

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, April 28, 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.

The following individuals were in attendance: Attorney Bill Kaminski, Dr. Pamela Moore, Tim Guse, Chad Howell, Aaron Rust, Melanie Mills, Brian McMahan, Dara Guse, and Theresa McArdle.

- **Open Board Meeting** - Meeting was called to order by Tim Guse, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Recognition**
 - a. Music
 - b. Robotics
 - c. Drones
- **Consent Items**
 - a. Minutes-March 20, 2025 and March 24, 2025, 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, Melanie Mills motioned to approve, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES
 - d. Payroll, Melanie Mills motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
 - e. Personnel Report, Melanie Mills motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES

Certified

- Leaves/Resignations-none
- Employment-none
- Adjustments-none

Classified

- Leaves/Resignations-none

- Employment-Mindy Rouse as substitute teacher
- Adjustments-none
- **Public Comments on Agenda Items,** During the public comment portion of the meeting:
 - a. Mr. Grott expressed concerns about a documented pattern of physical aggression, verbal abuse, and classroom disruption related to a particular student. He addressed the board seeking a written plan of action and stated that he felt school administrators had not yet taken the issue seriously.
 - b. Mr. Jim Sheely, speaking on behalf of *Community Schoolhouse, Inc.*, a nonprofit organization focused on repurposing the LaCrosse School building, emphasized the potential cost savings for the district. He noted that repurposing the facility could help the district avoid significant demolition expenses, estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
 - c. Ms. Kelly Keil read a letter written by Justin Kiel in support of Community Schoolhouse's redevelopment proposal, voicing further support for preserving and reusing the LaCrosse School building.

Action Items

- a. Approve the Resolution in Support of Military Families, Chad Howell motioned to approve, Melanie Mills seconded. ALL AYES
- b. Approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Individual Procurement Cards, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
- c. Approve the Operation Agreement with LaPorte County Career and Technical Education, Melanie Mills motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
- d. Approve the proceeds of the Kraft Auction to be deposited into the TTCSC Operations Fund, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
- e. Approve the 2025 Bus Replacement Plan recommendation to purchase a Thomas bus through the Central Indiana Education Services Center, Chad Howell motioned to approve, Aaron Rust seconded. ALL AYES
- f. Approve stipends for the HS Play \$850 and Drama Club Asst. \$100 (2) to be split equally and paid to both Tori Lantz and Renae Warren, Melanie Mills motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
- g. Second reading and approval of Policy 4410-Use of Seclusions and Restraints, Aaron Rust motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES
- h. Approve the Tri-Township Course Catalog for the 2025-2026 school year, Melanie Mills motioned to approve, Chad Howell seconded. ALL AYES

- **Discussion Items - LaCrosse School Building, Dr. Moore spoke about releasing the LaCrosse School Building to Schoolhouse Group:**
 - Prior to Dr. Moore's arrival, the Schoolhouse Group presented a proposal regarding the LaCrosse School building to the previous superintendent and school board.
 - Following Dr. Moore's appointment, the Schoolhouse Group resumed contact to continue discussions. Dr. Moore and the current board engaged with them to better understand and explore their vision for the property.
 - Subsequent research revealed that existing bonds prevented the district from selling, leasing, or demolishing the building, and that current insurance policies restricted the district from acting as a landlord.
 - With the legal guidance of ICE Miller, a solution was identified: once the 2023 bond work is completed, the property can be released from its restrictions.
 - Dr. Moore and the board are committed to transferring ownership of the LaCrosse School building to the Schoolhouse Group at no cost, viewing this as a meaningful way to support and invest in the local community.
 - The district plans to retain ownership of the Tiger Den (gymnasium) for continued school use and will maintain the surrounding grounds and parking lot.
 - They also hope to collaborate with the Schoolhouse Group to establish shared access to utility systems currently housed within the building.
 - Dr. Moore and the board look forward to finalizing an agreement that provides mutual benefit to both the school and the community.

Board Comments

- Board members Melanie Mills, Tim Guse, and Chad Howell each expressed their support for the proposed transfer of the LaCrosse School building to the Schoolhouse Group.
- Chad Howell and Melanie Mills also shared their appreciation for the success of the district's drones and robotics programs, as well as for the strong turnout at the board meeting.
- Board President Tim Guse took a moment to recognize Mrs. Lantz and Mr. Clifford for their hard work and dedication to these programs, highlighting the positive impact they have had on students and the school community.

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

Engineering students will present their capstone project immediately after the board meeting in Mr. Clifford's classroom.

Our next regular meeting will be held on May 19, 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.