

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 16, 2021

Regular Meeting

The Board of School Trustees of the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County, Angola, Indiana, met in regular session at Central Gymnasium (next door to the F.K. McCutchan Administrative Center) starting at 6:30 p.m. Board members present were Mr. Cory Archbold, President; Mr. Kevin Beard, Vice President; Mrs. LeAnn Boots, Secretary; Mr. Brad Gardner, Member; Mrs. Becky Maggart, Member; Mr. Scott Poor, Member; and Mr. Mark Ridenour, Member. Also, present were Dr. Brent Wilson, Superintendent; Mrs. Ann Rice, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Wendy Wilson, Administrative Assistant. Thirty people, consisting of fourteen administrators, seven teachers, six staff, and three patrons also attended the meeting.

Minutes - Upon the motion of Mrs. Boots, seconded by Mr. Gardner, the audio/video of the February 23, 2021, and the board typed minutes of the January 27, 2021, and March 11, 2021, Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees meetings were unanimously approved.

Claims - Upon the motion of Mrs. Maggart, seconded by Mr. Poor, the following claims were unanimously approved.

Education Fund (0101).....	\$1,446,850.43
Operations Fund (0300).....	556,648.35
Food Service (0800/8400).....	86,975.29
After School Child Care (1650).....	4,448.67
Coca Cola Commissions (1700).....	10,000.00
Donation – Dell Foundation (2020).....	568.51
Extra-Curricular Activities (2300).....	49.95
Secured Schools Safety Grant (3270-3279).....	5,197.22
EOC (3319-3320).....	18,059.81
Non-English Speaking Program (3710-3719).....	1,911.81
Title I (4100-4190).....	34,776.04
Title IV Part A/SSAE (5810-5820).....	1,386.96
Title II/Pt A/Teacher Quality (6840-6849).....	772.63
Education Stabilization Relief (7941).....	30,943.85
Payroll Withholdings (9000-9999).....	397,939.64
Grand Total.....	<u>\$2,596,529.16</u>

Payroll No. 12 02-19-21

Payroll No. 13 03-05-21

Ryan Park Elementary Presentation – Ms. Heavin, gave a presentation on the great happenings in the Ryan Park Elementary “Bubble”. The goal is keeping students and staff safe while dealing with offering both in-person and virtual learning for students. Ms. Heavin talked about how the students are meeting goals and surpassing goals and the inclusion students are growing both academically and socially.

Ryan Park Elementary has been chosen by “Project Success” as a model school site for inclusion. The selection committee was made up of Indiana Department of Education staff, Purdue University professors, and current special education experts.

Ms. Heavin is impressed with the amazing work of her Ryan Park Elementary staff. Ms. Heavin thanked everyone that has supported them in this adventure as they think differently about this school year and keeping safe.

Pre-Kindergarten Program Presentation – Dr. Relue gave a presentation on a possible Pre-Kindergarten Program that could open in the fall of 2021-2022. The program will be based on the Montessori standard of learning and offered to three, four and five year olds. The cost of the program would be approximately \$130 per week. She is working on finding funds to help parents that cannot afford it. There would be before school childcare and after school childcare offered as well. Dr. Relue is sending out surveys tomorrow to will better know the needs of the community and will bring those results back to the board in April.

Mr. Gardner asked about the funding for the program. Dr. Relue responded that the startup of the program and training for teachers will come from federal grants and thereafter, the teachers’ pay and ongoing cost will be paid through the tuition. MSD might be eligible for vouchers for families that qualify.

Mr. Ridenour asked who could attend. Dr. Relue responded that the program would first be offered to students in the MSD district then offered to those in the surrounding areas provided there is enough space at Carlin Park Elementary. The goal is to start with at least four classes.

Mr. Beard asked how it differs from Head Start. Dr. Relue responded that Head Start has restrictions in terms of income eligibility, and they are restricted in what they can do programmatically.

Mr. Archbold asked if this program is separate from the voucher program. Dr. Relue responded that it is a totally separate program.

Mr. Poor asked if transportation would be provided. Dr. Relue responded that MSD would offer transportation.

Mr. Beard asked if the program would be held at one building or multiple buildings. Dr. Relue responded at this time the classes will be held only at Carlin Park Elementary. Mr. Beard has already heard people talking of this program in the public and asked what are the age cut offs and he believes it to be a good idea. Dr. Relue responded three through five year olds.

