

**EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 19, 2009**

At a meeting held in the Auditoria at Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School, 17215 Woodburn Road, Woodburn, Indiana, the Board of School Trustees of East Allen County Schools met at approximately 6:30 p.m. on May 19, 2009, with the following members present:

Stephen L. Terry, Sr., President  
Janice A. Kelly, Vice President  
Leland L. Etzler, Secretary  
Terry Jo Lightfoot, Assistant Secretary  
William D. Hartman  
Richard A. Allgeier  
Alyssa Lewandowski

The following EACS Administrators were in attendance: Dr. Janet MacLean, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Kirby Stahly, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. J. Timothy McCaulay, General Counsel; Mrs. Connie DeLong, Executive Director of Special Services; Dr. Jeanne Zehr, Title I Area Administrator; Mrs. Juanita Tolbert, Director of Early Intervention; Ms. Jo Ann Roscoe, Manager of Student Achievement & School Improvement; Mrs. Natalie Drummond, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; and Mrs. Tamyra L. Kelly, Public Relations Liaison. Also present were Mrs. Deborah Watson, Principal, Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School; Mr. Ron Kammeyer, Assistant Principal, Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School; Mr. Neal Brown III, Principal, Paul Harding High School; Mr. Pete Downey, Principal, New Haven Middle School; Mr. Gregory M. Geise, President of EAEA; Mr. Pat Lortie, President of EACS Custodial Association; and approximately 300+ people representing employees, students, patrons and the media.

President Stephen Terry called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the May 5, 2009 Work Session were approved as presented.

The Agenda was approved with the addition of addendums to 6.4 Personnel Report; 6.5 Meetings & Conferences; and 6.10 Cash Tuition Transfers; the addition of 6.11 Apply For and Receive School Improvement for Comprehensive Schools Grant; and the deletion of 4.2 VanFossen Vocational Contract.\*

Recognitions:

- Woodburn Elementary School's Student Council was recently awarded a **Youth as Resources** grant to be used to begin a Toy Lending Library for families of preschoolers at *Early Childhood Alliance Children's Centers*. The project, **Turn Off the TV and Play!** is intended to provide alternatives to watching television and encourage play that supports learning for young children.

The students directly involved were Chase Hunt, Tynan Easterday, Jazmine Williams, Allison Brooks, Kelly Collins, Katilyn Burns, Courtney Brooks, Austin Roemer, Shawn Roemer, and Sophi Shultz. (Alan Zehr, Ivan Valentour, Jeramiah Cassel, and Cole Castleman are also members of the student council.)

- Leo Elementary School's Student Council held a "Hat Day" to collect money for the "Heart to Heart" Program sponsored by the Allen County Commissioners Office. This program purchases phone cards for soldiers who have been deployed. In April, the Allen County Commissioners - Bill Brown, Linda Bloom and Nelson Peters were on hand, along with the Leo Elementary School Student Council and Teacher/advisor Mrs Jennifer Hale, to present the phone cards to representatives from the 122<sup>nd</sup> National Guard Fighter Wing.
- Leo Elementary School 6<sup>th</sup> grader Hannah Zimmerman was recently named as the Indiana State Winner in a National Handwriting Contest sponsored by Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers. This event recognizes state and national winners in a contest that evaluates handwriting legibility. This year, more than 200,000 students participated in the contest nationwide. As state winner, Hannah Zimmerman and her teacher Mr. Eric Reynolds receive engraved wood pens, a special award certificate, and a \$50 gift certificate for Zaner-Bloser materials.

In addition, four Leo Elementary School students received "Honorable Mention" in the "Design An Ad" contest: Alyssa Tokas, Samantha Fields, Allison Gatchell, and Madison Bell. Their ads were recently published in the Fort Wayne Newspaper.

