

Minutes

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Dave O'Brien asked for a moment of silence for fallen State Police Peru Post Officer David Rich.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave O'Brien and revealed all members present with the exception of Hal Hoffman; along with Dr. Dan Kramer, Superintendent; Brett Boggs, Assistant Superintendent and Sherri Adamson, recording secretary.

Bryan Murphy was sworn into office by Sherri Adamson, notary public.

Mr. O'Brien announced the upcoming meetings: July 30, 2007, Budget Work Session, Mentone Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.; August 13, 2007, Regular Meeting, Mentone Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.; August 20, 2007, Budget Public Hearing, Mentone Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.; September 10, 2007, Regular Meeting, Mentone Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.; and September 30-October 2, 2007, ISBA Fall Conference, Indianapolis.

The annual meeting opened with reorganization of the School Board. Mr. O'Brien asked for nominations for President. Bryan Murphy made a motion to nominate Mark Wise as President. Rod Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Eaton made a motion to close the nominations for President. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion to close. Mark Wise elected President 4-0.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to nominate Hal Hoffman as Vice President. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wise made a motion to close the nominations for Vice President. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion to close. Hal Hoffman elected Vice President 4-0.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to nominate Dave O'Brien as secretary. Mr. Wise seconded the nomination. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Eaton made a motion to close the nominations for Secretary. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion to close. Dave O'Brien elected Secretary 4-0.

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to appoint Sherri Adamson, Corporation Treasurer, and Linda Murphy, Deputy Treasurer. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eaton made a motion to set regular meetings on the second Monday of each month at Mentone School, while attempting to have a meeting at each of the school buildings during the school year with all meetings beginning at 7:30 p.m. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to appoint Dr. Francisco Negreros as the corporation physician (Exhibit A). Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

After President Mark Wise read the consent agenda, Mr. Eaton made a motion to approve the following: approved minutes of June 11, 2007, regular and executive session; approve minutes of June 27, 2007, CPF Budget Workshop; approved minutes of June 28, 2006, special and executive session; approved the Plan for Use of Instructional Assistants for 2007-08 School Year; approved Support for North Central Association District Wide Accreditation; approved hiring the following personnel: Abbey Wallen, Grade 3 and Linda Weller, Grade 5, Akron Elementary School; approved contract with: Beaver Dam PreSchool, Area Five Head Start, and Kosciusko County Head Start/Cardinal Center for 2007-2008 School Year (Exhibit B,C and D); approved Conflict of Interest Statement for Dr. Daniel Kramer, Bryan Murphy and Mark Wise (Exhibit E). Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Kramer reviewed claims and payroll (Exhibit F) and asked for approval. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the claims and payroll, as presented. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Kramer reviewed the Financial Report for the Board.

During items from visitors, Chris Moorehouse addressed the Board regarding concerns from a group of parents who had incoming fourth grade students at Mentone Elementary. Mrs. Moorehouse and the group addressed the following issues:

- ❖ Potential for overcrowding in the upcoming school year in grade 4
- ❖ Possibility of deficiencies in learning due to the overcrowding in grade 4
- ❖ Mentone having 28-30 students in grade 4; Akron having under that amount in grade 4 and the Indiana state average indicated as 17:1 student to teacher ratio on the DOE website.
- ❖ Lack of instructional assistant in grade 4
- ❖ Indicated their observation of reductions in program to exhilarate higher end achievers
- ❖ Concerns regarding bussing to the middle school and seat placements of students on buses
- ❖ Image of School Board putting more emphasis on football coaches and athletics than academics due to six assistant football coaches and building of new concession stand

Dr. Kramer, Brett Boggs, and the School Board members, appreciating the efforts of the group to come to the meeting and voice their concerns, commented by citing the following:

- ❖ Enrollments taken the end of the 06-07 School Year indicated 85 students at Mentone and 82 students at Akron in Grade 4. With registration being early in August, classroom sizes at all grade levels are closely monitored. Dr. Kramer indicated there are three grade levels he is particularly concerned with at this time, one being grade 4.
- ❖ Thirty students in a classroom is not a hard fast rule. Depends greatly upon the grade level and also funding available.
- ❖ As funding is has been reduced, the administration and teacher's organization have agreed to closely monitor class sizes who have 28-30 students and adding additional staffing, if determined to be needed. Careful consideration is given to additional staffing as to not reduce other programs in the corporation or to cause a reduction in staffing in later years.
- ❖ Administration at the corporation level determines the need for an instructional assistant at any grade level. As class sizes grow to 30 students, serious consideration is given to providing instructional assistants.
- ❖ Corporation level looks at the entire student population to determine staffing needs and impact additional staffing will have on the entire corporation budget. Dr. Kramer indicated the corporation has positioned itself to be financially stable in order to retain current programs and addition of new programs as funding decreases.
- ❖ State Average student: teacher ratios may be misleading due to the types of staff members who are identifies in these ratios. The state may be considering other staff besides classroom teachers.
- ❖ Mr. Boggs encouraged the parents with concerns regarding the Gifted and Talented Program to meet with Angie Miller, Curriculum Director. Mr. Boggs feels as though the corporation is doing more now than they ever have in regarding to Levels of Learners, not only academically, but also in the areas of arts and other talents. Some of the concerns of the parents should be addressed at the building level as teachers are learning differentiated learning for identified students.
- ❖ The Board encourages the parents with bussing issues to contact the bus driver and then Mr. Boggs with any further problems.
- ❖ Dr. Kramer indicated the number of football coaches would include volunteer coaches and many coaches in athletic programs share the pay of multiple coaching positions. Even though the salary of the coaches come from the same fund, General Fund, as teaching salaries, he also indicated the majority of the costs of athletics is funded by ticket sales as sporting events which is handled through the individual buildings. Also, the funds used for construction of the concession stands are from a funding source that cannot be used for any types of salaries for additional personnel.

In old business, Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the changes to the Athletic Code for the 2007-08 School Year, adding the changes were long overdue and appreciated Mr. Kirk Doehrmann's, TVHS Principal, role in facilitating the changes to the Athletic Code. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Boggs presents the additions to the School Board Policy of Student Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program and Student Assistance Program indicating the program will be for students involved in athletics, extra curricular and co-curricular activities and also those students who drive to school in grade 9-12. Mr. Wise reminded the program wasn't to "catch" students but to give students a reason to say "no" to drugs and alcohol. Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the Student Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program and Student Assistance Program. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Kramer, referring to information given to him by Duane Burkhart, Athletic Director, recommend to the Board to table the presentation of the Coaches' Handbook until the next meeting directing Mr. Burkhart to compile the information into a specific document for the high school's use. Mr. Wise indicated he would like to see specific language to address language and conduct allowable during practices.

In other new business, Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the Summer School contracts for 2007. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mark Wise, President

Dave O'Brien, Secretary

Rod L. Eaton, Member

Bryan D. Murphy, Member