

South Central Community School Corporation

School Board Minutes – February 8, 2022

The South Central Community School Corporation of Trustees met February 8, 2022 at 6:00pm in the library for a regular board meeting. The following members were present: Jake Wade, Allen Stevens, Deborah Allen, Geraldine Grott, and Dominic Notaro. Others who attended were Dr. Theodore Stevens, Superintendent, Nick Kimmel, Elementary Principal, Rachel Dutoi, Business Manager/Treasurer, and Jennifer Nagle, Administrative Assistant. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Deb Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS

There were no public expressions.

INVESTEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR END 12/31/2021

Rachel Dutoi, Corporation Business Manager/Treasurer, presented the Investment Report to the Board. Motion was made by Jake Wade to accept the Investment Report as presented. Dominic Notaro seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the January 11, 2022 Board Minutes

b) Personnel Recommendations:

- Mr. Kimmel, Elementary Principal, is recommending the School Board to accept Tina's Coburn's maternity leave request for the approximate dates of Monday, May 2, 2022 thru Friday, May 20, 2022.
- Mr. Kimmel, Elementary Principal, is recommending the School Board to accept Holli Divich's maternity leave request for the approximate dates of April 11, 2022 thru May 23, 2022.
- Dr. Theodore Stevens, Superintendent, is recommending approval for the employment of Maria Koontz as a permanent substitute teacher for the open Jr./Sr. HS Choir Director position effective immediately.

c) Personnel Resignation:

- Board approval for the resignation of Maria Koontz, Jr./Sr. HS Choir Director effective immediately.

d) Professional Leave Requests:

- Deb Kammrath, Theodore Stevens, Lindzy Curtis, Ben Anderson, Nick Kimmel- January 26, 2022 for Strategic Planning, Consortium Leaders Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Rachel Dutoi – February 9, 2022 for IASBO Labor Relations and Contract training at South Central.
- Rachel Dutoi-March 15, 16, April 5, 6, 2022 for 2022 IASBO Treasurer Workshop in Plainfield, IN.

e) ECA Recommendations and Resignations:

- Cortny Barnes - recommendation for Academic Super Bowl English and ASB Fine Arts, 2021-2022 School Year.
- Alexandria Ingram - recommendation for Jr. Musical Stipend, 2021-2022 School Year.
- John Valpatic - resignation as Asst. Track Coach effective 2021-2022 School Year.

f) Claims:

- Approval of presented claims #925-941, 30279-30342

Jake Wade made motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Grott seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

DONATIONS

- R. Smith Trucking LLC -\$40.00 to Drama Club
- Anonymous Cash Donation-\$200.00 to Industrial Tech.
- Class of 2022-\$600.00 to Class of 2023 for Prom.

Mr. Dominic Notaro made motion to approve donations as presented. Jake Wade seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

SECOND READING NEOLA POLICY UPDATE, VOL. 34, NUMBER 1:

- Bylaw 0167.3 - Public Participation at Board Meetings (Revised)

This policy has been revised to provide a clear process of approval for any person or group who wants to place an item on the Board Agenda. It is advisable for the superintendent to recommend the policy revisions for adoption by the Board, and the Board should adopt the revised policy, given the current climate at public Board meetings.

- Policy 1220 - Employment of the Superintendent (Revised)
- Policy 1520 - Employment of Administrators in Addition to the Superintendent (Revised)

These policies have been revised pursuant to Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 55 - School Referendum that prohibits a corporation from issuing bonuses or other incentives to Administrators as a result of a favorable outcome of a referendum.

- Policy 2262 - Latch-Key Programs (Revised)

Two new options have been provided regarding the availability of a latch-key program during declared emergencies pursuant to HEA 1101. These options are available when the Corporation provides a school-aged child care or utilizes a nonprofit or for-profit organization to provide a school-aged child care program

- Policy 2370.03 - Indiana Course Access Program (Revised)

Pursuant to State statute and the Indiana Department of Education ("IDOE") students who are pursuing a diploma with any designation available for a student in Indiana or an industry certification that appears on the State Board's approved industry certification list is eligible to participate in the Indiana course access program (iCAP).

House Enrolled Act 1438 (HEA) - Course Access Program, requires that each Corporation shall respond to a student request for participation in an iCAP course not later than fifteen (15) days after submittal. The Board should adopt the policy to comply with State statute and IDOE recommendations.

