The Warrick County Board of School Trustees met in regular session on April 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Center with all members present. President Gary Hachmeister called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence to remember the family of Board member Brenda Metzger, whose husband, Harlen Metzger, passed away last week. Also, to remember the family of Board member Candace Nance, whose niece, Brietta Stafford, passed away last week. The moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports

Superintendent Schneider said it is a pleasure tonight to honor and recognize the state champion archery team from Castle High School. Mr. Schneider asked Coach Mark Zwilling to come forward and talk about the season and introduce the students.

Coach Zwilling said Castle High School Principal, Mr. Doug Gresham, is also at tonight’s meeting. He introduced the students: Lauren Bradley, Christopher Brake, Brian Chandley, Adam Cron, George Crone, Kate Dowell, Maddie Hardin, Ashley Hodges, Carson Klaus, Madeline Larrison, Logan Love, Kyli Miles, Jarred Miller, Jordan O’Neal, Noah Theiring, Nicole Theriac, Aaron Voges, and Emma Tisserand. Coach Zwilling introduced the coaches: Greg and Jama Ashley, Gary and Andrea Pullum, and Rochelle Fichtor.

The Castle High School Archery Team was the overall state champion, and has won eight out of the last nine state archery championships. There were thirty-nine high schools that competed at the state finals. Boonville High School finished 4th this year, Castle High School Team #2 finished 8th and Tecumseh High School finished in 19th place. At the middle school level, Castle North Middle School Team #1 won the state championship. The Boonville Middle School Team #1 finished 5th, the Castle South Middle School team finished 7th, and Tecumseh Junior High School finished in 13th place. The Castle North Middle School Team #2 finished 15th and Boonville Middle School Team #2 finished in 21st place. Individually, Castle High School did not have anyone place in the top 10; however, Coach Zwilling said they have a very strong team. Shelby Caton from Boonville High School and Jackson O’Bryan from Castle North Middle School tied for first place overall in the boys division. Individually for the girls, Boonville High School students Willow Krantz placed 2nd and Rachel Clark placed 4th. Coach Zwilling said archery is a growing program. Castle High School has 115 archers on their team, Castle North Middle School has 110, Castle South Middle School has 112, and Tecumseh Jr./Sr. High School has 60. Boonville High School and Boonville Middle School combined have over 100 archers. He said archery is a unique sport because boys and girls compete equally side by side. Coach Zwilling thanked the Board for inviting the archery team to be recognized.
Mr. Schneider congratulated the Castle High School Archery Team on their state championship. He thanked them for representing their school and the school corporation in such an exemplary manner.

**Patron Concerns**

Jim Miller, 1612 South Rockport Road, Boonville, Indiana, science teacher and science department chairperson at Boonville High School. He comes to the meeting tonight because some of the information presented at previous Board meetings concerning the grading policy is incorrect, and he would like to correct those mistakes.

At the Board meeting on January 19, 2015, the minutes stated that a syllabus from a class at Boonville High School and the syllabus from the same class at another high school were presented. Mr. Miller stated that the Boonville High School syllabus was for Biology I Advanced, a freshman level class, and the other syllabus presented was for AP Biology, a junior/senior level advanced class. He said, “It would be impossible to compare syllabi from these two classes since they teach a different level of student and a different subject matter.” Next, it was stated at the January 19th meeting that students are penalized for minor grammatical errors. Mr. Miller said, “These are writing assignments required by our school improvement committee that specifically grade the ability of our students to communicate efficiently through writing. This includes grammar and spelling which are part of the corporation grading policy.” It was also stated at this meeting that the grade was not reflective of the student’s work. Mr. Miller said it is common practice in many classrooms to give points for writing out vocabulary words, extra credit, homework completion grades, and bonus points that may help a student attain mastery, but do not reflect mastery. He said, “If the grade was based solely on mastery assignments such as tests, quizzes, and labs, the students across the corporation would often receive lower grades. In this particular case, grades based on mastery assignments would have resulted in a B and not a B+.”

