

**School City of Hobart
Work Session and Regular Session
March 3, 2005**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in a work session and regular session on March 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
Hobart High School student representative

Staff Members

John A. Leach
Rich Edwards
Peggy Buffington
William J. Longer
Peter L. Goerges
Tony Skimehorn

Absent:
Ted Zembala

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

Kathie Godfrey, *Hobart Chronicle*
Jim Thompson, Gibraltar Design
Dave Blanton, Gibraltar Design
Brian McFarland, Gibraltar Design
Don Monday, Gibraltar Design
Larry Dawson, Envoy, Inc.
Jim Elizondo, City Securities
Al Zacker, Maintenance Supervisor for the school corporation

WORK SESSION: The work session began around 5:57 p.m. Superintendent John Leach noted a change in how the new building project information will be handled. The regular session agendas will indicate "Project Reports" rather than "approvals." He noted that this reflects how the information is being developed with Gibraltar and Envoy. The first formal approval in the process will be the end of May. There will be regular progress reports at the regular sessions where representatives from Envoy and/or Gibraltar will give a brief synopsis of what has been happening in the work sessions. He noted that even though the work sessions are done in public, he felt it was important that progress reports be a routine part of the Board's regular sessions. The Board was told what would be happening at this meeting and what the plans were for the two or three upcoming meetings.

Peggy Buffington, Assistant Superintendent, indicated that the Board had received an agenda for the information to be reviewed at the work session, and she changed the order of the items—Update Drawing of Preliminary Site Design, Update Drawing of Preliminary Building Design Concept, and Update of Square Foot Program and Educational Specifications. Prior to agenda items, Dr. Buffington updated the Board on what has happened since the last meeting. She indicated that "it has been quite a journey," and Gibraltar has put in many hours of work as a result of meeting with the steering committee working on the educational specifications and visiting schools. She thanked Board members who have been able to go on the school visitation tours, and on behalf of the high school staff, she thanked the Board for allowing them to go on the school tours. Schools that have been visited were Crown Point, Chesterton, Eastern in Michigan, Crawfordsville, Pike Freshman Academy, and tomorrow they will be visiting The Century Career Center in Logansport and on Monday they will be visiting sports complexes in Michigan City, Wheeler, and Merrillville. She explained that as schools have been visited, the staff completes an observation report, and the Board will receive a compilation of the reports which includes things that they were impressed with. Also, included will be pictures and multi-media information that the steering committee has been collecting. She noted that some of the schools were "more student friendly," and that is what the committee is interested in for Hobart. She noted that some of the Board members had visited these schools before, and she indicated that the Great Hall, commons area, café at Eastern was very impressive for our staff, and their use of space down the hallways was "eye opening." Dr. Leach noted that they got the opportunity to see all of this with students present and how it functioned. Dr. Buffington indicated that there was a lot of dialogue among staff members as well as with the architects about such things as energy efficiency and how the space is used. She noted that they use wireless technology, and discussions with them have affected some reductions in the size of our computer labs. The visits have been eye opening as to what is possible. In the area of physical education and athletics, they have seen many multi-use sports facilities, and she indicated that she will be bringing back ideas about those.

Dr. Buffington then updated the Board about meeting with the steering committee. They weren't able to meet with them on the Thursday after the last work session, because the work that needed to be done couldn't be done in a large group setting. It was felt that it would be best to meet with one or two departments at a time to discuss space usage—what they requested and how the space would be used, and try to compromise in reducing the square footage to meet the required goal. Those meetings were held on Friday.

Brian McFarland complimented the steering committee on the work that they did in working through the educational specifications. He indicated that they were team players, and he felt good at the end of the day that they were able to give everyone an arrangement that worked to meet their needs.

Update Drawing of Preliminary Site Design and Update Drawing of Preliminary Building Design Concept

Mr. McFarland noted that the Board received a copy of a site plan, but he indicated that tonight's site design was a generalization with concepts and ideas. Nothing was "hard and fast." He showed the site plan that has been at the storefront office and was the plan used for the 1028 hearing. He noted that there are some wetland areas, usually bird habitats, and he explained there are regulations pertaining to them as to what can or cannot be done with them. They have a report which says "that there may be wetlands," and they will be looking into this further. It doesn't mean that something can't be built there, but some kind of trade-off may be allowed to another area. He indicated that it would have been nice to have a road on either side of the property, but that is not the case. Since the school will be a reflection of the community, the front of the building should be seen from Tenth Street and would be the logical place that visitors would go.

An important factor to site planning, is traffic flow. Mr. McFarland noted the user groups such as student drivers, staff, school buses and parents and where their designated spaces were located. These groups will be accessing the property around the same times each day. He highlighted the areas to be used by each of these groups and cited the rationale for the placement of each. He then discussed how the parking lot could be used for after school and evening events. He indicated that the footprint of the building as shown was bigger than it will actually be. However, even though this is a large site, Mr. McFarland noted that there is no property to waste. He indicated that they want to have a master plan so that the land is used to its maximum potential for whatever the Board wishes to have located at the site. The circulation flow was determined by the two accessible streets. He indicated that the track with soccer/football field was orientated north and south as were the tennis courts. The baseball fields were orientated north and south facing east, and restroom and concession stand placements were noted. The practice fields were orientated north and south, but if they were placed east and west, it may be possible to add more practice fields. This was an initial plan and if restrooms, concessions, out buildings, and if it became a football field, a nice complex could be developed with possible parking on the north and south ends of the field for a visitor/home configuration. If a stadium is not on site, then not as much parking would be needed and the space could be used for something else. Ten tennis courts were placed as well as the practice fields and playing fields. This site plan will be further developed and will be shown to the steering committee on Thursday to get feedback from them. He wanted feedback from the Board. He also noted that where classrooms are placed in the building will also affect the layout of the site plan.

