

Unofficial

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

The Board of School Trustees of Benton Community School Corporation met in an EXECUTIVE SESSION Monday, July 20, 2020, at the Administration Building At 6:00 p.m. to discuss job performance evaluations of individual employees, and for discussion of the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans, and systems. Board members present were:

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

The executive session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

President

Member

Vice-President

Member

Secretary

Regular Meeting
Board of School Trustees
July 20, 2020
Administration Building

Board members present were:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Gabe Widmer	X (Via Zoom)	
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 7:04 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 was one emergency addition to the agenda. He stated it would be inserted as E.3 Consider approval of the purchase of a vehicle for the SRO. The board approved the amended agenda on a motion by Jennifer Barce and a second by Robert Sondgeroth. The motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

Mr. Schroeder indicated they would take comments from the audience at this time and reminded those who talk that they are limited to 3 to 5 minutes of time. Kristie Bernier, 2nd grade teacher from Otterbein Elementary, spoke to the board regarding the reopening plan and her concerns about safety and preparing and teaching both in-class and distance learners and the extra amount of time it will take the teachers to do this. Bridget Sharpe, Special Education teacher at Prairie Crossing Elementary, also spoke to the board regarding the reopening plan and the difficulties faced teaching both in-class and distance learning students especially since she had students in six grades levels. Mr. Schroeder thanked them for speaking their concerns to the board and also thanked them and indicated how proud he was of our staff for the great job they did with the eLearning in the spring to finish out last school year. Robert Sondgeroth also stated he was a teacher for 45 years and could sympathize with them and thanked them for their efforts.

Routine Matters

Mr. Schroeder indicated he would take a motion for approval the board minutes with the retraction from the original minutes sent to the board. The board approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of June 15, 2020 on a motion by Chad Tolen and a second by Robert Sondgeroth. The motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson presented the vouchers to the board for approval. Mrs. Albertson indicated she had a few vouchers she wanted to point out to the board. She pointed out that the bond payments for the pension and high school remodeling were on the voucher listing. She also pointed out the fund transfer report and indicated the normal transfers and the after school program transfer were on there. She indicated that there was also a transfer to cover the short fall of Little Prairie Preschool. She indicated they are self-funded but when the schools shut down they did not have any income coming in but per the boards resolution the staff was

continuing to be paid. She stated they are taking the short fall out of the CARES act money the corporation received. The next voucher Mrs. Albertson pointed out was the payment to Sentry of \$48743.33, she indicated this was a partial payment for the roofing job at Benton Central. The last voucher Mrs. Albertson spoke about was the payment to Tri-County of \$41624.76. She indicated this was for our students who are involved in the levels program at Tri-County, she stated that this payment was for 2 school years because Tri-County had billed for 18-19 school year and 19-20 school year at the same time. Mrs. Albertson asked if anyone had any questions. There being no questions from the board, Mrs. Albertson asked the board to approve the vouchers as presented. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Edward Schroeder, to approve accounts payable vouchers totaling \$2,105,933.75 and payroll and benefits vouchers of \$1,192,940.14 for a grand total of \$3,298,873.89. The motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson indicated she had updated expenses and revenue on the financial reports. She pointed out to the board that she had transferred the \$600,000 to Emergency Allocation that was to be used for the purchase of school busses that was denied.

Communications

Jennifer Fry and Janelle Hardebeck spoke with the board about having a Therapy Dog Program at the high school. They indicated that their personal dogs were going to training to become therapy dogs and wanted the boards' approval to continue to do so and seek funding through grants. They indicated in the past they have had a therapy dog come to the school for various reasons and it has been very successful and helpful to the students. Mr. Schroeder inquired if the principals were okay with the program. Mrs. Hardebeck and Mrs. Fry indicated they were and they were hopeful with time they could move the program to the elementary schools as well. The board indicated they were all in favor of the program and to proceed with seeking funding.

Mrs. Albertson presented the board with a Strategic Communications Proposal we had received from DehlerPR which she indicated was the PR firm that helped us get the referendum passed. She indicated this is a proposal that they offer their clients after they have represented them in the referendum processes. She indicated it was for a set amount of hours to be used over a 12 month period. She stated she was passing along the proposal for the board to look at. Mr. Tolen asked Mr. Wittenauer what he thought about the proposal. Mr. Wittenauer indicated he would propose the board wait and check out the benefits of the package at a later time.

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

- Kim Claire as an aide at Boswell Elementary effective June 24, 2020;
- Dennis Stepp as a bus driver effective August 1, 2020;
- Barb Dwenger as an aide at Benton Central Jr./Sr. High School

effective June 30, 2020.

Resignations

- Michael Hammons as Physical Education Teacher, Head Football Coach and Assistant Track & Field Coach effective July 13, 2020;
- Meghan McFall as kindergarten teacher at Boswell Elementary effective June 23, 2020.

Employment

Corporation

- Bruce Flynn as Elementary Maintenance Employee effective July 21, 2020;
- Carolyn Ferrill as Technology Integration & Training Assistant effective July 13, 2020;
- Olivia Minier as Summer Computer Tech Assistant effective July 13, 2020;
- Jacob Parker as Summer Computer Tech Assistant

effective July 13, 2020. Benton Central

- Zachary Winkler as Physical Education Teacher effective the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year;
- Lacy Butcher as part-time preschool aide effective the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year;
- Grace Snedden as Varsity Cheer Coach effective immediately;
- Lacie Butcher as part-time aide at Little Prairie Preschool effective the beginning of the 2020- 2021 school year;
- Tyler Marsh as Head Varsity Football Coach effective immediately;
- Transfer of Janet Harmon from Boswell Elementary to the Special Education Aide effective the beginning of the 2020-2021.

