

March 18, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Vincennes Community School Corporation was held at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2013, in the Board Room of the Administration Center. Those in attendance were President Lynne Bobe, Vice President Aaron Bauer, Secretary Pat Hutchison, Members Karla Smith and Barb Toole, and Superintendent Greg Parsley.

Franklin Elementary students led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Curriculum Director Barry Stone recognized Richard Rutherford, Principal of Franklin Elementary School, who introduced Amy Holscher, a First Grade Teacher at Franklin, who presented the Curriculum Spotlight.

Amy announced that in celebration of *Reading Across America* they did several activities in class, as well as reading Dr. Seuss books. One of the books they read was about the places they could go and what they could become. The students took turns reading a Dr. Seuss book to the audience, then read the story they wrote on what they want to do when they grow up.

Those students participating in the presentation were Mackenzie Holland, Conner Ravellette, Emmett Ransom, Cole Brewington Hannah Edwards, Mattye Meadows, Daniel Young, and McKenna Connor.

Mr. Stone gave an introduction on the new and improved VCSC Website. He walked the audience through the website using the monitors in the Board Room. He stated that one of the features he wanted to highlight was the calendar on the right side of the home page. This calendar is tied to all the events happening throughout the corporation and each school. Fundraisers are shown on the calendar, as well as informational items such as Kindergarten Enrollment. Each school has their own calendar for events that only pertain to them. The calendar is Google based and has the capability of being downloaded to your phone.

The Lincoln High School page has the categories across the top, but also has some on the side that you can link into. There will eventually be a link for a students website for those that are in the Web Design class.

In addition there are links across the top of each school's page – Power Teacher, My Big Campus, School Email and parent Power School. There's also a "Pay Now" link that allows parents to pay for fees or lunches without going through School Bucks. There are also links to get to the lunch menus, and on the elementary pages, links to Renaissance Home, Knox County Public Library, Study Island and KETA.

Each page also includes the school goals and how they are going to get there.

One thing they are working on is a login for parents to register for things. They hope to have that up and running soon. There will also be a login for staff members to register, where they can go to a portal that is hidden and can only be seen by staff members. This portal will contain information on professional development calendar, staff meetings, agenda dates, evaluation forms, training modules, technology resources and more. Right now it is set up with all types of forms the teacher may need. Individuals that revise the pages would have rights to get to other areas of the portal.

Also to be added in the future on each school page are student pictures, which will be on a rotation with perhaps 10 pictures at a time.

There are many ways parents can access information, i.e. My School Bucks. They can go to the corporation page and click on Nutrition Services, or go to the school page and access it there. No matter which way they go, someone could have access information through different links and have the information at their fingertips.

There is also a link to obtain directions to our facility for events – such as athletics. You can go to the calendar and see an event listed, and then can click to get directions to our school facilities.

Barry said one of the nice things about the new website is the help he received from Debbie Kirk. They tried to keep the information from being astatic, as the worst thing you can go is have a webpage that is not updated. For example, you look at a school's page and you see different information – i.e. Facebook, Calendar, etc. We have one person that updates Facebook with announcements, someone else that does the calendar, and someone else that updates the webpage. We have multiple people that are responsible for certain updates so all the information is not filtered through one person.

Board members expressed their thanks to Barry and his team on creating this new website and congratulated them on a very classy outcome.

Richard Rutherford announced that 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Brandon Pfoff was the certified *Employee of the Month* from Franklin Elementary School. Richard stated that Brandon brings a great attitude and energy to their school on a daily basis and just last month he was a nominee for the TV 10 Golden Apple Award. He is extremely well liked and respected by his students, staff and parents. He is very active and involved in activities in their school – he is on the Crisis Team, PBIS, Social (Let's Have Fun) Committee. He volunteers his time on the Chili Supper and also tutors students after school.

Richard stated they focus on data, so he wanted to give information on Brandon and what he gets done in the classroom. Brandon teaches 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and with reference to the Math ISTEP+ scores, back in 2010 they had a 79% passing rate, in 2011 it was 80% and in 2012 it was 82.7%. In looking at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students coming up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, in 2011 it went from 77% as 4<sup>th</sup> graders to 80% in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In 2012 they went from 70% as 4<sup>th</sup> graders up to 82.7% in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The goal for this year is 84% and working with Mr. Stone and the focus on standards, it looks like the predictors are in place and they are very optimistic. The same can be said for Language Arts. He is proud to recognize Brandon as their *Teacher of the Month*.

Brandon thanked everyone, stating it is an honor and he is humbled by the recognition. He thanked Mr. Rutherford for allowing them to be themselves in the classroom, letting them try new things while having a good time.

