

**EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL BOARD  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2013**

At a Special Board meeting, held at 525-1/2 Broadway Street, New Haven, IN, the Board of School Trustees of East Allen County Schools, met at approximately 7:00 p.m. on January 21, 2013, with the following members present:

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

EACS Administrators in attendance – Mr. Chris Hissong, Executive Director of School Management, and Mr. Kirby Stahly, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services.

President Neil Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

Board Compact

After input from everyone it was determined that the current Board Compact should be reviewed and revised. There is consensus to change the name of the document as well. Mrs. Lightfoot and Mr. Nelson will meet to revise the Compact in the near future so that revisions can be brought to the February 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for further discussion. Suggestions and comments should be emailed to either Mrs. Lightfoot or Mr. Nelson.

Hearing of Visitors

As of tomorrow's Board meeting, the Board has reinstated the practice of including two times during board meetings to hear from the public – the first time being for agenda items; the second for non-agenda items.

After discussion, and by consensus it was determined that "Hearing of Visitors" will be changed to "Public Expressions".

It was also determined that the Board President will field public questions and comments, and it will be at his discretion as to how much discussion should take place. It is the Board's intention that dialogue be kept to a minimum. When necessary, the Board President will direct questions or convey action to other Board members or the Superintendent or other administrators.

### Board Agendas

Mr. Nelson asked how a Board member would get an item of interest for discussion placed on the Agenda. The Agenda is determined by the Board President along with the Superintendent. If a member is interested in hearing about a certain subject or is interested in presenting to the Board, established protocol is to contact the Board President with their ideas and a determination will be made as to the inclusion of this on an upcoming Agenda.

### Work Sessions vs. Regular Meetings

Mr. Terry would like to have the Board hold one work session a month and one regular meeting a month. Mr. Hoffman pointed out that Board Policy 2001 states that this is how the monthly meetings are to be set up. If this practice would be reinstated Mr. Hartman suggests staying seated at the dais so as to not have ones back to the audience.

### Board Minutes

Mr. Hoffman wants to see more detailed minutes. Discussion followed. President Reynolds stated that this could be brought up at tomorrow night's meeting during Board Discussion.

### General Boardsmanship

Many Board members have questions/ideas/suggestions that they would like discussed. Mrs. Lightfoot suggested that if a Board member has certain ideas, they may want to touch base with Dr. Green first as she could determine 1) if the idea is even doable in our district (fiscally and/or legally), and 2) if she has staff that could do the legwork for the idea.

An Executive Session and a Special Board Meeting was set for Tuesday, January 29 at the Administration Building. The Executive Session will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the public Special Board meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. (It was noted that Mr. Terry may be late for the meetings.) Mr. Terry suggested that the Board set three main priorities for the year. It was determined that prior to the January 29<sup>th</sup> Special Board meeting that each Board member is to email President Reynolds with three long term and three short term priorities.

### Request for Information Log

Mr. Hoffman has developed a Request for Information Log (RFI). He elaborated on how he would like to see the Board use this tool. Much discussion followed and it was verbalized that at the present this is very much a work in progress, and if instituted as presented, Mr. Hoffman would need to be the "custodian" of the log.

At this point in time, if anyone emails the Superintendent or another Administrator requesting information, please hit "Reply All" so that all Board members are copied on the information.

Other

- Read emails on a frequent, regular basis.
- Mr. Baker would like to discuss bell times at an upcoming meeting and our Alternative School makeup, etc.
- Mr. Hoffman has prepared a presentation for the Board (virtual classrooms).
- Mr. Hoffman would like to see corporal punishment reinstated in the classrooms.
- Mr. Reynolds stated that the Board needs to meet with Brand Innovation Group in the near future. Also, he would like to discuss some administrators' contracts be extended from 1 to 2 years. This should take place in Executive Session sometime in February or March.
- An Executive Session regarding legal matters will be scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
- Mr. Baker suggested that all votes be recorded by a show of hands. Board consensus was to adopt this practice. Mr. Reynolds added that all "Abstained" votes should be with a reason cited for the abstention.
- Mr. Nelson would like to have the audience members who attended tonight's meeting be thanked.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:46 p.m.

These minutes were approved and adopted by the East Allen County Schools Board of School Trustees on February 5, 2013.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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Secretary

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