

MSD of NEW DURHAM TOWNSHIP

School Board Public Hearing

Minutes of April 14, 2021

Executive Session: None

Those in Attendance:

Board Members

Mark Parkman
Lynn Wilson
Vicki Hannon
Wayne Hodge
Karen Jedrysek

Staff

Dr. Sandra Wood Superintendent

Reorganization Session

1) Call to Order

Mr. Parkman, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

4) Community Input

None

5) Superintendent's Report

The Elementary Good News Report was read by Julissa Guevara, a 6th grader and a Student Council member. Preslie Marshall, a 5th grader, came in 5th place in the County Spelling Bee. The Student Council will be meeting next week in person to clean up around the school for Earth Day.

The Blackhawk Pride Award winners read why they are proud to be a Blackhawk. The Blackhawk Pride winners that attended the meeting are Sadie Coban 3rd grade, Avery Schneider 3rd grade, and Nicholas Glanz 4th grade.

Secondary level Good News Report was read by Mrs. Schnick, principle of Westville Middle / High School. Since last meeting, students have completed their class schedules for the following year. Julian Ellis was named PCC All Conference as they wrapped up winter

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sports. Grace Phillips and Mrs. Archer are finalist for the Hoosier Star singing Competition. ILEARN testing will start next week for the Secondary Level as well as ECA Biology and AP Tests. Saturday there will be a community cleanup day at Prairie Meadow Park for Earth Day. The Board congratulated Mrs. Schnick for graduating from the Principle Leadership Institute.

Dr. Wood followed up with an update on our county metric for Covid 19. LaPorte County went to Orange on the metric scale. Locally, at school, we are in good standings. We only have 2 active cases, which resulted in no close contact at school. Dr. Wood is monitoring the cases daily.

Dr. Wood thanked HealthLinc in Michigan City for their partnership with the onsite vaccine clinic that we hosted last month. All 30 participants are now fully vaccinated.

Indiana Governor, Eric Holcomb, extends masks mandates for k -12 schools through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

6) Solar Update

Dr. Wood addressed the board with 2 documents. First document is a comparison of NIPSCO bills from 2019, 2020, & 2021. * Consumption is high again this month, however we did generate a good amount this month. Second document is an email from Performance Services with an explanation of how our energy bill works.

Dr. Wood gave an update on the solar panels as we are currently having issues with the solar panels communication. Tony Kuykendall and Nick Allen from Performance Services attended the meeting via Zoom to answer any questions the Administration or Board Members may have regarding the solar panels and Midwest Wind & Solar. Midwest Wind & Solar is no longer providing services for us. Nick Allen states that the past year there has been issues with the loggers & wireless bridges which is causing a problem tracking our system. When there is an issue, Performance Services first call is usually to the company that installed the solar system. Which in our case was Midwest Wind & Solar. Mid-March; Nick Allen was in touch with Midwest Wind & Solar's Vice President (or President) and they state Tyler, our service guy, is no longer with the company and our company (Midwest) is no longer in a position to support this company (MSD of New Durham Township). Performance Services discussed how they plan to fix the inverter & communication issues we are experiencing with the solar panels. They suggested repairs may include downsizing the amount of data loggers we currently have by 70% as well as switching the bridges from wireless to be hard wired in the IT closet. Nick Allen did state that they already spoke to Todd and Ray about these changes. These repairs should solve the communication problem we are experiencing. Performance Services suggested a company called Solar Energy Solutions to come out and do the repairs. Solar Energy Solutions are a trusted

partner of Performance Services; however, they are not a contract maintenance provider for our school. As of today the drawings for these repairs were sent to Solar Energy Solutions and they were on site with the drawings. Nick is expecting a call back from Solar Energy Solutions with any comments or tweaks that may need happen. Performance Services will also provide these accommodations under the initial warranty even though we are outside of the warranty window for the inconveniences we've been experiencing. Performance Services also mentioned they will help find a service provider.

Bill Kaminski ask a question to Performance Services: Can you tell us how much money this district has lost because of Midwest performance? Performance Services didn't have an answer.

Mr. Parkman ask a question to Tony regarding the monitoring system that Performance Services pitch in their initial presentation to the board and ask Why didn't they see 9 or 10 of our panels down? Performance Services response: they do not provide 24/7 monitoring. Dr. Wood did mention that within the last 6 months' email notification has been set up.

Mr. Hodge ask a question: Is there any way we generated electricity back to NIPSCO and not credited for it? Performance Services said it would be easier with the communication and the data. Performance Services is willing to reach out to our contact at NIPSCO and see if they have a more detailed analysis.

Mrs. Wilson ask a question: SES is what you are recommending to take over for Midwest Wind & Solar? Performance Services responded they are a trusted partner of ours that is eager to do the service side of things.

7) Approval of March 10, 2021 School Board Minutes

Mrs. Hannon made a motion to approve the March 10, 2021 School Board Minutes and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8) Personnel

A. Resignations

- **James Martin / HS Boys Soccer Coach**

B. Recommendations

- **Erick Smith – Summer School Academy Position**
- **Ashley Spurr – Summer School Middle School**
- **Samantha Joll – Summer School Middle School**
- **Todd DeVries – Summer School Economics & Government**
- **Pam Kieszowski – Food Service Employee**

C. Volunteers

- **Ken Markos – Softball Coach**
- **Michaela Shrader – Softball Coach**

Mrs. Jedrysek made a motion to approve the Personnel Resignations, Recommendations, and Volunteers and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9) Professional Leave Requests

None

10) Donations

- 1. Approval for a donation of \$500 from Westville Tri Kappa to the Elementary Art classes**
- 2. Approval for a PTO Mini Grant Awarded to the Westville Little School of \$5,805.00**

Mrs. Wilson made a motion to approve the donations and Mr. Parkman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11) Recommendation to Approve Grade Level Fees for the 2021-2022 School Year for the Elementary

*Board did ask to see the outstanding number of unpaid book fees from this year

Mrs. Jedrysek made a motion to approve the Grade Level Fees for the 2021-2022 School Year for the Elementary and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

12) Approval of 2021 Lawn Bid

*Signature Lawns was awarded the bid

Mrs. Wilson made a motion to approve Signature Lawns and Mrs. Jedrysek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13) Approval of Substitute Nurse Rate of Pay

*A rate of \$100 per day / \$60 half day

Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve the Substitute Nurse Rate of Pay and Mrs. Hannon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

14) Recommendation to Approve and Award Bids for 2021 Construction Project

- *BP1 – Site Improvements: Milestone Contractors North*
- *BP2 – New Chiller: ACMS Group*

Mrs. Wilson made a motion to Approve and Award Bids for the 2021 Construction Project based on Schmidt Associates recommendations and Mr. Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

15) Recommendation to Approve Quote for Administrative Office Renovation

- *Administration Offices: Larson Danielson*
- *Administration Offices Alternate: Larson Danielson*

Mr. Parkman made a motion to approve the Quote for Larson Danielson for the Administration Office Renovation and the Alternate and Mr. Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

16) Approval of 2021-2022 NIESC Dietician Contract

Mrs. Jedrysek made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 NIESC Dietician Contract and Mrs. Hannon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

17) Approval of Second Resolution on Continuance of the EPSLA

*Extend until May 31, 2021

Mr. Parkman made a motion to approve the Second Resolution on Continuance of the EPSLA and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

18) Financials

Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve the Financials and Mrs. Jedrysek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

19) Correspondence

Building a Legacy – In memory of John Coulter and Jerry McMahon

Books were donated to Westville School Library in their memory.

20) Adjournment

Mr. Parkman adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date:

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center



05.12.2021

Date