

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

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

Regular Session

September 09, 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 September 09, 2024.

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

Members Absent: Mr. Kevin Boyer

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- High School Principal; Dillion Westafer; Quentin Davis; Braxton Yates; Jaxon Earl; Jared Crooks; Camryn McIntyre

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Barnhart called the Regular Session to order at 7:00 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consensus Agenda

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #6984–#6997, #7056-#7084, and #7085-#7146 in the amount of \$579,592.33, payrolls #16, #17, and #18 in the amount of \$702,443.31 and voids/other in the amount of -\$160.84 for a grand total of \$1,281,874.83; and to approve the minutes of the executive and regular sessions held on August 12, 2024. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

Patrons' Comments

Mr. Jared Crooks asked questions about the Emergency Preparedness Plan. Mr. Riffle explained the Emergency Preparedness Plan and expectations for parents.

Public Hearing

The public hearing was held for collective bargaining. There were no patron comments offered about collective bargaining.

Public Hearing

The public hearing was held for the 2025 Bus Replacement Plan, 2025 Capital Projects Plan, and 2025 Budget. Mr. McFarland explained the Bus Replacement Plan, Capital Projects Plan, and Budget. There were no patron comments.

Personnel

Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve Caleb Oetjen as JV Boys Basketball Coach. Mr. Miller moved to approve Brad Hargrave as Softball Head Coach, Mr. Stichter seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Kim Stetzel as Spirit Club Sponsor, Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Rettinger moved to approve Karah Nelson as Marching Band Music Instructor, Raquel Teutle as Color Guard Instructor, and Betty Berkeypile, Angela Doss, David Doss, Jessica Strevy, Jennifer Brunner, Barbara Schwartz, Paul Harms, Anna Damron, Christy Hooley, Mark Schwartz, Charles Lawrence, and Ralph Berkeypile as band volunteers, Mr. Miller seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve the resignation of Sheryl Hostetler as the Corporation Speech/Language Pathologist, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and it carried 4-0. Mr. Miller moved to approve the resignation Sharon Stalbaum as Special Needs Bus Aide and the resignation of Mikayla O'Dell as Elementary Instructional Assistant, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Kathy Koontz as Special Needs Bus Aide, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and it carried 4-0. Mr. Miller moved to approve Kathy Anglemyer as Activity Bus Driver (Vocational/ECA), Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Trevor Hershberger, Mazie Shaffer, and Casey Yarbrough as substitute teachers, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Miller moved to approve Tori Kistler as School Bus Driver Trainer, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the vote was 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Robbin Creighbaum as Cafeteria Substitute, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Matthew Arvesen's ECA contract, Mr. Miller seconded, and the vote carried 4-0.

Business

Mr. Stichter moved to approve/accept the 23/24 Annual Financial Report, the 23/24 Triton Jr/Sr High Financial Report, and the 23/24 Triton Elementary Financial Report, Mr. Miller seconded, and it carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to adopt the resolution for 2025 bus replacement plan and the capital projects fund plan, Mr. Miller seconded, and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Rettinger moved to approve the proposal from Community Company for the FA System integration and upgrade, Mr. Stichter seconded, and it carried 4-0. Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Miller moved to approve the Corporation Emergency Preparedness Plan, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve the annual review of bus routes and student transportation safety policy, Mr. Miller seconded, and the vote carried 4-0.

Superintendents
Report**Continuous Improvement:**

- Fence between the football field and Pansy Court was removed today and will be installed over the next few days.
- Roof Repairs - Quotes are coming in and we will complete 2 sections of the elementary roof next summer
- Inside door upgrades are complete and look great - still awaiting matching lock system
- Large High School Parking lot set to be completed in the coming weeks - Fall Break

The sound systems that have been added to the Trench and the Tundra are working well and are so much clearer. This was a tremendous and timely upgrade. They will be doing the same for the elementary system this school year. When Sweetwater completed the upgrade in the trench, they said that nearly 70% of the speakers were blown, leading to the muffled sound.

