

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tri-Township Schools

Tri-Township Schools Cafeteria

309 School Drive

Wanatah, IN 46390

Monday, May 18, 2026 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, Nick Poort, Lisa Rosenkranz, Mr. & Mrs. Irwin, Officer & Mrs. Chavez, Todd Grace, Chris Conrad (Hannah), Brian McMahan, Alissa Clemons, Amy & Brian Wozniak, Dara Guse, & Theresa McArdle.

Absent were: Melanie Mills & Chad Howell

- **Open Board Meeting** - Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance - Meeting was called to order by Tim Guse, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - a. An official statement from the Board President was read during the meeting - see attached.

- **Student Presentation** - none

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

Certified

Leaves/Resignations - Aaron Rust motioned to approve all, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES

- Approve Matt Wellsand's resignation as Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Coach
- Approve Christian Porter's resignation as Varsity Girls Basketball Coach
- Approve Renae Warren's resignation as Art Teacher

Employment - Nick Poort motioned to approve all, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES

- Approve Andrew Holbrook for Math position for 26/27 school year
- Approve Abigail Tomblin for Elementary position for 26/27 school year
- Approve Danielle Altpeter for Art position for 26/27 school year

Adjustments - Aaron Rust motioned to approve all, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES

- Approve Savannah Sonaty for Science position and MS PLTW Gateway classes for 26/27 school year
- Approve Matt Wellsand for Science courses, PLTW, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, and Tri-Online Coordinator for 26/27 school year

Classified

Leaves/Resignations

- Approve Theresa Mohlke's resignation as Para-Professional - Nick Poort motioned to approve, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES

Employment

- Approve Chris Conrad for Classified position and Varsity Boys Basketball Coach for 26/27 school year - Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
- Approve Mason Stroud as summer student intern for Technology
- Approve Aiden Duvall as summer student intern for Maintenance/Technology etc.
- Approve Kayden Lane as summer student intern for Maintenance
- Approve Jayden Anderson as summer student intern for Maintenance
- Approve Lilly Smolek as fall student intern for PreK for 26/27 school year
Nick Poort motioned to approve all interns, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES

Adjustments

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - none**
- **Reports**
 - a. Principal's report - see attached
 - b. Superintendent's report - see attached
- **Action Items**
 - a. Approve MOU agreement with LaPorte County Career & Tech 26/27 - Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
 - b. Approve Dietitian Consortium Services Contract 26/27 - Nick Poort motioned to approve, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES
 - c. Approve Neola policy 5136 Personal Communication Devices - Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES
 - d. Approve Neola policy 1220 Superintendent Employment - Nick Poort motioned to approve, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES
- **Discussion Items - none**

- **Board Comments** - none
- **Adjournment** - Aaron Rust motioned to adjourn, Nick Poort seconded. ALL AYES

Our next regular meeting will be held on June 22, 2026.

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
Member, Melanie Mills (ISBA Legislative Liaison)	2023-2026	mmills@tritownship.k12.in.us
Member, Nick Poort	2023-2026	npoort@tritownship.k12.in.us
Superintendent, Dr. Paige McNulty		paigemcnulty@tritownship.k12.in.us
Treasurer, Dara Guse		dguse@tritownship.k12.in.us
Deputy Treasurer, Amy Wozniak		awozniak@tritownship.k12.in.us

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

May 18, 2026

Good evening, everyone. Before we begin our regular agenda tonight, I want to take a moment to address a matter of vital importance to our school community regarding school safety, student privacy, and the culture of our district.

Over the past several weeks, there has been an increase in public scrutiny and commentary on social media regarding specific student incidents and safety protocols within our schools. While the Board always welcomes constructive, respectful dialogue, it is necessary to clarify the boundaries of what we can and cannot discuss, and what we will and will not condone.

First, it is important to remind the public of the structural and legal role of a School Board. This Board is a team of five members who vote individually but act collectively to govern. We do not manage the day-to-day operations of the classrooms. Our job—the job we take incredibly seriously—is to hire competent, highly qualified administrators to run our schools and to ensure this district strictly follows local, state, and federal laws.

To be absolutely clear about how this team operates under the law: no individual board member has the power or total influence to hire family members, dictate individual employment terms, or hand out salary increases. In fact, by law and strict ethical policy, if a board member has a family member employed within the district, that board member completely abstains from participating or voting on any item regarding that individual. Those decisions are handled entirely by the rest of the collective board based on recommendations from our administration. Any narrative suggesting otherwise is factually false and a distortion of our legal process.