Mrs. Boots asked if additional staff would be hired. Dr. Relue responded four teachers, instructional assistants and a director would be hired for the program.

Dr. Wilson added what makes this work for MSD is that we already have the rooms available at Carlin Park Elementary. Dr. Wilson stated the next step is to survey the community and bring information back to the board in April.

Facilities Improvement Project – Dr. Wilson gave a presentation explaining that MSD could borrow up to \$5.5 million to stay below the referendum cap. General Obligation bonds gives three years to complete projects to do roof replacements, security camera upgrades, boiler upgrades, chillers, replacement of LED lighting on all of the band fields, soccer and baseball fields and running track. Separate bonds could be done for separate projects for example, solar panels and athletic facility upgrades. Dr. Wilson did recommend caution on selling naming rights to new facilities, as they would no longer be tax-exempt bonds. Dr. Wilson will update pricing from EMCOR and bring it back to the board in April for approval. Dr. Wilson stated that this is perfect timing with the debt for the Ryan Park building and the remodeling of the elementary buildings being paid off in 2025.

Mr. Ridenour asked what is the warranty on roof. Dr. Wilson responded that it is usually around twenty years but that we have about thirty years in some of them.

Board Policy #9362 (Time & Place of Board Meetings) – Second Reading – Dr. Wilson recommended approval of the proposed updated Board Policy #9362 Time & Place of Board Meetings. This updated policy changes the time of meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Board Policy #9200 (President of the Board) – Second Reading – Dr. Wilson recommended approval of the proposed updated Board Policy #9200 President of the Board. This updated policy changes the gender from “He” to “He/She”.

Board Policy #9220 (Vice-President of the Board) – Second Reading – Dr. Wilson recommended approval of the proposed updated Board Policy #9220 Vice-President of the Board. This updated policy changes the gender from “He” to “He/She”.

Board Policy #9365 (Construction of Agenda & Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials) – Second Reading – Dr. Wilson recommended approval of the proposed updated Board Policy #9365 Construction of Agenda & Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials. This updated policy changes the gender from “He” to “He/She”.

Upon the motion of Mr. Ridenour and seconded by Mr. Gardner, Board Policy #9362 Time & Place of Board Meetings; Board Policy #9200 President of the Board; Board Policy #9220 Vice-President of the Board; and #9365 Construction of Agenda & Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials were all unanimously approved by the Board.

Instructional Materials Adoption: Social Studies – Dr. Relue asked approval to adopt the K-12 Instructional Materials for Social Studies. The committee of teachers and parents have reviewed and selected the materials.

Upon the motion of Mr. Beard and seconded by Mrs. Boots, the Instructional Materials Adoption for Social Studies was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Gardner asked if the materials reviewed were the total product. Dr. Relue responded that one publisher came in late and they did go ahead and review. The committee decided to keep

their previous choice and it is a final product. Mr. Gardner asked if the committees review was a few months ago. Dr. Relue responded that the textbook process started in November and the deadline was March 5th. Mr. Gardner stated the community has approached him asking about textbooks, he would like to review the selection during the month prior to approving them. Dr. Relue replied the textbooks are available in the schools; they each have a room where the review takes place.

Mr. Archbold asked to clarify why students are charged textbook fees when books are online. Dr. Relue replied that the students are paying for the licenses for the online books as well as a share of the set of hard copy textbooks kept in the classroom for day access.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gardner and seconded by Mr. Poor, the Instructional Materials Adoption for Social Studies was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution Opposing Education Savings Accounts and Voucher Expansion – Dr. Wilson explained the Resolution Opposing Education Savings Accounts and Voucher Expansion. This resolution was developed by ISBA for public school boards to voice their concerns about the proposed increase in funding for nonpublic schools. Mr. Archbold expressed his support of the resolution. Upon the motion of Mrs. Boots and seconded by Mrs. Maggart, the Resolution Opposing Education Savings Accounts and Voucher Expansion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution Adopting Steuben County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan – Mrs. Irwin asked approval of the Resolution Adopting Steuben County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. This resolution will make MSDSC eligible to receive FEMA grants if the need would ever arise in our county. Upon the motion of Mr. Beard and seconded by Mr. Poor, the Resolution Adopting Steuben County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was unanimously approved by the Board.

