

1 NORTH HARRISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

2 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

The aforementioned Regular Meeting of the Board was
held on the 12th day of December, 2013 at North Harrison
Middle School Cafeteria, Highway 64, Ramsey, Indiana 47166
and commenced at 6:59 p.m. before Rebecca J. Coughenour,
Court Reporter.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Precision Court Reporting
8045 Shady Estates Circle, NE
New Salisbury, Indiana 47161
812-596-4129

1 APPEARANCES

2 MR. THOMAS - SUPERINTENDENT

3 MR. RICHARDS - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

4 BOARD MEMBERS:

5 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA - PRESIDENT

6 MS. ADAMS - VICE PRESIDENT

7 MR. HANGER - SECRETARY

8 MR. OPPEL - MEMBER

9
10 OTHER SPEAKERS:

11 MR.

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22 TRANSCRIPT LEGEND

23 - (Interjection of thought for clarification)

-- (Interruption of thought)

24 ... (Trailing off or did not complete thought)

(ph) (Phonetically)

25 (sic) (In it's original form)

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

6:59 p.m.

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: I'd like to call tonight's meeting to order and ask for the minutes to show that all Board members are present. At this time, I'm going to ask for a recommendation to adopt the Agenda for December 12th that the meeting be approved as presented with additions, corrections or deletions and I believe we have two additions.

MR. THOMAS: Yes, ma'am. Under 12-12-12 Late Items number 1 through number 4. I'd like to recommend that the Board add those to the Agenda and also in addition to that acceptance and approval of our 1782 budget.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Also adding an item, a recommendation to add additional vacation days for Mr. Thomas' contract for 2012 ending July 1st 2014. It will be an additional item under Late Items. At this time, do I have a motion to adopt the Agenda?

MS. ADAMS: I'll make it.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by Ms. Adams. Do I have a second?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. OPPEL: I'll second it.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr. Oppel. Any questions or comments?

(No response.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in favor, please say aye.

(Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0. The next item is a recommendation of the Minutes from the November 14th, 2013 Executive Session and Regular Meeting and the minutes from the December 5th, 2013 Special Meeting and Executive Sessions be approved as presented.

MR. THOMAS: Okay. I'd like to recommend that the following corrections be made on the minutes: If you look down to item number 5, the stipend pay rate should be .67%. And then there's two entries there that reference 67% when it should be point. Also on item 6, and I'll read this, (reading) Mr. Gary Byrne moved and Mr. Steve Hanger seconded the motion to approve Jeff Brown head of maintenance and Alan Fessel maintenance department also waste treatment

1 manager to be changed to a salary position rather
2 than hourly effective January 1, 2014 and should
3 the corporation no longer have the need for the
4 position that position will be eliminated.

5 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: That is the waste --
6 That's the waste management -- the waste --

7 MR. THOMAS: Right.

8 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: The waste facility
9 manager?

10 MR. THOMAS: What I call -- refer to as
11 the lagoon.

12 (Laughter.)

13 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: You're adding that
14 into those minutes. Do I have a motion to approve
15 the minutes as presented and amended?

16 MR. HANGER: I'll make that motion.

17 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
18 Mr. Hanger. Do I have a second?

19 MS. ADAMS: I'll second it.

20 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Ms.
21 Adams. Any other questions or comments on the
22 minutes?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
25 favor, please say aye.

1 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

2 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

5 Claims.

6 MR. THOMAS: Okay. At this time, I'd
7 like to recommend approval of claim number 1714
8 through 1837 be approved as presented.

9 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
10 to approve the recommendation?

11 MR. OPPEL: I'll make that motion.

12 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
13 Mr. Oppel. Do I have a second?

14 MR. HANGER: I'll second it.

15 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
16 Hanger. Any questions or comments on the claim
17 items?

