

TRITON SCHOOL CORPORATION  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
100 TRITON DRIVE  
BOURBON, IN 46504-1801

**\*\*\* BOARD MINUTES \*\*\***

**Regular Session**

**November 13, 2023**

The Board of School Trustees of Triton School Corporation, Marshall and Kosciusko Counties, met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM, in the Administration Office, 100 Triton Drive, Bourbon, Indiana, on November 13, 2023. The meeting was live streamed on social media as well.

Members Present: Mrs. Terri Barnhart, Mr. Steve Stichter, Mr. Ken Miller, and Mr. Wes Rettinger

Members Absent: Mr. Kevin Boyer

Others Present: Mr. Jeremy Riffle-Superintendent; Mr. Tom McFarland-Business Manager; Mr. Kayden Hummitch-Triton Social Media

Pledge of  
Allegiance

Mrs. Barnhart called the Regular Session to order at 7:00 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consensus  
Agenda

Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve accounts payable vouchers #5980 -#5982, #6056-#6086, and #6094-#6170 in the amount of \$748,219.01; payrolls #21 and #22 in the amount of \$502,249.18 for a grand total of \$1,250,468.19; and to approve the minutes of the regular session held on October 09<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as well as November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mr. Rettinger seconded the motion and it carried 4 - 0.

Patrons'  
Comments

None

Personnel

Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation Mr. Stichter moved, Mr. Miller seconded, and the motion carried unanimously, to approve the resignation of Ashlie Rice and Gayle Lemler as full time bus drivers. Mr. Miller moved to approve Aaron Talbert as a full time bus driver, Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve Jason Thompson as the JH wrestling supervisor, Kim Stetzel as the HS wrestling supervisor, and Jason Groves as the HS girls' basketball supervisor, Mr. Rettinger, seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Riffle recommended the approval of Riley Linvill as a part-time high school evening custodian, Mr. Stichter approved, Mr. Miller seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Rettinger moved to approve Thomas Arndt as a substitute teacher, Mr. Stichter seconded, and the vote carried 4-0.

Business

Mr. Miller moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement, Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 3-0-1. Mr. Stichter made a motion to approve the Superintendent Contract, Mr. Rettinger seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Rettinger motioned to approve the Administration Contract, Mr. Miller seconded and the vote carried 4-0. Following Mr. Riffle's recommendation, Mr. Stichter moved to approve the 2024-2025 corporation calendar, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the vote carried 4-0. Mr. Stichter moved to approve the Corporation Wellness Plan, Mr. Rettinger seconded, and the vote carried unanimously. Mr. Miller moved to approve providing transportation for the Nappanee Missionary Church summer camp students to Michigan and Ohio, and the vote carried 4-0.

Superintendents  
Report

**Continuous Improvement** - Since we last met there have been a lot of great things happening:

- 100% 2023 Graduation Rate
- Education/Scholarship Endowment Organization/Planning
- Weight room-complete
- Lights fixed-varsity football field
- 8 new bus driver candidates

Still waiting on a couple of items of improvement:

- Tennis court lights, funded by a community health improvement grant from K21 (to be worked on next week)
- Performing arts curtain quote
- Trench/football press box sound system quotes
- Bus garage signage

**Shared Leadership** – Triton Elementary and Triton Jr/Sr High School continue to seek out ways they can meet the Strategic Plan objectives:

- Academic Success- 100% of Triton School Corporation seniors graduated last year, and we continue to see improved benchmark scores at the early grades.
- Invest in teachers and staff success/fostering social and emotional growth by:
  - Learning more about trauma informed classrooms and how we can teach students to deal with their emotional growth
  - Putting in time and effort in over the last few months, 40 of our 65 certified/non certified staff members have been paid to learn about and implement TBRI - Trust Based Relational Intervention
  - Learning how and teaching our students how to: regulate their bodies and emotions, build self-awareness, work on redos, how to use their words, and show empathy.
- Tonight you approved a new collective bargaining agreement that continues to thank teachers for the time and effort they put in to making Triton great. Within this contract all teachers will receive a 4-7% increase on their base pay, starting teacher pay increases by \$1500, additional maternity/paternity days will be added, additional duty pay, a small retirement incentive was added if making the corporation aware by February 1, an additional position to manage the performing arts center and take care of our fiscal bond investment in that space, and additional compensation for coaches who put in a ton of time in the summers under the new IHSAA rules.

