

**EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2008**

At a meeting held in the Board Room at the Administration Building, 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, Indiana, the Board of School Trustees of East Allen County Schools met at approximately 6:30 p.m. on October 21, 2008, with the following members present:

Stephen L. Terry, Sr., President
Janice A. Kelly, Vice President
Leland L. Etzler, Secretary
Terry Jo Lightfoot, Assistant Secretary
William D. Hartman
Richard A. Allgeier (arrived 6:40 p.m.)
Alyssa Lewandowski

The following EACS Administrators were in attendance: Dr. M. Kay Novotny, Superintendent; Dr. Janet MacLean, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Kirby Stahly, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. J. Timothy McCaulay, General Counsel; Mr. Robert Rohrbacher, Executive Director of Student Services; Mrs. Peggy J. Rohrbacher, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Juanita Tolbert, Director of Early Intervention; and Mrs. Tamyra L. Kelly, Public Relations Liaison. Also present were Mr. Gregory M. Geise, President of EAEA; and approximately seventeen people representing employees, students, patrons and the media.

President Stephen Terry called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the October 7, 2008 Work Session were approved as presented.
The minutes of the October 7, 2008 Executive Session were approved as presented.

The Agenda was approved with the addition of addendums to 6.3 Donations, Gifts, and Extracurricular Expenditures, 6.4 Personnel Report, 6.5 Meetings and Conferences; and the addition of 2.2 Resolution Re: Contract for Purchase of Natural Gas; and the deletion of 6.17 Two Semester/Seven Period Secondary Schedule Recommendation.

Recognitions:

- Both Meadowbrook Elementary School and New Haven Middle School have teams participating in the Indiana Academy for Parent Leadership. This Academy is sponsored by the Indiana Partnerships Center, which is a parent information and resource center funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Team members include: Parents: Amanda Scheitlin, Renee Alexander, Josefina Cervantes; and Staff: Abby Akers, James Hendrix, Rhett Butler, and Gail Wonderly.
- A letter of commendation was recently received for Paul Harding High School's Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Mr. C.C. Fullove who went above and beyond his duties in resolving a situation at his school during an athletic event.

- The Heritage High School FFA/4H teams swept the Indiana State Horticulture contest recently with first place winners in the FFA high school division, 4H high school division, and junior division. Team members included Laura Morman - 1st place individual winner, Elizabeth Rohlf - 2nd place individual winner, and Kari Hammond - 3rd place individual winner. In the senior high 4H division Audra Franz placed 1st individually, Laurynn Thieme placed 2nd, and John Morman placed 3rd. In the 4H junior division Joseph Morman placed 1st, Lindsey Mulholland placed 2nd, Grant Hood placed 5th, Austin Franz placed 6th and Rachel Hammond was 7th. Congratulations to each of these individuals.
- EACS is proud to have 3 schools who have qualified as “Four Star Schools.” They are Cedarville Elementary School, Leo Elementary School, and Leo Jr./Sr. High School.

The award is the highest state distinction and is based on student achievement on ISTEP+ assessments and overall attendance rates. To be designated as a Four Star School, a school must be fully accredited, meet Adequate Yearly Progress, and perform in the top 25% of all the schools in the state in each of the following four areas: student attendance rates, mathematic proficiency scores, English/language arts proficiency scores, and the percent of student passing both English/language arts and mathematics. This year these awards were earned by 179 of 1819 schools in our state.

- The Governor's Council for People with Disabilities announced the 2008-09 class for the Partners in Policymaking Academy. This class includes Board member Rick Allgeier.
- Heritage (Class C) and Woodlan High School's (Class D) marching bands will compete at Semi-State this weekend.

Spotlights on Education:

Ms. Shirley Smith, Director of EACS' Summer Center program, along with Assistants Ms. Becky Beardsley (who has been with the program since its inception 17 years ago) and Mr. Greg Geise (who has been with the program for 10 years), shared highlights from this past year's program which had an all-academic focus, and involved students from Pre-K through 8th grade.

Mr. Bob Rohrbacher, Executive Director of Student Services, provided additional information to the Board regarding Student Discipline, Summer School, and ADM/Enrollment.

Section 2.0 Discussion Items

2.1 Open Discussion of Issues of Interest to the Board

-Board members need to email their choice of Board Compact to either Janice or Bill by October 31st. Discussion will take place at the November 3rd Board meeting.

-The Listening Tours have gone well.

-Board consensus is to hold, before off-site Board meetings (which take place four times a year), an informal “reception/meet and greet” at the school to connect with the public, to dialogue, answer questions, hear concerns, etc. Light refreshments will be served. This will start with the November 18th off-site Board meeting at New Haven Middle School.

-Mrs. Tamyra Kelly provided the Board with a mockup of EACS Activities Passes for senior citizens. Discussion followed regarding when to implement the program, age limits, perceived lost revenue, consistency throughout the District, a marketing plan, etc. The concept has been shared with the High School Principals. The Athletic Directors will be brought together to springboard a kick off for Fall 2009.

-Regarding Consent Item 6.17 being pulled from the agenda, Mrs. Lightfoot wants to ensure that students and parents are aware of the various educational opportunities EACS offers, i.e. distance learning, dual credit, five campus, early bird classes, independent study, etc. and to make sure these choices are communicated.

2.2 Resolution Re: Contract for Purchase of Natural Gas

Due to deregulation, EACS now has the opportunity to purchase and lock in a fixed term rate for natural gas thereby saving the District around \$20K. Due to the current market, it is recommended that Board approval/authorization be given to pursue locking in a rate over the next several months within the parameters stated in the proposed Resolution. After discussion, Board consensus was to take action on this Resolution at tonight’s meeting (see Action Item 5.1).

