

SOUTH RIPLEY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

September 16, 2024

Versailles, Indiana

The South Ripley Board of School Trustees held an Executive Session on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm to discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees and litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing. Board members present were: Jeff Cornett, Amy Miller, Kim Jolly, Andy Comer, Carol Holzer, Brittany Bradley and Thomas Welch. Superintendent Moorhead and Attorney Merritt Alcorn were present.

Following the Executive Session President Jeff Cornett said a prayer and then called the regular meeting of the South Ripley Board of School Trustees to order at 6:35 PM.

The agenda was approved as presented. Motion was made to approve by Amy Miller, seconded by Thomas Welch, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead next recognized 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for the IREAD and ILEARN results. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level IREAD results had a 98.4% passing rate. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ILEARN math scores were #2 in the state with an 87.1% passing rate, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade ILEARN math scores were #1 in the state with 81.9 % passing rate. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers present were Leslie Rennie, Angie Dowden, Taylor Carroll, and Sarah Smith. Each of these teachers spoke of the strategies they are using to help their students advance and gave credit to teachers in PK-2 for getting the students prepared. Principal Ryan Lauber and Assistant Principal Kris Wood were present and stated their appreciation to all of their staff and students for their hard work.

Superintendent Moorhead next recognized 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Janine Stratton as the 2024-2025 Ripley County Teacher of the Year. She was also recognized as the 4<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher achieving the highest passing percentage in the State of Indiana. Principal Lauber stated Mrs. Stratton is always looking for ways to engage students and she is very deserving of the Ripley County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Stratton gave praises to the students for their achievements and many other teachers and aides involved in education of these students.

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Minutes September 16, 2024

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Several students were present to represent last year's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class and their outstanding scores. Mandy Hite, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, was present to support Mrs. Stratton. Superintendent Moorhead congratulated the staff and students for being 1<sup>st</sup> in the State and stated it was another great day to be a Raider! President Jeff Cornett presented certificates of recognition and pen sets.

At this time the regular meeting was adjourned. Motion to adjourn was made by Amy Miller, seconded by Kim Jolly, vote 7-0.

The budget hearing on the 2025 budgets was opened. Motion to open the budget hearing was made by Thomas Welch, seconded by Amy Miller, vote 7-0. Business Manager Lana Miller gave a brief overview of the 2025 budget and noted items discussed at the budget work session. There was no public present and no public comments were made.

At this time the budget hearing was adjourned. Motion to adjourn was made by Amy Miller, seconded by Kim Jolly, vote 7-0.

At this time the regular meeting of the South Ripley Board of School Trustees resumed. Motion to resume was made by Thomas Welch, seconded by Carol Holzer, vote 7-0.

Under correspondence, thank you notes were received from the family of Angie Bradley (Sandy Meyer's sister), Bill Swinney and Jan Icenogle (Carol Holcomb's sister). South Ripley also received a congratulatory note from Indiana Online for receiving the Excellence in Community Collaboration Award.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the minutes from August 19, 2024 and August 21, 2024 as presented. Motion was made by Amy Miller to approve, seconded by Andy Comer, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the claims as presented. Motion was made by Kim Jolly to approve, seconded by Brittany Bradley, vote 7-0.

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Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the Financial Report as presented by Business Manager Lana Miller. Motion was made by Thomas Welch to approve, seconded by Carol Holzer, vote 7-0.

Under Personnel, Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of Ms. Kathryn Fleming in the position of Long-Term Substitute for 8<sup>th</sup> grade science, effective August 29, 2024 through the end of the first semester. Ms. Fleming will be paid a daily rate based on Master Level C. With this being a long-term substitute position, Ms. Fleming is not eligible for benefits. Motion was made by Amy Miller to approve, seconded by Andy Comer, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of Mr. Kyle Jolly to fill the Event Supervisor position for the fall athletic season of the 2024-2025 school year. This position is paid a stipend of \$1200 in the normal stipend payroll cycle. Motion was made by Amy Miller to approve, seconded by Thomas Welch, vote 6-0, with 1 abstention by Kim Jolly.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the following coaches for the High School Girls Basketball program for 2024-2025 school year season: Mitchell Harrell as Girls JV Coach; Ashlee Miller as Girls Varsity Assistant Coach; and Brad Samples as Volunteer Coach. The JV and Assistant Coach positions will be paid a stipend in the normal payroll stipend cycle. Motion was made by Amy Miller to approve, seconded by Thomas Welch vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of Don Fraley to fill the vacant position of Varsity Bowling Coach, effective immediately for the 2024-2025 school year. This ECA position is paid a stipend during the normal stipend payroll cycle. Motion was made by Thomas Welch to approve, seconded by Kim Jolly, vote 7-0.

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Superintendent Moorhead recommended acceptance of the resignation of Ms. Misty "Nicki" Cobler from her full-time aide position in the Moderate Classroom at the Elementary School, effective August 26, 2024. Motion was made by Brittany Bradley to approve, seconded by Andy Comer, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of Abagaile Hewitt to fill the instructional aide position vacancy in the South Ripley Elementary Moderate Classroom, effective September 23, 2024. This is a full-time position for the school year, and is eligible for benefits. Ms. Hewitt would be paid at the Tier 1 aide rate. Motion was made by Thomas Welch to approve, seconded by Kim Jolly, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the termination of employment of Charles "Tony" Rolf from his position of Corporation Bus Driver, which includes all driving assignments, effective September 13, 2024. Motion was made by Andy Comer to approve, seconded by Brittany Bradley, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the FMLA request of Mr. Rick Bales, effective September 26, 2024 for approximately four weeks. Motion was made by Amy Miller to approve, seconded by Kim Jolly, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the non-FMLA medical leave request of Ms. Karen Burford, effective August 21, 2024 through October 9, 2024. Motion was made by Thomas Welch to approve, seconded by Andy Comer, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade "out of state" field trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center in Cincinnati, OH on May 15, 2025. Motion was made by Thomas Welch to approve, seconded by Amy Miller, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade "out of state" field trip to Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati, OH on April 25, 2025. Motion was made by Amy Miller to approve, seconded by Thomas Welch, vote 7-0.

