# Frontier School Corporation 126 E Main St Chalmers, IN 47929

JUL 2 6 2021

**APPROVED** 

# Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees Monday, June 21, 2021

<u>Present</u>: President Andie Mears, Vice President Shelley Christopher, School Board Member David Rosenbarger, and School Board Member Stephanie LaOrange

**Absent:** Secretary Laura Bell and Attorney Bob Little

<u>Also Present</u>: Superintendent Dan Sichting and Treasurer Cortney Parrish. President Mears called the Meeting to order at 7:01 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<u>Approval of Agenda</u>: Stephanie LaOrange moved to approve the agenda. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes will be ready for approval at the July Board Meeting.

#### **Routine Business:**

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

David Rosenbarger moved to approve the Appropriations Report as presented. Stephanie LaOrange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephanie LaOrange moved to approve the Revenue Report as presented. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Stephanie LaOrange moved to approve the G.O. Bond Report as presented. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David Rosenbarger moved to approve the 2020 Bond Report as presented. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelley Christopher moved to approve the June 2021 claims as presented. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Technology Report**

Mr. Hoover was absent.

#### **Elementary Report**

Mrs. Layton reported that kindergarten boot camp was to start on July 12, 2021, and to conclude on July 29, 2021 – a period of three weeks. Boot camp hours were 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. daily. 23 students were registered to attend. There were one teacher and three paraprofessionals. School bus routes were provided; parents choose the stops they preferred. Details about the routes were in progress.

She expressed gratitude to staff for helping with interviews. She made recommendations to the board for a third-grade teacher, a one-on-one paraprofessional, a math interventionist, and a study supervisor. Interviews were in progress for developmental preschool teacher and [inaudible].

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She reported that she was drawing her duties as vice principal to a close and was quickly making the transition to her duties as principal. She attended the GEER workshop two weeks prior to the meeting. She mentioned that Frontier Elementary School, in comparison to other schools represented, was "on top of its game" especially given the school's size.

She expressed gratitude to Mr. Sichting, Mr. Hettinger, Mr. Peterson, and three others for their assistance. She was excited about the school year ahead and expressed that we were off to a good start. Mr. Mears congratulated her on her first report to the board.

# Jr-Sr. High Report

Mr. Hettinger reported that graduation had gone smoothly and that the students were great. He announced that Mr. Nunan had resigned and left the Frontier faculty to join Lafayette Jefferson High School. His position is now open. He reported that there were candidates to be interviewed on June 23 from outside the United States; in particular, from Africa and The Philippines. Logistics seemed complex, but he wanted to pursue the option of hiring from abroad because the position was extremely difficult to fill. Some teachers were assigned new rooms, and he expressed his gratitude to Mr. Peterson for overseeing the process. The scheduling of classes and other paperwork were in progress. Mr. Mears thanked him for his report.

## **Athletics and Transportation Report**

Mr. Burgess reported that spring sectionals had ended and that positive feedback had been received for the softball team at semi-state. The public was very pleased with the new concession and restroom facilities. He expressed his gratitude to the Mr. Peterson and Mr. Rhoda in the maintenance department for their outstanding work.

The gym and weight room were open for use during summer. The girls' basketball team was preparing to attend a 4-day camp; the boys' basketball team had just returned from a 4-day camp. The volleyball, cross country, and football teams were in strength training. The week immediately following the board meeting was the state's mandated moratorium on all athletic activity; furthermore, all athletic activity was suspended during the week of the White County 4-H Fair.

The school buses were in great shape and ready to be driven. New tires were mounted; wheels aligned; all service completed. Trooper King had already made inspections although two mini buses were pending inspection. Mr. Mears thanks Mr. Burgess for his report.

#### **Counselor's Report**

Mrs. Bassett was absent.

### **Maintenance Report**

Mr. Peterson reported that he had hired two new employees: Leonard Wisinski (full-time custodian) and Dalen Woods (student worker). Mr. Peterson reported that two quotes for the new gas line were pending. Several high school teachers had requested that their rooms be arranged in original layouts; rooms had been fitted with a desk/chair combination. Old furniture was repurposed. There was an increase in the number of help desk maintenance tickets. Mr. Peterson reported that curbs would be painted. Elementary and high school classrooms, restrooms, floors, stairwells, and corridors were being cleaned and prepared. The stripping

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and waxing of floors and shampooing of carpeting were assigned to an outside contractor. Mr. Mears thanked Mr. Peterson for his report.

