

BOARD NOTES

February 24, 2009

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, February 23, 2009 with all board members present. Dr. Bender was absent.

The board held a moment of silence for James Ashcraft who passed away.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

Rich Shail advised that Dr. Bender was on his way home from the AASA Conference in San Francisco. His plane was delayed and he would be unable to make it to the board meeting. He had reported to Rich Shail that he has received some excellent information from the conference and on the Stimulus package.

The board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Rich Shail asked Bernie Baltes to present a plaque to Doug Snyder in honor of his inductee into the Cross Country Hall of Fame. Bernie said it is an extreme honor to recognize someone from our corporation who has impacted the lives of so many people. Bernie talked to his sons who had nothing but praise for Doug. His son Jerry, who is a coach at a college, said he would not be where he is today if it were not for Doug Snyder. His son Joe said Mr. Snyder is the only individual who could motivate a tree to run.

Bernie said that speaks of how Doug Snyder could motivate young people to do more than they could dream of. He could make any one of his students do significantly better than they were. He never did it by intimidation, but by positive reward. They only got in trouble when they ran where they were not supposed to. He never tore anyone down.

Doug Snyder said he had a great support person in Thom Smith. He has been working with him for 26 years and he was always there to back him up. Doug wanted to thank the board for their support. They have been there for support in all the extra-curricular activities and that is very important. He said a lot of good things are happening. He hopes they continue that. Doug said this is a great honor to represent our community and our school and all the young people that ran for him. He thanks them for their support.

- The Board presented certificates to the following students for their winning of the 2008 VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest at the Rolling Prairie Post 9423. Katie Singleton - 1st Place; Katelyn Loucks - 2nd Place - Kaleb Slabaugh - 3rd Place, as well as Caitlin Smith - 3rd Place. Katie Singleton and Katelyn Loucks moved on to District and Caitlin Smith is advancing to state.
- Erick Hasse attended the presidential inauguration as a member of the leadership group and gave a great presentation. Erick said there were 1,000 high school students and 1,000 middle school students who attended from around the United States and other countries.

Erick said you could feel the transfer of power during the inauguration. He said he gained a political view. He also learned the feel of unity - a united country. He feels we need to move forward. He also gained an interest in politics.

- Amy Mullen gave a report on the Health Services Dept. with data from the first semester. Amy said they have 20 days from the start of school to get immunizations updated. There are 15-20 immunizations required for 173 kindergarten students and all new students. The new requirement this year was Chicken Pox, so they needed to go through all 2,700 charts and they sent out over 700 letters to parents. Another new requirement was data on HPV. A report is also required.
 - Vision screening was conducted for 800 students in grades 1-3-8.
 - Hearing screening was conducted for 450 students in grades 1-4-7-10 and all new students.
 - Screening and assessment was held for all special education students and BBT students for vision, hearing, height and weight.

They were responsible for over 300 medications - both over-the-counter and prescription. There were over 6,500 clinic visits for students and staff. They also have to go on field trips for those students with chronic illnesses.

They started a community flu shot clinic this year and over 30 people attended. They did not get the information until they were into the flu season. They will also be starting a newsletter. They have also had college students visit and shadowing for their clinical time. Amy held four CPF sessions as well.

Amy advised that there will be a new DOE and Department of Health requirement for 2010 for students entering grades 6-12. They will have to have the meningococcal vaccine and one TDP booster.

Amy said they are the smallest department in terms of budget and salaries, but they have the most serious responsibilities to students and staff. Amy would like to invite the board to the clinic to see what they do.

CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Minutes - January 26, 2009
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

NON-CERTIFIED

- Resignations/Leaves
 1. Loriann Bailey - Lunchroom Assistant - Middle School - Resignation effective February 13, 2009
- Employment
 1. Amy Kraus - Lunchroom Assistant - Middle School - Transfer from Lunchroom Assistant at Rolling Prairie to Lunchroom Assistant at Middle School effective February 16, 2009
 2. Lorie Stevens - Co-Lunchroom Assistant - Rolling Prairie Elementary School - two hours per day - 3 days per week.
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Doug Williamson - JV Softball
 2. RaLynne Newcomb - Assistant Girls Track - NPHS
 3. Andrew Bashaw - 6th Grade Girls Basketball - 2nd Coach - Middle School
 4. Kara Mamazza - 5th Grade Girls Basketball - 2nd Coach - Rolling Prairie
 5. Michael Claeys - Assistant Track Coach - NPHS
 6. Charlie Evans - 7th Grade Girls Basketball - 2nd Coach

REPORTS

- Keith Dennis said Lloyd Wood asked him to thank everyone - the community, and staff for their help. His crew did a remarkable job. Everything was back together by 6:00 p.m. Saturday night. The Sheriff's Dept. was there immediately and the insurance company had the claims adjustor there Saturday morning.

