information to request approval to travel to Orlando, Florida,

February 13-17, 2025. The contest will take place at the Orange County Convention Center. Ten members of the dance team will attend the special invite to the Spirit Showdown. Last year Crawfordsville Dance Team placed 7th and received a special invite to return. Fundraisers will cover the cost of the trip for all attendees. Students will miss school on Thursday and Friday the 13th and 14th. All students are aware that tests and homework must be made up promptly. Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote 3-0

b. Consider [Elementary Handbook](#) for 2024-2025 - Susan Albrecht  
Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote 3-0

c. Consider [Preschool Handbook](#) for 2024-2025 - Kathy Brown  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

d. Consider the addition of Preschool Classes to Hose Elementary  
Two high ability Preschool classes will move to Hose Elementary now that we have filled Willson with the expansion of our preschool. Class limits can reach 24 students per class but we strive to keep that at 20 or less.  
Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote 3-0

e. Consider Astra Insurance Renewal  
i. Astra Insurance, through RT Insurance, has been our insurance provider for the past 4 years. They provide us with umbrella, cyber, workers' comp, and liability coverages. We ask that the Board approve us to renew our coverage with Astra Insurance for the coming school year. Next spring we will be completing a RFP for insurance coverage.  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

f. Consider Athens Virtual Academy of Indiana MOU with North Montgomery Community School Corporation  
i. This Memorandum of Understanding outlines a partnership with North Montgomery and Athens Virtual Academy, specifically outlining and defining working with North Montgomery when current or previous North Montgomery students enroll with AVA. These students will remain North Montgomery students but be academically served by AVA. The MOU then outlines financial obligations for North Montgomery in return for academic services provided by AVA. This partnership aims to keep families and students connected to our community and provide them with a rigorous academic experience that we might otherwise lose to other virtual schools in Indiana. Brent Bokhart recommended the board approve this MOU with NMCSC.  
- Currently, AVA has 78 enrolled students  
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

g. Consider Stuart Weliever as Corporation Attorney  
Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote 3-0

- h. Consider the Journal Review, The Paper, WIMC 103.9, WCDQ 106.3, and WCVL 1550 as Official Media Outlets

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

- i. Consider Public Works Project - Administration Building Roof Replacement (1000 Fairview)

- i. We contacted 3 roofing vendors: Five Star Commercial Roofing, Hinshaw Roofing & Sheet Metal, and Bone Dry Roofing. The quotes received back are as follows: Five Star Roofing - \$36,800 and Hinshaw Roofing - \$118,625. It was recommended that the Board approve the Public Works Project for the replacement of the current Administration Building contract be awarded to Five Star Commercial Roofing, Inc.

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve the contract to go to Five Star Roofing, seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote 3-0

- j. Consider Public Works Project - Fire Systems Jockey Pump at CHS

- i. We contacted 3 fire safety vendors: NewJac Industrial Fire Protection, Koorsen Fire and Safety, and B&R Fire Protection. The quotes received back are as follows: New Jack Industrial Fire Protection - \$20,159, B&R Fire Protection - \$34,175, and Koorsen Fire & Safety - \$74,773.10. It was recommended that the Board approve the Public Works Project for the replacement of the current Fire Jockey Pump contract be awarded to NewJac Industrial Fire Protection.

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve the contract to go to NewJac Industrial Fire Protection, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

- k. Public Hearing for Preliminary Determination

- i. Steve McLaughlin called the hearing to order at 5:53 pm.
- ii. Dr. Bokhart explained to the Board that under Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-3.1, whenever a school corporation proposes to issue bonds for the construction or renovation of school facilities and procurement of equipment resulting in total costs over certain thresholds, or if a school corporation has a Debt Service Fund tax rate above a certain amount, the school corporation is required to hold two public hearings on its preliminary determination to issue such bonds. This meeting represents the first of such hearings. Notice of both public hearings was published in The Journal Review and The Paper on May 30, 2024, and was sent via first-class mail to the Montgomery County Clerk and any organizations that requested such notice as provided in Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-3.1. The proofs of publication of the notice of the hearings were presented to the meeting.

Dr. Bokhart explained that at this hearing all interested people may give testimony and/or ask questions concerning the renovations and

improvements to school facilities, including deferred maintenance, HVAC improvements, roofing improvements, site improvements, and the purchase of buses (collectively, the "Project"). The purpose of the hearing is two-fold: (1) to inform the public as to the proposed Project; and (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. Any questions asked will be answered by the administration.

After explaining the purpose of the hearings, Dr. Bokhart presented information regarding the need for the Project, explaining the existing facilities and equipment. He also presented a timeline for the Project that would run through 2027. The estimated Project cost and schedule were then presented to the public.

Dr. Ryker explained that our Operations Fund is insufficient for our operational needs due to our low assessed value. Due to our low operations fund funding, we move significant education funds to fund operations and need this project to minimize our funds being pulled from the education fund. He walked the board through how the Project could be funded and lower our tax rate. We appreciate the guidance from ICE Miller as our Bond Counsel and Baker Tilly as our Financial Advisor.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if we will be able to separately meter the electric bus charging stations to see the effectiveness and environmental impact. Dr. Bokhart confirmed that this is possible and is currently being discussed. After the above presentations, Mr. McLaughlin announced that the Board would now hear testimony and questions from the public. No comments or questions were made by the public.