Mr. Butler asked if they were expecting three traffic lights on Tenth Street for each of the entrances, and Mr. McFarland indicated that he didn't think so. One light for sure with possibly flashing lights that would be operational for a short time before and after school. Mrs. Norris commented about handicapped parking and wondered if handicapped parking could be designated in the student area which would be closer to the school for easier access, and she felt that the students would be less likely to park in these spaces than parents might be. Mr. McFarland noted that the special education program buses in students and that might be a good area for the designated handicapped parking. Mr. Butler expressed concern about the distance of the building entry way from the parking area, and noted how far away visitor parking was in Crown Point. He asked the other Board members if parking areas should be closer to the building. Dr. Leach inquired if he meant just visitor parking or if he was including event parking also. Mr. Butler indicated his concern was for visitors to the building. Mr. McFarland indicated that was why the parking was broken into several different areas which were closer to the building than how the Crown Point parking is designated. Mr. Turner inquired as to why the building was placed north and south. Mr. McFarland indicated that he wasn't sure that the building will stay that way, and he noted that there still are tours scheduled so he was sure changes will continue to be made. Mr. Turner explained if there will be a long access that it could run parallel to Tenth Street and present the building the long way, and it will give the appearance of larger building. Mr. Turner liked having the parking areas split up and was not in favor of the front yard being a huge parking lot.

As part of the master planning, Mr. Turner asked what could be done with the property to the west, the topography of the property, the number of acres, and what areas can be developed. Mr. McFarland showed the Board an area where there were major topography problems for development of some of the land. Mr. McFarland said that the topography information should be available for the next meeting, and he thought that would help. Mrs. Norris suggested that possibly the undevelopable land could be used as an outdoor science lab similar to what is at George Earle. Dr. Leach indicated that the outdoor seating area at Crawfordsville was nice and looked out into a wooded area. Dr. Leach said that he agreed with Mr. Butler and noted that when you visit Joan Martin usually you will have to park in the east parking lot because the drive and handicapped spaces are always full. The high school parking is also a problem, and he thought a visitor should be able to park closer than they can now.

Mr. McFarland outlined the number of spaces in each lot of the proposed new school—300 for visitors, 500 for students, and 350 behind the school. Mr. Turner asked what the student parking capacity at the high school was, and Mr. Skimehorn thought it was around 300. Mr. McFarland explained how they arrived at the number of spaces for student parking. Mr. Butler asked if they were building for a maximum of 1400, and he was told that was the correct figure. Dr. Leach indicated that he understood that this was just the first drawing, but he was concerned about what would be seen from the road and the statement that will be made by the building's placement and whether you want to see 300 parked cars from Tenth Street. He noted that there will have to be a balance of aesthetics and practicality. Mr. Butler also noted that usage will be a factor and whether there will be a field house, a pool, and an auditorium. If those places were located toward rear of the building, then more parking spaces may be needed there. He suggested flipping the 500 event parking with 350. Dr. Buffington commented that the event parking area for athletics, fine arts and performing arts functions may be short by about 150 spaces from the feedback she had received. Mr. Turner wanted to know how she found this out, and she said that she spoke with Dave Spitzer, John Mitchell, and Bob Glover. Mr. Turner wondered how they knew this, and Dr. Buffington said that they actually counted cars at high school events. However, she didn't have the numbers with her. Mr. Turner indicated that there are standards for certain occupancies of buildings, and he wanted to know if there are standard recommendations for parking ratios for specified populations. Mr. McFarland indicated that there may be zoning regulations for so many parking spaces per hundred of students and staff. He said that they would get that information, but he felt that they were over the minimum number of spaces. Mrs. Norris noted that if there is a football field, there will be a great number of spectators, and Mr. Butler indicated that the free-style wrestling meet that is held once each year also draws a large crowd.

Mr. Bigler inquired that if there isn't any parking area in front of the school for aesthetics reasons, could the buses pick up and drop off students there, and then he wondered if the visitor and faculty parking could be put on the west side of the school. Mr. McFarland indicated that this might be a possibility but noted that there would have to be adequate signage so that parents and buses are not mixed together. No one wanted red cones in front of the school for directing traffic. Mr. Rogers asked if the cafeteria dock area or other deliveries will cause a problem for the buses. Mr. McFarland said that this would have to be watched so as not to cause problems. It was noted that if a linear building were developed then the dock area would be in the back.

Mr. Bigler inquired as to whether the varsity baseball and softball competition fields could be next to one another so there would only need to be one concession stand area. Mr. McFarland noted that they are trying to share the concession stands with other sports. Mr. Butler noted that it might not be conducive to have the two fields together, and then the separate buildings would still be needed because people will not like walking to them. He said that something similar at the girls softball field hasn't worked for them. Mr. Rogers asked about the placement of the track and football field being north and south because the field at Brickie Bowl is east and west. Mr. McFarland commented that north and south is the traditional layout for football fields. Mrs. Norris indicated that it might have to do with the wind, and she said that people have said that Brickie Bowl was laid out wrong. Mr. McFarland indicated that as the site develops, these areas will get tighter, and he reminded them that they don't want to waste any of the property. They have to be careful how things are placed on the site so property is saved for future development. Mr. Turner mentioned that the Board has been concerned about saving land for the possibility of building a middle school there in the future. Mr. Farland showed the Board where he envisioned the placement of a middle school and then they would be sharing some of the parking and fields. Mr. Rogers said the Board was interested because the facilities have never been in one location before. Dr. Leach noted that Mr. Turner had requested scaled cutouts that could be moved around, and Mr. Monday indicated that he had them. Mr. Monday indicated that in addition to the cutouts, there was the site plan they were showing at the meeting, and one without anything on it so that the cutouts could be placed and moved around on it. Mr. Butler asked about the restrooms and concession stand, and

what kind of the distance is between baseball field and track area. Mr. McFarland indicated about 150 feet or so.

