

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF CASTON SCHOOL CORPORATION

The Caston Board of School Trustees met Wednesday, February 19, 2014, in the administration building. Present were Board members Mr. Russell Phillips, Mrs. Michaela Slisher, Mr. Jason Herd, Mr. Gary Baumgardner and Mr. Bruce Cress. Also present was Interim Superintendent – Mrs. Lucinda Douglass and Corporation Attorney – Mr. Robert Murray, as well as HS Principal, Mr. Adam Strasser. Patrons attending the meeting included Marla DuVall and Amie Sites (*Reporter for the Logansport Pharos Tribune.*)

Regular Meeting: Board President, Mr. Jason Herd, called the regular meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 7:13 P.M.

Celebrations:

- Caston Elementary School is offering the R.O.P.E.S. program for students in grades 4 – 6. This program is offered by Youth Services Alliances. R.O.P.E.S. stands for Recognizing Opportunities for Potential Excellence and Success. It is an afterschool program that has been in the elementary and middle schools for 15 years and has been the recipient of a National Award for Academic Achievement and a Governors Award in Indiana. Sponsors for the Youth Services Alliances are: Ben & Ruth Ann Yantis, Valley Fellowship Church, McTaggart Charitable Trust, Sangralea Valley Camp, Partners for Drug Free Cass County. Caston Elementary School currently has 28 students participating in this program. They meet Tuesdays & Thursdays after school in the Elementary Assembly Room.
- Senior Derek Berkshire recently learned that he was selected as one of the top 150 finalists for the Coca Cola Scholarship guaranteeing him a \$20,000 scholarship. He will be traveling to Atlanta Georgia April 3 – 6 for Scholars Weekend where he will compete for an additional \$10,000 scholarship offered to the top 10 of those 150 finalists. Derek was also recently named one of the Cass County Lilly Scholarship finalists.
- Thirty Students (Elementary and Junior High) participated in IMEA Circle the State with Song at the Honeywell Center in Wabash on February 15. Additionally, the ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest was held February 1 at Northwestern HS in Kokomo. Gold Ratings were awarded to Sarah Donaldson for her Vocal Solo & Elizabeth Byrum for her Piano Solo. Silver Ratings were awarded to the JH Girls Ensemble of Sarah Donaldson, Jordyn Campbell, Ryonn Doan, Kendra Pugh, Kennedy Ault, Bailey Shultz, Holley Hoff, Jayda Shafer, Erin Frye & Hanna Hoover. The JH Girls Trio of Jordyn Campbell, Ryonn Doan & Kendra Pugh also received silver ratings. Receiving gold awards for instrumental competition were: Elizabeth Byrum for a trumpet solo, the Trombone trio of Sarah Donaldson, Matthew Holliman & Zach Conrad, and the mixed woodwind trio of Russell Mullins, Taylor Fenstermaker & Madison Shultz. Receiving silver instrumental awards were: Bryana Slisher with a flute solo, Taylor Fenstermaker, Mackenzie Leavell & Russell Mullins with clarinet solos and Derek Berkshire & Madison Shultz with saxophone solos.
- Currently 86 Caston Elementary students are participating in the Comet Instructional Basketball League. This program runs on Saturdays and Mr. Blake Mollenkopf organizes the program. Instruction is provided by the boys' and girls' high school basketball staff, current high school players, and volunteers. It is a three-week program.
- Girls' Basketball All Conference Team was selected this weekend and Caston Lady Comets are well represented. Mickayla Rans, Anna Brown, and Marli Leazenby were all named to the All-Conference Team, and Sarah Holt was named as an honorable mention. Also congratulations to our Lady Comets for being runners up in the IHSAA Sectional.
- Senior Quentin Douglass was named to the Region 4 Football team, making him eligible for the North/South All-Star Game this summer. This is an honor that only a few players have previously been recognized for in Comet Football History. Quentin also scored his 1000th point earlier this season in basketball and is currently ranked 4th in all-time scoring records for Caston High School with 1139 points.

Public comment re: advertised items: none

Consent Agenda: Mr. Baumgardner moved, seconded by Mrs. Slisher to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

- A. Approve minutes of the February 4, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting
- B. Presentation and review of claims #34580 through #34706 inclusive for payment totaling \$525,270.51.
- C. Approval of Mr. Nic Murray as volunteer assistant baseball coach.

Unanimous 5 - 0

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Phillips moved, seconded by Mr. Cress to approve the transfer of unused and unencumbered monies from the Transportation Budget to the Rainy Day Fund in the amount of \$22,500.

Unanimous 5-0

Mr. Cress moved, seconded by Mr. Baumgardner to approve the resolution for expenditure goals for the school year 2013-14 as presented.

Unanimous 5-0

Mr. Baumgardner moved, seconded by Mrs. Slisher to offer an insurance premium holiday for all school corporation employees who are a part of the corporation health insurance plan for the month of March, 2014 to be paid from the ISTA Lawsuit Fund #3952.

Unanimous 5-0

The board gave consensus to the first reading of the following board bylaws/policies:

- 1. 0150 – (Bylaws) Organization
- 2. 1662 – (Administration) Anti-Harassment
- 3. 3362 – (Professional Staff) Anti-Harassment
- 4. 4362 – (Support Staff) Anti-Harassment
- 5. 5517 – (Students) Anti-Harassment
- 6. 1630.01 - (Administration) Family & Medical Leaves of Absence
- 7. 3430.01 – (Professional Staff) Family & Medical Leaves of Absence (FMLA)
- 8. 4430.01 – (Support Staff) Family & Medical Leaves of Absence (FMLA)
- 9. 3419.02 – (Professional Staff) Privacy Protections of Fully Insured Group Health Plans
- 10. 4419.02 – (Support Staff) Privacy Protections of Fully Insured Group Health Plans

All of the above bylaws/policies will receive a 2nd reading at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Mr. Baumgardner moved, seconded by Mr. Cress to recommend alterations to the school schedule in an effort to make up lost instructional time prior to ISTEP+ Testing. It was determined that the school day would be extended by 50 minutes (splitting 25 minutes on each end of the day) from February 24 – April 22, 2014 to compensate for 5 missed days and that students would attend school on April 18th which was previously listed as a vacation day in addition to all snow days already built into the school calendar.

Unanimous 5-0

Other Business: Following lengthy discussion, Mrs. Slisher moved, seconded by Mr. Phillips to table the consideration of options for lost pay for non-salary workers due to “waived days” deducted from the 2013-14 school year calendar.

Vote passed 3 (Slisher, Phillips, Herd) to 2 (Baumgardner, Cress)

Reports/Information:

- a. Health Care Reform Update – February 11, 2014

Public Comment: Marla DuVall commented on complications with driver-to-school communication at times while driving a bus route. She also stated that she appreciates the school-day extension being split.

Board Comment: Mr. Phillips asked if the 2014-15 school calendar committee was meeting this week.

Adjournment: Mr. Cress moved, seconded by Mr. Baumgardner that the regular meeting be adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Unanimous 5 - 0

CASTON BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

