

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation

MINUTES

Budget Adoption and Regular Meeting

Tri-Township Schools
Tri-Township Schools Cafeteria
309 School Drive
Wanatah, IN 46390

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Our vision is that all students will be college and career ready.

Our mission is to guarantee that every student achieves high levels of learning and development.

In attendance were: Dr. Paige McNulty, Tim Guse, Aaron Rust, Chad Howell, Nick Poort, School Attorney Jackie Pillar, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Irwin, Jim Sheely, Tori DeMoss, Preston Anderson, Brian McMahan, Alissa Clemons, Dara Guse, and Theresa McArdle.

1. Open Board Meeting - Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance, Meeting was called to order by Tim Guse, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consent Items

- a. Minutes, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
- b. Financial reports, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
- c. Claims, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
- d. Payroll, Chad Howell motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
- e. Personnel report

Certified

Leaves/Resignations

- Sally Clark, High Ability/Computer Specials Teacher
- Mindy Rouse, PLTW Teacher (.5 certified staff, .95 classified staff), Aaron Rust motioned to approve both Sally Clark and Mindy Rouse, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES

Employment

Adjustments

Classified

Leaves/Resignations

- Michelle Peretti, Cheer Coach, Nick Poort motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES

Employment

- Amy Wozniak, 5/6th Cheer Coach & 7/8th Cheer Coach, Chad Howell motioned to approve, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES
- Brian McMahan, 5/6 Boys Basketball Coach, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
- Pending Background Checks
 - Jessica Mosley, HS Cheer Coach
 - Justin Mosley, HS Cheer Coach
 - Kristie Shoupe, HS Dance Coach
 - Tapanga Souders, MS Dance Coach, Chad Howell motioned to approve all cheer and dance coaches, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES

Adjustments

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only, none

4. Reports

- a. Elementary Principal's Report – Alissa Clemons: I'd like to begin with a few celebrations of our staff and students. Our students participated in the Scarecrow Coloring Contest during art class, and we're proud to share that we had first, second, and third-place winners who received medals during the opening ceremony.

A big shout-out to Miss Wright for her continued efforts to encourage recycling among our students. You may have noticed the new recycling containers around the building — they're compartmentalized for sorting different materials. Miss Wright received a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, which provided these new containers and a cart. Her student council members now collect recycling once a week, helping promote responsibility and environmental awareness.

Our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are continuing their book study on mindfulness. We're exploring ways to help students learn coping strategies and be more present in the moment. So far, we've read the first seven chapters and will continue through the semester, working on ways to implement mindfulness practices in classrooms. Sometimes it just takes a minute to teach kids how to be present in the moment, breathe, relax, and reset — and we're helping students develop that skill and take control in a positive way.

We're also continuing our work with the gifted program. I've modeled two lessons using Paul's Wheel of Reasoning, which helps students think critically across a variety of topics. The framework guides them to consider questions like: Who is your audience? What's their point of view? What assumptions are being

made? What data supports the conclusion? It's an eight-step process to practice in the classroom to help children think critically. We're also learning how to incorporate differentiation to meet some challenging students to try to accelerate their learning.

Last week, we hosted Shauna from the Smekens Writing Program. Our teachers are now fully adopting this program for writing instruction across all grade levels. During her visit, teachers brought samples of student writing and categorized them using the state rubric applied in Ilearn assessments. She also conducted a two-hour session with our new teachers, who were enthusiastic and received excellent feedback. Shauna will return in January to review additional samples and continue supporting our writing goals, helping students meet state standards and improve IREAD performance.

Lastly, we had our annual Fire Safety Presentation for Pre-K through 3rd grade, as well as vision screenings conducted by the Lions Club.

- b. Jr./Sr. High Principal's Report – Brian McMahan: Since our last meeting, the staff and I have been focusing on two student-centered initiatives. We've been working on setting clear expectations for students during study halls and downtime in class. Our staff developed consistent guidelines, and posters will be going up in every classroom to reinforce the message. The new phrase "*It's work time*" will serve as a common reminder for students in grades 6–12 of what's expected during those work periods.

Starting next week, we're launching an after-school program called Next Level Teaching. It will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays and provide a structured environment for students to catch up on work or participate in group study sessions. Students can be assigned by teachers or attend voluntarily. Each session will be staffed by one middle school teacher, one high school teacher, and myself. Teachers will make sure students have everything they need before attending. The goal is to give students focused time and support to stay on top of their coursework.

