

MINUTES  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COLUMBUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Monday, March 19, 2018

Call to Order

Board President Dave Duncan called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: Dave Duncan, Eric Totemeier, Maria Gomez, Bob Schwab, Andy White. Also, present Gary Benda, Neil Mills, the press and members of the community.

Agenda

Eric Totemeier made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Maria Gomez. Motion carried 5-0

Maria Gomez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The mission and vision statements were read by Dave Duncan.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Dave Duncan opened the budget hearing in which Gary Benda presented a power point presentation on the 2018-2019 budget. After the presentation Dave Duncan opened the hearing to any budget questions by the public. There being no questions, the budget hearing was then closed.

Eric Totemeier made a motion to adopt the 2018-2019 Budget as presented.

Seconded by Andy White. Motion carried 5-0.

Approvals

Andy White made a motion to approve all the bills except for the Kauffman Electric bill.

Seconded by Maria Gomez. Motion carried 5-0.

Maria Gomez made a motion to approve the Financial Report and Minutes.

Seconded by Eric Totemeier. Motion carried 5-0.

**Bills:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
ABM Building Maintenance	Janitorial Services	22,969.35
Agriland FS, INC.	Fuel	4,488.08
All American Pest Control	Pest Control	100.00
Alliant Energy	Utilities	22,467.30
Anderson Erickson Dairy	Milk	4,059.95
Beenen, Lori	Gear Up Meals	274.00
Burlington Trailways	Gear Up Travel	1,067.03
CDW Government Inc.	Supplies	742.09
Central Iowa Distributing	Supplies	284.80
City Of Columbus Junction	Utilities	898.17
ClaimAid	Filing Fees	1,113.62
Columbus Activity Account	Reimbursement	22,107.21
Columbus Gazette	Publications	500.00
Columbus Jct. Auto Supply	Supplies	300.09
Deese, Ruben	Postage	19.10
Devere Company	Supplies	18.05
Economart	Supplies	442.40
Etfile	Office Scope Fees	6,245.00
Farner-Bocken Company	Food	727.90
Gage Foods	Food	165.43
Grainger	Supplies	457.40
Highland CSD	Entry Fees	90.00
Hitchcock, Alex	Reimbursement	18.66
Hoglund Bus Co Inc.	Supplies	484.16
Holiday Inn	BPA Travel	344.96
Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc.	FFV	703.96
ICAOA	Official Fees	325.00
Iowa Assoc. Of School Boards	Workshop Fees	1,325.00
Iowa Communications Network	ICN	78.40
Iowa Department of Education	Tuition	1,040.00
Iowa Dept. Of Education	Inspection Fees	640.00
Iowa Dept. Public Health	Pool License	35.00
Iowa High School Music Assoc	Entry Fees	155.00
J.W. Pepper and Son, Inc.	Supplies	193.03
Johnson Controls	Repairs	6,105.00
Keck, Inc.	Commodities	2,853.15
Kirkwood Community College	Scholarships	1,750.00
L & M School District	Choir Travel	118.70
L.J. Roth	Repairs	317.55
Lynch Dallas, P.C.	Legal Fees	165.00
Marco	Copier Leases	2,106.88
MediaQuest Signs	Repairs	170.00

Medicom	Telephone	845.67
Mincer Ford	Repairs	1,943.77
Mississippi Bend AEA 9	Purchase Service	24,000.00
Muscatine Physical Therapy Services, PC	Athletic Training	87.50
New London CSD	Entry Fees	80.00
Panther Scholarship Club	Entry Fees	150.00
Pro-Vision	Cameras	1,204.97
Quill Corp	Supplies	24.60
R.M. Boggs Co.	Repairs	3,128.07
Refreshment Services Pepsi	Pop	614.06
Reinhart Foodservice	Food	11,677.33
RevTrak	Merchant Fees	113.57
S.A.I.	Workshop Fees	110.00
Skidmore, Savannah	Reimbursement	12.89
Smith, Simiko	Refund	15.00
Soccer.com	Uniforms	2,966.88
Washington CSD	Open Enrollment	7,593.50
		163,034.23

## Administrative Reports

**Paul Southwell** – submitted by Gary Benda--Roundy is celebrating another very successful round of parent-teacher conferences. We hosted 289 conferences, with 267 families attending giving us nearly a 93% attendance rate, compared with our approximately 95% attendance rate in the fall. This means that approximately 74% of students received a conference, compared to 76% in the fall, still giving us room to grow in the future. We are approaching spring break which will give us time to prepare for the administration of Iowa Assessments the following week. We are grateful to the PTO for sponsoring snacks and water for our students during the administration of the Iowa Assessments, as well as for their work on our upcoming School Safety Night fundraiser, where we are fundraising for both Roundy and the Secondary to purchase devices that allow us to secure classroom doors in case of emergency.

