

**Crawfordsville Community School Corporation**  
**Board of Education - Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.**  
**Administration Building**  
**3 West Athenian Dr.**

**MINUTES**

- I. Roll Call** - Steve McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. All board members are present.  
Present: Steve McLaughlin (President), Dr. Rex Ryker (Superintendent), Dr. Brent Bokhart (Assistant Superintendent), Kathy Brown (Vice President), Susan Albrecht (Secretary), Kent Minnette (Trustee), Monte Thompson (Trustee), Andrew Nicodemus (Business Manager), Christopher Short +2, Kendrick Ballinger +2, Morgan Hodge +2, Rita Rothenberger, Lyndsy Eslinger, Drew Perrish, Lisa Tyler, Lindsey Raines, Diana Wilbert, Heidi Plunkett, Sara Nicodemus, Sondi Eden, Hayley Jarman (Journal Review), Stephanie Wilkinson (Executive Assistant)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Reorganization of the Board**
- a. Election of President - Steve McLaughlin
  - b. Election of Vice President - Kathy Brown
  - c. Election of Secretary - Susan Albrecht
  - d. Election of Assistant Secretary - Monte Thompson
  - e. Appointment of Legislative Liaison to the Indiana School Boards Association - Kent Minnette
- Kathy Brown made a motion to retain all officers as they currently are, seconded by Susan Albrecht. Motion carried.
- IV. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Payrolls, Claims Vouchers, and Surplus Items**  
Monte Thompson made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, payrolls, claims, vouchers and surplus items.
- V. Building Principal Report** - Heidi Plunkett, Willson Preschool Academy Director  
Heidi presented recent events and enrollment updates for all ages ranging from 6 weeks old through 4yr olds. Willson is now partnering with CHS student interns who hold dual enrollment with Vincens University. Students attending with their parents presented gift to the School Board as a thank you for School Board Appreciation Month.
- VI. Old Business** - None
- VII. New Business**
- a. Consider [Reserve Grant for CTE](#)
    - i. This is an additional grant to the Basic Perkins Grant each year. This grant is for \$150,000 and is to be spent/obligated by June 30, 2026. This grant is proposed to be used to begin a CDL program for the West Central Indiana CTE Cooperative that we belong to. Crawfordsville is the LEA for this Interlocal Agreement and will be responsible for the Financial Management of these funds. Administration recommends that the Board approve this grant to be pursued and used to help expand CTE opportunities for our students.

Sara Nicodemus presented additional informtaiton regarding the program. The student CDL certification is a piece from the program that goes with them after

graduation. This is a workforce partnership with the Crawfordsville Community. CTE was one of the few districts awarded the full amount available.

Monte Thompson made a motion to approve the grant application seconded by Kathy Brown. The motion carried.

b. Consider [Property Owner Access Consent Form](#)

Dr. Ryker presented a collaboration with the Mayor and the city to assess the property adjacent to the John Beard building for any environmental needs.

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

## VIII. Personnel

1. Hiring - None

2. Resignation

a. Consider [Kylene Simpson](#) Resignation - West Central Indiana Special Services CoOp Administrative Assistant

b. Consider [Kelsey Wood](#) Resignation - Hoover Teacher's Assistant

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

## IX. Business Manager Report [Andrew Nicodemus]

### a. Employee Hub

i. The Boyce Employee Hub is live, and in use. There are still some items that need to be cleaned up, but we will be pushing this out to all staff in groups over the next week. Currently, Employees can use this system to view Payroll documents (Pay Stubs, W-2, Etc), make change requests to personal information, and view Direct Deposit, Tax, and Benefits information. New capabilities are to be rolled out by Boyce Systems over the next 12-18 months.

### b. BakerTilly

i. Administration has engaged BakerTilly, our Financial Consultant, to complete monthly Financial Reporting for the Board. This engagement will help us to become more efficient and to provide a more in-depth view of our Major Funds for the Board's review. In front of you, is included the 2025 version of the reporting that you will see. Please let us know if you have any questions or want anything added to the information.

### c. Equitable Services

i. Administration is in the final stages of our transition of moving our Retirement Accounts from Corebridge to Equitable as the provider and bookkeeper. This stage involves individual meetings with the Financial Advisors and a final Blackout period that will end in February. After which, contributions will be fully up and running with Equitable Services Accounts.

## X. Assistant Superintendent Report [Dr. Brent Bokhart]

### a. Operations

i. A few larger projects were completed over break. The remaining CMS classroom floors were completed over break, finishing the floor replacement that started in July for CMS. The Hoover playground was completed and is currently in use. Nicholson's old playground equipment was removed over break, and the new equipment is currently being installed. The band and choir A/C unit was replaced at CHS.

### b. School Safety

- i. The district team met at Rock Point Church today and conducted a walkthrough of the facility. Continued to plan the reunification plans of Willson Preschool. ALICE training at the buildings will begin this month with an introduction to ALICE procedures.
- c. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
  - i. ILEARN grade levels have started administering the second ILEARN checkpoint assessment.
  - ii. mClass reading and math middle-of-the-year assessments are also being completed in grades K-3.
  - iii. WIDA testing window opens next Monday, January 12th.

## **XI. Superintendent Report [Dr. Rex Ryker]**

### **a. Community**

- i. I am excited and grateful to share that one of our professional service providers made the \$5,000 initial donation to open the Crawfordsville Education Fund, which supports the Crawfordsville Community Schools Corporation through the Montgomery County Community Foundation. The Corporation has already received a couple of donations into our open account. We are exploring ideas on how best to grow this fund to support the excellence in caring and achievement of our students and our staff.  
[https://montgomeryccfdn.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit\\_id=2089](https://montgomeryccfdn.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=2089)
- ii. We have met with Mayor Barton and other community groups about potential projects to increase housing in our community.

### **b. Educational Leadership**

- i. Administration has been receiving applications for the Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG). Our selection committee will meet on
- ii. Our corporate leadership team met with Flores Consulting to review our benchmarks and roll them into our next 3 years on our 3-year Strategic Plan. Administration also discussed our plan to support our leadership teams in developing a framework that makes data analysis more efficient for our teachers.
- iii. I've started middle-of-the-year meetings with administrators to discuss both the 2025-26 school year and to have an initial conversation on the upcoming 2026-27 school year.
- iv. This Friday, Dr. Ryker will deliver "Tough Cookie Awards" to 64 staff who have perfect attendance for the 2nd quarter. Life happens, but we just like to have a fun, tasty, small reward
- v. I'm grateful to my team as we find ways to provide a great education for our students while ensuring we remain financially stable for future challenges. Whenever the ongoings of the central office feel heavy, I just walk through our buildings and am energized by the exceptional efforts of our staff to teach our students. Yesterday, after walking to CHS, I texted Mr. Strickland to call me immediately. I just had to tell him that even it was toward the end of a period, I saw almost 100% engagement in our classrooms. I appreciate the Board's support in us supporting our buildings so teachers can do what they do - teach our kids.

### **c. Reminders**

- i. The next Board meeting is on February 12th at 5:30.

## **XIII. Board Member Comments - None**

## **XIV. Patron Comments - None**

## **XV. Adjournment - President Steve McLaughlin called for a motion to adjourn**

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