

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
REGULAR SESSION  
APRIL 21, 2005**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on April 21, 2005, in the Board Room at Hobart Middle School, 705 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hobart, Indiana, with the following present or absent as noted:

Board Members

Robert W. Marszalek  
Stephen R. Turner  
Michael J. Rogers  
William David Bigler  
Nancy J. Norris  
High School Student Representative

Staff Members

Rich Edwards  
Peggy Buffington  
Ted Zembala  
William J. Longer  
Peter L. Goerges  
Pete Svetcoff

Absent:

Jason Back  
Terry D. Butler

Absent:

John A. Leach

**CALL TO ORDER:** Robert Marszalek, Vice President of the Board, called the regular session meeting to order around 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Marszalek led everyone present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AUDIENCE:** The following were present in the audience:

Kathie Godfrey, *The Hobart Chronicle*  
Roberta Kicinski, LRE teacher at the middle school  
Rich Lain, middle school teacher  
Sandy Mathena, volunteer, and her husband  
Randy Greer, Indiana Lions Club representative  
Verne Blankenship, Hobart Lions Club  
Verne Meinert, Hobart Lions Club  
Several unidentified sixth grade students and their family members  
David Sudroff, college student  
Several other unidentified people

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** As noted on the agenda, Mr. Marszalek indicated that the Board met in executive session in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(1) where authorized by federal or state statute; and (2) for discussion of strategy with respect to: (A) collective bargaining.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Nancy Norris moved to approve the minutes of the executive session and work and regular sessions of April 7, 2005. Seconded by Michael Rogers. All ayes. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** The following was presented for the Board's consideration:

1. Vouchers for April 21, 2005:

The high school's student representative read the summary sheet of the April 21 accounts payable voucher register as follows:

General Fund - \$998,140.14,  
Capital Projects Fund - \$37,949.78,  
Transportation Operating Fund - \$128,057.94,  
School Lunch Fund - \$79,640.96,  
Hobart Educational Foundation Fund - \$2,259.99,  
PCGB Agreement Proceeds Fund - \$6,564.30,  
Non-English Speaking Program - \$420.52,  
Prof. Develop Capacity Building Fund - \$444.00,  
Title V Fund 2004-2005 - \$222.21,  
Title V Fund 2003-2004 - \$1,304.50,  
Drug Free Schools 2004-2005 - \$343.67,

School to Work - STE 744 - \$134.87,  
Title II, Part A Fund 2004-2005 - \$5,443.96,  
Title II, Part D, Education Technology Fund 2002-2003 - \$173.00,  
Clearing Accounts - \$555,943.68,  
Clearing/Flexible Benefits - \$4,588.81, and  
Clearing/Insurance Account - \$16,362.60

totaling \$1,837,994.93 with no transfers. The March 2005 payroll distribution by the corporation treasurer totaled \$1,111,331.85.

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

Board members also received the following monthly financial reports dated, April 15, 2005: Summary of Balances by Account-Object, Estimated Revenue by Account, Analysis by Object, and Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

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

Adjustments to Contracts -

Extra Duty Assignment:

Darrin Cline, Hobart High School, added science coach (16 days), \$99.20

Club Assignments:

Nicole Neeley, Liberty School, added 4<sup>th</sup> grade language arts club (10 hours), \$182.90

Stefanie Osika, Liberty School, added 5<sup>th</sup> grade math club (9 hours), \$164.61

Christina Pallotta, Liberty School, added talent show (10 hours), \$182.90

Lisa Vann, Liberty School, added 5<sup>th</sup> grade language arts club (9 hours), \$164.61