- Policy 2603 - School Performance Internet Dashboard (New)

This new policy, pursuant to HEA 1514, requires the State Board of Education to develop required data points that each school will place on a "dashboard" on the Corporation's webpage.

- Policy 4120.08 - Employment of Personnel For Extracurricular Activities (Revised)

- Policy 8455 - Coach Training, References, and IHSAA Reporting (Revised)

- Policy 3120.08 - Employment of Personnel For Extracurricular Activities (Revised)

These policies have been revised to include a marching band leader or a sponsor of an activity in which a student has an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest, as determined by the IDOE, to participate in the same training on sudden cardiac arrest as athletic coaches pursuant to the revision of I.C. 20-34-8 by HEA 1040. The documentation of completion of the course on sudden cardiac arrest for the marching band leader and activity sponsor should be retained in the same manner as those for athletic coaches.

- Policy 3120.11 - Public Hearing Before Commencement of Collective Bargaining (Revised)

A public meeting has been added to discuss a Tentative Agreement, allow for public comment, and the meeting must be conducted at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to a Board vote on the agreement. Additionally, the agreement must be posted on the Corporation website within fourteen (14) days, pursuant to the amendment of I.C. 20-29-6 by HEA 1549, and must include a provision specifying when the public meeting occurred. The statutory amendments also allow for Board members and the public to participate in the public meeting by electronic communication.

- Policy 3214/4214 - Staff Gifts (Revised)

The word Christmas has been replaced by "some special holidays" in these policies to make the content secular in nature.

- Policy 3220 - Staff Evaluation (Revised)

Revisions made to this policy reflect the amendment of I.C. 20-28-11.5-4 by HEA 1002 regarding the components of teacher evaluations. Notwithstanding current Indiana code, objective measures from statewide assessments taken in the Spring of 2019 and 2020 cannot be used for a certificated employee's performance evaluation unless these scores or the particular school's improvement category would improve the certificated employee's annual performance rating.

- Policy 5113.02 - School Transfer Options (Revised)

This policy has been revised to comply with the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act (ESEA), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and current IDOE procedures for the unsafe school choice option.

- Policy 5340.01 - Student Concussions and Sudden Cardiac Arrest (Revised)

This policy has been revised to modify the existing requirements for completing a certified education approved training course for sudden cardiac arrest to include a marching band leader or a sponsor of an activity in which a student has an increased risk of cardiac arrest.

- Policy 5460 - Graduation Requirements (Revised)

Pursuant to Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 101, what shall be included in and when the School Corporation must prepare each student's graduation plan have been modified. The policy has been revised to incorporate an option because a graduation plan is a requirement of I.C. 20-30-4-2; however, it is not mandated to be part of the Corporation's graduation requirement policy.

- Policy 5540 - The Schools and Governmental Agencies (Revised)

This policy is revised to account for HEA 1531 adding a new Indiana Code provision, I.C. 31-9-2-44.1 that defines "exigent circumstances" and includes the criteria for which DCS may be granted permission to interview a student alone at school.

- Policy 5722 - School-Sponsored Student Publications and Productions (Replacement)

This replacement policy is proposed because of the wide variety of school-sponsored student media that are present in schools today and due to the many technological advances, that have occurred.

These revisions are driven by the impact of social media on student publications and productions and are based on the evolving social media environment. The language in the policy has been modified to encompass the newer online electronic forms of school-sponsored student media.

- Policy 6105 - Authorization To Accept and Distribute Electronic Records and To Use Electronic Signatures (Technical Correction)

This policy is being corrected by adding one statutory citation and providing a reference to a memorandum from the State Board of Accounts regarding electronic signatures.

- Policy 6114 - Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds (Revised)

This policy has been revised to provide greater detail in allow ability guidance for corporations regarding the expenditure of federal funds.

- Policy 6220 - Budget Preparation (Revised)

This revision includes a strike-through of content that refers to academic, instructional support, overhead and operation, and non-operational expenditures that are no longer a required part of budget preparation.

- Policy 6230 - Budget Hearing (Revised)

If a referendum levy is included in the proposed budget, a spending plan must be included at the public hearing, pursuant to SEA 55 amendments. The spending plan is to include an estimate of expected revenue from the referendum, specific purpose of the funds generated by the referendum and an estimate of expenditures in annual dollar amounts.

- Policy 7300 Disposition of Real Property (Revised)

Pursuant to SEA 385 revisions have been made regarding the sale or lease of unused or vacant property. Specifically, school corporations are to provide for the maintenance of unused or vacant buildings until leased, sold or disposed of.

