

**Frontier School Corporation**

126 E Main St  
Chalmers, IN 47929

**Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees**  
Monday, September 16, 2019

**School Board Meeting**

**OCT 28 2019**

**APPROVED**

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

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

President Copas called the meeting to order in the Frontier Elementary School library at 7:14 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Routine Business**

Andie Mears moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item 10.4 Education Foreign Tours presentation. Steve Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Andie Mears moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held August 19, 2019. Steve Christopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

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

Steve Christopher moved to approve the September claims 11910-12012 as presented. Andie Mears seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sighting requested to move the Reports from Principals and Directors to the end of the meeting and move on to budget and finance.

**Budget/Finance**

Mr. Sighting reported that we received the September FY 2020 State tuition support distribution today in the amount of \$361,697.60. Current distribution is based on an ADM of 654.13. Fall ADM has been finalized at 654.28. However, several grants are currently based on FY 2019 ADM totals. We are currently over-funded on our Career & Technical and Special Education grants, and underfunded on Academic Honors Diploma Grant. These will reconcile throughout the year.

Permission for approval to advertise the 2020 budget and tax levies was requested. President Copas asked for clarification regarding inflation of the tax rate and undervaluing of the assessed value when determining the advertised budget. Mr. Sighting explained that the DLGF requests that we do so because taxpayers have the right to appeal their tax assessments. We must also consider the chance that an entity may go out of

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business. Both of these situations would lower the assessed value. Andie Mears made a motion to approve advertisement of the 2020 budget. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The Secured School Safety Grant was approved in the amount of \$50,000.00 with a \$25,000.00 Corporation match. Steve Christopher made a motion to approve the grant. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

WHIN Regional Cultivation Fund Planning Grant was awarded in the amount of \$10,000.00 to start a digital ag curriculum. We have a weather station in the NE corner of our field where students can monitor data. The grant will be split with 4 other school corporations to hold focus groups with area farmers to begin digital agriculture. Shelley Christopher asked if Mrs. Cook has been trained to use the weather station. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the grant. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The State Board of Accounts requires the Board to approve ECA accounts annually. Reports were provided summarizing fund balances, receipts, expenditures, transfers, and ending balances. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the extra-curricular accounts. Steve Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Personnel**

Maternity leaves for Michelle Glover estimated from 01/06/20-03/02/20 and Erin Notary from 01/07/20-03/20/20 are requested to be approved with the understanding that the dates may change. Shelley Christopher inquired about the allowance of time for a maternity leave. Steve Christopher made a motion to approve the maternity leaves as presented. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2019-2020 ECA appointments were presented along with recommendations. Steve Christopher made a motion to approve all appointments in section 8.3. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval was requested to hire Miss Paige Nagy as the Accounts Payable Assistant in the Corporation office. Steve Christopher made a motion to approve the hire. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Field Trips**

Steve Christopher made a motion to approve two Jr/Sr High FFA field trips with Mrs. Cook, the first from 10/11/19 to 10/13/19, and the second from 11/15/19 to 11/17/19. Steve Christopher made a motion to approve both field trips. Andie Mears seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

***Frontier School Corporation Improvements***

Mr. Sichtung has received quotes for the chiller replacement at the High School from Fluid Technologies, LLC, and North Mechanical. Mr. Martin is waiting on a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote from D.A. Dodd. The low quote is for \$65,500.00 from Fluid Technologies. We received a quote for the Brookston Gym door replacement for \$ 56,527.00. We have received two quotes for replacing casework and art tables at the Elementary, one for \$28,750.00 and th

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other for \$10,000.00. Quotes for replacing windows at the corporation office include: one for replacing the windows "as-is" for \$23,000.00, and the other for building headers from the top and bottom and only replacing glass in the center for \$18,000.00. Steve Christopher raised discussion about quotes for other projects which have been put on hold since we are moving forward with the chiller replacement. Mr. Sighting believes the Brookston Gym doors and the casework and art tables at the Elementary can be completed at a later date using funds from Operations. Shelley Christopher inquired about lists from the Principals, and Mr. Sighting indicated that Mrs. Bordner would like the art tables and casework to be replaced. Mr. Hettinger indicated that he would like to see carpet, windows, and ceiling tiles replaced.