Dr. McNulty and I recently met with Dr. Jennifer McCormick, former State Superintendent who is now with 220 Youth Leadership, an organization that offers work based learning opportunities, virtual work based learning opportunities. One of the initiatives I've been working on this year is we need more work based learning opportunities for all of our kids, especially our juniors and seniors. With the new high school diploma, we need to

have those options. The kids can earn up to 150 hours of simulated learning experience, covering areas such as computer science, personal finance, and college and career preparation. It's an excellent resource for helping students meet graduation requirements while gaining real-world skills.

Our esports and bowling teams got off to a strong start this month. For several students, this is their first time participating in an extracurricular activity at Tri-Township, so it's exciting to see them getting involved outside of athletics. Both groups are showing great enthusiasm and improvement.

The drama club has also been hard at work, practicing daily for their upcoming production during the first week of November.

This weekend, our robotics teams — at the elementary, middle, and high school levels — will participate in their first match of the season. Many of these students have been working four days a week since the start of school to prepare, and their dedication is impressive.

Our fall sports season wrapped up last week, and while we had several successes, the biggest highlight was seeing steady improvement across all teams. We also celebrated with our first student rewards trip, which was a great way to acknowledge positive behavior and effort.

Finally, I've been working with Mr. Weller and students on setting up our new weight room. The students are very excited about the space, and we plan to revamp our PE curriculum to include a weightlifting-focused class.

- c. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Paige McNulty: Dr. McNulty introduced Jackie Pillar, our new corporate school attorney. Ms. Pillar has been assisting with our collective bargaining agreement and will also be supporting us with the upcoming bond process. She is a welcome addition to our team, and we're pleased to have her on board.

Dr. McNulty reiterated several items mentioned earlier in the meeting and provided updates on current projects. The track renovation is nearly complete — weather delays slowed progress slightly, but the sod installation should be finished within the next few days. Once complete, we

plan to have a soft opening so students and community members can begin enjoying the new facility.

In addition, the athletic building continues to make excellent progress. The weights and exercise equipment are now installed, and next steps include adding a batting cage and golf simulator. We're proud to offer these enhancements to further support our students' physical development and athletic opportunities.

I just wanted to elaborate a little on the 220 Youth Leadership program, this will give our students unlimited seats for the next three years, for us to be able to enhance their program offerings. This will enable us to recruit more students with this catalog of offerings. It's a great addition to our menu.

Also, our district is working with the Teachers Union on the Teacher Appreciation Grant. We decided to opt in as a district and we're going to continue to work on the rubric and guidelines as only 20% of our teaching staff is eligible for it, across the state. We're working to see what that looks like and make sure we're working with our teachers union so they have a voice on how it's going to go moving forward.

Lastly, we're going to celebrate our 75th Anniversary of the Tiger Den on January 2 & 3rd this year. We've made a lot of improvements to the gym, concessions, locker rooms etc. We have several games that weekend and will be inviting previous coaches, as well as sectional winners, 1000 point athletes so we can celebrate them. All are invited to join us in the celebration.

5. Action Items

1. Neola contract for Board policies, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
2. Resolution of Adoption Resolution from Neola, Chad Howell motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
3. 220 Youth Leadership 3 Year Contract, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
4. Approve 2025-2027 (CBA) Collective Bargaining Agreement, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
5. Approve 2026 Budget Documents, Aaron Rust motioned to approve all budget documents, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES

- a. Resolution for anticipated 2026 transfers between the Education Fund and Operations Fund.
 - b. Budget Resolution
 - c. Form 4
 - d. Resolution to adopt School Bus Replacement Plan
 - e. Resolution to adopt Capital Projects Plan
6. Hold hearing on Lease, Aaron Rust opened the hearing, Chad Howell motioned to close. No comments were made before closing. Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES
7. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Lease, Chad Howell motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
8. Adopt Resolution assign construction bids to Building Corporation, once received, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
9. Adopt Resolution reapproving formation of Building Corporation, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
10. Adopt Resolution approving Supplement to Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking and issuance of Bonds, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES

6. Discussion Items, none

7. Board Comments, none

8. Adjournment, Aaron Rust motioned to adjourn, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES

Our next regular meeting will be held on November 24, 2025.

NOTE: The Board's meeting site is fully accessible to all persons. Any person requiring further accommodation should contact the Superintendent's Office with the School Corporation's administrative office at 219-754-2709.

BOARD MEMBERS/OFFICERS

President, Tim Guse	2023-2026	tguse@tritownship.k12.in.us
Vice President, Aaron Rust	2025-2028	aaronrust@tritownship.k12.in.us
Secretary, Chad Howell	2025-2028	chowell@tritownship.k12.in.us
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