Format of Board Minutes – Mr. Ridenour had requested the format of board minutes be discussed during this board meeting. Mr. Ridenour would like to see hard copies of the minutes as well as the audio/video of the minutes. Dr. Wilson recommended the board

approving Mrs. Wilson's written minutes as they had in the past, as well as the audio/video minutes. Dr. Wilson reminded the board that the written minutes are only a synopsis of the meeting and not full word for word transcription. Upon the motion of Mr. Ridenour and seconded by Mrs. Boots, written minutes being approved along with the audio/video minutes was unanimously approved by the Board.

Future Meetings –

- A. April 20, 2021, Regular Meeting, MSD Central Gymnasium, 6:30 p.m.
- B. May 18, 2021, Regular Meeting, MSD Central Gymnasium, 6:30 p.m.
- C. June 15, 2021, Regular Meeting, MSD Central Gymnasium, 6:30 p.m.

Personnel Considerations - The following leaves, resignations, and appointments were received for approval:

LEAVES:

- Amanda Simmons, Ryan Park Elementary, Kindergarten Teacher, Effective May 3, 2021 through the end of 2020-2021 school year.
- Julia Spivey, Ryan Park Elementary, K-2 Mild Interventions Teacher, Effective May 24, 2021 through the end of 2020-2021 school year.

RESIGNATIONS:

- Nicki Thomas, Carlin Park Elementary, Food Service, Effective February 24, 2021
- Clay Staulters, District, Bus Driver, Effective March 02, 2021
- Samantha Newhard, Hendry Park Elementary, Science Fair Co-Coordinator
- Tamara Steffel, Hendry Park Elementary, Science Fair Co-Coordinator

APPOINTMENTS:

- Sarah Clary, Pleasant Lake Elementary, Summer School Teacher
- Alexis Elwood, Pleasant Lake Elementary, Summer School Teacher
- Jeannine Leiter, Angola High School, 2021-2022 Industrial Tech and Math Teacher
- Crystal Johnson, Hendry Park Elementary, English Learner Instructional Assistant
- Tamara Elwood, District, Social and Emotional Learning Coordinator
- Stephanie Gaff, Angola High School, 3rd Assistant Track Co-Coach
- Troy Smith, Angola High School, 3rd Assistant Track Co-Coach
- Eric Yoder, Angola Middle School, 3rd Assistant Track Coach

Upon the motion of Mr. Poor and seconded Mrs. Maggart, the above listed leaves, resignations, and appointments were unanimously approved by the Board.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Wilson reported that 116 MSD employees received the first dose of the COVID vaccine through the Meijer offer. Dr. Wilson wished everyone a great Spring Break!

Board Member Communications – Mr. Archbold stated that there is light at the end of the tunnel with vaccines and staff staying healthy.

Mr. Gardner shared that during the past 6 months to a year there have been several allegations circulating, rather serious, that justify the board taking a closer look in its oversight role and Mr. Gardner made a motion to look into issues of potential employee misconduct using whatever measures necessary, seconded by Mr. Archbold. Mr. Poor stated that is pretty broad.

Mr. Beard asked is something being brought up by the supervisor. Mr. Archbold responded no, it's something that cannot be discussed in an open session and that he was just made aware of a couple things that Mr. Gardner brought it to his attention and it needs to be looked into and to get advice from outside parties of what should be done.

Mr. Beard asked if this would qualify for review in an executive session. Mr. Archbold responded that is where it would head to at that point.

Mr. Ridenour asked why a motion and second is needed when it is the board responsibility to begin with. Mr. Archbold stated that it requires a board vote to actually move forward on something, and that he cannot look into something necessarily in the capacity of his own being. It has to be a board decision and that is why it has to be done in this setting. Mr. Ridenour stated he was not familiar with any of it. Mr. Archbold if it is any misconduct is done, then it would be brought back to the entire board to look at, but if it is nothing, then it goes away and it is done. So it's not a public sense. Mrs. Boots stated it is more for due diligence for the board.

Mr. Archbold stated that the last year as been a lot of B.S. in his opinion, stupid lawsuits, things happening nonstop that totally disrupt everything that they are supposed to be doing for the children and taxpayers. If something illegal is done, then they should be called out on it, not saying that someone did, but there is a lot of hearsay out there of things that have happened over the last few years. Mr. Archbold asked for a motion.