18 MR. BYRNE: Just the one, 1738. It's
19 Performance Services. Is this the company that,
20 that did our schools?

21 MR. RICHARDS: That reviewed the middle
22 school?

23 MR. BYRNE: Yeah.

24 MR. RICHARDS: Yes.

25 MR. BYRNE: What did they do when they

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

--

MR. RICHARDS: It most likely relates to a -- some service, some service work done for the HVAC systems at Morgan. They're out of contract now in terms of the, of the original process for Morgan Elementary and North Harrison Elementary. So they -- But they still work on the controls for us in terms of those systems.

MR. BYRNE: Okay.

MR. THOMAS: And it -- I might add, it has nothing to do with the assessment and survey.

MR. BYRNE: I figured that. I just was curious on what --

MR. THOMAS: Right.

MR. BYRNE: -- what involvement they had. I just thought they subbed all that out.

MR. RICHARDS: No, they do a lot of the actual controller and software work themselves.

MR. BYRNE: Okay.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Any other questions?

(No response.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in favor, please say aye.

(Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(No response.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

MR. THOMAS: Okay. The next item, Approval of Payroll, I'd like to recommend that the regular payrolls for December 20, 2013 and January 3rd, 2014 be approved for payment.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion to approve the recommendation?

MR. BYRNE: I move to do that.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by Mr. Byrne. Do I have a second?

MS. ADAMS: I'll second it.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Ms. Adams. Any questions or comments?

(No response.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in favor, please say aye.

(Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

MR. THOMAS: Next item, Bank Reconciliation, I'd like to recommend that the bank reconciliation of November 30th, 2013 be approved as presented.

1 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
2 to approve the recommendation?

3 MR. OPPEL: I'll make that motion.

4 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
5 Mr. Oppel. Do I have a second?

6 MR. HANGER: I'll second it.

7 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
8 Hanger. Any questions or comments?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
11 favor, please say aye.

12 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

13 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

16 MR. THOMAS: Okay. The next items is
17 Presentations and I don't have any.

18 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Okay. All right.
19 The next item is Participation. At this time, if
20 you would like to make a comment on any agenda
21 item if you would, come to the podium and state
22 your name.

23 (No response.)

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Okay. It looks like
25 none so we'll move on.

1 MR. THOMAS: Okay. Under Resignations
2 and Retirements I have none so I'll move on to the
3 next item 12-12-9, Appointments: Number 1, Kelly
4 Book - High School Junior Class Sponsor/Prom
5 Committee, Renaissance Leadership Team and
6 Academic Superbowl Team; Merri Haub - Morgan
7 Yearbook Sponsor for the 2013-14 school year;
8 Kristen Zeller - Service Agreement for Educational
9 Interpreter for Jennifer Heeres' maternity leave
10 from approximately January 6, 2014 to February 28,
11 2014. I'm reluctant to recommend myself.

12 MR. RICHARDS: Do you want me to read
13 it?

14 MR. THOMAS: Yeah.

15 MR. RICHARDS: We're recommending John
16 Thomas as the High School Volunteer Academic Team
17 Advisor for the 2013-14 school year.

18 MR. THOMAS: Thank you. And then Ron
19 Hamby - High School Boys Basketball Volunteer
20 Assistant for the 2013-14 school year. And it has
21 a correction, Ron was hired in November for High
22 School Basketball Assistant and should have been a
23 volunteer.

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
25 to approve the recommended appointments?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MS. ADAMS: I'll make it.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by Ms. Adams. Do I have a second?

MR. HANGER: I'll second it.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr. Hanger. Any questions or comments?

MR. BYRNE: Has anybody checked out this Mr. Thomas on this?

MR. RICHARDS: I'll be sure to run a background check.

(Laughter.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Qualifications for the position.

MR. THOMAS: Well, I got an email from the high school principal and he wanted to know if I had any experience so I told him I did.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Okay.

MS. ADAMS: He won the state.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: I think you won the state, maybe. Is that right?

MR. THOMAS: Well, I don't like to brag. We were state champions in '96.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Then we can expect big things.