Section 3.0 Public Expressions

None

Section 4.0 Information Items

Mr. Allgeier, Mr. Hartman and Mrs. Lightfoot asked questions regarding Consent Items.

Incidental Information

- Third Quarter 2008 Allocation/Grant Awards for EACS

The following information was given to the Board as information, with formal action recommended for the November 3, 2008 Board meeting:

- Apply For and Receive 2nd Grade Laptop Program Grant
- Apply For and Receive Afternoons ROCK in Indiana (ARII)
- Supplemental Education Services Contract - Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Services

The monthly Financial Status Report of the General Fund and Transportation Fund, along with the Financial Report, and the Food Service Activity Report were provided to the Board.

Section 5.0 Action Item

- 5.1 Resolution Re: Contract for Purchase of Natural Gas (see Exhibit A, incorporated herein).

Vice President Kelly moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Mr. Allgeier seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Section 6.0 Consent Items

Vice President Kelly moved to approve the consent items with addendums as presented. Secretary Etzler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The following consent items were approved:

- 6.1 Approval of payroll claims for the payroll period ending September 12, 2008 in the amount of \$2,028,759.92; and for the payroll period ending September 26, 2008 in the amount of \$2,117,023.66.

- 6.2 Approval of vendor claims: 247863-248140, 247284-247300, 247365-247377; manual checks 5414-5421, 17447-17563; and electronic transfers 090208, 091008, 091708, 092308, 092908, 000810-000845, totaling \$4,745,651.11.

- 6.3 Approval to Leo Jr./Sr. High School to accept a donation in the amount of \$754.17, from Target's "Take Charge of Education" program.

Approval to Village Elementary School to accept a donation in the form of a \$100.00 gift card, from Wal-Mart South. This gift card is to be used towards the purchase of items to reward students for academics and good behavior.

- 6.4 Approval to extend offer of employment to Ms. Sarah Thompson, as a full time ESL teacher at Highland Terrace Elementary School, for the 2008-09 school year.

Approval of leave of absence to Ms. Angela Brooks-Ngwenya, paraprofessional at Paul Harding High School, effective October 15, 2008 through October 15, 2009, to care for her elderly father.

Approval of FMLA leave of absence to Ms. Beth Baumert, teacher at Hoagland Elementary School, effective November 3, 2008 through November 17, 2008.

Approval of FMLA leave of absence to Ms. Tracey Mull, teacher at Harlan Elementary School, effective September 23, 2008 through November 6, 2008.

Approval of FMLA leave of absence to Mrs. Elaine Ostheimer, paraprofessional at Park Hill Learning, effective October 7, 2008 through October 20, 2008.

Approval of medical leave of absence to Ms. Marjorie Arnett, custodian at Hoagland and Monroeville Elementary Schools, effective October 13, 2008 through November 5, 2008.

- 6.5 Approval of Meetings and Conferences (see Exhibit B, incorporated herein).
- 6.6 Approval to Apply For and Receive District Administration XFactor Student Achievement Grant (see Exhibit C, incorporated herein).
- 6.7 Approval to Apply For and Receive PATINS Universal Design for Learning Project (IDOE) (see Exhibit D, incorporated herein).
- 6.8 Approval of Resolution for Additional Appropriation (see Exhibit E, incorporated herein).
- 6.9 Approval of EACS and National Urban Alliance for Effective Education, Inc. Agreement (PHHS, PCA, SOEL, VIEL) (see Exhibit F, incorporated herein).
- 6.10 Approval of EACS and National Urban Alliance for Effective Education, Inc. Agreement (PHHS) (see Exhibit G, incorporated herein).
- 6.11 Approval of EACS and Parkview Health System, Inc. Agreement (see Exhibit H, incorporated herein).
- 6.12 Approval of EACS & Innovations for the Development of Cognitive Literacy, Inc. Agreement (PCA) (see Exhibit I, incorporated herein).
- 6.13 Approval of EACS & Innovations for the Development of Cognitive Literacy, Inc. Agreement (VIEL) (see Exhibit J, incorporated herein).
- 6.14 Approval of EACS and Roeing Corporation Agreement (see Exhibit K, incorporated herein).
- 6.15 Approval of School Bus Bids 2008 (see Exhibit L, incorporated herein).
- 6.16 Approval of Group Health Insurance Recommendation (see Exhibit M, incorporated herein).
- 6.18 Approval of Supplemental Education Services Contract Revisions (see Exhibit N, incorporated herein).

Section 7.0 Reports and Comments

The ISBA Fall Regional dinner meeting is tomorrow night at Goeglein's beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Yesterday the IDOE Title I team conducted an audit of EACS' Title I schools. The State will send us a final report within 30 days.

The school year is moving right along.

Dr. Novotny thanked the Board for their support of the Listening Tours. Mrs. Tamyra Kelly is compiling the notes taken by the panel at each of the meetings and is looking for common strands. The Strategic Planning Committee will reconvene on October 29th to peruse the information. Each subcommittee will then set goals for the District. At the November 3rd Work Session Dr. Novotny will bring preliminary discussion items to offset the \$1M deficit the District faces.

Secretary Etzler stated that if anyone missed the debate between the two candidates for State Superintendent, it will be re-aired on NBC 33 this Saturday, October 25th at 3:00 p.m.

Section 8.0 Public Expressions

None

Section 9.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:33 p.m.

These minutes were approved and adopted by the East Allen County Schools Board of School Trustees on Monday, November 3, 2008.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Secretary

