

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
PUBLIC WORK SESSION MEETING
686 WABASH AVENUE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019
7:00 A.M.
MINUTES

*Approved
REH
1/2/20*

A Work Session Meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Vigo County School Corporation was held at the Vigo County School Corporation Administration Building, 686 Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana on Thursday, December 13, 2019.

The following Board Members were present: Mr. Melvin Burks, Mr. Joseph Irwin III, Mr. Paul Lockhart, Mrs. Jackie Lower, Dr. Susan Powers, and Ms. Rosemarie Scott. Mrs. Joni Wise was absent.

Discussion

Ms. Jackie Lower called the meeting to order. She started the meeting by reading a letter from Mr. Chuck Rubright, Bose McKinney Attorney, asking the Board to approve the ratification of the agreement between Vigo County School Corporation and the Vigo County Teachers Association. Mr. Burks made a motion to accept the request. Mr. Lockhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Lockhart thanked the VCSC and VCTA for all the work that was done on coming to an agreement. Superintendent Haworth shared that state funding is not in alignment with the value that we have in our teachers. Due to the community referendum, VCTA/VCSC bargaining team, this was made possible. He also thanked all parties involved in the process. Mr. Burks made a motion to close the meeting. Mr. Lockhart seconded the motion. This portion of the meeting closed at 7:07 A.M.

Dr. Brad Balch, Indiana State University, started the session by sharing that the National School Board Association predicts that it takes two years for new school Board members to come together. He asked the Board how things were going. Ms. Lower responded that it is busy and coming together. Mr. Irwin shared that there is a lot going on, but it is a good year. Dr. Balch then shared that in order for the Board to be successful; there must be a willingness to share and to assume risks. Dr. Balch asked what have been some of the challenges. Ms. Lower responded that there has been a learning curve, and that as a Board, we must know how much to say and what not to say. Dr. Balch mentioned that the Board has guidelines that should be used and that the Board must speak in one voice and not as an individual. Mr. Irwin shared that as a Board member, we must be conscious of what we say. Superintendent Haworth shared that there is a lot happening: testing, mental health wellness, and academics. If we only focus on testing and academics, we have missed the mark. He asked how we continue to provide education when funding is dwelling. He shared that the Board has done an excellent job in moving us forward with the many changes taking place. Mr. Burks shared that he sees the new Board members and seasoned Board members as raising a child. Mr. Lockhart's observation is that we have new Board members and a new Superintendent. We started out looking at a referendum for buildings, and switched to an operating referendum. He has never done this before, and the ratification of the contract today would have been difficult if the operating referendum had not passed. He also feels that the Board took the right approach in supporting the Red for Ed movement with our teachers. Dr. Balch recommended that the Board continue to work together in unity, and don't fall prey to the "implementation dip". This should be the center of a great start. He also shared with the Board to not underestimate the strain that comes from difficult and competing budget cuts and facility consideration. He

mentioned that a strong strategic plan can provide the cornerstone to becoming successful. Dr. Goeller shared that coming together with the vision and mission has been beneficial in many areas. Mr. Burks shared that with the scrutiny that the Superintendent deals with, he has stayed the course. Superintendent Haworth shared that he has observed that leadership is not only demonstrated in the district, but in the community. An example that he shared is with the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce and how they are supportive which in turn will cause other agencies to do the same. Dr. Balch reviewed the Mission, Vision, and Values with the Board and reminded them that the work starts now, and we must follow-through with the values given; don't let things rise to a crisis; and to listen to the students.





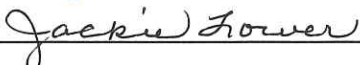


There was a discussion on spending cuts. Mr. Burks shared that if we as a Board, Superintendent, and his team continue to communicate clearly, the community will come together. Dr. Balch asked how can a win or lose be minimized. Mr. Irwin responded that we must make sure community wins even with changes. Ms. Scott responded that it's like running your own household and changes have to take place. Mr. Lockhart shared that the challenge is to show the students that they will receive something better than what they have currently. Superintendent Haworth shared that the community knows that something has to happen, but they don't want it to be their school, and the challenge for us is to look at what is happening in the community. Dr. Balch shared that the Board must be open and listen, and those who have experience to share their experience with members who have not experienced it. There was then a discussion on facility planning. Mr. Burks shared that we must make sure the plan is crafted. Dr. Balch shared that all options must be looked at and every area of the buildings is learning space. The discussion on the Technology Integration Plan involved sharing that there were three committees involved. The teachers will receive professional development. Dr. Powers asked if we are doing something beyond the devices. Dr. Goeller responded that the primary focus right now is the learning management system. Superintendent Haworth shared that Career and Technical Education is more advanced than some other technology departments, and the next step is to re-engage all committees to look at the document. Dr. Balch shared that early adopters are excited about the technology plan and he thanked Dr. Goeller and her team for their work on it.

Adjournment 8:45 A.M.

Future Meeting

Business Meeting - Monday, January 6, 2020 – 6:00 P.M. – Administration Building

Approved:

	President member
	Vice President
	Secretary members
	Member
	Member secy
	Member vice president
	Member