

December 20, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Vincennes Community School Corporation was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 20, 2012, in the Board Room of the Administrative Center. Those present were President Bryan Thais, Vice President Lynne Bobe, Secretary Pat Hutchison, Members Aaron Bauer and Melissa Turner, and Superintendent Greg Parsley.

Mr. Thais led the audience in a moment of silence for the students, victims and families of Newtown, Connecticut.

Mr. Thais then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mr. Parsley introduced Mayor Joe Yochum, who read a Mayoral Proclamation in honor of Bryan Thais and his 16 years of service to the Vincennes Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees. At the conclusion, Mayor Yochum pronounced that Thursday, December 20, 2012 to be declared "Bryan Thais Day".

Barry Stone introduced the Curriculum Team, himself as Curriculum Director, Katie McClung as the secondary schools Curriculum Coach and Melissa Pancake as the elementary Curriculum Coach. They gave a presentation on what they do, what they've been working on and to honor the teachers for all the work they have done. They went over goals, the focus and how they do things to teach the standards. With collaboration by teachers they have created curriculum mapping so that each school is on the same page at the same time so a child moving from one school to another is not lost in their instruction.

The three main areas of focus are "What We Teach", "The Way We Teach", and "Who Is Teaching". The corporation and the state dictate what we teach, the teachers and their different personalities make up the way we teach, and effective teachers are who are doing the teaching. The Curriculum Team's focus is what we teach and the way we teach, they are not concerned with the evaluative portion.

Katie McClung gave a presentation on "What We Teach" and Melissa Pancake gave a presentation on "The Way We Teach".

Barry also reported that each school has a "Green Room", where all the preparation is done before it "goes live". Teachers monitor the data to be sure students are successful and to get feedback. Teachers use the Green Room to find out why things are happening, what is missing, what is there, what students need that we didn't know they needed or were lacking. He showed pictures of some Green Rooms and how teachers use the data to assess the needs of their students and to build relationships.

Mr. Parsley wanted to comment that with the help of Mr. Stone we are doing things with the curriculum in our corporation that have not been done before. It would not have been possible with the three members of the Curriculum Team and the great teachers we have working for us in the corporation. He said it has to be the best group of teachers we have as it is always "what can we do to make our kids become more successful". Greg thanked the three of them and the teachers for what they are doing.

When asked by Mr. Thais as to how this ties in with what Dr. Benjamin brought to the corporation last year, Barry said it fit perfectly with what they were doing, both in the areas of need for reteaching and for remediation. They will be hitting it hard and heavy come January, February, and March, leading up to ISTEP+ testing in March and April.

Mr. Stone then stated that with the focus on teaching standards to students, he wanted everyone to know that we have three students that had perfect scores on their ISTEP+ tests for the 2011-2012 school year.

Victoria DeBrock, a current 8th grade student at Clark Middle School, received a perfect score on the Language Arts portion of the Spring 2012 ISTEP+. Also, Victoria was perfect on the Math portion of the Spring 2011 ISTEP+.

Jaeden Primus, a current 6th grade student at Clark Middle School, received perfect scores on the Math portion of the test while a student at Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary in Spring 2012, as well as Spring 2011.

In addition, Macy McNeece, a current 4th grade student at Tecumseh-Harrison, also received a perfect score on the Math portion of the 2012 Spring ISTEP+ test, her first year of taking the test.

Mr. Stone congratulated each of these students and presented them with a plaque outlining their accomplishments. In addition, Mr. Stone said each school would also receive a plaque with the students' name for display and to honor their accomplishments.

Greg Parsley formally recognized Kelley Crowley, Principal of Vigo Elementary School, for being named the IASP (Indiana Association of School Principals) Region 11 Principal of the Year. Region 11 includes Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. This is quite an honor and she was congratulated.

Kelley thanked everyone, stating she appreciated the honor her fellow peers bestowed upon her. She stated she could not say enough about how she could not do her job without all the support she receives from her teachers and parents at Vigo Elementary, and that it is a very exciting time to be working for Vincennes Community School Corporation.

Susan Marchino, Principal of Riley Elementary School, announced that Grade 2 teacher Josh Frederick was selected as the *Certified Employee of the Month*. Susan stated Josh is a very hard working teacher, serving on several committees, is the technology person for the building and is her go-to person when she hears of new research or ideas. Josh is a very dedicated employee whose main goal is for students to be successful.

Josh thanked everyone and said it was a pleasure to come to work every day to a job he loves, and to work with such dedicated people that give 100% and try to do what's best for the kids. He thanked the board and administration, saying he thinks we are on the right track for our students.

