

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
EAST NOBLE SCHOOL CORPORATION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at Wayne Center Elementary School beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Pine called the meeting to order with Mrs. Blackman, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Truelove, and Dr. Jansen present. Dr. Gremaux, Superintendent; Dr. Korus, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Leitch, Chief Finance and Operations Officer; and Mrs. Rothenberger, meeting recorder were also present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECITING OF THE VISION STATEMENT

4. INTRODUCTION OF CITIZENS

Mr. Pine asked the following citizens to introduce themselves: See sign in sheet for list of citizens.

5. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Elle Shortridge spoke about the second-grade teacher at South Side Elementary, stating that we should not believe hearsay. She also spoke about how LGBTQ lack safe spaces.

April Moore addressed the Board with her thoughts about how test scores are not the only thing that matters. Students need to be able to collaborate with others that are different from them.

Charlie Barber spoke about positives things happening at the high school. Free donuts, valentines, starting trimester three on Monday, SAT with juniors, and scheduling for next year.

Jim Nixon spoke about his experience with teachers, their work ethic, and how few are careless, especially regarding the law.

Zion McNull wanted to remind everyone that all the facts are still unknown due to the ongoing investigation.

Greg Rice spoke about incorrect information sent to parents, transgender issues, issues at the middle school, all of which happened in February.

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Joel Lash addressed the Board stating that there is a lot of confusion surrounding the issue at South Side Elementary School. He expressed his displeasure about the transgender conversation that happened in his son's classroom.

Ann Frazee spoke to the Board about her thoughts on working together for the good of society.

Tim Schlotter shared his thoughts on gender issues.

Ava Carpenter spoke about how we are ruining the city, books in curriculum, and CRT being taught in schools.

Sharon Carpenter shared with the Board that prior to being homeschooled she attended South Side Elementary. She urged the schools to teach math and english so her parents feel comfortable enough to send her back to school.

Jazmine Aide spoke about her experience in english class reading The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian and how she was not forewarned about obscene material in the book.

Bret Carpenter spoke about indoctrination, inappropriate books in curriculum, and how schools need to focus on academics.

Adam Kline informed the Board that his son was punched on the playground, and he never received a phone call from the school. He went on to say school is not a fashion show and students should not be allowed to disrupt class.

Ana Hornberger read an anonymous letter that she received from a student at the high school. The letter expressed the need for the GSA club, supporting transgender, and the need to create a safe place for students to express themselves.

6. MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2024

Following a motion by Mrs. Blackman, and seconded by Mr. Durbin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 24, 2024 meeting, as presented.

7. CLAIMS OF FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Following a motion by Mr. Durbin, and seconded by Mr. Truelove, the Board voted unanimously to approve the claims for the period of January 20, 2024 through February 16, 2024 in the amount of \$1,109,817.55.

8. PERSONNEL:

A. Resignations/Retirements/Terminations

Following a motion by Mr. Durbin, and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the following resignations: **Nathan Sibert** as custodian at East Noble Middle School, effective February 27, 2024; **Hope Gierhart** as custodian at Rome City Elementary School, effective February 16, 2024; **Cynthia Felger** as route driver for East Noble School Corporation, effective February 23, 2024; **Jana Ritchie** as transportation secretary for East Noble School Corporation, effective February 12, 2024; **Janis Engerman** as food service manager at East Noble High School, effective February 22, 2024; and ECA positions: **Ashrie Auer** as sixth grade volleyball coach at East Noble Middle School, effective February 7, 2024; **Alexis Deetz** as assistant girls' track coach at East Noble High School, effective at the end of the 2023/2024 school year; **Luke Amstutz** as head football coach at East Noble High School, effective at the end of the 2023/2024 school year; **John Rouch** as assistant varsity softball coach at East Noble High School, effective February 17, 2024.

The following retirements were also accepted at tonight's meeting: **Mark Schutte** as fourth grade teacher at Avilla Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2023/2024 school year (25 years of service); **David Hoagland** as business teacher at East Noble High School, effective at the end of the 2023/2024 school year (15 years of service); **Carol Holcomb** as business teacher at East Noble High School, effective at the end of the 2023/2024 school year (15 years of service); and **Lisa Mazur** as math teacher at East Noble High School, effective at the end of the 2023/2024 school year (32 years of service).

B. Reassignments

Following a motion by Dr. Jansen, and seconded by Mrs. Blackman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following reassignments: **Luke Amstutz** from strength and conditioning teacher at East Noble High School to activities director at East Noble High School, effective July 1, 2024; **Kurt Wolf** from custodian at East Noble High School to custodian at Wayne Center Elementary School, effective February 19, 2024; and **Angela Riivald** from part-time bus driver at East Noble School Corporation to full-time transportation driver at East Noble School Corporation, effective February 26, 2024.

C. New Hires

Following a motion by Dr. Jansen, and seconded by Mr. Durbin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following new hires: **Wendy Combs** as instructional assistant Rome City Elementary School, effective February 12, 2024; **Diana McClish** as food service assistant at East Noble Middle School, effective January 29, 2024; **Jessica Cornejo** as custodian at East Noble High School, effective February 5, 2024; **Tiffanni Wepner** as part-time bus driver at East Noble School Corporation, effective February 26, 2024; **Lynley Morgan** as custodian at East Noble Middle School, effective March 4, 2024; **Baylee Rinard** as custodian at East Noble High School, effective March 25, 2024; and ECA positions: **Tye Bloomfield** as assistant girls' track coach at East Noble High School, effective for the 2023/2024 school year; **Madison**

Tyndall as assistant track coach at East Noble Middle School, effective for the 2023/2024 school year; **Tony Pita** as assistant boys' soccer coach at East Noble Middle School, effective for the 2023/2024 school year; **Scott Berger** as head boys' golf coach at East Noble Middle School, effective for the 2023/2024 school year; **John King** as assistant band director at East Noble High School, effective for the 2023/2024 school year; and **Larry Leighty** as assistant varsity softball coach at East Noble High School, effective for the 2023/2024 school year.

