

North Judson-San Pierre Board of School Trustees
Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting
Central Office Board Meeting Room
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

The North Judson-San Pierre Board of School Trustees met for a Regular Session Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Central Office Board Meeting Room. Board President Pat Goin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Board members present were President Pat Goin, Vice President Michael Shireman, Secretary Jim Menis, and members Derrick Stalbaum and Sheila Akers. Others present were Superintendent Dr. Annette Zupin, Business Manager/Treasurer Guy Richie, and Administrative Assistant Lisa Thompson. A list of patrons attending the meeting is on file at Central Office.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Items

Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2017, Regular Board Meeting and the April 11, 2017, Work Session as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Akers; motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Zupin made the recommendation to hire Julie Berndt as the Elementary School Principal with a two-year standard contract in the amount of \$76,000 per year. Mrs. Akers made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shireman; motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Akers made a motion to approve the personnel actions as presented. Mr. Stalbaum seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Recommendations:

NAME	POSITION	RECOMMENDATION
Julie Berndt	Elementary School Principal	Recommended to hire
Karen Butler	Elementary Teacher	Retirement (effective end of school yr.)
Rebecca Chambers	Elementary Teacher	Retirement (effective end of school yr.)
Sharon Richie	Special Education Teacher	Retirement (effective end of school yr.)
Jacob White	Jr-Sr High Math Teacher	Resignation (effective end of school yr.)
August Eckert	Full-time Custodian	Recommended to hire
Cierra Shell	Lifeguard – open swim	Recommended to hire

Mr. Menis made a motion to approve the financial reports & claims as presented. Mr. Stalbaum seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Junior-Senior High Handbook Changes 2017-2018

Mr. Polite, junior-senior high school principal, discussed the changes to the handbook for next year. The minor changes involved permission for student elevator use only with authorization, students not taking backpacks into classrooms, and more controlled separation of junior high and high school students during passing periods. He further stated there will be clarifications in language involving the use of cell phones in the classroom, expanding academic integrity guidelines, and protocol for attending field trips based on grades and attendance. Mrs. Akers made a motion to approve the junior-senior high school handbook changes for 2017-2018 as presented. Mr. Stalbaum seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Girls Basketball Camp

Dr. Zupin presented a request for a girls' basketball handling camp to be offered this spring. It will be eight consecutive Wednesdays with a cost of \$10 per session. Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve this request as presented. Mr. Shireman seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Zupin extended kudos to former student Billy Lawson for his accomplishment of finishing his Diesel Apprenticeship at Truck City and also to current student, Patrick Roy, for his acceptance into the Pipe Fitters Union training program. The board expressed their congratulations on these accomplishments.

Mr. Polite presented a curriculum change for next year for 7th and 8th grades. Mr. Polite announced the program as the Language Arts and Math Academy which will focus on students spending more time working on Language Arts and Math each day to help close the achievement gaps. He noted that our students are very capable of higher performance. This program will involve extending the time on these subjects to a period and a half each day, 75 minutes, on both subjects while allowing for a common group of teachers to work consistently with students in smaller groups. In reply to questions concerning this program Mr. Polite stated that classes had to be moved around to fit this in, so at this time the 8th grade would have to eliminate art. The board thanked Mr. Polite for his presentation.

Other

Bill Payne of Fanning & Howey presented preliminary information of prioritized projects and estimates that have been discussed with the school board and administration. Some of the main projects involve secure entrances at each school, video surveillance, and improvements to electronic access at all buildings. At the junior-senior high school and attached old middle school there are additional needs such as boiler replacement, HVAC systems and restroom improvements. Other areas in need of improvements at the junior-senior high are the roof, tuck pointing of the brick exterior, carpet in the office, media center and computer lab, and updates to the main staircase. Additional areas in need of attention involve the baseball and softball dugouts as well as the press box, a welding hood and the roof on the football locker room building. Mr. Payne also discussed some optional projects such as improvements to the pool, building temperature

controls, and a new tennis court. Depending on how many years the bonds are for and the options chosen the costs for the project will range from 4.45 to 5.5 million. This information will also be available at the community meeting that will be held next Tuesday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. Members of the community will be able to hear this information and ask questions.

Pooja Shrestha, CPA from Umbaugh and Associates, presented information concerning NJ-SP School's debt service and the impact of bonds. She explained that the school would issue property tax-supported bonds which will be repaid with money from the corporation's existing debt service fund. Ms. Shrestha presented a few options for the repayment of the bonds depending on the final amount of the bonds and length of time for repayment. She explained that the debt service fund can only be used for bond-financed projects such as renovations, repairs and additions, it was created to maintain the building without affecting the general fund. Ms. Shrestha noted that since the current bond on the auditorium is near completion, this will free up debt service funds for renovations and maintenance without any increase in taxes or impact on salaries.

Thomas Peterson discussed the steps that would need to be taken to proceed with this project. He noted that normally a project of this size would be spread out over around 15 to 20 years instead of 5 to 7. Shortening the length of time will save the corporation interest money. Currently NJ-SP School's debt service is in a good position and has some options whether to use the fund to its capacity or save some room for future borrowing needs. Mr. Peterson explained that the levy is only available to pay back bonds if you have debt outstanding. He further stated that after the community meeting the next step will be to have a 1028 Preliminary Determination. Mr. Peterson noted that these costs are not enough to allow a referendum, but could go through a petition remonstrance. It was also mentioned that once the amount is set for the bonds it cannot be increased. Again, it was noted that taxes will not increase at all from these bonds.

Dr. Zupin also mentioned that there are incentives and cost-effective improvements that will help the corporation to save money in the long run.

Recognition of Visitors

Patrons asked questions regarding if the elementary school were going to close and if we would be using the old middle school building, as well as why we should put money into these buildings if we have declining enrollment. Dr. Zupin and Mr. Peterson answered questions and explained that the preservation of these buildings is important moving forward as we do not know what will happen with future enrollment. Either way our buildings must be maintained in order for them to be functioning and ready for what the future holds.

Adjournment

Mrs. Akers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M. seconded by Mr. Shireman; motion passed 5-0.

Pat Goin, President

Michael Shireman, Vice President

Jim Menis, Secretary

Derrick Stalbaum, Member

Sheila Akers, Member