When an incident occurs in our buildings, our administration operates under a single, non-negotiable directive: diligently protect every single child involved. Lately, we have seen demands from individuals online insisting on detailed information surrounding classroom incidents, particularly those involving students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or special education services. I want to state clearly and unequivocally: we are not at liberty to share that information, nor will we ever. We operate under the strict guidance of federal privacy laws and our district's legal counsel. Every single student in our district has an equal right to a safe education and an absolute right to privacy. We do not disclose confidential information about our students—period. This standard is in place to protect all children, including the children of those asking the questions.

Furthermore, this district has proper protocols and a clear chain of command in place for handling parent concerns. When a question or issue arises, it must start with the classroom teacher, move to the building principal, and then, if necessary, to the superintendent. Just like this Board, our educators and administrators are bound by law and are only permitted to share specific, legally allowed information. These formal, respectful avenues exist specifically to resolve issues productively—yet, in the instances we are seeing online, these proper channels have been bypassed in favor of social media disruption.

Because of this, the administration and law enforcement must occasionally take formal, legal steps to maintain a secure environment on our campuses. The physical safety of our buildings is paramount. When individuals engage in behavior that crosses the line into hostility or intimidation, the district will utilize legal remedies—including trespass notices—to protect our staff and students. While our board meetings are held in

public, they take place on school property, and the district's primary obligation is to maintain a safe, disruption-free environment for everyone present.

Personally, I have had the distinct honor of representing this school corporation for 27 years. My fellow board members and I dedicate our time and our lives to this district out of a deep, abiding love for our schools, our kids, and our community. We expect public accountability. What we will not expect, and what we will never tolerate, is the use of social media as a personal vice to harass, target, and bully our families and loved ones. Serving as a public official does not strip our spouses, our children, or our family members of their right to peace, privacy, and safety.

As a School Board, we cannot and will not engage in back-and-forth debates on social media to defend our policies. Our work happens here, in service of this community. But let me be perfectly clear: while we will always listen to legitimate, respectful concerns through the proper chain of command, this Board and our administration will not tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying of our staff, our students, or our families. We are deeply, personally vested in providing a safe, secure, and inclusive environment for every student who walks through our doors. We trust our administration, we follow the law, and we will continue to stand firm in defense of our students' privacy and safety.

Thank you, and we will now proceed with the roll call for tonight's meeting.

Principal Report

We have successfully completed all ILEARN testing for grades 6-8, along with the Biology and Government assessments. Thank you to our teachers, staff, and students for their hard work and flexibility throughout the testing window. We appreciate everyone's efforts to ensure the testing process ran smoothly and efficiently.

Congratulations to our Go-Kart team on an impressive first season competing at the Purdue Grand Prix. Driver Ty Sykora won one of the morning sprint races in exciting fashion. Following a situation on the track, officials required the final four laps to be re-run, and Ty once again earned the victory. He was also performing very well during the championship race before mechanical issues caused the kart to shut off. This project provided students with valuable hands-on learning experiences in engineering, teamwork, problem-solving, and competition. Thank you to Mr. Porter and everyone who helped support the program during its inaugural season.

Prom was a successful event and provided our students with a fun and memorable evening. Thank you to all staff members and volunteers who helped organize and supervise the event.

Our High School Music Concert was outstanding and showcased the tremendous growth our students have made throughout the school year. Students demonstrated both individual and group accomplishments through their performances, and we appreciate the hard work and dedication of our music department.

We also recently held our Career Fair and Enrichment Day activities. Thank you to Miss Wright, Miss DeMoss, and Mrs. Clemons for their work organizing the Enrichment Day activities. In addition, thank you to Miss Wright and Mrs. Urban for coordinating job shadowing placements for our junior and senior students. During the afternoon sessions, students in grades 6-10 participated in activities focused on employability skills and career readiness experiences that helped connect classroom learning to future career opportunities.

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Brian McMahan, Principal
Tri-Township Jr-Sr High School



Board Meeting-May 18, 2026

Elementary Principal Report by Alissa Clemons

I. Celebration of Students, Staff, or Families: Shout out to Mr.Logsdon & Mrs.Sonaty, Mrs.Smith, Mrs.Mohlke, Ms.DeMoss & Miss Wright!!