MR. THOMAS: Don't count on it. I'll do

1 the best I can.

2 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Okay. Any other
3 questions?

4 (No response.)

5 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
6 favor, please say aye.

7 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

8 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

11 MR. THOMAS: Okay. Under Other
12 Recommendations I'd like to recommend that the
13 Board approve permission for the corporation
14 treasurer to make necessary transfers of
15 appropriations from account to account within each
16 school fund in order to balance out at the year
17 end and to pay additional necessary and customary
18 claims through the month of December 2013.

19 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
20 to approve the recommendation?

21 MR. OPPEL: I'll make the motion.

22 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
23 Mr. Oppel. Do I have a second?

24 MR. HANGER: I'll second it.

25 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.

1 Hanger. Any questions or comments on the
2 recommendation?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
5 favor, please say aye.

6 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

7 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

10 MR. THOMAS: Next item, I'd like to
11 recommend that the Board approve permission to
12 encumber balances in all tax supported school
13 funds and any other fund as considered necessary.

14 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
15 to approve the recommendation?

16 MS. ADAMS: I'll make it.

17 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
18 Ms. Adams. Do I have a second?

19 MR. HANGER: I'll second it.

20 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
21 Hanger. Any questions or comments on this item?

22 (No response.)

23 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
24 favor, please say aye.

25 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

MR. THOMAS: Item number 3 under Other Items, I'd like to recommend that the Board approve the 2014-15 school calendar as proposed and I would like to make a couple of comments. It's basically the same calendar that we had this year except, Mr. Hatton, I think it's off one day, correct?

MR. HASKELL: Because of the shift of the day.

MR. THOMAS: Right. Because leap year causes that.

MR. RICHARDS: No, just the shift in calendar days.

MR. THOMAS: Oh. Anyway, opening day we would start -- Professional Development days would begin on the 4th for the teachers and then on the 6th of August would be the first student day. And then we would end on -- the last student day would be, let me see here, would be the 27th. Now we have 5 snow makeup days. Well, actually 6 next year. We only have 5 this year. I hope we don't need more than that but the way the weather looks

1 we already are into that. And so I'd like to
2 recommend we have a week Fall Break, 3 days for
3 Thanksgiving and a week Spring Break, 2 weeks for
4 Christmas and it's in compliance and congruent for
5 lack of a better word, that's a math term but
6 anyway, with Prosser. So I'd like to recommend
7 that the Board approve the calendar. I've had
8 many comments and principals have brought me many
9 comments that the parents like the calendar. It
10 gives the students time in the summer off. I
11 believe the younger children need to be children
12 and have time away from school. And the reason I
13 make that statement is because the -- what they
14 call the balanced calendar has gotten popular and
15 they go year round and they're off 2 weeks, 2
16 weeks, 2 weeks, 2 weeks every quarter. And then
17 it allows the high school students to be able to
18 get jobs and make some money and I really think
19 that's important.

20 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
21 to approve the recommendation?

22 MR. HANGER: I'll make that motion.

23 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
24 Mr. Hanger. Do I have a second?

25 MR. OPPEL: I'll second.

1 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
2 Oppel. Any questions or comments on the calendar?

3 MR. BYRNE: Yeah, I'll just go ahead and
4 make my comment on this. I never voted for this
5 calendar because of the fall break. And it's just
6 my opinion I'd rather see the kids even out more
7 for summer and I have concerns that we used to
8 just have a day or 2 off, I think, for that week.
9 And it seemed like that worked out pretty good.
10 And you know, you're talking about some of these
11 days of snow we should probably be in school as
12 much as we can before the bad weather comes in.
13 So I will vote no on that. I always have. Never
14 voted for this calendar. I just wanted to make a
15 comment on that. Thanks.

16 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Anyone else?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
19 favor, please say aye.

20 MS. ADAMS: Aye.

21 MR. HANGER: Aye.

22 MR. OPPEL: Aye.

23 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Aye.

