

**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, June 10, 2021. Ryan Keller, Michael Shaw, Lynn Romas, Charley Jackson, Tom Reberger and Amy Burke Adams were present. Andrea Baysinger was absent.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 May 13, 2021

Executive Session Certification for May 13, 2021

C. Field Trips

Clay City Jr/Sr High School FFA to Decatur, IL, August 31, 2021, to attend the Farm Progress Show, requiring out-of-state travel.

D. Personnel

A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. Certified

a. FMLA	ESE	Lisa Coughanowr
b. FMLA	ESE	Ashley Brown
c. FMLA	CCHS	Deanne Blankenship

2. Non-Certified

a. FMLA	NHS	James Bush Sr.
b. Medical	ESE	Judy Morlan
c. Not Eligible for Leave	FPE	Margie Warner

B. RETIREMENTS

1. Certified None

2. Non-Certified

a. Bus Driver	TRANS	Lyle Doug Rolison
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3. Place on Retirement Index None

C. RESIGNATIONS

1. Certified

a. Science Teacher (May 25, 2021)	NCMS	Macie Steele
b. Band Teacher (May 25, 2021)	NCMS	Adam Rice
c. Elementary Teacher (May 26, 2021)	JTE	Shasta Payton

2. Non-Certified

a. Bus Mechanic (June 30, 2021)	TRANS	Howard Hughes
b. IA (May 14, 2021)	ME	Sherry Lewis

3. ECA Resignations None

4. ECA Lay Coaches None

D. TRANSFERS

- 1. Certified
 - a. SPED Coordinator SPED Sarah Goda
- 2. Non-Certified
 - a. 185-day Custodian NHS Stephen Gilbert
 - b. Custodian (185 day) VBE Kelly Horsley

E. EMPLOYMENT

- 1. Certified
 - a. Math 7 Teacher NCMS Madison McDonald
 - b. Social Studies 7 Teacher NCMS Kyndall Boyll
 - c. Chemistry Teacher NHS Khristen Phillips
 - d. SPED Teacher NHS Aaron Edwards
 - e. Deaf or Hard of Hearing Teacher SPED Jill Brush
- 2. Non-Certified
 - a. Evening Custodian (185 day) VBE Gregory Wetnight
 - b. Bus Mechanic (260 day) TRANS Albert Head
- 3. Supplemental None

F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- 1. Extra-Curricular Certified
- 2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified
- 3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach
 - a. JV Baseball CCHS Ryne Hayes
- 4. Supplemental None

G. CHANGES

- 1. Certified None
- 2. Non-Certified None
- 3. ECA-Lay Coaches None

H. VOLUNTEERS

- 1. CLASSROOM None
- 2. ATHLETICS/ECA None

I. TERMINATIONS

None

J. NON-RENEWAL

None

Mr. Jackson moved to accept the consent agenda items. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

III. Comments from Patrons

Cindy Haseman, Marie Beckley, Jennie Lynch, Jennifer Hayes, Ryleigh Hayes, Shawn Royer, Jerry Siddons, Carrie Siples, and Nathan Probst all shared their concerns with requiring students to wear masks. The speakers pointed out the negative effects of mask wearing and urged the Board to not require either masks or the COVID-19 vaccine for the 2021-22 school year.

At the conclusion of Comments from Patrons, Superintendent Fritz shared that he understood and appreciated all of the comments and concerns. He noted that there had been similar dialogue in his office with the district team as well as around his dinner table at home. He then stated that the administration had been very active in regard to contacts and relationships with not only local but also state health officials and had worked very closely with them.

Superintendent Fritz stressed that there had been no discussion at all of vaccinating students; he pointed out that other school corporations had vaccination facilities in their school system, which is something this school corporation will not do. Mrs. Stoelting was recognized by Superintendent Fritz as not only the school corporation's head nurse but also a former president of the state school nurse association who is very active in the local health organization and the state organization; there had been dialogue between Mrs. Stoelting and Superintendent Fritz, and they had been in total agreement that this is not something that would be done in our school system, nor would there be a push for parents to get their children vaccinated. That is a parent choice and is not something he would want to recommend from his office.

It was noted that as of June 10, 2021, the school corporation was still under an executive order. The governor said school corporations were going to wear masks, and, because this is a public school funded by public dollars, when the governor or the Department of Education mandates something, Superintendent Fritz does not have the option of saying he wasn't going to follow that mandate.

At the end of the month, the mask decision is supposed to be opened up to local control, but there is no guarantee the mask mandate won't be extended. Superintendent Fritz is looking forward to the time when the governor gives control back to local decision-makers regarding masks. He noted that the administration had leaned heavily into local and state health officials.

