

*Unofficial*

BENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
 405 South Grant Avenue  
 Fowler, Indiana 47944

Regular Meeting  
 Board of School Trustees  
 January 13, 2020  
 Administration Building

Board members present were:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Gabe Widmer	X	
Edward Schroeder	X	
Robert Sondgeroth	X	
Jennifer Barce	X	
Chad Tolen	X	

Also present were administrators, faculty, staff, and patrons.

Call to Order, Recognize Quorum

President Edward Schroeder called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and recognized a quorum. The Board, Superintendent, administrators, faculty, staff and patrons stood for the pledge of allegiance and took a moment of silence. Mr. Hoover indicated there no emergency additions to the agenda. The board approved the agenda on a motion by Robert Sondgeroth and a second by Jennifer Barce. The motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

Mr. Schroeder informed patrons of what was permitted to be spoken about during this time and that patrons would be limited to speaking for three minutes. Robert Sloniger requested the opportunity to speak regarding the Budget. Mr. Sloniger handed to the board members, Mr. Hoover and audience member Gail Lange a printout that had 2018 employees listed and their pay. Mr. Sloniger spoke about the board members needing to be aware of and approve every dollar that is spent by the corporation and be aware of the school corporation budget. He stated he did not feel that the school corporation was being financially responsible. He stated he felt that the budget cuts needed to start at the top and "trim the fat" of the school corporation. Mr. Sloniger also stated he did not like how the community meetings regarding the financial situation of the school corporation were set up. He stated he thought the meetings should be set up where patrons could get up and speak their minds not sit around a table with a person taking notes of how they felt.

Routine Matters

The board approved the minutes of the Work Session and Regular meeting of December 16, 2019 and the minutes of the Work Session of December 19, 2019 on a motion by Jennifer Barce and a second by Chad Tolen. The motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson presented the vouchers to the board for approval. Mrs. Albertson reiterated to the board that the vouchers that are given to the board are all the expenses of the school corporation for that month and that the vouchers are approved by them each month. Mrs. Albertson stated

she wanted to point out that the Debt Services and Pension Bond payments were on this voucher listing. She also stated that the Rainy Day payments of \$1469.43 were for Professional Development for Teachers and that the \$4933.89 was for the voluntary benefit payments to employee Health Savings Accounts. Mrs. Albertson stated that Mr. Sondgeroth had emailed her questions regarding some specific vouchers and she wanted to answer those for the whole board. The first was an inquiry of the payment to CDW Gov't for equipment for \$43600.00; Mrs. Albertson stated this was for projectors for classrooms. Mr. Tolen inquired as to how many, Mrs. Albertson stated it was for the purchase of 80. The next question was the payment to Mulhaupts for door replacement for \$8221.31. Mrs. Albertson stated it was for 2 doors at Otterbein Elementary that is part of the ongoing door replacement project at Otterbein. She stated it is being done in phases due to the cost and that it has been part of the capital projects plan approved by the board. The next inquiry was the payment to Sharp School Services for Equipment for \$875.00. Mrs. Albertson indicated this was for a marker board for the band room that was damaged in the fire. The next question was the payment to Uptime Mechanical for Cafeteria PM and Service calls for a total of \$4086.00. Mrs. Albertson stated this was cafeteria periodic maintenance on equipment, an AC coil at Prairie Crossing and maintenance on the concession stand ice machine. The final question was the payment to Wiers Int. Truck Inc. for Transportation supplies/Repair for \$14795.36. Mrs. Albertson stated this was supplies for bus repairs such as tubes, sensors, cores, injectors, gaskets, clamps, oil, brake shot kits etc. She also stated that this claim had a school bus repair from damage from hitting a tree. Mrs. Albertson asked the board members if they had any other questions. There being no other questions Mrs. Albertson asked the board to approve the vouchers as presented. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Gabe Widmer, to approve accounts payable vouchers totaling \$1,749,244.35 and payroll and benefits vouchers of \$1,437,996.37 for a grand total of \$3,187,240.72. The motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson stated she felt the normal budget work session should be held in March when Mr. Sondgeroth returned and asked if the rest of the board was in agreement. The board stated that was fine. Mr. Sondgeroth thanked Mrs. Albertson and the board for waiting until he was back and could be present. Mrs. Albertson stated the financial reports for the month were not ready yet because of the year end procedures she was finishing up and that she would get those sent out to them as soon as she was finished.

#### Communications

Mr. Robb introduced Student Council members Raeann Brown and Oneta Gray. He indicated they were there to speak with the board about senior parking lot spaces. Miss Brown and Miss Gray presented a plan to the board about allowing seniors to paint their parking spaces. They indicated that many area schools allow this. They went through the requirement and guidelines that the students would have to follow. They asked that the board consider allowing this to occur. Mrs. Barce stated she thought it was a great idea. The board thanked the students for coming and presenting the information to the board.

Mr. Hoover acknowledged the following donations:

#### Corporation

- \$675.00 from the Fowler Christian Church Mission Support to clear negative student cafeteria balances.

Benton Central

- \$375.75 from Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC for the Benton Central Student Activity Fund;
- \$250.00 From Caterpillar Inc. (Sports Sponsorship Winner) for the Benton Central Wrestling program;
- \$450.00 from the Fowler Sons of Amvets for the Benton Central 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington DC trip;
- \$200.00 from the Oxford United Methodist Church for the Steve Fleming Fund to support student needs;
- \$350.00 from EMI (Brent Moyars) to the Benton Central Automotive Technology Program;

Mr. Hoover presented the board with the updated fundraiser report. He indicated there were some new ones at Benton Central. He stated he supplies this information to the board so they are aware what our students are selling and raising funds for. Mr. Hoover pointed out that many of the fundraisers are raising funds for the groups to help others in need.

