

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF  
CLAY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

A regular session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN 47834, on Thursday, December 10, 2020. Kevin Kumpf, Michael Shaw, Lynn Romas, Charley Jackson, Andrea Baysinger, Tom Reberger, and Amy Burke Adams were present.

Prior to the Call to Order, bids were opened for school buses as well as for the Northview High School bleacher project. For school buses, bids were received from MacAllister and Midwest Transit. Director of Extended Services Jesse Trunnell noted that he had looked into a co-op this year, and he did have pricing from the co-op. All bus bids listed below were per bus.

<b><u>School Buses</u></b>	<b>78 passenger Base Price</b>	<b>Options (All)</b>	<b>48 passenger w/liftgate Base Price</b>	<b>Options (All)</b>	<b>Total Trade Allowance</b>
<b>MACALLISTER (BLUE BIRD)</b>	\$98,334.00	\$114,707.20	\$110,574.00	\$126,399.20	\$46,260.00
<b>MIDWEST TRANSIT (IC)</b>	\$97,085.00	\$111,366.00	\$102,575.00	\$116,320.00	\$29,250.00

<b><u>NHS Bleachers</u></b>	<b>Bleachers - Delivered/Installed</b>	<b>Removal/Disposal of Existing Stands</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>LEE COMPANY (Hussey Seating)</b>	\$336,470.40	\$81,144.00	\$417,614.40
<b>TOADVINE ENTERPRISES (Interkal Seating)</b>	\$281,540.00	\$34,475.00	\$316,015.00
<b>IRWIN SEATING COMPANY</b>	\$247,857.00	\$42,845.00	\$290,702.92

Bids will be reviewed, and a recommendation will be brought back to a subsequent meeting.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Board President Tom Reberger led those in attendance in the pledge, and Superintendent Fritz offered the prayer.

**II. Consent Agenda**

**A. Claims**

**B. Board Meetings**

Regular Session Minutes for November 12, 2020

**C. Field Trips**

None at this meeting

**D. Personnel**

**A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

1. Certified

a. FMLA/Maternity

ME

Katie Cowden

b. FMLA

NCMS

Aimee Wyeth

2. Non-Certified

a. FMLA

FPE

Brenda Thacker

b. FMLA

NCMS

Jada Butts

c. Employee Not Eligible for Leave

ME

Janis Fabbri

d. FMLA

NCMS

James Haggart

<b>B. RETIREMENTS</b>		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
3. Place on Retirement Index	None	
<b>C. RESIGNATIONS</b>		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified		
a. 185-day Custodian	VBE	Aaliyha Ballinger
b. 185-day Custodian	CCHS	Lexi Haviland
c. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	NCMS	Lisa Wilson
d. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	JTE	Adaria Warner
e. 29-hour Instructional Assistant	FPE	Autumn Mullenix
3. ECA Resignations	None	
4. ECA Lay Coaches	None	
<b>D. TRANSFERS</b>		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
<b>E. EMPLOYMENT</b>		
1. Certified		
a. Business Teacher DC/Computer	NCMS	Rebecca Milner
2. Non-Certified		
a. 185-day Custodian	CCHS	Laurie McQueen
b. Bus Driver	TRANS	Catherine Garrett
<b>F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR</b>		
1. Extra-Curricular Certified	None	
2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified	None	
3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach		
a. Elementary Sport	CCE	Ethan Rogers
4. Supplemental		
a. Elementary Sport	CCE	Caden Cannon
<b>G. CHANGES</b>		
1. Certified	None	
2. Non-Certified	None	
3. ECA-Lay Coaches	None	
<b>H. VOLUNTEERS</b>		
1. CLASSROOM	None	
2. ATHLETICS/ECA		
<u>Clay City Elementary</u>		
a. Patti Walters – Girls Basketball		
<u>Clay City Jr/Sr High School</u>		
a. Kyler Rhodes –Boys Basketball		
b. Caitlyn Jordan – Girls Basketball		

Northview High School

- a. Billy Pettiford – Boys Basketball
- b. Troy Batchelor – Girls’ Basketball

North Clay Middle School

- a. Tom Mace – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball

I. TERMINATIONS

None

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the consent agenda items. Mrs. Baysinger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

III. Comments from Patrons

None at this meeting

IV. Old Business

A. **Board Policy 9410 – Gifts and Donations to the School Corporation – Removal – Second Reading**

Mr. Reberger noted that, as had been discussed during the November 12 regular session board meeting, it had been discovered that there were two board policies that were virtually the same. The recommendation had been to remove one of the policies in order to eliminate the redundancy.

