

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
WORK AND REGULAR SESSIONS
MARCH 17, 2005**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in work and regular sessions on March 17, 2005, in the Board Room at Hobart Middle School, 705 East 4th Street, Hobart, Indiana, with the following present or absent as noted:

Board Members

Jason Back
Robert W. Marszalek
Stephen R. Turner
Michael J. Rogers
Terry D. Butler
William David Bigler
Nancy J. Norris
High School Student Representative (Left work session early due to illness)

Staff Members

John A. Leach
Rich Edwards
Peggy Buffington
Ted Zembala
William J. Longer
Peter L. Goerges (After work session began)
Tony Skimehorn (Work session only)

AUDIENCE: The following individuals were present in the audience:

Jim Thompson, Gibraltar Design
Dave Blanton, Gibraltar Design
Brian McFarland, Gibraltar Design
Don Monday, Gibraltar Design

The work session began around 5:44 p.m.

Brian McFarland from Gibraltar Design noted what he hoped would be addressed at the work session. He said that they wanted to review the strikeout items, possible floor plan, diagrams of combination of space and size, and the site plan as well as some issues for the April 7th meeting when they will be presenting information on Brickie Bowl.

Dr. Peggy Buffington, Assistant Superintendent, indicated that the changes in space allocations came about because of collaboration with staff members. Mr. Turner inquired how the Board members questions would be addressed. President Back asked that this be done as the information is reviewed. Don Monday asked if there were any questions in the Administration area. Mr. Butler had some questions about the redistribution of space for the administration office area and whether two conference rooms were needed. Mr. Rogers noted that the total square footage was now 319,587 which was under the 320,000 goal. Mr. Monday concurred that they are still within budgeted square footage. Dr. Buffington indicated that 50,000 square feet had to be trimmed, and they were creative in meeting their needs and staying within the allotted square footage. Mr. Turner asked about the security office space and whether there was adequate space. The office is for the school resource officer, and Mr. Rogers said that Merrillville's security office had four monitors with each monitor divided into 16 different camera views in about the same size office. Dr. Edwards commented that the administration wants the resource officer to be "out and about" in the school and felt the office was adequate for their needs.

There were no changes for the Guidance or Art areas. There were no changes in the Business area, and they will have general classrooms. In the General Instruction area there was a question about the classroom and storage designated for ROTC. Dr. Buffington indicated that they will be starting a ROTC program at the high school next year. There will be two instructors for an anticipated enrollment of 100 to 110 students, and the classroom will have a moveable wall so it could be two classrooms. The Health area had no changes. Large Group Instruction was enlarged by 650 square feet for a Small Group Instruction area. The large group area could be used as the future Board Room and for lecture seminars, and the small group area could be used by the Board for executive sessions as well small group meetings. Mr. Bigler asked about room capacity and was told 90-100 people for the large group area. There were no changes in the Science area. Dr. Buffington told the Board that after meeting with the science teachers, they requested that each teacher have their own lab. Some of the rationale for their request was that with curriculum mapping, the teachers in the same subject areas are usually teaching the same information at the same time, and for classroom management, they want control of their own lab. Dr. Buffington indicated that "there are consequences if a student messes with someone else's project." Dr. Leach commented that this was a good example of why it was important to include the staff in the initial planning and to listen to their rationale for what their department was

requesting. There were no questions about Special Education. In the Auditorium area the make-up rooms were reduced from 500 square feet to 250 square feet. The Performing Arts area had no changes. In the Vocational Area the only change was a course title in Family and Consumer Science department. Dr. Buffington said that they are moving towards child development, and the possibility of having a pre-school program which will have vocational students assisting with the program. In the Media Center area the computer area within the stacks was enlarged to accommodate 32 computers which will allow a classroom to be there and would be another lab space area. This will be in addition to the two labs already designated there and will allow three classes access to the media center at the same time. Mr. Monday commented that they saw this at the Freshman Academy at Pike, and the staff liked the set up. The professional library was moved into the media area along with a work room and copy machine.