Ryan Clark, Principal of Clark Middle School, announced that Ann Collins, Treasurer/ Secretary at Clark Middle School, is the *Non-Certified Employee of the Month*. Ann is very serious about her job, is very meticulous, lets him know if he's not doing something right, is always there for the teachers to help them in any way she can. He cannot say enough about her and is very happy to have her in his building.

By unanimous vote the board approved the following Consent Items at Greg Parsley's request:

- A. Minutes of November 19, 2012 Meeting
- B. Claims 17962 – 18188
- C. Financial Statements
- D. Personnel

Resignations:

Michelle Sexton	Vigo Grade 2 Teacher (Eff 12/20/12)
Jessica Guentert	CMS Sign Language Assistant (Eff 12/20/12)
Amber Glosser	Vigo Special Ed Aide (Eff 12/20/12)
Cyrilla Williams	Vigo Crossing Guard (Eff 11/29/12)
Sarah Lowe	Tec-Harrison AM Breakfast Supervision (Eff 12/20/12)

Recommendations:

Emily Renee Pirtle	LHS Mathematics Teacher
Kyle Griffin Sheese	LHS Earth Space Science Teacher
Valerie Ellsworth	Franklin Homebound Instruction
Jimmie J. Hook	Vigo Crossing Guard
Bryan Quarterman	Tec-Harrison AM Breakfast Supervision (Eff 1/2/13)
Kayla Weyer	Franklin Primary Math Pentathlon Coach (HA Grant)
Lori Norrick	Riley Primary Math Pentathlon Coach (HA Grant)
Karen Johnson	Tec-Harr Primary Math Pentathlon Coach (HA Grant)
Stacey Lee	Riley Intermediate Math Pentathlon Coach (HA Grant)
Stacie Tabler	Tec-Harr Intermed Math Pentathlon Coach (HA Grant)
Leigh Anne Eck	Franklin Junior Great Books Coach (HA Grant)
Josh Frederick	Riley Junior Great Books Coach (HA Grant)
Debbie Gries	Vigo Junior Great Books Coach (HA Grant)
Garrett Coffey	LHS General Athletics – Winter (Pep Band)
Nancy Gress	Stipend Increase from \$2,040 to \$3,000 per year

Leaves:

Jessica Connor	Riley Social Worker requesting Medical Leave from 11/20 through 3/28/13)
Eric Mikiska	LHS Math & Science Teacher requesting Military Leave from 1/2 to 1/18/13
Katherine Mikiska	CMS Language Arts Teacher requesting FMLA from 1/2 to 3/25/13
Kreg Battles	LHS Science Teacher requesting Legislative Leave from 1/7 through 4/30/13

All other Leave Requests were approved as submitted.

E. Field Trip Requests

1. LHS Jazz Band teacher Jason King requests permission to take students in the newly formed group "Apparell Noir" to showcase to Chicago, Illinois, on Sunday, January 27, 2013.

F. Fundraiser Requests

1. Boys from CMS request approval to conduct a *CMS Free Throw-a-Thon* on Saturday, January 5, 2013 to raise funds for the CMS Athletic Fund.

G. Use of Facilities Requests

1. LHS Choir Boosters request permission to use LHS Cafeteria and Kitchen on Friday, February 8, 2013, from 4:00 to approximately 9:00 p.m. to conduct a *Soup Supper*. Proceeds from the activity will go to the LHS and CMS Choirs.
2. Indiana Regulatory Commission requests use of LHS Ader Auditorium on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, from 4:45 until approximately 8:30 p.m. to conduct a Public Field Hearing in Cause No. 44233

Greg Parsley had Steve Combs, Principal of Lincoln High School, introduce two of our newest employees at Lincoln, Emily Pirtle and Kyle Sheesh. Emily will be teaching in the Math Department and Kyle will be teaching in the Science Department.

Greg Parsley made the board aware that Vincennes Community School Corporation has made an application with the Indiana Department of Education for the *Excellence in Performance Awards for Teachers* grant. This is a comprehensive grant with which Indiana schools have been invited to submit applications to reward Highly Effective and Effective Teachers. It will also help in recruiting new teachers and help retain our best and brightest. This was a joint venture with the Vincennes Education Association and he is highly appreciative of their support. These applications were due to IDOE on Monday, December 17th.

By unanimous vote the board approved Steve Combs request to use \$2,500 from the Student Activity/ECA fund for the purchase of a mobile device manager to be utilized with the iPads at Lincoln High School. This manager will allow staff to better restrict and manage the iPads as they work with the students.

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's recommendation for the 2013-2014 School Calendar. School will start on Friday, August 9th for students, with last day for students being May 22nd and graduation on May 23rd. There are three built-in snow days, no school on Homecoming Friday, and two full weeks for Christmas Break. If needed, Friday, May 23rd could be used as a make-up day. He advised that he had presented two calendar options in discussion with the VEA as per new statute, and had discussion with all six building principals.

