

February 17, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Vincennes Community School Corporation met on Monday, February 17, 2014, at 7:01 p.m. at Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary School. Those present were President Aaron Bauer, Vice President Pat Hutchison, Secretary Karla Smith, Members Lynne Bobe and Barbara Toole, and Superintendent Greg Parsley.

Aaron Bauer led the audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

A moment of silence was then held for *Jacob Myers*, a Lincoln High School Freshman who passed away on Sunday, February 16, 2014.

Jono Connor, Principal of Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary School, wanted to acknowledge a couple of groups of people that provide tremendous help and support to the school. The first are the members of Kids Hope from First Baptist Church. There are up to 31-32 volunteers that provide services to 21 students in the school. He thanked them for all they do for the school and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to them.

Another group Jono wanted to recognize is the PTO of Tecumseh-Harrison. He stated they provide many hours to the school and the students, as well as much needed money to support the many programs and teacher needs that would not otherwise be available. He thanked them for all their hard work and assistance. He also thanked them for the homemade treats provided for all visitors at tonight's meeting.

Jono also wanted to thank Bus Driver Bobby Allen for all he does for the safety and well being of students of Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary and Vincennes Community School Corporation. He was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Plaque from the PTO thanking him for his endeavors and assistance to all students and his contributions to VCSC.

Jono then advised that the Curriculum Focus would be on "*Technology in Action*" with a short 15-minute tour of K-5 classrooms. Each grade level will have 4-5 students on hand to demonstrate the technology they use within the curriculum. The technology will vary from classroom to classroom, but will include the use of the Promethean Boards, Netbooks, Kindle Fires and Tablets using *Reading Eggs*, *Study Island*, *Math Books via Pearson Education*, etc.

Kelley Crowley, Principal of Vigo Elementary School, announced that the *Certified Employee of the Month* from their building is Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Susan Battles. Kelley advised that Susy has been with VCSC for 34 years, spending time at Riley and LaSalle Elementary Schools before coming to Vigo. A good number of those years were spent with an AM and a PM Kindergarten class, so over the years she has impacted the lives of over 1000 students.

Kelley advised that she could in no way relate the number of committees Susy has served on in those years. Kelley reported that Susy has been of great help in fostering the school climate at Vigo, going beyond her being a dedicated teacher.

Susan stated she is so proud to be a part of the team at Vigo and thanked everyone for the recognition.

Steve Combs, Principal at Lincoln High School, announced that the *Non-Certified Employee of the Month* from his building is Mrs. Kristy Courtney. Steve reported that Kristy has been with VCSC for four years, that she was originally hired by Saundra Lange when the ED Program was held at The Willows. He reported Kristy is an integral part of LHS, as well as coaching at Clark Middle School. Steve advised that Kristy used to take only her students to the gym for activities, but has added other students in the activities. He is very proud to recognize her and her accomplishments and the help she gives all students.

Kristy thanked everyone for the recognition and was very thankful she didn't have to do a Power Point presentation like Mr. Combs and Mr. Hill had teased her, saying others had done that.

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's request for the following Consent Agenda items:

- A. Minutes of January 20, 2014 Meeting
- B. Claims 20723 – 20854
- C. Financial Statements
- D. Personnel

**Resignations:**

Stephen G. Toy	LHS <i>Old Post Sentinel</i> Advisor – eff 5/23/14
Tia M. Smith	CMS Study Hall & Classroom Aide – eff 2/10/14
Dakota S. Adcox	LHS Boys Head Track Coach – eff 2/10/14
Scott B. Huxley	LHS Head Football Line Coach – eff 1/22/14

**Recommendations:**

Helen E. Rains	Franklin Day Care Aide – eff 2/6/14
Trenton M. Lee	Tec-Harrison Day Care Aide
Garrett Coffey	LHS Asst Drama Director – ½ Stipend 2013-14 School Year
Shea N. Duke	LHS Girls Head Tennis Coach
Karen K. Query	LHS Girls Assistant Tennis Coach
Kyle Tharp	LHS Girls Asst. Track Coach Volunteer
Brett Dawson	LHS Interim Boys Head Track Coach – pending background security clearance
Justin Dawson	LHS Boys Asst. Track Coach

