

School City of Hobart
Regular Session
February 3, 2005

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on February 3, 2005, in the Board Room located in Hobart Middle School, 705 East 4th Street, Hobart, Indiana, with the following present:

Board Members

Jason Back
Robert W. Marszalek
Stephen R. Turner
Michael J. Rogers
Terry D. Butler
William David Bigler
Nancy J. Norris
HHS student representative

Staff Members

John A. Leach
Rich Edwards
Peggy Buffington
Ted Zembala
William J. Longer
Peter L. Goerges

The work session was called to order around 6:48 p.m. by President Jason Back.

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

Kathie Godfrey, *Hobart Chronicle*
Karen Snelling, *Post-Tribune*
Jim Thompson, Gibraltar Design
Alex Nelson, Gibraltar Design
Larry Dawson, Envoy, Inc.
Drew Martin, high school teacher
Six high school Project Lead The Way students and family members

President Back turned the meeting over to Larry Dawson from Envoy. Mr. Dawson passed out a rough draft of a project schedule for the new building project. He noted that the governor has put a 120 moratorium on all school building projects. He highlighted the project schedule and noted that there would be work sessions for the new building project prior to regular meetings into the first of June, and then periodically after that. The project schedule was divided into two areas—design phase and bidding phase. Under the design phase different primary phases were listed and are as follows: educational specifications, preliminary design, schematic design phase, design development, and construction documents. Each of these areas then outlined specific coordinating items with their beginning and finish dates shown. Several school visitations were also planned. The proposed lease and hearing will be discussed the early part of March with the financial representative, Jim Elizondo, and hopefully, he will also have the contracts for Gibraltar Design and Envoy. Front-end project costs and where the monies will be coming from will also be discussed. Peter Goerges, Legal Consultant, explained that in large building projects, bond anticipation notes are issued. These short term notes provide cash to pay obligations related to the project before the major bonds are issued and are repaid from bond issue monies. He noted that if the governor's moratorium is extended, the sale of bonds scheduled in December would have to be modified. Mr. Dawson indicated that project work was continuing, and he thought that the 120 day moratorium could be workable. The state level hearing request for the project will be four months later than originally planned. Presently, the schedule calls for the bond issue to be sold in December, but if the governor's moratorium is extended beyond 120 days, the schedule would have to be revised. However, if the governor extends the moratorium beyond that, there could be some delays. Because of this, he noted that no one really knows what is going to happen, and he wanted the Board to know that neither he nor Gibraltar Design could make any commitment to the Board or community as to when the project would begin or when it will be finished. Mr. Dawson indicated that no decision has been made about the athletic field.

Mr. Dawson told the Board that Gibraltar Design will continue to prepare needed plans and documents for the development of the new school. They will be reporting back to the Board and working with them at work sessions. He indicated that there are some important dates and time lines that need to be met in May and June. If everything keeps on schedule, the project will be bid in November and awarded in December. December is a critical month for financial coordination of the project. Mr. Dawson commented at this point he didn't think anyone knew what the governor was going to do.

Jim Thompson from Gibraltar Design noted that no remonstrances were filed for the project, and he congratulated everyone for the team work involved in making the community knowledgeable of the

project. New project notebooks were handed out as well as an overview of the proposed project design and planning schedule which noted key dates through May. Educational specifications will be approved at the February 17 Board meeting, and preliminary design approval was scheduled for March 17, 2005. A community symposium is scheduled for April 12, and the schematic design will be considered at the May 26 Board meeting. He noted that a steering committee has been formed at the high school. The steering committee will operate in a similar manner as the needs committee functioned. Their first meeting will be held on February 10. The committee will be seeking input from the staff and supplying this information to Gibraltar for their use in the design process.

