

**School City of Hobart
Regular Session
January 6, 2005**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on January 6, 2005, in the Board Room located in Hobart Middle School, 705 East 4th Street, Hobart, Indiana, with the following present:

Board Members

Michael J. Rogers
Jason Back
William David Bigler
Robert W. Marszalek
Stephen R. Turner
Terry D. Butler
Nancy J. Norris

Staff Members

John A. Leach
Rich Edwards
Ted Zembala
William J. Longer
Peter L. Goerges
Debra Misecko

Absent:

Peggy Buffington

The meeting was called to order around 7:34 p.m. by Michael Rogers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Rogers led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE: William J. Longer administered the Oath of Office to the Board members who were re-elected to the Board last November: Jason Back, Terry Butler, and Michael Rogers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board met in executive session at 6:30 p.m. in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(1) where authorized by federal or state statute; (6) with respect to any individual over whom the governing body has jurisdiction: (A) to receive information concerning the individual's alleged misconduct; and (B) to discuss, prior to any determination, that individual's status as an employee, student, or independent contractor who is a physician; and (9) to discuss job performance evaluation of individual employees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Rogers entertained a motion to approve the executive and regular session minutes of December 16, 2004. Nancy Norris corrected the regular session minutes to indicate that Terry Butler read the voucher register, not her, and then she moved to approve the regular session minutes as corrected and the executive session minutes as distributed. David Bigler seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

Kathie Godfrey, *Hobart Chronicle*

Justin Post, *The Times*

Carolyn Polomchak, Liberty teacher, and her husband, Dale, both members of the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation

Dave Vinzant, President of the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation

Beth Peterman, Liberty teacher and educational foundation grant recipient

Vicky Thompson, Liberty teacher and educational foundation grant recipient

Joe Monacy, guidance counselor at the middle school and educational foundation grant recipient

FINANCIAL REPORTS: There were no financial reports.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: There were no comments from the audience on the listed agenda items.

PERSONNEL: Ted Zembala, Business Manager, presented the following personnel item for the Board's consideration:

Homebound Teaching Contracts –

December 10, 2004/January 17, 2005: Pamela Kanich, special education, \$34.42 per hour

December 1, 2004/January 17, 2005: Cynthia Lambeth, English 10 3-4, \$49.32 per hour; Diane Lawrence, child development/parenting, \$48.59 per hour; and Steven Schwanke, health & safety, \$48.59 per hour

Probationary Employee –

Christy Dziadowicz, Service Center/school bus driver, effective December 10, 2004, \$46.48 per day

Termination –

Julio Koleff, Hobart High/custodian, effective January 7, 2005

Mr. Zembala recommended approval and requested Board action.

Nancy Norris so moved. Seconded by Stephen Turner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Terry Butler moved to increase the superintendent's salary by the same amount as given to other administrators (3½%). Seconded by Stephen Turner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Butler inquired as to whether Mr. Longer had received an increase, and it was noted that this was done at the last meeting.

BOARD REORGANIZATION: Michael Rogers indicated that the Board reorganizes annually at its first meeting in January by electing officers, establishing meeting dates, setting Board compensation, and making several appointments for the calendar year.

► Election of Officers: Mr. Rogers entertained a motion for nominations for the office of president. Robert Marszalek moved to nominate Jason Back for president. Seconded by Terry Butler. There were no other nominations. Vote on the motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Rogers extended his congratulations to Mr. Back. Mr. Back then called for nominations for the office of vice president.

Stephen Turner nominated Robert Marszalek to be vice president. Seconded by Michael Rogers. There were no other nominations. Vote on the motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Back called for nominations for the office of secretary.

Terry Butler nominated Stephen Turner. Seconded by David Bigler. There were no other nominations. Vote on the motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

► Appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer: Mr. Back noted that Ted Zembala served as treasurer and Sherry Wathen as deputy treasurer last year.

Michael Rogers moved to retain Ted Zembala as Treasurer and Sherry Wathen as Deputy Treasurer for this calendar year. Seconded by David Bigler. All ayes. Motion carried.

► Appointment of School Attorney: President Back asked for a motion for the appointment of the School Attorney and noted that William Longer had served in that capacity last year.

Terry Butler moved to retain William Longer as the Board Attorney. Seconded by Michael Rogers. All ayes. Motion carried.

► Establishment of Regular Meetings: Mr. Back noted that the Board's regular meeting dates have been the first and third Thursdays of each month with executive sessions being held at 6:30 p.m. and regular meetings at 7:30 p.m., prevailing time, in the Board Room at Hobart Middle School.

Terry Butler moved to hold the same meeting schedule. Robert Marszalek seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

►Board Compensation: President Back called for a motion on the Board's compensation.

Robert Marszalek moved that the Board's compensation be \$2,000 per year with a per diem of \$112 for each meeting attended not to exceed a total of \$5,000 for the year. Seconded by Michael Rogers. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Butler indicated that the maximum levels of compensation for school boards was set for the state by the City-Council of Marion County, and Mr. Turner noted that this was still below the maximum amount.

