

Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees  
Monday, December 16, 2019

**Present:** President JC Copas, Vice President Steve Christopher, Secretary Laura Bell, School Board Member Shelley Christopher and School Board Member Andie Mears.

**Absent:** Attorney Robert Little

**Also Present:** Superintendent Dan Sichting and Treasurer Cortney Parrish.

President Copas called the meeting to order in the Frontier Elementary School library at 6:59 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Elementary Choir performed Christmas music and the Elementary Spell Bowl Team was recognized for their achievements.

**Routine Business**

Steve Christopher moved to approve the agenda with the addition of 7.10 Frontier School Corporation 1782 Notice. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held November 18, 2019. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Steve 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. Steve Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Christopher moved to approve the Bank Reconciliation Report as presented. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion regarding an irreconcilable difference between the Bank Reconciliation and Fund Reports.

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

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

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**Technology Report**

Mr. Hoover reported that ISTEP retake and NWEA testing closed with very few computer problems. System readiness testing for ILEARN is finished. There are only about 30 Windows 10 upgrades left to complete. There have been 69 Chromebook repairs or replacements as compared to 85 at this time last year.

Mr. Hoover has begun to prepare resources for staff training on cybersecurity. He is currently working with the admin staff on a test phishing campaign sponsored by the DOE. This campaign will educate employees on what not to do when receiving suspicious emails. One of the main steps to keep our systems secure is to patch frequently. This is disruptive, but it is necessary. It is predicted that more school systems will be targeted with ransomware this next year. We use antivirus software called Comodo that works to block any unknown installations. We also use a firewall and spam filters in email. We also have a cybersecurity insurance policy. Mr. Hoover reported the Department of Homeland Security will provide us with resources in the event of a breach. All cameras are up and running, but we still need more to finish covering all areas.

**Elementary Report**

Mrs. Bordner reported that the first round of teacher observations is complete. Corrective actions from the Title onsite monitoring are complete. NWEA winter testing is complete and teachers will be meeting with Jill Layton and Lucretia Jensen to go over results and set goals for the spring. The Student Ambassador Club and Recycling Club partnered to prepare food and gifts for 16 Frontier families. Mr. Bordner thanked the many organizations and individuals who shopped, wrapped, and delivered to the school so students can have a nice Christmas. Mrs. Bordner, Kathy Bassett, Amy Turner, and Keli Whitaker have worked together to amend the NCHS Planning Grant with a focus on social-emotional health. Events during the month included: PTO's Christmas Shoppe, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade band & choir concerts, 1<sup>st</sup> semester Student of the Month Breakfast, 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys & girls basketball, and a couple of field trips. Mrs. Bordner and Mrs. Iunghuhn are taking the FES News Crew to see the noon broadcast at WLFI TV18. Upcoming events include: 1<sup>st</sup> grade caroling at Cumberland Pointe, the Elementary sing-along, the Perfect Attendance Luncheon, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Awards Day. IXL English/Language Arts has been added with Title IV funding and has been successful. The bathrooms are to be painted over Christmas break. Mrs. Bordner thanked Nancy Sullivan and Al Lindstrom for upgrading the sound system. Brittany Yoder and Jill Woods organized fun activities including 12 Days of Christmas performed by the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade choirs.

**Jr-Sr High Report**

Mr. Hettinger reported that final exams are underway. Mr. Hettinger addressed concerns in the math curriculum and test scores stating: 4 years ago the State phased out the old End of Course Assessments and replaced it with the new ISTEP Math Assessment. Under the old assessment, students took the Algebra Assessment upon completion of algebra their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Under the new assessment, students take the Algebra Assessment at the end of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year after completing Geometry. This led to poor test scores. There was a strong indication that the ISTEP Math 10 test was temporary and would be replaced, so we chose to keep the curriculum order unchanged. This led to poor success. The Department has chosen to switch Algebra II and Geometry. Students will complete Algebra I in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, Algebra II in their 10<sup>th</sup>

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grade year, and Geometry in their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year in an effort to align our curriculum with State testing subject matter. The High School Teachers will get together and create goals based upon NWEA scores.

**Athletics and Transportation Report**

Mr. Burgess was absent. Mr. Sichtung delivered the Athletics and Transportation report. First semester athletics will be finishing up shortly with the Boys playing South Newton. Treven Girard was named the Defensive Player of the Year for White County. We had several kids make the All-White County Football Team. Mr. Burgess attended the All-State voting by the Indiana Football Coaches Association. We had two All-State Football Players: Treven Girard and Caleb Atkinson.

Tires have been changed on some of the buses to prepare for winter. There are two bus drivers that will begin using the newly approved software on their routes after returning from break.

**Counselor's Report**

Mrs. Bassett and Mrs. Bulla were absent.

**Superintendent Report**

Mr. Sichtung reported that we have been working with KJG Architecture to prepare an RFP for Board vote. The outdoor Football/Baseball locker room fiberglass reinforced plastic panels have arrived, but have not been installed yet. The High School chiller has been ordered with a 12-16 week wait time. We can expect to begin installation at the end of March. The roof at the Corporation building has been replaced, and the new HVAC has been installed. Mr. Martin has finished the new Elementary playground equipment installation.

