

Frontier School Corporation  
126 E Main St  
Chalmers, IN 47929

Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees  
Monday, May 18, 2020

School Board Meeting  
JUN 15 2020  
APPROVED

**Present:** President JC Copas, Secretary Laura Bell, School Board Member Shelley Christopher and School Board Member Andie Mears, Attorney Robert Little

**Absent:** Vice President Steve Christopher

**Also Present:** Superintendent Dan Sighting, Treasurer Cortney Parrish.

President Copas called the Zoom Meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Routine Business**

Andie Mears moved to approve the agenda with revision to 7.1 and additions 7.9, 7.10, and 8.8. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held April 16, 2020, the minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held April 20, 2020, and the minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held April 20, 2020. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the Revenue Report as presented. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelley Christopher moved to approve the Appropriation Report as presented. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the Fund Report as presented. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelley Christopher moved to approve the Bank Reconciliation Report as presented. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the 2017 G.O. Bond Report as presented. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears made a motion to approve the 2020 Bond Report as presented. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the May claims as presented. Laura Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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**Technology Report**

Mr. Hoover reported that our IT team has handed out devices to those students who needed them during this time of learning at home and will be receiving them back this weekend and next week. We have received 60 faculty laptops and will have them ready for teachers starting June 1, 2020. We have begun to take appointments to transfer files to each new laptop. The HVAC installation at the Jr./Sr. High has been progressing, and Mr. Hoover has been preparing the server and network settings that they need to control the systems. Their personnel should start server work next week. The IT staff will close out the PowerSchool year after they have properly recorded the details of this strange spring. They will then work on tweaking online registration for next year.

**Elementary Report**

Mrs. Bordner thanked the teachers and support staff for their efforts during Distance Learning. Average absences for the Elementary School during Distance Learning has been about 13. They are pleased with this number as an average. Teachers are trying to finish the year with some kind of classroom celebration. There will be a student belongings pickup and school items drop-off on May 27th, 28th, and 29th. Students will be scheduled according to last name. Mrs. Bordner recognized 11 PRIDE Award Winners from the 6th Grade. Congratulations to those students on their achievement! There will be a few teachers moving rooms this year. Maintenance is helping to accomplish this move over the summer. Special thanks was given to Al Lindstrom for his persistent hard work in the building throughout the pandemic. Recognition was given to both Dawn Madson and Jim Bolen as well. We had 59 students in grades K-6 who received additional assistance from non-certified staff in order to help them stay on track or, sometimes, just to give a pat on the back to students who needed it.

**Jr-Sr High Report**

Mr. Hettinger reported that Mrs. Layton, Mrs. Bassett, Mrs. McMIndes, and Mr. Hettinger delivered senior yard signs for all Seniors. They were well received. Signs were also delivered to teachers in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. There will be a Smekens Language Arts Virtual Workshop held on May 19, 2020. Mr. Hettinger thanks the teachers as well as Mrs. Layton and Mrs. Bassett for making home contact with students. Staff has been tracking participation and grades very closely and making contact with both parents and students in order to keep them on track. The year to date attendance for distance learning is 96.9% with an assignment completion rate of 89.3%. The last Distance Learning day will be May 20, 2020, with Senior grades due on May 21, 2020. There will be a virtual Scholarship Night pushed out on Wednesday at 6:00pm. Some home visits were conducted for some of the larger scholarships. Modified Graduation ceremonies will be held on May 23, 2020 at 1:00pm. The diploma presentation will be followed by a parade through Brookston and Chalmers. There will be curbside belongings pick-up and textbook drop-off on May 27th and 28th at the High School. The following openings exist at the Jr./Sr. high School: High School Math position, High School Language Arts position, temporary 1st semester PE position, and a Head Varsity Basketball position. Mr. Sighting took the opportunity to commend all teachers, principals, Instructional Assistants, Mr. Bolen, parents, students, and any other staff who helped to make Distance Learning a success.