Mr. Butler reminded Gibraltar that the neighbors were promised some kind of berm around that area, and another problem would be baseballs getting to the street area. He also commented that the parking area in the front of the school could be lowered so that it could be covered by a berm like the ball fields, and he felt it was important to have parking close to the school. There was some discussion about moving the parking to the side, but it was noted even though there might be an entrance there, it might not be open for security reasons, and probably the front entrance would be the one used by visitors. Mrs. Norris asked why the entry had to be facing Tenth Street if the parking wasn't there. Mr. Turner thought that for aesthetic purposes the focal point should be the front of the building that would be facing the street. Mr. Turner noted that the visitor parking capacity didn't need to be 300 spaces and possibly could be scaled back and still be aesthetically usable and be used as the bus turnaround as well. Mr. Zacker indicated that Crown Point's parking layout for visitors and bus turnaround was hard to navigate. Dr. Leach said that he will be introducing Al Zacker to the Board later in the meeting. Mr. Turner commented that everyone needs to be in agreement with the elements to be included or not included on the site, and he hoped that Gibraltar would be able to provide them with the topographical information as soon as they could because that would be helpful in trying to locate items on the site. Mr. McFarland showed them the area where the land was getting rough and might be a problem. He commented that the usage of the site plan could also assist in determining the layout for the school. He said they were thinking about a two-story academic portion of building, and this would leave more ground for additions when needed. Mr. Bigler asked the administration whether it has been determined how classes will be grouped, by discipline or classes by multi discipline, and whether this would have an effect on how classes are grouped. He was told that no determination has been made. Dr. Buffington indicated that science labs will be the biggest consideration, and all of the other classrooms will be alike. She indicated that from what she has seen other than the science rooms, it didn't matter, but she thought that the architects might be able to address his concerns. Mr. Bigler wanted to know if this was an important factor in deciding how the classes will be grouped. Dr. Buffington said that it was being discussed, and feedback should be forthcoming. Mr. Butler asked where science rooms are usually located, and he was told the second floor would be the best location. Dr. Buffington noted that Eastern had science labs on both floors. Mr. Bigler noted that at Pike there was an expansion joint in the floor which would allow the water to go into the cafeteria area below. Mr. McFarland commented that everyone from the architect to the staff were very impressed with their great hall at Eastern. He said that he called it the Common Hall, but he and Dr. Buffington have been discussing that terminology. Mr. McFarland explained that the cafeteria space would be counted as circulation space so that if it is planned and developed correctly, they would be ahead. Mr. Bigler noted that it was a multipurpose space. Dr. Buffington indicated that the hall was used for many different activities. Mr. Butler thought the open space was needed near the gym and performing arts area. Mr. McFarland said they will be working along those lines. Dr. Buffington noted that the architects are aware of the concerns with the space and that was a concept that everyone liked. Dr. Leach noted that they are trying to take the best from each of the schools they are visiting. Mr. Butler inquired whether the areas behind the two-story academic building would be single story. Mr. McFarland showed the areas that would be two levels and those that would be single level and how the space would tie into one another. Mr. Butler asked how much an elevator cost, and Mr. Dawson estimated \$50-\$80,000.

Item #3, Update of Square Foot Program and Educational Specifications

Dr. Buffington noted that the Board had a copy of the revised educational specifications. Dr. Buffington briefed the Board on the upcoming schedule. On March 17 discussion on the site floor plan will continue, and Brickie Bowl will be discussed on April 7. Dr. Leach said that feedback and revisions from tonight's meeting will be available for the March 17 meeting. He asked Jim Thompson to explain what they will have available at the April 7 meeting. Mr. Thompson said that they will have drawings and information on the needs for the development/refurbishing of Brickie Bowl as well as the same information for a field on the Tenth Street property.

Dr. Buffington indicated that because of how the steering committee meetings fall in relation to the Board meeting schedule, she said that they would like to present the floor plan consideration to the committee before it is brought back to the Board. She noted that this was causing a problem with the Board getting information in a timely manner of two weeks. She asked the Board if it would be okay for them to receive this information on March 15 in their next Board packet. Since approval isn't required, there were no objections from Board members, and Dr. Buffington told them that they would receive a summary of the minutes from this meeting in their March 8 information packet. She felt it was important to have discussion with the steering committee and get their input on the floor plan.

Dr. Buffington indicated that the Board received requested information this evening, and she pointed out there was extensive swimming information which included extensive research, and notes on faculty wishes. In addition the Board received information on acoustical design that Gibraltar has done as well a list of projects provided, and a current faculty list with counts for the educational specifications, clarification on auxiliary gyms with wood floors and the desire of athletic personnel for practicing on wood floors versus practicing in the field house.

Mr. Rogers asked whether the Board could have a work session on a weekend so that time would not have to be factor as it was on Board meeting nights. Dr. Leach said that would be fine if that's what is wanted. Mr. Butler said that it could even be another evening. Mr. Turner preferred meeting on a Saturday than another evening night. Dr. Leach noted that things are still very preliminary at this stage. Mr. Thompson said with a preliminary floor plan discussion on March 17 and discussion about Brickie Bowl on April 7, the Board "will have touched every aspect of the project." After those discussions, the Board may need more time to finish up this first stage of the project. It was noted that Dr. Buffington still has information that is being prepared to share with the Board. Dr. Buffington commented that she was looking forward to sharing the information and indicated that it was "excellent" and "inciteful."