*Teacher Appreciation Grant-Second Reading*

Mr. Sighting reiterated that last month, at the first reading, we made no decisions on how to spend the grant. The options for grant disbursement were presented again. The decision was that the Corporation shall distribute TAG funds as follows:

1. A cash stipend as determined by the Superintendent shall be distributed to all teachers in the Corporation who are rated as Effective.
2. A cash stipend in the amount of 25% more than the teachers rated as Effective shall be given to teachers in Frontier Elementary and Frontier Jr/Sr High School who are rated as Highly Effective.

Andie Mears made a motion to approve the second reading of the Teacher Appreciation Grant as presented. Steve Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

*August Donations*

Mr. Sighting recommends approval of donations to the Elementary and Jr/Sr High Schools in the amount of \$1,340.00. Andie Mears made a motion to approve the donations. Shelley Christopher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

*EF Tours Presentation*

Mr. Cutchin has been working with Mr. Brady Rhodes, of South Putnam Community School Corporation, who is an experienced group leader on EF Tours, to offer an International Tour for our students. A tour to Rome, Italy is proposed for spring break of the 2020-2021 school year. Discussion took place regarding pricing, liability insurance, emergency situations, tour curriculum, trip cancellations, and chaperones. Mr. Sighting recommended that Mr. Cutchin submit a form for overnight field trip approval through Mr. Hettinger.

**Technology Report**

David Hoover reported that 280 help tickets have been completed so far this year, not including walk-ins and student device set up. Some can be completed in 10 minutes, and others take several hours, days, or weeks. Student and staff accounts have been updated and synchronized in about 20 different systems. Troubleshooting with vendor support organizations is ongoing to work out the bugs. Powerschool sent us through 2 upgrades in the past few weeks. The major upgrade changes the way contact records are stored, how family situations are tracked, and will require significant staff time to clean up and merge. School Messenger should not be affected by the Powerschool upgrades. Once contact clean-up is completed, we can grade the way SchoolMessenger uses our phone numbers and email addresses. IT staff have been

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upgrading computers from Windows 7 to Windows 10. About 160 computers are done with about 100 left to go. Mr. Hoover presented a new program to the Jr/Sr High teachers that will allow them to monitor and control the students' ChromeBooks. Steve Christopher inquired about the functionality of the cameras. Mr. Hoover reported they are all up and running, and the SRO has access in both schools, but the Sheriff's Department still does not have access to view our feed. Mr. Hoover is waiting to have a meeting with the Sheriff's office to get that up and running.

**Elementary Report**

Mrs. Bordner reported that thanks to the Title IV Grant we have teachers participating in professional development workshops through Wabash Valley and are returning to share information with the rest of the staff. Mrs. Bordner and two teacher visited Rossville Elementary to learn how they have implemented the new reading series. Kierston McKinley gave a seminar on implementing technology in a more effective manner without adding screen time. Mrs. Bordner is involved with the Indiana Principal's Leadership Institute, obtaining a WVEC Technology Leadership Certification, and setting up the new TalentEd Applicant Tracking System.

Jill Layton and Cretia Jensen have been coaching teachers on creating goals for student achievement based on their NWEA testing data. Mrs. Bordner has begun classroom observations. Field trips, while traditionally in the spring, are transitioning to the fall because of testing. She applauds her teachers for planning educational experiences for the students. The school improvement team is finalizing goals and strategies for ongoing improvement.

The NED Show convocation, which conveys a positive message to the kids, came to FES. Frontier collected \$2100.00 in yo-yo sales in 3 days to receive the convocation for free.

Annual case reviews for special education students have taken place. The Smiles-Mobile Dentistry Program came to FES. Wellness Day was September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Student Ambassadors participated in their first LifeSkill lesson on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Most grade levels have conducted Parent Night. Title I Open House was September 19<sup>th</sup>. Most parents visited with Jill Woods during Parent/Teacher Conferences, but we still offer the additional opportunity for parent involvement. Teachers are submitting attendance for Parent/Teacher conferences which are still ongoing. Grandparent's Day for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade have been scheduled. There was a PTO meeting at FES on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

After evaluating ILEARN scores it was determined that FES is above state average in every grade for English/Language Arts and Math.