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Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade “out of state” field trip to Taft Theatre in Cincinnati, OH on December 11, 2024 . Motion was made by Thomas Welch to approve, seconded by Amy Miller, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the Raiders Riot and Yearbook students and sponsors to attend an “out of state” field trip to Harrison High School in Harrison, OH on September 24, 2024. Motion was made by Andy Comer to approve, seconded by Thomas Welch, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the High School Band/Music Theory Class “out of state” field trip to the University of Cincinnati Corbett Auditorium in Cincinnati, OH on October 4, 2024. Motion was made by Carol Holzer to approve, seconded by Thomas Welch, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the quote from Shawn Halcomb in the amount of \$30,240.00 to construct a 18’ x 16’ two-story softball press box at Ohio Rod for the South Ripley Girls Softball field per drawings. Motion was made by Amy Miller to approve, seconded by Kim Jolly, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval to enter in to a lease agreement with the Switzerland County YMCA for the purpose of practice and meets for the South Ripley swim teams. Motion was made by Kim Jolly to approve, seconded by Andy Comer, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the bid from Dunlap for \$61,800 for Alternate 1 of the High School and Junior High controls project, as submitted by CMTA Engineer Chris Kelting. Motion was made by Kim Jolly to approve, seconded by Thomas Welch, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy 3220.01 for the 2024-2025 school year. This has been discussed with the SRCTA President and is required to have board approval annually. No revisions were made to this policy for this year. Motion was made by Thomas Welch to approve, seconded by Carol Holzer, vote 7-0.

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Superintendent Moorhead recommended approval of the Teacher Evaluation Plan SY 2024-2025. This plan has been discussed with the SRCTA President. No new revisions were made this year. Motion was made by Carol Holzer to approve, seconded by Amy Miller, vote 7-0.

Superintendent Moorhead recommended that the South Ripley Community School Corporation Board of Trustees approve the board resolution on social media litigation. This allows South Ripley to join with over 800 school districts across the country and approximately 80 Indiana school districts in a multi-litigant lawsuit against the social media companies Meta/Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Youtube, TikTok, et al. in regards to those social media platforms being marketed inappropriately to get children addicted to using them. Motion was made by Amy Miller to approve, seconded by Thomas Welch, vote 7-0.

Under information items, Superintendent Moorhead informed the board that the Indiana Department of Homeland Security notified South Ripley of their Secured School Safety Grant Award in the amount of \$50,603.13 for September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025.

Superintendent Moorhead informed the board that South Ripley has been invited to the IDEOE Literacy Achievement Celebration on September 25, 2024 at 10 am at the Indiana Statehouse to celebrate the 95% or higher pass rate on the 2024 IREAD Assessment.

Superintendent Moorhead informed the board that he attended the Educational Excellence Awards Gala in Indianapolis along with Mr. Lauber, Mrs. Wood, and three elementary staff members. The evening was fantastic. South Ripley received a letter of congratulations from State Representative Alex Zimmerman.

Superintendent Moorhead informed the board that South Ripley has been notified that our school district has been selected as a Cognia District of Distinction based on the results of our engagement review. Out of 1,350 engagement reviews, only 11 districts were selected for this prestigious recognition. We are planning a celebration November 4 at noon in the High School Auditorium. Cognia Representative Phyllis Gilworth will be

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here for the celebration along with Cognia Regional Director Melinda Isaacs. Superintendent Moorhead stated that this is a really big deal for our school and during the 36 years of his career he hasn't been part of a district of distinction recognition. Principal Derik Hutton validated the importance of what we do as a team, and celebrating as a group. Attorney Merritt Alcorn stated that the many achievements at South Ripley have established a standard of excellence as a bar. Our students and staff are the people that have proven they can meet the standards. This standard of excellence may be setting future students and we won't know the total impact until 15 years or so. This standard of excellence will definitely be seen in our community for years to come.

Under other, Superintendent Moorhead informed the board that South Ripley has been notified that we are the recipient of the Robokind Grant Award. South Ripley was selected as one of the 36 recipients of the 2024-2025 Robokind-Robots4 Autism Grant. This grant will allow us to continue to upgrade our robots.

Superintendent Moorhead congratulated Principal Derik Hutton who has been named as a PLTW outstanding administrator. Principal Hutton is one of only 27 administrators across the U.S. to earn this award.

Board Member Carol Holzer extended an invitation to South Ripley's Alumni Reunion from 4-8pm on the Saturday of the Pumpkin Show. The class of 1974 will be honored.

Board President Jeff Cornett commented that with all of the recent awards South Ripley has received it has been great to see everyone's hard work recognized. As board members he said this has been very gratifying to see. It was also great to see Mrs. Stratton receive a well-deserved award.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Amy Miller, seconded by Thomas Welch, vote 7-0.

SOUTH RIPLEY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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