D. Leave Requests

Following a motion by Mrs. Blackman, and seconded by Mr. Truelove, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following leave request: A paid paternity leave made by **Braden Julian**, science teacher at East Noble High School beginning on April 8, 2024 through April 15, 2024; An unpaid maternity leave made by **Haylie Miller**, instructional assistant at East Noble Middle School beginning on March 6, 2024 through May 1, 2024; An unpaid personal leave made by **Aimee Martin**, seventh grade social studies teacher at East Noble Middle School for February 16, 2024; An unpaid leave request made by administration for **Jenn Roberts**, second grade teacher at South Side Elementary beginning February 9, 2024 through February 13, 2024; and A paid leave request made by administration for **Lashone Harris**, math teacher at East Noble Middle School beginning February 16, 2024, with an undetermined end date at this time.

9. INSTRUCTION:

A. Wayne Center Elementary School Presentation on MTSS: Understanding the Tier

Mrs. Carroll and Ms. Newcomer gave a presentation to the Board explaining their MTSS Tiers. The goals are to provide a high-quality education for all students, meet learners as there are, utilize every resource, and put school wide systems in place. Tier 1 is the core instruction, Tier 2 is targeted intervention, and Tier 3 is intensive intervention. Ms. Hadley Probst, fourth grader at Wayne Center Elementary School shared her Let's Get Cracking! project about how eggs affect and change a brownie recipe.

B. Presentation on High School Data

Mr. Graham and Mrs. Longenbaugh gave a presentation on (P)SAT scores and understanding the college board suite of assessments. The College Board defines that a student has met a benchmark if they reach a certain score on their suite of assessments. This score is different on each assessment. The short-term improvement that the high school is focusing on is 3 meetings in January 2024 with juniors, using khan academy to improve performance, and incentives such as candy, drinks, chips, ect. The long-term improvements include addition of PSAT testing at the 9th grade level, redesigning 11th and 12th grade english course offerings, integrating SAT practice into 11th grade english classes, and continuing to offer incentives for practice and score improvement.

C. Action to Approve Additional Instructional Assistant Position at the Middle School

Following a motion by Mr. Durbin, and seconded by Mrs. Blackman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the additional instructional assistant position at the middle school, as presented.

D. Action to Approve EF Tours Summer 2025 to Europe and Costa Rica

Following a motion by Mrs. Blackman, and seconded by Dr. Jansen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the EF tours Europe and Costa Rica for the summer of 2025, as presented.

E. Action to Approve Additional Preschool Classrooms and Additional Staff

Following a motion by Dr. Jansen, and seconded by Mrs. Blackman, the Board voted unanimously to approve adding a preschool classroom to Rome City Elementary School and North Side Elementary School and additional staff to support this. In addition, the Avilla Elementary preschool class will be expanded from part-time to full-time.

10. BUSINESS:

A. Action to Deem Items Obsolete and Sell on eBay

Following a motion by Mr. Durbin, and seconded by Mr. Truelove, the Board voted unanimously to approve items obsolete and sell on eBay, as presented.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Alternative Learning Center

Mr. Leitch gave a presentation on the Alternative Learning Center project which included a projected timeline, preliminary plan for budgeting, and samples of the classroom design.

12. LATE ITEMS

None

13. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gremaux took the time to congratulate several clubs and athletics that will be competing at the state level soon. She also expressed how deeply regretful she was about the incident at South Side Elementary involving a second-grade student sharing inappropriate information under the supervision of a teacher. East Noble does not condone this, and we take this matter seriously. Immediate action was taken, a thorough investigation was done, and appropriate corrective actions took place. Additional steps have been put in place to make sure this does not happen again. She also addressed that there was an alleged incident of inappropriate conduct by a middle school staff member. East Noble is following all human resource protocol

and working with local law enforcement and DCS. This is an on-going investigation. Dr. Gremaux also announced that she received an inquiry for “Superintendent on the Move” financial investment, so taxpayers would know how much this was costing the corporation. She was pleased to announce this is a low-cost tool used to highlight events going on in the corporation.

14. COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Blackman thanked Dr. Korus, Dr. Gremaux, and Mr. Leitch for answering all their questions and clarifying everything regarding the pre-school.

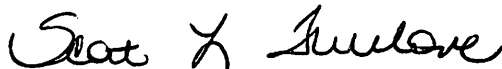
Dr. Jansen wanted to acknowledge all the retirees that were just board approved tonight.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Pine adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The Board met for an Executive Session immediately following per I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(D) to discuss the purchase or lease of real property by the governing body up to the time a contract or option to purchase or lease is executed by the parties, and I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(5) to discuss personnel. Mr. Durbin, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Pine, Mr. Truelove, Dr. Jansen, and Mrs. Blackman were all present at the Executive Session. The next Regular Board Meeting will be **Wednesday March 20, 2024 at Avilla Elementary School beginning at 6:00 p.m.**



President



Secretary