Homebound Teaching Contracts -

April 4/June 7, 2005: Michael Hamacher, sociology, \$31.70

April 4/May 13, 2005: Dwight Mathis, world history, \$49.08

Resignation -

Melinda Kusbel, Joan Martin School/currently on leave, effective August 1, 2005

Extra Duty Resignations -

Pam Paun, Hobart High/girls JV tennis, effective immediately

Heather Spoljaric, Hobart High/girls assistant varsity softball, immediately

Extra Duty Contracts -

Matthew Jancich, Hobart High/girls JV tennis, March 28/June 10, 2005, \$2,033.08

Julie Broadway Hobart High/girls assistant varsity softball, March 14/June 10, 2005, \$500.00  
(salary split with Ron Green)

New Employee -

Jane Rossa, Hobart High School/probationary helper, April 18, 2005, \$7.10 per hour for 90 working day probation period; then \$8.10 per hour

Mr. Zembala recommended approval and requested Board action.

Approval was so moved by Nancy Norris. Michael Rogers seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

**RECOGNITION: SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS AND SANDY MATHENA:** Dr. Rich Edwards, Assistant Superintendent, told the Board that April 17 to 23 was National Volunteer Week, and he noted volunteers offer their services in many ways such as the belonging to PTOs and adult booster clubs, serving on various committees such as the student handbook committee, going on field trips, and assisting with kindergarten registration and the Reality Store at the middle school. He indicated that the Board would be recognizing Sandy Mathena for her volunteering the past fourteen years with her guide dog. He introduced Roberta Kicinski, LRE facilitator at the middle school, who then introduced Sandy Mathena and her guide dog, Gretchen. Mrs. Kicinski said that Mrs. Mathena was an "A#1

volunteer." She estimated that Mrs. Mathena has educated about 5,000 Hobart students who then have gone home and educated their parents and family members about guide dogs and blindness. There were several sixth graders present who cited some of the facts they learned from Mrs. Mathena and gave her flowers and Gretchen a nyla bone. Mrs. Kicinski indicated that the sixth graders raised \$510 that will be given to Leaders for the Blind and will be used towards training a guide dog. The donations were collected through the Coins and Kids program at the middle school. Also, a brick will be placed in the walkway at the school in Rochester, Michigan, noting this year's donation. In addition, they will receive a plaque from the school which will be on display at the middle school.

Mr. Marszalek presented a certificate of appreciation to Mrs. Mathena for her volunteer work in our schools. Randy Greer from the Indiana Lions Club surprised Mrs. Kicinski with a certificate of recognition for her work and that of Hobart Middle School students for all of their efforts and leadership in collecting donations for the Leadership for the Blind Program. Mr. Greer also recognized Mrs. Mathena and Gretchen for their efforts in educating people about blindness and the guide school. He noted that two officers of the local Lions Club were present, and he introduced them - Verne Blankenship and Verne Meinert. Mrs. Mathena indicated that she enjoyed speaking with the students and looks forward to doing this every year.

**RESOLUTION: NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK:** Resolution No. 2005-7 pertaining to National Teacher Appreciation Week was presented for the Board's consideration. Stephen R. Turner, Secretary, read the resolution aloud:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-7  
NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, a strong, effective system of free public school education for all children and youth is essential to our democratic system of government; and

WHEREAS, the United States has made considerable progress in the social, technological, and scientific fields due to our system of free and universal public education; and

WHEREAS, much of this progress can be attributed to qualified and dedicated teachers; and

WHEREAS, teachers should be accorded high public esteem, reflecting the value the community places on public education; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "Thank a teacher for making schools great," and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that teachers be recognized for this dedication and commitment to educating their students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of May 1-7, 2005, has been designated as *National Teacher Appreciation Week*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the entire community of Hobart to recognize and acknowledge the impact of teachers on our lives.

DATED This 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2005.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Back, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

Nancy Norris moved to approve Resolution No. 2005-7. Seconded by Michael Rogers. Secretary Turner called roll on the vote: Ayes - Norris, Bigler, Rogers, Turner, and Marszalek. Nays - No one. Motion carried.

Mr. Rogers noted that cakes will be delivered to the schools in recognition of the week.

