

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
1/14/2013 6:00 pm LaCrosse School

Members in Attendance: Dick Bucher, Bob Younggreen, Paul Malecki and Joyce Spoljaric

Members Absent: Tim Guse

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky DePrey, Wanatah Principal

Staff, Students and Community Members In Attendance: Approximately 10

1. **Opening**
Board Vice President, Dick Bucher opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Oath of Office**
Joyce Spoljaric and Paul Malecki were sworn in as members of the Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation.
3. **Election of Officers**
Tim Guse was nominated for President by Joyce Spoljaric, seconded by Paul Malecki. No other nominations were received. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Dick Bucher was nominated for Vice President by Bob Younggreen, seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. No other person was nominated. Motion carried unanimously. Joyce Spoljaric was nominated for Secretary by Bob Younggreen, seconded by Paul Malecki. No other person was nominated. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Appointment of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer**
Paul Malecki nominated Judy Keehn as Treasurer and Dara Guse as Assistant Treasurer, seconded by Joyce Spoljaric.
5. **Minutes**
Minutes from the December 10, 2012 Meeting were presented for approval. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Personnel**
Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to accept the resignation of Ashley Spoljaric, as the Girls JV Volleyball Coach. Paul Malecki seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Paul Malecki made a motion to approve hiring Shannon Bailey as the Chess Club Coach pending an acceptable background check. Joyce Spoljaric seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

7. Claim Docket

Mr. Somers presented the claim docket for approval. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the claim docket, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Balance Sheet

Mr. Somers presented the balance sheet for informational purposes. Mr. Somers indicated we are now in the black in all funds, except the two grant funds that are reimbursable.

9. Public Comments on Agenda Items

A concern was expressed regarding the direction of the Corporation and the survey that was supposed to go out. Mr. Somers indicated he is anxious to get it out.

10. Recognition

Ms. DePrey recognized Scot Spoljaric Sr. who did a nice job being Santa. Mr. Somers recognized Tyler Wasick for completing the Microsoft Networking course and received his certification. This semester he is working on certification in Microsoft Servers. Last year he did Apple courses. He is doing this during the school day.

11. Insurance

Bill Lindburg presented information on the property insurance deductible. It is currently \$1,000. If we increase it to \$5,000 it will save the Corporation \$1,292 annually. Our current umbrella liability is \$2,000,000. Municipalities have a liability loss cap of \$5,000,000. The additional premium to increase our umbrella liability to \$5,000,000 would be \$1,553. Mr. Lindburg went back and looked at the losses since 2008 and the gross loss divided by the time period shows the average annual loss. On average most business have one loss every three years. The average gross loss for our Corporation was \$13,145. Losses also impact premiums. Mr. Lindburg discussed loss prevention techniques such as having an alarm on the shed or having a generator at Wanatah School to keep a minimal amount of heat to prevent pipes from freezing. Mr. Lindberg recommended keeping the deductible at \$1,000. Joyce Spoljaric made a recommendation to increase our umbrella insurance liability to \$5,000,000. Paul Malecki seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Ms. DePrey indicated they have had discussions on purchasing a generator, but have never done it. Mr. Bucher suggested they seek prices for a generator.

12. Senior Trip

Kim Bullert made a presentation for the LaCrosse High School Senior Trip. There are two trips proposed. One group wants to go to Cedar Point and Kalahari. Kim's proposal was to go to a Dude Ranch in Michigan which also includes a trip to the zoo, waterpark, horseback riding, zip lining and Laser Tag. The class will vote on Wednesday which trip they want to go to. Back in December the class had pretty much agreed on Kim's proposal, but then recently half of the class decided they wanted to go elsewhere. Mr. Somers suggested taking the activity bus and a regular bus in case students want to split up and go to two different locations. Mr. Bucher thought they needed to add at least one more chaperone. The second proposal will probably be presented at the next board meeting.

13. Transportation Software

Mr. Somers presented information on Lynx Software for route optimization. Mr. Somers indicated most programs cost between \$5,000-10,000. The Lynx program cost \$1,918 with an annual fee of \$319. Mr. Somers indicated Mr. Guse wants Cody to explore other software and pricing.

14. Waste Bid Pricing

Mr. Somers indicated we started to look at the bids the NIESC has procured to see if we can save money. We are currently paying almost \$3,500 per year for trash and recycle pickup at Wanatah School. If we go with the Service Center pricing we can save almost \$1,800 per year. Bob Younggreen made a motion to go with the Service Center pricing, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

15. Technology Plan for Wanatah

Mr. Somers indicated both computer labs at Wanatah are desktops and those computers are getting very old. He indicated laptops use less electricity. He would like to see the labs replaced with laptops and would like to see more devices at the middle school. At the K-2 level they are using the iPads. We also purchased two iPad minis. Mr. Somers feels he would like to increase the technology available at the 3rd-5th grade and middle school level. He wants to discuss MacBook Pro's for the Middle School and more iPADS for the elementary level. Mr. Somers would like to see one lab of MacBook pros for 6th and 7th grade and have individual laptops (that would stay at school) for each 8th grader. The Technology Committee at Wanatah would like about 25 more iPADS and about 40 MacBook Pros that would allow us to set up a computer lab. Students would also be able to borrow a laptop from the lab to use in their classroom. The MacBook Pros are costing \$1,080 each, an iPad mini would be \$310. Eventually, he would like to purchase two carts that would cost about \$1,800 each. The other part of the technology scheme at Wanatah is Smart Boards. All the middle school classrooms have Smart Boards and there are a few at the elementary. We would need to purchase 7 Smart Boards at a cost of almost \$2,800 each. The document camera to use with those costs about \$800 and the installation would be about another \$400. The total cost would be about \$28,000 for all the Smart Board technology. The committee would really like to purchase the Smart Boards and have them installed over Spring Break if the Board approves it. Mr. Somers is hoping we can get six years out of each MacBook Pro. Our lease is for four years. Mr. Bucher indicated he wants to see numbers on our anticipated expenses coming out of the Capital Projects Fund, to ascertain the available money to allocate for technology.

16. Weighted Grades

Mr. Somers suggested adding Calculus and Chemistry II as weighted classes. These are not dual credit classes. Paul Malecki made a motion to designate Calculus and Chemistry II as weighted classes. Joyce Spoljaric seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Celeste Robinson has updated all the transcripts for our students.

17. Door Hardware at Wanatah

Mr. Somers indicated when Ms. DePrey and her staff reviewed the emergency procedures was in order for them to lock the door, they have to go outside of the room to lock the door and then close it behind them. Mr. Somers has priced door hardware that will allow teachers to lock and unlock the doors from the inside. Schlage door locks (\$210 installed) are about \$70 more per door than Mark hardware (\$140 installed). Ms. DePrey indicated she has 20 teacher rooms and other doors such as the library, gym, etc. Mr. Bucher suggested getting other prices.

18. Policies

Mr. Somers presented the Health and Wellness Policy for adoption. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the Health and Wellness Policy, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Somers presented the Investment Policy for adoption. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the Investment Policy, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Somers presented the Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Policy for information.

19. Principal Reports

- Ms. DePrey – The 8th grade boys' basketball won the Mid-Winter Basketball tournament. Teachers will be attending conference on bullying and common core. There is also an active shooter response program that Ms. DePrey and Celeste will be attending. Ms. DePrey informed the Board of upcoming activities.
- Mr. Somers – Mr. Somers indicated we have two Ivy Tech classes going on. He is pursuing having a student take some Apple classes. Mr. Somers is working on career exploration. One student took a work-study course this year. Mr. Somers is working on making the work-study coursework available at LaCrosse and placing some of our students who are not headed to college in work placements.

20. October SA-5 Report

The SA-5 report was accepted.

21. Adjournment

Paul Malecki made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen and passed unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be held February 11, 2013 at Wanatah School.



Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: February 11, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
2/11/2013 6:00 pm Wanatah School

Members in Attendance: Tim Guse, Dick Bucher, Bob Younggreen, Paul Malecki and Joyce Spoljaric

Members Absent: None

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky DePrey, Wanatah Principal

Staff, Students and Community
Members In Attendance: Approximately 14

1. Opening
Board President, Tim Guse opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes
Minutes from the January 14th, 2013 Meeting were presented for approval. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Claim Docket
The claim docket was presented for approval. Dick Bucher made a motion to accept the claim docket, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Balance Sheet
The balance sheet was presented for information purposes.
5. Public Comments on Agenda Items
Mrs. Sharp asked about the survey and where we go from here. Mr. Guse indicated at the next meeting they will discuss the vision for the Corporation. Mrs. Sharp spoke against any tax increase, especially in light of the current tax mess in LaPorte County.
6. Recognition
Ms. DePrey recognized Reagan Stinnnett for being Student of the Month and also recognized her and Jay Mitzner for being the two top students at Wanatah School in the SumDog competition. Wanatah School 6th grade won the Northern Indiana SumDog contest. Mr. Somers recognized Ms. Krueger for encouraging student involvement and indicated there is also an English competition as well. Jay Mitzner showed up later and was recognized with the President's Award for being ranked 7th in the Northern Indiana SumDog competition.
7. Senior Trip
Kim Bullert indicated the Senior class has decided to go to Kalahari and Cedar Point. There is something for everyone to enjoy. Riley Charlesworth indicated John Sullivan will drive the bus and Mr. Somers will drive the Activity Bus. They are stopping at the Toledo Zoo on the way there which will be educational. They will also go paintballing. They will be staying in a duplex that has a movie theatre in the basement. They will have a pizza night. The total budget is \$6,430.55. They have set aside money for graduation. The chaperones are Mr. & Mrs. Guse, Mr. & Mrs. Somers, John Sullivan and Tracy Bucher. The class is paying for the chaperones. The class has come together with this plan. Paul

Malecki made a motion to approve the Senior Trip. Bob Younggreen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

8. Survey Results

Mr. Somers presented the results from the recent survey. The top two suggestions for what to do with the facilities were to:

- keep the 7th & 8th grade students at Wanatah and build onto the West end of the Wanatah School.
- Move the 7th & 8th grades to LaCrosse and do not build any additional structures.

The response to whether they were willing to support a tax increase to build was overwhelming no. There was also a question as to whether to change mascots or colors.

9. Curriculum changes

Mr. Somers would like to add more high school classes at the Middle School level. He would like to add a vocational class, based on the Project Lead the Way model. It is very involved in technology. It is geared toward 8th/9th grade students and develops the manufacturing career skills. He would also like to investigate offering Spanish to the 8th graders for high school credit.

10. Technology Plan for Wanatah

Mr. Somers indicated they would like to get more technology into the hands of students. The 1:1 initiative at the high school is working very well as are the iPads in the elementary classes. At Wanatah the desktops are old and on their last leg. Mr. Somers would like to pursue adding 45 MACbook Pros on carts for the middle school. The cost for a 48 month lease is \$14,111 and for a 36 month lease would be \$18,380. He would also like to add some Smart Boards so every elementary classroom would have a SmartBoard. The additional SmartBoards and Elmos would cost about \$28,000. Mr. Somers indicated there is about \$22,000 in old funds that could offset some of these costs. Mr. Somers indicated if we go with MACbook Pros they are mobile. We have a large graduating class and this should allow us to move some MACbook Pros down to the middle school. The MACbook price includes carts and a one year warranty. Ms. DePrey indicated they would need to train the teachers and then the students if we move to MACbooks. Mr. Somers indicated at LaCrosse the kids adapted very quickly. He stated we could also use the Professional Development grant money to accomplish the training.

