

Unofficial

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

The Board of School Trustees of Benton Community School Corporation met in a WORK SESSION Wednesday March 12, 2020, at the Administration Building at 4:30 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 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

President

Member

Vice-President

Member

Secretary

Regular Meeting
Board of School Trustees
March 16, 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 were three emergency additions to the agenda. He stated they would be as follows: E.5 Amended E-Learning Policy 3.89; E.6 Revision of 3.9.3 in the Administrative Appendix; E.7 Resolution to receive pay during a declared emergency. The board approved the amended agenda on a motion by Robert Sondgeroth and a second by Jennifer Barce. The motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

None

Routine Matters

The board approved the minutes of the Work Session and Regular meeting of February 10, 2020 on a motion by Jennifer Barce and a second by Robert Sondgeroth. The motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson presented the vouchers to the board for approval. She pointed out the voucher to Muller Welding for \$27,455.00 for the trash compactor at Benton Central. She stated this was in the 2019 budget and capital projects and it was put in last fall but that the company was just now billing for it. There being no questions from the board, Mrs. Albertson asked the board to approve the vouchers as presented. Chad Widmer moved, seconded by Gabe Widmer, to approve accounts payable vouchers totaling \$768,403.47 and payroll and benefits vouchers of \$1,955,880.77 for a grand total of \$2,724,284.24. The motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson pointed out to the board that they will now be seeing fund to fund transfers as payments in their voucher packets. She indicated this was a request from the SBOA when the last audit was done. She also indicated there was nothing new in the financial reports since their work session on March 12th.

Communications

Mrs. Bunte gave a presentation to the board on the eLearning/Professional Development day that was held on November 8, 2019. She indicated the professional development went very well and gave the board the feedback she had received from teachers.

Mr. Hoover gave a brief update on the Long Range Planning Committee. He stated he has been reaching out to the members that were on the FAC committee and has gotten some interest to be included in the Long Range Planning Committee. He stated he has also asked for suggestions of additional people to recruit for the committee. He indicated the process is still continuing and will keep the board updated.

Mr. Hoover gave the board an update on the COVID-19 situation. He indicated currently we were using waiver days granted by the State for March 16-20 and then we were on spring break from March 23-27. He stated he and the administrators were directing the teachers to prepare eLearning days for the possibility of having to be out of school longer than these two weeks. He stated the buildings were being deep cleaned during this closure as well. He stated this was an ever changing situation and would keep the board posted on any changes or updates.

Mr. Hoover presented the board with the updated fundraiser report. Mr. Hoover pointed out that many of the fundraisers are raising funds for the groups to help others in need.

Mr. Hoover informed the board that the State had denied the waiver for the day that was cancelled for Mr. Atha's funeral. He stated this day would be made up on May 29, 2020.

Mr. Hoover indicated that they would be entering into an agreement with Duke Energy for LED Replacement at Otterbein Elementary. He indicated that Duke would be doing the lighting replacement and that it is projected that we will be seeing a \$5000-\$6000 savings a year within 4 years of the completion.

Old Business

Mr. Hoover indicated that at the February board meeting Mr. Schroeder requested that the Review and Approval of changes to School Board Manual Sections 7.1 through 7.7 pages 215-221 be tabled until this month's meeting. Mr. Hoover indicated there were no changes he had to the section and asked for any questions or changes from the board members. There being no changes from the board either there was no vote taken or needed, it is merely a review of the section.

Mr. Hoover further indicated that the Review and Approval of the revised 4.3 Sexual Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedure was tabled at the February board meeting and was now being brought to the board for approval. Mr. Hoover indicated that Mr. Sondgeroth had worked with ISBA in revising this policy to meet all the criteria that was needed. Mr. Sondgeroth indicated he wanted to thank Mrs. Slavens with ISBA for her guidance and help on revising the policy to meet the requirements of statute. Ed Schroeder moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the revised 4.3 Sexual Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedure. Motion granted.

