

Unofficial

Regular Meeting
Board of School Trustees
September 21, 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 7:04 p.m., and recognized a quorum. The Board, Interim Superintendent, administrators, faculty, staff and patrons stood for the pledge of allegiance and took a moment of silence. Mr. Wittenauer indicated there was one emergency addition to the agenda. He stated it would be E.8 under communications and would be discussion of the ADM numbers. The board approved the amended agenda on a motion by Robert Sondgeroth and a second by Jennifer Barce. The motion carried.

Public Hearing

The board held public hearings on the Capital Projects Plan, School Bus Replacement Plan, and the 2021 Budget from 7:06 p.m. to 7:08 p.m. Mrs. Albertson stated the plans and the proposed budget had been advertised on Gateway and our website as per requirements. There were no audience questions or comments. President Edward Schroeder closed the public meeting.

Audience to Visitors

None

Routine Matters

The board approved the minutes of the Work Session and the Regular meeting of August 21, 2020, and the minutes of the Executive Sessions of August 21, 2020, August 28, 2020, September 8, 2020 and September 9, 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. Mrs. Albertson pointed out the voucher to Lime Energy Services. She reminded the board this was for the energy upgrades the capital projects committee had decided to do at Otterbein last spring and this was the payment for that. Mrs. Albertson indicated she didn't have any board members email her any question regarding the vouchers and asked the board members if they had any questions now. 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 \$647,505.75 and payroll and benefits vouchers of \$1,432,040.83 for a grand total of \$2,079,546.58. The motion carried with Robert Sondgeroth

abstaining.

Communications

Mr. Wittenauer indicated that he let the requirement of review of the Teacher Evaluation Plan slip through. He indicated that this will appear on the agenda again at the next board meeting. He stated that he will be working with the administration and teachers on some revisions to the plan. He stated they had found some issues due to COVID that needed to be addressed. He stated we did miss the deadline but he was confident that we would be able to get an extension and move forward.

Mr. Sondgeroth addressed the board and patrons regarding the Teacher Evaluation Plan. He indicated that ISBA had worked diligently to get rid of the I-step/I-learn not as the testing mechanism but the way the results were used with the 15% deduction in the Teacher Evaluation Plan. He stated if you have a B teacher and they have a 15% deduction because of their students tests scores then they become suspect and on a need improvement. He stated the Legislature did approve and pass that the 15% could be taken out of the evaluation at the corporation level if voted and agreed upon. He stated that the other side to the argument did not totally agree with that and put in that you could use negative comments in the evaluation. He stated the ISBA is working to get that language taken out as well. Mr. Sondgeroth stated he was the District 4 ISBA director and he works at the state level and this is an item they have worked on.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy to the board. He indicated this is something that needs to be reviewed each year. He stated we receive funds from the state that get distributed to Highly Effective and Effective teachers using the policy. He stated it varies from year to year. Mr. Wittenauer inquired of Mrs. Albertson when we would know what the amount for the year would be. Mrs. Albertson stated that the State normally sends something out in November/December. Mr. Wittenauer stated that once we receive the funds we will let the teachers know. He stated there is a formula that is used to determine the amount paid for highly effective and effective. Mr. Wittenauer stated these are funds that come from the state and do not come out of our education or operations funds. Mr. Tolen asked approximately how money we receive. Mrs. Albertson indicated we received around \$70,000 last year and then it is distributed amongst the teachers. She indicated we have to have a 24% difference in the amount paid to highly effective and effective teachers. Mr. Schroeder inquired as to how many teachers we had. Mrs. Albertson indicated we have 124. She clarified that we have 124 positions but that we are still trying to fill 2 of those.

Mr. Wittenauer acknowledged the following donations:

Benton Central

- 1990 Toyota from Leslie Sondgeroth to the Auto Shop Program;
- \$1000.00 anonymous donation to Literary Magazine "Phoenix" Ring of Fire;
- \$100.00 in memory of Edna Cackley to the Benton Central Library.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the board with the fundraiser report.