Mr. Hoover presented the board with the annual conflict of interest disclosure statement and memo that is required to be sent out to employees each year. Mr. Hoover stated the board could speak to him if they any questions regarding the disclosure form.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Hoover presented the staff report to the board. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the following staff report as presented:

Retirements

- Lin Bice as corporation Maintenance employee effective January 31, 2020.

Resignations

- Jim Puckett as Athletic Director effective the end of the 2019-2020 contract year.

EmploymentBenton Central

- Logan Wilson as a student worker in the cafeteria dish room for 1 hour per day;

Prairie Crossing Elementary

- Laura Dwenger as a part time aide effective January 6, 2020;
- Autumn Isenberg as an evening custodian effective December 19, 2019;

- Alice Thurston as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher to fill FMLA leave from January 6, 2020 through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine week grading period of the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion carried. Mr. Coleman introduced the new Prairie Crossing 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Kathryn Szaly to the board. The board welcomed her and wished her luck with the rest of the school year.

Mr. Hoover presented the new IRS travel reimbursement rate of 57.5 cents per mile effective January 1, 2020 to the board for approval. Mr. Sondgeroth inquired if it had gone down. Mr. Widmer indicated that yes it had went down a half cent. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Jennifer Barce to approve the IRS travel reimbursement rate of 57.5 cents per mile effective January 1, 2020. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover presented the board with the month's school board policy manual review of sections 6.1 through 6.14. Mr. Hoover asked for any questions or any changes the board thought needed to be made. There being no changes, no motion was taken. Mr. Sondgeroth indicated he was still working on getting information on the harassment policy they had tabled at a previous board meeting. He indicated he was working with the ISBA attorney on the policy. Mr. Widmer asked Mr. Sondgeroth to please forward them any information he receives on the policy.

Mr. Hoover stated that they are off to a good start on the semester. He inquired when a good date would be for the board members to have a work session to discuss the community meetings that were taking place during the month. Mrs. Barce indicated she was out of town January 30 through February 4. Mr. Hoover indicated he would send out some prospective dates to the board and they could decide which fit better with all schedules.

Mrs. Albertson stated she thought the community meeting at Boswell that was held the week prior had went well and there was some good feed-back and questions.

Mr. Sondgeroth indicated he would not be at the February board meeting when the language for the referendum ballot would be decided. He stated he had a strong feeling that the language should state the monies would be limited to the Education Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 10, 2020, at the Administration Office.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

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 President

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 Member

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 Vice-President

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 Member

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 Secretary

Board of Finance Meeting  
Board of School Trustees  
January 27, 2020  
Administration Building

Board members present were:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Gabe Widmer	X	
Edward Schroeder	X	
Robert Sondgeroth		X
Jennifer Barce	X	
Chad Tolen	X	

Call to Order, Recognize Quorum

President Edward Schroeder called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., and recognized a quorum. Those present stood for the pledge of allegiance and took a moment of silence. Mr. Hoover indicated there no emergency additions to the agenda. The board approved the agenda on a motion by Jennifer Barce and a second by Gabe Widmer. The motion carried.

Edward Schroeder moved to appoint Chad Tolen as president of the Board of Finance. The motion was seconded by Gabe Widmer and the motion carried.

Edward Schroeder moved to appoint Jennifer Barce as secretary of the Board of Finance. The motion was seconded by Gabe Widmer and the motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson presented the board with the investments made during 2019 and reviewed same with the Board.

Mrs. Albertson presented the board with the current Investment Policy of the school corporation and discussed same.

Mr. Hoover and Mrs. Albertson went over the current financial condition of the school corporation. Mrs. Albertson discussed with the board the financial reports she sends to the board each month and how she compiles them in easy to read spreadsheets for the board members. She stated these are a summary by program and object of expenses to date as well as revenue received to date. She stated it also includes estimated expenses and revenue for the budget year with the estimated expense over revenue as well as estimated year end cash balance. She stated there were requested reports from our financial system that she provided to the board. She indicated these reports are what she uses to provide them with the summary report. She stated these reports by themselves makes it difficult for the board to summarize the financial status and the reports do not show expected expenses, the expected expense over revenue or projected year end case balance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

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President

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Member

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Vice-President

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Member

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Secretary

The Board of School Trustees of Benton Community School Corporation met in a WORK SESSION Wednesday February 5, 2020, at the Administration Building at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Budget.

Board members present were:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Gabe Widmer	X	
Edward Schroeder	X	
Robert Sondgeroth		X
Jennifer Barce	X	
Chad Tolen	X	

The work session adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

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President

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Member

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Vice-President

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Member

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Secretary

The Board of School Trustees of Benton Community School Corporation was to meet in an EXECUTIVE SESSION on Wednesday February 5, 2020, following the WORK SESSION. President Edward Schroeder canceled the meeting due to weather conditions at the time.

Board members present were:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Gabe Widmer	X	
Edward Schroeder	X	
Robert Sondgeroth		X
Jennifer Barce	X	
Chad Tolen	X	

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

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Member

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Vice-President

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Member

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Secretary