



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

**April 9, 2013 – 7:00 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  
William D. Hartman  
Arden L. Hoffman  
Terry Jo Lightfoot  
Robert L. Nelson, Jr.

**Staff**

Mr. Kirby Stahly, Asst. Supt. for Admin. Services	Dr. Neal Brown III, Principal, Leo Jr./Sr. High
Mr. Chris Hissong, Exec. Dir. of School Management	Mrs. Natalie Drummond, Principal, Southwick Elem.
Dr. Michael B. Shaffer, Asst. Supt. of Instruction	Mrs. Alicia Gatewood, Principal, Meadowbrook Elem.
Mr. William Diehl, Director of Accountability	Ms. Thelma Green, Principal, Prince Chapman Academy
Mrs. Marilyn Hissong, Director of Curriculum	Mrs. Teresa Gremaux, Principal, Paul Harding Jr. High
Mrs. Tamyra Kelly, Public Relations Liaison	Mr. Doug Hicks, Principal, East Allen University
Mrs. Connie Brown, Interim Dir. of Special Services	Mr. Ron Kammeyer, Principal, Woodlan Jr./Sr. High
Mr. Doug Roemer, Director of Facilities	Mr. Jeff Kline, Principal, EACS Alternative
Mrs. Rose Fritzingler, Director of Development	Mrs. Teresa Knoblauch, Principal, Highland Terrace El.
Mrs. Katie Jackson, Dir. of Targeted Academic Supt.	Mr. Bob Rohrbacher, Principal, Heritage Jr./Sr. High
Mr. Ed Mendoza, Principal on Special Assignment	Mr. Ronald C. Crosby, President, EAEA
	Mrs. Terri Lortie, President, EACS Custodial Assn.

Once the meeting was called to order Mr. Baker moved that the agenda be changed to include an update of the Superintendent's Search. Mrs. Lightfoot seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

1) Timothy L. Johnson Academy - The Board met tonight regarding the possibility of becoming the authorizer for Timothy L. Johnson Academy. President Reynolds read the following statement:

“After much consideration and with valuable input from our constituents, the East Allen School Board has decided not to sponsor the Timothy L. Johnson Academy at this time. We believe that the focus of the district's resources must remain on developing and improving our current school system. We are committed to every student in the East Allen County School District and promise to pursue the best in education to those students. We thank the Academy for approaching us and we wish them the very best”.

Following the reading of the statement President Reynolds stated that in light of this the discussion would revolve around what is best for the students of EACS, and how do we proceed with the Adams Township/Harding attendance area.

Mr. Terry shared an overview of his history with the district and the Harding attendance area, emphasizing that the students in the Harding area must not be forgotten, believing that EACS owes it to the Harding community to continue to work hard towards solutions that will bring transformational change to that area.

Next Mr. Hoffman harangued Mr. Reynolds about not knowing that this statement being read was going to take place. Mr. Reynolds informed Mr. Hoffman that he had sent out an email to all Board members about what was taking place tonight.

Mr. Hoffman asked Mr. Terry if another sponsor had been found (the answer is no). He also asked if all other sponsorship opportunities had been exhausted (the answer is no). Mr. Hoffman believes it would be a win win if EACS sponsored the TLJ Academy and stated that if no sponsorship could be found that TLJ should re-approach EACS.

The other Board members weighed in with their opinions at this time:

Mrs. Lightfoot

- Work on the soft skills of all staff members.
- What do we do with all of our buildings, especially the Adams Township buildings – we can't afford to keep all of them open without a bond issue or referendum.
- At one time all of Adams Township was viewed as a whole.
- Made suggestions of different configurations for the schools in Adams Township.

Mr. Nelson

- Reiterated his desire to have a discussion on setting goals for the Board/district at the April 16 Board meeting.
- Need to work on getting buy-in. Five separate attendance areas but “We Are East Allen County Schools”.
- Has ideas on how Adams Township could be reconfigured.

Mr. Terry

- Whatever reconfiguring is done needs to include the Harding area.
- Mantra of the past has been “5 High Schools / 1 Campus”.
- All communities are unique and solutions should not be one-size-fits-all.
- Made suggestions of different configurations for the schools in Adams Township.

Mr. Hartman

- Strongly believes in school choice.
- We have partnered with TLJ by providing space for them to house their school.
- We are a school board for all East Allen students.
- We currently have 4 high schools representing 12 communities.
- Made suggestions of different configurations for the schools in Adams Township.

Mr. Hoffman

- Would like to present his student focused education in a cloud idea/program.
- Made suggestions of different configurations for the schools in Adams Township.
- TLJ's scores are higher than one of our EACS elementary schools.

Mr. Baker

- Regarding the sponsorship of TLJ, he thought long and hard about this while deliberating over input received from staff and constituents, and does not believe it is best for EACS to do this.
- Certain things should have been addressed years ago in the Harding area but weren't; is committed to improving things at all EACS schools.
- Made suggestions of different configurations for the schools in Adams Township.
- Don't misinterpret one's culture with discipline and respect.

Mr. Reynolds

- In reference to a comment Mr. Hoffman made about The Leona Group, Mr. Reynolds stated that it would be problematic for EACS to take on the responsibilities that The Leona Group currently provides to TLJ.

2) Superintendent Search Update –

- Superintendent candidate resumes and applications are due by April 30.
- The online survey concludes this Friday, April 12. Mr. Terry and Mr. Hoffman will compile the results from this survey and have it to the Board by this Tuesday, April 16.
- The input from the staff and community meetings which took place in March have been compiled, summarized, and emailed to Board members.
- From the list of survey and input results a list of top criteria will be developed as to qualities and attributes wanted in the next Superintendent.
- The University Team will collect and sort all resumes based on the criteria given, but the Board wants to see all resumes once the Team has sorted through them.
- After discussion, Board consensus is that if there is someone a Board member knows of that they would like to see apply for the job, one individual Board member should approach that person versus having several go. Board members should email each other with potential candidates names so they can be contacted soon due to the looming deadline.
- EACS' top three candidates will not be named publically for the sake of anonymity for the applicants.
- An Executive Session needs to be scheduled to discuss a compensation package for the new Superintendent.

**PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS:**

Speaker

Nancy Jenkins

Subject(s)

Former EACS teacher, and long-time Harding area resident, knows we have fantastic schools in the Harding area but people don't want to attend them. The State needs to change how they rate schools. Not fair to anyone when students who barely know English must take these tests.

Ron Crosby

EACS parent, teacher, EAEA President – Please involve teachers, administrators, and staff in the implementation of the Board’s goals, and in the Superintendent search process.

Lloyd Wallace

Thanks for considering sponsoring TLJ. Parents need to get more involved in their children’s lives in order for them to succeed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:58 p.m.

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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