There was discussion about the physical education and athletic areas. Mr. Turner wanted to know why the athletic director's office was twice as large as the administrator offices. He was told that one of the uses of the room would be hosting meetings, but Dr. Buffington didn't know how many meetings it would be needed for. Mr. Turner commented that it was a large room, and if it is only needed for a small number of meetings, maybe another area could be used for the meetings. He also inquired about the hospitality and conference area. It was noted that the athletic office area is a high traffic area. Mr. Bigler commented that there are other activities. Dr. Buffington indicated that similar areas were in two of the schools visited, and the suite area is about the same as what Crown Point has. Dr. Leach inquired as to whether the Board had an issue with having the hospitality area. Mr. Bigler didn't think there was because there could be multiple events going on where a hospitality area would be necessary. Mr. Turner didn't understand the need for the room to be 20 x 30. Mr. Butler indicated that with the new athletic facilities, Hobart may be hosting more events that will require a room of that size especially if there is a field house. Dr. Leach also said that size room was not out of line, and Mr. Butler indicated that a classroom is used for these kinds of events now. Mr. Turner still felt that the usage of the room needed to be given careful consideration. Mr. Bigler felt that the room would be used as overflow from the athletic office and that it would be used for other functions. Mr. Butler commented that it will be centrally located to the athletic areas. Mr. Monday noted that as plans are developed further some of these areas "will make more sense." There were no changes in the Cardio Area. Mr. Monday indicated that the Auxiliary Gym was deleted and moved to the upper balcony of in the spectator gymnasium. After visiting Merrillville, Dr. Buffington said that they may want to increase the free weight and weight machines areas a little and said that they may be wanting to "tweak" this later. The free weights and weight machines are now separate areas. Mr. Bigler indicated that this worked well for community use as well. Usually people start on the weight machines and then go to free weights and cardio machines. There were no changes in the Laundry or Pool areas. Mr. Rogers asked about the shape of the wrestling room, and he was told that it will be rectangular. Mr. Butler said it would be about half the size of Merrillville's. They will be able to have about one and one-half mats more than they have now. Mr. Bigler asked about temporary bleachers, and Mr. Monday said that the plan is to use chairs because competition meets would be held in the gymnasium. In the Field House the Locker Room area square footage was reduced to 2200 square feet from 2400. Mr. Butler inquired as to which lockers the visiting teams will be using in the Field House. Mr. McFarland said that using physical education lockers and pool lockers could be an option, but he said that decision hadn't been made yet. He said it will depend upon boys basketball and where they will be playing. They may not play in the field house.

There were no changes in the Cafeteria area. Mr. Turner inquired as to the seating capacity of the cafeteria, and Mr. McFarland said around 600. Mr. Marszalek asked when lunch hours were since school was out at 2:30 p.m. Presently, there are three lunch hours with the first one beginning around 10:30 a.m. The Board asked them to try to have two lunch hours instead of three. Mr. McFarland said that with the food court more students can be served than in the traditional serving line. He said that he will be discussing this with food service personnel as well as the kinds of meals to serve to get students served quicker. There was discussion about the lunch hours. Mr. Turner indicated that his kids didn't like the lunch times, not necessarily because they ate early, but then they had a long time before dinner time. Mr. Butler said he has had comments that the split lunch class period was not good. Mr. McFarland said they will work on this and try to see how many students can be served in a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Thompson commented that an ala carte line will move quicker and indicated that they will be working with the food service people on this. It was noted that the cafeteria will be part of the Great Hall. Mr. Monday commented that it will become clearer as the plans develop how the overflow area will work and people will get through the area. Mrs. Norris inquired as to what

was in the Great Hall space, and if the cafeteria has 8,000 square feet designated plus space for circulation, how will special events like dances and meetings be handled. Also, she noted that kids could even eat lunch outside weather permitting. Mr. Turner indicated that the space will be multi-functional, but he expressed concern about the size of their storage room being only 250 square feet and whether all the tables and chairs will be able to fit in it. He asked them to investigate this further. Mr. Butler noted that storage is always a problem. In the Faculty area the professional library space was moved to the Media Center, and the Team Plan/Work/Counseling space was deleted. There was a question about the faculty restrooms and whether non-gender facilities should be considered rather than having gender restrooms. It was noted that the faculty would prefer gender restrooms even though they would be private facilities. It was noted that the number of employees may determine whether gender facilities are required.