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

25 MR. BYRNE: Aye.

1 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 4-1.

2 MR. THOMAS: Item number 2 under Late
3 Items, I'd like to recommend that the Board accept
4 the resignation of Mark Lamon - High School
5 Varsity Softball Coach effective December the
6 11th, 2013.

7 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
8 to approve the recommendation?

9 MR. OPPEL: I'll make it.

10 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: I'm sorry, was that
11 you, Mr. Oppel?

12 MR. OPPEL: Yes.

13 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Mr. Oppel made the
14 motion to approve. Do I have a second?

15 MS. ADAMS: I'll second it.

16 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Ms.
17 Adams. Any questions or comments?

18 (No response.)

19 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
20 favor, please say aye.

21 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

22 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

25 MR. THOMAS: Now I will go back to item

1 number 1. I'd like to recommend that the Board
2 approve the appointment of Steve Hatton, High
3 School Principal, to the Alternative School Board
4 for 2014 school year.

5 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
6 to approve the recommendation?

7 MR. HANGER: I'll make that motion.

8 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
9 Mr. Hanger. Do I have a second?

10 MR. BYRNE: I'll second it.

11 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
12 Byrne. Any questions or comments?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
15 favor, please say aye.

16 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

17 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

20 MR. THOMAS: Item number 3, I'd like to
21 recommend that the Board approve permission to
22 encumber funds to purchase two school buses. And
23 this is part of our school bus plan in our budget
24 and I'll let Mr. Richards discuss the price and
25 the good deal we're getting.

1 MR. RICHARDS: Do you want me to do that
2 now or wait 'til the vote?

3 MR. THOMAS: Now is fine.

4 MR. RICHARDS: We're going to be
5 ordering two buses under 2011 pricing. So we
6 ordered -- we had ordered two buses or a single
7 bus last year in December, I believe, of 2011. So
8 we were able to get that pricing again this year.
9 So that will give us about a savings of \$10,000 on
10 these two buses.

11 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

12 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
13 to approve the recommendation?

14 MS. ADAMS: I'll make it.

15 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
16 Ms. Adams. Do I have a second?

17 MR. HANGER: I'll second it.

18 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
19 Hanger. Any questions or comments on this item?

20 MR. BYRNE: Just for the public, this is
21 -- we need these buses, right?

22 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

23 MR. BYRNE: And I already heard that
24 answer so that's all I need to hear. Thank you.

25 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Anyone else?

1 (No response.)

2 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
3 favor, please say aye.

4 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

5 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.

8 MR. THOMAS: Item number 4, I'd like to
9 recommend that the Board approve a resolution
10 authorizing transfer of dormant funds from the
11 Pension Debt Service Fund to the General Fund.
12 And let me explain what this is about. We
13 actually -- We paid off our Pension Debt Service
14 Bonds and when we get out tax straw we will have
15 probably in the, don't hold me to it, at or about
16 \$48,000. But we have no more payments too because
17 they're paid off. So I'd like to recommend that
18 the Board adopt a resolution to transfer --
19 because it is a General Fund expenditure.
20 Retirement is a General Fund expenditure. And I'd
21 like to recommend that the Board approve the
22 resolution and adopt it this evening to transfer
23 the money to the General Fund, the balance.

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do I have a motion
25 to approve the recommendation?

1 MR. OPPEL: I'll make the motion.
2 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
3 Mr. Oppel. Do I have a second?
4 MR. HANGER: I'll second it.
5 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
6 Hanger. Any questions or comments on this item?
7 MR. BYRNE: I do have a question for you
8 on this. The money, you say it's around \$48,000?
9 MR. THOMAS: Thereabout.
10 MR. BYRNE: Okay.
11 MR. THOMAS: It depends on what we get
12 from the county.
13 MR. BYRNE: And then what -- where,
14 where was this money raised from, what source?
15 MR. THOMAS: Property taxes.
16 MR. BYRNE: And so how do we figure that
17 it should go to the General Fund then?
18 MR. THOMAS: That's perfectly legal.
19 MR. BYRNE: I know it's legal but, I
20 mean, the property taxes raised it. But it looks
21 to me like it should go to some kind of property
22 tax --
23 MR. THOMAS: Reduction?
24 MR. BYRNE: -- fund. That'd be fine.
25 MR. RICHARDS: We paid those bonds off

1 out of General Fund.

