

MSD OF NEW DURHAM TOWNSHIP

School Board Meeting

Minutes of February 12, 2020

Executive Session: **None**

Those in Attendance:

Board Members

Vickie Hannon
Karen Jedrysek
Mark Parkman
Lynn Wilson

Staff

Sandra Wood, Superintendent

Absent:

Wayne Hodge

1) Call to Order

Mrs. Jedrysek, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

4) Community Input – Persons wishing to make the board aware of suggestions, ideas, and/or comments may address the board at this time. Comments that involve personnel or students must be discussed in private.

There was no community input at this evening's meeting.

5) Superintendent's Report

Elementary Good News Report

Mrs. Miller introduced Alexandria Clayton and Phoebe Currin, student council representatives, who read the Elementary Good News Report.

Good evening! My name is Alexandria Clayton and I am the student council representative from Mrs. Miller's sixth grade class.

Good evening! My name is Phoebe Currin and I am the student council representative from Mrs. Green's third grade classroom.

The mission of MSD of New Durham Township is to *Inspire, Challenge, and Educate!*

Tonight, we'd like to share with you all that's happening in the Elementary School for the month of February.

It's a busy month, so sit back, relax, and take in all that we have going on!

A call has gone out for all Camp Invention fans—registration is happening now and continues until all spots are filled. The current start date is May 26th!

The Kid's Heart Challenge will be starting soon. Students in Kindergarten through sixth grade will participate in this week of awareness sponsored by the American Heart Association and Mrs. Slater.

Our afterschool assistance program, known as ASAP, continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. This program is available to all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade and has been very successful in helping students build their skills!

Our student ambassadors have been meeting and taught about the Lifeline of Enthusiasm last week.

Cheer practice, theater club, science Olympiad, student council, You Can Make A Difference, Lil Fish, Maker Club, 4-H, and the Westville Reads Book Club are all meeting this month.

Louis Mendez will represent Westville Elementary in the LaPorte County Spelling Bee tomorrow at 6 p.m. at South Central.

Our girls' basketball team has been practicing and playing games all month. As of last Friday, their record was 2 and 2. This week they are playing Kouts and South Central, and next week they play Morgan Township. Later in the month they'll play Washington and then on to the PCC Tournament in Kouts.

Talent show auditions start on the 19th. The show will happen on March 13th.

The Fourth Grade Science Fair will be held on Thursday, February 27th in the cafeteria at 6 p.m.

The PTO continues to collect Scrip orders and has planned a Spring Craft Bazaar on February 29th.

In conjunction with National FFA Week, some of our classes will be visiting the high school Ag Class the week of the 24th. Mr. Smith has activities planned that highlight what's learned in Agricultural Education.

Last Saturday our Science Olympiad teams competed at their Regional Tournament at PNW-Hammond. The students did a great job showing off their smarts! Both teams qualified for the State competition in March.

Thank you so much for having us here tonight! Have a very Happy Valentine's Day and we'll see you next month!

Westville Blackhawk Pride Award Winners

The Blackhawk Pride Award winners were announced for the month of February:

Makayla Doyle, Kindergarten, representing Mrs. Allen's classroom
Audrey Bishop, First Grade, representing Mrs. Boren's classroom
Kinley Miller, Second Grade, representing Mrs. Bootcheck's classroom
Ella Hammons, Second Grade, representing Mrs. Freese's classroom
Isaiah Mendez, Third Grade, representing Mrs. Fenters' classroom
Mia Culp, Fourth Grade, representing Mrs. Vargas' classroom
Aden Degraff, Fifth Grade, representing Mrs. Jones' classroom
Kailee Culp, Sixth Grade, representing Mrs. Marshall's classroom

Middle/High School Good News Report

Mrs. Schnick announced Grace Phillips, who read the Good News Report for the middle and high schools. Grace will introduce Miss Walton from the Math Department, who will give a short presentation.

Good evening. My name is Grace Phillips and I am here tonight to present the Good News Report for the middle and high school. I am here on behalf of the Math Department.

Since our last meeting, things have been very busy! To begin with, we concluded PCC week. It was very fun! All of the teams did great! Many congratulations are in order. First off, Allison Gronek won the jump contest in the spirit competition. The cheer block and cheer performance also took home first. Finally, Jaron Hannon was named the PCC Mental Attitude Award Winner. We are very proud of all of our students!

Near the end of January, our National Junior Honor Society students traveled to Hebron to participate in "Student Leader Day." Students learned several new ideas about working with others. It was a great day where they met many new students from other schools.

We also had a group of students travel to Casey's Lanes to participate in Leadership LaPorte County. John, Jacob, Ashley, and Karissa had a great time and even won a Starbucks gift card!

Last month was our middle school spelling bee. This year's winner was Chase Lowry and the runner up was Ethan Carlson. Congratulations to all of our participants! Everyone did a wonderful job!

At the beginning of February our choir vocal solo and ensemble competed. We had several students receive gold and silver medals, and many advanced to the state competition.