Melissa Gurchiek announced that school nurse Stephanie Batty has been selected as the non-certified *Employee of the Month* from Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary School. Melissa stated that Stephanie is new to them, but the minute she came in to the building she became a part of their lives. She is warm and wonderful with their parents and warm and caring for the children. When they found out they were going to be moving offices this year, and with their secretary out for months, Stephanie jumped right in and said she would move into the office. She moved in

and helped everyone, children, parents, staff, answering phones and helping with everything she could. That is the way she is, a partner in their school and she is very much appreciated and deserving.

Stephanie thanked everyone for their support.

Sandra Lange was recognized to present the winners of the "Good Idea" award to someone within the Vincennes Community School Corporation. This award was developed with the help of Ruth Kimberly in memory of her son Mickey to thank Vincennes Community School Corporation and the Board of School Trustees for their wonderful care of Mickey when he attended school here. It has been given out for 15 years and the winner is selected from those nominated who have gone above and beyond IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act) duties. She advised there are two recipients this year.

The first recipient announced was Casey Butler, a Special Education Teacher at Clark Middle School. Sandra stated that Casey is a driven teacher and makes a difference in the level of teaching those with disabilities. Her work ethic is second to none and the challenges she faces with her students is worthy of recognition and that she is a true professional.

Casey stated she was truly honored, but she should not be standing there, that it is a team effort on getting everything accomplished. She stated she went into education because she wanted to make a difference in kids' lives, stating she has a learning disability but she wanted to show the kids that with determination and hard work they can make a difference.

The second recipient announced was Joyce McCarter, an instructional aide at Lincoln High School. Sandra stated Joyce has been here since November 1998 and has worked several different positions in the corporation, but always to assist students with disabilities. One of her students has come tonight to congratulate her. Joyce has been described as one that continually cares, supports and loves her students. She is the type of person who puts others first, whether a student or the school as a whole.

Joyce thanked everyone for the honor, and thanked Mr. Combs for nominating her for the award and his faith in her. She was very surprised when she was told she was getting the award, stating she loves her work and the kids she works with. She gets a good feeling in her heart when one of the students accomplishes a task they have been working on. She thanked Mrs. (Sabrina) King for making her job easier. She stated she had a special needs son of her own and learned what patience was all about. She stated she was very touched with the award and again thanked everyone.

Mr. Parsley requested approval for the Consent Agenda, which includes two retirements at the end of this school year. The first is Marsha Miller, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher at Clark Middle School. She has worked 29 years for Vincennes Community School Corporation of her 33 total years teaching.

The second retirement is that of Melissa Gurchiek, Principal of Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary School. She began her teaching career with Vincennes Community School Corporation in 1977 and became Principal at Tecumseh-Harrison in 2001.

Greg also stated the Consent Agenda includes a donation from Clark Academic Boosters for Clark Middle School; fundraiser requests, which includes Franklin Elementary PTO to begin

activities to raise funds to connect the two buildings at Franklin in conjunction with their 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration; and facilities use requests.

By unanimous vote the board approved the following Consent Agenda items:

- A. Minutes of February 25, 2013 Meeting
- B. Claims 18575 – 18748
- C. Financial Statements
- D. Personnel

**Retirements:**

Melissa Gurchiek	Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary Principal
Marsha Miller	CMS Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher

**Resignations:**

Travis Conner	CMS Girls' Head Track Coach
Heather Boger	LHS Girl's Softball 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Coach

**Recommendations:**

Cindy Ruble	Special Ed Personal Aide, \$10 per hour for 12.5 hrs per week from 3/4 to 5/24/13
Timothy L. Courtney	CMS Girls' Head Track Coach
Evan Stoll	LHS Boys' Head Soccer Coach (pending background clearance)
Ashley M. Goodwin	LHS Girls' Head Soccer Coach
Megan B. Scott	LHS Girls' Asst. Softball Coach
Amber Scott	LHS Girls' Softball Volunteer Asst. Coach (pending background clearance)
Sean Cook	LHS Percussion & Marching Band Asst.

E. Donations

Clark Academic Boosters	\$400	For CMS Star Ticket Reward Program to purchase "Star Store" merchandise
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F. Fundraiser Requests

LHS Cheer Team requests permission to sell tickets May 6 through June 1, 2013 and to sponsor a Car Wash on June 1, 2013 at Westport Dodge. Proceeds would be used to fund Cheer Camp and Cheer Camp Clothing.

Franklin Elementary PTO requests permission to conduct several fundraising activities, consisting of Spaghetti Dinner, Easter Basket sales, Raffles, Car Wash, Lemonade Stand/Popcorn Bags, Penny Wars, and Donation Box at 100 Year Celebration. Proceeds from these activities will be used to fund cost of their *Enclosed Walkway Project*. These activities will run from March 19 through May 1, 2013.