2 MR. THOMAS: What's that?

3 MR. RICHARDS: You paid those bonds off
4 out of General Fund.

5 MR. THOMAS: Yeah, but see, I paid those
6 bonds off out of General Fund to the tune of 1.4
7 million. I'm restoring our General Fund money.

8 MR. BYRNE: Okay. But this was raised
9 with, with --

10 MR. THOMAS: Yes, it was raised with tax
11 dollars.

12 MR. BYRNE: Okay.

13 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Which were intended
14 for the Pension Bond.

15 MR. THOMAS: Right.

16 MR. BYRNE: Well, I just thought I'd
17 ask.

18 MR. THOMAS: I appreciate it.

19 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: When those funds
20 were raised they were raised with the intention of
21 paying for the Pension Bond. That's what they
22 were for, --

23 MR. THOMAS: Uh-huh (affirmative).

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: -- correct?

25 MR. THOMAS: Right.

1 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Any other questions?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If not, all those in
4 favor, please say aye.

5 MS. ADAMS: Aye.

6 MR. HANGER: Aye.

7 MR. OPPEL: Aye.

8 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Aye.

9 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

10 MR. BYRNE: Aye.

11 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 4-1.

12 MR. THOMAS: Okay. The next item that
13 we added, yesterday afternoon I received our 1782
14 Budget Notice for our budget for 2014. And I'd
15 like to present it to the Board for consideration
16 of adoption and approval 'cause I only have 10
17 days to get back with the Division of Local
18 Government Finance in order to finalize it. And
19 if you don't you miss an opportunity to make any
20 adjustments. And I'd like to briefly run down
21 through what the notice is and the amounts. The
22 tax rate is ¢.77 per \$100 of assessed value. Last
23 year it was ¢.84 however, that can be misleading
24 because the assessed valuation went up about 13
25 million dollars. So we still collect a little

1 more money than we would because the assessed
2 valuation went up. Transportation was increased a
3 little bit but that was done by the State
4 Department. And I won't go through all the
5 details. I did at the budget hearing and I've
6 done it two or three times. But the bottom line
7 is ¢.77 tax rate and at this time, Madam
8 President, I'll turn it over to you in terms of
9 adoption of the budget.

10 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: At this time, do I
11 have a motion?

12 MR. HANGER: I'll make that motion to
13 approve the 1782 Notice as written.

14 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: There's a motion to
15 approve the 1782 Notice. Do I have a second?

16 MS. ADAMS: I'll second it.

17 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Ms.
18 Adams. Any questions or comments?

19 MR. BYRNE: I'll make a couple of
20 comments and maybe a question or two. I approve
21 -- I do want to thank Mr. Thomas because he
22 doesn't by law have to bring this before the
23 Board. 'Cause we -- my understanding is we could
24 approve the budget not knowing what the budget was
25 gonna be, which I don't like that. And I really

1 appreciate him bringing this to the Board --

2 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

3 MR. BYRNE: -- to vote on. However,
4 during the budget hearing I had questions and I
5 voted for the budget with the understanding of
6 \$460,000 was being raised in Capital Projects,
7 which by law we can do to pay for General Fund
8 expenses. And I don't think that we need to do
9 that because we're able to give raises and all
10 that. We're paying off things. General Fund's in
11 good shape. The law allows it to take place in
12 emergency cases and I, I think a lot of times, I'm
13 not sure how we could even do it if it's not an
14 emergency. But anyway, I'm assuming we're still
15 gonna do that then, we're gonna transfer the money
16 to the General Fund because that's what my --