At the Board meeting on March 16, 2015, it was stated that the grade policy which the Board publishes is being violated because it states, “The letter grade is to reflect the degree to which a student demonstrates understanding of the course requirements.” Mr. Miller said, “Course mastery based on corporation policy occurs at 3 levels. Depending on the level of mastery, a student may receive an A, B or C as a grade”

At the Board meeting on April 6, 2015, it was stated that, “The grade policy on the syllabus says attendance and participation are criteria for establishing grades and that is contrary to your policy.” Mr. Miller said, “The syllabus in question says nothing about attendance being a criterion for establishing grades. Class participation is a criterion included in the syllabus, but is not contrary to the corporation policy. Corporation policy states that factors that should be incorporated when evaluating students includes class participation.” Next, it was stated that this class is the only section at the only high school in the corporation where rounding grades is not done when a student shows mastery of the subject. Mr. Miller stated, “There is no rounding done in any section of science at Boonville High School. There are also other departments and/or teachers that do not round.” He said he has also had discussions with other teachers in the corporation and found that Boonville High School is not the only high school that has teachers that do not round.
Mr. Miller concluded by saying he knows the Board has done their research and is now aware of some of the misinformation that was made public. He thanked the Board and Superintendent Schneider for allowing him the opportunity to state how the corporation grading policy was followed, despite some misconceptions. He also thanked the Board for doing their due diligence and not rushing to judgment until information was collected.

Consideration of Routine Items

A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Ben Stilwell to approve the following Routine Items, as listed:

A. Approve the minutes of the School Board meeting held on April 6, 2015.
B. Approve Claims 1 - 269 and sign the docket.
C. Approve the Requests for Professional Leave.

Motion carried with Jeff Baker abstaining on the Request for Professional Leave of Jane Baker.

Consideration of Items for Board Action

President Hachmeister stated that Items 7F. and 7I. are being removed from tonight’s agenda.

A. A motion was made by Thomas Welch and seconded by Brenda Metzger to approve the purchase of two 48-passenger Special Purpose buses, with wheelchair lifts, from Mid-West Bus for $100,216 per bus, less trade-ins, for a total of $195,212. Also to approve the purchase of a Type A-1, 14-passenger Multi-Functional school bus from Mid-West Bus for $47,209, and purchase a used 2012 66-passenger bus from Kerlin Bus Sales for $57,500, as the most responsive, responsible bids, as presented. Motion carried.

B. A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Ben Stilwell to grant permission to advertise for Food, Nonfood, Beverage, Bread, Dairy, and Paper Products for the period of July 2015 through June 2016. Motion carried.

C. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to award the bid for the project at Castle North Middle School to Arc Constructions, Inc., for the base bid of $1,133,000, plus unit pricing for nine additional classrooms in the amount of $465,120, for a total of $1,598,120, as the lowest responsive, responsible bid, as presented. Motion carried.

D. A motion was made by Ben Stilwell and seconded by Brenda Metzger to award the bid for the project at John H. Castle Elementary School to Empire Construction, Inc., for the base bid, less unit pricing for renovation to eight classrooms, for a total bid of $1,520,000, as the lowest responsive, responsible bid, as presented. Motion carried.

E. A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Thomas Welch to approve the addition of courses Agriculture Power, Structure, & Technology, Work Based Learning-Health, and Work Based Learning-Multiple at Tecumseh Jr./Sr. High School, as presented. Jeff Baker asked if the work based learning classes are open to all students.
Mr. Schneider replied that typically these classes are junior/senior level courses because they include an opportunity to go out into the workforce. Motion carried.

F. This item has been pulled from tonight’s agenda.

G. A motion was made by Thomas Welch and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to accept the donation of a Cannon G-9 camera and 430EX Flash, valued at $700, from Rowe Photography to Tecumseh Jr./Sr. High School. Motion carried.

H. A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Brenda Metzger to accept a $750 cash donation from Amy James to Boonville High School, to purchase uniforms for the Boonville High School Unified Track Program. Motion carried.

I. This item has been pulled from tonight’s agenda.

Consideration of Personnel Recommendations

A. A motion was made by Thomas Welch and seconded by Ben Stilwell to approve the non-renewal of teacher contracts for those teachers serving in a temporary capacity during the 2014-2015 school year. A list of these employees will be placed in the minute book. Motion carried.

B. A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Brenda Metzger to approve the non-renewal of temporary assignments of support staff serving in a temporary capacity for the 2014-2015 school year. A list of these employees will be placed in the minute book. Motion carried.