G. Use of Facilities Requests

Tecumseh-Harrison PTO requests permission to use the Gymnasium and Restrooms at Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5K Run activities.

Tumble-N-Twist requests permission to use the Gymnasium at Clark Middle School on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a Cheer Competition.

LHS Girls' Basketball Team requests permission to use Gymnasium, Locker Rooms, Weight Room, and Main Hallway with Restrooms at Clark Middle School, from Monday, July 15 through Friday, July 19, 2013, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for a Girls' Basketball Clinic.

DistinXion, Inc., a Zeller Family Program, requests permission to use the Gymnasium, two Classrooms or Auditorium at Lincoln High School from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, and from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15, 2013, to conduct a Basketball Camp.

Under Discussion Items on the Agenda the presentation by Steve Beaman of the Vincennes Parks and Recreation Department on the proposed Rainbow Beach Swimming Pool has been moved to April.

Dr. Alan Stewart stated he represented a new organization called *Keep Vincennes Rolling* to promote bicycle safety education and healthier lifestyles. One of the new activities they are sponsoring is the "Ride Your Bicycle to School Day". Rather than do this countywide, they asked Susan Marchino of Riley Elementary School if they would be interested in participating in this project.

Susan was very enthusiastic and their plan is to tentatively schedule this on Wednesday, May 8, 2013. As the week prior to that, from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, students would be ISTEP+ testing, the organization would plan to go into the school in the afternoon and go over bicycle safety. Students interested in bicycling to school would preregister and on May 8<sup>th</sup> volunteer LHS students and adult volunteers would escort them to Riley Elementary. In conjunction with this Mike Szady, Food Service Director, would also help on the project by providing healthy snacks. Other activities would be planned to educate students on bicycle safety.

Board members thanked Dr. Stewart and Susan on their presentation and hoped the activity would be a success.

By unanimous vote the board approved Mr. Parsley's request to pay the following items totaling \$2,735.80 from the CMS Contingency Fund:

Tyco-SimplexGrinnell	\$ 606.50	For work on CMS Security Cameras now outside of Warranty.
Alexandria	\$2,129.30	Five rolls of Thermal Paper for Laminator.

There is still a balance in excess of \$135,000 in the fund.

Barb Toole and Karla Smith thanked the Franklin Elementary students and their discussion of Dr. Seuss and their stories, the employees of the month and the "Good Idea" winners recognized for their efforts on behalf of our children, stating it is a pleasure to see that we have so many wonderful people guiding our kids.

Pat Hutchison congratulated Melissa Gurchiek, saying she now will have time to go to the Cardinals' games, wished everyone a nice spring break and especially to those Clark Middle School students going to Washington, D.C. He also stated that the Vincennes Community School Corporation community lost retired teacher Larry Clemens last week, that he had him as

a teacher and he was quite unique. He also thanked Barry Stone and Debbie Kirk on the revamping of the VCSC website, indicating what a tremendous job they did.

Aaron Bauer thanked all our model employees, stating they are very passionate about their job and it makes us feel good about that. He also stated that due to his schedule he was not able to make the Clark Middle School performance of *The Little Mermaid*, but stated what an asset Mrs. King was in putting on this production. He could not say just how many people had come up to him to say what a wonderful job was done and an experience they will cherish throughout their adulthood.

Aaron also wanted everyone to mark their calendar – it is already on the VCSC website calendar – the night of April 13<sup>th</sup>, which is the Vincennes Education Foundations' yearly fundraiser that gives funds back to the kids in the schools via the teachers getting things which there are normally no funds to purchase. It is to be held at the Eagles Lodge, will be a fun night and they have hundreds of items to auction off that were made by the ingenious, artistic students we have.

Greg Parsley also wanted to congratulate all the employees receiving recognition tonight, stating they are very deserving and he enjoys working with each of them. He thanked Barry Stone and Debbie Kirk on the great job they did on the website. As she was in the audience, Greg wanted to thank Sabrina King personally for all the time and effort she and all the other volunteers gave to *"The Little Mermaid"*. It was such a wonderful presentation.

Greg also congratulated Coach Hein, his staff, and the basketball team on their second consecutive sectional win and their trip to the regionals. He hopes everyone will look forward to and enjoy spring break next week.

Lynne Bobe also stated what a wonderful and great staff we have working for us and congratulated all the recognized employees, and the presentation by the Franklin students. Her only complaint is that the *"Little Mermaid"* play was not videotaped so she could watch it again. She also thanked and congratulated Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Gurchiek on their retirement. She stated that even before she had students in the VCSC schools she had always heard great things about Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary School. She also thanked Dr. Stewart for his work on the bicycle safety and getting students into healthy habits.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Lynne Bobe, President

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Pat Hutchison, Secretary