

**School City of Hobart
Regular Session
July 7, 2005**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on July 7, 2005, in the Board Room located in Hobart Middle School, 705 East 4th 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
Hobart High School student representative

Staff Members

Rich Edwards
Peggy Buffington
Ted Zembala
William J. Longer

Absent:

John A. Leach
Peter L. Goerges

CALL TO ORDER: Jason Back, President, called the meeting to order around 7:39 a.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 meeting, 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; 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 June 16, 2005, as distributed. Seconded by Robert Marszalek. All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

Sharon Palmeri, *The Times*
Joyce Lind, parent

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:

Contract Adjustments –

Anne Appleton, George Earle School, added George Earle gardeners (3 hours), May 4/7, 2005, \$54.87

Suzanne Hathaway, George Earle School, added clay club (47 hours), December 14, 2004/ April 16, 2005, \$859.63

Karen Kasiak, George Earle School, added 5th grade 80% Club (29 hours), September 16, 2004/May 25, 2005, \$530.41

Kelly Richter, George Earle School, added Read to Succeed Club (13½ hours), May 17 to May 31, 2005, \$246.92

Beth York, George Earle School, added 5th grade 80% Club (29 hours, September 16, 2004/ May 25, 2005, \$530.41

Tony Skimehorn, Service Center, salary adjustment effective July 1, 2005, \$68,844.00

Extracurricular Club Duty Contract –

Lori Lindsey, George Earle/Read to Succeed Club, May 17/31, 2005, \$246.92

Summer Programs Contract –

Hobart High School/summer school, June 13/July 7, 2005

Teacher: Cynthia Lambeth, 80 hours, \$3,984.80

Service Agreement –

James Kammer, Hobart High/summer curriculum, June 20/August 8, 2005 (212 hours), \$5,537.44

Request for Leave of Absence –

Jennifer Conrad, Joan Martin School/5th grade, unpaid maternity leave, 2005-2006 school year

Non-Renewals –

Debbie Blackburn, Joan Martin School/student supervisor, effective June 8, 2005

Joyce Lind, Joan Martin School/student supervisor, effective June 8, 2005

Dawn Martin, Joan Martin School/student supervisor, effective June 8, 2005

Tammy Kraft, Hobart Middle School/attendance clerk, effective June 8, 2005

Mr. Zembala recommended approval and requested Board action.

Michael Rogers moved to approve. Nancy Norris seconded. All ayes except for Mr. Turner and Mr. Butler who voted nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Rogers told everyone that Jennifer Conrad had a baby boy .

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

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL: TITLE I GRANT APPLICATION: Dr. Rich Edwards, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed the 2005-2006 Title I grant application with the Board. The total grant amount was \$140,792.46 which was about \$7,000 less than last year. For the first time that he was aware of, the nonpublic schools did not have any students who qualified for free and reduced lunches in either of the designated Title I school districts. Because of this, no Title I funds will be shared with them. Because of No Child Left Behind regulations, set aside funds for the district level are taken out of the grant before school distributions were calculated, and our set aside funds totaled \$2,399.37 and will be used for professional development. He explained that title schools are designated by free and reduced lunch figures, and the corporation's average was 28.41 percent of poverty. He indicated that George Earle and Ridge View Elementary Schools had 47.13 percent and 51.5 percent of poverty, respectively, and are the designated Title I schools for the 2005-2006 school year. He explained that the middle school could also qualify, but historically these funds have always been spent at the elementary level.

Dr. Edwards reviewed the individual school budgets. Ridge View's total budget was \$63,950.00 with a per pupil expenditure of \$477.24, and George Earle's per pupil expenditure was \$477.20 with a total budget of \$74,443.09. He noted that the bulk of funds for the program was for salaries, and it also provided funds for professional development, parent involvement, program support, supplies, equipment, and other miscellaneous expenses of the program. He noted that Title I funds help relieve the general fund. He indicated that Kathy Martin and Marge Craig worked with Dr. Edwards on the preparation of this year's application. Also, he told the Board that Kathy Martin has volunteered to be the district I coordinator and sets up meetings here in Hobart every month or so and workshops. He was appreciative of her efforts.

