

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 5:30 P.M.
Crawfordsville High Schools
One Athenian Way

School Board Meeting Minutes

- I. Roll Call** - Steve McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm
Present: Steve McLaughlin, Rex Ryker, Brent Bokhart, Kent Minnett, Monte Thompson, Kathy Brown, Susan Albrecht, Andrew Nicodemus, Doug Lengerich, Tina McGrady Alexis Carson, Sondi Eden, Stephanie Wilkinson
Absent: None
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 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 Monte Thompson. Motion passed.
- IV. Old Business** - None
- V. New Business**
- A. [REX] Public Hearing Concerning Collective Bargaining
1. The law outlining collective bargaining with teachers requires us to hold a public hearing to receive public input before the school corporation starts formal bargaining with the Teachers Association. I recommend the Board open a Public Hearing concerning collective bargaining.
 - a) President Steve McLaughlin opened a Public Hearing Concerning Collective Bargaining.
 - b) Public questions or comments
 - c) The hearing was closed.
- B. Public Hearing for Additional Appropriation
1. Consider Additional Appropriation Resolution
 - a.) [STEVE] The board will hold an additional appropriate hearing on the proposed bond proceeds. At the hearing, we will ask that each person limit their comments to three minutes and that the topic be limited to the proposed appropriation of the bond proceeds. The Notice of this Additional Appropriation Hearing was published as legally required. Pursuant to the Indiana Code, before a school corporation can appropriate any dollars it directly receives as bond proceeds, it must conduct a hearing on those proceeds for the “additional” appropriation of those funds. We will now hear from Dr. Bokhart about the projects, which have been described at prior meetings.
 - b) [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. This project will allow us to meet the needs of safely maintaining and improving our facilities and providing needed buses to our fleet as older buses are phased out.

- c) [STEVE] We will now open the public hearing. We ask that comments are limited to the proposed additional appropriation of bond proceeds. At this time, is there anyone who would like to speak?
- d) [STEVE] Thank you and at this time we will now close the hearing and reopen the regular meeting.
- e) [STEVE] At this time the Business Manager will summarize the Additional Appropriation Resolution.
- f) [ANDREW] The additional appropriation resolution provides the approval of the school corporation to appropriate funds for the proposed project in the same year in which general obligation bonds are issued.
- g) [STEVE] Could I have a motion and second to adopt the Additional Appropriation Resolution?

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion passed.

h) [STEVE] At this time the Business Manager will summarize the Final Bond Resolution.

2. [ANDREW] The final bond resolution contains the project cost, maximum interest rate, and other financial terms, such as the first interest payment date and maturity dates of the bonds, all with respect to the issuance of general obligation bonds.

a) [STEVE] Could I have a motion and second to adopt the Final Bond Resolution?

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Susan Albrecht. Motion passed.

3. [ANDREW] Consider Agreement for Bond Registrar and Paying Agent

This agreement will allow the School Corporation to use Bank of New York Mellon to be the Bond Registrar and Paying Agent for the upcoming Bonds to be issued in October 2024. I recommend that the Board approve this agreement.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kent Minnett. Motion passed.

C. [ANDREW] Public Hearing for 2025 Budget

a) [ANDREW] At the last Regular Board Meeting, the 2025 Budget was approved for advertisement for public viewing. The Notice to Taxpayers appeared in the Journal Review on Friday, August 30th. The next step is to open a public hearing for the public to provide their input on the advertised budget. I recommend that the hearing be opened.

b) [STEVE] The board will hold a Public Hearing on the 2025 Budget. At the hearing, we will ask that each person limit their comments to three minutes and that the topic be limited to the proposed 2024 Budget, Appropriations, and Tax Rates. The Notice of this Public Hearing was published as legally required.

1 Consider Resolution to Reduce 2024 Appropriations

a) Cash balances are appropriated in the Operations Fund and the Education Fund in case they are needed every year. This resolution is annually reviewed to reduce the appropriation so that it is available for a future year. This resolution grants authority to the Superintendent/Business Manager to lower the appropriation balances needed to more accurately reflect expenditures from July 1 to December 31 for the current year. I recommend that the Board approve this resolution.

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion passed.

D. [REX] Consider Afterschool Childcare/Clubs Handbook - Reviewed by: Kathy Brown

1. This handbook outlines our Discovery Club after-school program. Kathy reviewed the Discovery handbook and helped us correct a few areas. I recommend the board approve the Discovery Club Handbook.