Last week was National School Counseling Week. We want to recognize Mrs. Wilkinson for all that she does for our school. We are so appreciative of all of her hard work!

Congratulations to the middle and high school band members that participated at solo and ensemble contest last weekend! Westville students gave a tremendous performance. A special shout out to Haley Lenson who earned a gold in group one and earned a trip to the state contest.

Mrs. Williams was named Westville's Teacher of the Month for the month of February! We are very proud of her! We are very lucky to have Mrs. Williams work with our middle school students every day. She is a huge asset to our middle school team because she cares about our kids and pushes them to do their best!

The girls' basketball team wrapped up their season with sectionals last week. Congratulations to the team on a great season. They worked very hard this year!

Science Olympiad competed this past weekend at regionals. Both teams did great and will be advancing to state in West Lafayette in March! We are so proud of the teams and coaches!

Over the next few weeks we will begin our state required testing. We would also like to invite you to senior night for boys' basketball, poms, cheerleading, and band on February 18 at 5 p.m.

Thank you for listening to all of the great things happening in our school. I would now like to introduce Miss Walton who is going to talk about our math program.

Miss Walton teaches high school geometry and math labs. She introduced Erica, who presented on behalf of the rest of the Math Department, and Onyx and Miss Walton shared about what they've been doing in class.

Mrs. Kovach has been in touch with Purdue for another STEM Partnership next year. They are brainstorming some fun projects for exponential functions involving credit card debt, where students can maybe find a credit card from nerdwallet.com and compare minimum payments on excessive credit card debt. They thought maybe the students go on an online spending spree for cars, college, prom or whatever they were interested in to rack the credit debt way up there. The hope is the students would see that credit cards have ridiculous interest rates

and that long-term debt would be better to shop around for cheaper bank loans. Mrs. Kovach sees the potential of including this with student loans for college. Mrs. Kovach has also been using Desmos, which is a free online graphing and scientific calculator that is going to be incorporated into tests like ACT down the road. She recently discovered that Desmos has teacher activities, much like computer program, that allows teachers to see students' responses in real time. The students in all of her classes have been experimenting with what she finds and/or creates with positive feedback. It truly has a lot of students who discover properties like Vertex Quadratic Equations without even teaching the property. This method of learning has shown to stay in-term memory and will hopefully benefit students in multiple ways.

Onyx and Miss Walton discussed what they have been doing in geometry. They have been using Paradac, an interactive PowerPoint where students can work directly with Miss Walton on her PowerPoints. All of her answers are seen in real time on the board, which allows Miss Walton to follow along when students are struggling. When presenting PowerPoint in class, Miss Walton has full control over everything that goes on with PowerPoint. She reviewed the process with the Board. As students are typing in their answers, Miss Walton can see everything they are logging, so going through specific math problems, she can see which students are getting it and which ones aren't.

Miss Walton is teaching students charting, and the students can figure out which equation the students can use the information from, because most will give the students two variables, whereas one equation will work out, and they've been taught how to work backwards from there. Mr. Parkman asked if every student comes up on the screen, and they do. It tracks how many students are in the classroom and how many have responded, and then she can wait until all students have responded and then she can view all of them. Students provide their initials so that Miss Walton can track progress in real time. At the end, you can print a report of every student's response by student email.

Parents and students were dismissed from the board meeting.

Mrs. Williams was unable to attend the board meeting due to weather conditions, but she was chosen as the February Blackhawk Teacher of the Month. She was nominated by two of her colleagues. A news release was provided that included quotes from nominees. She was praised for stepping up and helping out a teacher who had been on maternity leave. She took over some of the responsibilities that were needed while still maintaining her own workload and managing to help students after school, answering emails outside of school, and has been involved in some home schooling with students. She was excited to be named the Teacher of the Month, and she will receive her trophy for that honor. Congratulations to Mrs. Williams.

Superintendent Wood had hoped to have Performance Services in attendance to provide a solar update, but they were not able to make this date work. They are confirmed for the March board meeting and will provide their annual report.

Field Trip Pay Rates for Bus Drivers

The field trip pay rates for bus drivers was tabled last month. The last time this was updated was in 2014, so it was discovered that what most recently was approved was appropriate, but Mr. Eubank is recommending a couple of additions and changes. This item is old business from last month, and Dr. Wood recommended approval of the rates with changes attached.

A motion to approve the non-athletic bus trip proposal was made by Mrs. Hannon and seconded by Mrs. Wilson. Motion carried.

6) Approval of January 15, 2020 Minutes

It was asked that the approval of the minutes be tabled until the next meeting due to technical issues.

7) Approval of January 30, 2020 Work Session

It was asked that the approval of the minutes be tabled until the next meeting due to technical issues.