11. Door Hardware at Wanatah

Mr. Somers indicated the doors lock from the hallway which is not ideal in an active shooter situation. Brandy's Lock & Key gave a price of \$115 per door handle (Marks brand) for grade 2 handles. Allied Door and Hardware gave a price of \$2,950 or \$2,250 for 20 locks. The lower price comes out to \$112 per handle. Mr. Somers would prefer to go with Brandy's at \$115 per handle as we currently get our keys from Brandy's and have a working relationship with them. Mr. Somers indicated we would need 22 rooms that need handles. There are six doors that have deadbolts. It would cost about \$200 to do each of those doors. The total cost to do all the doors would be \$2,850 which includes the labor. The quote from Allied is lower but only includes 20 doors. Dick Bucher made a motion to approve using Brandy's at a cost of \$2,850. Joyce Spoljaric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

12. Calendar for 2013-14

Mr. Somers presented a proposed calendar for information. This calendar allows the semester to end before Christmas break and makes the break more relaxing for students and teachers. This provides for an unequal number of days between semesters, but the teachers were comfortable with this. Most classes are a continuation of the same class (English 9 1st semester goes to English 9 2nd semester). Ms. DePrey

indicated the middle school was not as happy with the unequal semesters because of the nine week classes.

13. Policies

Mr. Somers presented the Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect policy for approval. Bob Younggreen made a motion to accept the Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect policy which was seconded by Paul Malecki and was approved unanimously.

The following policies were presented for information.

- Governance of the Board
- Access to Public Records
- Mission Statement
- Philosophy of the Board
- Authority of the Board
- Internal Organization
- Unexpired Term/Vacancy
- School Attorney
- Board Member Code of Ethics
- Notice and Meetings
- Agenda
- Rules of Order
- Public Participation
- Quorum
- Voting
- Minutes
- Board Committees
- New Board Member Orientation
- Conflict of Interests
- Policy Development
- Public Expressions of Board Members
- Access to Public Records

14. Principal Reports

- Ms. DePrey – Ms. DePrey discussed her upcoming events.
- Mr. Somers – Mr. Somers indicated there will be a second ADM count on February 15th. He indicated they are installing the new speakers in the LaCrosse gym. Mr. Guse indicated he could contact Mr. Troxel. Mr. Somers indicated that they would like to talk about the vision for the school corporation at next months meeting. Mr. Bucher indicated they probably had 75 more people at the game than Morgan did.

15. January SA-5 Report

The SA-5 Report was presented.

16. Adjournment

Paul Malecki made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dick Bucher. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be March 11, 2013 at LaCrosse School.

Joey Spalyar 3/11/13
Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
3/11/2013 6:00 pm LaCrosse School

Members in Attendance: Tim Guse, Dick Bucher, Bob Younggreen, Paul Malecki and Joyce Spoljaric

Members Absent: None

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky DePrey, Wanatah Principal

Staff, Students and Community Members in Attendance: Approximately 17 parents/community members and about 20 staff members

1. Opening
Board President, Tim Guse opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes
Minutes from the February 11, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Claim Docket
The claim docket was presented for approval. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to accept the claim docket, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Balance Sheet
The balance sheet was presented for informational purposes.
5. Annual Performance Report
The Annual Performance Report was presented by Tim Somers. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the report, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Library Board Appointment
Mr. Somers recommended appointing Gwen Bucher to the Library Board. Dick Bucher abstained from voting. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to appoint Gwen Bucher, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. All members, except Dick Bucher voted in favor of the motion.
7. 8th Grade Trip Presentation
Ms. DePrey indicated on May 4th, the 8th grade class would like to go to Six Flags. On May 10th they would like to leave Wanatah School at 9:00 a.m. and go to Ed Debevic's for lunch and then go to see Blue Man Group. They will then go to the Bean for pictures and return home. John Sullivan will be the driver. Mr. Younggreen has volunteered to chaperone for both trips. Ms. DePrey wants more chaperones for the Six Flags trip. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve both trips, which was seconded by Paul Malecki and approved unanimously.
8. Vision for Corporation – Open Discussion

Mr. Guse indicated the Board has been seeking input for the direction for the Corporation. They started out with a survey being sent to parents of students in the Corporation. The survey has not gone to the taxpayers as of yet. Mr. Guse indicated they would like to have an open discussion as to the direction they would like to see the Corporation go. Mr. Guse indicated the Corporation is a stronger unit together than they were as separate corporations. Mr. Guse indicated the funding formula has changed from years ago, when property tax supported the General Fund. Now the property tax supports the Capital Project fund and Transportation fund. The General Fund is now supported by State funds based on pupil enrollment.

Paul Goodcap would like to know what the Corporation's vision is. He did not receive the email. He would like the Board to state their vision and then the public would know what to comment on.

Dick Bucher indicated we are in a catch 22; we need kids and unity. Mr. Bucher indicated the Board feels they would like to see a K-12 building in Wanatah in no less than five years, but not more than 10 years, which would increase unity in the Corporation and keep kids from leaving the Corporation. Mr. Bucher expressed we would need to add rooms to Wanatah now which would also be useful for later.

A parent indicated last year we added bathrooms. He questioned if there are plans to add on this summer to make room for this fall. He said there will be two Kindergarten classes again next year. Mr. Somers indicated Wanatah's technology is wireless. They could take the computer lab and turn it into a classroom by using computers on wheels (COWS) which would allow all the rooms to be within the main building. Mr. Somers said we are in need of replacing some computers, so it makes sense to do that with mobile computers to free up the classroom space. A parent questioned whether they were considering moving the 7th & 8th grade to the LaCrosse building. Mandy Cox indicated there was no indication they would ever get rid of the LaCrosse building when they were discussed moving the Kindergarten to Wanatah. She questioned why they would need to get rid of the building at LaCrosse. She indicated she thought her Kindergarten student-now attending Wanatah, would be coming back to LaCrosse for High School. She felt we could move the 7th & 8th grade to LaCrosse. Mr. Guse indicated while he agrees with what she is saying, the Board feels there is an issue marketing the LaCrosse building. People see there is an old building, but do not see the education that is occurring within the building. The concern is how we grow our population to maintain our funding. Mr. Bucher indicated that would be his preference as well, but that is the catch 22 part. We can't afford for our enrollment numbers to go down. He feels if we do that, students may leave after 6th grade rather than leaving after 8th grade.

A parent spoke as to the difference between building a room as a computer lab and building a Kindergarten room. Mr. Guse indicated some parents are making the choice to move their students earlier (and the student's siblings) to avoid having them come to an older school.

A person expressed curiosity as to how many 9th grade students they are losing that don't come to LaCrosse. Mr. Guse indicated it varies each year. Mr. Bucher indicated that is a fluctuating percentage. He said the bottom line is if it is three it is three too many. If it is 12 it is catastrophic, because each student is tied to the funding. Anytime we add a student is good. Ms. DePrey indicated sometimes when the 8th grade student chooses to go to South Central; the younger siblings go at the same time because parents want all their children to be at one school. Mr. Bucher indicated parents want their children to be on one schedule. Ms. DePrey also stated athletics play into that decision.

Kelly Kaiser indicated on the survey it indicated there was land between the two schools to build a new school. Mr. Somers indicated there is no land identified or currently out there, it was just presented as a possible option. Mr. Somers indicated that option came in dead last.

A parent asked how many schools are centered in one building. Ms. DePrey indicated Kouts, Morgan, Washington, and South Central.

Sarah Gorski asked about the time frame. She indicated we may be losing students due to the fear of the unknown. Parents do not know where the Corporation is going. She feels making a plan known quickly is important. She questioned whether it has to go to a vote.

Tracy Bucher stated parents need to be parents and stated that your children at 13-14 years of age are not equipped to make life-changing decisions. She feels parents may need to make the unpopular decision when their student is in 8th grade in order to develop better sports programs.

Julie Charlesworth indicated she is very happy with the education her child has received at LaCrosse School, especially with the number of college credits her child has earned there. Her child is on the basketball team with only six students. She feels the decision needs to be made quickly.

Mr. Guse indicated if money, taxes and people's opinions didn't matter, they would do it tomorrow. But, taxes are a big issue. Our goal is to do this without affecting tax rates right now. With the County still making up provisional taxes, we do not want to hit people with more taxes right now. Mr. Guse indicated we have one of the lowest tax rates at this time. If we look at consolidating with another corporation, it would raise the tax rates.

A person questioned whether they have consulted with an architect to make sure the classrooms that are added would make sense with the long term vision.

A parent questioned whether they would be adding a gymnasium in Wanatah. Mr. Bucher indicated he felt that the LaCrosse gym will always serve a purpose in the community. They have not discussed adding a new gym. Mr. Bucher indicated they let the Wanatah students come down and play in the LaCrosse gym to develop more unity.

A parent asked if they move everything up to Wanatah, how the Board will market the program to draw more students. What is different? What will attract them to come? Mr. Somers indicated we have stellar academics. He envisions making the community grow to increase enrollment. The parent asked how they will grow LaCrosse. Mr. Bucher indicated the families make LaCrosse. Mr. Bucher indicated there has to be stewardship to the taxpayer as well.

A parent on the school improvement committee indicated there are things that need to be improved. She feels her daughter is not getting pushed to excel. She is bored with math. She wants to be challenged more. She understands they are working on it, but she wants to see something better happen.

A parent indicated their student did not get pushed until 6th grade. He indicated the students that are slower are holding the other students back. He stated his daughter said there will only be five kids in her class next year. He feels his kids will excel wherever they go and perhaps the parents need to push their kids mores.

Chester Rosenkranz indicated he is hearing there is a shortage of space at Wanatah, because they moved the elementary students up there. Mr. Somers indicated there is a need for re-organization there. He stated when the K-8 went to Wanatah, it left the building at LaCrosse empty. Mr. Somers indicated there is a Special Education room, computer room, nurse's office, payroll and the Superintendent's office. He said he heard it was the executive suite. He indicated Prairie Township gave the Corporation three buses. He said he hasn't seen the questionnaire either.

Mr. Guse indicated he feels one of the benefits of having the students all at Wanatah is the small class sizes. He indicated as a Board if there are students that are not getting pushed academically; the Board needs to hear it so they can address it. He feels our best marketing is the high school students.

A parent asked if the immediate goal for this summer is to add classroom space. Tim Guse indicated he feels in order to grow our ADM count the Board needs to decide whether to invest in Wanatah School. He feels if we didn't lose students from Wanatah School as they go into high school, we would be better off. The parent asked if there is sufficient room at Wanatah School to build a baseball field and the other amenities that other schools have or will they have to add on now and then in another ten years have to build on again to support the bigger school. Mr. Guse indicated he looked at the cost a few years back and it would cost 4.5 million dollars to build a new high school. He indicated the tax rate was still 35% lower than the other areas in the County and that was without our current funding. He also indicated we would lose the community hub. The Board truly cares about our kids and the areas where we live. He feels the goal is to keep our schools and let the public know how good of an education we are providing. He feels if the community hub is gone and we are paying more taxes to have a school not in the community center, it doesn't make sense.