Mr. Ridenour asked what the motion is. Mr. Archbold responded the motion would be for the board to look into possible employee misconduct. Mr. Poor stated that is too broad, if you had something specific. He is not going to raise his hand to say yes to a, if it is too broad. Mr. Archbold responded that he does not see how it could be too broad if something illegal was done. Mr. Gardner responded employee misconduct really is as specific as we would want to get tonight because we do not want name names. There are allegations and that is all they are now but they should not be ignored and employee misconduct is as specific as we can be. Mr. Archbold stated someone or some people are being accused of something that he is not comfortable with. Mrs. Boots stated its need to be discussed in an executive session. Mr. Archbold stated they are following the guidance from the ISBA attorneys to get board approval to look into it. If something is found then it will become public.

Mr. Beard asked when this was brought up. Mr. Archbold responded three months ago was the first he heard something. Mr. Beard stated that an agenda was posted and nothing was included on the agenda. Mr. Archbold responded that yesterday is when he was given advice on how to handle it.

Mr. Ridenour stated that if it is illegal, why did they wait until a board meeting to approve looking into something like that. Mr. Archbold responded that it would take a different set of attorneys to look at it. It cannot involve any current litigation that is going on right now. This is a totally separate issue. Mrs. Boots seconded at least review, have the executive session, have the discussion. Mr. Archbold stated as a board, no matter what they feel is right, wrong, what side you like, sharing out there talking from an ethical standpoint, they have to maintain board confidentiality, be professional and responsible on this.

Mr. Archbold took Mrs. Boots second and asked for all in favor. The vote was four (Archbold, Gardner, Maggart and Books) to three (Poor, Ridenour and Beard) for the investigation.

Mr. Beard stated he is not against looking into allegations, just the circumstances in which it is being presented. He thinks a supervisor would take the lead and bring it to the board

executive session for further review. Mr. Archbold stated that depending on the allegations it can't. Mr. Beard stated that it appears certain members of the board know more than others and questioned why. Mr. Poor also asked why. Mr. Archbold responded that it comes down to trust and being kept between two people. Mr. Poor disagrees with it and it is not appropriate. Mr. Archbold stated that all information would be shared with the remainder of the board once they have counsel.

Mr. Ridenour congratulated Mr. Lantz, Mr. Heavin, and Mrs. Irwin, on AHS athletic sectional and state wins. Mr. Ridenour also congratulated Mr. Heavin for taking action to bring students back to school that are failing the virtual learning.

Mrs. Boots congratulated everyone on the science fair.

Patron Comments – Mrs. Fulton stated it has been one year since COVID virtual learning started. Mrs. Fulton thanked teachers, principals and board for all they have done.

Mr. Heavin thanked Mr. Ridenour for recognizing Mr. Lantz and Mrs. Irwin. Mr. Heavin thanked Dr. Wilson for supporting his decision to bring back students. Mrs. Irwin had received five BARK alerts for suicide and he went to Dr. Wilson to bring students back.

Mr. Archbold asked if any discussions about virtual for the fourth quarter. Dr. Wilson responded that only the high school. Mr. Heavin reported that there are 180 virtual students and 135 failing letters were sent home. Eight doctor's notes were received that students cannot come back due to medical reasons. Mrs. Maggart asked if students shouldn't be back. Mr. Heavin responded yes unless they have doctors note. Mrs. Maggart asked what can be done. Mr. Heavin responded they are doing everything they can. Mrs. Irwin stated that it is very hard for some students to come back socially. Mrs. Maggart asked what can parents do. Mr. Heavin responded parents are doing their best.

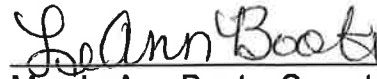
Mrs. Boots asked how many early graduates they had. Mr. Heavin responded the numbers are low for early graduates, only about eight or ten students.

Adjournment – Upon the motion of Mr. Ridenour, seconded by Mr. Gardner, the meeting was

adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory Archbold', written above a horizontal line.

Mr. Cory Archbold, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LeAnn Boots', written above a horizontal line.

Mrs. LeAnn Boots, Secretary