8) Personnel

A. Resignations

B. Recommendations

- 1. Secondary PE Full-Time/Grayce Roach**
- 2. Food Services Full-Time/Kari Westlund**
- 3. Assistant HS Track Coach/Brian Ton**
- 4. HS Track Coach/Kristina Walton**
- 5. Substitute Teachers/Sarah Satkoski and Benjamin Keller**

Grace Roach was introduced to the Board. She is being recommended for the position of full-time PE teacher. She is currently the golf coach and assistant head girls' basketball coach at IU Northwest finishing her degree this spring. She has an extensive background in athletics and education and comes highly recommended from a several people.

A motion to approve all recommendations, as presented, was made by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Parkman. Motion carried.

9) Professional Leave Requests

- 1. C.L.A.S.S. Brain Web Day/Laura Miller, April Max, Lindsey Vargas, Stephanie Irk**

2. Indiana School Counselor and Administrator Collaborative Institute/Alissa Schnick, Kim Wilkinson

Mr. Tonn explained that as part of the professional development paid for by PTO, we send some teachers to the Brain Web Days, and this one was specifically on all of the SEL, which is the Social Emotional Learning aspect. The information they bring back with them is shared with all of the other teachers.

A motion to approve the professional leave requests, as presented, was made by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Jedrysek. Motion carried.

10) Donations

1. Tri-Kappa/Science Olympiad \$350.00

A donation was received from Tri-Kappa to the Science Olympiad in the amount of \$350.00.

A motion to approve the donation was made by Mr. Parkman and seconded by Mrs. Hannon. Motion carried.

11) Approval of 2020-2021 School Calendar

The calendar was created in collaboration with other LaPorte County districts that we share programming with and a committee of teachers and staff. All main breaks are closely aligned with the other districts in our county, and the calendar includes eLearning Days for professional development for teachers.

A motion to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar, as presented, was made by Mr. Parkman and seconded by Mrs. Wilson. Motion carried.

12) First Reading, NEOLA Policies, Update 32-1 and Policy # 7440

This is a first reading, so there is no action required this evening. A summary of all of the policies were included with the agenda so the Board could see why each of the revisions was proposed. Most of the revisions are due to changes in state law. A question was posed in regard to sections of policy that do not apply to our district (football policy). Legal counsel has been consulted and will provide guidance as to whether or not we can/should leave this language in policy.

13) Hearing on Amendment to Lease

Notice of this hearing and this meeting was published in the Westville Indicator and the Herald Argus on January 9. We have proofs of publication for that on file in the office. We are looking at the proposed 6th amendment to the lease, which includes the plans, specifications, and estimates for the school building to be renovated and improved by the Metropolitan School District of New Durham Township School Building Corporation. Again, it is on file in the office as well.

The meeting was opened for questions or a hearing for anyone interested in commenting on this proposed amendment to the lease. There were no questions or comments. The hearing was closed.

14) Adopt Resolution Authorizing Execution of Lease

A motion to adopt the resolution authorizing execution of the lease, listed in the Board packet as Exhibit A, was made by Mr. Parkman and seconded by Mrs. Hannon. Motion carried.

15) Adopt Resolution Assigning Construction Bids to Building Corporation, Once Received

A portion of the construction bids and contracts will need to be assigned to the building corporation once we receive them. The building corporation then uses bond proceeds to fund such bids and contracts in order to complete the project.

A motion to adopt resolution assigning construction bids to building corporation, once received, was made by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Parkman. Motion carried.

16) Adopt Resolution to Approve Amendment & Supplemental to Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking and Approving Issuance of Bonds

Superintendent Wood advised that the Board needs to approve the adoption of the form of master continuing disclosure undertaking, Exhibit C.

A motion to adopt resolution to approve amendment & supplemental to master continuing disclosure undertaking and approving issuance of bonds was made by Mrs. Hannon and seconded by Mrs. Jedrysek.

17) Adopt Amended and Restated Post-Issuance Procedures

Superintendent Wood advised that the Board needs to approve the adoption of the amended and restated post-issuance procedures, Exhibit D.

A motion to adopt amended and restated post-issuance procedures was made by Mrs. Hannon and seconded by Mrs. Jedrysek.

18) Financial Report

There were no questions on the financial reports.

Regarding professional leave requests, it was asked if the Board could receive additional information about those requests, so the Board knows where the money is coming from, if it's a PTO-paid item, if it's a grant-paid item, etc., and then how that information is being brought and disseminated.

A motion to approve the financial report, as presented, was made by Mrs. Hannon and seconded by Mrs. Wilson. Motion carried.

19) Correspondence

There were two pieces of correspondence that were shared with the Board:

- 1) Westville Middle School/High School would like to thank Tri-Kappa for their generous donation to the fine arts department. Their contributions have helped us grow in our art, music, and band programs.
- 2) Westville Middle School/High School would like to thank Tri-Kappa for their donation to our Science Olympiad team, who competed at regionals this past weekend. They are so proud and appreciate their support and look forward to continuing at State in March.

20) Adjournment

Mrs. Jedrysek adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date:

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center



Lynn Wilson, Secretary

3/11/20

Date