Gibraltar wanted to set aside the Building Support Area, but Mr. Turner noted that the Board had not ever discussed this area before, and he inquired how the air handling units would be housed. He also questioned the amount of storage room shown and whether there will be custodial closets on each floor and wing. Mr. Thompson responded that this particular area is still in the conceptual stages, and they have only begun to work on the details. Mr. Skimehorn thought it was a good idea to have custodial closets by the restrooms so they could put access to the pipe chase in the closet areas. Mrs. Norris inquired if there was still storage space available at the Service Center, and she was told that tables and chairs are stored there and moved to the schools as needed. Liberty is the only elementary school with adequate storage. Mr. Thompson said that after the Building Support Area is done, it may be necessary to revisit this plan and “massage” it again to stay within the allotted space. Dr. Leach indicated that if the plan needs to be reassessed, they will have to begin the process of meeting with the staff to reallocate the amount of space. Mr. Butler asked if anyone knew what the governor’s ratio was for athletics vs. academics. Mr. McFarland indicated that no one has seen this information so far. However, he didn’t feel that these facilities were out of line for a new high school. It was noted that the changes that were reviewed from the green sheets have been reflected on a clean copy on ivory paper. Mr. McFarland said that a lot of work has been accomplished on this project, and space allocations will continue to be discussed. Mr. Turner commented that this week’s information was easier to read and was very helpful to him.

Mr. McFarland then reviewed preliminary plans with the Board. There was a preliminary floor plan A and preliminary site plan A, preliminary site plan A Topo, preliminary site plan A, preliminary site plan B, and preliminary floor plan B. Mr. Marszalek asked about student lockers, and he was told that locker bays were being considered. Dr. Buffington said that they will continue to share information with the steering committee. Mr. Bigler wondered if the courtyard space could be flipped with the kitchen space to make the kitchen more centralized. Mr. McFarland said that the courtyard was put there so the media center would have natural light from the windows, but it could be reviewed. Dr. Buffington indicated that the steering committee members have commented that they felt that the architects did listen to their comments especially while on school visitations as to what they liked about each of the individual schools, and windows and natural light were aspects that they wanted incorporated in the building. She noted that they felt that Chesterton High School was too spread out and difficult to navigate. They like having the academic area together, and they really like the Great Hall concept. Mr. Marszalek inquired about the traffic flow for students trying to navigate through the Great Hall area. Mr. McFarland indicated that the tables and seating arrangements can be configured to assist with the circulation space such as small group areas. Dr. Buffington indicated that Forest Hills even had a media center for student usage in the Great Hall. There was discussion about ceiling heights and roof lines in the different areas like the elective studios, media center, Great Hall, auditorium, and band room. Mr. Thompson said that circulation needs will have to be addressed, and he said that furniture and kiosks will have to be organized effectively assist with this.

Mr. Butler asked if the weights in the field house would be on two levels, and Mr. McFarland responded said that they looking for all of them to be on the main level. It was noted that the concession stand could serve both areas. Mr. Marszalek inquired whether a track meet could be held in the field house. Dr. Buffington said that Eastern has six lanes in their field house. The coaches have requested the same, but their request is still being studied. Mr. Marszalek asked if it would be 300 meters, and Mr. Bigler indicated 160 meters which would be similar to Merrillville. Dr. Buffington indicated that Portage will have 180 meters in their new facility. Mr. Bigler noted that the large group instruction and small group instruction areas are off the lobby space for easy accessw. Mr. Butler asked where possible expansion would be done off of the academic wings.