Mr. Wittenauer indicated the Discussion of Referendum Tax Rate was a matter of information to the board. He stated he wanted to share this as being the interim superintendent it is his job to keep the corporation moving forward and he would be remiss if he didn't have some comments

about the referendum and where we go with it. He indicated he was not here when the board decided to go for a referendum and was not here when they set the 31 cents for the referendum but that there had to be a reason in choosing that amount. Mr. Wittenauer indicated that as he has looked at our finances over the last month or so he has some comments he would like to provide to the board. He stated he is not asking the board to bless this but is asking the board to put this on his thought process over the next months. Mr. Wittenauer indicated he said that he believes the board needs to raise the full 31 cents. Mr. Wittenauer went through the memorandum provided to the board previously. He indicated that in calendar year 2020 we are looking at a 1.2 million deficit. He stated that when he wrote the memo we were looking at losing another 80 students but that as of this day it was 100 students, Mrs. Albertson corrected with 107 students as of that time. Mr. Wittenauer stated that at the 80 student loss figure we were looking at losing another \$500,000 in funding for 2021 which will be more than that with the increased number of students lost. Mr. Wittenauer stated he was anticipating a loss of about 10% in revenue from the state due to the pandemic. He stated some are saying 5% and some are saying 15% so he figured in the middle. He indicated this translated to a further loss of 1.2 million dollars. He stated it is common practice for school corporations to have 1 million to 1.4 million in their cash balance depending on the school corporation's total budget. He stated that with our total budget that puts us at 1 million to 1.4 million. He stated adding up all these figures it comes to 3.9 million to 4.3 million. Mr. Wittenauer stated that raising the 31 cents from the referendum would equal about 4 million dollars. He stated if we raise the full 31 cents we are already all spent because of the loss of revenue and loss of students and already being 1.2 million in deficit. Mr. Wittenauer stated that if we do not raise the full 31 cents we will have to make some pretty tough decisions like cutting programs and staff; possibly closing Boswell; no raises for teachers, which probably means losing some of our excellent teachers and administrators. He indicated he believed the referendum was supported by our community so we would not have to make these difficult decisions. He stated when the referendum was rolled out it was to try to maintain what we currently had. He stated the 31 cents would just about cover that with not much plus or negative room. Mr. Wittenauer stated that the goal is to raise 4 million dollars each year which is what 31 cents would do. He stated that in the coming years if our assessed value was to go up or we had an influx in students or the state recovers and gives back the 10% cut, then this could impact the referendum rate that would be needed to reach the 4 million dollars. Mr. Wittenauer indicated he thought the first year was the most important. He stated he did not think the new superintendent needed to be saddled with some very tough decisions in his first few months. Mr. Wittenauer stated the new superintendent needs to get his feet on the ground and have time to review the situation before having to make such difficult decisions. He indicated the new superintendent could then work with the planning committee to make decisions going forward. Mr. Wittenauer stated he had been working hard since he had been here to get the corporation moving forward in a positive way and have an even playing field for the new superintendent. He stated he does not want them to have to look at RIFing teachers the first few months they are here as that would be unfair. He stated he understood that it was difficult for some members to support the 31 cents but stated he would not be doing his job if he did not tell them the reasons the 31 cents was needed. He stated he tried to give them that in black and white. Mr. Wittenauer stated he could not negotiate in good faith with the teachers until he knows how much money is going to be raised. Mr. Wittenauer stated he wanted to give the board this information so they could start thinking about it and we could get a decision sooner rather than later on the referendum rate. Mr. Wittenauer

questioned why the board would give the community the opportunity to support a 31 cent referendum if they were only going to support 15 cent.

Mr. Schroeder asked if any of the board members had any comments they would like to add. Mr. Sondgeroth stated he would like to address the issues. Mr. Sondgeroth stated that he told his fellow tax payers that if the referendum was to be passed he would not vote higher than 15 cents. Mr. Sondgeroth stated that the night that it was decided that the amount on the ballot would be 31 cents he and his wife were on a month long vacation in St. Lucia. He stated he requested to have a zoom into the meeting so that his voice could be heard. He stated that this was not possible even though he had asked in advance for this to happen. He stated this meeting is when the 31 cents was chosen. He stated he has done research on what it will cost the tax payers and his family. Mr. Sondgeroth stated they have over 8 parcels and have done well. Mr. Sondgeroth stated that if the 31 cents was passed it would hit them a little hard but they would manage. He stated it would not be out of the question for him to ask every administrator and director, not asking teachers etc., he is only asking the top Escalon to donate back from their salary \$10,000.00 and to freeze their salary for the duration of the referendum. He restated no raise and give \$10,000. He stated people may think well that is exorbitant. He stated that we are asking some of our tax payers to do that and they don't have a voice. He stated that we are in a fix and that he has followed it for years and has saw the decline. He stated he votes no on many items and has abstained. Mr. Sondgeroth stated that hard choices need to be made and that one that is often thrown out is closing Boswell. Mr. Sondgeroth gave a figure of \$14,000 per student and stated that would be 1.5 million for Boswell and the cost to operate Boswell is \$800,000. He stated Boswell does not have to be closed to float the boat. He stated that finance has been a question and always difficult to decide what to spend on but that with \$14,000 per student we need to look at how we are spending. Mr. Sondgeroth thanks Mr. Wittenauer for the discussion and information he had provided for him earlier that day. Mr. Sondgeroth stated that he and Mr. Wittenauer do not always see eye to eye but he is thankful that they cannot agree and not be disagreeable. He thanked Mr. Wittenauer for helping them through this situation. Mr. Sondgeroth stated that the first night Mr. Wittenauer was hired to be the interim he said you just stepped in it, hope you have your boots on.

