

July 29, 2025

TO: Media

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

RE: Regular School Board Meeting, Monday, July 14, 2025

The Tri-County School Board met for their Regular meeting on July 14, 2025.

The following topics were covered:

1. The board approved the agenda as presented.
2. The board approved the minutes for the Regular Board Session and Executive Session on Monday, June 9, 2025.
3. Under visitor's comments, "Hi, we are Jeff and Chelsea Williams, parents of Elias Williams who is entering kindergarten. I want to start by giving a little background about ourselves. My husband was born and raised here, a graduate of Tri County, and has deep family roots here. Some of which work for the schools district themselves. I am a nurse with nearly 10 years of experience in pediatric trauma, pediatric psychology, and pediatric abuse. I also am a certified sexual assault nurse examiner and forensic nurse and have worked with both the adult and pediatric populations in White, Clinton, Tippecanoe, and Marion counties. My work as a forensic nurse not only covered sexual assault, but abuse of any kind, especially those that ended in tragedy or death for adults and children alike. I have dedicated hundreds of hours to training and learning about trauma response, trauma absorption, how it affects us as adults, and how it shows up in our children. I have sat on countless witness stands to protect the integrity of my patient's stories, serving as an expert witness, giving testimony relevant to the facts and evidence of their case. Lastly, my profession has led me to work with some of the nation's top specialists within Riley's Hospital for Children and Peyton Manning Children's hospital. Working with them has been an honor and privilege, but more so helped in an integral way of guiding me in my personal life as a mother, by allowing me to understand that our actions and words matter to even the smallest developing minds. My professional experience has been a driving force behind articulating our son's life experiences and have allowed us to remain educated and deeply involved in his well-being. Our hope is that we are able to use our knowledge as a resource to help collaborate with Tri County Schools and this board in ensuring every student's safety, emotional health, and development is of utmost priority. As well as ensuring that our faculty and support staff are given a framework and guidance that is well supported through policy, allowing them to have the tools needed to perform their duties in the most equipped manner. We had an unfortunate year within the pre-k program that started with a bus driver. While we can't change the situation that our son was put in, we have had several discussions as a family on how we should proceed to move forward since we also understand that the damage has already been done. We are here today asking the board to review existing policies and create several more to make sure that the events that happened to our child never happen again, especially to those who may continue in her care. First, we would like a review of the restraint and seclusion policy that is to be enacted in all of Tri County schools per the Indiana Code. As it stands, we have only one policy that is covered inside of the Tri County Junior/Senior High student handbook and it is incomplete as it does not contain verbiage that covers student seclusion. We would like to address how audits are being carried out for bus drivers and faculty alike. We would also like a comprehensive and specific Bus Driver Code of Conduct and Policy that is unique to Tri County Schools that addresses not only behaviors and discipline, but also what language can be used by bus drivers during student interactions, addresses student confidentiality, and creates a clear scope of practice with guidelines on what the support staff's duties are. Lastly, we ask that a comprehensive training is done regarding restraints, seclusion, student de escalation, and expected age appropriate behaviors directed to our support staff. We understand that what we're asking for is a large undertaking. However, as

stakeholders for this schools district that care deeply about the safety, physical, and emotional wellbeing of all students that enter through the doors of any Tri County school, we want to bring attention to the necessity for our faculty and support staff to have the tools to help them succeed, and that begins inside of these four walls. We know that with expansion that there is a possibility of increase in enrollment and with an increase in enrollment, there will be more grey areas such as the one that we encountered. We hope to address these policies and ensure that they are sound in order to provide that the expectations are clear for both students and staff alike and to ensure that our children are placed in the safest of hands by continuing to hold our faculty and support staff to the same standards that we expect from our children. We know that changes for the better take time and we hope to continue to be a part of this process to make every environment of Tri County that a student may experience to be as enjoyable as possible. Thank you.”

4. Under New Business, the board approved the employment of Alicia Mitchell- Nurse at Tri-County Intermediate, Erin Garrett- Lifeskills Instructional Aide at Tri-County Jr/Sr High School, Melanie Douglas- 3rd Grade Teacher at Tri-County Intermediate, Greg Douglas- Special Education Teacher at Tri-County Jr/Sr High School, Elizabeth Douglas- EL Teacher at Tri-County Jr/Sr High School. The transfer of Kirby Carney from 6th Grade to Jr. High Math, Holly Cook from 3rd Grade to 6th Grade, Mrs. Amanda Alberts from HS nurse to Jr. High Health/ Health Careers Teacher, Sara Arvin from TCI Nurse to Part time HS nurse and Health Careers Teacher, Rudy Taulman from Grounds to HS Business Teacher, Janelle Batley- 3rd Grade IA to 6th Grade IA at Tri-County Intermediate. A leave of absence for Lori Wittke- HS Art Teacher, maternity leave for Kylei Hickner- HS Ag Teacher and termination of LizBeth Geronimo- Lifeskills IA at Tri-County Jr/Sr High School.
5. The board approved Mr. Culp permission for the emergency employment of required certified and classified staff impacting the school operation and functions prior to the August board meeting.
6. The board approved the evidence and subsequent merit pays for the 2024-2025 Administrator Goals as presented.
7. The board approved the 2025-2026 Tri-County Corporation Discussion Resolution.
8. The board approved a 10 student/classroom or 30 students/grade level transfer quota.
9. Mr. Culp did the first reading of NEOLA Policies Vol. 37 No. 2. Official action to occur at the August board meeting.
10. The board approved the TCHS Online Learning Option for grades 9th- 12th Resolution to clarify language on Co-Curricular's.
11. The board then approved the TCHS Online Learning Option for grades 9th- 12th Resolution.
12. Mr. Culp did the first reading of the Support Staff Handbook.
13. The board approved the payroll ratification and claims docket.
14. Under the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Culp presented to the board information from the IAPSS about the federal government withholding Title Funds to the states. He went on to explain what Title funds we use and how it affects Tri-County Schools.
15. Mr. Culp informed the board that if they would like to attend the ISBA/IAPSS Conference in September to let him know and he will get attendees registered.
16. At this time Officer Aaron Page was sworn in as Chief of Police for the Tri-County Police Department by Jason Kilmer, Tri-County board president.
17. Mrs. Tieke asked a clarifying question over an agenda item. Mr. Culp answered her question.
18. Next board meeting will be August 11, 2025.