

January 24, 2024

TO: Media

FROM: Mr. Patrick Culp, Tri-County School Corporation

RE: Regular School Board Meeting, Monday, January 8, 2024

The Tri-County School Board met for their Regular meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024.

The following topics were covered:

1. The board approved the agenda.
2. Board Officers are as follows: Dr. Brandi Schermerhorn, School Board President, Mr. Bob Gerber, School Board Vice President and Mr. Jason Kilmer School Board Secretary.
3. The Board approved the reappointments of Tammy Seward as Treasurer and Mrs. Kristin Dreblow as Deputy/ Assistant Treasure with the amount of bond currently set at \$75,000.
4. The Board approved keeping Lewis-Kappes and Mrs. Monica Conrad as the Corporation attorney.
5. Board Committees were approved to stay the same.
6. The board approved the minutes for the Regular Board Session on December 11, 2023.
7. Mr. McCracken announced the Jr/Sr High School Students of the Month: Students of the Month for Junior High School- Isaiah Ramos 7th, Reece Fullam 8th, English Language Arts: Axel Madrid, Math: Travis Hurd, Social Studies: Paige Dalton Padhye, CTE(Welding): Bryce McMorrow, FACS (Culinary): Adalyn Spence, Science: Kami Wilkerson, Fine Arts (Art): Alivia Pritts
8. Students of the Month from Mrs. DeVries's 5th grade class at TCI: Harper Musser and Case Miller
9. Students of the Month from Ms. Pilotte's Kindergarten class at TCP: Ethan Sargent and Hope Runk
10. There were no visitor's comments.
11. Shannon Kelly reported that Technology is preparing for the Spring Testing season. Schools are starting to do readiness tests to make sure devices are connecting. Technology is preparing for the 2024 device project refresh schedule to prepare for the summer. The window to report CRDC data is open and Mrs. Kelly has been working on getting that data out of PowerSchool and input into the CRDC site. Technology will begin troubleshooting Windows 11 to roll it out this summer on Tri-County devices. Diane Smith and Mrs. Kelly are working together to discuss ways to share more information about AI.
12. Chief Sweney reported to the board that the K9 Unit was graciously donated a K9 Trauma Kit, K9 Narcan Kit and a Ballistics Vest by ProtectingK9Heroes out of Cedar Lake Indiana. Chief Sweney has been working with schools to run through emergency drills such as active shooter and fire to see if there is anything that could be improved or revised.
13. Under the Board Committee Report, Mr. Gerber reported on legislation that came out today. The topic of the discussion is on rural schools vs larger schools.
14. Ms. Hall reported to the board a big thank you to Mrs. Legler for all of her work for the Christmas program. It was a wonderful program this year. It takes a lot of help from the transportation department, custodial department, and volunteers to make it happen. All of their work is very much appreciated. Ms. Hall wanted to highlight that during TCP's first semester, TCP has had cadet teachers from the high school coming over to work in our classrooms. They all did a wonderful job and connected with our students very well. Ms. Hall only heard positive feedback from our staff about the experience and from the comments Ms. Hall heard from the high school students. Ms. Hall knows they really enjoyed it too. It was a great experience for all of them.
15. Mrs. Pearson reported to the board that tomorrow the 5th graders are going to the Suburau plant for

some STEM activities and to see the process of making a car from start to finish. On Thursday the 11th members of TCI's STEM team are going to Purdue for a conference to help improve some of TCI's stem practices and work towards getting TCI recertified as a stem school. Thursday the 18th Officer Sweney will be at TCI to walk through a lockdown drill. This month TCI will also have some students take the WIDA test, this helps staff to identify those students that may need additional support to help them overcome any language barriers. Jr. High wrestling season starts tonight. 5th-grade girls and boys basketball has started. The Robotics team will compete on February 10th in their first competition for the year. 4th grade will be going to the Lafayette Symphony in February. February 14th 6th-grade students will be going to the Challenger center. January is School Board Member Month.

16. Mr. McCracken reported on his goals for attendance at Tri-County Jr/Sr High school. Mr. McCracken discussed what the daily routine for attendance requires. A report is sent to staff daily. PowerSchool is available to Teachers to take attendance. Teachers can notice if there is a habit or trend. Mr. McCracken communicates with the attendance secretary daily to review the attendance list, who they have heard from or have not and call one's that have not reported an absence. They also communicate with Jasper and White County's probation. Jasper county responds quickly and sometimes requires parents and students to go in front of a judge. Mr. McCracken communicates with other administrators in the county on things that are working. Jasper County has a program called Project Attendance for KV and Rensselaer. White County does not have that program. Mr. McCracken and Mr. Haskins take the personal approach to handle attendance issues.
17. Mr. Haskins reported to the board that Mr. McCracken and Mrs. Whitcomb do an outstanding job. Mrs. Whitcomb does a great job keeping track of the students' attendance. Mr. McCracken does a great job following up. Attendance takes a lot of time. Attendance is taken 5 times a day. Thanks to Mrs. Whitcomb and Mr. McCracken our attendance is high. Great to have everyone back in the building! Thanks to Mr. Garrett and his staff for their efforts over break. Welcome to Mr. Sharp in the counselor role. Report cards went out today electronically. Servsafe manager certifications 37 students (37 out of 52). 4 students passed drone certifications in December. Scholarship packets have been sent to students and parents. Counselors holding a scholarship meeting on Friday with seniors. Thanks to bus drivers and for all that they do. It is a thankless job. They are the first to see our students and the last. Good luck to our four girls wrestling on Friday's state at Kokomo High School: Kylee Kleist; Sydney Stoller; Summer Stoller and Ryleigh Sheldon. School Board Appreciation is this month. Thank you to the board members for all that they do!
18. Under New Business, the board approved the Support Staff Handbook as presented.
19. Under New Business, the board approved the maternity leave of Mrs. Claire Monts, TCI instructional aide.
20. The board approved the appointment of Mrs. Diana Cain to the Wolcott Community Library for a term of four years.
21. Mr. Culp recommended leaving the textbook fund negative due to the changes made by legislators. Mr. Culp does not want to take money away from students to make the fund a zero balance. Legislators choose the amount to give back to schools and it did not bring the balance to a zero balance or positive. Mr. Culp would like to have an accurate picture for legislators that the amount given does not cover the textbook balance. Dr. Brandi Schemerehorn asked "Are other schools doing this?" Mr. Culp replied that locally, yes. Some schools are transferring money and then reversing it however Tri-County will not do that.
22. Under the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Culp presented to the board for review the ISBA resolution committing to the Indiana Department of Education goal of 95% of students achieving proficiency in the I-READ3.
23. Mr. Culp stated to the board that he believes we need to consider bidding for insurance due to ESCRFT rates increasing 30%.

24. Mr. Culp stated that Friday, April 26, 2024 we will have school. However Monday April 8, 2024 there will not be school due to the predicted issue with travel caused from the Solar Eclipse.
25. Next board meeting will be February 12, 2024.