

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

MILAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

APRIL 17, 2017

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2017. Attending were Board members Edward Amberger, Gregory Lewis, Timothy Tuttle and Douglas Norman. Michael Brandes was absent. Also attending was Superintendent Jane Rogers. President Edward Amberger presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Norman motioned to approve the minutes from the executive and the regular meetings on March 13, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Motion carried 4-0.

Comments from Patrons/Staff:

Local farmer, Jerry Gauck, addressed the Board with questions about his tax bill. He stated he has farmland in three school districts – Milan, South Ripley and North/South Decatur - and although the taxes went down in the other two districts, his Milan taxes went up. He asked the Board to investigate this and let him know the reason. Mrs. Rogers stated she would get that information to him in a timely manner.

German students, Nathan Ortt and Alex Volz, made a presentation to the Board about their spring break trip to Germany with Dr. Reale. They showed photographs and commented about the numerous places they visited and the knowledge they gained. They stated how impressed they were with the various sites, and noted Dr. Reale's German friends accompanied them on some of the tours and gave them insight on the attractions. They concluded they had a wonderful, educational experience.

Linda Baurley, representing the Dollars for Scholars program, informed the Board that four seniors had been awarded Mortara Scholarships. Heather Hacker, Braden Burdette, Sierra Kern, and Abigael Yelton will each receive \$10,000 for every year of their four year college education. Mrs. Rogers thanked the Dollars for Scholars program for taking the initiative every year to procure scholarship monies for our graduates.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Mr. Tuttle motioned to approve a resolution to transfer \$150,000 from the transportation fund to the rainy day fund. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Rogers stated the property & liability insurance was due for renewal on May 1, 2017. She stated she had reached out to three insurance agents, but only received a quote from our present agent, Seitz Insurance. She stated they offered a 2% increase in coverage for the nominal amount of \$989.00. She recommended approval of the quote for \$57,093.00 per year, which includes opting out of the terrorism coverage. Mr. Norman asked why no one else quoted and Mrs. Rogers stated one of the other agencies said he could not do much better than the Seitz quote. Mr. Lewis asked if the workers compensation coverage was included and Mrs. Rogers informed him the workers compensation policy was from January to January and was not included in the property and liability policy. She stated the Seitz quotes have saved us over \$200,000 over the past several years in insurance premiums. Mr. Tuttle motioned to approve the quote from Seitz Insurance for property and liability insurance coverage. Seconded by Mr. Norman. Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Rogers requested Board approval for Elearning days during the 2017-18 school year. She stated these days gave students the opportunity to stay home and complete their assignments by doing their instruction online. She noted we observed two Elearning days during the 2016-17 school year and there had been a positive response. She commented she was requesting approval for four days, but we could choose to use less than four. She stated consideration was being given whether to have elementary participation in the coming year. Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the following conference requests: (1) Cinda Ahlrich to attend Principal Development Day in Indianapolis from April 25-26, 2017, - cost to the corporation will be approximately \$319.00; (2) Brandy Hicks to attend an AP computer science professional development workshop at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts from July 13-17, 2017, - cost to the corporation will be approximately \$1106.00; and (3) Cinda Ahlrich to participate in IPLI seminars for the 2017-18 school year; - cost to the corporation will be approximately \$1700.00. Mr. Norman

asked about the time frame for the IPLI program. Mrs. Rogers explained Mr. Langferman and Mr. Murphy had both attended the program in the past and it was a great experience. She stated it is a two year program – the first year is personal professional development for the principal and the second year focuses on staff and school improvement. Motion seconded by Mr. Norman. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Norman motioned to approve the following field trip requests: (1) Anita Boggs to arrange a field trip to Europe from June 16-30, 2019. Cost per student is approximately \$4700.00; and (2) Mrs. Walter, Mr. Wade, Mrs. Bastin and Mr. Healy to arrange the 8th grade Washington D.C. field trip from May 14-20, 2018. Cost per student is \$815.00. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Motion carried 4-0. Mr. Norman asked if anyone expressed concerns about the safety of international trips. He noted there were overlaps in Mrs. Boggs Europe destinations with the German Club trip. He stated although he was very impressed with the presentation from the two boys tonight, he wondered about the safety of international travel. Mrs. Rogers commented the international trip was two years away and although the concern was understandable, because safety is our first priority, it was too early to make a call about travel safety.

Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the following fundraisers: (1) A request from Mr. Langferman and Mr. Sabol to permit the high school football team to hold a Lift-a-Thon on May 15, 16 and 17, 2017 to raise money for equipment; and (2) Three requests from the 8th grade D.C. teachers to permit the 8th graders to: (a) hold an electronics raffle from August 3-17, 2017; (b) hold a meat products raffle from September 21 - October 5, 2017; and (c) sell butterbraids and cookie dough from February 15 – March 1, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Norman motioned to approve the following lease agreements: (1) A request from Greg Townsend of Special Olympics Indiana to permit the organization to use the pool for practice on Thursday evenings from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. beginning April 13, 2017 through June 1, 2017. There will be no charge; and (2) A request from Milan Aquatics to use the pool from May 1 - July 31, 2017 for practices and meets. They will pay custodial fees for Saturdays. Both pool requests are pending needed pool maintenance projects. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Rogers informed the Board the Indiana Finance Authority was making free water sampling available to all schools in the state to test the water fountains for lead. All Ripley County school are participating. She stated someone would be sent to work with the maintenance men on this project and the Authority would offer guidance to the schools if any problems were found. She also reported part two of ISTEP and ECA testing would begin this week and the teachers had worked very hard to prepare the students. She presented a list of the many good things happening this month and highlighted some of them, such as the \$38,000 Rising Sun Grant for the elementary *Leader in Me* project; Mr. Prifogle receiving a *Distinguished Service Award* from the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and also an award as a *Certified Athletic Administrator*, and noted the elementary spring music programs would take place at various times this week.

Personnel:

Mrs. Rogers reported she had accepted the resignations Hershel Byrd as an elementary custodian, effective March 17, 2017; Spencer Purdy as a middle school teacher, effective the end of the 2016-17 school year; Sara Gonzalez as our high school Spanish teacher, effective the end of the 2016-17 school year; and Julia Grills as an elementary teacher, effective immediately.

Mrs. Rogers requested permission to hire another high school social studies teacher. She stated with the bump in enrollment, this step is necessary to keep classes down to manageable sizes. Mr. Norman asked what the course of action would be in the event the class sizes diminished. He noted former interim superintendent, Stephen Gookins, had given the Board a good understanding of this type of situation. Mrs. Rogers stated the class numbers and teacher use would be closely monitored to provide a quality education. Mr. Norman motioned to approve the permission to hire. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the recommendation of elementary maintenance supervisor, Jack Luhring, to employ Donald Morris to the night time custodial position vacated by Hershel Byrd, retroactive to March 21, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Norman. Motion carried 4-0.

Claims and Financial Report:

Mr. Tuttle motioned to approve vendor checks #39922 through #39994, deposit advice #59462 through #60018, and the financial report. Seconded by Mr. Norman. Motion carried 4-0.

President's Prerogative:

Mrs. Rogers thanked everyone for attending, shared her appreciation for the German student presentation and noted there were all kinds of events happening this month, from sports to academics to music programs.

Mr. Tuttle thanked everyone for attending, congratulated the Mortara scholarship recipients, thanked the boys for the German presentation, and wished the departing personnel good luck in their future endeavors.

Mr. Lewis thanked everyone for attending, thanked Mrs. Baurley for the scholarship award update, thanked the Rising Sun Foundation for their grant, and wished everyone a nice, safe spring.

Mr. Norman thanked everyone for attending, thanked the Rising Sun Foundation and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Mortara for the senior scholarships.

Mr. Amberger thanked everyone for attending, and thanked Mr. Mortara for the scholarship money and the Rising Sun Foundation for all the grant monies they have given Milan Schools.

**Mr. Tuttle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Norman. Motion carried 4-0.
Meeting adjourned 7:52 p.m.**