## **Superintendent Report**

Mr. Sichting reiterated that the cleaning and preparation of the schools was in progress. He reported that the roofing project (including the installation of a fixed ladder) for the Brookston gym was about to begin. The new cupboards for the art classroom had not arrived; consequently, the room was not yet prepared for use but would be ready in a couple of weeks. He reiterated that he, Mrs. Layton, and Mr. Hettinger had attended the first session the GEER conference, which was centered on effective leadership. Mrs. Bassett and Mrs. Bulla were also in attendance. He stated that Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Notary would attend for the GEER session on technology curriculum and instruction. He reiterated Mrs. Layton's point that the district is in excellent shape; he referred to social and emotional programs and First Steps. He requested approval of a contract in conjunction with Four Counties in the amount of approximately \$2,000.00 for which Four Counties would come to Frontier once annually to offer all staff members and students initial evaluations and two counseling sessions. Students determined to be in need of homework help would receive a tutor; counseling would also be made available for students needed it. He reiterated the fine work in progress to prepare the schools for the fall semester. He reminded those in attendance that the mid-point of summer break was July 4th. Mr. Mears thanked Mr. Sichting for his report.

## **Budget/Finance**

Mr. Sichting presented the FY 2021 June Tuition Support Statement.

Mr. Sichting presented the June FY 2021 information about the property tax, excise tax, and financial institution tax.

Mr. Sichting gave a report on the Electric Plus power correction at Frontier Elementary School. The issue had been tabled at the May 2021 meeting. He has been in contact with the engineer to rectify the issue. Mr. Sichting recommended to the board that they should reject the current quote. Shelley Christopher moved to reject the quote and to discuss Electric Plus after the prices had stabilized; David Rosenbarger seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented the 2021-2022 IEP Therapy Professional Services agreement for speech-language pathology. Shelley Christopher moved to approve the agreement; Stephanie LaOrange seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting proposed a hearing about the ESSER III grant. The grant was part of the American Recovery Act. The allocation of the grant was based on levels of poverty. A low level of poverty in the school district meant that it would receive significantly less than two other districts in the area. Twenty percent of the grant must be held in escrow for learning loss such as tutoring, summer school, inter-sessions, and other ways to address learning loss. The grant could be used to fund school reopening, improvement of air quality, social and

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emotional learning. The grant required input from stakeholders about the use of the grant. Mr. Sichting met with administration and the teachers' association. The meeting was opened for testimony; discussion followed. Two years' worth of money for Four Counties would be funded by the grant. Finalization of the plan for the grant was to be completed by Friday, June 25, 2021, in order to be submitted to the Indiana Dep't of Education. A suggestion had been made that a second math interventionist and an English/language arts interventionist could be hired. Discussion of costs of subscriptions to educational magazines for students ensued. The topic of students with learning loss and their parents was raised again. Statewide averages of ILEARN scores would be forthcoming from the State. Mr. Mears closed the hearing.

Mr. Sichting presented a revised proposal for the VoIP telephone system. All teachers now have telephones in the classrooms. The previous provider was Educational Networks of America. Mr. Hoover investigated telephone service with Zoom, which provides full integration of cellular and land line numbers. Mr. Sichting recommended that the board should approve VoIP service agreement with Zoom, which was less expensive. The Central Indiana Educational Service Center would require a full year's payment instead of the current monthly payment schedule. Mr. Hoover recommended that the Zoom agreement should be approved. There would be no need to replace any equipment or hardware. Shelley Christopher made a motion to approve the contract agreement with Zoom; Stephanie LaOrange seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting introduced and recommended the renewal of the Nearpod Premium Plus license, valid until July 1, 2022. The renewal for both schools would be paid out of the operations fund. David Rosenbarger made a motion to approve the renewal; Stephanie LaOrange seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting asked for approval of authority to pay additional claims prior to the July 2021 board meeting due to the resignation of the AP Clerk at Corp Office. Stephanie LaOrange made a motion to approve the authority to pay claims; David Rosenbarger seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## Personnel