Mr. Reid said employees listed in A. and B. above were all assigned to temporary job duties. This non-renewal is in no way a reflection on their abilities to perform their job, and is strictly a contractual matter. These temporary positions/assignments must be reported to the Board.

C. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Ben Stilwell to employ Abby Richey as the school nurse at Boonville Middle School, Oakdale Elementary School, and Tennyson Elementary School. Motion carried.

D. A motion was made by Candace Nance and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to terminate the employment of Scott Thomas Sieg, program assistant at Castle South Middle School, effective April 20, 2015. Motion carried.

E. Mr. Reid reported on the following custodian transfers:

1. Linda Brown transfer from Sharon Elementary School 11 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. to Loge Elementary School 10:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

2. Mark Postin transfer from 11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. at Loge Elementary School.

3. Cheryl McDaniel transfer from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Boonville High School.
4. Jill Knight transfer from 2nd shift at Boonville High School to 3rd shift at Boonville High School.

F. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Thomas Welch to approve the request of Amy Kroeger, program assistant at Loge Elementary School, for an extension to her previously approved leave of absence that began on March 6, 2015, with a return date of May 11, 2015. The modified return date will now be August 10, 2015. Motion carried.

G. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Ben Stilwell to approve the request of Madeline Scott, first grade teacher at Sharon Elementary School, for a personal leave of absence beginning August 10, 2015, with a return date of August 2016. Motion carried.

H. A motion was made by Ben Stilwell and seconded by Thomas Welch to approve the request of Susan Alldredge, cafeteria employee at Castle High School, for an extension to her leave of absence that began on December 12, 2014, with a return date of April 6, 2015. The modified return date will now be July 27, 2015. Motion carried.

I. A motion was made by Thomas Welch and seconded by Dorothy Kroeger to approve the request of Melissa Gieselman, special education teacher at Boonville High School, for an extension to her medical leave of absence that began on March 9, 2015, with a return date of April 20, 2015. The modified return date will now be May 11, 2015. Motion carried.

J. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Ben Stilwell to approve the request of Maurice Bathon, fourth grade teacher at Chandler Elementary School, for a medical leave of absence beginning May 11, 2015, through the end of the school year. Motion carried.

K. A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Ben Stilwell to approve the request of Chris Hillenbrand, special education teacher at Boonville Middle School, for a medical leave of absence beginning April 20, 2015, with a return date of May 18, 2015. Motion carried.

Mr. Reid next reported on the following resignations:

A. Josh Wildeman, physical education teacher and football coach at Castle High School, effective May 29, 2015.

B. Mika Thornton, first grade teacher at Sharon Elementary School, effective April 14, 2015.

C. Jaimie West, kindergarten teacher at Newburgh Elementary School, effective April 17, 2015.

Mr. Reid reported on the following retirements:

A. Mary Cox, physical education teacher and assistant athletic director at Boonville High School, effective at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year.
B. Joan Cecil, 7-hour program assistant at Yankeetown Elementary School, effective May 31, 2015.

Mr. Welch commented that Mary Cox has been with the corporation for many years and is an outstanding educator at Boonville High School.

**Other Board Business**

Mr. Schneider said provided the punch list is completed by the end of this week, the first Board meeting will be held in the Central Services Building on Monday, May 4, 2015.

Also, he said interviews will take place Thursday for the Castle South Middle School Assistant Principal position. There were 31 applicants of which 7 have been chosen to interview. Interviews for the Tennyson Elementary School Principal/Teacher position will take place Friday. There were 17 applicants for this position. He is very pleased with the response for these two positions.

Several upcoming meetings were discussed:

**Curriculum & Policy Committee** – Monday, May 4, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., before the next Board meeting. This meeting will be held at the Central Services Building.

**Construction, Technology & Maintenance Committee** - Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 7:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

**Personnel, Custodial & Food and Nutrition Committee** – Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. at the Administration Building.

**Transportation & Special Education Committee** - Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

Mr. Schneider said the ISBA Regional Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. The Board will be leaving from the Administration Building parking lot at 4:15 p.m. to travel to Huntingburg.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dorothy Kroeger and seconded by Ben Stilwell to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

These minutes were approved by the Warrick County Board of School Trustees on the 4th day of May, 2015.

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Candace Nance, Secretary of the Warrick County Board of School Trustees

Attested: Gary Hachmeister, President of the Warrick County Board of School Trustees