- a. Mr.Logsdon & Mrs.Sonaty decided to pilot an “Elementary Track Meet”
 - i. It was held last Friday after school
 - ii. It was open to 4-5th grade students
 - iii. 14 students joined
 - iv. It was a great success and we appreciate their creative ideas and efforts

- b. Hayley, Abby & Blake are planning our Elementary Field Day
 - i. It will be held on the last day of school
 - ii. We have several parents coming in to help also
 - iii. Looking forward to a great last day for our students!

- c. Mrs. Mohlke brought back the “Name That Book” Competition
 - i. This previously was a LaPorte Library competition
 - ii. She offered it to 3-5th graders
 - iii. It will take place on Wednesday
 - iv. Students were placed in groups and had to read 12 books
 - v. Then they will compete in identifying questions about each book
 - vi. Winners will receive gift cards!

- d. Ms.DeMoss and Miss Wright planned our Elementary Enrichment Day
 - i. This is always a huge event for our students
 - ii. This year we had 26 different sessions to choose from Sports, Arts & Crafts, STEM and Misc.
 - iii. Examples included a farm petting zoo, Learning Spanish or Jiu Jitsu, Kite making, the STEM Mobile Bus from LaPorte Library, Legos, Pearler Beads, Kindness Rocks, Escape Room, etc.

- e. And lastly, congratulations to Mrs.Peeples on our future Tigerette!!

II. Teaching and Learning: PLCs & / PDs:

- a. The elementary staff participated in a Behavior training from LaPorte County Co-Op
 - i. Kim Reid, our director, led the training focusing on strategies to use with our students for behavior success.

III. Events:

- a. Last week of school Events:
- b. Field Trips
- c. Wall Gang 5/20
- d. Awards Day 5/26
- e. Pre-K graduation-5/28
- f. Field Day 5/28

Good evening,

I can hardly believe that my first year of superintendent is already coming to a close!

I felt that this would be a great time for me to share a recap of our accomplishments and set the stage for what's to come.

Upon joining the Tiger family, one of the things that stood out was our robust Athletics program. It was a joy to watch our boys and girls compete in various sports, leaving it all on the floor every time! We are very excited to welcome both our new athletic director as well as our new varsity basketball coach. Great things are definitely in store for our sports programs!

I was honored to be part of history as we celebrated over 75 years of our history Tiger Den this winter.

I have been able to meet so many people who are passionate and dedicated to the school and are committed to it's success.

Whether it was marching alongside our students in the Scarecrow Festival, or traveling with our scholars to the state capital to talk to legislators and the Governor about the new cell phone law, I am consistently in awe of all that we continue to accomplish together.

Both our robotics and go-karts teams had very successful season while competing in the state and national competitions. Let's not forget successful e-sports team, our very talented music and drama program. We have lots to celebrate.

The restoration of the track and the new Athletic Facility is a welcome addition to help support our athletes to assist them going even further in their various competitions next season.

We are especially excited about all of the improvements that are going to take place this summer and Fall. These include a new front walkway, canopy, bus port with solar panels, all new windows, new panels to replace the brown

ones, updated playground, renovating the elementary bathrooms and locker rooms and new paint in the hallways to name a few.

As for academics, our students continue to excel with test scores that exceed the state average. Our enrollment is UP and we have implemented a robust campaign to welcome even more scholars to the district both virtually and in person.

To the staff and families of the Tri-Township School corporation, I want to thank you for making my transition into this role so easy. You have embraced my leadership and have partnered with me with your expertise to ensure that we all win on behalf of children everyday. I can't wait for the next school year.

To the parents, families and community stakeholders, thank you for staying engaged and mirroring the vision of excellence that we have set for this corporation. It is clear that you are vested, and as your superintendent, I stay with you, laser focused on taking Tiger Nation to the next level.

Last but not least, I want to speak to the bond that has been formed amongst the team. When one of us hurts, we all hurt. There have been a series of unkind remarks, false narratives and disrespectful on-line chatter directed at several of our team members. This intentional hurt has spilled over to their families and even some of our students. My loyalty to the corporation means that I will stand with them in good times and bad. Meanwhile, I want to remind those impacted that this too shall pass.

We will hold our head high, walk in truth and continue to rally for the success of our children.

Thank you this incredible school year, and let's go Tiger's!