**RECOMMENDATION: AWARDING OF AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE PROGRAM:** Dr. Peggy Buffington, Assistant Superintendent, noted that on March 17 the Board authorized the request for proposals for after school child care. She noted that the Hobart YMCA was the only one to submit a proposal, and she indicated that it was Superintendent Leach's recommendation for the Board to accept the proposal.

Stephen Turner moved that the Board accept the proposal of the Hobart YMCA. Seconded by Nancy Norris.

The student representative commented that he participated in the program as an elementary student and said that the YMCA provides a great program for kids which allows parents to be able to work and not worry about their children.

Mr. Marszalek commented that Hobart is "very lucky" to have the quality of program that the YMCA provides and noted that it was an extension of the student's school day. Mrs. Norris indicated that they also run a summer program.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION: CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Assistant Superintendent Peggy Buffington told the Board that they had received a copy of the new EAP contract with Dr. B. T. Leonelli, Mental Health Consultants. She asked that Board approve the contract for the period of June 1, 2005, through May 31, 2006.

Michael Rogers so moved. Seconded by Steve Turner. All ayes. Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL OF 2005-2006 STUDENT HANDBOOKS:** Assistant Superintendent Rich Edwards told the Board that they had received copies of the revised student handbooks for the 2005-2006 school year. He indicated that the Board had also received information listing the names of the members of the different school committees and noted that students were also included on the middle school and high school committees. In addition to the student representatives at the middle school and high school, the committees were comprised of teachers, parents, administrators, and Mr. Marszalek and Mr. Bigler represented the Board. He noted that the handbook committees process has evolved from making major changes to tweeking areas for clarification. He explained that each of the elementary schools has a portion of their handbook that pertains only to their school with the remaining elementary information being the same in all of the elementary handbooks.

Dr. Edwards then highlighted some of the changes as follows:

► Hobart High School ---

- page 9 - added media information for school closings and family vacation - not to exceed five days per school year
- page 12 - Truancy - students found in unsupervised and "unauthorized" areas
- page 13 - Care of building and school property - added wording to include payment for repair and/or replacement of damaged property and Dress and Grooming Regulations - added more details, examples
- page 16 - Gang Activity - added a definition
- page 17 - Technology - added wording to include "thumb" drives and USB external hard drives
- page 21 - Consequence Chart - now includes "reckless driving"
- page 22 - Repeating a class - clarified how GPA is figured
- page 26 - Elevator - added a charge of \$5.00 for a lost elevator key and Health Services - added a paragraph

► Hobart Middle School ---

- Table of Contents - changed page numbers
- Page 1 - changed board members' offices
- Page 2 - added "You must bring this planner with you to all classes."

- Page 7 added "including clubs, dances, and athletics,"
- Page 8 - added "out of school" and added "You must have a sports physical completed after May 1, 2005 on file in order to try out for a team."
- Page 11 - added "and storage areas," substituted "PLTW" for "industrial education," and "F.A.C.S." for "home economics," and added "and band"

► Elementary Handbook Changes –

- Page 1 - added  
 “At the beginning of each school year all parents must fill out the Student Emergency Form for each of their children. The school nurse compiles a Confidential Health Report which lists every student who has a special medical concern attending the School City of Hobart schools. The report consists of the student's name, grade level and medical condition and is given only to appropriate teachers, bus drivers, principals, and other designated staff. The report is updated each year. If you do not wish to have your child listed, you must submit a written request, signed and dated by the legal guardian, to the school nurse not later than September 15 of each school year.”

Dr. Edwards noted that the above paragraph was added in all of the student handbooks

- Page 3 - added a section on classroom treats

- Page 14 of the 2004-2005 - deleted the section on Planned Family Vacations and/or Field Trips

Dr. Edwards explained the rationale for deleting this section. It was felt that it wasn't necessary to have a whole section encouraging students to be absent from school.

Dr. Edwards requested the Board accept the 2005-2006 student handbooks.

Stephen Turner so moved. Seconded by Nancy Norris.