Mr. Butler inquired about the cost of building a main floor gym that had the capability to have four practice basketball courts but still be able to have bleacher seating for one competition court rather than having the upper decks and gyms. He was asking because the coaches don't want to play basketball in the field house. The auxiliary gym is primarily only used for practices, but if the main gym floor was larger, it could be used for other purposes. Dr. Leach didn't know if the coaches would want to run four practices simultaneously. Mr. Butler didn't know if it was possible or not or how practices would be handled. Dr. Buffington told the Board that Crawfordsville has a sunken spectator gym. Mr. Butler noted that the auxiliary gym wasn't to be a separate room, and Mr. Bigler indicated that there were to be collapsible bleachers with the courts behind. Mr. Thompson told the Board that the layout would add additional length to the gym, and there would be striping on the floor for all of the courts and this could be confusing for a competition game. He noted that the bleacher configuration was another reason that this type of gym is not seen. Mr. Butler indicated that he was just concerned with how much the auxiliary gym space would be used. Dr. Buffington spoke to capacity of the gym. She noted that the auditorium would be around 650 and with the possibility of using the gym for graduation, she thought the capacity was around 2,500 and that included the upper bleachers. Mr. Butler asked what the gym's capacity was, and Mr. Monday indicated that it was 1,680. Dr. Buffington noted that Crawfordsville's capacity was 2,800. Mrs. Norris commented that at last year's graduation additional chairs were put on the floor and people were still standing, and she thought that 2,500 should be a minimum amount. Mr. Zacker asked how the balls would be kept from going into the other courts, and Mr. Thompson said with a divider curtain which can be nets or canvas. Mr. Monday commented that as the Board looks at spaces and because it is shown as a line item, it doesn't mean that it is an actual space and he cited the auxiliary gym as an example indicating that it isn't an actual gym. It could be the allocated space added to the balcony area in the gym. If the auxiliary gym is placed there, then additional footage needs to be added so that the practice courts can be placed there. He indicated that as they are putting the floor plan together the spaces be combined or may be separated, and the terminology is just a way for them keep the space separate and note how it's to be used. Once the floor plans are developed, the square footage numbers will begin to fall into place. Mr. Butler asked if the Merrillville visit will also include their indoor facilities, and Dr. Buffington indicated that it would. Mr. Butler asked that they find out the seating capacity of their gym because people who attend the semi state wrestling tournaments indicate that there isn't enough room. Mr. Bigler commented that some places have the room, but it's not always "functional room."

Dr. Leach indicated that the Board had a copy of the latest preliminary educational specifications which reflect staff input. Dr. Buffington noted that the Board had some concerns at the last meeting, and Mr. Turner asked her to point them out. Mr. Rogers noted that some of the items that the Board mentioned were not changed such as science prep storage. Dr. Buffington commented that science teachers had not participated in enough school visitations to decide this, and that science was an area they were still working on. Jim Thompson pointed out that the Board had a summary page that showed the gross square footage of 319,631 which meets the goal. He said that this was achieved after their meetings with staff. The next step would be to validate it by drawing floor plans and continue to work with Envoy to make sure the building size and needs were met. He said that it was "a living document" that will be "revised and revisited." Once the floor plan is completed, they will work with Envoy to begin the budget applications for the project.

Mr. Bigler noted some concerns that he had—F24 - food service area - two restrooms in the cafeteria. He didn't see this space allotted and thought it had been decided there was a need for this. Mr. McFarland noted that there was a listing for 12 restrooms, and this probably was where they are included

in. Mr. Bigler said that he just wanted to make sure they were included in that area. Building Support Areas was another area he mentioned in relation to 6' x 6' storage areas for the custodians throughout the building for material storage. Mr. McFarland told him that many times those small areas get worked into the plans as they are developed and may be tied into the restroom areas. Mr. Bigler mentioned the Faculty Dining and the need for two restrooms and a work area similar to what they saw at Pike. No office was shown for the auxiliary gym, and Mr. Monday noted because the square footage was added to the upper deck it wouldn't have an office. Mrs. Norris noted that the band music library/office and band office, and now it was changed to just a band music library/office with smaller square footage. She noted that if the band program were to expand, an additional director might be needed. In the past there were two directors at the high school. Dr. Buffington said that this had been addressed with the director, and he was okay with the revised space. Mrs. Norris said that wasn't what he told her. Mr. Bigler inquired where the wrestling and weight rooms would be. Dr. Buffington responded that they will still be visiting athletic facilities next week, but possibly the practice mats will be upstairs in the field house and the weight rooms would be part of the field house. He wondered if they would be taken out of the gym space if there is a field house, and he was told that it has its own category and wasn't counted in both spaces. Mrs. Norris said that the present band office is about 20 x20, and she noted that the choir director also shares the office with the band director which makes for a crowded room. Dr. Buffington noted that on her information, she showed that each of the directors had 400 square feet offices. It was found out that Mrs. Norris was looking at an outdated list. Dr. Leach asked that the dates be prominently shown on the revised documents, and he was told that the dates are on the bottom of the pages. Mr. Turner indicated that using strike out language would be helpful for the Board in knowing what had been replaced from one version to the next. Mr. McFarland indicated that this could be done, and they will begin to do that.