A parent asked if there is room if we pick up another 30 new students. Mr. Guse indicated we would have to make adjustments. He does not feel there is sufficient room at the school right now. He indicated we could not take on 30 new 8th graders. The parent stated the immediate plan is to use most of the money from debt service to add four classrooms to Wanatah School. This gives up room for the immediate need and also plans for moving the high school to Wanatah.

A person questioned how much it would cost to re-asphalt the Jr. High track. Mr. Bucher indicated it has been in the discussions, but doesn't know where it is at in terms of priority. Mr. Guse indicated the Jr. High currently uses the LaCrosse baseball diamond and we are considering adding soccer program.

Mr. Guse indicated our goal is to have all the classrooms inside the building next year. This can be accomplished by using the COWS instead of a computer lab.

A parent asked for a show of hands as to who would support having everything on one big campus. He indicated adding classrooms to an existing school with gyms and baseball fields in separate locations may not be ideal. He feels with open enrollment it may not bring in the students we are hoping for.

A person (Paul) expressed that we should focus on K-6 and then run five buses to other schools, Westville, South Central, and Valparaiso. Mr. Bucher does not feel the parents in this community believe in that option. Mr. Guse indicated the fixed costs to maintain a K-6 school may not be feasible with lower numbers.

A parent asked the top three reasons why students are leaving. Somebody named football, and where their friends and siblings are going as popular reasons. Mr. Guse indicated a contributing factor is that people seeing an old building without taking the

time to see what is happening inside the building. Mr. Guse feels two separate buildings and not being unified plays into students leaving as well.

A parent asked how many surveys were sent out and how many were returned. Mr. Guse indicated about 250 went out and we got about 212 came back. The parent stated there were only 17 parents in attendance tonight.

Mrs. Bope indicated she feels working at LaCrosse is liking working in Heaven. The students are well-mannered and respectful. She feels the kids are great and she believes academically the teachers are doing great. She stated some of the reasons parents may not bring their children to LaCrosse is because of the distance to pick up their students from athletic practices. A parent questioned if there was a high school at Wanatah and practices were at LaCrosse would the school provide transportation home from practices. Mr. Guse indicated the LaCrosse gym would stay regardless of whether a new gym was built at Wanatah or not. Mr. Guse indicated none of the parents he has talked to are offering free MacBooks to their students.

Chet Rosenkranz indicated he thinks LaCrosse is a pretty good school. Mr. Rosenkranz stated the farms are being sold and the houses are gone. If they keep the taxes down, the students will come to school. He stated students need to have a skill to get skilled jobs.

A person said the students need to be considered first. If there are not good schools, you won't be able to sell your home, so raising property taxes a little bit to have a good school may be necessary. Mr. Guse indicated nobody wants to pay more taxes, but it makes sense to make sure your tax money is going to your own community and not to another school corporation.

Mrs. Charlesworth asked if anybody is asking the parents why their students are leaving in an exit interview. She said her son doesn't want his sister to go to LaCrosse, because there wasn't enough members to choose from to have a good basketball team. She feels we need to do something about it right away. She feels there are students who are top notch students and athletes and they want the best of both worlds.

Ms. DePrey said she does ask parents if they leave during the school year. If parents leave between school years she doesn't usually know. She indicated the Board did send out letters a few years back when a bunch of students left.

Another parent indicated he feels it is athletics. Kids want to win. There are not enough students to build quality teams. He also feels the community is losing homes, because nobody wants to rent them.

Another parent stated we need to appeal to the parents. She indicated we need to give students a good education. The education needs to be the top priority. She questioned how we get the younger parents to move into the community. Another parent stated we need more businesses.

Another parent indicated she feels the merger for her has been wonderful, even with her child going up to Wanatah School. She felt if we just talked for five more years that would not accomplish anything. She questioned if they could attend school here and play football elsewhere.

A parent felt we needed to start building on the additional rooms immediately. She also felt we needed to improve on academics and athletics to draw students.


Julie Charlesworth said she is a CPA and doing taxes and sees people in this area are paying far less taxes than others.

Mr. Guse indicated he felt we don't have enough housing in our area. He had a rental house and within two hours of advertising had 20 people inquiring about it.

9. Adjournment

Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be April 8, 2013 at LaCrosse School.



Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: April 8, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
4/8/2013 6:00 pm Wanatah School

Members in Attendance: Tim Guse, Dick Bucher, Bob Younggreen, Paul Malecki and Joyce Spoljaric

Members Absent: None

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky DePrey, Wanatah Principal

Staff, Students and Community Members In Attendance: Approximately 17

1. **Opening**
Board President, Tim Guse opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Minutes**
Minutes from the March 11, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Personnel**
New Hires: Mr. Somers recommended hiring Brian McMahan, Emma Walter and Anna McVay for track. They will each be paid \$20 per day. Mr. Somers recommended hiring Scott Goodwin as the Assistant Softball Coach. Paul Malecki made a motion to hire the above coaches which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.
Resignation: Mr. Somers presented a letter of resignation from Todd Dermody as the track coach. Bob Younggreen made a motion to accept the resignation, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. **Claim Docket**
The claim docket was presented for approval. Dick Bucher made a motion to accept the claim docket, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Balance Sheet**
The balance sheet was presented for informational purposes
6. **Public Comments**
A person questioned if our calendar was the same as South Centrals. Mr. Somers indicated they were very similar, but had a few differences. The person indicated that this issue was brought up at the last meeting and he questioned why they were not the same. He said he would probably put all his children into the same Corporation, so the entire family would be on the same schedule. Mr. Somers indicated the County Superintendents are working toward aligning their calendars more closely. He would like to see Spring breaks aligned between the PCC so athletes would get a break during spring break as well. He anticipates greater alignment next year. Mr. Bucher indicated the teachers are heavily involved in determining the calendar.

Another person stated at the last Board meeting there was discussion as to having the high school, middle school and elementary school at one campus but still utilizing the softball field and gym at LaCrosse. She expressed that she felt this defeated the

purpose of having the school at one location. Mr. Guse indicated at the last meeting the goal was to collect information from the public. They are consulting with architects and trying to look at prices and plans from the conversations that were held. Mr. Guse indicated once they know how the prices come out, then they will know what plan to propose. Mr. Guse indicated they are still looking at prices and public feedback before they make decisions. He indicated this was the first public meeting and there would be more discussions publicly. Mr. Guse explained the initial contact was to parents who currently had children in school. Mr. Guse indicated we need to find a way to market our school and grow our pupil count. He stated we have a great school system and people see an old building and not what is happening inside the school.

A person expressed part of what is great at Wanatah is that the class size is small. Mr. Guse stated we are not trying to have 200 students in a class, but that we need some more students in order to balance the budget.

A parent questioned if we have new students would they get new books for those students. Ms. DePrey indicated we will be adopting new textbooks to align with the common core.

A person stated he thought we paid for a study and the study showed there would be no growth. He indicated he felt some of our current parents want to send their children to Valparaiso. Mr. Guse indicated we are seeing growth in the Kindergarten classes and younger elementary classes, but are seeing students leave at the end of middle school.

Another person expressed the desire to have the school calendars be the same as that of South Central to avoid losing students.

A person indicated students go to South Central to play football and that the athletic programs are more competitive. Mr. Guse indicated this past year the athletic programs at LaCrosse did very well. The person questioned if there would be a new sports complex. Mr. Guse indicated that would be taken into consideration with growth. Mr. Guse stated the purpose of last month's meeting was to gather public opinion on the direction the Corporation should go.

A person stated if the policies the Board would be voting on were available online, then the public would be able to comment on them. The person suggested putting the agenda online, with documents that could be hyperlinked. Mr. Somers suggested he would think it through. Mr. Guse asked if we wanted to delay the approval of the policies. Mr. Somers indicated there was no rush to approve those policies.

7. Recognition

Mr. Somers read highlights of the Herald Argus article about Jared Dyjak receiving the Lilly Scholarship.

8. Calendar for 2013-14

Mr. Somers presented the calendar for 2013-14. Mr. Somers indicated he tried to align the calendar with Michigan City and LaPorte so our vocational and special education students don't lose days. He also tried to align it as close as possible to South Central's calendar. A person questioned why there were not more built in snow days. Mr. Somers indicated he caught a lot of flack from parents when we had to make up a day on President's Day. Paul Malecki made a motion to accept the calendar, which was seconded by Dick Bucher. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Summer School

Mr. Somers indicated we are planning on charging \$375 per student for driver's education which is a self-supporting program. This is an increase of \$25 from last year.

Mr. Somers indicated if we have enough students we can run a summer reading program for Grades 1-3. This is reimbursed by the State at 105%. The decision doesn't have to be made right away, but Mr. Somers indicated he needs approval to apply to run the program in a timely manner.

He also indicated he would like approval to utilize the Indiana Virtual Academy for students. Mr. Somers stated as long as the student receives a "C" or better, the State has in the past reimbursed the school.

Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the summer school requests, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. Central Time Coalition

Mr. Somers received information of a movement to move all of Indiana to Central time. He indicated it doesn't affect us, but he gave the Board the information. They are approaching it from a safety standpoint.

11. Policies

Adoption of the following policies was tabled until next month.

- Access to Public Records
 - Mission Statement
 - Philosophy of the Board
 - Authority of the Board
 - Internal Organization
 - Unexpired Term/Vacancy
 - School Attorney
 - Board Member Code of Ethics
 - Notice and Meetings
 - Agenda
 - Rules of Order
 - Public Participation
 - Quorum
 - Voting
 - Minutes
 - Board Committees
 - New Board Member Orientation
 - Conflict of Interests
 - Policy Development
 - Public Expressions of Board Members
 - Access to Public Records
- Reduction in Force – The Reduction in Force policy was presented for information. Mr. Somers indicated he has given the Board two policies to review.

12. Curriculum Changes for 2013-14

Mr. Somers indicated he would like to sign a commitment form with Hire Technology. This is a curriculum that works with manufacturing and logistics. Our technology teacher would go to a four day training in Indianapolis and teach this. Students would come out with a certificate and dual credit which would give students an advantage when applying for manufacturing and logistics jobs in those fields. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve signing the commitment letter. This was seconded by Bob Younggreen and passed unanimously.

Mr. Somers also proposed hiring an Agriculture Education Teacher. He indicated this is an area of high interest among our students. He would like to look for up to a full time teacher, but he wants to make sure the student numbers would justify the position and the teacher would be able to be productive the whole time. The cost would be offset by vocational reimbursement which is usually about \$250 per student. Mr. Somers indicated if necessary, he could make the position about a 5/7 position. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the hiring, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Principal Reports

Wanatah – Ms. DePrey indicated she will be taking her Students of the Month one afternoon to Zao Island. Her teachers are working on Reading textbook adoption. The new locks are being put on the classroom doors. In April, Ms. DePrey is also having all staff and students participate in "Be Nice for a Month". In May, Ms. DePrey is having "No Complaints Month." ISTEP will be in three weeks. It will take two weeks to get through ISTEP because it all has to be done online.

LaCrosse – Mr. Somers indicated there is a game at the Silver Hawk Stadium on Friday vs. Washington Township. The high school will be doing Earth Day on April 22nd. Mr. Somers is going to try to reach out to the community to find people who need help cleaning up their yards from winter. The Advanced Environmental Science class is organizing this. Prom is May 4th. The Grand March will be at 4:30. The Prom will be in LaPorte. Mrs. Iseminger is in charge of it.