►Board of Finance: Mr. Back indicated that the meeting of the Board of Finance will be an agenda item at the January 20th meeting and said that in accordance with Board policy, the officers of the Board of Finance are the same as the Board of School Trustees. He asked for a motion to acknowledge this.

Terry Butler so moved. Seconded by Michael Rogers. All ayes. Motion carried.

►Delegates and Appointments: President Back listed the delegate and committee appointments to be filled for this year: Negotiations Committee; Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative; ISBA Voting Delegate; School City of Hobart Educational Foundation Board of Directors; Insurance Committee; Policy Committee; Student Handbook Committee; Hobart Park Board; and Student Representative. He indicated that he would be announcing those appointments at the next meeting on January 20th.

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS: Dave Vinzant, President of the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation, indicated that he was pleased to be presenting grants to teachers totaling \$4,578.86, and he highlighted information about the grants. The grant information is as follows:

Kindergarten Home-School Literacy Program Using Keep@Books - \$853.86

Beth Peterman, Vicky Thompson, Carolyn Polomchak, Liberty Elementary School

Students will receive inexpensive, consumable and easily read books for school and home use. This project will provide 24 take-home books for each child in kindergarten at Liberty. A new book will be introduced each week from January – June, read at school and then at home. Then during the summer, each child will be mailed eight books to support their reading skills.

Action Contraptions - \$1,000.00

Beth Germann, Hobart Middle School

This project would provide students with sets of Legos and motors that would be used to build machines. The 219-element set is a wide-ranging tool for exploring simple machines that adds the concept of motorization. Through the building of realistic motorized models, students will develop a strong understanding of mechanical principles. Students would work in pairs to complete machines. This six week long project would be repeated six times during the year as students rotate through the seminar.

The Return of Brown's Music Bus - \$825.00

Peggy Kaiser, Hobart Middle School

The Brown's Music Bus performance would be part of the "MUSIC IS LIFE" week at HMS during the week of March 14, featuring a forty-five minute performance on popular music from the 1900's to the present. During the performance in March, the HMS Jazz Band performs along with Brown's Music Bus at the convocation.

Frog in the Bog - \$1,000

Heather Phillips, Hobart Middle School

This is a repeat project, involving a three-day, two night camping trip that includes a night hike, data collection during a day hike through the many ecosystems in the dunes, journal observations and learning the history of Northwest Indiana. The goal of this project is to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the dunes environment.

Look Out Campus, Here We Come - \$900.00

Hobart Middle School

Sara Smenyak, Joe Monacy, Pete Svetcoff, and Mark Lutze

The goal of this project is to expose 8th grade students to local college campuses, Ivy Tech, and St. Mary Medical Center to spark interest and hopefully assist students in setting attainable goals. Students will complete interest surveys and visitation schedules will be set. Students will tour facilities, attend presentations and enjoy lunch at the various sites. They will receive financial information along with emphasis on academic requirements.

Certificates were presented to those who were present: Beth Peterman, Vicky Thompson, Carolyn Polomchak, and Joe Monacy. The certificates for those unable to make the meeting were given to Mr. Monacy to pass on to his colleagues at the middle school. Dr. Leach indicated that a couple of the recipients expressed their thanks to the foundation but were unable to attend because of other commitments. Mr. Vinzant said the foundation was looking forward to the next round of grants. Superintendent Leach recognized Dale and Carolyn Polomchak who were present, and he thanked the members present as well as the other board members for the good work that their organization does for Hobart teachers and students. Without their continued support many activities would not have been done. It was estimated that the group has funded around \$75,000 since its inception. About a year ago the Educational Foundation set up a fund with the Legacy Foundation to handle long-term endowment monies so that they will have more funds available to give to the schools.

President Back asked for a motion to accept the grants. Nancy Norris so moved. Seconded by Stephen Turner.

In the discussion Mr. Butler thanked the foundation members for their continued support. He indicated that he appreciates everything that athletic booster clubs do but noted that it was “nice to have an educational booster club.”

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TITLE V, PART A GRANT: Dr. Rich Edwards, Assistant Superintendent, indicated the school corporation had received an Indiana Department of Education Title V, Part A, Grant. He noted that the monies can be used in a variety of areas, but Hobart has used the grant to fund the MTGP staff development program. The grant is smaller than last year but can still sustain the program. The school corporation’s share of the grant was \$17,053.08. St. Bridget, Trinity Lutheran, and Montessori, nonpublic schools, were participants of the grant and will share \$1,756.92. However, Hobart Baptist did not wish to participate in the grant.

Dr. Edwards requested the Board's acceptance and approval of the grant.

Nancy Norris so moved, and Terry Butler seconded.