Dr. Leach noted that this is a big project, everyone wants to devote adequate time to it, and the Board's input is a necessary part of the process. He said that the administration was directed to bring input from the staff, and this is being done as quickly as it can be done. He thought it was important for the Board to know that this document reflected all of the staff revisions, and he didn't know why it was so important to compare the two documents unless there were specific concerns that Board members had. Mr. Turner thought it was important and noted that they went through the previous document line by line at the last meeting. Mr. Butler said that the Board just wants to know where the cuts were made and that they were done in an equitable manner. Dr. Buffington assured the Board that the cuts were shared by everyone and asked for direction as to what she was to be doing. If the Board wanted to do a line by line review, she could do that. Mr. Turner indicated that agreement on how to handle this was needed, and he noted that this meeting's discussion was not done in an organized fashion. He suggested that it be done sequentially section by section as to what had been changed. Dr. Leach told the Board that a lot of progress has been made even though it was difficult for the Board to see it on the document. Mr. Turner indicated that he knew they made progress, but the Board didn't because their scattered approach to reviewing the information. Dr. Leach asked if they wanted to take the first document and make the strike outs, and he asked the architects if that was possible. Mr. Thompson proposed that from tonight forward that his team would advise the Board as things are changed. He said that his staff will continue professional dialogue with the staff, follow up on the changes, and note the changes to the floor plan.

Dr. Buffington indicated that in the meetings with the staff, they went through the document line by line to reach the 320,000 square footage number, and concessions were made. As an example she said the staff was shown what 200 square feet looked like and asked if that was sufficient for storage, and that was the manner in which the specifications were reviewed and reductions made to reach the goal mark. Dr. Leach indicated that this meeting's document is really the one that the Board should be asking their questions about because the previous ones were over the allotted space amount. Mr. Butler commented that everything shown in the document impacts the financial aspects of the project, and even being within the allotted space, may not mean that everything in the document can be done. Dr. Buffington said that was the kind of discussion they had with staff. She said that the staff members were team players in trying to cut 50,000 square feet. For the most part they all understood the process with the exception of a couple of teachers. Mr. Bigler indicated that he had done a line by line comparison between documents 2 and 3. Mr. Turner commented that he did not want to have to do a line by line comparison. Mr. Bigler said that the areas he mentioned were ones that weren't addressed at the last Board meeting. He offered to share the document if anyone else wanted a copy. Dr. Buffington mentioned that the "black box" area became a classroom from the English department. Dr. Leach commented that the Board will be having people asking them to listen to comments about areas that they feel are necessary to be included at the new school, and he felt it was important to listen to the comments. He used an example of the science department wanting each teacher to have their own lab, but because of the financial aspects, the question may be "how good of a lab" is wanted. Should they all have one or could they be shared and if they each have labs every day, are they demonstration or a hands-on lab. Those are the kinds of questions that are being asked and that's why the process is so

involved. Then a consensus is reached on what is the best approach. He used Joan Martin as an example of where input was received for the staff. Each teacher was allowed to select either chalkboards or dry erase boards for their classroom. However, now some of those selections are not what the present teacher would have chosen. There will be a point where decisions will have to be made to consider what is in the best interest of today's staff as well as future staff and for the present and future students. Dr. Buffington indicated that they were working on budget concerns for science, and because of curriculum mapping, the teachers are all about on the same schedule and working in the same units at the same time. She said that care has to be considered that a teacher doesn't skip a lab because they couldn't have a lab on a particular day. They want access to the lab whenever it is necessary and not have to wait to use it. She said that this was a big concern. Pike had some nice combined space for science. She said that she will keep the Board updated on this area. Only one representative from the science department has made school visitations. She said that the video footage has been showing and the other staff members have been asked to view it. Dr. Leach said that the experience of how these discussions have been handled was very interesting. Some trade off examples were cited such as band office space, no combined labs, extra lane in the field house. Those are the kinds of trade offs that need to be made for the mandated square footage to fit within the financial budget for the project. Dr. Buffington said that they have had very good discussion with the theater and performing arts people as well as with the physical education and athletic departments about the square foot overages and the need to reduce space to get back in line. Mrs. Norris said that they put down everything they wanted, and it was noted that they had been asked to do that.

President Back adjourned work session around 7:40 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: President Back convened the Board into regular session around 7:46 p.m. with Board members and administrators present or absent as noted above.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Back indicated that the Board had met in executive session, as noted on the agenda, at 5:00 p.m. in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(1) where authorized by federal or state statute; 2) for discussion of strategy with respect to: (A) collective bargaining; and (B) initiation of litigation or litigation which is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nancy Norris moved to approve the minutes of the executive and work/regular sessions of February 17, 2005 as distributed. Seconded by Michael Rogers. All ayes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Superintendent John Leach 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. Application for Payment

1. The Pangere Corporation - \$48,077.00

Michael Rogers moved to pay. Seconded by Nancy Norris. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Butler asked what this was their final payment, and after checking the application for payment sheet which showed a zero balance, it was indicated that it was.

PERSONNEL: Dr. Leach presented the following personnel item for the Board's consideration:

Adjustments to Contracts –

Club Assignments:

Mary Beth Mako, Joan Martin School, added computer club, 15 hours, \$274.35

Christina Salai, Joan Martin School, added Spanish club, 8 hours, \$146.32

Donna Casterline, Joan Martin School, Spanish club, 8 hours, \$146.32

Beth Coombs, Liberty School, yearbook club, 15 hours, \$274.35

Lisa Vann, Liberty School, yearbook club, 15 hours, \$274.35

Contract Adjustment:

Imelda Tamez, Ridge View School, corrected total salary amount of recently reissued contract, \$33,435.60

Extra Duty Adjustments:

Heather Phillips, Hobart Middle, Resigned HHS girls assistant varsity track coach effective March 1, 2005
Andrew Martin, Hobart High, resigned JV baseball position effective for the 2004-2005 school year and added assistant varsity baseball, \$2,531.00
Colin May, Hobart High, resigned as 9th grade baseball coach effective for the 2004-2005 school year and added JV baseball, \$2,147.00