Mr. Tolen asked Mrs. Albertson the amount per student for the ADM we are going to get. He inquired if it was going to be \$7,100.00. Mrs. Albertson stated that if you take our 1611 into the funding formula and you take the full amount from our special education and CTE course which is 11.5 million if you take that divided by the 1611 it is approximately \$7100 per kids. She stated she does not know if any of those students we have lost fall into the special education or CTE category which would affect the amount if they are. She stated if you just take the basic grant portion amount and divide that by the 1611 then it is \$6,200 per student. She stated we are looking at a loss between \$670,000 and \$767,000. Mr. Tolen asked if that amount was up from last year. Mrs. Albertson indicated that there was a built in increase in the formula for this year per ADM. Mr. Tolen asked what the increase in funding per student was from last year to this year. Mrs. Albertson stated she would need to put the numbers in be able to compare apples to apples. Mr. Tolen stated he thought the amount per student last year was \$6300 - \$6500. Mrs. Albertson stated she believe it was \$6290 but would need to double check that to be sure. Mr. Tolen commented that yes the referendum passed but that it was passed on the notion that we would cut spending as well. He stated that is why he voted to not spend the \$600,000 on school busses

this year. He stated he did not think 150,000 miles on a school bus is worn out. He stated he drives a semi with 442,000 miles on it. Mr. Tolen stated another thing that was said that through attrition we would reduce our spending. He said that on the agenda there are some retirements and resignations and he would like to see us do some attrition with those. He stated that there is close to 3.8 million in the rainy day fund. He stated if he was asked to come up with a perfect rainy day situation he would never have come up with the situation that we are in. He stated 2020 can't get any more rainy day than it is now. He stated we need to dip in to that fund to reduce this tax rate. Mr. Wittenauer asked if he had an amount in mind he wanted to take out of the rainy day fund. Mr. Wittenauer stated he felt we needed to have something in the rainy day fund for the next rainy day that comes along. Mr. Tolen stated he would not recommend taking more than 1 million. Mr. Wittenauer stated that if we take 1 million from rainy day than that means we need to raise 3 million to get to his 4 million dollar figure. Mr. Tolen also stated that he reached out to representative Sharon Nagle about the 10% cut Mr. Wittenauer has referred to in state funding. He stated that Mrs. Nagle's comment was sit tight. Mr. Tolen stated she couldn't say we were or we were not getting cut. Mr. Widmer stated that she represents the public like we all do and that she cannot guarantee what the cut will be. Mr. Widmer stated it is this board that makes our decisions. Mr. Widmer stated that Mr. Wittenauer asked where the 31 cent figure came from. Mr. Widmer stated that the figure started at 35 cents but the 31 cents was decided upon after looking at the projected next 8 years and what needed to be raised to keep up with inflation and increases and to end up with 8% of our yearly budget in cash reserves at the end of the referendum. He stated for this to work we need to ask for 31 cents each year. He stated that if we do not raise the 31 cents this year it might not hurt us next year but it will hurt us in 8 years and we can't do another referendum. He stated we aren't just looking at next year and getting to break even we are looking at this for the long term and being able to meet those goals that we have for the corporation. Mr. Wittenauer stated he thought that was a good comment and that we do have to look down the road but that he does not have a problem if we can get that 4 million dollars. He stated that if we raise 3 million with the referendum and take 1 million from rainy day he is fine with that for one year. He stated we are all in the is for the right reason. Mr. Wittenauer asked Mrs. Albertson how much 3 million would be in referendum cents. Mr. Tolen stated he thought Baker Tilly said \$130,000 per penny. Mrs. Albertson stated she would need to pull that out that she did not have that in front of her. Mr. Wittenauer stated that if the board can live with raising the 3 million and 1 million from rainy day he could live with that also. He stated he felt it was a good compromise. Mr. Wittenauer asked Mrs. Barce for her thoughts. Mrs. Barce stated she would not go lower than the 3 million. She stated that the 31 cents was derived from looking long term. She stated that we need to think about recruiting and retaining teachers and that takes funds. She stated that the number of teachers coming out of college is decreasing and that recruiting these teachers is of importance. She stated that we need to be able to be competitive in teacher pay so that we can get and keep qualified teachers. Mrs. Barce stated that she does like Mr. Tolen's compromise and that 2020 does seem like the perfect instance for the rainy day fund but that if the 4 million is what is needed than that is what needs to be raised each year. Mrs. Barce also stated that there is a shortage of administrators as well. She stated she could not imagine trying to hire and/or retain administrators and a superintendent if we are going to say you can't have a raise for 8 years. She stated we would never get anyone to come here. Mr. Wittenauer stated there is no question there is a teacher shortage and if we do not raise the funds to be able to be competitive we are not going to get the quality teachers. Mrs. Brace