Referencing the road map that had been developed during the 2020-21 school year, Superintendent Fritz deemed it to be the hardest document he had ever worked on. Overall, being able to keep our schools open, except for a couple of weeks in November and December when eLearning had been used, had pleased Superintendent Fritz because he didn't know what was going to happen going in to the school year.

The administration will be watching to see what the governor and the DOE does. It appears to be going in the right direction, but if there is a mandate to continue the use of masks, that is what will be done. If masks are made optional, that is what Superintendent Fritz would rather do, and that is the plan at this point.

Superintendent Fritz then noted that there would be two board meetings in July. The mask mandate will be on the agenda, and it is his hope that more flexibility can be provided and it can be made optional. He stressed that the concerns of the patrons in attendance were the same concerns that had been discussed in his office.

Mr. Reberger stated that, as president of the Board, he had been happy to hear their concerns, and he was sure the Board shared those concerns. He asked those in

attendance to remember that it was not “you against us”; we’re all on the same page. The fact that they had voiced their concerns would have a big impact on what the Board would do. Superintendent Fritz added that they would season the decision with a lot of common sense.

Patrons also raised the issues of transgender bathrooms and critical race theory, to which Mr. Reberger responded by stating that those were topics that would be taken up at a later time.

To close comments from patrons, one individual shared that she personally knew a lot of the school board members and had three kids in the school corporation. The patrons were coming to the Board asking them to protect their children; they were not against the board members in any way. She thanked the Board and expressed her appreciation for everything the Board does. Mr. Reberger thanked her for her support and stated that the issue would be worked out together.

IV. Old Business

A. Athletic Secretary Job Description – Second Reading

Mr. Keller moved to approve the athletic secretary job description. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

B. Administrator Handbook Revisions – Second Reading

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the administrator handbook revisions. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

C. Student Handbooks Changes – Second Reading

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the changes to the student handbooks. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Following the vote, Mr. Keller asked for clarification on one item: Was the fever-free return-to-school policy changing from 24 hours to 72 hours? Superintendent Fritz confirmed that it was. Mr. Keller then asked to clarify whether an outbreak of flu or other communicable disease would be a fixed time that would be widely communicated and declared and whether the fever-free requirement would be 72 hours at all times or only during an outbreak. Corporation Nurse Lynn Stoelting clarified that the intent was for it to remain at 24 hours under normal conditions. It would only go to 72 hours if there was high spread of any communicable disease and would be recommended by the Indiana State Department of Health. If over 30% of the student population is out, the Department of Health sometimes provides recommendations to follow.

V. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- A welcome to the school family was extended to new hires Madison McDonald, Kyndall Boyll, Kristen Phillips, Aaron Edwards, Jill Brush, Gregory Wetnight, and Albert Head.
- Remembrance in prayer was requested for Dr. Tim Rayle and Mrs. Karen Phillips due to the loss of Dr. Rayle’s father and Mrs. Phillips’ mother.

- The Northview High School gymnasium bleacher project is underway; a lot of demolition has been completed, and new material has arrived. Superintendent Fritz believed it to be a great addition to that school.
- A shout-out was given to the high school athletic teams. For Northview, this had been the most successful school year ever, with 9 WIC championships, 7 sectional championships, and team championships in boys tennis, girls soccer, boys cross country, girls cross country, boys basketball, softball, and baseball. There were also a lot of individual qualifiers, both with sectional wins and regional wins as well as a regional qualifier in girls golf and team regional champions in girls cross country and softball. For Clay City, several individuals were regional qualifiers for track as well as qualifiers for semi-state, regional, and SWIAC. The boys golf team was the SWIAC champion, and girls softball was to play for the state championship on Friday evening.

VI. New Business

A. CARES, ESSER II, & ESSER III Report

Director of Business Affairs Mark Shayotovich provided the Board with a PowerPoint report regarding plans for CARES, ESSER II, and ESSER III funding. A copy of the report will become a part of the official minutes.

B. Master Teacher Contract MOU – Stipend – ESSER II

The MOU with the Clay Community Classroom Teachers Association was necessary to provide a \$1,250.00 teacher stipend for extra duties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. ESSER II money is to be used to pay for this stipend.

Mr. Jackson moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

C. Employee Stipend Resolution

The resolution was necessary to provide stipends for all non-teacher employees for extra duties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. ESSER II money is to be used to pay for the majority of these stipends.

