

**JUNIATA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Wednesday, May 9, 2018
7:00 PM WORKSHOP MEETING
Administrative Office, 146 Weatherby Way, Mifflintown**

MINUTES

An executive session to discuss personnel and property issues was convened at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at the District's Administrative Office building.

The workshop meeting was called to order at 7:22 p.m. by President Mark Wagner.

In addition to Mr. Wagner, present were: Mrs. Angela Varner, Mrs. Heather Kelly, Mr. Danny Snyder, Mrs. Christine Shadel, Mrs. Christine McLaughlin, Mr. Troy Woodward, Superintendent Keith Yarger, Mr. Rich Meily, Mr. Benjamin Fausey, Mrs. Wendy Varner, Mrs. Jill Condo, Mr. Edward Apple, Mrs. Valerie Ricedorf, Mr. Andy Kinzer, Mr. Clint Mitchell, Mrs. Christie Holderman and Solicitor Scott Etter.

Mr. Woodward asked why there is a recommendation to close Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School before bids are received for boiler replacement at the school.

During reports from administrators, Mr. Fausey shared information about the EJHS Jazz Band.

The following individuals spoke during the public comment period:

Jason Trego – Urged the Board to take its time in making a decision about the future of Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School.

Daniel Love – Suggested that psychological evaluations be completed for students who would have a longer bus ride if Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School were to close, and requested information regarding staffing and expenditures. He encouraged to the Board to delay a decision to close the school.

Charles Raffensberger – Expressed his support of keeping Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School open and offered his assistance with the building's boiler issue.

D.J. Woodward – Asked how Christian Release Time currently held at Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School would be affected if the school would be included in the consolidation.

Lawrence Beaston – Noted that Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School had not been included in the original consolidation plan and said that the length of the bus ride for students was a deciding factor in not including the school in the plan.

Roseanne Woodward – Asked Board member Angela Varner to explain what educational opportunities would be missed by Lack-Tuscarora Elementary students if they did not attend the consolidated elementary school and asked what districts had been included when making comparisons of bus route times.

Suzanne Lutinski advocated for consolidation, stating that it would allow for increased collaboration among teachers, shared copies of Walker Elementary School's dedication program, and extended an invitation to the school's final kindergarten graduation program.

Paula Lauver noted that a previous Board had voted 8-1 to keep Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School open, saying that factors leading to that decision have not changed. She asserted that the school has the largest percentage of socioeconomically disadvantaged students and said that population does not benefit from schools with higher enrollment numbers.

Elizabeth Book expressed her concerns about longer bus rides and said that she doesn't believe that Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School students are at an academic disadvantage.

Following public comment, Juniata Business and Industry marketing director Dane Walters gave a presentation about a proposed 59-acre addition to the Juniata County Industrial Park and how a Keystone Opportunity Zone designation would aid in attracting businesses.

Business manager Rich Meily gave a budget presentation that took into account the impact that the closure of Lack-Tuscarora Elementary School would have.

Mr. Yarger reviewed the May 17, 2018 board meeting agenda.

It was announced that the Property Committee would meet on May 11 and the Security Committee would meet May 17.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Polly S. Digon
Board Secretary