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Monte Thompson. Motion passed.

E. [REX] Consider Location Change for October Meeting

1. The recommended changes adjust the October meeting that has a conflict with the CMS Carnival and provides possible secondary sites for March and April in case the new Board Room is not available. We are also moving CHS and CMS board reports to the spring.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion passed.

F. [REX] Consider the Readoption of the Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy

1. We are required to adopt the Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy each year. There have been no changes to the policy or our practice in distributing the Teacher Appreciation Grant funds. I recommend the board approve the Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy.

Kent Minnette made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Susan Albrecht. Motion passed.

G. [Brent] Consider Memorandum of Understanding with Head Start

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion passed.

H. [ANDREW] Consider Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County United Bands

1. This is a new MOU between the School Corporation and the MCU Band Boosters. This MOU will allow the School Corporation to pay MCU Bands \$5,000 annually to help pay for staffing for the shared bands of Montgomery County. We have sent this MOU to the attorney and he has provided the version that you see in your packets. I recommend that the Board approve this MOU.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion passed.

I. [BRENT] Review Policy 4322 Habitual Truancy-First Reading

1. HEA 1243 requires local policy to address habitually truant students and their participation in extracurricular or co-curricular activities. This policy defines a habitual truant and is a required policy.

A first reading requires no action and will be discussed again at the October 10th meeting.

J. [BRENT] Update Policy 4320 Student Attendance and Truancy Prevention

1. SEA 282 addresses student attendance and truancy prevention and requires the IDOE and State Attendance Officer to address truancy prevention in grades K-6. The policy addresses this requirement, as well as covers definitions of attendance, excused and unexcused absences, and truancy prevention procedures. I recommend approval of this updated policy.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kent Minnette. Motion passed.

K. [Andrew] Grants for 2024-2025 School Year

1. We have 6 grants needing the Board's approval to apply for.
 - a) Special Education
 - (1) Part B 611 - \$701,436 (down \$10,000 from prior year)
 - (2) Preschool - \$24,119 (about the same as prior year)
 - b) Title I - \$667,566.33 (around same as prior year)
 - c) Title II - \$125,958.22 (\$10,000 more than prior year)
 - d) Title III - \$34,632.00 (around same as prior year)
 - e) Title IV - \$49,294.84 (\$5,000 more than prior year)
 - f) Rural and Low Income (Title V) - \$89,785.97 (we did not receive this grant last year)

Susan Albrecht made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion passed.

L. [ANDREW] Consider Resolution to Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund

1. This Resolution gives the Business Office approval to transfer up to \$500,000 per month during the 2025 Calendar directly from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Currently, we have a set \$200,000 that is transferred each month to keep in compliance with State Laws. This resolution will keep us in compliance with these laws for the next calendar year. I recommend that the Board approve this Resolution.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Kathy Brown. Motion passed.

M. Consider Montgomery County Community Foundation Health and Welfare Grant Application

1. The MCCF Health and Welfare Fund will be used to help students and families acquire access to health-related needs that otherwise would not be attainable. Being able to provide financial assistance in this way aids our students in their education and their education experience as well. Funding will be used to provide financial assistance for medical appointments (including primary and/or urgent care, dental, vision, and mental health), glasses, and any other health-related needs. The funding will also be used to financially assist the school nurses in attending an annual IASN/NASN school nurse conference. The education received will provide the nurses with up-to-date healthcare education information to share with students and staff members.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Susan Albrecht. Motion passed.

VI. Personnel

A. Resignations

1. Consider Elizabeth All Resignation - WCISSC Special Education Specialist

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Susan Albrecht. Motion passed.

B. Hirings

1. Recommend Amber Smith - Willson Childcare Assistant
2. Recommend Nicholas Rice - Hoover Teacher's Assistant
3. Recommend Natalie Sizemore - Willson Developmental Preschool Aide
4. Recommend Kori Phillips - Willson Developmental Preschool Aide
5. Recommend Michelle Piocardo- Hoover 1-on-1 Aide

Kathy Brown made a motion to approve all consent agenda items seconded by Monte Thompson. Motion passed.