17 MR. THOMAS: No. The money, it doesn't
18 get transferred to the General Fund.

19 MR. BYRNE: I understand.

20 MR. THOMAS: The utilities are actually
21 paid out of the Capital Projects --

22 MR. BYRNE: Okay. I --

23 MR. THOMAS: -- as long as you don't
24 exceed the \$403,000 and \$57,000 for insurance.

25 MR. BYRNE: I understand that one

1 hundred percent. But otherwise, if you don't pay
2 it the General Fund has to pay it. So you're
3 right, you're correct, but it's still bailing the
4 General Fund out.

5 MR. THOMAS: You are correct.

6 MR. BYRNE: Okay. And because we're
7 raising more money, like you said, I appreciate
8 you pointing that out, our AV (ph) is higher.
9 That should mean our tax rate goes down to raise
10 the same amount of money. We are raising more
11 money, which I can see that.

12 MR. THOMAS: And, excuse me, some of
13 that is because of the, the Pension Bonds we paid
14 off. That's -- That accounts for a little over
15 \$.10.

16 MR. BYRNE: I understand. That's why I
17 was expecting more off than what I'm seeing here.
18 Plus the county government gave us some additional
19 money for the debt reduction and, I don't know, I
20 just feel like that I'm not seeing the reductions
21 that I was expecting. So -- And plus I voted on
22 this budget under the assumption that we would not
23 be using Capital Projects to pay for the utilities
24 and the property casualty. So therefore I'm gonna
25 vote no for this. And again, it really doesn't

1 matter because we don't have to but I again
2 appreciate you bringing it to the, to the public.

3 MR. THOMAS: Well, I appreciate your
4 comments. Whatever the majority vote of the Board
5 is I will do. And you all have a vote, I don't.
6 I will enforce and manage whatever the majority
7 will of the Board is.

8 MR. BYRNE: Well, my personal opinion it
9 should be about \$.10 less and I, I think I heard
10 you say earlier that you could get by with that.
11 I believe that our farmers and our property tax
12 payers can -- should be helped out whenever
13 possible and I, I can see that this money is not
14 necessary. It might be nice to have it but I know
15 that the school can get by without it and I wish
16 the Board would, would consider that.

17 MR. THOMAS: And I would like to add to
18 what Gary said. If you're familiar with the cap
19 and the circuit breaker that became a part of the
20 constitution in the State of Indiana the farmers
21 are bearing the brunt of the burden in taxation.
22 Used to be that the cap on property per acre was
23 \$890. That got removed under former Governor
24 Mitch Daniels. And there -- the farmers are
25 paying an exorbitant amount of property taxes as

1 opposed to home owners. I don't think that's
2 fair. But at any rate -- And like I say, if the
3 Board chooses to have me reduce it I've prepared a
4 resolution where I have the rite to, the Board
5 gave me that, then I will make the appropriate
6 reduction.

7 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: The recommendation
8 is to approve as presented. And from my comment I
9 do respect what Mr. Byrnes had to say. I was
10 under a different impression that that money was
11 in there to pay utilities should it be necessary.
12 I believe that you are an excellent steward of our
13 tax payer money, you do your due diligence, you're
14 a farmer yourself and you have a compassion for
15 that but I think the rate is about where we
16 expected it to be so as a Board member I'm gonna
17 support it as it stands.

18 MR. BYRNE: And then I appreciate your
19 opinion on that but again, well I'll just throw it
20 out to you then, I move to reduce it \$.10.

21 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: We already have a
22 motion on the floor.

23 MR. BYRNE: Well I move to amend, that
24 we reduce it \$.10.

25 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: There is a motion on

1 the floor to amend the recommendation. Do I have
2 a second?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: The motion to amend
5 with no second will die for lack of a second. So
6 the motion on the floor is to approve as
7 presented. We have a motion and a second. At
8 this time, we'll vote. All those in favor, please
9 say aye.

