

**School City of Hobart  
Work and Regular Sessions  
June 2, 2005**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in work and regular sessions on June 2, 2005, in the Board Room located in Hobart Middle School, 705 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hobart, Indiana, with the following present:

Board Members

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

Staff Members

John A. Leach  
Rich Edwards  
Peggy Buffington  
Ted Zembala  
William J. Longer  
Peter L. Goerges  
Tony Skimehorn (Work session only)

Absent:

Hobart High School student representative

**WORK SESSION:** The work session began around 5:57 p.m.

**AUDIENCE:** The following were present in the audience for the work session.

Dave Blanton, Gibraltar Design  
Brian McFarland, Gibraltar Design  
Don Monday, Gibraltar Design  
Chris LaFollette, Envoy, Inc.

Dave Blanton from Gibraltar indicated that they had been working on the information and concerns from the last meeting. He indicated that at this meeting they wanted any further comments, concerns, or suggestions that the Board may have. He also said that they would be talking about the wetlands issue and getting budget information from Envoy. Four pages showing the school's main entry were passed out. It was noted that two of the drawings showed the entry with multicolored brick and two showed one color brick with stone-like accents. Since there had been questions about the seating in the Great Hall, a couple of possible table layouts were passed out--one with seating for 400 and the other with 520.

Mr. Blanton reported to the Board on Gibraltar's meeting with the wetlands consultant, Bob Wolfe. The building site has around 13.7 acres of forested wetlands. All of this acreage except for 1.8 acres in the southeast corner will be under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers. The 1.8 acres will be under the jurisdiction of IDEM. He indicated that the wetlands report will be submitted to the Corps of Engineers and the verification process can take up to 90 days to complete. The Corps will visit the site to verify the information in the report, and they will issue a validation letter. The validation letter is good for five years. The Corps reviews a proposed design with three considerations, and the order of preference are as follows: avoidance of wetlands, minimization of impact, and mitigation. The mitigation ratios for the Army Corps are 4:1 and 3½:1 for IDEM. If mitigation is used, the replacement area has to be same kind of area that was removed. If the mitigation can't be handled locally, there would be the option to go off site.

Mr. Blanton had a site plan with the wetland areas shown on it, and he indicated that the area of most concern was the southwest corner. He indicated that trees can't be cut down to make space for wetlands. There was discussion about the various adjacent land parcels and their possible use for mitigation. Mr. Marszalek asked about the cost of mitigation and was told it was \$10-\$20,000 per acre for construction. Mr. Turner questioned the mitigation replacement and indicated that he thought it was 1 or 2:1. Mr. Blanton said that Mr. Wolfe indicated that 4:1 has been the standard for some time. Dr. Leach asked Mr. Skimehorn what type of land the Stewart Mattix Prairie was by George Earle School. Mr. Skimehorn commented that he didn't think there were any trees on the property, and Mr. Bigler noted that it has small brush. Dr. Leach thought the property should be looked at, but he wasn't sure if it could be tradeable land. Mr. Blanton said that they would look at it. Dr. Leach didn't know the actual acreage, but Mrs. Norris thought it was a large parcel.

President Back noted that in December of 2004, site asset considerations included the possibility of including a middle school on the site and asked if there was enough room for this. Mr. Blanton indicated that this was no longer possible. Dr. Leach noted that at the present time the project is 4½ percent over budget, and because of this, it won't be possible to get everything on the site especially with the wetlands and mitigation issues. Adjacent land will have to be investigated, and costs involved will have to be weighed

to see if additional land is a viable option. There was discussion on possible field layouts with additional land purchase and trying to keep certain groupings together to take advantage of ancillary buildings such as restrooms and concessions. Mr. Butler expressed his concern about the additional expenses that might be involved because of the commitment that the Board made to the community that the school could be built without raising taxes. Mr. Turner inquired as to why the wetlands issue took so long to be presented because the Board had been asking about this for quite awhile. Mr. Blanton indicated that they had just met with the consultant, but Mr. Blanton didn't believe that the information would have been received any sooner. Because there will not be any practice fields without additional land, there was further discussion about this and the process for acquiring additional land. Mr. Longer was asked to contact adjacent landowners on the south and east sides of the school's property. Mr. Turner asked Mr. Blanton about the items and concerns from the last meeting. Mr. Blanton borrowed Dr. Buffington's list and shared the items with the Board. There were no additional comments from the Board.

