

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 5:30 P.M.
Crawfordsville Schools Administration Building
1000 Fairview Ave.

School Board Meeting Minutes

Roll Call - Steve McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Present: Steve McLaughlin, Rex Ryker, Brent Bokhart, Kathy Brown, Monte Thompson, Kent Minnette, Andrew Nicodemus, Doug Lengerich, Kathy Steele, Brad Carlson, Nora Carlson, Kylie Gobel, Erin Gobel, Vera Gobel, Heather Martinez, Olmy Olmstead, Abigail Olmstead, Laura Wysocki, Brad Himes, Jennifer Himes, Arabella Himes, Elli Jeffries, James Jeffries, Ellie Jeffries, Gaby Barrera, Alexis Carson, Kylie McFarland, Kyle Gobel, Tina McGrady, Stephanie Wilkinson

Absent: Susan Albrecht

Spotlight on Excellence: [Rex] This is our second year of presenting student artwork that will decorate our administrative office. The John and Kathy Steele Fund was established to benefit Crawfordsville Community Schools. Dr. Kathy Steele is with us tonight. Dr. Steele is a former superintendent, a local artist, and the mother of a professional artist. Funds from the John and Kathy Steele Fund were used to frame the student artwork. After a year of decorating our administration building, the framed artwork will be returned to the students. We asked art teachers to select framable artwork from each building. The following students were recognized.

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|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| *Ellie Jeffries (12) | Lili Yeung (10) | *Vera Gobel (5th) |
| *Aleyah Jones (12) | *Gabby Barrera (8th) | Jayma Susdorf (3rd) |
| Nicolai Alfrey (10) | *Arabella Himes (7th) | *Elizabeth Ryker (2nd) |
| Melany Monterrosa (10) | *Nora Carlson (5th) | Kiley Douglas (1st) |
| | | *Abigail Olmstead (K) |

(*)notates those in attendance

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 all consent agenda items seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion passed.

IV. New Business

A. Public Hearing for Project and Second Preliminary Determination

[STEVE] The next item on the agenda is for the Board to hold a project and preliminary hearing on the proposed capital projects. If you are interested in speaking at the hearing, please make sure you have signed the sign-in sheet, which should include your name and address. After the presentation by the

administration there will be an opportunity for the public to make comments about the projects. We will ask that any person speaking limit their comments to 3 minutes and that the topic be limited to the proposed projects under consideration. The Notice of this Preliminary Determination Hearing was published as legally required, and the first Preliminary Hearing was held on June 13, 2024. At this time I will ask that the Administration explain the purpose of this hearing.

[BRENT] *Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-7-37, before a school corporation may spend more than \$1,000,000 to build, repair, or alter a school building that will be financed by bonds, it must hold a public hearing at which explanations of the potential value of the project to the school corporation and community are given. Similarly, pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1, a school corporation must hold two public hearings, of which this is the second hearing, and adopt a resolution to preliminarily determine whether to issue bonds for a project which has a total cost in excess of certain thresholds or if the school corporation has a certain debt service tax rate. These public hearings and the consideration of resolutions are the very beginning of the legal process. The resolutions presented at this meeting establish the maximum financial terms for the proposed projects.*

[STEVE] *We will now hear from the administration about the process of communicating the projects to the community and the need for the projects, along with how the projects meet the needs of the corporation.*

[BRENT] *We've discussed before the challenges of our operations fund that are presented to CCSC with our low assessed value and meeting the operational and maintenance needs of our facilities. This project will allow us to address necessary improvements to school facilities, including deferred maintenance, HVAC improvements, roofing improvements, site improvements, and the purchase of buses, or collectively known as the "Project." It is important to note that the timeline for this project will run through the Spring of 2026 and as projects are bid and received the School Corporation will do as many projects as it can afford, but budgeting may cause some items not to be completed. This project will allow us to meet the needs of safely maintaining our facilities and providing needed buses to our fleet as older buses are phased out.*

[ANDREW] *For this bond issuance the maximum value of the bond will be \$2,000,000. The estimated hard and soft costs for the project are not to exceed \$1,835,000 with a cost of bond issuance of \$165,000. The anticipated maximum gross impact on the non-exempt Debt Service Fund tax rate of \$.1727 per \$100 assessed valuation for this issuance. However, the anticipated net increase to the non-exempt Debt Service Fund tax rate is expected to be \$0.00. Estimated Interest rate for the Bond is 5.50%. This bond will be payable beginning July 15, 2025 through January 15, 2031.*

[STEVE] We will now open the public hearing. If you would like to speak, please ensure your name is on the sign-in sheet.

[STEVE] Seeing no more comments the hearing is now closed. The board will look to continue to work with the administration and its professionals to look for efficiencies to conserve tax dollars while meeting our educational needs.

1. Consider Project Resolution

[STEVE] At this time I would ask that administration please summarize the Project Resolution.

[BRENT] The Project Resolution is required when the school is planning to finance more than \$1,000,000 on a given facility or type of work. It contains the estimated hard and soft cost and the costs of issuance and establishes the total project cost. It also contains the estimated tax impact. I recommend the board adopt the Project Resolution.