Mr. Turner noted that a lot of thought had been given to the initial plan, but he said that the Board hasn't seen any other plans. He appreciated the work that had been done, but he thought the Board would like to have more than one concept plan to choose from. Mr. McFarland indicated that if the building was placed sideways on the site and because of the big box sections, there wouldn't be any windows showing on the street. Having the academic wing face 10th Street makes a better presentation with the big box sections behind it. Forty percent of the building is big box sections without windows. Mr. McFarland reviewed preliminary site plan B. The big box areas were the same with the auditorium on the outside. He noted that this plan would make a bigger statement than plan A. Mr. McFarland will come up with some other ideas to show the Board. Mr. Turner thought that it would be nice to be able to see some other concepts.

Mr. Butler spoke about the outside practice facilities and the distance the athletes have to walk to and from the high school locker rooms. Mr. Bigler suggested moving the event parking to the tennis courts area and moving the fields forward. There was discussion as to how some of the fields could be moved to reconfigure the area.

Mr. Rogers asked if they had spoken to the city about Union Street. Mr. Thompson indicated that they had spoken to the city engineer about a curb cut onto Tenth Street and the potential for a light at Union and Tenth Streets. There will be a traffic study done. He indicated that he was impressed with the city engineer and his knowledge of state requirements for doing this. There shouldn't be any difficulties with the utilities, and the sewers are the right size. He noted that the School City is one of the major utility users in Hobart. Mr. Turner said that the majority of the traffic will be going west and will have to turn against the traffic. He suggested the need to work on a plan to separate and keep the traffic moving for those going west. Mr. Monday commented about the topographic plan that showed the school placement and various aspects of the topography. Mr. Skimehorn expressed his concern about the buses leaving the school, and he said that ten of the eleven buses will be turning left when they leave the school. Mr. Turner pointed out that the bus zones can't be angled as shown on the site plan. Mr. Thompson indicated that the traffic study will assist them with the traffic design, and he noted that when the buses are loading or unloading, they will be isolated. Another site issue will be how much room is needed for the turning lane. He said that after the site plan is developed and the traffic study has been done, they will then present their requests to the state as to what they feel the needs will be for the school. At the April 7 work session he thought some of these items could be discussed further when there was more time.

The work session was adjourned around 7:38 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Jason Back, President of the Board, called the regular session meeting to order around 7:39 p.m. with Board members and administrators present or absent as noted above.

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

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

Denise Galovic, Assistant Principal at Hobart High School
Debora Olejniczek, high school teacher
Fran Hamilton, media center secretary at the high school
Two high school students
College student and her mother
Kathie Godfrey, *The Hobart Chronicle*
Jim Thompson, Gibraltar Design

EXECUTIVE SESSION: As noted on the agenda, Mr. Back indicated that the Board met in executive session prior to the work session and in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(1) where authorized by federal or state statute; and (9) to discuss job performance evaluation of individual employees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Michael Rogers moved to approved the minutes of the executive and work and regular sessions of March 3, 2005. Seconded by Terry Butler. All ayes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The following were presented for the Board's consideration:

1. Vouchers for March 17, 2005:

Stephen Turner read the summary sheet of the March 17 accounts payable voucher register as follows:

General Fund - \$751,496.27,
Capital Projects Fund - \$113,230.73
Transportation Operating Fund - \$58,592.12,
Debt Service Fund - \$787.50,
Retirement/Severance Bond Fund - \$1,396,312.24,
School Lunch Fund - \$76,388.02,
PCGB Agreement Proceeds - \$838.10,
Hobart Educational Program - \$825.00,
Non-English Speaking Program - \$118.45,
Technology Fund - \$30,314.70,
Technology Planning Grant Fund - \$727.00,
Title I Fund 2004-2005 - \$1,110.22,
Title V Fund 2004-2005 - \$150.00,
Drug Free Schools 2004-2005 - \$75.00,
School to Work - STE 744 - \$543.62,
Title II, Part A Fund 2003-2004 - \$93.80,
Title II, Part A Fund 2004-2005 - \$322.89,
Title II, Part D, Education Technology Fund 2003-2004 - \$1,660.00,
Title II, Part D, Education Technology Fund 2004-2005 - \$205.68,
Clearing Accounts - \$404,085.95,
Clearing/Flexible Benefits - \$2,915.76, and
Clearing/Insurance Account - \$14,344.41

totaling \$2,855,137.46 with no transfers. The February 2005 payroll distribution by the corporation treasurer totaled \$1,111,481.70.