**Leaves:**

All Leave Requests were approved as submitted

E. Donations

Athletic Booster Club	\$1,000.00	For CMS new Cheerleader Uniforms
Modern Woodmen of America	\$ 250.00	VCSC Plant-a-Tree Project
	\$ 500.00	VCSC Good Neighbor Project – Landscaping (mulch, shrubs, flowers, etc.)

F. Field Trip Requests

Amy Lane, LHS Art Teacher, requests permission to take National Art Honor Society students on field trip to St. Louis Art Museum on Friday, April 18, 2014.

Mark Snyder, LHS Music Teacher, requests permission to take LHS Jazz Band students on field trip to Indianapolis and Cincinnati, Ohio, on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 25, 26, 27, 2014. Students will participate in Jazz Band performances.

Wendy Smith, Clark Middle School Social Studies Teacher, requests permission to take interested 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students to Washington, D.C. during Spring Break of 2015. Trip will be a total of six days with four days and three nights spent in nation's capital and is arranged through WorldStrides. Parents are responsible for all expenses and tour payments are made directly to WorldStrides.

#### G. Fundraiser Requests

CMS JROTC class is requesting permission to conduct a *Hat Day* fundraiser on Friday, February 21, 2014. Proceeds would be used to help fund a Military Ball.

LHS National Art Honor Society requests permission to conduct a *Candle Sale* fundraiser Monday through Friday, February 24 through 28, 2014. Proceeds will be used to help pay for cost of charter bus for field trip.

LHS National Art Honor Society requests permission to conduct a *Cups for a Cause* fundraiser on 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night at CMS on February 26, 2014. Proceeds will be donated to the VCSC Art Programs.

LHS French III & IV classes request permission to conduct *Mardi Gras Crepes* sales on Monday and Tuesday, March 3 and 4, 2014 during Enrichment and Club periods. Proceeds will be used to help with field trip expenses in April.

Riley Elementary Wildcat Choir requests permission to sell *Window Vinyl Clings* Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 14, 2014. Proceeds will be used to help fund the choir trip to St. Louis on Monday, July 7, 2014.

Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary requests permission to conduct *Penny Wars* the week of March 24 through 28, 2014. All proceeds will be donated to the "Make-A-Wish" Foundation.

LHS French III & IV Sister Cities Club requests permission to sell *Concessions* at the LHS Home Track and Tennis Matches March through May 2014. Proceeds will be used to pay exchange students' expenses for field trip to Indianapolis.

CMS Media Center requests permission to conduct their *Scholastic Book Fair* from Monday, March 31 through Friday, April 4, 2014. Proceeds will be used to purchase books for the CMS Library.

Tecumseh-Harrison PTO requests permission to sell *Country Meats Smoked Sausages* Monday, March 31 through Friday, April 11, 2014. Proceeds would be used to fund the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Party, transportation for field trips, and to offset t-shirt costs for clubs and activities.

Tecumseh-Harrison Student Council requests permission to conduct *Hat Day* fundraiser on Wednesday through Friday, April 2 through 4, 2014. Proceeds will be donated to the Pet Port.

#### H. Use of Facilities Requests

LHS Junior Class requests permission to use LHS Cafeteria Thursday through Saturday, May 8 through 10, 2014 to set-up and hold Prom. Tear down will be done on Sunday, May 11, 2014.

**Discussion Items:**

There were no Discussion Items for this meeting.

**Decision Items:**

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's request for the following Joint Resolution Expressing Opposition to the Personal Property Tax Cut, one of Governor Mike Pence's top priorities of his 2014 legislative agenda.