**Tyler Hotz** – Spring sports are about to get underway as our first home track meet is scheduled for Friday, March 23rd (Girls only). Soccer will begin the first week back from Spring Break. The Spring P-T conferences took place on March 13th and 15th. 57% attended the second set of conferences. At this time, the total number of parents attending is being compiled. It has been suggested to have the conferences next year in the gym to localize the teachers and use of translators.

**Neil Mills** – Gayle Hoag has been working on mid-term report cards, scholarship applications to be sent to the scholarship owners and to the scholarship committees. Registering a few new students and sending out transcripts for others who have transferred out. Tashia Wheeler is doing some grant reporting, BPA travel arrangements, and negotiation scenarios. I have been

preparing month end reports and fund balances, and bank Reconciliations. Tashia and I will be spending our spring break at the School Business Officials Spring Conference for our continuing education requirements.

**Gary Benda** – Spring and Easter Break are from March 24 thru April 2. Would the board like to schedule a work session (or maybe multiple sessions) to discuss your long-range vision for the district? It could occur day, evening or a weekend. We would discuss the future as a district; attracting students, physical renovations, negotiations and other financial implications etc. The board could also generate questions that they would like answered. I have had one board member say that they are interested.

Kathy Vance was in working with Jan Rutt's 8th grade students over several "At-Risk" behaviors associated with the Iowa Youth Survey. Kathy spends, over the course of a couple of weeks, several class periods teaching and discussing topics such as: STDs, Drug and Alcohol usage, sexual activity and avoidance of sexual activity, etc. Kathy then surveys students on their knowledge about how to avoid "At-Risk" behaviors at the end of her unit. The survey shows that students understood a lot of what was presented.

I was able to attend the school play Saturday night. We had 50 very amused people in the audience as our cast and director Matt McAfee did a great job!

#### Board Reports

**Andy White**, Eric Totemeier and Tyler Hinkhouse had a meeting regarding transportation needs for the district. I also meet with Tyler Hotz about a safety net for track season. The gym floor looks a lot better and may only need re-waxed so we may luck out.

**Bob Schwab**--Nothing at this time.

**Eric Totemeier**, Andy White and Tyler Hinkhouse discussed a bus purchase and our bus fleet that we currently have and ours is a little above average, so at this time we would not recommend a new bus purchase.

**Maria Gomez** attended the negotiations meetings on Monday and Thursday and wasn't sure what to expect, but she learned a lot. The meetings went well and she was happy with the outcome, it was a great experience.

**Dave Duncan** attended the negotiations meeting also, it hurts him to see where we are at as a school and at a state level. He would encourage anyone that when you have the chance to talk to a legislator to do so, that we need more thought and resources poured into our schools.

## Unfinished Business

Maria Gomez made a motion to not purchase a new bus.

Seconded by Andy White. Motion carried 5-0.

There was additional discussion of checking into purchasing an SUV or a passenger van. Dave Duncan suggested that Andy White and Eric Totemeier, as the transportation committee, meet with Tyler Hinkhouse and Neil Mills to investigate that possible purchase.

The prior approved calendar was discussed, and Andy White voiced concerns that were brought to him about the lack of a Spring break by staff members.

After some discussion Maria Gomez made the motion to: Draft a calendar with a start date after the Iowa State Fair, with a full 5-day spring break, and graduation on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Seconded by Eric Totemeier. Motion carried 5-0.

## New Business

### Personnel

Eric Totemeier made a motion to approve both new hires;

- Hire – Marsha Gerot – Home to School Liaison
- Hire – Ashley Milder – Preschool Associate

Seconded by Andy White. Motion carried 5-0.

Maria Gomez made a motion to approve the following resignations;

- Resignation - Megan Silva – Level 2-3 Special Education Teacher
- Resignation - Andy Milder – Asst. Football Coach
- Resignation - Scott Symmonds – Quiz Bowl Sponsor
- Resignation – Sarah Milder – Family Consumer Science Teacher

Seconded by Eric Totemeier. Motion carried 5-0.

Andy White made a motion to approve the following fundraisers.

- Girls Soccer Program – Scratch Off Donation Cards – Alfredo Piedra
- Girls Soccer Program – Food, Baked Goods & Beverages – Alfredo Piedra

- Girls Soccer Program – Candy Bars – Alfredo Piedra
- Girls Soccer Program – Team Soccer Shirts – Alfredo Piedra
- Boys Soccer Program – Donations and Baked Goods at Tyson – Luis Cacho
- Boys Soccer Program – T-Shirts and Sweatshirts – Luis Cacho
- Boys Soccer Program – Selling Cookies – Luis Cacho

Seconded by Maria Gomez. Motion carried 5-0.

