

February 15, 2017

TO: Media

FROM: Dr. Kathy Goad, Tri-County School Corporation

RE: Regular School Board Meeting, Monday, February 13, 2017

The Tri-County School Board met for their Regular meeting on Monday, February 13, 2017.  
The following topics were covered:

1. Dr. Goad announced that a bill is being presented in the Legislative Session that could pass on educational funding. Rainy Day Fund and Debt Service Fund would stay the same, but the General Fund would change to Educational Fund and an Operational Fund would take over the Bus Replacement Fund, Transportation Operating Fund and Capital Projects Fund. Dr. Goad will update on this more as soon as something is done.

2. Mr. Hagan announced the Students of the Month:  
Tri-County Primary School – Lillian Jones-Cobb, Jacob Lockhart

Mr. Hagan and Mrs. Mandy Taulman announced the Students of the Month:  
Tri-County Intermediate School – Abigail Arvin, Ellie Scheitlin

Mr. McCracken announced the Students of the Month:  
Math – Torie Miller  
PE/FACS/Health – Nicholas Paad  
Language Arts – Kaitlyn Peters  
Social Studies – Tyler Enlow  
Fine Arts – Jordan Wasson  
Science – Madison Garcia  
CTE (Adv. Manufacturing) – Cameron Emond

Tri-County High School – Torie Miller  
Tri-County Junior High School – Alivia Runkle, Logan Schneidt

3. Under the Reach Higher Showcase, Dr. Rowe asked Mrs. Kaitlin Flores, Technology Specialist, to talk about some projects that she is doing at the Junior/Senior High School. Mrs. Flores split the Board members into two groups and handed them locked boxes to problem solve on getting them open, a project from Breakout EDU. This has been done many times at the Junior/Senior High School in different classes and done other ways to get the students to work together on problem solving. Other projects being worked on are Hour of Code and the Maker Space area.
4. Under the Technology Report, Mrs. Shannon Kelly, Technology Director, reported that the statewide Readiness testing went off very smooth for the first time in years, and there were some device specific issues, that have already been addressed. Mrs. Flores and Mr. Eric Sharp are really getting their Maker Spaces and Steam Academics going this year. Mrs. Flores is having some specific maker challenges each month for the rest of the year, and Mr. Sharp has been introducing the students to stop motion video at TCI and green screen recordings at TCP. Breakout EDU has started really happening around each of the schools

as well. The Technology department has been accepting telephone proposals over the past 4 weeks, and should be presenting those findings to Dr. Goad soon, to begin the process of upgrading our outdated phone systems this summer. They have also been exploring the option of leasing devices on a 4 year lease cycle as opposed to buying the devices out right and that information will be presented to Dr. Goad soon as well. The benefits of leasing would be:

- a.) All devices will be on the same warranty cycle which will be easier for us to track
- b.) All devices will be of the same make/model in each building lowering technology overhead
- c.) After 4 years the company will be able to buy the devices back at a fair market or they can be bought by us for \$1.00 a device
- d.) We are not left with a substantial amount of devices on our shelves that no longer work
- e.) Will lower the annual amount needed in our budget to purchase devices

Mrs. Kelly briefly explained the Category 2 E-rate to the Board members.

5. Under Monthly Reports, Dr. Goad reported that in regards to RWCDC there is an Open House planned here at the Corporation Office next Monday evening.
6. Under Monthly Reports, Dr. Goad reported that on the second State Count Day, February 1, 2017, that Tri-County was down 7 students.
7. The Board approved a maternity leave for Mrs. Aimee Clark, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teacher, effective February 8, 2017 through the end of the 2016-17 school year.
8. The Board approved a maternity leave for Mrs. Ashley LeBeau, Elementary Physical Education Instructor, effective April 20, 2017 through the end of the 2016-17 school year and possibly the month of August, 2017.
9. The Board approved Mr. Ryan Cinowski as the long-term maternity leave substitute for Mrs. Clark.
10. The Board approved the retirement request from Mr. Denny Stitz, Athletic Director, effective February 28, 2017, with much appreciation.
11. The Board approved the employment of Mr. Richard Nolen as the part-time custodian at Tri-County Intermediate School, which would be for 3 hours each day.
12. Dr. Goad asked the Board members to study the proposed 2018-2019 school calendar. This calendar could include a full week for fall break or remain the same as it has in the past and fall break would include a Friday and Monday. The reasoning behind the full week break is:
  - a.) Calendar changes such as this start with one school making the change and then others jumping on board. In our area Delphi started this trend. Because of the relationship with Indian Trails, Frontier and Twin Lakes needed to move to the Delphi breaks. We have verbal commitment between the four White County schools to maintain the same break schedule. Thus, we need to entertain the new calendar.
  - b.) Research is indicating that more frequent breaks is a positive move for academic achievement. With shorter spans between breaks both students and teachers maintain better focus and miss less school days.

