

Frontier School Corporation

126 E Main St
Chalmers, IN 47929

Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees

Monday, February 18, 2019

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

Also Present: Superintendent Dan Sighting, Attorney Robert Little and Treasurer Melissa Summers.

President Copas called the meeting to order in the Frontier Elementary School library at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Routine Business

Andie Mears moved to approve the agenda as presented for the Monday, February 18th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees, the January 10, 2019 Reorganization Meeting minutes, and the January 10, 2019 Board of Finance minutes. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the January claims from APV 10980 to 11031 totaling \$245,456.09. This also included the February 7th payroll. JC Copas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Technology Report

As noted last month, David Hoover advised Microsoft stops supporting Windows 7 next January. FSC will have to upgrade or replace every Windows 7 installation. They started planning the Windows 10 migration and possible conversion of older computers to Chromeboxes. For less than \$50, we FSC can change the computers over to work like Chromebooks, which is something 3rd - 12th graders are already familiar with. The primary computer lab at the Elementary and Business Design Labs at the Jr/Sr High would be upgrade to Windows 10. The Engineering Lab is already using Windows 10.

Mr. Lindstrom and Mrs. Ward are almost done wiping and packaging up the old iPads and Chromebooks for sale.

Mr. Hoover stated they have started preparing for Kindergarten Round Up and public registration for the next school year. He anticipates a much smoother experience for the second year of online registration.

The IT staff has completed 1127 work tickets since August which often excludes quick fixes for students or teachers that could result in an additional 2-10 requests a day.

Mr. Hoover also answered questions regarding the outstanding camera issues and improvements that have occurred over the last month.

Elementary Report

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Carmen Bordner advised the Frontier Elementary Student Ambassadors presented to Frontier Rotary on February 13th. She attended the NCHS Resilient Youth Initiative Implementation technical assistance on February 15th and stated they have people who will help the school write grants for the elementary and the high school. Carmen discussed the \$30k implementation grant and stated the money could be used to obtain an additional grant to fund new programs for various needs: primarily transitional, social, emotional, learning, and drug abuse prevention. She also attended the IASP District IV meeting with area principals and discussed eLearning. Mrs. Bassett started visits to the elementary for the 6th-7th grade transition. Kindergarten Round is March 19 and testing days are April 3rd and 4th.

There are three Purdue student teachers in the building as well as three EDPS 265 students. Principal Bordner also stated offices have been re-arranged to accommodate the SRO and thanked Mr. Hoover for his work on the cameras.

She congratulated Uriah Johnson for winning the Spelling Bee. They are continuing to work on reading textbook adoption and have been working with Mr. Hoover toward online registration. They have also been working with United Way for Kindergarten Boot Camp. The book fair is currently going on and they are having a family builder's night tomorrow evening. February 20th is the Wabash Valley Tech. Audit.

Jr-Sr High Report

Jeff Hettinger shared correspondence from Anthony Williams, an elementary principal in Marion Indiana who stayed to watch the basketball game following Cheer Camp. He wished Coach Smith and his staff good luck for the rest of the season and stated how hard they played. He thanked them for modeling for his son exactly what hard work looks like and not playing for the scoreboard.

Principal Hettinger discussed moving graduation due to the inclement weather this winter. After receiving feedback, they are going to try their best to keep it on Saturday, May 25th.

Last Friday, the National Honor Society conducted its tapping ceremony. This week is FFA Week and several activities have been organized. FFA is also hosting in the district wide contest on March 16th at Frontier Junior Senior High School. The BPA will be going to Indianapolis for the BPA state competition between March 10th and 12th. Because of weather, the senior Pride Program seminar had to be rescheduled and is now going to be at Twin Lakes on the 27th.

On March 12th, Frontier will host a No Boundaries convocation. This is an anti-bullying convocation and the message also encourages students to overcome obstacles. The sectional basketball game is coming up and they drew Clinton Central in game one on Tuesday. Senior night will be this Friday.

Mr. Hettinger also congratulated the wrestling team and as well as Colin Reagan and Jack Sproles who both advanced to the regionals.

Athletics and Transportation Report

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Mr. Hettinger mentioned ordering supplies for the concession stand and is looking at spring schedules and correcting errors until an Athletic Director is hired. Supt. Sighting commended Mr. Hettinger on his work to find officials and schedule ticket takers for January games.

Mr. Sighting also advised that Cory Tonnsen's evacuation drills were conducted late for first semester and are now complete.

Maintenance Report

Jeremy Martin advised they have been busy dealing with the snow and ice. They had issues with the spreader and need to purchase a new one for the salt. The softball and baseball fields scoreboard are in. The football locker has been stripped down and after new floor drains are put in, it will be rebuilt.

Shelley Christopher moved to approve the payment for blinds for the art room of \$845.30 for the materials and \$79.18 for installation. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The contract for MJB (janitorial services) was discussed.

Superintendent Report

Dan Sighting advised on February 12th, they hosted a meeting at Frontier Junior Senior High School in the auditorium with representatives from Purdue. Attendees included seed corn dealers, fertilizer dealers, area farmers, the FFA advisory group, etc. The focus was to share detail on a WHN grant awarded by the Lilly foundation to a 10 county area that White County is a part of. They awarded about thirty four million dollars which is split between a regional cultivation fund and a living lab fund. The emphasis is on digital agriculture and also manufacturing. WHN stands for the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network. The goal is to bring farmers together with Purdue University regarding development of biodegradable sensors. The sensors are placed in the ground and would give feedback to farmers on nutrient levels, soil temperature, etc. It also integrates with farm implements, fertilizer, and chemical applicators.