**Jr-Sr High Report**

ILEARN test results show that we are at or above state average in all categories. Mr. Hettinger will share numbers at the next scheduled board meeting. NWEA testing is complete, and meetings with administration are in process to interpret data from the results to inform instruction moving forward.

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Scholastic Reading Inventory testing is finished for fall. 72% of students are at or above reading level. Administration and teachers are using the data to guide professional development to improve content reading strategies. The data will also be used for instructional differentiation.

The Smiles-Mobile Dentistry Program came to FHS on September 5<sup>th</sup>, and several students took advantage.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are heavily marketed, but as the kids get older parent participation seems to dwindle. This year, Mr. Hettinger required teachers to phone parents of all kids with failing grades in their class. 40 families participated in Parent/Teacher Conferences.

ELearning during Parent/Teacher Conferences went well. Students were required to "check in" for attendance tracking. Assigning and completing homework was a classroom option.

Several teachers have participated in professional development including: School Safety, SAMR Technology, Naviance, Special Education, and Lan School.

16 out of 24 teachers have been observed to date.

Attendance for the Erin's Law Presentation was low.

Mr. Hettinger indicated that he would be attending Indian Trails Career and Technical Education Principal's Meeting, Cooperative School Services 504 Training, and he and Mrs. Layton would be attending the School Safety Academy.

The Jr/Sr High conducted vision screenings and completed a lock down drill. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attended their first field trip to practice water quality testing, and they visited Ivy Tech and Purdue University. Study tables are ongoing and some students are taking advantage. The 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks grading period ended October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Superintendent Report**

Mr. Sighting reported that much time was spent finalizing the budget and troubleshooting problems with Gateway. Administration reached a tentative agreement with teachers and is hopeful that it will reduce turnover due to salary deficiencies and increased health insurance premiums. Title IIA Grant has been submitted. Title IV Grant has been submitted. ILEARN results have been in the media a lot lately due to poor performance, but with time, teachers and curriculum adapt and change which results in better scores. Mr. Hettinger added that we are also at the mercy of the students who choose to do poorly on their tests.

Work on the outdoor football/baseball locker rooms has been completed. We are waiting to hear back from the contractor to see if the walk-thru and punch list has been completed.

Training on TalentEd Applicant Tracking is almost complete and certified and non-certified applications can be pushed out now.

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We installed 2 cameras on 2 buses for stop arm violations, and neither camera worked. They were sent back and replaced by the company.

Mr. Sighting feels as though things are running smoothly and quietly thus far this school year, and he is happy with our progress for the year.

**Athletics and Transportation Report**

Mr. Troy Burgess was not in attendance.

**Maintenance Report**

Mr. Jeremy Martin was not in attendance.

**Counselor's Report**

Mrs. Kathy Bassett was not in attendance.

**Public Testimony**


None given.

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

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be held on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00pm at Frontier Jr/Sr High School.

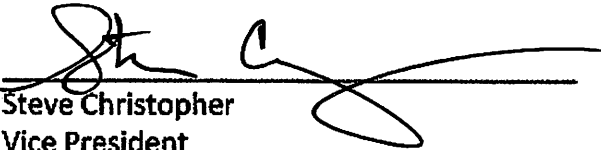
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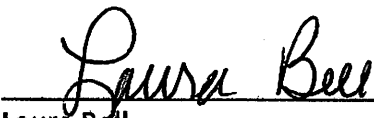
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John C Copas  
President



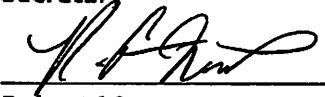
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Steve Christopher  
Vice President



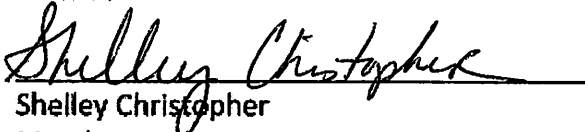
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Laura Bell  
Secretary



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Robert Mears  
Member



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Shelley Christopher  
Member