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the Employee Stipend Resolution. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

D. YMCA Presentation

YMCA representative Nicole Fry presented information to the Board regarding a youth athletic feeder-system program that is being planned for the 2021-22 school year. In her presentation, she stated that the program would partner the school corporation with the YMCA in hosting elementary school-age sports programs. The goal is to start with basketball in the fall for girls and boys in fourth and fifth grades in each of the elementary schools. Volunteers, including parents, from the schools would be needed to serve as coaches for the teams. The plan is for the schools to play each other, with practices after school. It is unknown at this time if the fourth and fifth grades would be combined or if each grade would have its own team; it will depend upon the number of students participating. It is possible that school teams might be combined if a school

does not have a sufficient number of students who wish to play. The YMCA would provide officials, volunteers, a sports coordinator, awards, and uniforms and would coordinate the schedules and provide the equipment. Also, the Y would carry a certificate of insurance, which they do for the after-school programs and the summer day camps. The Y would ask the school corporation to provide access to facilities and communication with families. Registration and promotion of the program would run through the Y. High school student athletes could volunteer to work with the elementary kids, which would provide role models and get kids excited to play when they reach high school age. Access to scoreboards would be needed. A consideration would be to have gate fees, which would offset costs, such as custodians, for the school corporation. The Y would take care of background checks for anybody that would be in the school buildings volunteering, outside of what the school corporation is doing. It would also “roll with the punches” for whatever COVID-19 might bring for next school year. It is hoped that there could be an end-of-year tournament or game hosted at one of the high schools. After working out any potential kinks with basketball, the plan would be to add volleyball and soccer in the future. The hope is to strengthen and give more opportunities for kids to play with their peers and get them more excited about playing as they progress to middle school and high school.

Scott Buell, the Northview/North Clay athletic director, commented that Coach Keyes and Coach Byrum were really excited about being a part of this. They want to take their athletes to the elementary schools to have them teaching and start their system at a younger age.

E. Request to Purchase John Deere Gator for Northview High School

Mr. Keller moved to approve the purchase of a 2020 John Deere Gator for Northview High School, at the discounted price of \$6,399.00, using athletic department money. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

F. Request to Accept Donation of Storage Building for NHS

Mr. Romas moved to accept the donation from Great Dane of a 12' x 16' Wrangler Storage Building for Northview High School. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

G. Request to Accept Donation for New Hurdles for CCHS

Mr. Keller moved to accept the donation of \$2,400.00 each from Iron Horse Detailing and the Clay City Sports Boosters to the school's athletic department to purchase 40 hurdles. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

VII. Board Member Comments

Ryan Keller offered a welcome to new hires Kyndall Boyll and Jill Brush who were in attendance at the meeting. Also, he commented regarding the coaching staffs and athletic directors and the support from administrators and teachers that had led to the phenomenal job being done by the schools' athletic teams this year. Mr. Keller added that he was thrilled about partnering with the YMCA for the youth sports program; he believed it would help build even a stronger community than what we currently have in Clay County. Mr. Keller appreciated everybody coming to the meeting.

Michael Shaw added his welcome to Kyndall Boyll and Jill Brush. He believed the school corporation should work really hard to make the YMCA partnership happen to bring youth sports back. In regard to the great athletic year, Dr. Shaw noted that the culture had changed from when he moved here 25 years ago; at that time, the schools lost regularly to the Terre Haute teams, which was something that was expected. We are there now, as far as competing with those teams, and it is not just a hit-or-miss thing. He believed the Board should appreciate what the community came out and said tonight. To him, the message was pretty clear, and that is the message that he gets in his practice. Dr. Shaw anticipates being able to vote on that at the next board meeting.

Lynn Romas also welcomed Kyndall Boyll and Jill Brush. He commented that it was good to see people coming out to express their opinions. Also, he thanked the YMCA for what they were doing.

Charley Jackson welcomed all new hires. He offered congratulations to the Clay City softball team for going to the state finals. He thanked Great Dane and Iron Horse Detailing for their donations. He also thanked Nicole Fry for all she does for the YMCA. In addition, Mr. Jackson thanked Bill Milner and Mark Shayotovich for going above and beyond in their position and doing a fantastic job. To conclude his comments, he thanked this Board for doing a good job and the community for coming out tonight and telling the Board what they would like for the Board to do, if it can be done.

Amy Adams welcomed Kyndall Boyll and Jill Brush and all of the new hires. Thanks were offered to Nicole Fry by Mrs. Adams; she is excited about the sports program and willing to help out in any way. Thanks were also offered by Mrs. Adams to the community for coming out; she believed it was always good to hear what the parents had to say. She also commented on wrapping up what she deemed to be a fantastic school year, in spite of the challenges.

Tom Reberger commented in regard to attending the graduation ceremonies, which he described as being fabulous; he noted how well behaved, respectful, and sincere the crowd had been. In addition to the passing of Dr. Rayle's father and Mrs. Phillips' mother, Mr. Reberger noted the passing of former board member Buz Burgess. Mr. Burgess had also previously been the principal at Van Buren High School and was a very well-respected gentleman in the community.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

None at this meeting.

IX. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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