Mr. McLaughlin closed the public hearing at 6:03 pm

## **VI. Personnel**

### **a. Retirements**

- i. Consider David Whitehead Retirement - CHS Maintenance

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

### **b. Resignations**

- i. Consider Kaitlyn Ferguson Resignation - Nicholson 3rd Grade Teacher
- ii. Consider Shelby Paxton Resignation - Hose Teacher
- iii. Consider Zoe Baker Resignation - Hoover Aide
- iv. Consider Jeremiah Alston Resignation - Hoover Aide
- v. Consider Angela Risner Resignation - CMS Assistant
- vi. Consider Debbie Clapp Resignation - Hoover Media Center Assistant

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

### **c. Hirings**

- i. Recommend Aubrey Fields - Hose Elementary Teacher
- ii. Recommend Jennifer Rader - Nicholson 3rd Grade Teacher
- iii. Recommend Jessica Pursell - Lead Preschool Instructor
- iv. Recommend Gabriela Dominguez - Willson Childcare Aide
- v. Recommend Morgan Bowles - Willson Developmental Preschool Aide
- vi. Recommend Mayli Melton - Summer School Aide
- vii. Recommend Eden Pyle - Nicholson Teacher
- viii. Recommend Paige Palmer - Nicholson Media Specialist

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

d. Other

- i. Consider Decision to Cancel Teacher Contract Based on Reduction in Force - This reduction in force removes the middle school alternative program teaching position and Adam Simmons. I recommend the board approve the cancellation of the teacher contract based on a reduction in force.

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Vote 3-0

## **VII. Business Manager Report**

a. Debt Collection

- i. We have collected roughly 25-30% of the debt we issued to our Collections Partners. All current debts with the agencies will continue in the Collections process to be able to collect more from our outstanding debts. We plan to review negative lunch account balances for inactive student accounts to remit to the collections agencies in the coming months.

b. Grants

- i. We are starting our big push for all Federal Grants. We are currently waiting for the Department of Education to provide allocations so we can budget and plan for these grants for the coming school year.

c. Budget

- i. Our Budget season for the 2025 Calendar year has just started. Pre-budget documents and surveys are due at the end of the month, then we will be in full swing of planning for the upcoming DLGF budget season. More information is set to come later.

## VIII. Assistant Superintendent Report

### a. Operations

#### i. Transportation

1. We did receive approval of our EPA Grant Application for this round of electric buses that was submitted through Lion Electric. We were awarded \$400,000 for two buses. We are currently in the next steps of planning phases with Lion Electric in regards to final bus prices and plans, as well as electrical system upgrades for the building and the chargers for the buses.

#### ii. Admin. Building Progress

1. The foundation walls are complete and backfilling is finishing up. Plumbing underground within the building is expected to start tomorrow with electrical underground on Monday, June 17. Gas, water, and power utility borings are complete and sewer tie-in work begins next week. Late next week we could see the slab poured.

#### iii. Preschool Updates

1. Willson construction is coming along with expansion plans for next year. Floors in rooms without new carpet, gym flooring, and the infant-toddler rooms are currently underway and slated to be finished by June 30. Electrical upgrades to the building are scheduled to occur following construction.
2. Playground equipment at both Willson and Hose has been ordered and planned out. Willson will be receiving equipment for a toddler play area and Hose will be receiving equipment for preschool with the added preschool classes.

### b. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

- i. We recently held a refresher professional development with administrators, counselors, and teachers for our PBIS (Positive Behavior and Interventions and Supports). The professional development was led by Tiffany Creager with INcompassing Education. INcompassing Education led a county-wide initiative in 2016 for PBIS, so it was a good day refreshing our materials, resources, and plans in each building.

- c. All of our schools have received their high-reliability schools certification in Level 1 as a Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture. This has been a year-long process that has reached this achievement through great teamwork in each building. Only 28 total schools in Indiana have received certification in Marzano's HRS and CCSC holds 5 of those 28 certifications which is an accomplishment not achieved by many.

## **IX. Superintendent Report**

- a. Community
  - i. Graduation was a great success, and I appreciate the attendance of staff, administrators, and Board members.
  - ii. Mayor Barton has asked me to serve on the Housing Steering Committee, which will work to create a Housing Plan. My area of interest is the focus on blight and rehabilitation housing.
- b. Educational Leadership
  - i. We have completed all staff evaluations.
- c. Personnel Management
  - i. IEERB Compliance Report - our 2023-24 CBA was compliant.
- d. Celebrations
  - i. Reunification - Hose and CHS staff, Safety Response Team led by Amber and Brent, food service and maintenance and grounds staff, bus drivers, SROs, CPD, and CFD.
  - ii. Girls Tennis Team won a sectional championship
  - iii. Junior Na'arah Byard 18th in the long jump
  - iv. Baseball won a sectional and regional championship
  - v. The boys were the all-sports conference champions for the first time since 2009.
- e. Announcements
  - i. CARA Graduation at CHS at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 27th
  - ii. I'm Rex Ryker, and I am an Athenian.

**X. Adjournment:** Steve McLaughlin called for a motion to adjourn.

Susan Albrecht made a motion to adjourn seconded by Kathy Brown. Vote 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.