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

Board members also received the following monthly financial reports dated, March 14, 2005: Summary of Balances by Account-Object, Estimated Revenue by Account, Analysis by Object. and Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

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

- a. Application for Payment
 - 1) Fluid Dynamics, Inc. - \$19,988.00

Terry Butler moved to approve, and Stephen Turner seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

2004-2005 Contract Adjustments -

Kristin Wyer-Smith, Joan Martin, adjusted for medical insurance rebate, \$500

One teacher contract reflecting one percent salary increase approved on December 16, 2004

Homebound Teaching Contracts -

February 23/May 7, 2005: Robert Wilson, math, \$29.87 per hour

February 17/April 18, 2005: Carrie Spinks, 1st grade, \$28.82 per hour

March 4/24, 2005: Mark Leto, allied health, \$32.79 per hour, and Dwight Mathis, U.S. history, \$49.08 per hour

Service Agreement -

Andrea Fressle, Hobart High School/GQE review, February 24, March 3, 8, and 10, 2005,
4 hours, \$202.08

Extra Duty Contract -

Hobart High/girls tennis, March 14/June 10, 2005
Pam Paun, JV coach, \$1,151.00

Probationary Employee --

Mary Ellen Peterson, Service Center/bus driver, February 28/May 30, 2005, \$46.48 per day
(A contract may be issued upon successful completion of 90-day probation period.)

Mr. Zembala recommended approval and requested Board action.

Nancy Norris moved for approval. Michael Rogers seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

PRESENTATION: HOBART HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR CLASS AND PEER TUTORING PROGRAM: Denise Galovic, assistant principal at the high school, and Debora Olejniczek, French teacher, told the Board about the high school's educational seminar class and the cadet teaching program. Mrs. Galovic told the Board how the educational seminar class began at the suggestion of Mrs. Olejniczek. The class is for students who want to become educators and offers students the opportunity to observe and experience first hand what goes on in the classroom. Even though Mrs. Olejniczek suggested having the educational seminar class, she had not thought about who would teach it until Mrs. Galovic approached her to see if she would be the teacher. In conjunction with the class, many of the students also participate in the cadet teaching program. The cadet teaching program has students placed in all of the elementary schools and middle school as well as St. Bridget, Trinity Lutheran, and Montessori Schools. Also, the students work with the special education teachers.

Mrs. Olejniczek told the Board about the class and how it has evolved. Speakers are invited, and most of the administrators, including Dr. Leach, have visited. This year Joe Burger, a Hobart graduate and teacher at Liberty, and Lauren Smith, middle school teacher, were speakers. In addition to taking the class students are encouraged to participate in cadet teaching or peer tutoring. Students evaluate the class each year, and she reviews them in planning for the next class. The class also takes a study trip to Purdue Calumet. Mrs. Olejniczek told the Board that she invited two students to the meeting and asked them to relate some of their classroom experiences with the Board. She said that both of them have the potential to become outstanding educators.

The first student said that she was a little apprehensive about the class because she was the only underclassman in a class with seniors. However, her fears were alleviated as the class evolved. They observed classroom teachers, reflected each day by journaling, and interacted with the speakers, and she also participated in cadet teaching. She felt that the class was a great experience. The other student told the Board that she enjoyed the class and indicated that students find out "the reality" of what teaching is about. She has participated in cadet teaching with her 5th grade teacher, Lisa Vann, at Liberty. She assisted wherever needed such as helping students individually or in groups, worked on bulletin board, and graded papers. She thought that she might be a special education teacher and is particularly interested in Down Syndrome children. She felt the seminar class was a positive experience and noted that she even put her name on her evaluation of the class.

