

NOTE: These are “proposed” minutes and will not be approved until the January 20, 2019 School Board Meeting

4:00 p.m.
Administration Center

Friday
January 4, 2019

School Board Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – President Joanna King called the January 4, 2019 School Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees to order at 4:00 p.m. Board members Joanna King, Paul Gayler, Robert Souder and Mitch Miller were present. Others in attendance included Jane Allen, Superintendent, Robby Goodman, Assistant Superintendent, Mark Snyder, Director of Business Services, Melissa Deak, Director of Transportation and Jeff Palmer, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

OATH OF OFFICE – Paul Gayler (Middlebury Township) and Mitch Miller (York Township) read the Oath of Office, as they were both elected in November 2018, taking office in January 2019.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD VACANCY APPOINTMENT - Because a patron did not run for the Jefferson Township Trustee position in the fall of 2018, the board members are to appoint someone to fill that spot. Mr. Souder moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion appoint Gregg Eash to fill the Jefferson Township vacancy. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0. Mr. Eash read the Oath of Office.

BOARD REORGANIZATION –

- Mr. Gayler moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to appoint Joanna King as School Board President. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0. Mrs. King abstained from voting.
- Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to appoint Paul Gayler as School Board Vice President. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0. Mr. Gayler abstained from voting.
- Mr. Gayler moved and Mr. Miller seconded a motion to appoint Bob Souder as School Board Secretary. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0. Mr. Souder abstained from voting.
- Mr. Souder moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to appoint Mark Snyder as Corporate Treasurer. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.
- Mr. Souder moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to appoint Gregg Eash as the ISBA Legislative Liaison. The motion was approved 4-0. Mr. Eash abstained from voting.
- Mr. Gayler moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to appoint Mitch Miller as the boards Dollar’s for Scholars representative. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0, with Mr. Miller abstaining.
- Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to appoint Warrick and Boyn as Corporation Attorneys as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

CONDUCT PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING –

- Call to Order – President Joanna King called the Preliminary Determination Hearing to order. All board members were present. Others in attendance included Jane Allen, Superintendent, Robby Goodman, Assistant Superintendent, Mark Snyder, Director of Business Services, Melissa Deak, Director of Transportation and Jeff Palmer, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

- Mrs. King: “The first item on the agenda is for the Board to hold a preliminary hearing on the proposed construction project. If you are interested in speaking at the hearing, please make sure you have signed the sign-in sheet at the back of the room, which should include your name and address. After a presentation by the administration and its advisors, there will be an opportunity for the public to make comments about the project. At the hearing, we will ask that each person limit their comments to 3 minutes and that the topic be limited to the proposed project under consideration. The Notice of this Preliminary Determination Hearing was published as legally required on December 19, 2018 in the Goshen News and the Middlebury Independent. At this time, I will ask that Jane Allen explain the purpose of this hearing.”
- Mrs. Allen: “Pursuant to Indiana Code §6-1.1-20-3.1, a school corporation must hold two public hearings and adopt a resolution to preliminarily determine to issue bonds or enter a lease for a project which has a total project cost in excess of a non-controlled project. These public hearings and the adoption of resolutions are the very beginning of the legal process. These resolutions establish the maximum financial terms for the proposed project.”
- Mrs. King: “We will now hear from Mrs. Allen about the process of determining and communication the project to the community and the need for the project.”
- Mrs. Allen: “In 2015, central office administration began discussion concerning the need for Northridge High School outdoor athletic facilities. When the current Northridge High School was constructed, there were no plans presented to build athletic facilities for football, track and field, baseball or softball. The high school athletic teams and all physical education classes have to use the outdoor facilities at the middle school for the past 10 years. It was also determined that the current facilities at the middle school were constructed 30 years ago and no major upgrades have taken place except track and bleacher upgrades at the football stadium. The NHS football team practices on the lawn of the high school and all home games are played on the current football field. All track and field, baseball and softball athletes must travel to the middle school for all practices and games. Junior varsity baseball and softball games must be played at the Middlebury Little League diamonds. The athletic department must transport teams to the diamonds and pay Middlebury Little League for the use of the diamonds for each game. All NHS physical education classes must walk to the middle school to use the track and outdoor baseball and softball fields. The NHS Marching Band practices on the high school parking lot and only uses the football field during football halftimes and for a community performance. Educational need for this project is seen as providing over 700 student facilities for physical education (331), athletics (265) and marching band (127).”

“Central office administrators determined that the land directly north of the teacher parking lot could possibly house outdoor athletic facilities for NHS. Middlebury Community Schools owns the land. A feasibility study of the land determined that it was feasible to construct facilities in that space. Knowing that debt would be falling off the current debt structure, the administration noted that constructing a football stadium with track and field facilities, baseball field, and softball field could be managed without increasing the school tax rate above the 2014 certified tax rate. At that time, the administration released talking points to the community, media, and special interest groups for public input.”

“We have attempted to put together a project that will cost approximately \$15,000,000 that can be completed by the fall of 2020. We have proposed to raise the funds through the sale of bonds and structuring the debt to reflect the debt falling off due to payment of current debt.”

- Mrs. King: “We will now hear from Jeff Palmer about how the projected project meets the needs, as described by the Superintendent.”
- Mr. Palmer showed the land space without facilities and then with the facilities and explained how the football, baseball and softball fields will fit into this space.
- Mrs. King: “We will now hear from Mark Snyder about how the proposed project will be financed, as well as information about the effect on the typical property taxpayer.”
- Mr. Snyder: “Estimated Debt Service/Tax Impact with 2019 Bond”
 - Approximate \$15,000,000
 - Debt will be structured for repayment over 5 years beginning 2020
 - Commitment not to exceed 2014 certified tax rate
 - Will replace some of the debt falling off
 - Still allows flexibility in the future.
- Mrs. King: “We will now open the public hearing. Remember, if you would like to speak, please sign in on the sheet that is located on the table near the door. As I mentioned earlier, we ask that you state your name and address, limit your comments to the proposed project and financing, keep any comments to 3 minutes. If anyone would like to speak, please come forward. No questions? We want to give you ample opportunity to speak – this is something we have worked on for quite some time. Mrs. Allen and the board worked on possibilities of doing this earlier but waited until we were financially responsible with the tax dollars we are given and we feel this is the time we can do it. One of most important things that Mrs. Allen talked about is that making sure we would not increase the school tax rate above the 2014 rates. That’s really important – it’s honoring our taxpayers and making sure we are as financially astute with the dollars we receive.”

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

Mrs. King: “Thank you to all who participated in the hearing. We appreciate your time and interest in the project and the future of our community. Please note that this is just the first step in the legal process. No Board action is legally required at this hearing. Rather, this hearing is solely to hear public comment. The Board will continue to work with the administration and its professionals to look for efficiencies to conserve tax dollars while meeting our educational needs. The Board will hold a second public hearing in this Board room on January 8, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.”

ADJOURNMENT OF PRELIMINARY HEARING - Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to adjourn the Preliminary Determination Hearing. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – Mr. Souder moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to adjourn the January 4, 2019 Special School Board Meeting as presented. The motion as approved with a vote of 5-0. The next school board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

Joanna King, President

Paul Gayler, Vice President

Robert Souder, Secretary

Mitch Miller, Member

Gregg Eash, Member