**No.1-2014  
A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF VINCENNES AND THE  
VINCENNES COMMUNITY SCHOOL COPORATION  
REGARDING THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF THE  
BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Mike Pence has proposed eliminating the Business Personal Property Tax as one of the top priorities of his 2014 legislative agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, Business Personal Property Tax collections statewide account for about \$1 billion funding for local governments and schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Business Personal Property Tax represents 18.2% of Vincennes' assessed valuation of \$1,000,000 of its property tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, Business Personal Property Tax represents 20.1% of Vincennes Community Schools' assessed valuation and \$1,853,950 of its property tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Vincennes and Vincennes Community Schools cannot afford additional revenue loss without severe cuts to services provided our residents and students; and

**WHEREAS**, quality public services and schools are critical to economic development in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no systemic surplus in the Indiana State budget to replace lost revenue to local government, as evidenced by state revenues lagging budget forecasts, causing the State to implement a series of spending cuts to levels below what was budgeted; and

**WHEREAS**, eliminating Business Personal Property from the assessed valuation will cause a shift to Real Property Tax for any properties currently below the circuit breakers and/or lead to increased personal income taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, one option being considered is to allow county option income taxes to make up for the elimination of the Business Personal Property Tax, which will pit counties against one another and eventually result in further disparity in Local Option Income Taxes, which in turn will impact citizens' decisions where to live; and

**WHEREAS**, depending on what survey is considered, Indiana already ranks in the top 5 or 10 states with regard to overall business tax climate;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Vincennes, Indiana and the Vincennes Community School Corporation that we oppose the elimination of Business Personal Property Tax without a sustainable replacement for revenue lost that does not further cripple local government and schools, and does not burden Knox County wage-earners, whose incomes already lag

behind the average in the State of Indiana, which in turn, lags behind the national average per capita income.

This resolution shall become effective on the date of passage.

Vincennes City Council passed the resolution on February 10, 2014 by a vote of \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ Joe Yochum, Mayor \_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_ Duane Chattin Council President \_\_\_\_

Vincennes Community School Board passed the resolution on \_\_\_\_ February 17, 2014 \_\_\_\_ by a vote of \_\_5\_\_ to \_\_0\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Greg Parsley, Superintendent

Aaron Bauer, School Board President

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's request to add an hour to the school day from February 24, 2014 through Thursday, March 13, 2014, to make up for time lost due to inclement weather.

Greg reported that the Indiana Department of Education is making applications available for a Conditional Waiver, which will allow VCSC to begin making up these days by giving us several options. Overall, VCSC has lost a total of nine (9) instructional days. The IDOE has waived making up two (2) of those days, leaving a total of seven (7) days to be made up. VCSC has three (3) built-in make-up days on the 2013-2014 School Calendar, leaving a total of four (4) days we must make up.

Based on a Survey that went to all employees, certified and non-certified, 80% of the staff requested that Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, be used as a make-up day, and 96% indicated they would like to use Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, as a second make-up day.

This survey showed that with the remaining two days left to make up, 46% indicated they would like to use an hour a day to make up the time, and 39% indicated they would like to make up the days after Memorial Day. Other choices included attending school on Saturdays (1%), take days from Spring Break (7%), and to do a combination of factors (7%).

With the primary concern of statewide testing beginning during the middle of March, the feeling is that an extra hour a day can be utilized for testing preparation interventions for the ISTEP+, I-READ, and ECA testing. It is Mr. Parsley's recommendation to go with the additional hour per day for the three weeks from Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, through Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, excluding Fridays. The Conditional Waiver request will be submitted to IDOE on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, if the board approves the recommendation tonight.

Even though the elementary only needs five (5) hours make-up to equal one day of instruction, and six (6) hours for middle and high school, due to transportation logistics we will opt to go with six (6) hours in all six of our school buildings. The IDOE says we cannot use "Bank Time" for

making up these days. (Bank Time is that time over and above the required five hours per day for elementary and six hours per day for middle/high school that students currently attend.)

