



**EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
MINUTES**

**April 16, 2013 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Administration Building – Board Room  
1240 State Road 930 East  
New Haven, IN 46774**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Neil Reynolds called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board** Neil S. Reynolds, President  
Christopher T. Baker, Vice President  
Stephen L. Terry, Sr., Secretary  
Arden L. Hoffman  
Terry Jo Lightfoot  
Robert L. Nelson, Jr.

**Staff**

Mr. Kirby Stahly, Asst. Supt. for Admin. Services  
Mr. Chris Hissong, Exec. Dir. of School Management  
Dr. Michael B. Shaffer, Asst. Supt. of Instruction  
Mr. William Diehl, Director of Accountability  
Mrs. Marilyn Hissong, Director of Curriculum  
Ms. Amanda Ricketts, Director of Human Resources  
Mrs. Tamyra Kelly, Public Relations Liaison  
Mrs. Connie Brown, Interim Dir. of Special Services  
Mr. Melvin Falkner, Director of Transportation  
Mr. Doug Roemer, Director of Facilities  
Mrs. Rose Fritzingler, Director of Development  
Mrs. Lois Goeglein, Manager of Financial Services  
Mr. Ed Mendoza, Principal on Special Assignment  
Mrs. Jill Brady, Principal, Leo Elementary  
Dr. Neal Brown III, Principal, Leo Jr./Sr. High  
Mrs. Karen Charters, Principal, Heritage Elementary

Mr. G. Michael Chen, Principal, WOPS/WOIS  
Mrs. Natalie Drummond, Principal, Southwick Elem.  
Mrs. Alicia Gatewood, Principal, Meadowbrook Elem.  
Ms. Thelma Green, Principal, Prince Chapman Academy  
Mrs. Teresa Gremaux, Principal, Paul Harding Jr. High  
Mr. Doug Hicks, Principal, East Allen University  
Mr. Ron Kammeyer, Principal, Woodlan Jr./Sr. High  
Mr. Jeff Kline, Principal, EACS Alternative  
Mr. Greg Mohler, Principal, New Haven High  
Mr. Doug Pickett, Principal, New Haven Middle  
Mr. Bob Rohrbacher, Principal, Heritage Jr./Sr. High  
Ms. Becky Christensen, Admin. Intern, WOPS/ WOIS  
Mrs. Terri Lortie, President, EACS Custodial Assn.  
Ms. Karen Smith, President, EACS Transportation Assn.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda for April 16, 2013 was adopted as presented with the following changes – added to Information Items – Update on the Woodlan and Heritage K-12 Projects, and a Superintendent Search Update. Setting of Goals will be moved from Board Discussion to under Superintendent Communications. Mr. Nelson asked that the Action Items be voted on separately.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS: AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 regular Board meeting.**

Motion: Baker

Second: Lightfoot

**Discussion:** Mr. Hoffman asked that changes be submitted be made to the March 19, 2013 minutes, pointing out that nothing was even mentioned about the 930 & Green Road intersection. Other board members weighed in on the discussion. Several suggested that the easiest way to handle this is to amend the motion. The protocol for minutes was reiterated – Members will email any suggested corrections to Mr. Reynolds by that Friday. Officers will determine what revisions will be made to the minutes.

**Amended Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 regular board meeting to include Mr. Hoffman’s proposed changes.**

Motion: Hoffman

Second: Terry

Vote: Aye: 4-2

Against: Lightfoot, Reynolds

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1) The following annual reports were reviewed and discussed:

Graduation Rates

Mr. Baker and Mr. Hoffman expressed that they would like to see more specific data listed on the report.

School Safety

No comments.

Allocations/Grant Awards for EACS – First Quarter 2013

Mr. Nelson, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Hoffman weighed in on the \$140,000 that was refunded to the IDOE, and a \$70,000 grant which was not applied for. They all want more accountability from the staff. Mr. Reynolds stated he was made aware of the \$140,000 misappropriation on February 28, 2013.