**Maintenance Report**

Mr. Martin reported the first snow removal went well aside from a few issues with equipment starting, but that was rectified. The new vendor did a better job of snow removal than our previous vendor. The FRP for the locker rooms has arrived and will be installed soon. Mr. Martin and Mr. Sichtung have met with KJG Architecture to create an RFP. A new combi oven arrived at the Elementary, and the staff will have training on that after the first of the year. There are several issues in the Elementary kitchen. The dishwasher has been rebuilt several times, the disposal needs replaced, and a booster heater in one sink is not functioning. There are also several issues in the High School kitchen. The walk-in cooler has a refrigerant leak and needs to be replaced, and the garbage disposal has been repaired for the moment. The playground equipment was installed at the Elementary. The Brookston Gym storage has been reorganized to accommodate a DEF tank. Over Christmas break the maintenance staff will be stripping and waxing floors, changing air filters, and checking belts in the HVAC equipment.

**Budget/Finance**

Mr. Sichtung reported the December FY 2020 Tuition Support Payment was released in the amount of \$344,462.75. He reiterated that December would be a reconciliation month for the Career & Technical Grant and the Academic Honors Grant based upon an ADM of 658. He expects to see a reduction in the Special Education Grant in February due to overfunding, and there was a reduction due to Medicaid reimbursement.

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Mr. Sighting asked the board to approve a cell phone stipend in the amount of \$300.00 for the Frontier Elementary School Principal. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the stipend. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

In December 2019, Frontier School Corporation received Excise Tax in the amount of \$120,762.68, Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax in the amount of \$8,853.00, Financial Institutions Tax in the amount of \$12,257.21, and Property Tax settlements in the amount of \$1,127,068.66. These amounts were divided amongst the Debt Service and Operations Funds. The Auditor's Office reported over \$100,000.00 in uncollected taxes in our taxing district last year. This is why we did not meet our anticipated collection amount in the Operations Fund.

After working with Baker-Tilly, they have concluded that Frontier School Corporation can borrow \$5.3 million and keep our debt payment the same as it is right now. An upgrade of the oldest HVAC systems at Frontier Jr/Sr High School is needed. Mr. Sighting requested the Board approve the request for proposal to be advertised to vendors so we can receive quotes to perform the work. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the RFP for the Frontier Jr/Sr High School HVAC Project. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Frontier School Corporation would like to install a solar array behind the Jr/Sr High School to generate 60-80% of the electricity needed on an annual basis. Chalmers has the highest utility rates in our general vicinity. In terms of long-term planning, this would allow us the capability to control our energy costs. Mr. Sighting requested the Board approve the request for proposal to be advertised to vendors so we can receive quotes to perform the work. There was discussion regarding when the project would yield a return. Performance Services reported we should see positive cash flow the first year, and return on investment after 20 years. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the RFP for Frontier Jr/Sr High School solar array. Steve Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented the Frontier School Corporation 2020 1782 Notice and appropriations and tax levy comparison from 2018-2020. The 1782 Notice established appropriations for 2020 Frontier School Corporation funds in the amount of \$9,082,299.00.

**Personnel**

Mr. Sighting asked for approval of the resignation of Frontier Jr/Sr High School 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Softball Coach, Brynleigh Maxwell. Steve Christopher made a motion to approve the resignation. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting asked for approval to hire Savanna Harrison as Frontier Jr/Sr High School 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Softball Coach, Derek Dean as Frontier Elementary School Physical Education Teacher, and Clara Rodgers as Frontier Jr/Sr High School Volunteer Assistant Cheerleading Coach. Steve Christopher made a motion to approve the hires. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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**Field Trips**

Mr. Sighting asked for approval for the Frontier FCCLA and FACS Club State Convention March 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> overnight field trip. Mrs. Culver-Pekny will take 13 students. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the field trip. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

Mr. Sighting asked for approval of a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Frontier School Corporation care fund. Laura Bell made a motion to accept the donation. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting asked for approval of the Interagency Agreement between the Town of Chalmers, Chalmers Police Department, and Frontier School Corporation outlining the duties expected of our SRO. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the agreement. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting asked for approval of the Inter-Local Agreement between Frontier School Corporation and the Town of Chalmers outlining specific details for the contracted SRO. Laura Bell made a motion to approve the agreement. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting presented 28 Board Policies for 1<sup>st</sup> reading that have been revised due to legislative changes by the Indiana General Assembly.

Mr. Sighting asked for approval to reappoint Mr. Michelle Culver to the Brookston Prairie Township Public Library Board of Trustees for the time period of October 31, 2019-October 31, 2020. Steve Christopher made a motion to approve the appointment. Laura Bell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Public Testimony**

None given.

Steve Christopher made a motion to adjourn. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

On January 6, 2020, a Reorganizational Meeting, Board of Finance Meeting, and Project Hearing will be held at the Frontier Jr/Sr High School Library at 7:00 pm.


The next Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Frontier Jr/Sr High School Library.

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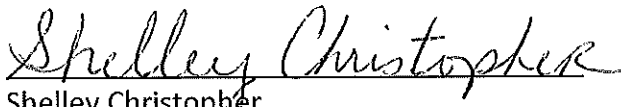
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John C Copas  
President

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Steve Christopher  
Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Bell  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Mears  
Member

  
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Shelley Christopher  
Member