In the discussion Mr. Rogers commended all of the committee members for the work that was done. Mrs. Norris noted that the handbooks have improved since she has been on the Board and indicated that they are much easier to understand. Mr. Marszalek commented that it is important to have "rules, regulations, and policy" for students and their parents to be made aware of them at the beginning of each school year. He extended his appreciation to the students, teachers, administrators, and parents who worked on the committees. Mr. Turner asked if the student handbooks could be referenced online, and Dr. Buffington said that they are online now and would be updated for the coming school year.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION: ALTERNATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENTS:** Resolution No. 2005-8 was presented for the Board’s consideration and was read aloud by Stephen R. Turner, Secretary:

Resolution No. 2005-8  
 Concerning Alternative Services Agreements with the  
 Indiana Department of Education  
 and  
 Private Education Agencies

(A copy of Resolution No. 2005-8 is available at the Administration Office.)

Nancy Norris moved to approve Resolution No. 2005-8. Michael Rogers seconded.

Mrs. Norris noted that several years ago the Board approved a similar resolution and commented that the resolution was needed because of the time constraints that are mandated in the processing of state contracts for the placement of students. It was noted that the Indiana Department of Education now requires that the resolution be done on an annual basis.

Vote on the Motion: Secretary Turner called roll on the vote: Ayes - Norris, Bigler, Rogers, Turner, and Marszalek. Nays - No one. Motion carried.

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:**

- School Information - The Board received weekly activities calendars from George Earle, Joan Martin and Liberty Elementary Schools.

**COMMENTS:** From the administration, Dr. Edwards once again extended his appreciation to all of the people who volunteer in the schools, noted that they are an integral part of the school process, and commented that many things would not be done without their assistance. Dr. Buffington indicated that everyone had been busy and noted the student handbooks for next year. She said that all of the NCA committees were working hard, and indicated that the Board will receive a copy of all of the reports at the May 26 meeting. She told the Board that the state hearing for the new school will be on May 10 in Indianapolis, and she indicated that a notebook of documents had been prepared for the hearing. She said that everyone had been working hard on all of these projects. Mr. Zembala extended his congratulations to Dr. Edwards and members of the handbook committees for all of their work on the students handbooks. He noted that the liability and risk insurance carriers ask for these documents which they then review, and he indicated they could affect our rates. He also commented that it speaks well of the school system that we have a large number of volunteers, and he felt it was indicative of how the volunteers felt about the school system and that "they can make a difference" for our students.

There were no comments from the audience.

From the Board, Mrs. Norris explained to the audience that Indiana laws allow the Board's student representative to participate in discussion, but the representative is not allowed to vote. She did note that some states do allow their student representatives to vote. Mr. Bigler indicated that he stopped by the middle school track meet before the Board meeting and noted that he was pleased by the number of parents in attendance and their positive attitudes. He was also impressed with the attitudes of the coaches and their teams. The student representative told the Board that the academic super bowl teams did very well at the recent Merrillville meet. The math team had a perfect score which was the only perfect score in the state and will be going to state. The social studies team also placed first at Merrillville and Valparaiso and will be going to state. Dr. Buffington encouraged people to attend the state meet at Purdue University in Lafayette on May 7<sup>th</sup> and "root for our teams." She also complimented Hobart's other teams who were just points from placing. Mrs. Norris noted that the student representative was a member of the social studies team. Dr. Buffington noted that this was the first year for a social studies team. Mr. Rogers complimented the student representative and noted that Hobart's academic teams have done well the past couple of years. He indicated that the symposium went well, he enjoyed Dr. Daggett's presentation, and he was looking forward to the new school project. Mr. Turner noted that there were several Hobart graduates in the audience and assumed they were attending because of a particular interest or for a college class. He asked if they had any questions, and there were none.

Vice President Marszalek thanked everyone for attending the meeting and because there was no further business to come before the Board, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Norris so moved. Seconded by Michael Rogers. The meeting adjourned 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: May 5, 2005