indicated she does not believe we would have gotten as many quality superintendent applications if the referendum had not passed. Mr. Wittenauer agreed with Mrs. Barce. Mr. Wittenauer stated that he likes Mr. Tolen's idea and that he would get it out to the board what the 3 million dollars would be in terms of the cents for the referendum tax.

Mr. Wittenauer stated that starting on this date all the Type A school lunches would be free to all students. He stated this should help some of our parents. He stated that with Boswell being on virtual for the next two weeks that they would still be provided with meals like happened last spring. Mr. Wittenauer stated that they had a staff member test positive there and that with contact tracing we would have too many staff out and he did not feel we would be able to fill all the positions with substitutes so the decision was made to go virtual. Mr. Wittenauer indicated they would be back in school October 1st. Mr. Schroeder inquired how we would handle getting the money back to the students' lunch accounts. Mr. Wittenauer indicated Mrs. Stepp was working on this and it would just be credited back to their account that we would not be issuing checks.

Mr. Wittenauer stated he wanted all to be aware that we are in desperate need of bus drivers. He stated that if we do not get more bus drivers we will not be able to transport our students. Mr. Wittenauer stated in years past there were always people out there willing to drive a bus but that is just not the case anymore. Mr. Schroeder commented that once insurance was dropped that is when no one wanted to drive a bus anymore. Mr. Wittenauer indicated he may have a solution to that. He stated that since he is the director of the largest trust in Indiana, they are working with their health clinics to set up for a person in the community to be able to pay a fee to use the clinics.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Wittenauer presented the staff report to the board. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the following staff report as presented:

Leaves

- FFCRA leave for the following employees:
 - o Michelle Asher - August 31, 2020 through September 2, 2020;
 - o Mandy Brighton - August 24, 2020 through September 2, 2020;
 - o Bryana Bunte - August 24, 2020 through August 26, 2020;
 - o Tiffany Bushman - August 3, 2020;
 - o Penny Cooper - September 8, 2020 through September 18, 2020;
 - o Mayrani Cortes - September 8, 2020 through September 18, 2020;
 - o Edie Fisher - August 31, 2020 through September 11, 2020;
 - o Ryan Gillen - August 4, 2020 through August 7, 2020;
 - o Noreen Gonzalez - August 5, 2020 through August 6, 2020;
 - o Autumn Isenberg - August 24, 2020 through August 25, 2020;
 - o Madison Kintner - August 24, 2020 through August 31, 2020;
 - o Kim Kitterman - August 24, 2020 through August 31, 2020;
 - o Alisha Kuckartz - August 28, 2020;
 - o Michael Ritchie - August 24, 2020 through August 26, 2020;
 - o Amada Brost - September 4, 2020 through September 5, 2020;
 - o Sarah Dalton - September 4, 2020;
 - o John Gresko - September 11, 2020 through September 14, 2020;

- o Rich Brown - August 31, 2020 through September 11, 2020;
- o Elizabeth Zamora - August 10, 2020 through August 21, 2020;
- FMLA leave for Erin Budreau from approximately September 21, 2020 through December 18, 2020;
- FMLA leave for Rachel M (Snethen) Moore from September 25, 2020 through November 19, 2020;
- FMLA leave for Kayla Nichols from approximately October 22, 2020 through January 3, 2021;
- FMLA leave for Whitney Widmer from approximately February 15, 2021 through May 7, 2021.