Dr. Edwards asked the Board to accept the 2005-2006 Title I grant.

Nancy Norris so moved. Seconded by Terry Butler.

In the discussion Mrs. Norris commented that years ago it did make sense to allocate funds at the elementary level. However, she noted that with the mobility of today's families, many of those students will not be residing in Hobart by the time they are in middle school, and we are getting students who were not helped with reading at the elementary level at the middle school. Mr. Butler liked that the computer labs were open on family night at George Earle, and Mrs. Norris asked if the labs were open in the other schools. Dr. Buffington explained that the opening of the labs depended upon usage, and she indicated that there is lab usage at George Earle and after school at the middle school. The labs at the other schools were not being used during non-school hours. She commented that many families now have computers in their homes.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION: EARLY DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS TO CONDUCT PROGRAM AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR:

Dr. Peggy Buffington told the Board that school corporations can apply to the Indiana Department of Education for six half days of student released time for staff professional development purposes during a school year. Last year Hobart was part of a state pilot program which allowed two half days to be combined for one full day of released time. She indicated that Dr. Willard Daggett was brought in as a speaker and to visit with staff, and she noted that it was a very worthwhile day for the staff. Dr. Daggett also visited in Hobart for a couple of the other early release days. Because of the positive evaluation from the full day for professional development and since Hobart participated in the original pilot program, Dr. Buffington indicated that the school district can request a full day of released time for the 2005-2006 school year, and she presented the following request for the early release of students for the coming school year for staff professional development: October 17, 2005 - two ½ days for one full day;

December 8, 2005 - ½ day; January 24, 2006 - ½ day; February 8, 2006 - ½ day; and May 5, 2006 - ½ day.

Dr. Buffington all of the schools have completed their NCA documentation visits, and their school improvement plans delineating how each school will work to achieve student success. Professional development plans were also prepared. She highlighted the plans for the full day of professional development, and she indicated that the high school was accepted as a member of the International Center for Leadership in Education's Successful Practices Network. ICLE will be used on the full day at the high school, and she noted that a liaison will be assisting with professional development with transitioning for the new high school and some reform issues they are working on. The middle school will also participate in that program and will be working on transitional matters as part of the model schools practices. At the elementary level the Teacher's College will be brought in, and they will be working on an ongoing professional development for coaching and modeling, and the full day will be used to build a foundation for Reading Workshop. Dr. Buffington also indicated that because of the NCA documentation review this year, the schools are required to revise their action plans next year and will be using some of the professional development time to disaggregate data and to work on school goals. The summary has be to submitted to the superintendent by March 1st, and the Board will receive their copy of the information before June 1st.

Dr. Buffington then asked the Board to approve the request for professional development days as presented with one full day and four half days for released time of students for professional development days.

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

Mrs. Norris commented that she would be happier with three full days of released time rather than half days.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

- New School Information - Board members received copies of meeting minutes from Gibraltar Design.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Dr. Edwards announced that Hobart's D.A.R.E. Officer, Jack Grennes, was recently named Indiana's D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year. Dr. Buffington indicated that the Model Schools Conference was exciting. Ideas were collected and will be implemented at the high school. Information will be shared with their colleagues. She noted that other schools have many issues that they are dealing with, and they shared what they were doing to be successful. She noted that they are "trying to make a difference" in their respective high schools. Mr. Zembala noted that the Department of Local Government Finance was working on certifying the 2005 levies and tax rates. This would be very helpful in his preparations for next year's budget.

From the audience, Joyce Lind said that she and two friends had sent letters to the superintendent, the two assistant superintendents, and school board members, and she wondered if the Board members had received their copies and if they would be replying to it. President Back indicated that the correspondence was received. He didn't remember that a reply was requested, but he told her that the letter was appreciated.

From the Board, Mrs. Norris commented that she liked the arrow designating to turn the page on the personnel report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Back thanked the audience for coming and adjourned the meeting around 7:59 p.m.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By _____
Jason Back, President

Attest:

By _____
Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: July 21, 2005