Chris LaFollette from Envoy told the Board that the project was about 4½ percent over budget because on an increase in square footage from 325,000 to 342,000, and he reviewed three options that would bring the project within the budget:

- make the pool an alternate bid - will bring project within budget
- have a one level gym - save about \$1 million
- have a two court field house - save about \$1 million

There was discussion about each of the items he proposed. Dr. Leach indicated that when he and Chris were discussing the situation a couple of weeks ago, he felt that the option of making the pool an alternate was probably the best solution. However, he told Chris that it would be the Board's decision, and he asked him present all three options. There was further discussion and after weighing the impact of each of the options, the Board agreed that the best option was to bid the pool as an alternate. It was felt that you can only build a gym and field house one time, and they didn't want to cut in these areas. They thought it was best to have cost reductions in areas that could be added in the future. In the discussion, the Board requested usage information for the high school's pool, and Dr. Buffington said that she would get that to them. Mr. Blanton indicated that there wouldn't be a problem for the pool to be an alternate. Mr. LaFollette was asked to have an estimated budget included in their Tuesday board packet for the June 16 meeting. Potential alternates and their estimated costs were also to be included.

Dr. Buffington told the Board that the steering committee members will be invited to meet to discuss further square footage reductions. The process will be similar to what has been done before. There was as question as to the availability of people since they will be on summer vacation. Dr. Buffington noted that the committee members have indicated that if they were available, they were willing to meet. She indicated that the teachers appreciated the Board asking them to be involved with the project.

President Back asked Board members about approval of the schematic design for the project since it was an agenda item for the regular session meeting. There was discussion in which members expressed their concerns about this item, and because of the wetlands issue and listed items from the May 26 meeting, Gibraltar was told that the Board probably would not be approving the schematic design. Mr. Blanton indicated that work on the project would continue. The next phase of the project is design development. It will show more classroom detail and is scheduled for approval the end of July. Dr. Leach indicated that he had spoken with Jim Thompson, and he indicated that work wasn't going to stop because the approval was delayed for a couple of weeks. He indicated that even if all the issues were not resolved by the next meeting, the motion might be able to have specific concern issues noted. Gibraltar was asked to have the information that they will be presenting at the next meeting in the Tuesday packet so that the Board can review prior to the meeting.

The work session ended around 7:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jason Back, President, called the regular session meeting to order around 7:31 p.m.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** President Back indicated that the Board had met in executive session prior to the work session, as noted on the agenda, in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(1) where authorized by federal or state statute; (2) for discussion of strategy with respect to: (A) collective bargaining; and (9) to discuss job performance evaluation of individual employees.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Nancy Norris moved to approve the minutes of the executive session and work and regular sessions of May 26, 2005, as distributed. Seconded by Stephen Turner. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Jim Rappold, middle school teacher  
Maureen Tobin, middle school teacher  
Sharon Palmeri, *The Times*  
Two middle school students and family members  
A couple of unidentified people

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Ted Zembala, Business Manager, indicated that there were no financial reports.

**PERSONNEL:** Mr. Zembala presented the following personnel items for the Board's consideration:

**Extra Duty Resignation** —

Richard Lain Hobart Middle School/team leader, effective the end of the 2004-2005 school year

**Extra Duty Assignments** —

Maureen Tobin, Hobart Middle School/team leader, effective 2005-2006 school year  
Crystal Kistler, Hobart Middle School/team leader, effective 2005-2006 school year

**Homebound Teaching**

May 26/June 7, 2005: Pamela Kanich, special education, \$34.42 per hour

**Teacher Contract for 2005-2006 School Year** —

Christine A. Reinholt, Hobart Middle/English, August 23, 2005/June 8, 2006, \$31,317.00

Mr. Zembala recommended approval and requested Board action.

Terry Butler moved to approve. Nancy Norris seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

**PRESENTATION: HOBART MIDDLE SCHOOL FROG QUEST INVESTIGATION UNIT OF STUDY:** Dr. Peggy Buffington, Assistant Superintendent, indicated that it was a pleasure to introduce Jim Rappold and Maureen Tobin, middle school science teachers. She said that the Frog Quest unit began in 2000 with Dianne Wettstein and Desa Halstead. Mr. Rappold and Ms. Tobin continued the program in 2001, but only for their classes. However, they hoped to expand the program so that all sixth graders could participate, but that required funds to purchase more equipment. Mr. Rappold indicated that the dream became a reality this year. They received two grants--a Te@ch grant from Best Buy, and a technology grant from Dr. Buffington. Also, funds from the middle school science department were used and they held 6th grade fund raisers. With those funds they were able to purchase updated technology equipment such as Palm pilots, PH probes, dissolved oxygen probes, temperature probes, GPS, digital records and digital cameras.