Retirements

- Lynda Stepp as Director of Food Services effective December 31, 2020.

Resignations

- Joyce Noble as corporation/technology secretary effective December 31, 2020;
- Brittany Wallpe as Benton Central Jr. High Cheer Coach effective August 25, 2020;
- Gail Gillen as an aide at Prairie Crossing Elementary effective September 2, 2020;
- Lacy Butcher as Little Prairie Preschool Aide (turned down position offered).

Employment

Benton Central

- Hannah Barnard as a nurse's aide effective August 18, 2020;
- John Weitlauf's intent to return to classroom effective beginning of 2020-2021 school year;
- Hannah Thomas as 7-12 Science Teacher effective October 15, 2020;
- Hannah Harden as Little Prairie Preschool Aide effective August 26, 2020;
- Brandi Skinner as Jr. High Student Council Sponsor;
- Kayla Nichols as Nation Jr. Honor Society Sponsor;
- Updated ECA Positions - See attached
- Teresa Gretencord as an extended substitute for 7th grade Science with coordinating pay effective September 2, 2020.

Otterbein Elementary

- Jennifer Lambert as Student Council Sponsor.

Prairie Crossing Elementary

- Barbara Sayward as Speech Coordinator;
- Rita Deckard as Reading Coordinator;
- Bridgett Sharp as Special Education Coordinator;
- Transfer of Jenny Stacy from a part time aide position to a full time aide position;
- Jaqlynn Ramos as a full time 1:1 aide effective immediately;
- Angie Garcia as a part time aide effective upon completion of extended background check.

Boswell Elementary

- Keely Grace Brooks as a part time Preschool aide;

Motion carried. Mr. Wittenauer stated that Lynda Stepp is retiring December 31st and wanted to say she has done a great job the years she has been here. He stated he will be posting her position and that there are many more standards now for a person to be hired as a cafeteria manager. Mr. Wittenauer mentioned Joyce Noble on the resignations. He stated she has done many things for the corporation over the years she has been here. Mr. Robb introduced Jennifer Hasser as the new special education teacher, he stated she is coming from Harrison and they are happy to have her. Mr. Robb also introduced Hannah Thomas as the new science teacher filling Mr. Pelton's vacancy. He stated she is coming from South Newton and he is happy to have her as well. The board welcomed the new staff members.

Mr. Wittenauer asked the board to approve the field trip request of Benton Central FFA to Trafalgar Indiana on October 16, 2020 through October 18, 2020. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Edward Schroeder to approve the field trip request of Benton Central FFA to Trafalgar Indiana on October 16, 2020 through October 18, 2020. Motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson asked the board to approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2021 Bus Replacement Plan that was advertised in the paper. She indicated that the buses on the plan for 2021 are the same buses that were on for 2020 that were not replaced. She stated they rolled everything up a year. Mr. Schroeder stated that he was curious, that because he didn't know, if this plan is tied to any money that we get from the state or if it was just required as a plan. Mrs. Albertson stated that it is required and that she puts the amount in the Form 1 to raise the money. Mr. Schroeder asked if we have don't spend it on the buses do we have to give it back. Mrs. Albertson indicated that they did not that it would go into the cash balance. Mr. Schroeder indicated that is what he thought but he wanted to be sure of it. Edward Schroeder moved, seconded by Robert Sondgeroth to approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2021 Bus Replacement Plan. Motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson indicated that on the Capital Projects Plan we are required to include projects capital nature that exceed \$10,000. She stated that we had none in our plan over the next three years. She further indicated that we also have to advertise expenditures for equipment over \$10,000 and that on the plan in the next three years we had to look at replacing the maintenance department tractor so that is listed on the plan. She stated this is a resolution to adopt the plan as advertised. She stated that again if we don't purchase the items the money would just go into the cash balance. Jennifer Barce moved, seconded by Chad Tolen to approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2021 Capital Projects Plan. Motion carried.

Mr. Wittenauer asked the board to appoint Sherilynn Mundell to the Earl Park Public Library Board of Trustees and also appoint Kathy Geswein to the Boswell Grant Township Public Library Board of Trustees. Robert Sondgeroth moved, seconded by Edward Schroeder appoint Sherilynn Mundell to the Earl Park Public Library Board of Trustees and also appoint Kathy Geswein to the Boswell Grant Township Public Library Board of Trustees Motion carried.