Mr. Thompson indicated that the work sessions are scheduled before the Board meetings with information being presented at the work session to be acted upon at the next Board meeting and asked if this was agreeable with the Board. Board members liked the work session set-up. Mr. Bigler inquired as to when the Board would be discussing the middle school, and Mr. Thompson indicated there will probably be a meeting or two this spring. Then next fall they will meet with the middle school staff to begin their project with the process being similar to what the high school did last fall. Mr. Butler inquired about being able to do any middle school work to maximize the usage of funds. Mr. Dawson indicated that it would depend on when the bonds are sold and interest costs. Mr. Turner wanted Board members to be able to have drawings two weeks before their approval so that changes could be considered. Dr. Buffington told the Board that there were many volunteers for the high school's steering committee, and the committee will be seeking input from everyone. The first meeting will be at 2:40 p.m. in the high school library on February 10, and then every two weeks after that. She invited Board members to attend the meetings as well as joining them for any of the planned school visitations.

Mr. Thompson also noted that on April 12 there will be two public symposiums where Dr. Willard Daggett will be the guest speaker. Envoy and Gibraltar will also make a presentation. Mr. Turner asked whether the symposium could be scheduled on a Saturday and a Tuesday evening so that more people might be able to attend. Mr. Thompson indicated that the symposium had to be worked around Dr. Daggett's schedule and also consideration was given for teachers and students. Dr. Leach indicated that Dr. Daggett is an outstanding educational expert and an outstanding speaker. He speaks about the trends in education and preparing students for the future. Dr. Buffington indicated that community members including business leaders, civic groups local governing bodies, parents, students, and graduates will be learning about his vision of 21st century schools, the community's educational future, and be able to offer input on the new school's design. There will be two sessions—one from 7-9:30 a.m. and the other from 3:30-6:00 p.m. and will be held in the high school auditorium. Childcare will be provided for the second session. Mr. Turner was concerned that the schedule wasn't conducive for working parents. Mr. Butler pointed out that input could be given at the downtown storefront, and Dr. Buffington indicated that people will be offered ways to offer input off the school corporation's website. Also, they could use email. Mr. Bigler asked if Dr. Daggett's presentation could be videotaped and then run at the storefront. Dr. Buffington said this could be done. Mr. Thompson told the Board that each of them will be lobbied by individuals for their particular area(s) of interest for the new school, and they have to remember to play neutral roles.

The work session was adjourned at 7:37 p.m., and President Back then convened into regular session with Board members and administrators present as noted above.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Back led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Back noted that the Board had met in executive session at 6:30 p.m. in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(1) where authorized by federal or state statute; (6) with respect to any individual over whom the governing body has jurisdiction: (A) to receive information concerning the individual's alleged misconduct; and (B) to discuss, prior to any determination, that individual's status as an employee, student, or independent contractor who is a physician; and (9) to discuss job performance evaluation of individual employees.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: President Back welcomed the high school student representative to the Board meeting. The student indicated that he had thought about applying to be the student representative last school year but wasn't sure about being able to make the time commitment. This year he reconsidered the commitment involved and decided to apply for the position. He thought it would be good experience for him. Mr. Butler commented that he will be the Board's link to the students at the high school—getting input from them and letting them know what's happening. The student representative said that the students were excited about the new building project. Mr. Turner commented that he was a guest speaker in a GT class at the high school, and the student representative asked some very good questions. He welcomed him to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Rogers moved to approve the executive and regular session minutes of January 20, 2005. Seconded by Robert Marszalek. All ayes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Ted Zembala presented the following for the Board's consideration and approval:

Safety and Asset Protection at Hobart High School and George Earle, Ridge View, and Liberty Elementary Schools:

A. Applications for Payment

1. Walsh & Kelly, Inc. - \$226,124.00
2. D.A. Dodd, Inc. - \$5,301.00
3. Alt & Witzig Engineering - \$4,154.00

Terry Butler moved to approve the claims. Seconded by Nancy Norris. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Butler asked what work was encompassed with the Walsh and Kelly claim. It was thought that it was for the parking area at Ridge View and some work at George Earle. After this payment, there will only be retainage monies left for them.