Accountability- We are very aware of the tremendous responsibility Triton School Corporation holds within our community and our stakeholders. We have said it before, and I will say it again, we are here to try our best to help keep kids safe and do what we can to minimize inappropriate actions and words. I will however, let you know that posting harmful information about your school and town on a public forum does little to no good for being part of the solution. The information shared this weekend, which garnered support of those who had an ax to grind, was not true, was misleading, and was about 7 weeks behind the actions that were taken to resolve some of the concerns. I had a great conversation with a mother today who was very close to the personal situation that was mentioned in this week's post. She was hurt, and appalled that someone she doesn't know, doesn't know her family, or the situation had the audacity to post such a mischaracterization of what has taken place. We do not and will not report out on discipline measures that are handed down when poor choices are made, therefore it will be characterized that we don't do anything about it. We will respect them, just like we would respect your child if the shoe were on the other foot. To post untruths in a public forum is often done without accountability, knowledge of the circumstance, and only seeks to hurt or get back at others. If you have a concern that you would like to share, to truly be part of the solution, I once again welcome you to come speak with me or our building level leaders, giving details that can truly be used to make our student body safer, we welcome that. I have faith and confidence in our teaching staff and administrative staff to do everything they can to keep kids safe. They care about our students and have done little to gain a poor reputation due to overarching statements and hypothetical remarks. Can we catch every word that is said or every action that happens? No, we cannot. Are kids sometimes mean? Yes, but we do promise to continue to improve, and do everything we can to help provide a safe space for every student. Let's also remember that comments, like actions, are a model to our students on how best to work through concerns and frustrations in life.

High Expectations- Congratulations to the ECA teams and clubs this fall. Tennis, Cross Country, Volleyball, and Football are off to a great start. Our band is competing at a high level, and oftentimes, as our fall goes, so does the rest of the year. We have a lot of great kids who are accomplishing great things at Triton. I hope we will seek to recognize them for their hard work and dedication to the positive outcomes.

Alignment- Our first delayed start professional development will be held on September 19th, next Thursday. This is a time to connect with staff, provide timely training or professional development, and continue to do what we can to meet the needs of our students.

Evidence Based Decision Making- Changes were made this year, based on end of the year data, to begin reading interventions immediately instead of waiting until all of our beginning of the year data was compiled. This has already proven beneficial to some bubble students as they made benchmark on the beginning of the year assessment. We are hoping this instruction laid a solid foundation for them to have a successful year.

Another item that seemed to be on people's minds this weekend was the new hall monitoring package that was slowly introduced in the Jr/Sr High School last week. If there are particular question about the intent of this system, I would be glad to work through those with you, but the intent of this system is:

1. Protect instructional time, cut down on instructional time missed by trying to get out of class (ex. If a child tries to get out of class three times each day, without those three teachers knowing it took place in other classes, that is equal to 30 minutes of instruction time. Let's say that only half of the time they are able to actually get out of class for whatever reason that would be 2700 minutes (45 hours) of instruction lost over the 180 days.
2. This system helps better protect students from meeting up in bathrooms that may lead to misbehavior.
3. It alerts staff if someone is missing for an extended period of time who may need help.
4. It does not track the students, but it does give the teacher an idea of how long they have been out of direct supervision, again helps with protecting instructional time and keeps kids safer in the long run.

If anyone has further questions about this or if you would like to see this system in action, do not hesitate to contact Mr. McKeand or I for a demo.

Patrons' Comments

There were no comment patron comments.

Building Reports

Mr. McKeand gave a brief building report for the high school. Mrs. Cook gave a brief building report for the elementary.

Other

There were no other comments.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Triton Board of School Trustees, Mrs. Barnhart declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: _____ October 07, 2024

President: *Jean Barnhart*

Secretary: *Steve Stichter*

Wesley M. ...
Kenneth W. Mill