Homebound Teaching Contracts –

February 8/May 10, 2005: Kathleen Arney, social studies, \$43.47 per hour; and Penny Morey, special education, \$36.93 per hour
January 24/June 7, 2005: Elda Cabrera, special education services, \$31.70 per hour; and Elizabeth Ring, special education services, \$29.76 per hour
February 23/May 7, 2005: Tisha Bradley, social studies/language arts, \$27.88 per hour; and Beth Germann, science, \$32.79 per hour
February 11/May 13, 2005: Randall Benton, Chemistry I, \$32.35 per hour; Dwight Mathis, U. S. history, \$48.59 per hour; and John Skafish, Geometry 1 2, \$49.08 per hour

Request for Leave of Absence –

Heather Phillips, Hobart Middle School/6th Block, FMLA (12 weeks maximum), February 22/June 8, 2005, to be used intermittently and not to exceed 60 days

Extracurricular Club Duty Contract –

Crystal Johnson, Joan Martin School/gymnastics club, 11 hours, February 25/May 27, 2005, \$201.19

Extra Duty Contracts –

Hobart High School:

Boys Track, February 14/June 3, 2005: Jim Johnston, assistant varsity, \$2,610.00
Girls Softball, March 7/June 10, 2005: Katrina Trumbo, JV, \$1,383.00; Ron Green, assistant varsity softball (50%), \$1,228.00; and Heather Spoljaric, assistant varsity softball (50%), \$1,228.00
Boys Golf, March 14/June 15, 2005: Robert Budzielek, varsity, \$2,531.00; and Aaron Spain, JV, \$768.00
Girls Tennis, March 14/June 10, 2005: Jorge Garcia, varsity, \$2,724.00
Boys Baseball, March 14/June 18, 2005: Robert Lucas, 9th grade, \$1,305.00

Resignation –

Laure Laco, Ridge View School/recreation paraprofessional, effective February 17, 2005

New Employee –

Brandon Smith, Ridge View/recreation paraprofessional, effective February 16/June 7, 2005, \$70.03 per day for 90 day probation period; then \$72.03 per day

It was noted that the position will be re-posted for 2005-06 school year.

Probationary Employee –

Diana Janes, Service Center/bus matron, February 16/May 15, 2005, \$30.75 per day

It was noted that a contract may be issued upon successful completion of 90-day probation period.

Termination –

Christy Dziadowicz, Service Center/probationary bus driver, effective February 16, 2005

Service Agreements –

Hobart High School/GQE Review, February 28, March 1, 2, 8, and 10, 2005
Darrin Cline, 5 hours, \$210.45; Cyndi Lambeth, 5 hours, \$210.45; and John McDaniel, 5 hours, \$210.45

Dr. Leach recommended approval and requested Board action.

Nancy Norris moved to approve as presented. Michael Rogers seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

TABLED AGENDA ITEM FROM FEBRUARY 3, 2005, MEETING: President Back indicated that the Board tabled an agenda item at the last meeting—Recommendation: Approval of Educational Specifications for New High School. There was discussion, and it was decided to leave the item tabled until the next meeting where it will be a listed agenda item.

PRESENTATION: HOBART HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENTS: Superintendent Leach introduced Brian Grenier, Hobart High School Band Director, who thanked the Board for having his students perform at the meeting. The group that he brought with him was the Brass Sextet, and he told the Board that the group was a volunteer group that meets every Monday after school. At the district contest they received a perfect score and a gold medal, and at the state level they received a gold medal. The students were introduced and played the song that they played at the music contests.

Mr. Grenier and the students were thanked for their performance. In the discussion Mr. Grenier was asked if this group might do some recruitment at the middle school, and Mr. Grenier indicated that they had performed for the middle school band and that there will be a concert band performance soon. It was also suggested that a group about the sextet's size might be able to perform as entertainment for local groups and organizations similar to what Wolfgang does. Their donations would go to the band. Mr. Rogers commented he has heard the pep band at the basketball games, and they do a great job. Dr. Leach indicated that everyone was proud of the band's accomplishments this year, and he extended apologies to them for having to wait to perform.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE: Tony Skimehorn, Director of Support Services, introduced the new maintenance supervisor, Al Zacker, and noted that he has been familiarizing himself with the schools. They toured the middle school today, and Mr. Skimehorn said that Mr. Zacker has already familiarized himself with the HVAC systems. Mr. Zacker is a graduate of Purdue University and is a civil engineer with experience in project management at the industrial level. Mr. Skimehorn said that Mr. Zacker has computer skills and will be a good assistant for him and the school corporation. Dr. Leach apologized for not introducing him during the personnel session. The Board welcomed Mr. Zacker to the school corporation, and Mr. Zacker indicated that he was looking forward to working in Hobart in whatever capacity he can be of service. He indicated that he was impressed with how the school facilities have been maintained by the custodial staffs as well as the renovation work that had been done the last two years.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS WITH ENVOY, INC. AND GIBRALTAR DESIGN: Contracts for Envoy, Inc., construction management firm, and Gibraltar Design, architectural firm, were presented for the Board's consideration. The contracts are for the new building project, and Dr. Leach indicated that the contracts had been reviewed and approved by the attorneys. He recommended their approval and that the Board authorize their President and Secretary to sign them.

Michael Rogers so moved. Seconded by Nancy Norris.

In the discussion Mr. Butler asked if that included the modification made to Envoy's contract, and Mr. Turner wondered that based upon discussion with Envoy if their contract should be modified. Dr. Leach indicated that the Board had received draft copies of the two contracts, and he asked for approval of the contract with approval of the changes to the draft copy as discussed with Envoy.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

PROJECTS: NEW HIGH SCHOOL AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL INTO A MIDDLE SCHOOL A. RECEIVE PATRON PETITIONS, B. PUBLIC LEASE HEARING, AND C. PUBLIC YEAR ROUND SCHOOL HEARING: Superintendent Leach presented the patron petition to the Board. There were six counterparts with a total of 130 signatures. He indicated that each of the school secretaries had a petition for anyone wanting to support the new school project at their desk, and they witnessed those signatures. He noted that only 50 signatures are required. The patron petition will part of the information that will be submitted to the Department of Local Government Finance for the hearing on this project. Dr. Leach asked the Board to accept the patron petition.