After running a staff survey asking for comments about the new format, 65% liked the new format and 35% wants to remain with our normal calendar. Dr. Goad reported that action

will be taken on the 2018-19 school calendar at the March meeting. At that time, she will know what the other White County schools are planning.

13. Dr. Goad reported to the Board that Cathy Rowe defended her dissertation last week and is now Dr. Cathy Rowe. Everyone congratulated Dr. Rowe for her accomplishment. Dr. Goad announced that Tri-County had received the \$30,000 Counseling Grant and the first meeting was held last Friday morning, February 10 for 3 hours and consisted of 20 people, which was made up of staff members and community members. There is also a 24 hour retreat scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> of this same committee and it was decided to collaborate with the other 3 White County Schools to write the grant for the \$100,000 award. Dr. Goad had met with the Indiana Youth Institute just recently. Dr. Goad reported that the construction is nearly complete at Tri-County Intermediate, with carpet being laid and a safety railing being put up. The gym will be closed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, they will remove the gym floor and be replaced by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and will open in August 2017. Dr. Goad reported that she met with both 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes and asked them to form teams and come up with designs for the gym, after hearing what Dr. Goad's expectations. After looking over the designs, Dr. Goad chose two of the team's designs and took some ideas from both of them. The Class of 2023 will get credit for some of the gym's wall designs. Dr. Goad announced that she would be out of the Corporation several days over the next two weeks for AdvancED External Reviews. Wednesday and Thursday of this week she will be visiting Clinton Central Jr/Sr High School, which recently passed a referendum and next Monday she will leave for Marked Tree School District in Arkansas, which boast many distinctions in Math in the state. Both schools have our similar demographics and she comes back with many ideas to share here at Tri-County.
14. Mr. Arvin asked Mr. McCracken if the Intermediate gym, once completed, would be used more by the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. McCracken was not sure yet on it being used more than the Auxiliary gym at the Junior/Senior High School.
15. Mr. Hagan reported to the Board members that Dr. Goad and Mr. Gerber had met with 13 Kindergarten families to get them signed up for the College Savings Program. Mr. Hagan reported that he has had visitors from other schools interested in our Developmental Kindergarten Program. The PTO Carnival was held last Saturday night, February 11, 2017 and was a huge success. Mr. Hagan announced that Mrs. Jill Bahler has been working with Grades 3-6, High Ability students, and he felt that this is going well. Mr. Hagan announced some dates of different activities in the near future:
  - February 22 – Math Bowl Practice Competition – Students vs. Parents/Teachers at 2:00 p.m. in the TCI Gym
  - February 27 – March 10 – ISTEP, Part I
  - March 4 – Young Authors Conference @ North White
  - March 9 – Muffins for Moms (TCI)
  - March 11 – Daddy Daughter Dance (Sock Hop) 5-7 p.m. @TCI Gym
  - March 15 – TCI Spring Pictures
  - March 16 – Donuts for Dads (TCI)
  - March 17 – TCP Spring Pictures
  - March 21 – Preschool Open House at TCP
  - March 23 – Spring Conferences (No longer on the 22<sup>nd</sup>)
16. Ms. Hall reported to the Board members that she would like to thank Shannon Kelly for the ISTEP online practice and a food drive was held between TCI and TCP with 1003 items brought in and collected for the Backpack Program.

17. Mr. McCracken reported to the Board members that this is Riley Week, and Mr. Sterk and Ms. Cannady, Student Council sponsors, have many activities planned for that week. February 18 is a basketball game with Faith Christian and there are 8 members of the alumni that will be inducted into the Hall of Fame that same evening. Senior Night is scheduled for February 24. The Sectional this year will be at Caston and the draw is scheduled for February 19. Mr. McCracken appreciates the new camera system and places can be better seen, but there are still a couple of places that are not filmed and he would like to request maybe 2 more cameras to take care of those areas.
18. Mr. Arvin and Mr. Kilmer announced in regards to the Ag Advisory meeting that the plots at the high school are a great lesson for the students and much help is coming from community members. The FFA will begin a Mentoring Program with help from community members and they will work with the FFA Officer Team to begin with and this will begin in March.