

NOTE: These are "proposed" minutes and will not be approved until the February 21, 2017 School Board Meeting

4:00 p.m.
Administration Center

Tuesday
February 7, 2017

BOARD MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – President David Black called the February 7, 2017, meeting of the Board of School Trustees to order at 4:00 p.m. All Board Members were present with the exception of Scott Miller. Others in attendance included Jane Allen, Superintendent, Mark Snyder, Director of Business Services, Michelle Willey, Director of Transportation and Jeff Palmer, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - NHS Science Olympiad Presentation. Mr. Gerber and Mr. Glass were present along with students Jackson Kenyon (10th grade) and Alex Reser (12th grade) to talk about Science Olympiad.

- Jackson and Alex brought a robot which they had modified from the previous year. Last year it had to pick up Ping-Pong balls, pencils, dice and Legos. This year the robot had to pick up pennies, flip them over, and then place them on a dart board (which is based on a point system). Depending on where they place the pennies on the dart board determines the number of points received. This is a timed event.
- The robot placed 2nd at the competition in West Ottawa, Michigan, 1st place at Manchester College, 4th place at Sylvania Northview High School and 1st place at the NHS Invitational.
- Mr. Black asked what the highest score they have received this year. Four hundred forty points are obtainable using fifty pennies and their highest score was two hundred and eighty-six points.
- Mrs. Allen asked "what was the planning time on changing the robot after they found out what the 2017 competition changes would be." She was told they probably had around two months to make adjustments to the robot. The students said the hardest part was figuring out how to grab the pennies and flip them.
- Mrs. King asked where we could use things like this (within our community). They answered - RV manufacturing. She agreed with them. She said "it used to be assembly lines with hammers, screw guns, etc. putting things together. Manufacturing has changed a lot over the years. Today, when you go thru a factory they are using robotics. These industries need bright kids like them to come in and problem solve. This is great! Those critical thinking skills are ones they'll be using the rest of their lives."
- Regional competition is this weekend in Goshen. The national competition is at Wright State in Dayton, Ohio. The board thanked the students for coming and wished them luck in the upcoming competitions.

EXPRESSIONS FROM PATRONS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA –

- Minutes and Executive minutes from the January 17, 2017 school board meeting
- Claims Lists
- Personnel List

• EMPLOYMENT:

Northridge High School

Classified: Mike Miller, Assistant Baseball Coach, 43290-2, Start Date: February 8, 2017
Aaron Brick, Assistant Boys Track Coach, 43280-1, ½ Stipend, Start Date: February 8, 2017
Mark Gruwell, Assistant Girls Track Coach, 43285-1, Start Date: February 8, 2017

Transportation Department

Classified: Denise Finn, Bus Driver, Start Date: February 6, 2017

Heritage Intermediate School

Classified: Charles Carson, 12 Month Custodian, Replacing: Bob Derr, Start Date: February 8, 2017

Northridge Middle School

Certified: Carrie Brown, Counselor, Replacing: Chelsea Gorsuch, Start Date: February 8, 2017

Jefferson Elementary School

Certified: Alyssa Cook, Temporary 3rd Grade Teacher, Covering FMLA Leave for Linda Swihart
Start Date: February 8, 2017

Classified: Kathy Kreager, 7.5 Hour Building Assistant, Replacing: Nicci Meade, Start Date: February 21, 2017

RESIGNATION:

Northridge Middle School

Certified: Chelsea Gorsuch, Counselor, Effective Date: January 9, 2017
Classified: Trista Peterson, 5 Hour Cafeteria Worker, Effective Date: January 18, 2017

RETIREMENT:

Northridge High School

Classified: Maribeth Rhodes, Receptionist, Effective Date: February 24, 2017

EMERGENCY LEAVE:

Northridge High School

Certified: Kelly Sienicki, Special Education Teacher, 1 Day, March 29, 2017
Eric Highley, IN Tech Teacher, .5 Day, January 27, 2017
Jane Milewski, Special Education Teacher, 1 Day, March 15, 2017

FMLA LEAVE:

Heritage Intermediate School

Certified: Tina Yeater, 5th Grade Teacher, From March 6, 2017 to May 30, 2017

Northridge High School

Certified: Kathleen Lichtenberger, Special Education Teacher, From January 6, 2017 to January 17, 2017
Classified: Rosie Christman, 12 Month Custodian, From February 6, 2017 to February 27, 2017

Jefferson Elementary School

Certified: Linda Swihart, 3rd Grade Teacher, From February 6, 2017 to March 20, 2017