New Business

Mr. Hoover presented the staff report to the board. Mr. Schroeder indicated he would like to take the Athletic Director position at Benton Central as a separate vote from the regular staff report. Ed Schroeder moved, seconded by Jennifer Barce to approve the following staff report as presented minus the Athletic Director position at Benton Central:

Leaves

- FMLA Leave for Dennis Stepp beginning February 8, 2020 for approximately 12 weeks;
- General Leave of Absence for Sheri Massie for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Retirements

- Curtis Skoog as a Shop Technician effective March 20, 2020.

Resignations

- Colleen Fleming as the Preschool classroom aide effective the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Employment

Boswell Elementary

- Kasey Honsowetz as ESL aide effective February 24, 2020.

Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover asked the board to approve the hiring of Dan Meyer as the Athletic Director effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Hoover indicated that a committee consisting of Miss Bunte, Mrs. Fry, Eric Wiley, Chad Tolen and Mr. Robb interviewed 4 of the applicants and it was a unanimous choice of Mr. Meyer. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the hiring of Dan Meyer as Athletic Director at Benton Central effective July 1, 2020. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover asked the board to approve the field trip request of the Benton Central High School Concert Bands to Nashville, Tennessee on June 10, 2021- June 13, 2021. Mr. Hoover indicated that the board had been sent a tentative itinerary and information on costs per student. Robert Sondgeroth moved, seconded by Gabe Widmer to approve the field trip request of the Benton Central High School Concert Bands to Nashville, Tennessee on June 10th through June 13, 2021. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover asked the board to approve the appointment of Mike Hasser to the Earl Park Public Library Board of Trustees. He indicated this was something the board was required to do and that the library sends the recommendations to them for approval. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to appoint Mike Hasser to the Earl Park Public Library Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover presented the board with school board policy manual sections 8.0 through 8.21 pages 222-234 for review. Mr. Hoover indicated he had no changes to the current policies and asked the board for any questions, comments or changes. The board having none, this matter was not voted on as there were no changes only review.

Mr. Hoover presented to the board a revised eLearning policy. Mr. Hoover indicated with the current situation going on with COVID-19 that our current policy needed to be revised to accommodate the situation. Mr. Hoover indicated that the following provisions were taken out of the original policy: 5 day maximum eLearning days per semester; no more than two consecutive eLearning days could be used; and no eLearning days used during testing windows. Mr. Hoover indicated this would only be for the remainder of this school year. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Edward

Schroeder to approve the revised eLearning policy as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover presented the board with the Resolution for Pay During a Declared Emergency. Mr. Hoover indicated he felt it was something the school corporation needed to do to help our employees who would be losing pay during this time and to ensure that these employees are there to return to work once it is deemed appropriate. He indicated this resolution is for pay to proceed through April 15, 2020 and could be looked at again should the current situation change past the school days that have already been canceled. Mr. Hoover indicated that they can apply for reimbursement of these costs from the state. Mr. Hoover asked the board for any comments or questions. Mr. Widmer indicated that he thought it was the right thing to do. Mr. Tolen asked if the reimbursement from the state was a guarantee. Mrs. Albertson indicated that it was not a guarantee but that it can be requested which we will be doing and hope for the best on the reimbursement. She indicated these costs were already in our budget for the year. Mr. Hoover stated even given our current financial situation with the referendum he felt this was what we needed to do for our employees. Mrs. Barce indicated she thought it was the right thing to do as well. Mr. Schroeder stated he thought we needed to do it to make sure our employees came back after this was all over. Mr. Sondgeroth said that it was absolutely something we needed to do. Robert Sondgeroth moved, seconded by Gabe Widmer to approve the Resolution for Pay During a Declared Emergency. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover indicated that he would keep the board informed as this ever fluid situation changed. He indicated that they have meetings set up to address the issue of feeding our less fortunate students while we are out of school and he will keep the board up to date on the decisions that are made.

Mr. Sondgeroth indicated he was unable to skype in for the February meeting but stated he would really have liked to have been a part of that meeting even from his vacation destination.

Mr. Schroeder stated he wanted to recognize Mr. Hoover for going above and beyond for the school corporation during this trying time. He stated he deserved a big thank you.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 16, 2020, at the Administration Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

President

Member

Vice-President

Member

Secretary