- Policy 7310 - Disposition of Surplus Property (Revised)

Pursuant to I.C. 20-26-5-40.2, it is the obligation of the Board to develop a plan related to the preservation or transfer of memorabilia, trophies, or other property of historical significance, as determined by the Board if a resolution to close a high school has been passed.

- Policy 7450 - Property Inventory (Revised)

A drafting note has been added to this policy noting the federal threshold of \$5,000 for differentiating between supplies/materials and a capital expenditure for equipment purchase. See the note on Policy 6114 - Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds. This policy may need to be revised if the Corporation's current policy uses an equipment/inventory threshold higher than \$5,000.

- Policy 7540.03 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised)

- Policy 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised)

These policies have been revised to include language reflecting the State law requirements that specifically prohibit the sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading of materials harmful to minors and it mandates that this content must be posted on the corporation website.

- Policy 8305 - Information Security (Revised)

This policy has been revised to include policy language that the school will work to protect data from attack vectors. Categories of attack vectors of a cybersecurity incident are identified.

- Policy 8600 - Transportation (Revised)

Pursuant to 2021 legislative revisions to I.C. 20-27-5-6 by HEA 1549, a school corporation may enter into a fleet contract with a contractor and permit the contractor's drivers to be eligible for life and health insurance benefits and other fringe benefits available to other school personnel.

Jake Wade made a motion to strike through Neola Policy 3214/4214-Staff Gifts (Revised). Mr. Notaro seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Mrs. Grott made motion to accept remaining Neola Policies as presented. Jake Wade seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT/ACTION ITEMS

2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Theodore Stevens presented the 2022-2023 school calendar to the School Board. This calendar was created after reviewing other calendars in LaPorte County. Generally, we attempt to match calendars as much as possible with LaPorte, Michigan City, and Westville since we share student programming. This specific proposal has the same first day of school start date with Michigan City, New Prairie, and Westville. The Winter Break and Spring Breaks match up with all other public school corporations in LaPorte County. Overall, the calendar is very similar to last year. The calendar has been provided to the CTA leadership for their input.

Dr. Stevens requested approval for School Board to accept School Calendar 2022-2023 as presented. Dominic Notaro made motion to accept 2022-2023 School Calendar as presented. Deb Allen seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

RESURFACING FRONT PARKING LOT

During the January Board Meeting, approval was provided by the Board to advertise for bids on our front parking lot. Specifications and instructions were posted on our school website. In addition, Mr. Rucker contacted parties that have expressed an interest. Sealed bids for repaving the front parking lot(s) were accepted and opened on Friday, February 4 at noon.

At this time, the Board can elect (through a formal vote) to accept a specific bid or to deny all bids at this time. If the bid is not the lowest amount specified, the Board can still approve it, but has to provide a rationale as to why the lowest bid was not selected (if that is indeed the case).

South Central received bids from Jenstar Asphalt LLC, Milestone Contractors North, and Rieth-Riley Construction. Rieth-Riley came in as the lowest bid offered. Superintendent, Dr. Theodore Stevens, requested approval from the Board to accept the lowest bid that came in from Rieth-Riley.

Jake Wade made motion to approve Rieth-Riley as the lowest bid for resurfacing front parking lot. Dominic Notaro seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

JenStar: \$341,000 for work described

Milestone: \$395,265 for work described

Rieth-Riley: \$276,505 for work described

* When adding up all the options that Rieth-Riley proposed (sealcoating, striping existing areas, and repainting the front curb, their total would be \$296,150.

* In a phone call with Rieth-Riley, they estimate that the engineering costs would be another \$4,000. If approved and agreeable, that would take the previous total of \$296,150 and make it \$300,150.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Dr. Theodore Stevens, Superintendent, provided information that LaPorte County continues to be in the “red” tier (1/31/22 map). Generally, we still continue to see examples of positive cases in our staff and students. However, it has been recently reported to Dr. Stevens, that South Central has not

had any new cases of COVID-19 since January 28th. We continue to mitigate them following the ISDH / CDC recommendations.

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Rachel Dutoi, Business Manager/Treasurer, presented the Stale Check Report and requested the funds be added back to school’s account for use. Jake Wade made motion to deposit funds back into school account. Deb Allen seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Jake Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm. Mr. Notaro seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Deborah Allen, President

Dominic Notaro, Vice-President

Jake Wade, Secretary

Geraldine Grott, Deputy Secretary

Allen Stevens, Member