2) Update on Woodlan and Heritage K-12 Projects

The Board would like Mr. Stahly to update them on the status of these projects at every meeting. Both projects are currently running behind, but are on track to be completed and ready for the 2014-15SY. At Woodlan, there are major updates in the kitchen equipment. The old Print Shop equipment is being sold. Pending any weather delays, work in the kitchen will begin on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and outside work will ramp up. At Heritage, the footers have been formed, steel has been ordered. There have been some changes to the Science area.

3) Superintendent Search Update

Mr. Terry and Mr. Hoffman were given the information off of the EACS website online survey. Mr. Ron Crosby, President of the EAEA, was able to help with the process as well. They will continue to work at compiling the information. Next step will be to use the DARS system which will lend objectivity to the choosing of candidates. Mrs. Lightfoot suggested that a meeting(s) should be set soon to review this information, and Mr. Baker added that a compensation packet needs to be put together as well prior to April 30<sup>th</sup> when applications are due.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

1) Setting of Goals

Mr. Baker reported that the Board officers had recently met and after reviewing what all Board members had submitted, a list of “Top 3” priorities was established for the Board for the year.

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve these “Top 3” priorities for the Board – 1) Budget, 2) Alternative School (including School Discipline/School Choice), and 3) Transportation.**

Motion: Baker

Second: Nelson

**Discussion:** Mrs. Lightfoot believes that the Adams Township issues need to be addressed first before a budget can be set along with looking at the community within a community concept, or at the very least, know where the Board is headed before a decision can be made as to what buildings to or not to invest money in. Mr. Baker stated that the Board would work as subcommittees on each of these priorities.

Vote: Aye: 6-0

**Discussion:** Mr. Baker and Mr. Terry will work on the Alternative School (including School Discipline/ School Choice); Mr. Nelson will work on Transportation (which includes bell times, activity busses, etc.); and Mr. Hoffman will work on the Budget.

2) Overview of Operations – Technology Department

Mr. Bill Diehl, Director of Accountability, gave an overview of the Technology Department, along with help from Shelley Jenkins, Keith Madsen, Marilyn Hissong, Kurt Dager, Michael Starewich, Diane Gibson (parent), and teachers: Tonya Donahue, Hillary Braden, Carolyn Tuesca, Troy Guenin, and Liz Kowatch. Board discussion followed. Mr. Diehl answered the Board’s questions. Additional questions will be submitted to Mr. Diehl to follow up on as consensus was to end discussion due to the lateness of the hour.

**ACTION AGENDA**

**CONSENT MOTION:**

13-0416-01 Approval of Human Resources Report

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item one as presented.**

Motion: Baker

Second: Nelson

Vote: Aye: 6-0

**Discussion:** Mr. Nelson noted that many of the employees who are retiring have given 30+ years to the district. He thanked them for their service and this was echoed by all Board members. Mr. Baker questioned the number of FMLA requests.

13-0416-02 Approval of Financial Reports

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item two as presented.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Baker thanked Monsanto for their donations to Heritage and Woodlan Jr./Sr. High Schools. He would like more information on the \$43,000 legal service bill (as would Mr. Terry) and the NHHS girl's softball field contract.

Motion: Terry                      Second: Baker                      Vote: Aye: 6-0

13-0416-03 Approval of Meetings and Conferences Requests

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item three as presented.**

Motion: Baker                      Second: Lightfoot

**Discussion:** Mr. Hoffman was upset that on the form a "zero" had not been inserted in the column showing that there were no dollars being reimbursed, even though there were no expenses and the column had been left blank. Mr. Nelson also agreed. Mrs. Lightfoot stated that she doesn't feel like Mr. Stahly needs to be micromanaged as he is a professional and that the district has a set budget for meetings and conferences and as a district cannot legally go over the amount that was budgeted.

Vote: Aye: 2-4 (motion failed)  
Aye: Lightfoot, Reynolds

**Discussion:** To drive home the point that the Board will get what they ask for Mr. Baker, Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Terry voted against approving the meeting and conference requests. At this point Mrs. Lightfoot implored them to reconsider what they are doing – in essence penalizing employees because a zero was not inserted in a column.

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees reconsider approving item three as presented.**

Motion: Lightfoot                      Second: Reynolds\*

\*According to Robert's Rules of Order, only the prevailing side can make a motion to reconsider so the motion was withdrawn.