TERMINATION:

Middlebury Elementary School

Classified: Mark Becherl, 12 Month Custodian, Effective Date: January 27, 2016

Mr. Souder moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

APPROVAL OF DONATION TO YORK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Mrs. Allen received a request from Mrs. Buller that Mr. and Mrs. John Schwartz wanted to donate \$500 for a Friendship or Buddy Bench on the playground. A bench like this has been a wish from the 3rd graders since last year. Mrs. Allen read a note that a 3rd grade student wrote describing why they want a friendship bench. Mr. Gayler moved and Mr. Souder seconded a motion to approve a donation to York Elementary as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

APPROVAL OF A DONATION TO NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - Northridge High School has received a donation of \$3,217.55 from First State Bank, \$2,255.00 from Inter-State Studio and \$1,000 from Dean and Jane Devoe for the Hi Mileage Raider sports car. Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to approve the donations to Northridge High School as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY LEASE - Mrs. Allen asked for approval of a Technology Lease of \$490,000 with American Capital. The repayment schedule is 8 bi-annual payments beginning in June 2017. This money is what we use to help us create Technology refresh in our district (because our capital projects fund does not support that kind of money). Mr. Souder moved and Mrs. King seconded a motion to approve the Technology Lease as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

FIELD TRIPS – The school board reviewed the list of field trips.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE –

- Our high school AP students were honored recently was named one of the AP honor schools in the country. There are only 433 schools in the country and 10 are in Indiana. NHS also received a congratulatory note from IN House Representative, Jackie Walorski. Congratulations to the high school teachers and students for their hard work!
- NHS Girls Swim Team is headed to the State, divers are competing tonight.
- NHS Boys wrestling is going to semi-state, we got 2nd at the Regional.
- NHS Girls basketball team is going to Regional in LaPorte this Saturday.
- Congratulations to all of our teams! Go Raiders!

REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL – Board members reviewed the list of travel requests. Mr. Black questioned the leave requests for “school visits”. Mrs. Allen indicated Lily gave MCS a grant of approximately \$30,000 to visit sites in the country (and state) where certain initiatives are taking place for social and emotional health and mental health counseling. All the travel is covered by this grant.

EXPRESSIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS –

- Mr. Souder thanked Mr. Gerber and Mr. Glass for their spearheading and years of working with these kids. It’s just amazing how the kids love to do it. They have been such a stalwart for this program. Thank you.
- Mrs. King said “today is a day that will long be remembered by many educators for many reasons. I want to encourage every educator that is out there. Nobody can stop you from impacting the lives of the students in your classroom. Nobody can keep you from being the most creative teacher or making the difference in the life of a child. I hope that every educator can hold onto and remember that. No matter what the noise is going on outside, far way, like Washington D.C. that the things that happen in this school corporation and county will impact our children for generations to come. Don’t lose heart, but continue to do what you know is best for kids. I want to encourage teachers not to give up and to continue to do what is right. The rewards will be great, and they will be many and you might not hear them always. But there will be times when you get a letter from a student, many years from now. Don’t ever think you are not making a difference in a child’s life, because you are. When I see kids, like the two young gentlemen here today, the things they are learning which will increase their opportunities. That is because someone took the time to spark an interest that they had and learn what their God-given abilities and talents are. That is because someone helped them to find what they are passionate about. It takes time and many of us, but you can only do what you can do in your classroom. I am committed to supporting teachers and to continue to make decisions that are good for kids.”
- Mr. Gayler said he agrees with Mrs. King’s comments.
- Mr. Black agrees with Mrs. King, this is kind of a dark day. The York Family Reading night, brings a lot of memories to him. It was one of those nights when he volunteered during an all-night reading event. He chose to be one of those parents to stay with 3 or 4 5th grade boys all night long. The problem was: if you ever get 5th grade boys that want to eat all the pizza they can and chugging a large bottle of root-beer, the results are not really that good. So, needless to say, he still has that memory. He can still recall where he was in the gym when that explosion happened. That poor young man needed to go home. Every time he sees one of these reading events that memory comes back to him. Hopefully he’ll never forget that.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Mrs. King moved and Mr. Gayler seconded a motion to adjourn the January 17, 2017 meeting of the School Board of Trustees at 4:45 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved with a vote of 4-0. The next scheduled school board meeting will be on February 21, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Administration Center.

David Black, President

Joanna King, Vice President

Robert Souder, Secretary

Scott Miller, Member

Paul Gayler, Member