Mr. Sighting attended a proposer's day for WHN and proposed that the school's field plots would become a regional testbed site. We would include Carroll High School and Tri-County High School who also have regional field beds, and also invite other schools within the 10 county region. The fields would start producing data that could be analyzed and used for crop production. Ideally, Mr. Sighting hopes to obtain a planning grant from WHN to set up a regional test plot, to provide Purdue with the data they need, expose students to this new technology, and involve area farmers with this new information.

He also commented on the \$30k planning grant that Carmen Bordner discussed. Mr. Sighting has scheduled a meeting with area faith based leaders next week to discuss where the school is headed. He also pointed out that the school is having a hard time filling some positions. There are two instructional assistant positions at the elementary as well as a Jr. Sr. High School custodian position. Mr. Sighting stated the starting wage is a concern; however, the school cannot raise pay because the law doesn't allow schools to enter into deficit financing. He will discuss this later with his presentation.

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Budget/Finance

Mr. Sighting discussed the February FY 2019 Tuition Support distribution from the IN DOE. Frontier dropped from \$384,155.61 to \$348,685.05 due to a prior overpayment (July 1, 2018 to Jan. 31, 2019) from the special education grant. Additionally, the tuition support payment was reduced by \$60.89 for Medicaid Reimbursement. This will be transferred from the Medicaid Clearing Fund to the Education Fund to make up for the reduction.

Mr. Sighting submitted an itemized listing of the 2018 transfer of appropriations to close out the 2018 budget cycle. Steve Christopher moved to approve the transfers from the general fund (16 pages) and transportation and capital project fund (6 pages) all with a net transaction total of \$0.00. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Christopher moved to approve an agreement with Kidder Media for \$6,490 to provide a 4 page newsletter and Kindergarten round-up postcards mailed to 7,280 mailing addresses. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sighting gave a presentation highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of Frontier School Corporation as well as the new funding system in Indiana. Frontier's funding per student is ranked 319th in Indiana at \$5,613/student. This is well below the state average of \$6,060/student. Overall, the school is not able to compete for wages and health insurance, resulting in teacher turnover forcing the Board to consider an operating referendum. Steve Christopher moved to approve the Referendum Tax Levy Resolution (Exhibit A) authorizing the Superintendent and Treasurer to see a referendum tax levy of up to and not to exceed \$0.21 per every \$100 assessed value per year starting in 2020 through and including 2027. The resolution authorizes the Superintendent or Treasurer to see a special election on May 7, 2019 for voters to consider the resolution. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the Team MJV cleaning contract in addition to authorizing Jeremy Martin to terminate the Palm Tree Cleaning Contract in 30 days. Steve Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Christopher moved to add Copiers Plus Copy Lease to the agenda. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the 60 month lease with Copiers Plus. Steve Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel

Steve Christopher moved to approve the resignations from Brittany Lamson (Elementary Instructional Asst.), Kacey Lock (Family Support Specialist – Lilly Grant Position), and Emma Pruitt (Elementary Media Instructional Asst.). Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Christopher moved to approve the hiring of Amy Turner (Jr. Sr. High School Guidance/Remediation Instructional Asst), Beccie Tidmore (Elementary Preschool Instructional Asst.), Chad Sailors (Jr. Sr High School Varsity Baseball Coach), Anthony Reyes (Jr. Sr High School Varsity 1st Asst. Baseball Coach), Eddie Reyes (Jr. Sr

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High School Varsity 2nd Asst. Baseball Coach), Vance Larimer (Jr. Sr High School Volunteer Varsity Baseball Asst. Coach), Jarrett Burroughs (Jr. Sr High School Volunteer Varsity Asst. Baseball Coach), Sharon Wright (Jr. Sr High School Varsity Softball Coach), Erin Notary (Jr. Sr High School Varsity Softball 1st Asst. Coach), Brynleigh Maxwell (Jr. Sr High School Varsity Softball 2nd Asst. Coach), Adam Wright (Jr. Sr High School Volunteer Softball Asst. Coach), Ben Powell (Jr. Sr High School Boys' Varsity Track Coach), Jake Sullivan (Jr. Sr High School Boys'/Girls' Varsity Track Asst. Coach), Melissa Culver-Pekny (Boys' 7th/8th Track Head Coach), Katelyn Lowe (Girls' 7th/8th Track Head Coach), Todd Pekny (Boys' 7th/8th Track Volunteer Asst. Coach). Andy Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Field Trip

Andy Mears moved to approve the Jr. Sr. High School Wrestling overnight field trip on February 8th. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Steve Christopher moved to table a participation decision for the Indiana Dental Outreach Smiles Program. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting shared that Frontier received the distinction of being a Performance Qualified School Corporation with the option of tracking instructional time verses instructional days for the next school year.

Mr. Sighting submitted the proposed 2020-2021 school calendar based on survey results. Andie Mears moved to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Christopher moved to approve cancellation of 2 – 2yr old checks from 2015 and 2017. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Christopher moved to approve the Frontier School Corporation Care Fund Guidelines. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andy Mears moved to approve the NEOLA School Board Policies Electronic Publishing for online access to staff with a one-time set up fee of \$5,400 with an annual fee of \$650. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve permission to obtain lawn care quotes through fall 2019. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Christopher moved to approve the 2nd reading of the board policies. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve a \$550 donation to the Frontier FFA for the cost of convention meals. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve allowing the Treasurer to pay February claims on Thursday due to being out of the office for training. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Steve Christopher moved to adjourn the meeting. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

John C Copas
President

Steve Christopher
Vice President

Laura Bell
Secretary

Robert Mears
Member

Shelley Christopher
Member