Mr. Somers indicated the next Board meeting is scheduled for May 8th. He and Mr. Guse will be gone. The meeting will be re-scheduled to May 20th at 6:00 at LaCrosse School.

14. SA-5 Reports

Mr. Somers received the February and March SA-5 for LaCrosse and the February SA-5 for Wanatah late, so he will give them to the Board at the next meeting.

15. Adjournment

Paul Malecki made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting is re-scheduled to May 20, 2013 at 6:00 LaCrosse School.


Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: May 20, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
5/202013 6:00 pm LaCrosse School

Members in Attendance: Dick Bucher, Bob Younggreen, Paul Malecki and Joyce Spoljaric. Tim Guse arrived late.

Members Absent: None

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky DePrey, Wanatah Principal

Staff, Students and Community Members In Attendance: Approximately 17

1. Opening
Board Vice President, Dick Bucher opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes
Minutes from the April 8, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Personnel
New Hires: Mr. Somers recommended hiring RayeAnne Tiede as an Agricultural Education Teacher. Mr. Somers indicated he had offered it to another person, however rescinded the offer when she told him she was waiting to hear from another school. Mr. Somers indicated Ms. Tiede's background is more in Horticulture than Animal Science, but feels she will do a good job. She is a Purdue graduate. Paul Malecki made a motion to hire Ms. Tiede, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Somers would like her to start an FFA program and will ask for a stipend to support that position at a later date.
4. Claim Docket
The claim docket was presented for approval. Mr. Somers indicated Michigan City High School is pushing to increase enrollment in the vocational programs, which will drive down costs from about \$3,900 per student to about \$3,200 per student. Mr. Somers indicated this is the last claim docket that he is going to pay for bottled water at Wanatah School. He gave them the option of using a filter system. Bob Younggreen made a motion to accept the claim docket, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Balance Sheet
The balance sheet was presented for informational purposes. Mr. Somers indicated we did receive some additional tax money. He believes we should get a draw in June or July.
6. Public Comments
Mr. Bucher opened the meeting for comments on the agenda. A person asked if the building plan was going to be addressed. Mr. Somers indicated he is still waiting on one architectural firm to get back to him and then they will hold a Board meeting to discuss just the building program. He indicated they are looking at expanding to house K-12 in

the one building. Mr. Bucher suggested putting a notice out to the public via School Reach.

7. Recognition

Ms. DePrey recognized her parents that chaperoned the 8th grade field trip to see the Blue Man group. Mr. Somers recognized Joyce Malecki for taking the golf team to Legacy Hills in LaPorte. Mr. Somers also recognized that the Senior class will be graduating 30/31 students in their cohort.

8. Application for REAP Grant

Mr. Somers asked for approval to apply for the REAP Grant. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Annual Financial Report

Mr. Somers asked for approval of the Annual Financial Report. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the Annual Financial Report which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Frontier Contracts for Wanatah

Mr. Somers indicated we are able to lower our telephone bill about \$75 per month. Mr. Somers asked for permission to sign a three year contract. Bob Younggreen made a motion to permit Mr. Somers to sign the contract, which was seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Smart Boards for Wanatah Elementary

Mr. Somers presented pricing of \$21,339.71 for Smart Boards and \$1,455.00 for Document Cameras for a total of about \$23,000. This would come out of unspent grant money. The remainder will come out of Capital Projects. Mr. Somers indicated they are planning on moving the Special Education classroom to the old shop room. He indicated that Kim Iseminger would like to have a Smart Board. Ms. DePrey indicated the PTO has offered to buy one SmartBoard. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the purchase, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Technology Concerns

Mr. Somers indicated he has asked Chris Jones to put together numbers on the warranty claims we made on the MacBooks in order to decide if it would be beneficial to self-insure the MacBooks. Mr. Somers also indicated that support for XP ends in April, 2014. Our Dell computers are running on XP. Mr. Somers indicated we may need to upgrade to Windows 8. We also have not updated virus protection. Mr. Somers feels we can get by with the computers at Wanatah for one more year, but will then need to move toward new computers. He plans to give each Wanatah teacher a MacBook for next year. Mr. Somers suggested teachers at the end of each class period discuss how they could have learned the material differently if they had 1:1 computers. Mr. Somers indicated the teachers and students at LaCrosse have loved the 1:1 computers. Mr. Somers indicated he has seen a reduction in discipline issues and he feels the 1:1 computers is contributing to the reduction.

13. Benefit for Bullerts

Mr. Somers indicated that Briana Schultz has approached him about a benefit this coming Saturday for the Bullert family. She plans on doing raffles and activities to raise funds. Mr. Bucher indicated we need to make sure there is accountability with the fundraiser. Mr. Somers indicated he has talked to Mrs. Bullert, Ms. Schult and Amy to make sure it is ok. Mr. Somers indicated Amy is in need of a kidney transplant. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the benefit, and Joyce Spoljaric seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

14. Senior Trip

Mr. Somers indicated the Senior trip went well. Paint balling was fun.

15. Graduation Rate and IREAD comparisons

Mr. Somers indicated we passed IREAD with 100% and our graduation rate was 95.8%. Ms. DePrey indicated Wanatah Elementary was the only school in LaPorte County that had 100% passing.

16. Trash Pickup Contract

Mr. Somers indicated we have not been charged for trash pickup at LaCrosse School for several years. He got a rate from Able Disposal for \$90 a month for one 8 yard container. Richards will charge \$100 per month. Mr. Somers indicated he will need to sign a contract soon. Mr. Somers thinks we may want to stay with Republic for a little while. Mr. Bucher made a motion to table this until June.

17. New Transfer Student Requirements

The last legislative session they changed the way transfer students are handled. Mr. Somers indicated he roughly based the numbers he has presented on having 50 students in a class. Taking into consideration our current enrollment, he estimated the number of students we could accept as transfer students. Mr. Somers indicated he would check on the law as to what happens if we exceed the number of students we have designated.

18. Policies

Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to accept the following policies, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Access to Public Records
- Mission Statement
- Philosophy of the Board
- Authority of the Board
- Internal Organization
- Unexpired Term/Vacancy
- School Attorney
- Board Member Code of Ethics
- Notice and Meetings
- Agenda
- Rules of Order
- Public Participation
- Quorum
- Voting
- Minutes
- Board Committees
- New Board Member Orientation
- Conflict of Interests
- Policy Development
- Public Expressions of Board Members
- Access to Public Records

The following policies were presented for information only.

- Parental Involvement Policy for Title I
- Use of Credit Cards Resolution

19. Principal Reports

Ms. DePrey indicated ISTEP testing is finished. Since students were knocked off the computers, the state is checking into whether the tests will be validated. Mr. Somers indicted McGraw-Hill still has the contract for one more year. Ms. DePrey indicated since

teacher's evaluations are tied to the student scores, this is a big deal. Tomorrow the students are going to the Railcats game. They are also having an auction using the AR points students have earned. Middle School will be having awards coming up. Graduation for Kindergarten and 8th grade are coming up. Final student day is Tuesday. Middle School students will be going to Indiana Beach and Elementary will be having field day.

Reading adoption is this year. The Reading textbook fee will be less next year. There is a lot of technology that goes along with the program, which will increase copying costs. Students will get spelling books, hardback books, teacher's editions and level books. Ms. DePrey indicated schools are generally adopting Reading Street, Journeys or Wonders. The Wanatah teachers like Reading Street because students can type in essays and the computer program will automatically grade it (for at least K-6) using the "Simple Six" method. Ms. DePrey will give the Board her suggestion for Textbook rental at the next Board meeting.

Ms. DePrey indicated at their PCC tournament Justine Charlesworth got three firsts and then a first in her relay team as well. The team finished fourth.

Mr. Somers indicated the High School took their all-school field trip to the Shedd Aquarium.

The Vocational Director called and asked him to spend \$5,000 in a week. Mr. Somers indicated he is looking to buy a 3D two jet printer and is also looking at a silk screen machine to be able to print t-shirts. He is also looking at spending money to stock up the FACS room.

Academic Awards is May 29th, Athletic Awards is May 30th and Graduation is May 31st. Track Regional is this Thursday. Riley, Nate, Bobby and Cody are running in it. Boy's baseball sectional starts Thursday. Girls softball started and ended tonight. Golf Sectional is May 31st in LaPorte. Most final exams are Thursday and Friday. Tuesday afternoon will be a cookout and games.

20. April SA-5 Reports

Mr. Somers presented the April SA-5 Report. Bob Younggreen made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Paul Malecki and passed unanimously.

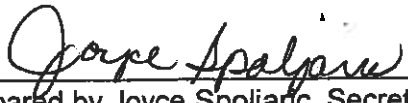
21. Health Care Reform

Mr. Somers presented information on the impact of the Health Care Reform act. Page 55 compares the packages we offer and whether they meet the requirements. The first plan is a Cadillac plan that has an actuary value of 94%. Most teachers choose this plan. Page 57 shows a graph indicating whether it is beneficial for an employee to go out to the Exchange and purchase insurance. Our plans are built around teachers. Our full-time equivalent puts us over the 50 employee criteria. With only 43 full time employers, if we do not offer the insurance to enough employers we will have a "hammer penalty". If we do not offer coverage we could be fined \$26,000. If we do not offer any insurance, it will cost us about \$61,742. We are offering plans that meet the affordability coverage. We will have employees who have not had coverage before that we will have to offer coverage and we will need to determinate how much the Corporation will pay toward their coverage.

22. Adjournment

Paul Malecki made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be June 10th, 2013 at 6:00 Wanatah School.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce Spoljanc", written over a horizontal line.

Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljanc, Secretary

Board Approval: June 10, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
6/10/2013 6:00 pm Wanatah School

Members in Attendance: Bob Younggreen, Joyce Spoljaric and Tim Guse.

Members Absent: Dick Bucher and Paul Malecki.