Mr. Romas moved to remove Board Policy 9410 – Gifts and Donations to the School Corporation. Mr. Kumpf seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

V. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- New hires Rebecca Milner, Laurie McQueen, and Catherine Garrett were welcomed to the school family.
- Noting that everyone was very glad to be back in school, Superintendent Fritz pointed out that employees continued to do a lot of hard work; he thanked them for that and for all they have done with students and parents during eLearning.
- A letter from Riley Hospital was read by Superintendent Fritz. The letter was from the statewide Kids Caring and Sharing program that supports Riley Hospital for Children. The letter read as follows: “Despite unusual circumstances due to the public health crisis, I am honored to share that your school corporation achieved Riley Corporation status in Giving Year 2019-2020. Congratulations. This accomplishment speaks volumes about what is important to your school community, and we are very appreciative.” A certificate had been sent along with the letter and will be posted at Central Office.
- Northview High School teacher Jill Conner, who was in attendance, was congratulated by Superintendent Fritz for being named as a 2020 McDonald’s “Teach it Forward” Outstanding Educator for extraordinary efforts during the pandemic. Mrs. Conner was one of 14 teachers chosen out of 900 nominees.
- On behalf of the administration, Superintendent Fritz thanked Kevin Kumpf for all of the work he had done for Clay Community Schools. He added that it had been a pleasure to serve under Mr. Kumpf.

- Noting that it was a great time of the year to be with kids during the holiday season, Superintendent Fritz wished everyone a Merry Christmas, on behalf of Clay Community Schools, the administration, and his family.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Capital Projects Fund Plan Resolution**

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the 2021 Capital Projects Fund Plan Resolution. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

### **B. Bus Replacement Plan Resolution**

Mr. Kumpf moved to approve the 2021 Bus Replacement Plan Resolution. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

### **C. Request for Permission to Solicit Proposals for CCS Operating Account**

Director of Business Affairs Mark Shayotovich sought permission to solicit proposals from local banks to service the corporation's operating checking account. Clay Community Schools must end its current relationship with Fifth Third Bank due to the closing of their local branch. State law requires the corporation's operating funds to be deposited and serviced by a bank that operates a branch within the political subdivision.

Mr. Romas moved to approve the recommendation to grant permission to solicit proposals for the CCS Operating Account. Mrs. Baysinger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

### **D. Consideration to Name North Clay Middle School Assistant Principal**

The administration recommended Mrs. Bethany Jones to fill the position of North Clay Middle School assistant principal. The assignment consists of a 200-day contract, with salary and benefits as addressed in the Administrator's handbook and a start date at the beginning of the second semester.

Mr. Kumpf moved to approve Mrs. Bethany Jones as North Clay Middle School assistant principal. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

### **E. Roadmap Update**

Superintendent Fritz provided an overview of where the corporation had been, where it currently is, and where it is going. He noted that Clay County had gone into the "red" status on November 11, and on November 12 the school corporation had gone to eLearning for a couple of weeks. Superintendent Fritz observed that it had probably been a good call to do so because over the next couple of weeks there had been an influx of employees who either tested positive or were out through contact tracing; that would have made it very hard in most schools to keep them going. Clay County has since returned to "orange" status, where it remains, and on December 7<sup>th</sup>, buildings were re-opened. So far, it has gone well. The goal has been and continues to be to keep the doors open. There are obviously a lot of moving parts, and safety is the #1 issue. Staffing and working with the recommendations of the health department will dictate a lot of this. Review of the roadmap continues, and changes will be happening over the next few days due to the governor's directives. It continues to be a very fluid

process. Superintendent Fritz pointed out that the governor yesterday had issued some new leeway for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, which will give the school corporation some pretty good options to keep those going if the county moves into “red”. Athletic directors and administrators had worked on that today and hope to get those changes solidified and ready to go by next week. Any additional changes will be brought back to the Board in January.

#### **F. CCS Virtual Academy Policy Updates**

The updates to the CCS Virtual Academy Policy had been included in the board packet, and approval was recommended.

Mr. Romas moved to approve the updates. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

#### **G. Elementary Chromebook and T-Mobile Grant**

Director of Technology Bill Milner provided an update on the elementary Chromebooks; he noted that the Chromebooks had arrived on Thursday, December 3, with distribution to Virtual Academy students occurring on Friday. They had then processed Chromebooks for the elementary schools, completing two schools per day. All elementary students are expected to have their Chromebooks by Friday, December 11. An additional 39 Chromebooks have not yet been delivered and are expected next week; however, at this time they are spares and won't impact any students. They will be getting rid of all of the old laptops.

Mr. Milner has been in talks with T-Mobile in regard to their Project 10Million, which is a program where they provide schools access points at no cost (limited to 100 Gigs). The school corporation qualified for 402 free hot spots, and he did enter into that agreement. Mr. Milner placed an order for 200 to start with, and once those have been used up, the additional 202 can be asked for. It is hoped that will help with the parents that don't have Internet access or can't afford it.

#### **H. CCHS Gym Restrooms**

Director of Extended Services Jesse Trunnell stated that he had reached out to Garmong Services, which was the company that had done the building upgrades for Clay City. The scope of the work would include 14 water closets, 8 urinals, and 7 new lavatories. It would be the same footprint, with new plumbing within the restroom and out from the restroom. The cost was estimated to be \$208,394 to renovate the men's and women's restrooms for the gymnasium.