PERSONNEL: Ted Zembala, Business Manager, presented the following personnel item for the Board's consideration:

Adjustments to Contracts –

Peggy Buffington, Administration Office, new tax-sheltered annuity enrollment
Joseph Burger, Liberty School, added basketball challenge (8 hours), \$146.32
Darren Cline, Hobart High School, increased tax-sheltered annuity amount
Beth Germain, Hobart Middle School, added science coach, \$556.00
Karen Kuyachich, Ridge View School, added drama club (9 hours), \$164.61
Greg Marsh, Hobart Middle School, prep period compensation (36 days), \$1,329.48 and salary lane adjustment to B.S.+15, \$43,177.48
Christine Pallotta, Liberty School, added media fair club (12 hours), \$219.48
Carrie Spinks, Liberty School, added media fair club (12 hours), \$219.48
Laura Stephens, Ridge View School, added drama club (9 hours), \$164.61
Dianne Wettstein, Hobart Middle School, prep period compensation (36 days), \$1,290.96.
195 current teacher contracts (193 regular contracts + 2 temporary contracts), adjusted to reflect one percent salary increase approved on December 16, 2004

Homebound Teaching Contracts –

January 18/January 31, 2005: Randall Benton, science fundamentals, \$32.68 per hour; and Lauren Smith, Algebra, \$29.87 per hour
January 18/February 17, 2005: Samuel Ford, Biology II: H. Biology, \$49.08 per hour; Andrea Fressle, novel, \$50.52 per hour; Barbara Loverich, Psychology AP, \$50.52 per hour; and Kari Roach, economics, \$46.24 per hour
Pamela Kanich, special education, \$34.77 per hour

Request for Leave of Absence –

Sue Duncan, George Earle/recreation paraprofessional, FMLA, effective January 26, 2005, until on or about February 14, 2005
Carrie Sinks, Liberty/1st grade, FMLA, effective on or about May 16 until June 8, 2005

New Employee –

Al Zacker, Service Center/maintenance supervisor, effective February 17, 2005, \$50,000.00

Mr. Zembala recommended approval and requested Board action.

Robert Marszalek moved to approve as presented. David Bigler seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Butler asked if the Board would have the opportunity to meet Mr. Zacker, and Dr. Leach indicated that he and Mr. Skimehorn will be invited to a Board meeting within the next month.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: There were no comments from the audience on the listed agenda items.

PRESENTATION: HOBART HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT LEAD THE WAY STUDENTS: Dr. Peggy Buffington, Assistant Superintendent, indicated that it was pleased to have Drew Martin, a Project Lead The Way teacher at the high school, and six of his students from the Principles of Engineering class which is the second year class for Project Lead The Way. The students were introduced, and Mr. Martin told the Board about some of the projects that this year’s class had done and some such as bridges and ping pong launchers were brought for the Board to view. The students explained what was involved with each of these projects. The main project demonstrated was marble sorters, and the Board and audience were able to view a couple of the sorters in action as they sorted white marbles from black ones. After students are given the parameters of a project, each team has to come up with a design, trouble shoot it, and problem solve to get it to accomplish the designed goal. The teams often help one another in this process. This year’s class has an enrollment of 21 students compared to an enrollment of 19 in last year’s class. Mr. Martin indicated that Jim Thompson was a guest speaker in the Civil Engineering and Architecture class, and the class is working with Gibraltar and Envoy on the concession stand project and taking samples. He felt that this was a great opportunity for the students. Also, students in the Project Lead The Way classes who pass their final exams have the option of receiving dual credit–high school and college from Purdue University. The students indicated that they enjoyed the class and were still interested in the engineering field. Mr. Martin pointed out that besides designing projects, the students also have to make presentations about them which brings in the need for English and technology skills. Mr. Martin and Hank Jarvis were complimented for all of their efforts with this program and their willingness to further their education with the classes they are teaching for Project Lead The Way. Mr. Butler commented that he was speaking with a superintendent in the Indianapolis area who was telling him about a new innovative program they were going to have in their district, Project Lead The Way, and he was able let the superintendent know that Hobart High School has had the program for a couple of years. Mr. Martin and students were thanked for coming to their presentation and were excused from the meeting.