**Social Responsibility** –

- Trunk or Treat for students with disabilities was held on the Triton Campus
- Craft Show for a local church that benefits their organization was held on campus
- Veterans Day programs were held at both buildings, doing our best to give tribute to those individuals who have served our great United States of America.
- Triton will receive a generous donation from NMC for local food insecurity needs.
- Building and trades scholars began helping with the Habitat for Humanity house this last week, after helping do small projects for home owners, churches, and organizations in the area. The same will be done in our own community if communicated through our town council. I was happy to hear that a Triton graduate is the recipient of the purposeful work that will be put into this home.
- Discussions were had this evening in the town board work session about how the town and school corporation can continue to work together for the betterment of our towns in the future.
- We continue to hear great things about Triton Scholars, who have been placed in internships/CTE opportunities in local businesses. We are also seeing Triton seniors begin to make decisions for their future goals by enrolling in college or deciding to work for local businesses.

**Accountability** - I am thankful for our Board of Trustees - Terri Barnhart, Kevin Boyer, Steve Stichter, Ken Miller, and Wes Rettinger for their service and engagement. Last week we had a special meeting to open public comment for the Collective Bargaining Agreement and ended the week on Thursday night by attending the ISBA Fall Regional Meeting to hear about legislative agendas and how legal issues continue to impact PreK-12 Education.

**High Expectations** – “We can do better” was a quote from a respected community member and leader that has propelled a working committee into action on how we can improve Triton education initiatives and scholarships. Since this challenge, a group of administrators and counselors have been working on ways we can add to both of these initiatives.

I am excited to announce that Triton will receive over \$30,000 of new funding for scholarships this year and the Education Foundation Committees will seek to raise money for student/teacher initiative including but not limited to: teacher projects/incentives, dream days, student audits, Triton Gives Back, field days, tailgates, and many other ways to make Triton better! If you are interested in learning more, please contact me or stay tuned for some exciting opportunities to come at the first of the new year.

**Alignment** – On Friday of last week we had a mid-year check in with our nursing staff. As we continue to work to better our service for students and staff, we were able to discuss ways to adjust scheduling, be more efficient, while still providing the same voice to voice contact our patrons are used to. In addition, badge and fob access to our buildings are now fully implemented. This was intended to be more intentional about wearing identification which is a must in the world of school safety.

**Evidence Based Decision Making** - Science of Reading - professional development that will continue to invest in Triton Elementary staff, confirming what we are doing is on track for continued growth and reinforce research based techniques for classroom/small group instruction.

Data shows quality small group instruction is working!

**Aimee Blue and Lisa Andrews** - Their most recent progress monitoring data showed that all of their struggling readers met the growth goal for middle of year in MAZE!

**All First Grade Teachers** - Their most recent progress monitoring data showed growth in letter naming, phonemic awareness, and nonsense word fluency. Most students have met the middle of year benchmark or are close to meeting it!

**Gwenda Gard** - Her most recent progress monitoring data showed all of her students meeting the middle of year benchmark for Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)!

**Jennifer Schaetzle** shared that she really likes utilizing the progress monitoring data this year to inform her instruction and she has seen growth in all her students' reading skills!

Patrons'  
Comments

There were no comment patron comments.

Building  
Reports

Mr. Riffle gave a brief building for the elementary and high school.

Other

There were no other comments.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Triton Board of School Trustees, Mrs. Barnhart declared the meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Mr. Steve Stichter, Secretary

Approved: December 11, 2023

President:

Secretary:

*Lisa Barnhart*  
*Steve Stichter*  
*Kevin R. Boyer*  
*Wm M. R.*  
*Kenneth W. Miller*