10 MS. ADAMS: Aye.

11 MR. HANGER: Aye.

12 MR. OPPEL: Aye.

13 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Aye.

14 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

15 MR. BYRNE: Aye.

16 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 4-1.

17 The last item on the Late Items we would like to
18 make a -- well, item 6 asks for a motion to -- for
19 the Board to approve an additional 5 vacation days
20 for Mr. Thomas for the school year 2012 -- I'm
21 sorry, 2013-14 ending July 1, 2014. Do I have a
22 motion to approve the recommendation?

23 MS. ADAMS: I'll make that motion.

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
25 Ms. Adams. Do I have a second?

1 MR. BYRNE: I'll second it.

2 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
3 Byrne. Any questions or comments?

4 MR. BYRNE: So that's this school year
5 is the way I heard you -- Is that correct?

6 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Correct. This will
7 be for this school year only at this time.

8 MR. THOMAS: I normally have 20. I have
9 -- Well, --

10 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: That's fine.

11 MR. THOMAS: I won't go into detail.

12 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: No need to go into
13 detail.

14 MR. THOMAS: 'Cause I take vacation days
15 when school's out --

16 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If you're not here
17 you're --

18 MR. THOMAS: -- for Christmas.

19 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Right.

20 MR. THOMAS: 'Cause I have a 260-day
21 calendar. That's the reason. And my daughter is
22 in Richmond, Virginia and I need to go check on
23 her during Christmas.

24 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: You do not need to
25 explain. We completely understand. You've earned

1 some extra days at this point in time. Does
2 anyone have any questions?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Okay. If not, all
5 those in favor, please say aye.

6 (Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

7 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.
10 The next item is -- do we have any Use of
11 Facilities at this time?

12 MR. THOMAS: No, ma'am.

13 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Okay. I'll ask for
14 Board Member Communication if anyone has some
15 comments they would like to make.

16 MR. BYRNE: Well, I'll just make this
17 brief. One thing I'd like to bring up about the
18 property tax deal and the using the General Fund
19 to or Capital Projects to pay for General Fund
20 expenses, I asked these questions earlier during
21 the budget and I also asked 'em during the with
22 the raises if this was gonna take place. So you
23 know, that's my biggest complaint I would say,
24 about that. My understanding was totally
25 different, what we would do on that in the budget.

1 So again, I just wanted to make sure I point that
2 out. So other than that I'm done pouting.

3 MR. OPPEL: No you're not but that's
4 fine.

5 MR. BYRNE: I'm not pouting. Whatever
6 the word I'm looking for. Thank you.

7 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Mr. Hanger, do you
8 have anything?

9 MR. HANGER: No.

10 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: If no other
11 communication, Mr. Thomas, do you have anything
12 else?

13 MR. THOMAS: I just want to announce
14 that the 28th of December will be our makeup day,
15 the first one. And Martin Luther King Day will be
16 our second one. Hopefully, we don't miss very
17 many more days or we'll have to go into the
18 summer.

19 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Do you have
20 anything, Mr. Richards?

21 MR. RICHARDS: No. Cougars are playing
22 right now.

23 MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Okay. At this time,
24 then, I'm gonna ask for a motion for adjournment.

25 MR. OPPEL: Right here.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion is made by
Mr. Oppel. Do I have a second?

MR. HANGER: Right here.

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Seconded by Mr.
Hanger. All those in favor, please say aye.

(Whereupon, all Board members said aye.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Opposed?

(No response.)

MS. SIEG-BATTISTA: Motion carries 5-0.
Meeting is adjourned.

President

Secretary

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNTY OF HARRISON)

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken down by me, as stated in the caption, and the transcript was reduced to print by me; that the foregoing pages 3 through 33 represent a true, correct and complete transcript of the proceedings on December 12, 2012.

This the 28th of September, 2014.


Rebecca J. Coughenour
Court Reporter

Notary Public, State at Large
My commission expires: 01/17/20