Superintendent Fritz followed up on Mr. Trunnell's comments by stating that during the building project, there had been discussions on this. All of the restrooms in the school itself had been renovated. There had been a certain amount of dollars to spend, and it was felt that the gym restrooms were out of the scope of what could be spent. With everything that is going on right now, they would like to continue to put that on hold, just to see how things go and to budget for it in the future.

Another part of the reason for not renovating the gym restrooms sooner was that, after meeting with people from Clay City High School who were involved with that design

team when the Clay City gym was initially renovated, there had been a proposal to take out the bleachers and put in new bleachers. They had pushed back on that because the bleachers were part of the culture and the history of that gym. Although it might sound a little funny, the restrooms are too; they are the old tile restrooms, and that is part of the integrity of the gymnasium. That is another reason it had been decided to not touch the gym restrooms at this time.

Mrs. Adams shared her opinion that, even if the Board chose to go through with it now, the school corporation would be on a long waiting list because construction right now is actually booming in this economy. There probably would not be a choice other than to put it off for a while.

#### **I. Presentation of Plaque to Outgoing Board Member**

Board President Tom Reberger stated that it was his honor to present the plaque to outgoing board member Kevin Kumpf in recognition of his service as a member of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees. He added that Mr. Kumpf's work had been greatly appreciated.

#### **VII. Board Member Comments**

**Kevin Kumpf** offered congratulations to the new employees. He shared that he had enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to serve on the school board for Clay Community Schools and to serve the people of Clay County. Mr. Kumpf noted that he appreciated all the employees; he had always said the school corporation had more than its share of great people working for the corporation, and he wished them the best. **Michael Shaw** also welcomed the new hires. He offered his thanks to Mr. Kumpf for his service; he deemed him to have been an outstanding board member, and it had been his pleasure to serve with him. Dr. Shaw concluded his comments by wishing the whole Clay Community Schools system a safe and happy holiday.

**Lynn Romas** offered congratulations to Jill Conner for her award, which he believed was quite an honor. He wished Bethany Jones good luck in her new challenging position. Mr. Romas then thanked everybody for keeping this ball rolling in a very challenging time and doing a great job.

**Charley Jackson** added his welcome to the new hires. He congratulated Bethany Jones; he was sure she would do a good job. He also congratulated Jill Conner for her award. Mr. Jackson next thanked Mr. Kumpf for all the time he had spent as a board member and for doing a good job for the Board. To conclude, Mr. Jackson wished everybody happy and safe holidays.

**Andrea Baysinger** thanked Mr. Kumpf. She commented that she had been a new board member when Mr. Kumpf was in the leadership position of board president, and she appreciated everything he had done to guide those new board members. Also, she congratulated Bethany Jones. Mrs. Baysinger then shared her appreciation for securing additional hot spots for Internet service.

**Amy Burke Adams** welcomed new hire Rebecca Milner and offered her congratulations. She thanked Jill Conner; she thought it was fantastic that Mrs. Conner had received recognition as an outstanding teacher by McDonald's. To Bethany Jones, she offered congratulations. She next thanked and wanted to recognize all of the teachers for their hard work and what they are doing; she especially wanted to commend the teachers that are really good about providing feedback to the children and

in a very timely manner. For Mr. Kumpf, she offered congratulations for his retirement from the Board; she knew he would still contribute. She commented that it had been a pleasure serving alongside him and learning from him. She added that he brought a lot to the Board with his service to the school family for so many years. He will be missed and his effects will be long felt. Mrs. Adams offered her thanks for the Christmas cards she had been sent, and she wished a Merry Christmas to all as well as a safe Happy New Year. She feels fortunate to part of this community.

**Tom Reberger** referred to the “moving target” of COVID-19; we have a plan, and that plan is very fluid. It works on all, including board members with concerns about making the right decisions and the superintendent because the ball stops there. The Board wants to support the superintendent, the teachers, and the parents. Mr. Reberger noted that eLearning is not easy for parents regardless of the age level of the student. There is a lot of stress and a lot of tension, and our community is dealing with it. He commended the community for doing that and adapting. From a Christmas standpoint, this is the first Christmastime in years that there hasn't been a Christmas Spectacular at Northview High School, and it won't be the same. Also, there had not been many basketball games. Everything is different, but we'll get through it because we're tough. For Mr. Kumpf, he commented that Mr. Kumpf had started out at Staunton High School then had gone across the county and started teaching at Van Buren. He had then filled many different positions, including coach and athletic director. As board president, Mr. Reberger remembered going to Indianapolis with Mr. Kumpf to ISBA conferences because he wanted to know what was going on and wanted to do the best job he possibly could do. Mr. Kumpf led the Board as president for two years, during the building project for the high schools. As a parent as well as a board member, Mr. Kumpf was a booster, including band and sports booster. Mr. Reberger deemed Mr. Kumpf to be a true advocate for Clay Community Schools.

#### **VIII. Future Agenda Items**

None at this meeting

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

The meeting was audio recorded and copies may be requested by contacting the Central Administration Office.