Mrs. Olejniczek commented that the class not only assists those who will enter the field of education, but those who decide that education is not the career they will pursue. Mr. Marszalek extended his compliments to Mrs. Olejniczek for originating the class and on her enthusiasm for the class which he said was quite evident in her presentation and from the positive comments from the students. Mr. Butler commented that his daughter is in education and many of the experiences students are doing in this class are what his daughter had in college. Also, the time worked is more like 14 hours a day. Mr. Bigler noted that the class brings in the "reality" of what's involved in teaching, and after taking the class, students are able to decide if they still want to pursue it as their career. Dr. Buffington

commented that one of the students was her intern this year, and she helped with STI applications and assisted with this year's freshman orientation. Dr. Buffington said that she has the qualities to become an excellent teacher. Dr. Buffington noted that she didn't know the other student, but she was sure that she would also be successful.

The Board thanked Mrs. Olejniczek, Mrs. Galovic, and the students for coming to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL: President Back noted that "Approval of Educational Specifications for New High School," was tabled from a previous meeting.

Terry Butler moved to remove this item from the agenda. Stephen Turner seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

It was explained that this was no longer a necessary agenda item because the format for presenting information on the new school project had changed.

PROGRESS REPORT: PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF NEW HIGH SCHOOL: Jim Thompson from Gibraltar Design told the Board that the work session went very well. He said that the educational specifications have "come a long way." He said that they will continue the same format with the strike outs. He noted that it was a "science" to getting lunches served to kids, and the building support area needs to be completed. They will be working to validate the request and noted that "every square foot equates to dollars." He was pleased that they were able to discuss the preliminary design concepts with the Board so they could see what they were, their size, and preliminary arrangement. The discussions are helpful for the Board in seeing how the different areas are beginning to form the new school. He noted that it was important to work on how the students will move throughout the building and especially through the Great Hall. Gibraltar Design will be meeting with the representatives of the food service and transportation departments. He was pleased with the meeting they had with the city, and he spoke about the community symposium that will be held on April 12. He asked the Board to use their influence in getting people to attend one of the sessions. He said that Dr. Daggett is an excellent speaker, and it will be another opportunity for people to participate and contribute to the new project.

The Board thanked Mr. Thompson for his presentation.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE (LATCH KEY): Superintendent Leach told the Board that it was necessary to advertise a request for proposals for the After School Child Care (Latch Key) Program. He noted that the Hobart YMCA has been providing this service for many years, even before the requirement that proposals had to be requested. Four years ago the law changed, and formal proposals had to be requested. The proposal is for a one year period but may be renewed for one year upon satisfactory performance, and he recommended that the Board advertise the Request for Proposals for the After School Child Care Program. Proposals are due by 2:00 p.m. on April 15, and will be awarded at the April 21 Board meeting.

Nancy Norris moved to advertise the request for proposals. Seconded by Michael Rogers.

Mr. Rogers noted that the Hobart Y does a good job with the program. Mrs. Norris commented that the student representative could have given a testimonial for the program. He has worked in the summer program and was a participant in the program when he was young.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION: 2005-2006 AND 2006-2007 SCHOOL CALENDARS: Dr. Rich Edwards, Assistant Superintendent, presented the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school calendars for the Board's consideration. He highlighted information from the 2005-2006 school calendar. Winter break will begin on Friday, December 23, spring break will be the last week in March (3-27/31-06), and because Easter is late, students will not be in school on Monday, April 16. He then highlighted information from the 2006-2007 school calendar indicating that students will attend school through December 22 before beginning winter break, spring break will be the first week of April, and since Easter falls on April 8, spring break is extended through Monday, April 9. He indicated that the

calendars were prepared in conjunction with the HTA. Dr. Edwards asked the Board to approve the two calendars.