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky DePrey, Wanatah Principal

Staff, Students and Community Members In Attendance: Approximately 22

1. Opening
Board President, Tim Guse opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes
Minutes from the May 20, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes from the June 5, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Personnel
Reduction in Force: Mr. Somers recommended the reduction in force of Todd Dermody. He did not request a meeting. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the reduction in force, seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously. He also recommended the reduction in force of Rose Haite. She initially asked for a conference, but withdrew her request for a meeting. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve the recommendation, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried. Mr. Somers indicated he initially asked for a reduction of force for Colleen Hunsley's position. She requested a meeting and they had a candid discussion and it is now his recommendation to keep her position at 40% as it was. Bob Younggreen recommended keeping her position, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

Non-Renewal of Contract: Mr. Somers recommended the non-renewal of Kara Orosz's contract. She did not request any additional meetings. Bob Younggreen recommended approving the non-renewal of her contract, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation: Jill Pataky submitted a resignation at the end of this school year. Joyce Spoljaric approved the recommendation of Joyce Spoljaric, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

New Hire: Mr. Somers recommended approving Adam Somers as the Golf Coach. He indicated there is no salary in place in the contract to pay him. Joyce Spoljaric recommended approving Adam Somers as the Golf Coach, seconded by Bob Younggreen. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Claim Docket

The claim docket was presented for approval. Mr. Somers indicated the second installment for the lease of the MAC Book rental is included in the docket. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to accept the claim docket, which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Balance Sheet

The balance sheet was presented for informational purposes. Bob Younggreen made a motion to accept the balance sheet, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Comments

A graduate of LaCrosse High School, who currently has three grandsons attending LaCrosse School and two grandchildren attending Wanatah School, suggested moving students at the Jr. High as 7th & 8th graders to LaCrosse now so they could form relationships with those students now to keep them at the High School later. Mr. Guse indicated the concern the Board has is that some children are deciding to go to other schools at the high school level and are taking their younger siblings with them at earlier grades. Mr. Guse felt that would be the cheapest option, but expressed concern about losing more children. The person indicated moving the Jr. High to LaCrosse wouldn't cost anything. A person indicated when the Schools were originally discussing the consolidation between Wanatah and LaCrosse School, some parents wanted us to consolidate with South Central and questioned if those are the students that we are losing. Mrs. Spoljaric indicated that the neighboring schools that have built on, have not lost enrollment. A person indicated if there is no loyalty, then LaCrosse students could go to Kouts also. A person indicated we have been consolidated for two years, but the report cards do not indicate Tri-Township, they still say Wanatah School. A person indicated Prairie Township was never considered. Joyce Spoljaric indicated that is why it is called Tri-Township. A person questioned whether the Prairie Township money had been spent. Mr. Guse indicated it is in a separate fund. Mr. Guse indicated the Board is not just trying to spend money or raise taxes. The goal is to grow the Corporation and provide the best education for the children. He feels by consolidating we will increase tax rates and inherit another school corporation's debt. He said the Board does care what people think. A person indicated there has only been one or two mailings since the consolidation. Mr. Guse indicated we are trying to determine if there are better (more cost-efficient) marketing strategies. The person indicated marketing needs to be increased to possibly every other month to the public. He suggested marketing to all three Townships. A parent indicated they thought the flyers were very positive and informative, but not coming out often enough. If somebody asks you to buy something two times, that is not enough. Mrs. Spoljaric indicated she would like to see a newspaper article on LaCrosse being the only school in LaPorte County that is a 4 Star School. Ms. DePrey indicated she would like to see an article recognizing Wanatah School as the only School in LaPorte County that had 100% of its students pass the I-READ test. A person indicated there are at least 90 students that could be going to LaCrosse or Wanatah that are not. The person asked how many students we can lose and still maintain. Mr. Guse indicated he did not think there is a specific number. Mr. Guse indicated we took a major hit when the State changed the funding. Mr. Guse indicated there is not as much loyalty to the schools. A couple of people indicated we are not losing students because of the quality of education. They stated the quality of education is phenomenal. Another person praised the small schools. She questioned what will help us retain students. Another person indicated he did not feel South Central has anything more to offer. Mrs. Spoljaric said she felt it was a perception issue. A parent state she thought it was because parents are unhappy with certain issues.

Another person spoke regarding Kara Orosz. He said the whole thing, the way it was handled, the rumors made him angry. He felt she was a great teacher. She stayed after school to help tutor his child. Ms. Orosz recognized his daughter was having learning issues and brought it to their attention. He indicated he felt his daughter had been let down twice by the school corporation; once when LaCrosse combined the two grades and once by Ms. Lawson. He indicated he felt Ms. Lawson was horrible and was short with the children. His child was afraid to ask her questions. He expressed his anger at the Corporation for letting Ms Orosz go. He has talked to Tim about this. He does not know what problem she had. The potential for the school to lose students over this is huge. These are the things that are affecting the schools. He indicated there are a lot of parents upset about this and wondered if some parents would yank their children out of school over this issue. He felt this is the reason parents are moving their children to other schools. He expressed that whoever made that decision was wrong. Another parent indicated she felt Ms. Orosz was a great teacher. Her children are going to South Central next year. She stated being part of the click that is leaving Wanatah, she can say that parents are not leaving because they do not want to go to LaCrosse, but rather they are leaving because of problems at Wanatah. A parent expressed that she felt like when she had problems with Ms. Lawson she felt her concerns were not being heard. She requested Ms. Orosz for her child because she was so wonderful and was heart-broken to hear she was being let go. She feels like she may have had problems with one or two students or parents that she had. She feels like it is more who you are rather than what is best for the children. Mr. Somers indicated he wished he could be open but he can't, but there are things Ms. Orosz failed to do that you can't fail to do. He indicated there is a confidentiality that he cannot breach. He said with Ms. Lawson, it wasn't that they weren't listening, or that they weren't doing things, but there is a due process with a certified position that they have to follow that takes time. A person spoke that these are the reasons people are leaving. A person questioned whether mentoring with new teachers was taking place. Somebody indicated that Mrs. Martin was going to mentor Ms. Lawson, but they were not given any time to do it. She questioned if Ms. Orosz didn't know how to fill out an IEP or whatever then why wasn't she mentored; she had been here two years. She questioned why all new teachers aren't mentored. A parent indicated she called about a bus driver and nothing has been done. She was told she drove fine when Ms. DePrey rode with her. She said well, she isn't stupid. Her child was dropped off ¼ mile away from her house twice and made to walk. The person said she drives down the middle of the county road going at least 70. Joyce Spoljaric asked who it was and was told Ms. O'Hara. A person indicated she pulled her child from going on a field trip because she was driving.

A person recommended the school talk to other parents about why they are choosing to leave or stay in order to identify strengths and weaknesses to address or market. Ms. DePrey indicated a couple of years ago we did this. We sent letters to each parent who had left and got zero responses. A person indicated you have to call or talk to them personally. A person indicated there are families who have left because of issues with how they were treated, not because of football. Ms. DePrey said in response to Chad's comments that she does not want anybody to leave from that class and that she tried to talk to Kara several times to do what she could, but it just didn't happen. She said that what they did was very difficult. She said she feels terrible that she had to release her but that she is doing more by what we are doing here, than if she allowed her to stay. She said there would be more damage and that parents need to trust her. She said she is here for the kids. Ms. DePrey indicated Ms. Orosz was not mentored, but she tried to talk to her to protect her. Ms. DePrey said it is especially hard because she hired her. A person indicated it is not often that a bunch of parents stand up for a teacher being fired. He thought she was an exceptional teacher. The parent said that is why parents yank their kids; they get tired of it. His daughters have had problems. Ms. DePrey indicated she heard the frustration of parents and that the school can't give the information, but encouraged parents to trust her that she is trying to protect the kids. She doesn't want

that to be the reason for students to leave. She said she is there to protect the kids. She indicated the teacher aides and Natalie Wenzel are doing a good job with RTI. Mr. Guse indicated they do not take these decisions lightly when reducing teachers and they understand they are impacting families. Mr. Guse indicated every student they lose they take personally. He indicated there are a lot of things the Board does not know. He indicated they want to make sure they do what is right for each student and parent. He encouraged the parents to contact them at home or by email. He suggested the Board would be willing to meet with parents who are contemplating sending their students to South Central to hear the reasons they want to leave. He encouraged parents to talk to the Board.

A person indicated maybe a letter could be sent to the parents of the children who were upset to explain there are reasons that can't be shared as to why their teacher was yanked.

A person spoke regarding marketing LaCrosse High School to the students. Mrs. Spoljaric indicated the basketball program is doing that. Mr. Somers indicated the High School students had always helped the Elementary students before.

8. Recognition

Ms. DePrey wanted to recognize all the parents that helped out with the field day. She thanked Jeff Mitzner for accompanying a field trip. She also recognized Judy Krueger. 100% of her Algebra students in 8th grade passed their ECA exam. She also recognized her staff for the efforts during the last hectic month of school.

9. LaCrosse – Four Star School

Mr. Somers indicated LaCrosse was designated as a Four Star School for 2011-12. The students who will be Seniors next year are the students whose ECA scores are responsible for the Four Star School designation. He indicated Four Star status is earned by ECA scores and graduation rates.

10. ECA and Graduation Rates

This year the Algebra I ECA passing rate was 95 % and our English was 82%. Last year was just about flipped with Algebra I at 80% and English was at 90%. Mr. Somers indicated he was real happy with the Algebra I results.

11. Trash Pickup Contract

Mr. Somers indicated last month he was asked to see if they he could get a letter from Republic Services indicating they were not going to bill us for back service and he was able to get that letter and is continuing to use Republic Services for trash pickup at LaCrosse School.

12. Vocational Classes

Mr. Somers provided the Board with a list of Vocational Classes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Introduction to Design Process | • Economics |
| • Animal Science | • Introduction to Agriculture |
| • Advanced Animal Science | • Principles of Marketing |
| • Nutrition and Wellness | • Principles of Business Management |
| • Advanced Nutrition and Wellness | • Personal Finance |
| • Child Development | • Anatomy and Physiology |
| • Advanced Child Development | • Manufacturing and Logistics |
| • Preparation for College and Careers | • Computers in Design and Production Systems |
| | • Plant and Soil |

The above include all the possible classes that we can get additional funding for. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the classes, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Textbook Rental

Ms. DePrey indicated the costs are down from last year. She indicated she is also asking for approval for the Reading Street adoption. Ms. DePrey indicated Reading Street provides a reading and writing notebook that will be provided free for the next six years from Pearson. The teachers K-6 have recommended the Reading Street program from Pearson. Ms. DePrey indicated for every student the whole package is \$28,360.52. She indicated students can use a website and the website will grade writing papers and provide feedback to the teachers and students.

Wanatah 2012-13

Proposed Textbook Rental

KG	\$53.22	5 th	\$80.02
1 st	\$96.06	6 th	\$80.51
2 nd	\$89.04	7 th	\$103.19
3 rd	\$112.07	8 th	\$115.74
4 th	\$86.67		

Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the Wanatah Textbook Rental and Reading adoption. Joyce Spoljaric seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Somers proposed keeping the straight technology fee of \$125 per student in grades 9-12. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve the technology fee, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Student Transfer Policy

Mr. Somers stated if they set the number of students they will accept at a low rate, they cannot accept any students over that limit. If they exceed the limits, the students all go into a lottery system, and are randomly chosen. Mr. Somers revised the number of transfer students the Corporation would accept and put them into the policy. Bob Younggreen made a motion to accept the Number of Transfer Students Accepted by Grade & Deadline to Apply policy, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Policies

Mr. Somers presented the Parent Involvement policy and the Credit Card policy for approval. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to accept both policies which was seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Principal Reports

Ms. DePrey presented a letter from the DOE indicated they hired a third party to determine whether to validate the ISTEP+ testing results.

Ms. DePrey presented the student handbook. She suggested the following underlined changes:

- Page 4 – Vacation days beyond three days or not prearranged will be considered unexcused.
- Page 4 - Students are required to make up work for all absences. In general, a student has the same number of days to make up assignments as the number of days he/she was absent from school. Students who fail to turn their make-up work in will receive a zero for any work not finished within the timeline.

- Page 5 – Commencing with the 5th tardy per nine week grading period, the student will receive an after school detention and the parent/guardian will be notified
- Page 5 – A student will be recognized for outstanding attendance if they are in attendance every day for at least a portion of the day or have two or less days affected by a partial day absence or tardy.
- Page 14 – Cell phones must not disrupt educational or school activities. Students are to keep cells phones in lockers and silent during the school day.
- Page 20 - Grading Scales: Adding A+, A-, B+, B-, C+, C-, D+, D- to the grading scale.
- Adding Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation to the front cover and designating the grade level applicable.

Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve the handbook and accept the handbook changes proposed. Bob Younggreen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Somers indicated they made it through the award nights, but he thought the Athletic Awards night went two hours. He may recommend to Mr. Amor that the hold three separate award nights for fall, winter and spring sports. The Academic Awards and Graduation went well.