Greg stated that communication to parents would be provided through the utilization of newsletters, SchoolReach, social media, etc. He recognizes that this will create some hardships for parents, students, staff, etc., but these days must be made up.

Greg advised that should VCSC have to close for any additional inclement weather during the three weeks of additional time, VCSC would add these hours after Spring Break to get back on track. Should any inclement weather fall after this, days will simply be added after Memorial Day.

Greg also understands that this will present a challenge for some of our students who eat their lunch early in the day. VCSC is working with Sodexo Food Services to provide healthy snacks and other items to students.

With this recommendation, the Vincennes Education Association has approved and a Memorandum of Understanding will be included as part of the Master Contract for 2013-2014. As the certified staff is salaried it will simply be a change in their hours. For the non-certified staff or support staff, they too will be paid their original agreements but they will also be working the extra days and hours outside of the original agreement.

There was no questions or comments or matters to bring to the board from members of the audience.

Barb Toole wanted to acknowledge and thank Kids Hope and the PTO at Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary, saying it is so nice to see and hear of all the good things they are doing, their involvement and participation is wonderful to see. She stated it does take a village to raise these kids and appreciates all they do to help.

Barb also thanked Bobby Allen for his insight in the safety of our children. She also thanked Susy Battles and Kristy Courtney for all the many things they do, and have done for many years, for our corporation.

Lynne Bobe agreed with what Barb had said, and also wanted to compliment the Student Council on the wonderful job they did in showing everyone what is happening in our schools and for being such an informative group of kids. She thanked Mr. Connor and his staff for having the board in to their school and thanked everyone in the audience for attending.

Karla Smith reiterated what Barb and Lynne had to say and she wanted to say that she has thoroughly enjoyed coming out to the buildings for the board meetings and is very appreciative of the welcome each school staff has extended to them and what they have shown as being done in the buildings.

Pat Hutchison also agreed with what Barb, Lynne and Karla said, and also stating it is great to see how the students are very willing to give up their time to come to the board meeting and show members what they are doing in their classes.

Greg Parsley also thanked the student council and all the work they put into making tonight such a hit. He thanked Susy and Kristy for their many years of service and dedication to VCSC.

Greg also wanted to note that we did receive our 2014 Budget Order from the Department of Local Government and Finance. He stated VCSC will have a tax rate of \$1.1574, which is down from \$1.2102 from a year ago. That is due to the Assessed Valuation dropping from \$708,813,349 from 2013 to \$652,651,245 this year.

Greg reported that there is a little concern in that the Vincennes Redevelopment Commission will meet this Thursday and the concern VCSC has if they expand the TIF Zone to include Willow Street. They have been asked to consider allowing for the VCSC to continue to receipt in AV from the TIF Zone, which is permissible by law.

Greg reminded everyone that "*Night for Kids*" will be held Saturday night, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at Green Activities Center on the VU Campus.

Aaron Bauer agreed with what everyone has stated prior, adding that the churches in Vincennes and the Kids Hope program are very active in what they do for our elementary schools and it is greatly appreciated.

Aaron also wanted to expound on the Redevelopment Commission in expanding the TIF Zone. He said that when he was on the commission in the early 2000's he had voted to allow the schools to continue receiving AV from the TIF Zone. However, in the future, when the board members change, they may not elect to allow money for the schools, which could be a big detriment to the school corporation. He further stated they do not have a plan with this expansion, so how can they go forward without that. Aaron stated that the City Council must approve this so he asked that everyone become knowledgeable on this issue and to contact their city council representative with any concerns. No one on the current commission wants to see anything happen to the disbursement to the schools, but that could change on down the road, as there are city council appointments as well as mayoral appointments on the board.

Aaron again thanked the students and their enthusiasm in showcasing what they are doing in their classrooms and thanked Jono Connor for letting everyone tour their building and for the leadership he has shown his first year here.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Aaron Bauer, President

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Karla Smith, Secretary