There was discussion in which Mrs. Norris commented that many of the federal grant amounts seem to be dropping every year. People indicate that the federal budget is being cut, but actually they are not increasing funds for these programs. Dr. Edwards explained that many of the grants are based on poverty levels. Based on Hobart's most current census, the poverty level has dropped, and this is affecting the amounts of our federal grants. He noted that the Title I funding has been reduced significantly from around \$230,000 to around \$148,000. Census figures are used to compute poverty levels, and since the 2000 census, a lottery type system has been instituted where cities are selected, and then their status is re-evaluated. This is what happened for the Title I funding, and he assumed was the reason for the reduction in the amount of this grant. Federal grant monies are given to the states who then distribute the funds to the appropriate agencies using the most current poverty census in allocating the funds.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST: HOBART HIGH SCHOOL/YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAM: Superintendent Leach presented a request for an overnight field trip request for Hobart High School students to participate in the YMCA Youth and Government Program in Indianapolis. The students will leave on January 15 and return to Hobart on January 17. They will be staying at the Indianapolis Hilton, and the 2004 Model Legislature Conference will take place in the state

capital. Colin May, Hobart High School teacher, Sharon Tarry, YMCA youth sponsor, and her husband will be the chaperones for the eight participants. Dr. Leach indicated Board approval was required and requested. He then asked Dale Polomchak if he wanted to make any comments. Mr. Polomchak indicated that the program was a very worthwhile, hands-on experience. Students get firsthand experiences in the legislative process from running for office to writing bills and getting them passed. Also, there is a Supreme Court for students interested in law. It is a state-wide program that is run by the students and has been highly endorsed by the participants. The trip is funded by solicited donations from local community organizations.

Nancy Norris moved to approve the field trip. Seconded by David Bigler. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND EMERGENCY RESOLUTION: Dr. Leach presented Resolution No. 2005-1 for the Board's consideration and recommended its approval. The resolution is an Capital Projects Fund emergency declaration for lighting the new parking area at Ridge View School.

Stephen Turner, Secretary, read Resolution No. 2005-1 aloud:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
Resolution No. 2005-1
Emergency Declaration

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart, acting within the authority established by laws of the State of Indiana, has been informed of the existence of certain conditions affecting the serviceability, protection, security or safety of the continued operation of an education facility within the school district; and

WHEREAS, Capital funds have been set aside for the correction of such conditions:

THEN BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of School Trustees does hereby declare that an Emergency Condition exists and authorizes the expenditure of Emergency Capital Funds in the amount and for the corrective work hereinafter described:

<u>Emergency Action Required</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RV - Outdoor lighting Circle "R" Electric	\$11,780.00
TOTAL	\$11,780.00

Funds for the costs of this emergency resolution to be allocated from the Capital Projects Fund.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2005.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

BY _____
PRESIDENT

ATTEST,

BY _____
SECRETARY

Nancy Norris moved to approve Resolution No. 2005-1. Seconded by Terry Butler. Secretary Turner called roll on the vote: Ayes - Norris, Butler, Bigler, Rogers, Turner, Marszalek, and Back. Nays - No one. Motion carried.

Mr. Rogers indicated that the lighting was needed. Dr. Leach indicated that lighting at the high school was also upgraded from another fund.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

◀School Information - Board members received weekly activities from Joan Martin and Liberty Elementary Schools, and the monthly activities calendar from Joan Martin and Ridge View Elementary Schools.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Dr. Leach extended his congratulations to the new Board officers and thanked old officers for their service and leadership and “a job well done.” He thanked the teachers who received educational foundation grants for their initiative to write a grant proposal, for coming to the meeting, and all that they do for our students. He thanked Mrs. Misecko for also coming to the meeting. Even though winter has just begun, he complimented the school corporation’s snow removal team and school bus drivers for all of their efforts during this snow season. Dr. Edwards congratulated the new Board officers and thanked last year’s officers. He also welcomed back the re-elected Board members and noted that the coming year should be an exciting one. Mr. Zembala also welcomed everyone back and indicated he was looking forward to working together in the coming year. He extended his congratulations to the new officers and the re-elected Board members. Finally, he thanked the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation for all of their work by providing different opportunities for our students that would not have otherwise been available.

There were no comments from the audience.

From the Board, Nancy Norris commented that the amount of grant monies that have been received by the Educational Foundation since the group was founded was “amazing.” Mr. Butler also extended his appreciation to the Educational Foundation. He asked Mr. Monacy about the Legos grant and whether those projects were transportable so the Board could view them, but Mr. Monacy wasn’t familiar with the grant to answer his question. Mr. Butler asked Mrs. Misecko how everything was at Liberty, and she responded that everything was fine. Mr. Bigler offered his congratulations to the re-elected Board members and the newly elected officers and commented that he was looking forward to the coming year and working with everyone to continue the success of the school district. He expressed his appreciation to the community and thanked those in the community who work without any compensation in assisting the school district. Mr. Rogers congratulated the new officers and indicated that they would “do a great job.” He noted that the Board had been busy last year and thought the coming year would be also. He also extended his appreciation to the Educational Foundation for the work that they do for Hobart students. Mr. Marszalek extended his thanks to Mr. Rogers for his service as president last year and apologized for not being at the last Board meeting for the 1028 hearing. He indicated that he couldn’t get back to Hobart due to a snow storm. Mr. Back also thanked the Educational Foundation and congratulated the grant recipients.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Back adjourned the meeting around 8:06 p.m.

Board of School Trustees
School City of Hobart

By _____
Jason Back, President

Attest:

By _____
Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: January 20, 2005