[STEVE] Could I have a motion and second to adopt the Project Resolution?

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve the project resolution seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion carried.

2. Consider Preliminary Determination Resolution

[STEVE] At this time I would ask that administration please summarize the Preliminary Determination Resolution.

[BRENT] The preliminary determination resolution is required when a school corporation with a certain debt service tax rate is planning to finance more than a certain amount for a given facility. It contains the total project cost, maximum annual payment and maturity, and other financial terms such as the estimated principal amount and tax impact. I recommend the board adopt the Preliminary Determination Resolution.

[STEVE] Could I have a motion and second to adopt the Preliminary Determination Resolution?

Monte Thompson made a motion to adopt the Preliminary Determination Resolutions seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion carried.

3. Consider Preliminary Bond Resolution

[STEVE] At this time, I would ask that the administration please summarize the Preliminary Bond Resolution.

[ANDREW] The preliminary bond resolution contains the costs for the projects, maximum interest rate, and other financial terms such as the first interest payment date and maturity of the bonds. I recommend the board adopt the Preliminary Bond Resolution.

[STEVE] Could I have a motion and second to adopt the Preliminary Determination Resolution?

Kent Minnette made a motion to adopt the Preliminary Determination Resolution seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion carried.

4. Consider Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures

[STEVE] At this time I would ask that administration please summarize the Reimbursement Resolution.

[ANDREW] The next resolution is a Reimbursement Resolution relating to the financing of the construction projects. This resolution permits the school corporation to reimburse itself from bond proceeds for any cash that it might spend on the projects prior to the closing of the bonds. It is required by federal tax law in order to preserve the School Corporation's ability to reimburse itself. I recommend the board adopt the Reimbursement Resolution.

[STEVE] Could I have a motion and second to adopt the Reimbursement Resolution?

Kathy Brown made a motion to adopt the Reimbursement Resolution seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion carried.

B. [REX] Consider Mishler Dental as Corporation Dentist

Dr. Ryker recommended that the corporation continue to use Mishler Dental

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion carried.

C. [REX] Consider Dr. Patel as Corporation Doctor

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Motion carried

D. [BRENT] Consider School Resource Officer Agreement with the City of Crawfordsville

This is our annual SRO agreement with the City of Crawfordsville for our 2 school resource officers. The only changes to the agreement from the past is the financial contribution from CCSC. We had yet to increase our contribution from moving from 1 to 2 officers. CCSC will now contribute \$50,000 per officer with half the amount being covered by the School Safety Grant. I recommend approval of this agreement.

Out of an abundance of caution Kent Minnette chose to abstain from voting to avoid any conflict of interest. Three remaining Board members present were enough for a quorum to vote.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion passed: Vote 3-0

- E.** [REX] Consider 2024-25 School Food Prices
Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion carried.
- F.** [REX] Consider Special Education Excess Cost (SEEC) Authorization
This authorization from the Board would grant the Superintendent authority to sign for any student that may be in a residential or day placement for special needs. This authorization is required annually.
Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion carried.
- G.** [BRENT] Consider [Right of Way Easement for the City of Crawfordsville](#)
The City of Crawfordsville has been issued a permit to construct a new sanitary sewer system. The location of this system is to be located along SR 47, approximately 500 feet north of the High School. CCSC would be granting Utility Right of Way Easement for the construction of this sewer system. Access will be paved down from the current fire lane behind the high school to what will be the fenced-in brick building of the system. Trail access will also be part of the construction project leading up to Grant Avenue. Bids for the project are expected to occur this fall with construction beginning in the spring. I recommend approval of the Utility Right of Way Easement.
Kent Minnette chose to abstain from voting to avoid any conflict of interest. Three remaining Board members present were enough for a quorum to vote.
Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion passed:
Vote 3-0
- H.** [ANDREW] Consider Grants for 2024-2025 School Year
We currently have just one federal grant that we need approval for. We have received our Title I allocation for the 2024-2025 School Year. It will be \$667,566.33. We recommend the Board approve the application for Title I Federal Funds for the 2024-2025 School Year.
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Motion carried.
- I.** [ANDREW] Consider STAA (School Technology Advancement Account) Application
We have done this kind of Advance Loan Program in the past to help purchase computer hardware and software for student instruction. We are writing the current application, included in your packets, to help purchase the Chromebooks and course catalog software for the Athens Virtual Academy. The total of this application will be \$46,500. We recommend the Board approve this application.
Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Motion carried.
- J.** [ANDREW] Consider Public Works Projects

CHS Parking Lot Sealing and Restriping

1. Included in your files is the Procurement Packet for the repairs for the parking lot at CHS. We requested quotes from 3 vendors: Otto's Parking Marking Company, David Price Excavating, and Reith-Riley. The quotes received back are as follows: Otto's Parking - \$19,347. We recommend that the Board approve the Public Works Project for the repairs to the parking lot at CHS contract be awarded to Otto's Parking Marking Company.

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Motion carried.