REQUEST: OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY FOR HOBART HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA STUDENTS: Superintendent Leach asked the Board to approve an overnight field trip request from Cathy Nelson for Hobart High School drama students to travel to New York City this coming August. The Board received a letter from Assistant Principal Steve Peterson supporting the request. Dr. Leach recommended that the Board approve the trip contingent upon the authority of the Superintendent to cancel the trip if extreme unsafe conditions in the world would make the trip unsafe.

Approval contingent upon the superintendent’s approval was so moved by Nancy Norris and seconded by Michael Rogers. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Butler indicated that he liked that the group has the ability to reschedule the trip or get a refund up to close to the time of the trip.

REPORT: 2004 ISTEP SCORES: Dr. Rich Edwards and Dr. Peggy Buffington, Assistant Superintendents, reported to the Board on the 2004 math and language arts ISTEP+ scores for grades 3, 6, and 8. Dr. Edwards highlighted the graphs comparing Hobart’s 2003 and 2004 scores and the 2004 state averages by school and grade. Also, he briefly reviewed the trend information which compared scores from the fall of 2001 through 2004 for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10. He indicated this year’s scores were higher than the state averages and last year’s scores. Listed below was the trend data for the Fall of 2004:

Fall 2004	STATE		HOBART		Difference	
GRADE	Eng/Lang Arts	Math	Eng/Lang Arts	Math	Eng/Lang Arts	Math
3	75%	73%	83%	78%	8%	5%
6	70%	75%	74%	84%	4%	9%
8	67%	71%	74%	81%	7%	10%

The following was the trend data for the Fall of 2001 through 2004:

Grade	2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Eng/LA	Math	Eng/LA	Math	Eng/LA	Math	Eng/LA	Math

3	70%	81%	75%	73%	74%	68%	83%	78%
6	54%	70%	75%	70%	71%	69%	74%	84%
8	70%	66%	68%	67%	65%	71%	74%	81%
10	71%	66%	66%	66%	70%	—	—	—

Dr. Buffington spoke to the Board about some of the reasons for the good results. One of the biggest differences is that our teachers are good at using and sorting test data. It can be sorted by individual student, groups of students, or broken down by the Indiana academic standards. The individual school improvement plans outline different interventions and strategies to be used. Dr. Buffington told the Board that they will have an opportunity to view those plans towards the end of the school year for NCA accreditation. She indicated that the listed interventions were thoroughly researched, and staff members have had many professional development opportunities. She said that they believe in a balanced literacy program with reading and writing. Another area that was looked at was the regression of learning over the summer. Last summer, a team of teachers worked to put together test taking strategies for students as well as creating homework packets. The packets were handed out in the fall, and parents were given the answers and were an integral part of the review process. Tremendous results were shown on the ISTEP tests, and Dr. Buffington expressed her appreciation to all involved—teacher, students, and parents.

In the discussion Mr. Bigler noted that even though parents don't realize it, they teach their children things every day, and by providing them the answers, it allowed them to be part of this process. They were helping their children with this important educational component which was a total team effort. Mrs. Norris noted that it is so helpful to have testing that can actually "pinpoint" where a student needs assistance. Mr. Marszalek commented on the gains that were made especially for 8th grade math. Dr. Buffington noted that a team of middle school teachers had gone to the University of Chicago looking into their Transitions Program, and from the information gained, student math capabilities are assessed, and if they are capable of doing pre-algebra, that is what they are taught. Dr. Buffington noted that Hobart has many good programs in place, and the results of those are now being shown. She also commented that the 6th grade teachers have seen a noticeable difference in their students' writing abilities this year. Mrs. Norris asked about the transient students and whether they can be tracked, and Dr. Edwards indicated this is only done for AYP (Annual Yearly Progress).