The Board and administrators joined the audience to view a PowerPoint presentation about the Frog Quest unit. The Frog Quest program began in 1998 at Indiana Creek Middle School in Trafalgar, Indiana, to investigate deformities in frogs. Changes in the environment can cause deformities in frogs because they are sensitive to the environment. The unit is an interdisciplinary project with the students studying the life cycle of frogs and toads including the different calls frogs and toads make. Students map, survey and gather data on frogs such as their lengths, their mean, and then graph the results, and they write a research paper. Students were given the opportunity to use new technology through scientific investigation, and the students had real life opportunities in different occupations such as a journalist, geographer, limnologist, data recorder and netter. Ms. Tobin noted that because the unit is hands on and the students work in small groups, students learn from one another, and she thought this was "the best way for them to learn." She also noted that they are technology oriented and enjoy using the equipment. Two students demonstrated how to test the PH of rain water and tap water.

In the discussion, Mr. Turner asked where they find the frogs, and he was told that they have gone to Robinson Lake, the swamp behind Ridge View School, and Deep River Park. No deformed frogs have

been found. Mrs. Tobin also noted that some students have been to the pond on Sandy O'Brien's property and have found five different varieties of frogs there. Mr. Rappold noted that parent volunteers are also recruited to join the students on these outings. The Board thanked the teachers and students for their presentation.

**APPROVAL: SCHEMATIC DESIGN OF THE NEW HOBART HIGH SCHOOL:** Terry Butler moved to table this item until the next meeting. Seconded by Steve Turner. All ayes. Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: 2004-2005 DONATIONS FOR GEORGE EARLE, JOAN MARTIN, LIBERTY, AND RIDGE VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, HOBART MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HOBART HIGH SCHOOL:** Superintendent Leach explained that he was presenting donations for all of the schools and athletic department for the 2004-2005 school year from organizations or individuals, and the donations were \$500 or larger. However, he noted that many of the schools and athletic department may have received donations under this amount which they would track through their extracurricular accounts.

Dr. Leach highlighted the donations as follows:

George Earle Elementary School – \$4,250

☒ George Earle PTO - \$3,750

(Hoosier Books for library, Classroom supplies/materials, Calendar magnets, and Nutcracker Ballet for 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades)

☒ Mary Anderson and family - \$500

Joan Martin Elementary School – \$21,042.15

☒ Joan Martin PTO -

(Christmas baskets, Study trips, DARE program, Visiting artists, School calendar magnets, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Physical education equipment, Popcorn days for teachers, Donations to staff, Student awards, Playground equipment, After-school activities, Art program, Fifth grade social, Grandparent's Day, Music program, Family Nights, Fun Fair profits to teachers, School outdoor sign, and Level literacy books)

Liberty Elementary School – \$11,075.00

☒ Liberty PTO -

(Classroom stipends for books, supplies for classroom, end of the year parties, Camp Tecumseh, Refreshments/decorations, and Wish list)

Ridge View Elementary School – \$5,000.00

☒ Ridge View PTO -

(Leveled books and Bookshelves)

Hobart Middle School – \$1,500.00

☒ Hobart Middle School PTO - \$1,500.00

(Food for the Reality Store and 8<sup>th</sup> grade awards dinner)

Hobart High School – \$4,100.00

☒ WalMart - \$2,000.00

(Donation for the cardio room - \$500 and donation for ELL and guest speaker - \$1,500)

☒ Hobart Wrestling Boosters - \$500.00

(Donation for the cardio room)

☒ Carson Pirie Scott - \$800.00 (Wolfgang)

☒ Inland Steel - \$800.00 (Wolfgang)

Hobart High School Athletic Department – \$25,223.78

☒ Basketball Boosters - \$3,775.29

(Tossbacks, Ladder system, Shoes and Practice equipment, Senior awards, Flags, Video equipment, Jump ropes, Ball inflator, and LAC shirts)

☒ Rich Kobza - \$1,000.00

(Basketball uniform purchase)

☒ Football Boosters - \$13,186.50

(5 man power blocking sled, Field paint sprayers, Proscopt video software, Team ankle braces, Awards/Athletic banquet and conference champ, Jackets and team shirts, and Game jerseys and pants)

☒ Soccer Boosters - \$1,991.99

(Soccer goal and netting and miscellaneous uniforms)

☒ Softball Boosters - \$1,491.00

(Pitching net, Screens, Mats, Bats, Warm-up Net, and Hooded shirts)

☒ Wrestling Boosters - \$3,779.00

(Clock, Jump ropes, Uniforms, LAC shirts, Practice clothing, Awards, Plaques, Pictures, Mop system, and Room sanitizing system)

He indicated that the donations totaled \$72,190.93.

It was moved by Terry Butler to accept the donations. Nancy Norris seconded.