**Discussion:** Mr. Nelson stated that if he can be guaranteed that there are no expenses for the columns that were left blank, and that if in the future a "zero" would be put in the column, he would change his vote. He was assured by Mr. Stahly of both.

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees reconsider approving item three as presented.**

Motion: Terry                      Second: Reynolds

**Discussion:** Mr. Hoffman asked why there are requests from clear back in February on this request.

Vote: Aye: 5-1  
Against: Hoffman

13-0416-04 Approval of Amended School Year Calendars for 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item four as presented.**

Motion: Nelson Second: Terry

**Discussion:** Regarding future calendars, Mrs. Lightfoot would like to have board discussion related to having the school calendar look a bit different than we currently have to allow for more remediation and enrichment times. Mr. Hoffman asked who all had input on this calendar.

Vote: Aye: 6-0

13-0416-05 Approval of Textbook Adoption Recommendation for K-6 Reading

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item five as presented.**

**Discussion:** None.

Motion: Lightfoot Second: Nelson Vote: Aye: 6-0

13-0416-06 Approval of Application and Receipt of Funds for Imagining and Creating eLearning Grant Competition

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item six as presented.**

Motion: Terry Second: Lightfoot

**Discussion:** Mr. Hoffman asked if any Board members had read the contract to see if it “tied our hands”. Mr. Baker stated he had read through the contract and it did not but he would like to see how the funds will be allocated.

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item six as presented.**

Motion: Terry Second: Lightfoot Vote: Aye: 5-1  
Against: Hoffman

13-0416-07 Approval of Application and Receipt of Funds for America’s Farmers Grow Rural Education Grant

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item seven as presented.**

Motion: Terry Second: Nelson Vote: Aye: 6-0

**Discussion:** None.

13-0416-08 Approval of Application and Participation in the Indiana Department of Education's SY13/14 Diagnostic Assessment Tools Program

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees approve item eight as presented.**

Motion: Lightfoot Second: Nelson

**Discussion:** Mr. Hoffman asked what's in this for EACS? Mr. Diehl explained that this covers many of the test banks and testing that the district uses.

Vote: Aye: 5-1  
Against: Hoffman

**NEW BUSINESS**

-RDS Extra Curricular Financial Software

**PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Speaker**

Mandy Liechty

**Subject(s)**

An EACS teacher – Praised Mrs. Hissong for the Curriculum and the 3/19 Inservice, Mr. Diehl & Technology Dept. for the iPads and tech support. Thanked Tech Dept. for their presentation; chastised the old board members.

Doug Geller

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

**Speaker**

Chris Baker

**Subject(s)**

-Would like to see Barnes and Thornburg retained as legal counsel for the Board and they can aid in the details of the Superintendent search as well (contract, etc.).

**Motion: That the Board of School Trustees retain Barnes and Thornburg as legal counsel for the Board.**

Motion: Baker Second: Hoffman Vote: Aye: 4-0-2\*\*  
Abstained: Lightfoot, Nelson

\*\*Mr. Nelson recused himself from the vote as his wife is employed by Barnes and Thornburg.

-Wants to send a clear message to the staff that he is tired of asking for things and being ignored.

-His visits to buildings are just to find out how things are done, not to be involved in day-to-day operations of the school or the district.

Bob Nelson

-Focus on Health event will be held at NHHS this Saturday, April 20 from 8-12 noon.

-Read a prepared statement on behalf of Mr. Baker, Mr. Hoffman and himself stating that the findings of Dr. Yost's report will be examined and a review of the district, including key staff and the Board will be done, including why morale is so low.

Terry Jo Lightfoot -Common Core Curriculum – Should we be proactive in getting the word out about it?  
-The School Board should not be involved in the day to day minutia of the district. Regarding Dr. Yost’s report, the Board should first take a look at themselves.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

**MINUTES** These minutes were taken by Mrs. Julie Labie.

**NEXT MEETING** The next special meeting to discuss the Superintendent Search is April 23, 2013. The next regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the EACS Administration Building, 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, IN.

These minutes were approved and adopted by the East Allen County Schools Board of School Trustees on May 7, 2013.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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Secretary

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