- The following EACS Administrators have each been named by INK Newspaper as one of Fort Wayne's "50 Most Influential Women" in the community:

Deborah Wright Watson, Principal, Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School  
Thelma Green, Principal, Prince Chapman Academy  
Tamyra Kelly, Public Relations Liaison

- Hosted by IPFW, the inaugural Sci-TEC Youth Showcase was held in April. This was a community celebration highlighting innovative and exceptional STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) formal and informal educational projects in Allen County. Honor Roll winners included:

#### **Highland Terrace Elementary School**

Project: Historical Quest Poster Displays

Teacher: Rebecca Kline

Students: Jessie Biggs, Grace Bohde, Hannah Ferguson, Brittany Greubel, Bailey Hunter, Aaylah Kopke, Teya Martinez, Jack Pachuta, Jackson Parrish, Amy Rowland, Amara Scheitlin, Britannie Wilson

#### **Hoagland Elementary School**

Project: Things You Can't See

Teacher: Rich Cook

Students: Landrie Jones, Jamie Slaughterbeck

#### **Leo Elementary School**

Project: K'Nex: Kids Navigating Extraordinary eXpectations

Teachers: Danielle Newman and Eric Reynolds

Students: Nick Barrow, Chloe Buchanan, Chance Dolsen, Adam Freeby, Sydney Heidenreich, Tori Hoag, Leah Hoff, Emma Hoffman, Chantelle Huebner, Maddy Kanka,

Brett LaMere, Danae Miller, McKayla Mulherin, Sara Schlosser, Nate Seevers, Erin Sheets, Luke Stonebraker, Kyle Stucky, Ian Summer, Taylor Terrell, Chris Thurber, Alyssa Tokos, Andrew VonGunten, Aimee White, Hannah Zimmerman

### **Leo Jr./Sr. High School**

Event: Future City

Teachers: Richard Flickinger, and Engineer/Mentor Rick Slayback

City Name: A'rvore

Students: Claire Gardner, Spencer Haber, Katherine Wierzbowski

City Name: Reka Ulice

Students: Brianna Dailey, Jordan Schoonover, Becca Williams

City Name: Pollis Factum - **\*Indiana Regional Champions & National SME Special Award Winner**

Students: Sam Gibson, Conner Hoagland, Collin Hoagland, Brandon Werling

- Mrs. Jeanette Lundeen, music teacher at Southwick and Village Elementary Schools, has been commended by the Indiana Music Educators Association for her fine work as the local area coordinator of the "Circle The State With Song" choral festival.
- Cedarville students raised a total of \$3,136.98 for the American Cancer Society Pennies from Heaven project. Students were asked to simply collect "loose change" from family members or family friends. Each classroom had a box where the change was deposited, and many of the boxes were so heavy they could hardly carry them to the bank! Mrs. Julia Maxwell's second graders collected \$285.70, winning an ice cream party to celebrate their efforts. Mrs. Sharron Kumle's afternoon kindergartners took second place by collecting \$252.92 for the cause. Each of them will receive a coupon from Grabill Dairy Sweet.
- Dr. Mark Daniel, Principal, Leo Jr./Sr. High School has been named High School Principal of the Year for Region 3 by the Indiana Association of School Principals and the Horace Mann Companies.

### Spotlight on Education:

The Career Major Academy (CMA) initiative has become a major focus on the secondary level as we strive to not only improve student achievement, but also focus on developing EACS graduates who will be strong contributors to our area work force. This presentation, by Mrs. Judy VanFossen, CMA Consultant, and students involved in internships, will provide an overview of how the program is impacting our them, our schools, and our community.

## **Section 2.0 Discussion Items**

### 2.1 Board Policy 4010 – Facilities Use

A brief overview of this policy was given as a backdrop to the discussion regarding the Superintendent's Strategic Plan Recommendation.

## 2.2 Board Policy 4014 – Curriculum

A brief overview of this policy was given as a backdrop to the discussion regarding the Superintendent's Strategic Plan Recommendation.

## 2.3 Superintendent's Strategic Plan Recommendation

Much discussion was held regarding the Superintendent's Strategic Plan Recommendation. Each Board member stated their position on the Recommendation.

Board consensus is that 6<sup>th</sup> grade throughout the district needs to be taken out of the elementary schools, operating as part of a middle school concept consisting of grades 6-8.

## 2.4 Middle School Configurations and Programming

This item was tabled until the next Board meeting on June 2, 2009.

## 2.5 New Tech High School

This item was tabled until the next Board meeting on June 2, 2009. However, a letter of intent dated May 19<sup>th</sup> was signed by Board President Terry and Dr. Novotny.