Hoover Front Parking/Sidewalk Repairs

2. Included in your files is the Procurement Packet for the repairs for the front parking lot and sidewalk at Hoover Elementary. We requested quotes from 3 vendors: Otto's Parking Marking Company, David Price Excavating, and Reith-Riley. The quotes received back are as follows: Otto's Parking - \$23,438 and David Price - \$31,844. We recommend that the Board approve the Public Works Project for the repairs for the front parking lot and sidewalk at Hoover Elementary contract be awarded to Otto's Parking Marking Company.

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion carried.

Hose Front Parking Repairs

3. Included in your files is the Procurement Packet for the repairs for the front parking lot at Hose Elementary. We requested quotes from 3 vendors: Otto's Parking Marking Company, David Price Excavating, and Reith-Riley. The quotes received back are as follows: Otto's Parking - \$23,043 and David Price - \$27,150. We recommend that the Board approve the Public Works Project for the repairs for the front parking lot at Hose Elementary contract be awarded to Otto's Parking Marking Company.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion carried.

V. Personnel

A. Resignations

1. Consider Brittany Cooper's Resignation - Director of Elementary Education
2. Consider Kensity Cavanaugh Resignation - Hoover Receptionist

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve seconded by Monte Thompson. Motion carried.

B. Hirings

1. Recommend Kylene Simpson - West Central Administrative Assistant
2. Recommend Jordan Chandler - Mental Health Services Coordinator - CHS/CMS
3. Recommend Aaron Keller - Assistant at CHS
4. Recommend Chase Justus - CTE Workbase Learning Experiences Coordinator
5. Recommend Katie Jerden- CTE Administrative Secretary
6. Recommend Chyna Galloway- CTE Student Success Coordinator
7. Recommend Cynthia "Shelly" Hunt - Hoover Special Education Aide

8. Recommend Kamdyn Patton - Hoover Life Skills Aide
 9. Recommend Aravis Lynd - Temporary contract to cover maternity leaves at Hose and Hoover
 10. Recommend Audrey Brierly - Hoover Teachers Assistant
 11. Recommend Maria Seward - Hoover Media Center Aide
- Monte Thompson made a motion to approve seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion carried.

VI. Business Manager Report [Andrew]

Nothing to report

VII. Assistant Superintendent Report [Brent]

- a. Operational Management
 - i. Administration Building Progress
 1. Utility hookups all complete except water, which should be complete soon.
 2. Backfilling sanitary sewer piping, so additional fencing in front of the athletic area will be removed once backfilling is complete.
 3. Slab is poured and walls/hallways have been marked. Once walls arrive on site they will begin going up.
 - ii. Preschool/Childcare Updates
 1. Toddler playground is scheduled for delivery on July 25th. Location will be outside the entrance off of Jefferson St.
 2. Hose playground for dedicated preschool space is scheduled for delivery on July 26th. Location is inside the fenced in area on the South side of the green space.
 3. Construction for infant/toddler space is complete, and the remaining rooms and office area have new flooring completed.
- b. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment
 - i. We have been working through the ILEARN Checkpoints that begin this school year with a pilot year. While overall, the direction of the checkpoints should provide some clarity to our Math and ELA teachers, the pilot year provides a challenge to how to best approach formative assessment and intervention tools that accompany those assessments.
 - ii. Planning new teacher orientation and elementary curriculum training. Orientation will be on August 1st, followed by curriculum training on August 2nd.

VIII. Superintendent Report [Rex]

- a. Community
- b. Educational Leadership

- i. Supplied copy of the Draft 3-year Strategic Plan. Administrators and teacher representatives have worked with the Flores Consulting Group to set a three-year strategic plan. The current draft is provided for the Board to review and for us to discuss in our upcoming meeting. We are striving to set as clear a vision for our future educational focus as possible. Last year we had several initiatives that came with a commitment that the initiatives were setting a foundation for how we will operate, and we will continue this course. This strategic plan is to show we are committed to maintaining our focus and provide guardrails to keep us focused. Legislation will likely place a few curves in our path, such as new diploma tracks, but our focus will remain on three focal areas a safe and supportive culture, learning-focused classrooms, and foundational opportunities. Within these areas are seven key commitments. We wanted a real plan that could be understood by all and maintain integrity to the vision and mission set forth by the Board. I look forward to discussing this with the board in the near future.
- c. Personnel Management - With Brittany Coopers vacancy Amber Reed has stepped up to assist with responsibilities in the employee childcare areas. Dr. Bokhart has taken on the Elementary responsibilities that were once on the Director of Elementary Education.
- d. Announcements
 - i. New Teacher Lunch - August 1, 11:30 am at CHS room 203
 - ii. Board Retreat July 29 (10:00 am to 3:00 pm)
 - iii. Fall Conference September 23-24
 - iv. I'm Rex Ryker, and I am an Athenian.

IX. Board Member Communication - None

X. Patron Comments - None

XI. Adjournment - Steve McLaughlin called for a motion to adjourn.

Kathy Brown made a motion to adjourn seconded by Monte Thompson. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.