

TRITON SCHOOL CORPORATION
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
100 TRITON DRIVE
BOURBON, IN 46504-1801

***** BOARD MINUTES *****

Regular Session

January 08, 2024

The Board of School Trustees of Triton School Corporation, Marshall and Kosciusko Counties, met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM, in the Administration Office, 100 Triton Drive, Bourbon, Indiana, on January 08, 2024. The meeting was live streamed on social media as well.

Members Present: Mrs. Terri Barnhart, Mr. Kevin Boyer, Mr. Steve Stichter, Mr. Ken Miller, and Mr. Wes Rettinger

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mr. Jeremy Riffle-Superintendent; Mr. Tom McFarland-Business Manager; Mr. Orion Lemler-Triton Social Media; Mrs. Christine Cook-Elementary Principal; Mr. Nate McKeand-Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Jackie Gorski; Alex Gaughan; Emma Vaca; Lexi Sumpter; Henry Ford; Jezreel Lemler; Matt Davis; Michael Delp; Braden Tucker

***** BOARD OF FINANCE *****

The Board of Finance meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM.

Elections Mr. Rettinger made a motion to elect Mrs. Barnhart as the President of the Board of Finance, Mr. Stichter seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Mr. Miller motioned to elect Mr. Stichter as the Secretary of the Board of Finance, Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 5 - 0.

Investment Report Mr. McFarland reviewed investments held by the Corporation, old outstanding checks, and a fiscal indicator report.

Adjournment Mrs. Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

***** REORGANIZATION SESSION *****

Mrs. Barnhart called the Reorganization Session to order at 6:57 PM.

Oath of Office None

Election of Officers Mr. Riffle requested nominations for President of the Board. Mr. Stichter moved to elect Mrs. Barnhart as the President. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 5 - 0. Mrs. Barnhart requested nominations for the offices of Vice-President and Secretary. Mr. Stichter made a motion to elect Mr. Boyer as the Vice-President. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 5 - 0. Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to elect Mr. Stichter as the Secretary.

Meeting Date, Time & Location Mrs. Barnhart recommended to continue having all regular meetings at 7:00 PM, on the second Monday of the month in the Administration Office.

Appointments: Mr. Miller made a recommendation to appoint Mr. Tom McFarland as the Corporation Treasurer, Warrick & Boyne (Tim Shelley) as the attorney, Steve Stichter as ISBA Delegate/Legislative Liaison, Wes Rettinger as Student Handbook Committee Representative, Ken Miller as Textbook Adoption Committee Representative, and Terri Barnhart as Board Policy Representative. The motion carried 5-0.

Board Salaries Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to continue the annual salary of \$1,850.00 for Board Members and to grant Board members the option of signing a waiver allowing individual members to accept a lesser annual salary which is to be determined by the individual member.

Conflict of Interest Forms Mr. Riffle informed the Board that each of them will need to sign a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. Administrators will also sign the forms.

Adjournment Mrs. Barnhart adjourned the reorganization meeting at 7:01 PM.

*** * * * REGULAR SESSION * * * ***

Mrs. Barnhart called the Regular Session to order at 7:01 PM.

Consensus Agenda Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #6199-#6201, #6272-#6309, and #6314-#6362 in the amount of \$1,333,191.20, payrolls #25 – #26 in addition to the TAG/stipend payrolls in the amount of \$570,471.01 for a grand total of \$1,903,662.21; and to approve the minutes of the regular session that was held on December 11, 2023. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 5 – 0.

Patrons' Comments There were no patrons' comments.

Personnel Mr. Boyer moved, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve maternity leave for Brea Montalbano and Janelle Bontrager as the substitute teacher for Brea Montalbano's maternity leave. Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Miller seconded to approve Megan Atkinson as Drama Director for the 2023-2024 drama play production. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Miller moved to approve Jason Arvesen as JH Wrestling Head Coach and Malachi Greene as JH Assistant Wrestling Coach, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the vote carried 5-0. Mr. Boyer motioned to approve Steve Watkins as the 6th Grade Girls Head Basketball Coach and Rachel Watkins as 6th Grade Girls Volunteer Basketball Coach, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the vote carried 5-0.

Other Business Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the transfer of funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion, and it carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Boyer seconded, and the motion carried 5 – 0, to approve appropriation transfers.

Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the 2nd reading and adopt Policy Volume 35, No.2- April 2023 and Special Update Policy- July 2023. Mr. Stichter seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report Welcome Back to 2024!!
Many of you have experienced some tremendous victories in 2023 and are sad to see it end, some of you experienced tremendous heartache and are excited to turn the page. Knowing that a year can be full of ups and downs, we will focus on what we can learn from 2023 and how we can continue to improve in the New Year.

I am thankful for some of the improvements and victories we have seen in 2023:

- Updated front offices, safety upgrades to windows, doors and locks.
- Updated performing arts sound, AV, lights
- Updated weight room and tennis court lights, bleachers, and goals.
- Numerous student achievements, PRIDE T-shirts, college signings, certificates, state qualifiers, 4H/FFA recognitions
- Corporation enrollment remains steady
- Great additions of new staff
- We celebrated Bruce Gephart and are thankful to have hired Barry Baker
- We got to celebrate one last time with Mary Philips before her passing, product of the i-incredibly successful Triton Gives Back Initiative

- Continued improvements in TES Student Council
- Focused effort and accountability at the Triton Jr/Sr High School on those students struggling in classes, thank you Carrie Orłowski for organizing this and staying ahead of it.
- Triton had an incredible increase in CTE and internship opportunities
- Our team of counselors continue to serve and dream of new ideas for the betterment of our students
- We celebrated Coach Grove's 300th win at Triton
- Mr. Bass and the science department achieved the highest Biology Scores in the region
- Triton is 1 of only 2 high schools in the area with a 100% graduation rate!
- One exciting new adventure we are currently on is fulfilling the dream of the Triton Student Life Foundation that will seek to raise money to bless students and teachers alike.

Kenneth Cooke posted this week and it became the thought of our time together:

"Adversity either makes people better or it makes people bitter"

As we have discussed time and time again, we love control, and the three things we are in control of are our actions, attitudes, and behaviors. How are we productively utilizing that control or power?

Lecrae and Tori Kelly sing in their song "I'll Find You" don't get bitter, get better, I'm working on changing those letters. I hope you will join me in the new year, working on changing the I which is self-centered, me focused, why I can't...to changing it out for an E, empathy, encouragement, enthusiasm, excellence. Be the teacher, coach, bus driver, custodian, instructional assistant, principal, that you always wished you could be. I am praying that we can come together, make a difference in our students and community this second semester.

Many of us see a new student walk into our office, what do we often think? ... I hope they don't bring a negative culture to my classroom, I hope they are a positive addition, maybe it is I hope they are in my class or maybe it is I hope they are in someone else's class, someone else's problem. I hope they have a good attitude, I hope they will be a good friend, student. We have new students that have come this year, we have new teachers that have come this year, and we also have 35 year veterans. In the new year we always have the opportunity to recommit to taking what is good and making it better, or what is not good and making it worse. I encourage you, like I will continue to strive to do, exchange bitter for better and make 2024 a year to remember!

Patrons' Comments

None

Building Reports

Mr. McKeand provided a report on events at the Jr. /Sr. High School. Mrs. Cook gave a brief building report for the elementary.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Triton Board of School Trustees, Mrs. Barnhart declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: _____ February 12, 2024

President: *Jason Barnhart*

Secretary: *Steve Stichter*

Kevin R. Bazz

Wesley M. Adams