Mr. Sichting presented the resignations of Paige Barnes (Accounts Payable), Belinda Martin (Bus Driver), and Cameron Nunan (Industrial Education teacher). David Rosenbarger moved to approve the resignations; Shelley Christopher seconded; the emotion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented the hires of Troy Burgess (Dean of Students and Athletic Director), Hannah Lewis (elementary teacher), April Hall (Transportation Director), Leonard Wisinski (custodian), and Hannah Peterson (elementary instructional assistant). David Rosenbarger made a motion to approve the new hires; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented, at the recommendation of Mrs. Layton, the hiring of Joy Henson (elementary school study table supervisor) at \$9.95/hr. for 113 days at 1 hour per day. Shelley Christopher moved to approve the

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hire; David Rosenbarger seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented, at the recommendation of Mr. Hettinger, the hiring of Troy Burgess (Frontier Jr./Sr. High School varsity football coach). David Rosenbarger moved to approve the hire; Shelley Christopher seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented the following transfers:

- 1. A transfer of Chris Mathias to cover maternity leave and then ESSER II and ESSER III math intervention.
- 2. A transfer of Shaina Minnicus to FJSHS instructional assistant.

David Rosenbarger made a motion to approve the transfers. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented a mentor stipend for Carmen Bordner (10 days at \$3517.40). Stephanie LaOrange moved to approve the stipend; David Rosenbarger seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval a stipend for ten additional days for Mrs. Layton during the 2020-2021 school year. Shelley Christopher moved to accept the stipend; David Rosenbarger seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval the non-renewal of two non-certified positions:

- Melissa Dondlinger-Nursing Assistant
- Heather Piper-FJSHS Instructional Assistant

Stephanie LaOrange made a motion to approve; David Rosenbarger seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval the hiring of Kathy Brewer Staddon as the third-grade mentor. Shelley Christopher moved to accept; Stephanie LaOrange seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## **Field Trips**

None.

#### **Other Business**

Mr. Sichting referred board members to distributed printed material regarding rates for FJSHS 2021-2022 textbook rental, disposable material, and class fees. A question was raised about whether ESSER III would reduce the math textbook rental fees; Mr. Sichting replied that this was not the case. Educational magazine and software titles were reiterated. Discussion of costs for specific class subjects as well as dual credit courses with Indiana University took place. Stephanie LaOrange moved to accept the rates; Shelley Christopher seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented and recommended for approval an addendum (cost increase) to the Four Counties Clinical Services Agreement for Student Support Program to be paid from the ESSER III account. The

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addendum was for social and emotional learning. David Rosenbarger moved to approve the addendum; Shelley Christopher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented and recommended for approval the aforementioned speech-language pathology agreement with Baylor University. David Rosenbarger moved to approve the agreement; Shelley Christopher seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented and recommended for approval the job description for the position of ESSER III FJSHS Instructional Assistant. Mrs. Gregorovic and Mr. Hettinger wrote the job description. Shelley Christopher moved to approve the job description; Stephanie LaOrange seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented the transfer of donations from Corporation funds to both schools' extracurricular activity funds for special education, physical education, art, and music classes. Shelley Christopher moved to approve the transfer of funds; Stephanie LaOrange seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented the 2021-2022 FSC transfer student notification per Indiana Code 1136 (2022), which requires state school corporations to establish limits on the number of non-resident students to transfer to school districts pending the results of a lottery. Building principals determine the number of students to be admitted for transfer to each grade level. Discussion to clarify the specifics of the lottery followed. Shelley Christopher moved to accept the transfer student notification; David Rosenbarger seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sichting presented for approval the job description for the position of Transportation Director. He had written the description and passed it on to Mr. Burgess. David Rosenbarger moved to accept the job description; Shelley Christopher seconded; motion passed unanimously.

#### **Public Testimony**

None Given.

Shelley Christopher made a motion to adjourn. David Rosenbarger seconded the motion.

The next regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Frontier Jr/Sr. High School Library.

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A Line
Robert Andie Mears
President
Shelley Christopher
Vice President  Laure Beeg
Laura Bell
Secretary
David Rosenbarger
Member
Stephone V. Oring
Stephanie La Orange

Member