Otterbein Elementary

- Transfer of Taylor Ellis from an aide position to secretary position effective June 16, 2020;
- Michelle Robson to fill full 29 hour aide position previously shared with Taylor Ellis effective the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year;
- Kelly Yadon for the 3.5 hour cafeteria position effective the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

Prairie Crossing Elementary

- Transfer of Jennifer Young from Otterbein Speech Teacher to Special Education Teacher effective the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year;
- Madison Klender as Speech and Language Pathologist effective the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion carried. Mrs. Fry introduced Zachary Winkler as the new PE Teacher. Dan Meyer introduced Tyler Marsh as the new Head Football Coach and Grace Snedden as the Varsity Cheer Coach. The board welcomed the new staff members.

Mr. Hoover indicated that Administrators Assistance was there to give a small presentation on the plan for the Superintendent search they had approved them to complete at the June board meeting. Mr. Hoover also indicated he would need a motion from the board to approve the contract for Steve Wittenauer to serve as interim superintendent until a new superintendent can be hired. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Edward Schroeder to approve the contract to hire Steve Wittenauer as interim superintendent. Motion Carried. Mr. Wittenauer introduced Dennis Cahill as the individual who will be heading up the superintendent search for the school board. Mr. Cahill gave a presentation to the board on the services they would be receiving and the timeline of the superintendent search. Mr. Schroeder indicated he was happy with the timeline presented and the agreed upon price of \$7500.00 for the services.

Mr. Hoover indicated the next item for the board to consider was the emergency addition for the purchase of a vehicle for our SRO. Mr. Hoover indicated that they were given the opportunity to purchase a fully equipped police vehicle for \$10,000.00. He indicated he felt this was a fair price and that the vehicle was needed. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the purchase of a vehicle for the SRO in the sum of \$10,000. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover presented the adoption of the AP textbooks and curriculum for 2020-2021 school year and asked the board for their approval. Mr. Schroeder indicated he would like at some point for there to be a presentation on the curriculum offered for his general interest purposes. Mr. Schroeder moved, seconded by Jennifer Barce to approve the Adoption of the AP textbooks and curriculum for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover asked the board to approve the consumable fees for Benton Central Jr./Sr. High School for 2020-2021 school year as presented. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the Benton Central Jr./Sr. High consumable fees for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover asked the board to approve the 2020-2021 Textbook Rental, Curricular Materials (Devices), Consumables and Fees for the corporation. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Edward Schroeder to approve the 2020-2021 Textbook Rental, Curricular Materials (Devices), Consumables and Fees for the corporation as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover asked the board to approve the 2020-2021 Benton Central Student Handbook. He indicated there were some minor changes and they were listed out for the board on the first page of the document. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Edward Schroeder to approve the 2020-2021 Benton Central Student Handbook as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover presented the 2020-2021 Elementary handbook to the board and indicated the only changes were the adoption years and some COVID 19 response language. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the 2020-2021 Elementary handbook as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover presented the Reopening Plan for the school corporation to the board. Mr. Hoover indicated they had been working on this plan for

several months now and they had a committee that including BEA representatives, Administrators, Directors, and health department officials. He stated they used the stat IN-CLASS document as guidance. He stated the health department was in approval of the plan. He stated he had attended various superintendent meetings and our plan was very similar to other surrounding corporations. He stated that the survey to our parents indicated that 84% of our parents wanted our students to be in person for instructions. He indicated there is an option for parents who would rather their students are taught from home and they would be able to choose that during registration. He indicated that masks are a required portion of the plan when social distancing of 6 feet could not be put in place. He stated this was a requirement from our health department in order for them to approve the plan. He stated there are tracking and guidelines throughout the plan. Mr. Schroeder indicated he felt it was a good plan and that he felt there needed to be an open line of communication between the teachers and the board. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the Benton Community School Corporation Reopening Plan as presented to the board. Motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson asked the board to approve permission for her to advertise the annual financial report as is required by statute. She indicated this report consists of items such as revenue and expenses, salary schedules etc. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve permission for the advertisement of the annual financial report. Motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson asked the board to approve HPS Cooperative Cafeteria Membership and Gordon's Cafeteria Supply bid. She indicated this was something the auditors had indicated we needed to do after our last audit. She stated we have been a part of HPS and used Gordon's for several years but that since we are using federal funds we are required to have it individually approved by the board. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the HPS Cooperative Cafeteria Membership and Gordon's Cafeteria Supply bid. Motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson asked the board to accept Piazza Produce as our Cafeteria produce vendor for 2020-2021 school year. She indicated this was once again something that is required by SBOA. Edward Schroeder moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve Piazza Produce as our Cafeteria produce vendor for 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover thanked the school corporation for his 39 plus years of employment and opportunities. He stated he would miss his colleagues but looked forward to the next phase to come.

Mr. Schroeder, Mrs. Barce and Mr. Sondgeroth thanked Mr. Hoover for his service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 17, 2020, at the Administration Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

President

Member

Vice-President

Member

Secretary