17. April SA-5 Reports

Mr. Somers presented the May SA-5 Report. Bob Younggreen made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Paul Malecki and passed unanimously.

18. Adjournment

Bob Younggreen made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Guse indicated there were architectural drawings of proposed building additions on display that show the existing school and what an addition could look like.

The next Board meeting will be July 8th, 2013 at 6:00 at LaCrosse School.

Joyce Spoljaric

Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: July 8, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes

Tri Township Consolidated School Corporation

7/8/2013 6:00pm LaCrosse School

Members in Attendance: Bob Younggreen, Joyce Spoljaric, Tim Guse, Dick Bucher and Paul Malecki.

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky Deprey, Wanatah Principal

Staff, Students and Community Members in Attendance: 2

1. Opening

Board President, Tim Guse opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the June 10, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Personnel

Mr. Somers indicated Zach Prairie has resigned from his position at Tri Township School Corp. and has accepted a position at Kankakee Valley teaching P.E., health and coaching baseball. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Somers indicated Emma Walter has resigned from her position at Tri Township School Corp. and has accepted a position teaching Child Development and Nutrition at South Central School. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve, seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Somers indicated Sandy Moser has resigned from her position at Tri Township School Corp. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

Reduction in Force: Mr. Somers recommended that Natalie Wenzel be reduced to 70% for the 2013/2014 school year. This recommendation is being made due to the fact that our Title I grant is being reduced by \$10,000 next year.

Last year Natalie was at 80%. This reduction will not recoup the reduction entirely but Mr. Somers feels this program is very important and by keeping

Natalie at 70% the program can stay strong. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Somers recommended approving Dara Guse for a full time position with the corporation. He indicated with the RIF of Rose Haite taking place there will be a void with state reports etc. being completed. Currently Dara works three days a week at a salary of \$18,000 per year. In keeping with the salary scale Mr. Somers recommends a full time position at \$30,000 per year. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve, seconded by Bob Younggreen. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Claim Docket

The claim docket was presented for approval. Mr. Somers indicated the boiler loan installment is included on this docket. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve, seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Balance Sheet

The balance sheet was presented for informational purposes. Bob Younggreen made a motion to accept the balance sheet which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Comments

A member of the community asked the board to either confirm or deny the rumor that he heard in regards to sending buses from other school districts for student pick up. Mr. Somers indicated he has not seen any final legislation that said that. It did come up at the state level but has not yet been approved. Tim Guse also stated that the legislation was not approved however, if it had been approved there was a grandfather clause included that states if you were already being picked up by the bus it could continue to do so. No new student pick up would be allowed. Joyce Spoljaric indicated that there was an article in the newspaper stating this law was not passed.

The same member of the community asked if there were any updates on the school consolidation issue. Paul Malecki stated that the board feels as if we are going to do an addition we need to do it on a larger scale so that another add on will not be needed in the near future. Joyce Spoljaric stated the board also needs to get some internal situations fixed before any decisions are going to be made. Tim Guse indicated that the board has recognized from the past meetings that with all of the changes happening in a two year time span there are many feeling and emotions involved not only with staff but within the community also. Marketing our school has also been highly discussed and the board would like to

further investigate this before any decisions are made. At this point there is not a consensus among the board.

The same community member then asked if the add on is done on a larger scale would that decision need to be voted on by the public. Paul Malecki said that yes if it is over the indicated amount then it would have to go to a vote. Tim Guse stated that Mr. Somers checked on the dates and we are already past the deadline for the November election. If anything is going to happen the vote would not take place until May. A special vote could take place but it would be at a cost of \$20,000.

Tim Guse asked the community member out of curiosity what his opinion is on this subject. The member replied that it is a great idea to try to get everyone in one spot. However, if we then lose LaCrosse students to surrounding schools all it becomes is a nice addition to the students we already have. Joyce Spoljaric states that she has rethought her position on this issue and has decided once she heard the internal issues at school she would like to see the money put towards heating and air conditioning and possibly a track that both the high school and junior high could use. She feels as if we make these improvements it will show that we are improving without taking a large step this year. The school needs a moral boost not only with teachers but with students and community members.

Tim Guse agrees that if we are all in one building it is a good thing but the board needs to look at the situation as a whole.

The community member stated that coming in as outsider he does not have any opinions on what school his children attend other than the quality of education.

Tim Guse commented on that note stating that he had spent the day at Purdue University with his daughter and based on the classes that she was able to take at LaCrosse she has enough credits already that she can be considered a second semester sophomore. LaCrosse has so many things to offer that other large schools cannot.

The community member then asked the question as to whether other local schools offer AP classes. Mr. Somers answered by saying we have put our focus on AP classes. Our school has more dual credit opportunities than East Porter County, Westville and South Central.

Mr. Somers also indicated that we are also focusing on those students who are not planning to attend college by broadening our work study and vocational programs.

The community member then suggested that somebody needs to put a list together of what we are doing at our school versus what other schools are doing. We have a competitive edge that we need to be advertising.

Tim Somers stated that we have been working on this type of listing and he has also been in contact with Indiana 105 about radio advertising.

7. Recognition

Since the students are not in school right now the board discussed several students who are involved in 4-H and did well at the LaPorte fair.

8. Insurance for Laptops

Mr. Somers discussed that last year insurance was purchased for the laptops which cost approximately \$6,500. The warranty through Apple was also in effect. Mr. Somers and Chris Jones looked at all claims that were either through warranty or insurance- insurance we had \$2,500 worth of claims. Apple would charge over \$19,000 for a two year warranty for the computers and insurance for the computers would be an additional \$6,500 per year. Mr. Somers and Chris Jones looked at all warranty issues and insurance claims and the total would have been around \$7,500. Because of this, Mr. Somers recommended that the corporation self-insure the laptops. Paul Malecki motioned to self-insure the laptops, Bob Younggreen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Transportation Issues

Mr. Somers is working with a transportation program and believes he can reduce the routes by one. It may require the use of the activity bus. During it's last oil change, Bus 7-99 had radiator fluid in the engine block.


Mr. Somers does not want to put any money into the bus since it is the next to be traded in. With the reduction of a route, he believes we should have enough spares.

Mr. Somers talked to Gail Allen about the possibility of purchasing a 15 passenger bus with a lift. She was in favor of this because some of the drops she has on her route are tight and a smaller bus would be more manueverable.

10. There were no Principal Reports

11. The SA-5 report for Wanatah was presented. The SA-5 report for LaCrosse will be presented next meeting.

12. Paul Malecki made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joyce Spoljaric seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.



Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: August 12, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes

Tri Township Consolidated School Corporation

8/12/2013 6:00pm Wanatah School

Members in Attendance: Joyce Spoljaric, Tim Guse, Dick Bucher and Paul Malecki.

Absent: Bob Younggreen

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky Deprey, Wanatah Principal

Staff, Students and Community Members in Attendance: 12

1. Opening

Board President, Tim Guse opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the July 12, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Dick Bucher made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Personnel

Tim Somers presented the following for new hires:

Marty Rasala – FACS/PE teacher, Varsity Baseball, MS Baseball

RayeAnn Tiede – Agricultural Education teacher

Judy Krueger – Move from 7/8th to full-time

Andy Rasala – MS Baseball Assistant, Varsity Baseball Assistant

Wes Bucher – MS Baseball Assistant, Varsity Baseball Assistant

Theresa McArdle – Teacher Assistant

Sherry Younggreen – Study Hall

Paul Malecki motioned to accept the new hires, Dick Bucher seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The following personnel resigned:

Cindy Zippel

Hillary Banks

Paul Malecki motioned to accept the new hires, Dick Bucher seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Sandy Moser was recognized for her many years of service to the school system. Vicky DePrey presented Sandy with a commemorative bowl.

4. Claim Docket

The claim docket was presented for approval. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve, seconded by Dick Bucher. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Balance Sheet

The balance sheet was presented for informational purposes. Paul Malecki made a motion to accept the balance sheet which was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Comments

None at this time.

7. Recognition

None

8. Changes in Pay

Mr. Somers presented to the board a new pay schedule for the kitchen staff. The pay schedule included an increase in pay of the kitchen staff. The pay would begin at \$7.50/hour and move up based upon years experience.

Mr. Somers presented suggested pay increases for the teacher aides. Mr. Bucher asked if the teacher aides salaries could be put on a schedule similar to the kitchen staff schedule. Mr. Somers said he would do that. Teacher aides will make between \$9.00 and \$9.50/hour

Mr. Somers presented to the board a proposed salary for secretarial staff. Secretaries will make \$11.00/hour.

Mr. Somers recommended to the board that Katie Bailey's hourly rate be increased to \$11.50/hour.

Dick Bucher motioned to accept the changes in pay, Joyce Spoljaric seconded, motion carried unanimously.

9. There were no Principal Reports

10. The SA-5 report for June was presented along with the annual SA-5 report. Paul Malecki motioned to accept the report, Dick Bucher seconded, motion carried unanimously.

11. Paul Malecki made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joyce Spoljaric seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: August 12, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
8/27/13 6:00 pm Wanatah School

1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Mr. Somers opened the meeting by discussing some of the needs of the Wanatah School building. The needs he mentioned were: 1) Updating the HVAC in the building to include conditioning the gym and kitchen areas, 2) The need for extra space especially in the administrative and support services areas, and 3) Modernizing the cinder track.
3. Tony Kuykendall from Performance Services, made a presentation about Performance Services and the Design Build process. Mr. Kuykendall discussed the process of Design Build and that one of the benefits of Design Build is a guaranteed price. He stated that Design Build allows for a very efficient timeline of the building process, which allows on time delivery of the product. The complete presentation is on the Tri-Township web site (<http://www.tritownship.k12.in.us>).
4. Rod Wilson and Thomas Peterson presented information about financing Capital Projects. The presentation included information about different school funds and information specific to the Capital Project Fund and the Debt Service Fund. Information about G O Bonds and Lease Financing was presented with the pros and cons of each type of financing compared. A timeline for the Lease Financing was explained. Any project over two million dollars becomes a Controlled Project. A table containing expected tax rate impacts was presented. See attached PowerPoint presentation for more information. The complete presentation is on the Tri-Township web site (<http://www.tritownship.k12.in.us>).
5. Paul Malecki motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dick Bucher seconded, all in favor.



Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: September, 23, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri Township Consolidated School Corporation
9/9/2013 6:00pm Wanatah School

Members in Attendance: Joyce Spoljaric, Tim Guse, Dick Bucher, and Paul Malecki.

Absent: Bob Younggreen

Administrators in Attendance: Tim Somers, Superintendent, Vicky Deprey, Wanatah Principal.

Staff, Students and Community Members in Attendance: 6

1. Opening

Board President, Tim Guse opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the August 12, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dick Bucher. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Personnel

Tim Somers presented the following for new hires:
Jennifer Rouhselang- Teachers' Aide, Kindergarten
Maranda Schultz- Teachers' Aide
Kathy Holem- Bus Driver
Dave Berger- Bus Driver
Veronica Hawkins- Kitchen Staff
Amy Lawrence- Sub Kitchen Staff
Amy Wozniak- Pay increase to \$30,500/year

Dick Bucher made a motion to approve the new hires and approve the pay increase, seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Claim Docket

The claim docket was presented for approval. Dick Bucher made a motion to approve, seconded by Paul Malecki. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Balance Sheet

The balance sheet was presented for information purposes.

6. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

7. Recognition

Vicky Deprey discussed Susan Schwerd retirement party which took place August 30, 2013.

Mr. Somers recognized what a great start to the school year Tri Township is having and he wanted to praise our teaching staff and the entire staff for their efforts. Vicky Deprey agreed with Mr. Somers on the staff's commitment to our schools.

8. Public Hearing

2014 Budget – Tim Guse stated

Tonight the board will hear public comment on the proposed budgets and Capital Projects and Bus Replacement Plans for 2014. The proposed budgets were advertised on August 22nd and August 29th. The board has received and reviewed the budget information. Do any board members have questions about the budgets?

None- close hearing

9. Public Hearing

2014 CPF Plan- Tim Guse stated

Are there any comments or questions concerning the CPF plan?

None- close hearing

10. Public Hearing

2014 Bus Replacement Plan- Tim Guse stated

Are there any comments or questions concerning the Bus Replacement Plan?

None- close hearing

11. Resolution

Tim Somers asked for approval to reduce the 2013 CPF plan.

Paul Malecki made a motion to approve, seconded by Dick Bucher.

12. 2014 CPF Plan

Tim Somers presented a resolution and recommended to the board that they approve the CPF Plan presented.

Dick Bucher made a motion to approve, seconded by Paul Malecki.

13. 2014 Bus Replacement Plan

Tim Somers presented a resolution and recommended to the board that they approve the Bus Replacement Plan presented.

Dick Bucher made a motion to approve, seconded by Paul Malecki.

Tim Somers stated the school budgets will be reviewed and considered for final approval by the board at the October 14th meeting. Comments and questions heard tonight will be considered when the board makes their final approval.

14. Moving mobile facility at LaCrosse

Tim Somers explained an estimate was given to the board by More and More Housing to move the mobile facility currently at LaCrosse to Wanatah.

In doing so this would create an area which LaCrosse could use for parking.

Mr. Somers discussed with the board options that may be available for the unit.

There may be a possibility of selling the mobile facility.

The board decided to advertise selling the unit before moving forward.

This item will be tabled for now.

15. Sealcoating at Wanatah

The quote was not received in time for the meeting. This item will be tabled.

16. Principal Reports

Ms. Deprey- Wanatah enrollment as of today 261, as of tomorrow 262, enrollment last year 274.

Tim Guse asked Ms. Deprey to do a count of the "new" students we enrolled at Wanatah this year that were not here last year. Ms. Deprey said she would get those figures for the board.

Earthquake simulator will be at Wanatah School on Tuesday for both the Wanatah and LaCrosse students to participate in.

A call was received from Dave at the YMCA and the soccer program at Wanatah will start next week.

Tim Guse suggested Ms. Deprey talk to the YMCA about a donation to the school for the usage of the school for the program.

ISTEP scores were released today and Ms. DePrey is very pleased with them.

Further details will given when permission from the state is given.

Many extra-curricular activities are on Wanatah calendar for September. Ms. DePrey would like to invite everyone to come enjoy the students participate in these events.

Ms. DePrey praised Veronica Hawkins and Shelia Leffew, new Wanatah kitchen staff for a job well done.

Julie Charlesworth asked Ms. DePrey if the junior high students could be dropped off at the North end of the building instead of the back of the building.

Ms. DePrey replied that the reason for this not being done is that at this point there is no staff available to "man" the North end door.

Julie would also suggest that the buses park in the front lot or pull over some so there is more room in the back.

After discussion Mr. Somers and the board decided that this issue will be looked into further.

Mr. Somers- AG ED classes are going well at LaCrosse. Rae Ann Tiede and Marty Rasala are both doing well.

LaCrosse is focusing on careers this year. A group of students at LaCrosse will be going to the LaPorte Civic Center to hear a motivational speaker regarding "careers" and learn about career opportunities in LaPorte County.

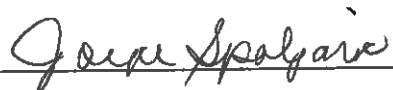
LaCrosse is also focusing on work study this year for students who are interested. We have several students participating in this program including but not limited to Drew Norris and Tyler Harmon.

17. SA-5 Report for LaCrosse and Wanatah

The SA-5 report for August was presented.

18. Adjournment

Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Paul Malecki seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: October 14, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes

Tri Township Consolidated School Corporation

9/23/13 6:00pm Wanatah School

1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance
2. A motion was made by Paul Malecki to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2103 meeting. Joyce Spoljaric seconded the motion and approval was made.
3. Public comments-
A community member has concerns about bus routes. Mr. Somers explained the bus routes and the bus transfer process. Don Guse, bus driver helped explain the transfer process. Tim Guse said the school purchased software to help with creating efficient bus routes for student pick up.
4. Personnel-
Approval was made for the following coaches in the boys' basketball program:
Boys Varsity- Scot Spoljaric
Assistant- Butch Guse
JV- Troy Wenger
8th grade- Jeff Mitzner
7th grade- Jack Wallace
5/6th grade- Marty Rasala

Approval was made for the following coaches in the girls' basketball program:
Girls Varsity- Brian McMahan
JV- open
8th grade- Brian McMahan
7th grade- Mikaela Gordon
6th grade- Bill Stark
5th grade- Mallorie Erikson

A motion was made by Paul Malecki to approve the above mentioned personnel, seconded by Joyce Spoljaric, motion approved.

Mr. Somers let the board know that Brandy Banks has accepted a position at a steel mill and October 4th will be her last day with Tri Township schools. He has interviewed a potential bus driver and will be conducting background checks etc. as a replacement for Brandy.

5. Wellness Program-

Mr. Somers presented the board with a proposal for a wellness program that Sue Stull and Dara Guse would like to initiate. He has spoken with our insurance company and our school attorney to make sure that everything is in line for this and it is. The last item to work on is a facility usage policy. Mr. Somers will try to have that ready for the next meeting for board approval. This will be tabled until the next meeting when the facility usage policy being complete.

6. Purchase of Bus-

Mr. Somers explained that we were planning to purchase a bus in spring and would like to move that purchase up.

He would like to get this bus now because we only have one spare bus available for after school activities and when a bus needs maintenance.

He has spoken with Kerlin's and they are willing to let us have the bus and make payment when we receive our draw.

This bus purchase would be for the 2014 budget.

Motion made by Paul Malecki for the purchase of a 66 passenger bus from Kerlin's. Joyce Spoljaric seconded, motion approved.

7. Sealcoating at Wanatah-

Mr. Somers obtained two estimates for sealcoating for Wanatah parking lot.

B & G estimate was the better of the two and they have done a good job for us in the past.

Mr. Somers recommends B & G.

A motion was made by Paul Malecki and was seconded by Dick Bucher, motion approved.

8. Resolution for Litigation against ISTA-

Several schools involved with the ISTA were prepared to file a lawsuit against the ISTA for an insurance plan that was not managed properly. The state of Indiana stepped in to try to arrange a settlement. This has been a four year process and has now been settled. Our portion is \$14,341.00. We have been asked to help with attorney fees at the rate of 5% of our distribution. Mr. Somers thinks this is fair. The resolution accepts the money and approves the 5% contribution. Paul Malecki made a motion to accept the resolution and Joyce Spoljaric seconded, motion approved.

9. Teacher's Master Contract-

Mr. Somers explained every two years we have to do a new teacher's contract. The big item needing addressed on the contract was the compensation model. Brian McMahan, Alissa Clemons and Mr. Somers began working back in the spring on this and feel they now have it complete.

The board reviewed the model and the new contract. This is a one year contract.

Paul Malecki made a motion to approve with Joyce Spoljaric seconding, motion approved.

10. Public comment-

A community member asked if any decision had been made in regards to the construction project.

The board discussed the project options available to them and advised no final decision has been made yet.

11. Adjournment-

Paul Malecki motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dick Bucher seconded, all in favor.



Minutes prepared by Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Approval: October 14, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes
Tri Township Consolidated School Corporation
10/14/2013 6:00pm Wanatah School

1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance
2. A motion was made by Paul Malecki to approve the minutes from the September 9th and 23rd, 2013 meetings. Bob Younggreen seconded the motion and all approved.

3. Personnel

Mindy Flaherty- bus driver

Jennifer Sullivan- kitchen

Jeff Yergler- girls JV basketball

Brandy Banks- resignation

A motion was made by Joyce Spoljaric
and Paul Malecki seconded, approval
made.

4. Claim Docket

The claim docket was presented for approval. Bob Younggreen made a motion to approve, seconded by Joyce Spoljaric and all approved.

5. Balance Sheet

The balance sheet was presented for information purposes.

6. Public Comments on Agenda Items

7. Recognition

Vicky Deprey recognized her staff that participated in the Scarecrow Festival parade whether it be walking in the parade or fundraising for clubs/departments at school. Ms. Deprey also commented that the 3 on 3 was successful this year. Several students also walked in the parade with the staff which was fun. She would like to thank her staff for all they do each day. ISTEP scores were released and Wanatah again scored very high in LaPorte County.

Mr. Somers commented it is amazing to see how well the staff has pulled together this year, not just the teachers the whole staff. The students are also pulling together nicely. The freshman class is doing well becoming acclimated to high school.

8. 2014 Budget

Mr. Somers recommended approval of the budget. Motion to approve was made by Paul Malecki and seconded by Dick Bucher. Motion approved.

9. Wanatah Projects

Mr. Somers asked the board to comment on projects that have been discussed such as track, two elementary classrooms, administrative office upgrade and HVAC. He would like to know the vision the board has for the school.

Dick Bucher began the discussion by saying he thinks the items mentioned above are much needed in our school and show that we are committed to Wanatah. Paul Malecki agreed with Dick. Joyce Spoljaric would like to see the above improvements made. She also thinks the board should keep in mind that there will be further changes that will need to take place in the future. Tim Guse agreed with the other board members saying that we only have one chance to make a first impression to potential new students and these changes will be a big investment in the future of our school.

A motion was made by Paul Malecki, seconded by Joyce Spoljaric authorizing Mr. Somers to begin the process of the above improvements by contacting legal and financial advisors to assist the board in the 1028 hearing process. This motion also authorizes publication of the 1028 notice.

The question was posed to the board by a community member as to whether there was a time frame in mind for moving high school to Wanatah. The board agreed that decision would be made based on numbers at the high school level.

10. Policies

School facilities use

Field and other corporation-sponsored trips

Anti-bullying policy

11. Quarterly Newsletter

Mr. Somers presented the board with a proposal for a quarterly newsletter which was prepared by Dara Guse. It was discussed that the newsletter could be done three times per year instead of four to save on costs. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve with Paul Malecki seconding. Motion approved.

12. Principals' Report

Ms. Deprey started her report by praising the 8th grade girls' volleyball team who participated in the PCC tourney on Saturday and made it to the finals. Last week this team won the Morgan invitational. Ms. Deprey also mentioned she was invited to a 4th grade class to watch a play the students presented which was performed very well. The students had a great time in doing so. LaCrosse and Wanatah fire department visited the school to promote fire prevention week.

Mr. Somers reported that Nate Rhodes, LC senior won the PCC mental attitude award for cross country this year. Bryce Guse, LC senior won the PCC mental attitude award for boys' volleyball. Three cross country team members were awarded All Conference honors.