Robert Marszalek moved to approve as submitted. Seconded by Terry Butler.

Dr. Leach was asked if these signatures had to be certified by the county as being Hobart residents. He indicated that they did not, but all of the signatures except three are residents of Hobart. Mrs. Norris indicated that signatures don't need to be certified, and she explained that if there had been a remonstrance to the project, those signatures would have had to be certified.

Vote on the Motion: All ayes. Motion carried.

President Back noted that the Board had two hearings, and he opened the Public Lease Hearing. Dr. Leach then turned the meeting over to Larry Dawson from Envoy.

Larry Dawson indicated that because of the size of the project, the Board needed to consider a lease with a holding company for the project. School corporations do not usually have the funds available for a project of this size. He said that Jim Elizondo from City Securities would answer any questions that the Board might have about the lease. Mr. Dawson indicated that the citizens of the community have been made aware of the proposed project. There were two community breakfasts and information is available through the storefront office on Main Street. He noted that the Board was now ready to have the public hearing on the lease and then approve the resolution for it. Jim Elizondo indicated that the financing information is the same and that there will be zero impact on the Debt Service Fund, the estimated amount of the project is \$79,960.00, and the term of the lease will be no more than 25 years. He asked the Board to consider the resolution to execute the lease and authorize, and he noted that the lease could not be executed until the State Tax Board approval was granted for the project. Mr. Dawson indicated that the moratorium has caused a minor delay in the process, and he was hoping that Hobart's hearing would take place once the moratorium runs out. Mr. Dawson recommended approval of the lease hearing.

Attorney William Longer indicated that the Board needed to open the meeting to hear comments. If there are no comments, the hearing should be closed, and then the Board would move to the next item for the year round school hearing. The hearing was opened for comments on the lease. There were no comments from the public.

Terry Butler moved to close the hearing. President Back closed the lease hearing.

President Back indicated that the next agenda item was the hearing for the consideration of year round school. Superintendent Leach briefly reviewed the year round school information. Two options were noted, the single track and multi-track. He reviewed enrollment projections as prepared by Dr. Robert Boyd who was employed twice since 1999 to create enrollment projection studies, and Dr. Boyd projected slight enrollment declines through 2008. Dr. Leach noted that Hobart has been experiencing slight enrollment increases which impacts the general fund. The multi-track option's financial impact would greatly affect the school corporation's finances. There would be a need to increase the number of work days for school secretaries, food service personnel, and transportation employees, and contracts for teachers would have to be extended. Equipment usage and utility costs would increase by 33 percent. Also, impacted would be students, families, teachers, and the community. Dr. Leach noted that the general fund couldn't afford a substantial increase, and he expressed concern for pupils, faculty, parents and community if the multi-track plan was implemented. Based upon the concerns listed in his report, he indicated that the option for year-round school was not a good solution and was not recommended as a workable alternative to the improvements and additions to school facilities in the School City of Hobart.

President Back opened the meeting for a public hearing for the year round school option. There being no comments, he then closed the hearing.

CONSIDERATION: RESOLUTIONS REGARDING A NEW HIGH SCHOOL AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL INTO A MIDDLE SCHOOL: Resolutions No. 2005-4, 2005-5, and 2005-6 regarding a new high school and renovation of existing high school into a middle school were presented for the Board's consideration. Secretary Turner asked if he needed to read the resolutions in their entirety, and Attorney William Longer indicated that the Board could dispense with the readings because the media had a copy of each one as did Board members and administrators. Peter Goerges, Legal Consultant, concurred.

Terry Butler suggested that the Board dispense with the reading and to use the written copy of Resolution No. 2005-4 and to vote on the resolution as presented. Nancy Norris so moved. Michael Rogers seconded.

Resolution No. 2005-4

RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
REGARDING 12-MONTH SCHOOL TERM

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart (“Board” and “School Corporation”, respectively) finds, after having conducted a feasibility study, conducting public hearings, and hearing public testimony, all pursuant to IC 6-1.1-19-8(d), that the use of a 12-month school term (instead of the nine (9) month school term (as defined in IC 20-10.1-2-2)) rather than expanding classroom space is not feasible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

That the use of a twelve 12-month school term is not feasible at this time.

Adopted this 3rd day of March, 2005.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

Jason Back, President

Robert W. Marszalek, Vice President

Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

William David Bigler, Member

Terry D. Butler, Member

Nancy J. Norris, Member

Michael J. Rogers, Member

Secretary Turner called roll on the vote: Ayes - Norris, Bigler, Butler, Rogers, Turner, Marszalek, and Back. Nays - No one. Motion carried.

Mr. Butler moved to do the same procedure for Resolution No. 2005-5. Seconded by Michael Rogers.

Resolution No. 2005-5

RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE LEASE BY THE SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart (“Board” and “School Corporation,” respectively), finds the following:

1. The Board has previously examined and approved on January 20, 2005, a form of lease (“Lease”) of a new high school, renovation of the existing high school for use as a middle school and related improvements (“Project”) in the School Corporation proposed by the Hobart Bldg. Corp. (“Building Corporation”).
2. Notice of a hearing on the Lease was published in accordance with IC 5-3-1 and IC 21-5-12-7 in the “Times” and the “Post Tribune” on January 27, 2005 and January 27, 2005, respectively, and the hearing has been held in accordance with such notice.
3. A petition of school patrons has been presented to the Board requesting the construction and leasing of the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

1. The petition of patrons is hereby accepted and approved.
2. The Lease with the Building Corporation, as Lessor, to the School Corporation, as Lessee, provides for a fair and reasonable rental, and execution of the Lease is necessary and wise.