Bernie said he and Rich talked today and said Lloyd Wood is an unsung hero for what he can do with so little. He took a critical situation and made it very smooth. He did a wonderful job. Rich said he offered to help and Lloyd said he had it under control. They would like to commend Lloyd, Tom and Bob for the job they did.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board approved the Driver's Education Program for 2009 with student fees remaining at \$325 and teacher salaries at \$26.00 per hour.
- The board approved the advertisement for the 2009 CPF amendment. Keith Dennis said they are trying to take a look at the CPF and what we are funding there. We have been paying for a lot of little items in that fund. Keith is trying to get projects and funding for larger items. He met with the principals and looked at what had been approved in prior years that had not been accomplished and were they still necessary. They are trying to consolidate as much money as possible for the high school projects. They will be doing the HVAC project and anticipate a project in 2010 for the high school office and cafeteria. This will be a two-year process.
- The board approved the bid from D.A. Dodd for the HS/JHS HVAC project in the amount of \$954,000.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Greg Dudeck and Keith Dennis discussed their proposal to reorganize the maintenance department. Their objectives are:
 - Upgrade the maintenance capabilities across the corporation
 - Maximize contract services where appropriate
 - Reduce allocation of facilities staff for non-facility duties
 - Maximize funding

Greg said our current custodial staff is 13.5 employees and 6.0 contracted employees. The square foot coverage is an average of 33,993 per custodian. The current maintenance staff totals 3.5 employees.

The future direction would be:

- Implement a work order system
- Separate maintenance, custodians and special services responsibilities
- Upgrade maintenance positions to a semi-skilled level
- Extend maintenance staff to multiple building responsibilities

Greg said the proposed custodial staff would be 9.0 employees and 11.0 contracted employees and proposed maintenance staff of 3.

Transition:

- Change existing staff from custodial to maintenance as appropriate
- Custodial positions to contract through attrition
- Add maintenance positions as custodians are converted
- Negotiate special service staffing issues for schools
- Work with principals to address various needs

Bernie said he hears Amy Mullen and Greg make their presentation and we hear the Governor say we have to put money in the classroom. There are mandates that we have to put in that is a waste of money. Rich said they are forcing us to be more creative. It is amazing that we only have three maintenance custodians and that we can do this. What are we not getting done? Greg said we are trying to get the big things done, but would like to be on top of more. Rich said preventative maintenance is worth its weight in gold. Sometimes you need to spend money to save money.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Al asked if we are looking at bus improvements due to the recent vandalism. Keith said we met with Indiana Insurance and Mark Norton. We identified where we could put some cameras, recording and monitoring, etc. Al asked if they looked at fencing. Keith said you really can't. The whole north end of the campus would have to be addressed. They brought tools with them and they could cut through a fence. You would also have to look at the cross country trails that would be affected. Greg said fencing also creates more problems. Lloyd does not feel that is the answer in talking with other directors in the area. Keith said you don't want to spend too much money. We could improve the lighting.

- Bernie said he attended the Leadership of LaPorte County meeting at the Middle School recently and he would like to commend the high school and middle school programs that they put on. The Robotics presentation left people astounded. There were six different quality program presentations. He received many positive comments.
- Bernie read the statement from Arnie Duncan regarding education and NCLB. He said NCLB has merit but needs to be worked on. He also said there is so much disconnect between education and the business world.

Clara said she is working on an apprentice dual credit agreement with our building trades program. Also met with Ivy Tech to work out a dual credit for some of our hands-on programs.

Bernie said as an individual, this makes him very proud.

- Bernie said there is a lot on the Stimulus Bill regarding building projects, but the Governor feels we are doing too much of that.
- LuAnn feels Lloyd Wood has done an outstanding job. Keith has also been doing an outstanding job. Rich said we are progressing forward and we are able to see our returns for this position.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23rd at 6:00 p.m.