Mr. Somers also reported that the high school students watched a movie last week about bullying and he was very proud of how attentive they were during the showing.

13. SA-5 Report

The SA-5 report for September was presented.

14. Adjournment

Bob Younggreen made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Joyce Spoljaric seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Board meeting November 11th at LaCrosse School.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joyce Spoljaric", written over a horizontal line.

Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation

11/11/2013 6:00pm LaCrosse School

1. The meeting was open with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. A motion was made by Bob Younggreen to approve the minutes from the October 14th meeting. Paul Malecki seconded the motion and all approved.
3. Personnel

A motion was made by Paul Malecki to approve the following personnel:

The motion was seconded by Bob Younggreen and all approved.

Joyce Smith- kitchen

Robert Parres, sub-bus driver

A motion was made by Paul Malecki to approve the following resignations:

The motion was seconded by Bob Younggreen and all approved.

Carrie Miller resignation of 5/6th grade cheerleading coach position.

Kim Iseminger resignation of middle school boy's volleyball coach position.

4. Claim Docket

The claim docket was presented for approval. Dick Bucher made a motion to approve, seconded by Paul Malecki and all approved.

5. Balance Sheet

The balance sheet was presented for information purposes.

6. Public Comments on Agenda Items

A member of the community commented that the merry go round needs to be painted. Mr. Somers said he would be glad to get it painted.

7. Recognition

Mr. Somers recognized Marty Rasala for his efforts on the Red Cross blood drive.

8. Perfect Scores

Ms. Deprey introduced Kaylee Welkie who received a perfect score on the 2012/2013 language arts ISTEP. Kaylee was presented several awards for her accomplishment.

Ms. Deprey and Ms. Krueger introduced Katelyn Bell who received a perfect score on the 2012/2013 math ISTEP. Katelyn was presented several awards for her accomplishment.

9. ISTA Settlement

A settlement has been made with the ISTA with 5% of the settlement being used for attorney fees.

10. Lawsuit Against IRS

The state of Indiana and 14 school systems are suing the IRS for Health Care Reform. We have been invited to join this lawsuit. After discussion the board decided it would be better not to be involved in the lawsuit.

11. Corporation/School Colors and Mascot

Mr. Somers made a recommendation that the Tri-Township School colors, corporation wide, be white, black and accented with forest green. His recommendation also included that the corporation mascot be the Tigers.

This change would help to bring about unity within our elementary, Jr. High and high school students, staff and communities according to Mr. Somers.

A motion was made by Dick Bucher, seconded by Joyce Spoljaric with all being in favor.

12. Wanatah Projects

A discussion was had regarding the upcoming building improvements being discussed at Wanatah.

The board would like to see hard numbers on the projects which are on the table at Wanatah to make a decision.

Paul Malecki made a motion for Mr. Somers to hire a Design Criteria Developer. This was seconded by Joyce Spoljaric, all approved.

13. Value of Portable

Mr. Somers recommended that the portable be sold to Calvin Fisher for \$999.00. This will also include the removal of the portable. Paul Malecki made a motion to approve with Bob Younggreen seconding, all approved.

14. LaCrosse Parking Lot

Bids were done by three companies for the parking lot. The lowest bid came from B & G Sealcoating. A motion was made by Bob Younggreen, seconded by Dick Bucher, all in favor.

15. Salary Increases

The following salary increases were approved by the board:

Vicky Wade from \$12.00 to \$13.00- her hours will be reduced in January from 37.5 hours to 28 hours. This increase will also help to compensate for this hourly loss. This cut in hours is taking place due to new Health Care Reform Laws.

Kim Newburn from \$15.50 to \$16.50

Tracy Bucher from \$11.00 to \$12.50

A motion was made by Paul Malecki to approve these increases with Joyce Spoljaric seconding the motion. The minutes should reflect that Dick Bucher excused himself from this vote due to a conflict of interest.

16. Activity Bus Pay

Mr. Somers is recommending that any sponsor or coach who drives the activity bus to an event be paid \$20.00 for their extra responsibility.

A motion was made by Joyce Spoljaric with Dick Bucher seconding the motion, all approved.

17. Supporting other TTCSC Teams, Transportation of Students

Joyce Spoljaric requested that the Mr. Somers address the board with regards to a coach requiring his/her team to be present at another TTSC team event. (i.e.: boy's volleyball team attending girl's volleyball team game)

Joyce would like if a coach requires his/her team to be at a game that TTSC provide transportation to that event. The board agrees with Joyce that when a team is required to attend an event we will provide transportation.

18. Board Meeting Calendar for 2014

Mr. Somers would like the board to consider changing the meeting dates for the 2014 calendar to Thursday night versus Monday night. This change would begin in January. Mr. Somers will look into the 2014 calendar to see if the 2nd or 3rd Thursday each month would be better.

19. Policies

The following policies were given to the board last meeting. The policies have now been removed and Mr. Somers would like approval for these policies:

School Facilities Use

Field and Other Corporation- Sponsored Trips

Anti-Bullying Policy

A motion was made by Paul Malecki, seconded by Bob Younggreen, motion approved.

20. ISBA

A recommendation is being made by Mr. Somers to forego renewing our contract with the ISBA. Joyce Spoljaric made a motion to approve the recommendation with Bob Younggreen seconding the motion. All approved.

21. Principals' Report

Ms. Deprey gave the board a picture of the students of the month for Wanatah.

She advised the board that every classroom in Wanatah School has been equipped with a smart board.

The sock a vet drive at Wanatah went very well. Wanatah School had over 600 pairs of socks to donate to the veterans.

Mallorie Erikson is doing well at home recovering from surgery.

Congratulations are in order for the Wanatah 6th grade class for winning the Northern Indiana Math Contest.


22. SA-5 Reports

The SA-5 report was presented.

23. Adjournment

Paul Malecki made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bob Younggreen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Board Meeting December 9th, 2013 at Wanatah School



Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary

Board Meeting
Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation
12/9/13 6:00 pm Wanatah School

1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The minutes from the November 11, 2013 meeting had been distributed to the board prior to the meeting. There were no questions or corrections. Paul Malecki motioned to accept the minutes, Bob Younggreen seconded the motion, all approved and the motion passed.
3. Mr. Somers recommended that we hire Morgan Derby as the 5/6 Cheer Coach. He recommended we accept Alex Metts and Zack Walter as Boys Basketball volunteers pending background checks. Joyce Spoljaric motioned to accept Morgan Derby, Alex Metts and Zack Walter in the positions mentioned, Paul Malecki seconded, all approved and the motion passed.
4. The claim docket was presented. Tim Guse had questions about some of the Apple payments. Mr. Somers explained that Apple repaired some computers cheaper than local shop so that was why we were sending some repairs to Apple. Dick Bucher motioned to accept the claim docket as presented, Paul Malecki seconded, all approved and the motion passed.
5. The financial balance sheet was presented for informational purposes.
6. The floor was opened for public comments. Mrs. Jan Bailey spoke about the selection of school colors and mascot. She began by saying she was not against LaCrosse or Tri-Township but she was concerned about losing the legacy of the Wanatah School. She recommended that the board reconsider and look at putting some red in the school colors. She did not recommend eliminating the Tiger as the mascot. Tim Guse spoke for the board and explained that it had been a long process to arrive at the new school colors and mascot. He explained that the board had no intention of slighting Wanatah alumni in the decision but the board realizes that LaCrosse has lost their elementary and will lose their high school, so it seemed fitting that some part of the LaCrosse legacy should remain in the form of the colors and mascot. Juli Charlesworth did not disagree with the color and mascot selection but thought the board had made the decision to change prematurely.
7. Chase Rosenbaum was the 1st grade winner of the Horizon Bank art Contest. Mrs. Westerhoff presented him with a gift certificate. He also received the Principal's Award from Ms. DePrey. As your principal, it is my pleasure to recognize students who have distinguished themselves through their achievements.

Kelsey Rennier was the 5th grade winner of the Horizon Bank Art Contest. Mrs. Westerhoff presented her with a gift certificate. She also received the Principal's Award from Ms. DePrey. As your principal, it is my pleasure to recognize students who have distinguished themselves through their achievements.

8. Mr. Somers stated that he had met with Dan Rawlins from InterDesign. Mr. Rawlins emphasis area is as a Design Criteria Developer (DCD). In that capacity, he has assisted in over \$340 million of building projects. Mr. Somers overviewed the projects that are under consideration and the estimates that Mr. Rawlins projected. It may be possible to have three of the projects this summer. The priority is the HVAC followed by the Administrative area and/or the two classrooms. Mr. Rawlins has suggested that the corporation set a dollar amount and then have the builders propose how much they will be able to do for that dollar amount. Mr. Somers also drew the attention of the board to the timeline Mr. Rawlins had developed. At the January board meeting, the board will need to approve the Design Build delivery process, hire a DCD, appoint a Technical Review Committee, appoint Common Wage Committee members, request appointment of the County Common Wage Committee member, approve Site Survey Proposal and approve the Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation Proposal. Mr. Somers indicated that he has continued discussions with Thomas Peterson and Monica Conrad to stay on track with the financing of the projects.
9. Mr. Somers asked the board members if they had all received the first edition of the Quarterly Newsletter. All the members had received the newsletter. Several of the community members in the audience had not received the newsletter. Mr. Somers will inquire as to why they may not have received the letter. Comments were made that the newsletter looked very good and the articles were interesting. Mr. Somers would like to see some historical articles in the newsletter.
10. Mr. Somers presented two School Board meeting calendar options for 2014. One option was to have the meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month and the other option was to have the meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Tim Guse motioned to accept the 3rd Thursday of each month for School Board meetings in 2014, Dick Bucher seconded, all approved and the motion passed.
11. Mr. Somers had Conflict of Interest forms for each board member to fill out and sign.
12. Mr. Somers stated that in June of every year, the board needed to set the bond amount for the Treasurer. This had not been done in June. Mr. Somers stated that the bond amount of \$90,000 would be an acceptable amount for the Treasurer. Paul Malecki motioned to set the bond amount at \$90,000 for the Treasurer, Bob Younggreen seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

13. Mr. Somers updated the board on the progress of the parking lot at LaCrosse. He stated that when the paving company put down the stone and compacted it, they observed that the soil continued to move. The paving company recommended that we wait until spring to put the asphalt down. Mr. Somers also stated that he needed to have a fence put around the pond for safety purposes. Mr. Somers asked if the board wanted to have railroad ties put down for blocking in order to use the parking lot this winter. The board members stated that would be appropriate to do. There was a discussion about not asphaltting the lot but instead finishing it with more gravel or possibly chip and seal. The board will make a final decision at a future date.
14. Ms. DePrey presented her principal's report. Mr. Somers said that they were busy.
15. The SA-5 reports were presented.
16. Marlene Mitzner asked if the board had received an appointment letter from the Library at Wanatah. The school corporation had not received any letter. She stated that the appointment needed to be done before the first of the year. Tim Guse motioned that the board appoint Marlene Mitzner to the Wanatah Library advisory board, Paul Malecki seconded, all approved and the motion passed.
17. The board discussed compensation for board members. Dick Bucher motioned to set board member salaries at \$2,000 per year, Bob Younggreen seconded, all approved and the motion passed.
18. Paul Malecki motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bob Younggreen seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Joyce Spoljaric, Secretary