VII. Business Manager's Report: Andrew Nicodemus

A. Grants

1. We were given a partial award for our Secured Schools Grant, which we applied for at the end of last school year. We applied for \$87,000 and were awarded \$40,500. This grant was written to pay for the School Resource Officer Contract with the City, the purchase of additional cameras and vape sensors, and to complete infrastructure improvements at CMS for a secured Office. With the decrease in the grant, we will only be able to fund the SRO contract with the City. We are exploring other options to gain adequate funding to complete the other projects that have been put on hold due to this.

B. Business Items

1. New guidance has come from the State regarding accounting for Curricular Materials. These funds will now be included in the Education Fund, but will not be included in negotiations for Collective Bargaining.

VIII. Assistant Superintendent's Report: Dr. Brent Bokhart

A. Operational Management

1. Administration Building
2. Roof is mostly complete with shingles being put on the last two days. Wiring, rough plumbing, and conduit for networking has been run in the walls. Windows are scheduled for a 9/25 delivery. Once windows are installed the brick will begin to go on next.
3. Both the Pre-K playground at Hose and the Toddler play area at Willson are complete. The pre-k playground is being utilized and the kids are having fun. As soon as we are able to get fencing taken care of at Willson it will be up and running. The fence has been ordered and we are waiting for it to arrive.
4. We are continuing to prep and plan for the two EV buses we are receiving from Lion Electric through the federal grant. We are currently prepping for the electric updates to install the charging station. We've been working with Mark Vaught and Huston Electric on a new transformer that will also allow us to be prepared for EV expansion down the road. This energy will be on it's own transformer and tracked separately and will be able to build off of for future growth.

B. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

1. We will begin administering the first ILEARN Checkpoint 1 next week in grades 3-8. The checkpoints are new this year as a formative assessment through the state/ILEARN. Data is expected to come in quickly and we will have some teams begin to dissect this data and determine the best way to use it to impact our teaching.
2. Curriculum Maps - Elementary principals and coaches recently met to discuss our current maps and how they specifically need to be adjusted to meet the alignment of the checkpoints. Dr. Charity Flores has provided some example templates for us to take a look at as we continue to move forward with the new checkpoint assessments.
3. HRS Level 2 - Over the last week buildings have been administering Level 2 surveys to staff. Level 2 covers effective instruction. Leadership teams in collaboration with our Marzano consultant will begin to analyze this data and identify areas of strength and areas of growth in our instructional practices.
- 4.

IX. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Rex Ryker

A. Educational and Instructional Leadership

1. The Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents asked me to sit on a panel to speak with brand-new superintendents. I am one of 15 selected to have an executive coach, Dr. Butts, the Superintendent of Wayne Township. I'm thankful for this opportunity.
2. I am truly proud of our New Teacher Institute. I believe this is a program that provides our teachers with an exceptional opportunity for in-house professional development and support. Dr. Bokhart and his team of principals, along with the New Teacher Mentors, are building an exceptional staff environment that will benefit our students.

B. Personnel

1. Emily Race received the Chamber of Commerce Emerald Educator Award - The Emerald Educator Award recognizes the outstanding innovation, adaptability, and organization shown by K-12 educators. Emily continues to devote herself to students in the classroom and through several extracurricular activities. She is a great representative of The Athenian Way!

B. Organizational Management

1. We are continuing to work through the SRO situation in hopes to find funding and someday add a third.

C. Community

1. Last week, I had the privilege of listening to Mr. Strickland present CHS's journey to becoming a Level 1 Certified High-Reliability School at Rotary.
2. Please see the September Athenian Oracle to see many achievements from our students and staff.
3. I enjoyed visiting Cain Farms while our 4th graders were engaged with Ag Days. Thank you to Cain Farms for hosting this event and teaching our students about soil and water conservation. Special thanks to Jess Cain and Dr. Moran for giving me a tour of the different stations and providing historical background on the event.
4. Brent and I made a quick trip to Camp Tecumseh for the annual 5th-grade trip. It is an operational and educational feat to take 180 students and 30 adults to camp for three days and two nights. However, it really is a fantastic experience for our students, parents, and staff.
5. Our Leaders as Readers program is up and running at Hose, and several community members, including Monte, are participating. I'm proud of this program and how it connects our students, our community, and reading.

D. Reminders and Announcements

1. ISBA/IAPSS Fall Annual Conference starts Sunday, the 22nd.
2. [September Athenian Oracle](#)

X. Board Member Communication - None

XI. Patron Comments - None

XII. 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 6:15 pm.