In the discussion Mr. Marszalek offered his congratulations and extended his appreciation to the people and organizations for all of their continued support, and Mr. Butler “saluted their dedication” to those involved. Mr. Turner asked about the time frame of acceptance and when something was done such as the sign at Joan Martin. Dr. Leach explained that years ago the State Board of Accounts indicated that donations of \$500 or more had to be accepted by the Board. Instead of bringing donation requests to every Board meeting, it was decided to consolidate and accept them on an annual basis which was usually after the fact.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION: 2005 SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND FEES:** Dr. Rich Edwards, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed information on this year's summer school programs and fees. Some of the information he highlighted is as follows:

Elementary Summer School - August 1/19 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Location - to be determined

Enrollment - around 240 students

Teaching staff - 12 teachers

Fee - none

NWEA and ISTEP+ data will be evaluated in building the classes. Grade 3 remediation is required. Analyzation of NWEA data will determine which students are in need of the program. Twelve classes with enrollments of around 20 students will be formed to address the remediation needs of those students in areas of math and/or English/language arts.

Middle School - July 6/August 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Location - Hobart Middle School

Enrollment - around 164 students

Teaching staff - 5 teachers

Fee - none

There will be remediation classes for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in math and/or English/language arts. The program will be for students who failed or performed poorly in one or both of the content areas during the school year.

Dr. Edwards also noted that there will be a summer band program from August 8/19 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Staff needs were also noted.

High School - Session I - June 13/July 7, 2005 (no school on July 4)

Session II - July 11/August 3, 2005

7:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Location - Hobart High School

Enrollment - 218 students as of May 27 and still growing

Teaching staff - 9 teachers

Fee - \$15.00 per class

Tentative course offerings are as follows: physical education - three sections; government - two sections; Algebra I- one section; Algebra II - one section; math lab - one section; and English lab - one section. Enrollment will be about 20 students per class.

The driver education program will have two sessions: Session I - June 13/July 1, 2005 and Session II - July 5/July 25 from noon to 2:00 p.m. or 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and classes will be held at the high school. It was noted that this program is self-supporting, and the fee will be \$235.00.

The high school's summer band program will cover Hobart's 4th of July Parade (June 28/July 4) and preparation for the marching band season (August 1/19, 2005). It was estimated that 40 students will be participating in the band/guard program, and it was noted that this is an increase from last year. Staff needs, in addition to the band director, were noted. The schedule outlined the amount of hours to be worked as well as the dates and times that the band would be practicing or performing.

Dr. Edwards requested the Board's approval for the summer programs and the listed fees.

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

In the discussion Mr. Butler asked whether there was a fee for the band program, and Dr. Edwards replied that there was no fee for either band program.

**RECOMMENDATION: SUMMER LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM:** Superintendent Leach reviewed the 2005 schedule for the Learn-to-Swim Lessons and summer recreational swim program. Board members received a copy of the schedule for both programs as well as the personnel needs to run both programs. The learn-to-swim program will be held at the high school, and a child needs to be five years of age or older to enroll. There will be three sessions: June 13/24; June 27/July 8 (closed July 4th and 5th); and July 11/22, and five class sections each day. The American Red Cross "Learn to Swim Course" will also be offered. That course has six levels of proficiency, and this summer an Advanced has been added. The cost of the Advanced class will be \$40.00. Dr. Leach indicated that the program was self-supporting and that many children have learned to swim because of the program.

Recreational swimming begins on June 13 and extends through July 22, 2005 (closed July 4th). Pool hours are 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The cost is \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 for a family rate up to five individuals including at least one adult. Students enrolled in a swimming session can swim for half-price during that two-week session.

Dr. Leach recommended the Board's approval.

Nancy Norris so moved, and David Bigler seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Butler asked Dr. Leach if any records have been kept as to the number of children who have participated in the program. He said that he didn't have the information, but he would find out for him.

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:**

- **School Information** - Board members received weekly activities calendars from George Earle, Joan Martin, and Liberty Elementary Schools, and the monthly activities calendars from Joan Martin, Liberty, and Ridge View Elementary Schools.

**COMMENTS:** From the administration, Dr. Leach told the Board that he had been delivering the "golden apples" to those people who were retiring. He indicated that graduation will be June 9th at Brickie Bowl, weather permitting. Mr. Zembala complimented Dr. Buffington for supplementing the Frog Quest grant so that additional equipment could be purchased so that more students were able to participate in the project. He extended his congratulations to the Class of 2005.

There were no comments from the audience.

From the Board, Mr. Bigler indicated that anyone visiting the schools should "enjoy the moment" because there are many fun things that are happening. Mr. Butler commented that Hobart High School had given his children good foundations, and he indicated that his son who is in the F.B.I. was selected to be part of an elite hostage team which is made up primarily of specialized military personnel. Mr.

Marszalek complimented the teachers on the Frog Quest presentation and noted that it easy to see the rapport the teachers have with their students and felt that the unit challenged the students in a real learning environment.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Back thanked the audience for coming and adjourned the meeting around 8:25 p.m.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Back, President

Attest:

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

Submitted for Approval: June 16, 2005