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's recommendation to continue with Indiana Insurance as their property and casualty carrier, in addition to partnering with the Indiana Schools' Educational Service Centers Risk Management Program for Workman's Compensation. Overall, with making slight changes to the insurance coverage, and with the Workman's Compensation, we will see an increase of \$1,408, for a total renewal of \$220,027.

J. M. Vieck, VCSC's Insurance Agent, presented an overview of the renewal. Bids had been requested from four companies and Indiana Insurance was the most competitive. They were also competitive with the Workman's Compensation, but the alternative with ISESC Risk Management Program was a better fit as it is a trust. However, it is a two-year commitment. With the outsourcing of the custodial and food service employees the number and severity of claims should decrease.

In reviewing the appraisals for all the VCSC properties, it was suggested that the coverage of the properties be increased \$7,000,000 as the property values went from \$90,000,000 last year to \$97,000,000 this year.

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's recommendation to amend the 403(b) Plan to include federal compliance language. This includes updating the plan to read "Protection of Persons Who Serve in a Uniformed Service", in addition to language that goes with "Minimum Distributions". The changes have been looked over by the attorney.

Greg Parsley advised that the 401(a) Plan Amendment originally on the Agenda is being removed as we are already in compliance with that plan.

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's request to use \$2,300 from the Clark Middle School Contingency Fund for the following items:

Pitsco Systems	Pillow Kits for FCS Dept.	\$ 2,300.00
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Greg reported there is still a balance of approximately \$190,000 in the fund.

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's request to run a second claims docket to close out 2012 calendar year.

By unanimous vote the board approved Greg Parsley's request for Business Manager and Treasurer to move funds so that all funds are solvent at the close of the 2012 calendar year. Greg reported he does know that this will include moving approximately \$40,000 from the Rainy Day Funds to the Pension Fund.

Under Other Business, Greg Parsley recognized Melissa Turner and Bryan Thais for their years of service on the Board of School Trustees.

In addition, Greg read the following Resolution that was presented to Bryan Thais:

**RESOLUTION OF THE
VINCENNES COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
ON THE SERVICE OF
BRYAN L. THAIS**

WHEREAS, Bryan L. Thais was elected to Vincennes Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees in 1996, serving a total of 16 years; the third longest serving board member in VCSC history, and

WHEREAS, he has served as President, Vice President or Secretary of the Board of School Trustees three times; serving with 14 other board members and four different superintendents, and has been the primary board representative as it pertains to negotiations his entire tenure, and

WHEREAS, Bryan L. Thais has directly affected the lives of every student in the school corporation by his dedication to improving the schools and the education of the young people of our community, including support of Full Day Kindergarten, and

WHEREAS, Bryan L. Thais in many ways led the community effort to build a new middle school and an attempt to building a new elementary school;

WHEREAS, most importantly, Bryan L. Thais has promoted a cohesive working environment for all building administrators and central office, being respected by all employees, both certified and non-certified. He is well known for taking the common sense approach to situations involving personnel and students, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 20th Day of December, 2012, that the Vincennes Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees and current superintendent express appreciation to Bryan L. Thais for his 16 years of dedicated service to the Vincennes Community School Corporation and is desirous that these words become part of the official record.

Aaron M. Bauer

Lynne M. Bobe

Patrick P. Hutchison

Melissa J. Turner

Gregory T. Parsley, Superintendent

Mr. Thais thanked everyone for this presentation.

Aaron Bauer wanted to recognize our employee achievers, our student achievers, and stated he had spoken to Jenny Peter from the *Vincennes Sun-Commercial* earlier today on what he thought of Melissa and Bryan and hopes she will print at least a part of what he said. He stated we are losing two very fine individuals from the board and wished them the best going forward.

Melissa Turner stated she is in awe of Bryan and his dedication, that he has been a true inspiration and is very blessed to call him her friend. The board members, superintendents and administrators she has been privileged to work with over the past five years have all taught her valuable lessons. Mr. Rose taught her tough decisions were always easier if you put students first, Messrs. Bobe and Blacklock spent many hours trying to teach her the ins and outs of school finance, Mr. Nonte was always available to answer her questions on curriculum and the day-to-day operations, and Mr. Parsley has already encouraged her to start a new project to help the students of this community.

Melissa thanked the board members that voted her on to the board five years ago and to Dr. Alan Stewart for immediately getting her involved in the *CMS Yes* campaign.