3. The Secretary of the Board is authorized and directed to initial and date a copy of the Lease and to place it in the minute book immediately following the minutes of this meeting, and the Lease is made a part of this resolution as if set forth herein.
4. The President and Secretary of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Lease on behalf of the School Corporation after it is approved by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.
5. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of the execution of the Lease, in the form attached to this resolution as soon as possible after the Lease is approved by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, all in accordance with IC 21-5-12-7 and IC 5-3-1.

Adopted this 3rd day of March, 2005.

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

Jason Back, President

Robert W. Marszalek, Vice President

Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

William David Bigler, Member

Terry D. Butler, Member

Nancy J. Norris, Member

Michael J. Rogers, Member

A roll call vote was done by Stephen Turner, Secretary, as follows: Ayes - Norris, Bigler, Butler, Rogers, Turner, Marszalek, and Back. Nays - No one. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2005-6

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
OF THE SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart (“Board” and “School Corporation”, respectively) as follows:

1. The issuance by Hobart Bldg. Corp. (“Building Corporation”) of Bond Anticipation Notes (“BANs”) in an amount of up to \$3,000,000.00 (three million dollars), maturing not later than January 1, 2006, and prepayable at any time from the proceeds of the Building Corporation’s First Mortgage Bonds, Series 2005, and all actions in connection therewith, are hereby approved.
2. The President and Secretary of the Board are hereby authorized to perform any and all actions and to approve and execute any and all documents which may be necessary to provide for the issuance of the BANs.

Adopted this 3rd day of March, 2005.

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

Jason Back, President

Robert W. Marszalek, Vice President

Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

William David Bigler, Member

Terry D. Butler, Member

Nancy J. Norris, Member

Michael J. Rogers, Member

Approval was so moved by Terry Butler. David Bigler seconded. Secretary Turner called roll on the vote: Ayes - Norris, Bigler, Butler, Rogers, Turner, Marszalek, and Back. Nays - No one. Motion carried.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

- Health Screening – The Board received a copy of the spring health screening information for tests that will be done later this month. Dr. Leach indicated that Board members are eligible to participate if they wish to do so.
- School Information - Board members received weekly activities from Liberty Elementary School, and the monthly activities calendars from George Earle, Joan Martin and Ridge View Elementary Schools.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Dr. Leach thanked Dr. Buffington for all of the work that she has done on the new building project—organizing and going on the school visitations, working with the steering committee, and working with representatives from Gibraltar and Envoy. He noted that the steering committee is working very hard, and he thanked Board members for participating in the process. He noted that these are exciting times and things are going to getting rather hectic. He extended his appreciation to Envoy, Gibraltar and City Securities for all of their hard work. In the absence of Mr. Zembala, he congratulated the band members for their presentation and noted that progress is being made. He also extended his congratulations to the boys basketball team on completing a good season, and he extended the same to the wrestling team who had two freshmen reach the state finals and placed 1st and 3rd in their weight classes. Dr. Edwards also extended his congratulations to the band members and to Mr. Grenier. He complimented Mr. Grenier on the influence that he has had for the program. Dr. Buffington indicated that she had the same sentiments concerning the band's accomplishments this year. She indicated that the steering committee appreciates the Board's support in allowing them to tour schools and have input into the new building project.

There were no comments from the audience.

From the Board, Mrs. Norris thought that everyone should write their state legislators concerning their recent walkout and wasting the first half of their legislative session instead of doing their budget and solving other financial problems. Mr. Goerges agreed with her. Mr. Bigler indicated that the building project makes for "exciting times," but he also pointed out that there many good things happening every day in all of the schools. He extended his appreciation to the staffs and administrators for all their efforts with No Child Left Behind. He also thanked Envoy and Gibraltar for their efforts with the project. He indicated that the steering committee members have represented their school and community very well while visiting other schools. He thanked Dr. Buffington and indicated that all of her efforts are appreciated as were her "hard work and leadership." Mrs. Norris indicated that the high school band will be performing as part of the summer concert series at the band shell. The student representative extended his congratulations to the band on their performance and to the boys basketball team and the wrestling team on having good seasons. Baseball is starting. The AP History class has been invited to participate as jury members in four mock trials at Valparaiso University, and he thought this was a great opportunity for Hobart students. Dr. Leach told the student representative that the Board will be wanting student participation in the building project, and he indicted that plans are being made to do this. Mr. Bigler indicated that the student representative was given some information at this meeting, and he was asked to get some input and report back at the next meeting. Mr. Butler thanked the Board

and administration for their support in the recent loss of his mother. Mr. Back clarified that the information packet for this meeting that was received from the architect will be the initial beginning document. The Board's homework will be to go through the previous document and compare it to this document on a line by line basis. Then at the next meeting rather than going through the document on a line by line basis, they will go through items that each of the members are concerned about and what will be stricken from this evening's document will be noted in the next document from the architect. Mr. Turner asked that the concerns be reviewed section by section in a sequential manner. The information received at this Board meeting will be shared with the steering committee, and the next document will reflect any changes that have been made to it.

Dr. Buffington reminded everyone that the spring play, F.A.M.E., will have performances next weekend of March 11 and again the following weekend. Mr. Goerges noted that he had the opportunity to see some firsthand enthusiasm for the high school project while he was at the doctor's office recently, and he complimented the Board for their interest and enthusiasm for the new building project and indicated that this is "not always the case."

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Back thanked the audience for coming and adjourned the meeting around 8:38 p.m.

Board of School Trustees
School City of Hobart

By _____
Jason Back, President

Attest:

By _____
Stephen R. Turner, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: March 17, 2005