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**Athletics and Transportation Report**

Mr. Burgess reported that we are waiting on guidance from the state as to when things will open back up. There is a possibility that that will happen on July 1, 2020, but it is unclear at this time what that will look like. There may be "guidrails" from the state but much will be left up to individual schools, school boards, counties, health departments, etc. Hopefully, there will be information in the next week or two about possible options for conducting Fall athletic seasons. Things remain uncertain.

**Counselor's Report**

Mrs. Bassett reported that she and Amy Turner continue to make contact with seniors and parents to make sure that they are completing assignments in order to be able to graduate. Final verification of grades will take place on Thursday. They are continuing registration for Summer School, which will be virtual this year.

**Maintenance Report**

Mr. Martin reported that maintenance continues to work hard on summer cleaning with things on hold at the Jr./Sr. High due to the HVAC work that is ongoing. They will be in on Friday to make final preparations for Graduation. There will be maintenance staff on site the day of Graduation to clean and sanitize any touch points. He has quotes available for some things that are needed including a roof leak at the Jr./Sr. High School. They are looking at putting together some plexiglass shields for office areas. They also continue to address some landscaping needs around both schools.

**Superintendent Report**

Mr. Sighting reported that we are in Phase II of Indiana Back on Track. Grounds and buildings will continue to be closed until June 30, 2020. Only people performing essential duties can be on the grounds or in the buildings. He also voiced the possibility that Athletics could resume on July 1, 2020. We are in contact with ASTRA in regards to coverage in case someone on school grounds after July 1, 2020 contracts COVID-19. We would be covered in this event provided we are following best practices. We will not be covered in respect to lost revenue if we are unable to hold fall athletic events. If athletics are resumed, student athletes will be asked to sign a release. There will be further discussions with maintenance and custodial staff regarding cleaning and disinfecting when school does resume. The Jr./Sr. High School is in quite a mess with renovations, but all ordered equipment is on site and ready to be installed. Mr. Sighting is hopeful that work will be done around the second or third week in July leaving adequate time for clean-up before school resumes. Mr. Sighting will be asking for approval later tonight of a switch of the 401(a) Annuity Group Contract from MetLife to Horace Mann. Mr Sighting and the Frontier Classroom Teacher's Association has been in discussion about this change since January and the overwhelming majority is in favor of the switch. There will be an updated Mission and Vision Statement presented next month. We are set to begin working on a strategic plan. Mr. Sighting has been reviewing guidelines from the CDC on reopening. Of concern are the guidelines regarding social distancing. This will be difficult in rooms with very young students. We hope to start a Community Collaboration Committee in order to look at some different ways in which we can reopen and what this will look like. It is clear that some of the changes that will have to take place in order to reopen will not be ideal, but we will need to begin to wrap our heads around some of the changes.

Completion of cleaning in the Elementary is slated to be completed by mid-July so that attention may be

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turned to the HS after renovations are complete. Shelley Christopher asked how we are managing people coming and going from the buildings at this time. Mr. Sighting reported that Mrs. Wheeldon is doing wellness checks daily on employees entering the buildings. This will end this week as the State of Indiana moves forward with its Back on Track Plan. Mrs. Christopher also asked what protections will be in place for those participating in the modified graduation ceremonies. Mr. Hettinger addressed these concerns.

**Budget/Finance**

Mr. Sighting presented the May FY 2020 state tuition support distribution.