She stated it has been an honor to serve on the board and thanked the many members of the staff, the students and parents who supported her. She stated she has been humbled by what it

takes to be a teacher today. They not only teach them reading, writing, and arithmetic, but they are their parent, their nurse, their counselor, their sister, and sometimes you are their dietician. It is a tough job and our teachers do it incredibly well.

She further stated she is humbled by the members of the community who give effortlessly, from their pocketbook, to their prayers, their time, and their dedication to this corporation without any recognition, because they don't want recognition, they just believe in kids.

Melissa stated she needed to give special thanks to her family for supporting her always, especially her son Carl, who knows it is not easy to say your mom is on the school board, and to her husband Steven, who knows the countless hours she had given to know that she had done her best, and she loves them both very much.

Melissa also stated that these are tough times in education, but is confident that our new board members Karla and Barb, will join Aaron, Pat and Lynne, and continue to make decisions based on what is best for the students and to make the VCSC stronger. She encouraged them to look to how to provide the best education possible for all our students.

Melissa ended by wishing everyone good luck and God bless.

Pat Hutchison thanked Melissa, stating it had been great serving on the board with her, getting to know her better, and that she had been an excellent board member.

To Bryan, Pat stated that they go back a long way and that we didn't have time to talk about a lot of it. He did say that when he decided to run for the board 11 years ago, Bryan told him he should, and when he told Bryan he was going to run again four years ago, Bryan told him he was crazy, but encouraged him. Pat thanked him for being a friend and a mentor on this board.

Lynne Bobe thanked the Curriculum Team for their presentation, the students that did so well on the ISTEP+ testing, which was very impressive. She extended congratulated Kelley Crowley on her recognition, that it is an honor to have someone like her with our corporation. She congratulated Josh and Ann and thanked them for all their hard work. She welcomed Emily and Kyle to the corporation.

Lynne thanked Bryan for his years on the board and his knowledge, his ability to recall details and was very impressed with what he knows. She stated we will miss his experience and knowledge on the school board.

Lynne also thanked Melissa for her years of service, that her hard work and caring is evident. Her work in getting the new middle school and being an advocate for the children is commendable. She thanked Melissa for welcoming her to the school board, the many conferences they attended and for being a good friend to her.

Bryan asked how we did with our audit and Greg Parsley reported we have had our exit interview and we are just waiting for the written report to be filed within the next 60 days. It was a good audit with no major outlines. Bryan stated this speaks great once again of the work by everyone. Lynne Bobe reported that the audit was very complimentary to our staff and the great job they did.

Bryan Thais welcomed Emily and Kyle to the corporation. He thanked Aaron, Melissa, Patrick, Lynne, and Greg.

Bryan stated he was 35 years old when he joined the board, that there had been a lot of ups and downs, but he has never regretted a minute of it. A lot of decisions had been made, decisions that affected the lives of a lot of children and families of the community. He said there had been a lot of tough decisions, but when you keep everything in prospective in what you do for kids they are real easy decisions.

Bryan wanted to thank every board member he had worked with, saying you learn from each other and that's what good boards do. Of the current members he stated they have been a great board to work with, as well as all the administrators, teachers and support staff. He said board members can sit there and make plans, create mission statements and all that, but it is the people that make a great corporation. You hire the best people, let them do their job, and they will succeed. He asked that everyone remember that it's people that get things done.

Bryan stated that things change, people change, but kids are always the same. He stated former Curriculum Director Bob Taylor said kids need three things – they need school, church, and a family. Unfortunately, school is the only thing some of these kids have. He relayed a story told to him by a former high school principal. There was a student that wanted to quit school and the principal told him to “hang in there with me, we'll get you through this”. After the graduation ceremony the principal happened to notice the student outside the office door. When he asked why he was there, the student stated he needed a ride home, that no one had come to his graduation. Unfortunately, that's where we are as a society.

Bryan stated that is he had to tell board members one thing, it would be to have a voice for those kids where school is the only thing they have.

Bryan further stated that he was lucky to have been able to serve on the school board from a community from which he graduated, and has made many friends over the years, with Pat Hutchison being one of them – they go back a long way.

Bryan wanted to thank his family for being there tonight, his mother and father, his sister Tyra and her husband Rick. He thanked them for sitting through a school board meeting. He also thanked his sister Pam, stating she sits on a Catholic school board and he told her to come tonight to see how a real school board meeting was run. He thanked his son Blaize, who had just recently graduated from VU after a year and a half, due partly to the programs offered at Lincoln High School. To his daughter Kaitlyn and her husband Dustin Jones, one of the very fine teachers working for us now. He said Kaitlyn is a dental hygienist with Dr. Herman and had received her bachelor's degree in three years, again due to the programs offered at Lincoln High School.

Bryan again thanked everyone, and there being no further business adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Bryan Thais, President

Pat Hutchison, Secretary