The CEA tentative agreement was presented to the board which states base wages remain the same as 2017-2018. Each staff member will receive a \$200 stipend to be paid to employees in equal amounts over the district's payroll.

Horizontal movement across lanes will be allowed for currently eligible teachers as of March 8, 2018.

A labor management committee will be formed to deal with other issues and the staff handbook.

Andy White moved to agree with the contract ratification with CEA.

Seconded by Eric Totemeier. Motion carried 5-0.

Neil Mills shared the prior year Washington Y pool agreement with the board and made a recommendation be managed by the district for the upcoming season. Traci Orr has agreed to be the pool manager.

Eric Totemeier moved to manage the pool by the district.

Seconded by Andy White. Motion carried 5-0.

Neil Mills explained to the board that the expenses for the 16-17 fiscal year had not been transferred from the PERL fund to reimburse the pool fund. The amount needing to be transferred will be \$38,442.63.

Andy White moved to transfer \$38,442.63 from the PERL fund to the Pool Fund.

Seconded by Eric Totemeier. Motion carried 5-0.

Paul Southwell furnished a statement to the board due to his absence, requesting that board policy 606.01 regarding class size and class grouping be reviewed. He requested an exemption for class grouping for students with IEP's, 504's and English Language Learners that need to be clustered or grouped in classrooms for similar services to be administered for benefit of each of those student groups. This would allow specialized staff to work with each group within one given classroom as opposed to working multiple times with each group in different classrooms. Thereby utilizing specialized staff more efficiently.

Sara Wellington and Nicole Kitchen spoke to the board in support of the grouping exemption in hopes of better serving the needs of those student groups.

Neil Mills told the board that Paul was also requesting an exemption from that same policy that currently allows only 27 students per class. However, we have a class of 57 which Paul would request putting them into two section one of 28 and one of 29 thus requiring only 2 teachers rather than 3.

After some discussion Andy White moved to create an exemption to Policy 606.01 for class grouping.

Seconded by Maria Gomez. Motion carried 5-0

The board discussed having a work session to review the class size exemption request.

Gary Benda presented 4 courses of action to the board, three of which would involve reduction in force of staff. Gary Benda then asked Chris Wulf to explain the senior year plus law and requirements of classes that needed to be offered for our schools' accreditation. Chris Wulf explained to the board that Graceland University who we previously had for online course is no longer offering online courses, and while negotiations are ongoing with Muscatine Community College, currently the cost for a student to take an online course is 60% of the credit per hour cost plus books. With the need for parents to pay the upfront cost of students to enroll in these courses with Columbus only reimbursing parents after the students have had a passing grade, Chris Wulf is concerned this will limit the availability for many of our students.

The choices that Mr. Benda gave to the board that would reduce staff would limit our course offerings to jeopardize our accreditation and this would also then increase online courses that would need to be reimbursed by the district that had not been budgeted for. After much discussion Andy White stated it was not the intention of the board to let any teachers go, the movement of six grade to the elementary is a request of community parents and not a staff reduction process. The board favored course of action #1 which does not reduce any staff and should maintain current programming levels.

Joyce Hamilton parent of a Junior student voiced her concerns about not having a proper education to continue onto college for her student. She stated some students would even be

willing to attend a 7:30 a.m. Calculus class to meet their college needs and requirements. Mr. Benda stated that classes outside the normal school day are not included in our offer and teach accreditation count of classes.

Maria Gomez made the motion to table Senior Plus to next month.

Seconded by Bob Schwab. After some discussion Maria moved to amend the motion to see the policy reviewed for senior plus. Bob Schwab seconded the amendment. Amendment passed 5-0.

The motion as amended "To table senior plus for next month to see the policy reviewed for senior plus."

The motion as amended carried 5-0.

Regard to board programming of action Bob Schwab moved to approve course of action #1

Seconded by Andy White. Motion carried 5-0.

Gary Benda reviewed possible English Language Arts Curriculum with the board at a cost of \$9,000 for PreK, \$57,300 for K-1, and grades 3-5 \$105,300 and then if we added 6<sup>th</sup> grade another \$26,500 for a total cost of \$198,100.

Gary Benda discussed Superintendent evaluations and the board was given review packets for his evaluation. Dave Duncan stated that evaluation packets should be completed by the board members and returned to the board secretary by April 9,2018.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Eric Totemeier

Seconded by Maria Gomez. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

---

Eric Totemeier, School Board Vice-President

---

Neil Mills, School Board Secretary