Mr. Sighting presented the AIA contract with Performance Services for the Frontier Jr./Sr. High School Solar Array. The contract has been reviewed by Mr. Little and is ready for approval. Andie Mears made a motion to accept the contract. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting recommended the Board approve the Interconnection Agreement between Frontier School Corporation and the Town of Chalmers. This agreement outlines the method in which excess power from the Solar Array will be sold to Indiana Municipal Power Agency and transported to local substations. Andie Mears made a motion to accept the Agreement. Laura Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented the Solar Power Purchase Agreement between the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and Frontier School Corporation for approval. The agreement has been reviewed by Mr. Little without reservation. Laura Bell made a motion to accept the agreement. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting recommended the Frontier School Corporation School Board authorize Superintendent Sighting to pursue a tax anticipation warrant for the Debt Service Fund and the Operations Fund. The June 2020 Property tax settlement has been delayed until August, 2020. We have debt payments due in July with funds being insufficient to make the debt payment in a timely manner. The Tax Anticipation Warrant will make it possible for us to resolve this. Andie Mears made a motion to authorize. Laura Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting recommended the approval of an agreement with the Communication Company of South Bend to upgrade the Frontier Jr./Sr. High School PA/Bell system. Two quotes were received for this upgrade. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the agreement. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting asked for approval to replace carpeting at Frontier Jr./Sr. High School. Two quotes were received. Mr. Martin's recommendation is Miller's Flooring America because they came in with the low quote and they have replaced carpet at the school in the past. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the quote with Miller's Flooring America. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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Mr. Sighting asked for approval of a quote from Knox Services for Brookston Gym roof repair. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the quote from Knox Services. Laura Bell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting asked for approval of a quote from Scheurich's Plumbing to replace the rooftop unit at the Administration Building. Shelley Christopher made a motion to approve the quote. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting asked for approval of a contract with Integrate Build for design, bidding, and supervising construction of the baseball/softball concession and restroom facility. There was discussion about a sewer grinder vs. lift station. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the quote. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Personnel**

Mr. Sighting presented resignations for Mr. David Cutchin as Frontier Jr./Sr. High math teacher, Miss Lauren Kittell as Frontier Jr./Sr. High English teacher, and Mr. Joe Smith as Frontier Boy's Varsity basketball coach. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the resignations. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented recommendations for hire of Miss Chyanne Ray as Frontier Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and Mrs. Stephani Clark as Frontier Elementary School long term substitute teacher. Shelley Christopher made a motion to approve the hires. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented recommendations for extra-curricular stipend appointments of Peter Johnson for fall strength and conditioning, Peter Johnson and Derek Dean to split winter strength and conditioning, and Peter Johnson for spring strength and conditioning. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the stipends. Laura Bell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented the 2020-2021 Frontier Elementary voluntary teacher transfers of Sherry Banes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Chris Mathias from 6<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and Brittany Yoder from 4<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Shelley Christopher made a motion to approve the voluntary transfers. Laura Bell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented the Frontier Elementary virtual summer school enrichment class sponsors, paid from the High Ability Grant, of Gretchen Innocent, Lucretia Jensen, Jennifer Newcom, and Sharon Wright. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the summer school sponsors. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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Mr. Sighting presented the Frontier Jr./Sr. high virtual summer school assignments of Katie Cook, Melissa Culver-Pekny, and Melissa Gregorovic. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the summer school assignments. Andie Mears seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting ask for approval of a maternity leave for Frontier Elementary School Kindergarten teacher, Gretchen Innocent, from on or about 08/04/20 until 10/09/20. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the maternity leave. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sicthing asked for approval of stipends for the mentor and resident teachers from the Higher Education Teacher Residency Grant. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the stipends. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Field Trips**

None.

**Other Business**

Mr. Sighting presented donations to the Frontier Education Foundation from Mr. and Mrs. Scott Snoble, and a matching donation from Caterpillar, Inc totaling \$1500.00. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the donations. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented the Frontier Elementary School Certified Staff Handbook. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the handbook. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sicthing presented two board policies for second reading: Board Policy 4162-Drug and Alcohol Testing of CDL Holders and Other Employees Who Perform Safety Sensitive Functions, and Board policy 8450-Control of Casual Contact Communication Diseases. Laura Bell made a motion to adopt the policies. Andie Mears seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented the change of the group contract for Frontier School Corporation 401(a) annuity contract from MetLife to Horace Mann for the 2020-2021 school year. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the move of the contract. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Public Testimony**

None given.

Laura Bell made a motion to adjourn. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Frontier Elementary School.


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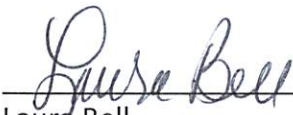
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John C Copas  
President




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Steve Christopher  
Vice President




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Laura Bell  
Secretary



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Robert Mears  
Member



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Shelley Christopher  
Member