## 2.6 Asphalt Paving Bid 2009

Discussion occurred involving the asphaltting of the New Haven High School tennis courts. Formal action will be taken later in the meeting under Consent Item 6.9. Please see Consent Item 6.9 for more information.

## 2.7 Proposed Naming of NHHS Baseball Field

A recommendation has been made to name the New Haven High School baseball field in honor of Mr. Dave Bischoff. Also a New Haven High School teacher, Mr. Bischoff has been New Haven High School's Varsity Boy's Baseball coach for the past 25 years. Notwithstanding the coach's contribution and praiseworthiness, Mr. Allgeier stated that this recommendation does not line up with Policy and no waiver from the said Policy was requested. Therefore he will be voting against this request if formal action is taken later in the meeting. Please see additional information under Action Item 5.1.

\*It was decided that formal action will be taken later in the meeting under Action Item 5.1.

## 2.8 Open Discussion of Issues of Interest to the Board

None

### **Section 3.0 Public Expressions**

Concerned patrons, employees, parents and students expressed their dismay and concerns regarding the recommendations to make Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School a middle school, and to close Paul Harding High School.

## **Section 4.0 Information Items**

### **4.2 Incidental Information**

Given to the Board as information tonight, formal action is recommended for the following at the June 2, 2009 Board meeting:

- Apply For and Receive Title II, Part D - Learning Technologies Competitive Grant
- Apply For and Receive 2009-10SY Alternative Education Grant Funding
- Apply For and Receive 2009-10SY Full Day Kindergarten Grant Funding

Also included in your Board packet are the Monthly Financial Status Report from Mr. Kirby Stahly, the Financial Report and the Food Service Activity Report.

## **Section 5.0 Action Item**

### **5.1 Proposed Naming of NHHS Baseball Field**

Secretary Etzler moved to approve the recommendation for the naming of the New Haven High School baseball field. Vice President Kelly seconded the motion and it was approved 6-1, with Mr. Allgeier opposed (see Exhibit A, incorporated herein).

## **Section 6.0 Consent Items**

Secretary Etzler moved to approve the consent items with addendums as presented, with Consent Item 6.9 separated out for a separate vote. Vice President Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The following consent items were approved:

- 6.1 Approval of payroll claims for the payroll period ending April 9, 2009 in the amount of \$1,988,140.71; and for the payroll period ending April 24, 2009 in the amount of \$2,084,044.10.
- 6.2 Approval of vendor claims: 252212-252476, 251626-251643, 252135-252155; manual checks 5517-5525, 17614-17622; and electronic transfers 040109, 040709, 041609, 042209, 042309, 042809, 001003-001014, 043009, 050509, 110000, 110009-110010, totaling \$3,583,831.04.
- 6.3 Approval to New Haven Middle School to accept a donation in the amount of \$572.30 from Box Tops for Education.

Approval to New Haven Middle School to accept donations, totaling \$350.00, from the following: Bridge Manufacturing & Equipment Co. Inc. - \$100.00; Fort Wayne Compactor, Inc. - \$100.00; Gerald McGee, Sr. & Andrea McGee - \$100.00; and Ms. Susan Graf - \$50.00. These donations were used as prize money for the Disability Awareness Student Essay Contest at New Haven Middle School, held during Disability Awareness Week in March.

Approval to Leo Elementary School to accept a donation of \$300.00 from a Leo parent who wishes to remain anonymous.

Approval to Highland Terrace Elementary School to accept a donation in the amount of \$4,500.00 from the Highland Terrace PTO. Monies are to be used towards the purchase of two (2) additional Smart Boards.

Approval to New Haven High School and Leo Jr./Sr. High School to accept a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to each school (\$10,000 total) from Dupont Hospital. The monies are to be used specifically to purchase additional student laptop computers to support each schools' Project Lead the Way Biomedical programs. Labels for each laptop have been provided by Dupont Hospital as a Partner in Education.

- 6.4 Approval to extend offer of employment to Mr. Matthew L. Widenhoefer, as Principal at Meadowbrook Elementary School, effective August 1, 2009.

Approval to extend offer of employment to Mr. Gregory A. Mohler, as Principal at New Haven High School, effective August 1, 2009.