Mr. Wittenauer indicated he had been working with the teachers on a plan to help with the teachers struggles with teaching in person and virtual students and a way to give them more time to prepare etc. He indicated they have come up with a plan to have 4 two hour delays in October giving the teachers extra time each week to help prepare. He stated that he

spoke with the Department of Education and as long they were not quote unquote regularly scheduled we could do them. Mr. Wittenauer stated that the proposed dates are October 2, 8, 21 and 27th. Mr. Schroeder indicated he was happy that Mr. Wittenauer was able to figure this out and give our teachers the extra time needed. Mr. Widmer asked if the plan was just for them to go in and have extra time or would there be some professional development scheduled. Mr. Wittenauer stated that it would probably be a little of both but at first it was being used as extra time to prepare for virtual students. Mr. Widmer asked if Mr. Robb had any thoughts or comments to add. Mr. Robb stated that at the high school they are doing fine but in an effort to support and help the elementary teachers who aren't as used to using google classroom and everything else they are willing to give them that time. Mr. Wittenauer asked the board to approve the dates as stated. Robert Sondgeroth moved, seconded by Chad Tolen to approve the dates for the 2 hour delay student schedule for October 2, 8, 21 and 27, 2020. Motion carried.

Mr. Wittenauer asked the board to approve the parent-teacher conference plan. He stated that they will not be in person this year due to the circumstances. He stated parents will be given the opportunity to choose to hold them via zoom, phone or email. Mr. Wittenauer stated that this needed to be approved because it is a change from the approved school calendar. He stated they would be held on October 12th and 13th and the 14th would be a regular school day. Chad Tolen moved, seconded by Jennifer Barce to approve the parent-teacher conference plan as presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. Albertson presented the board with the Telework Procedures during COVID -19 Pandemic. She stated that a lot of our staff are getting caught up in contact tracing or if they are positive and they are not sick the full 14 days and can complete their duties from home. She stated these procedures give the staff the ability to work from home and get their full pay. She indicated they would fill out the form and give to their principals stating they want to telework and how it is to be done. She stated it is worked out between the staff member and their principal on how they do it. Mrs. Albertson asked that this be retroactive to the beginning of the school year. Robert Sondgeroth moved, seconded by Chad Tolen to approve the Telework Procedures during COVID-19 Pandemic to be retroactive to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

Mr. Wittenauer indicated they had skipped the addition of the ADM update. He stated the numbers are as follows: Benton Central went from 848 to 802, Otterbein went from 293 to 269, Prairie Crossing went from 427 to 418 and Boswell went from 143 to 121. Mrs. Albertson indicted this is comparing last fall to this fall. Mr. Wittenauer stated that our count is 1611 which is 107 down from last fall. Mr. Wittenauer stated that he talked with Mr. Sondgeroth about finding out where our students are going. Mr. Wittenauer asked Mr. Robb if we get transfer paperwork from other schools where the students have gone. Mr. Robb indicated that a lot of his students this year are still in the area but have decided to stay home due to COVID and chose to do a different online school. Mr. Robb stated he is under the impression that Indiana Connections and other virtual schools used their CARES act money to buy laptops and internet to entice the students to attend with them. Mr. Wittenauer said he would try to put together a report of where the students are going. Mrs. Barce asked if the state decided to do a 2nd ADM count. Mr. Wittenauer stated that they had decided to do that.

Mr. Schroeder stated that they had 15 applications for the superintendent

position. He stated they narrowed it down to 6 and did interviews last week and narrowed that down to 3 and are holding 2nd round interviews later in the week. Mr. Schroeder stated that they should announce their pick at the November board meeting. Mr. Schroeder stated they had a mix of applicants from administrators to principals to superintendents.

Mr. Wittenauer thanked Mr. Parker for setting up the live stream of the board meetings.

Mr. Sondgeroth expressed his gratitude to all the teachers and thanked them for their hard work.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 12, 2020, at the Administration Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

President

Member

Vice-President

Member

Secretary

The Board of School Trustees of Benton Community School Corporation met in an EXECUTIVE SESSION Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at the Administration Building At 5:30 p.m. to receive information about and interview prospective employees.

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 executive session adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

President

Member

Vice-President

Member

Secretary

The Board of School Trustees of Benton Community School Corporation met in an EXECUTIVE SESSION Monday, October 5, 2020, at the Administration Building At 5:00 p.m. to receive information about and interview prospective employees.

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 executive session adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandie Burton, Recording Secretary

President

Member

Vice-President

Member

Secretary