Nancy Norris so moved. Seconded by Stephen Turner. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Marszalek asked how the vacations coincided with the Porter County vocational school. Dr. Edwards indicated that in 2005-2006 that winter break is off a couple of days, and the Porter County schools have not adopted a calendar for the 2006-2007 school year. Mr. Butler expressed his appreciation to Dr. Edwards and the HTA for the work that they did with the calendars.

REQUEST: OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP FOR HOBART MIDDLE SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS TO INDIANA DUNES ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER:

Dr. Leach presented a request for an overnight field trip for Hobart Middle School sixth graders from Heather Phillips, 6th grade teacher. He indicated that 33 students from Miss Phillips' and Miss Tittle's classes will be going on the trip. The students will spend two nights at the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center and will be reinforcing environmental science using math, science, language arts, and social studies skills. There will be four other chaperones in addition to the two teachers. Principal Pete Svetcoff supported the request. Dr. Leach noted that Miss Phillips had received an Educational Foundation grant to help supplement the cost of the trip.

Dr. Leach indicated that because it was an overnight field trip, Board approval was required, and he recommended that the Board approve the trip to Camp Good Fellow on March 21, 22, and 23, 2005.

Michael Rogers moved to approve. Nancy Norris seconded.

There was discussion among several Board members as to what the facilities were like when they were kids and attended camp there.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

- Publication - The Board received a copy of the latest issue of *Focus on Education*.
- School Information - The Board received weekly activities calendars from George Earle, Joan Martin and Liberty Elementary Schools.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Dr. Leach complimented Dr. Buffington and her assistant, Rachel Nicoloff, for all their work involved with getting the *Focus on Education* published. He noted that all of the work is done in-house except for the actual printing. Dr. Edwards also complimented Dr. Buffington and Mrs. Nicoloff for the "outstanding job" they do with the *Focus on Education*. He also extended his congratulations to Madame Olejniczek and the great experiences she is offering our students. Dr. Buffington indicated that it had been a very busy week at the middle school. They had the music zoo, Brown's Music Bus whose performance was videotaped for those who couldn't attend, and they had their Reality Store yesterday. She thanked Board members who were able to assist with the program. She noted that the Reality Store is now "a tradition," and community people look forward to the day and assisting with the program. She indicated that they are still trying to have a similar program at the high school and to include credit consequences. However, Reality Store programs have to be approved through the Kankakee Valley Workforce Development Program, and they haven't been able to get it worked out with them. She reminded the Board that this was the last weekend to see F.A.M.E. at the high school. Performances are scheduled for 7:30 on Friday and Saturday with a matinee on Sunday. Mr. Zembala wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. He also complimented the high school for the class that prepares students for teaching. He said that class is a great opportunity for students to observe and participate in real life classroom experiences.

From the audience a mom indicated that she and her daughter were attending the meeting for a class her daughter attends at PUC, and she wished that the education seminar class would have been available for her daughter when she was in high school.

From the Board, Mrs. Norris spoke about the Reality Store. She said that they didn't have as many kids in the employment office, and she felt that the students' attire had improved greatly this year. Mr. Bigler also related some Reality Store experiences and noted that the students were better prepared for the process this year and said they were "young ladies and gentlemen." He felt that this was the result of the staff preparing and working with them. Dr. Buffington told the Board that with the help of an Educational Foundation grant all of the 8th graders are having the opportunity to visit Ivy Tech and some of the area colleges as part of their career education experiences. She said that they have been well behaved on the visits. Mr. Bigler said this year's class was more "mature and responsible." Mr. Butler indicated that he needed a blank copy of the superintendent's evaluation form to pass on to the Coop Managing Board, and Mrs. Norris replied that she had one. He also said that he was impressed with the high school students from the seminar class and was sure they would become successful teachers. Mr. Turner said that he had attended his first park board meeting. He will be sharing the site plans and any impact the project might have on the city parks and tennis courts.

President Back thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and there being no further business to come before the Board, he adjourned the meeting around 8:48 p.m.

**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART**

BY _____
Jason Back, President

ATTEST:

BY _____
Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: April 7, 2005