Acceptance of resignation of Mrs. Sarahi Valencia Wagner, Language Translator for East Allen County Schools, effective April 24, 2009.

Acceptance of resignation of Ms. Lichelle Beeler, teacher at Paul Harding High School, effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Acceptance of resignation of Mrs. Jennifer Beckham, corporation educational interpreter, effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Acceptance to change resignation date for Mrs. Eva Merkel, principal at New Haven High School, to June 12, 2009.

Acceptance of retirement and termination of employment of Mrs. Diane Tomlinson, Accounts Payable Coordinator for East Allen County Schools, effective May 14, 2010.

Approval of FMLA leave of absence to Ms. Lee Ann Freeze, teacher at Highland Terrace Elementary School, effective April 27, 2009 for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.

Approval of FMLA leave of absence to Ms. Janelle Pollard, student assistance specialist at Meadowbrook Elementary School, effective April 30, 2009 for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.

Approval of medical leave of absence to Ms. Carol Dawson, an employee of the EACS Transportation Department, effective May 28, 2009, for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.

Approval of medical leave of absence to Ms. Laurie Ann Erdly, a food service employee at New Haven Elementary School, effective May 7, 2009 through May 22, 2009.

Approval of medical leave of absence to Mrs. Rebecca Tapp, an employee of the EACS Transportation Department, effective May 15, 2009 for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.

Approval of medical leave of absence to Ms. Cheri Menschy, a food service employee at Woodburn Elementary School, effective May 28, 2009 for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.

Approval to Ms. Cara Gerber, teacher at Heritage Jr./Sr. High School, to return from her FMLA leave of absence on May 18, 2009 rather than August 19, 2009.

- 6.6 Approval to Apply For and Receive Secure Our Schools Grant (SOS) (see Exhibit B, incorporated herein).
- 6.7 Approval of Resolution for EACS Employee Benefit Trust (see Exhibit C, incorporated herein).
- 6.8 Approval of Resolution for EACS Disability Trust (see Exhibit D, incorporated herein).
- 6.10 Cash Tuition Transfers

The following cash tuition transfers during the 2009-2010 school year were approved:

Gabrielle Adams	Kindergarten	Harlan Elementary School	New
Matthew Boxberger	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Harlan Elementary School	Renewal
Hannah Adams	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	Harlan Elementary School	New
Katelyn Saalfrank	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	Heritage Jr./Sr. High School	New
Zachary Saalfrank	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	Heritage Jr./Sr. High School	Renewal
Ashley King	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	Leo Jr./Sr. High School	New
Justin Pineiro	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	Leo Jr./Sr. High School	Renewal
Maria Robinson	12 <sup>th</sup> grade	Leo Jr./Sr. High School	Renewal
Christopher Caudill	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	New Haven High School	Renewal
Sophia Schultz	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	Woodburn Elementary School	Renewal
Brad Barker	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School	New
Olivia Schultz	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School	Renewal
Mallory Barker	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School	Renewal
Taylor Edgar	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School	Renewal

- 6.11 Approval to Apply For and Receive School Improvement for Comprehensive Schools Grant (see Exhibit E, incorporated herein).

Under a separate vote, Ms. Kelly moved to award the bid to Brooks without the NHHS tennis courts. Assistant Secretary Lightfoot seconded the motion. After discussion was held, Mr. Allgeier moved to amend the motion to award the bid to API, thus including the NHHS tennis courts. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion, and the amended motion was unanimously approved.

- 6.9 Approval of Awarding of Asphalt Paving Bid 2009 to API (see Exhibit F, incorporated herein).

**Section 7.0 Reports and Comments**

After listening to expressions from the public, Mr. Hartman proposed that the Board consider thinking of using different phraseology when referring to the proposed three “attendance areas”; rather, referring to them as “residential” or “geographic” areas.

**Section 8.0 Public Expressions**

Again, concerned patrons, parents and students expressed their dismay and concerns regarding the recommendations to make Woodlan Jr./Sr. High School a middle school, and to close Paul Harding High School.

**Section 9.0 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:43 p.m.

These minutes were approved and adopted by the East Allen County Schools Board of School Trustees on June 2, 2009.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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Secretary

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