Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees Monday, March 18, 2019



<u>Present</u>: Vice President Steve Christopher, School Board Member Shelley Christopher, School Board Member Andie Mears, Secretary Laura Bell. Absent: Attorney Robert Little and President JC Copas

Also Present: Superintendent Dan Sichting, Treasurer Melissa Summers.

Vice President Christopher called the meeting to order in the Frontier High School 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, March 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 February 18, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees. Laura Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the revenue report. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the January 31, 2019 Treasurer's report and the February 28,2019 Treasurer's report. Laura Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the Bank Reconciliation Reports. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Bell moved to approve the January 31, 2019 claims, February 28, 2019 claims and the March 18, 2019 claims. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Technology Report

David Hoover discussed reimbursement for old Chromebooks and iPad. Expected reimbursement was approx. \$10,000 but he is unsure what actual reimbursement will be. Mr. Hoover also discussed the Windows 10 upgrade, the new wiring and the status of being able to view the new cameras.

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

Elementary Report

Mrs. Jill Layton started off by thanking everyone for their flexibility the last couple of weeks due to sicknesses of students and teachers and shortage of substitute teachers. She advised the board of the elementary school still having a Paraprofessional opening. IRead testing starts tomorrow for the 3rd graders and Kindergarten round up is also tomorrow. She is working on reading adoption for the corporation and handbook revisions are in process and should be ready for next month's school board meeting. Mrs. Layton stated that the Frontier passed the school safety audit. Frontier will host the Young Author's Conference this year on April 13th

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at the High School. She advised the board that this Friday is an E-Learning day and the staff will be part of an active shooter training.

Jr-Sr High Report

Mr. Jeff Hettinger wanted to bring to the boards attention that the Jr./Sr. High had a lot of kids doing good things. During the state BPA competition, Mallory Culver and Maddie Klein advanced to nationals in Anaheim, California. The Legal Office procedures team placed 5th in the state and the Forensics team attended the state competition but didn't place. Jewell Schroeder has been chosen for all-state choir and Luc Sproles qualified for nationals in Illustrated talk. Mr. Hettinger also mentioned that during the District I FFA contest all students from Frontier placed first. Mr. Hettinger also discussed the high school will be doing a tornado drill tomorrow, the school will offer sports physicals on May 23th, 2019, Winter Sports Banquet will be tomorrow night and he confirmed high school graduation will be May 25, 2019.

Athletics and Transportation Report

Supt. Dan Sichting discussed that some money was used to replace the baseball and softball scoreboards and they are planned to be installed during Spring Break. Mr. Sichting also discussed sports officials' contracts and game contracts are being put together.

Supt. Dan Sichting explained how bus evacuation drill need to be completed by 45 days after the start of the semester. They were unable to complete this before the 45 days in the first semester but completed on February 4th, 2019 of the second semester. Bus drivers will complete active shooter drills at the end of the school year.

Jr./Sr. High Guidance Report

Mr. Sichting explained that the Course Description Handbook will be given to the board and be on the agenda for next month's school board meeting. Any questions can be forwarded to Mrs. Kathy Bassett.

Maintenance Report

Jeremy Martin stated that they have a few good candidates for the High School Janitor opening. Team MJV started tonight and the transition is going well. He is bringing in locators to locate underground lines because 811 only locates city utilities. Jeremy touched on a few summer projects-painting of the gym and painting the elementary. Mr. Martin also explained that the repair to the roof leak in the FACS room will require more extensive work than originally thought. The blinds for the Art room have been measured and ordered and will arrive in 2-4 weeks.

Superintendent Report

Dan Sichting 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

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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. Sichting 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. Sichting 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. Sichting 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. Sichting 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.

Budget/Finance

Mr. Sichting 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. Sichting 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 Sichting 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

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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. Andia 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 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.

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Mr. Sichting 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. Sichting 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 2^{nd} 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.

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

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