REPORT: 2004 SUMMER SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT: Dr. Rich Edwards reviewed summer school costs for the 2004 summer school program. The report was divided into three categories with the costs involved: #1 was for middle school math, pre-algebra, Algebra 1, integrated math, and math lab - \$25,359.00; #2 was for core curricular programs except those listed in category #1 - \$113,851.00; and #3 was enrichment and elective studies - \$8,645.00 for a total cost of \$147,855.00. Reimbursement for each category was as follows: #1 - \$26,626.95 or 105 percent, #2 - \$83,155.69 or 69 percent; and #3 no reimbursement. After reimbursement, the total cost to the school corporation was \$38,072.36. The Board was asked to accept the 2004 summer school reimbursement in the amount of \$109,782.64.

Nancy Norris moved to accept the funds. Stephen Turner seconded.

Dr. Leach noted that summer school reimbursement amounts are dependent upon the number of participating school corporations. Because of this, reimbursement amounts are never known before programs are offered, and Mr. Marszalek indicated that the state will not be reimbursing the math classes at 100 percent this summer. Mrs. Norris commented that because the reimbursement amounts fluctuate from year to year, it is difficult to budget specific amounts for the program.

Vote on Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

- ◀**School Information** - Board members received weekly activities from Joan Martin and Liberty Elementary Schools, and the monthly activities calendar from Ridge View Elementary School.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Dr. Leach indicated that he had attended two workshops this week that were arranged by Dr. Buffington. The first one was on Tuesday for the NCA steering committees who were working diligently for the upcoming NCA documentation review. On Wednesday and Thursday he was in and out of a writers workshop for teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5 which was very demanding for those attending. The presenters were from the Teachers College of Columbia University

in New York, and he complimented Dr. Buffington for organizing the workshops. Dr. Edwards extended his congratulations to all of those involved with the Project Lead The Way presentation. He commented that Mr. Martin was being very modest when he said he doesn't do much teaching because the students are learning by themselves. He failed to mention that he has to set everything up for them to do this. He said that the projects are always a lot of fun to watch. Dr. Buffington complimented the NCA steering committee members and noted that they left their meeting with a great deal of information that would be shared with their respective staffs on February 8, a professional development day. Mr. Zembala welcomed the student representative to the Board and commented that he was sure Board members would appreciate his assistance with the voucher report. He extended his congratulations to the Project Lead The Way students and noted that they were learning to work with their peers. He also commented on the ISTEP report and the benefits of being able to pinpoint individual student problem areas and being able to involve parents with homework to help their child learn.

There were no comments from the audience.

From the Board, Mrs. Norris indicated that she attended the Junior Achievement presentation for second graders at Joan Martin School, and she said it was a great learning experience as well as being fun. She was looking forward to next week's meeting. Mr. Bigler thanked Dr. Buffington and the administration for their efforts in bringing the family back into the educational process. The student representative reported to the Board that the band "did extremely well" at the recent state solo and ensemble contest and highlighted the individual areas and students' names. The Quiz Bowl team will be competing at Culver on February 19. He commented that there have been changes in the SAT test, and the improvement of the language arts scores should help with future SAT scores, too. Mr. Butler indicated that he was impressed with the Project Lead The Way presentation. The students are learning with hands-on projects, and he thought the partnership with the construction firm was a great opportunity for the students. Mr. Rogers echoed the prior comments. He offered his congratulations to the student representative and welcomed him to the Board. He indicated that the Board appreciated his willingness and commitment to attend the Board meetings. Mr. Rogers noted that the athletic teams were doing well and invited Board members to attend a game if they had time. Mr. Marszalek said that he attended the ISBA winter workshop and thought it was an outstanding conference, and he had passed on information that he thought would be of interest to them.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Back thanked the audience for coming and adjourned the meeting around 8:41 p.m.

Board of School Trustees
School City of Hobart

By _____
Jason Back, President

Attest:

By _____
Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: February 17, 2005