

NORTH CENTRAL PARKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 30, 2015

I. Call To Order

The North Central Parke Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in a special session board meeting at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 30, 2015, in the Turkey Run High School ELC Room. Board President Scott Ramsay opened the meeting. The following board members were present: Scott Ramsay, Gina Sunderman, Rusty Akers, Jim Wrightsman, Joe Seward, Greg Harvey, and Kim Cooper. Others present included guest presenter Dr. Robert Boyd and approximately 50 staff and community patrons.

II. Presentation on Future Educational Programming and Facility Utilization

President Scott Ramsay stated that the Board had contracted with Dr. Robert Boyd to develop a study of the demographics of the school district and to look at the facility utilization as it relates to the educational programming for the students. He further stated that the primary purpose of the meeting was to hear Dr. Boyd's presentation; however, no action would be taken by the Board. President Ramsay then turned the meeting over to Dr. Rohr who made a few brief comments about the need to be pro-active in the future educational needs of the community. He shared that many small rural districts in the state were experiencing a decline in enrollment and funding which has a negative impact on their ability to provide a comprehensive educational program. Dr. Boyd was then introduced to share his report.

Dr. Boyd provided an executive summary of his report for the public to review. He also provided a copy of the complete report to each board member.

The executive summary is as follows:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Study of Community and Student
Demographics, and Facility Utilization
For North Central Parke Community Schools

PURPOSES OF THE STUDY

- A. An analysis of community demographics as they relate to community change and the economic viability of the community.
- B. An analysis of the student population trends in the school community based on both school corporation enrollment history and resident live birth data.

- C. An analysis of the current educational facilities in terms of space utilization and the appropriateness of the facilities to deliver a modern educational program in the 21st century.
- D. An analysis of educational program and facility utilization in light of declining enrollments and reductions in financial resources.
- E. Explore the viability of a reconfiguration of the grade organization of the NCPCS.

Business as usual, is no longer a viable option for small, rural, school corporations in Indiana.

The total population of Parke County is older, less educated, earning considerably less money per household and with a higher unemployment rate and making less money per household than is generally the case in the surrounding area and the state of Indiana.

From a percentage growth standpoint three townships that are part of the make up the NCPCS: Union, Adams, and Washington fared better than the remaining townships in the county having grown by 2,869 people while the rest of the county was decreasing by 162 people. In 1970 the eight townships of the NCPCS held 58.1% of the county population. By 2010 the eight townships held 65.3% of the county population.

The Indiana Business Research Center projects the total population of Parke County will decline from 17,134 in 2015 to 15,912 by 2035 or by 1,222 people or 7.1%, while their projection for growth for all of Indiana is 8.6% during this same period.

The total county population is projected to decrease from 17,134 to 15,912 a decrease of 7.1% over the next 20 years. However, the age 5-19 school age cohort is expected to decrease by 7.2%, while the age 0-4 preschool cohort is projected to decrease by 9.8% in

Parke County while statewide projections are for a 5.0% and 5.4% increase respectively in those age cohort groups.

In terms of the relationship of quality schools to community growth, there is considerable evidence that, where families and industries have a choice, they frequently locate in terms of the quality or reputation of the school program. The prime concern of the citizens of the Parke County school corporations and surrounding area must be the ways in which they can develop educational systems which will continue to provide general knowledge, cultural understandings, social values and attitudes, and basic skills that will make students successful citizens in a dynamic, democratic society. In so doing, the viability of the community, and, therefore, the viability of the school corporations will be greatly enhanced. Further, given the current financial climate and health of Indiana's economy, school corporations are being pressed to provide more and more services with less and less fiscal resources. The ultimate challenge of efficiency verses the comprehensive offering of educational opportunity is the focus of Hoosier school corporations today.

The total public school population decrease for NCPCS and its neighboring school corporations during the period 2005-2014 was 3,046 students or 9.3%.

For NCPCS the decrease during the last five-year period yields a total student population from 2010 to 2014 that is 59 students or 4.7% less in 2014 compared to 2010 totals. The enrollment has ranged from a low of 1,172 in 2012 to a high of 1,253 in the 2010 school year, a range of 81 students. The elementary, kindergarten through grade six, has ranged from 610 in 2012 to 666 in 2010.

Grades seven through twelve have ranged from 553 in 2014 to 587 in 2010.

Resident live births reflect where the mother lived when the baby was born, not where the baby was born. Parke County resident live births have been increasing slightly from an average of 177 per year to 193, while the NCPCS's share of those resident live births enrolled in Kindergarten five years later was also increasing, slightly, year to year over the period studied.

The continuation rate can serve as an indicator of the relative stability of enrollments over time. A factor of 99% to 101% over time reflect stable enrollment. Corporation-wide factors below 99% over time would reflect a decreasing student population, and an increasing population would be apparent if factors over 101% prevailed over a period of time. The NCPCS system average of 97.7% the past four years reflects the declining enrollment experienced by the school corporation during that period of time. The elementary average shows a net out-migration of 2.8%, while the secondary population school has a net out-migration of 1.8%.

Looking at both the birth rate and historical data in projecting elementary (K-6), and secondary (7-12) separately we would project with some measure of confidence that a continuing declining total student population is defensible for the NCPCS.

Projected enrollment for the NCPCS for 2015 through 2022 using rolling three year resident live birth estimates and past four-year continuation rates shows the elementary population decreasing from 641 to 634 a 7 student or a 1.1% decrease. The middle grades, seven and eight, population is projected to increase from 185 to 196 an 11 student or 5.9% increase The high school,

grades nine through twelve is projected to decrease from 368 to 318 a 50 student or 13.6% decrease. Taken together the projection shows a 46 student or 3.9% decrease between now and 2022 when 1,148 students are expected in the corporation.

Student Functional and Actual Capacity of the Elementary Schools of the NCPCS, 2014-2015

SCHOOL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY	SPACE FOR NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL STUDENTS PER FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY	% OF FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY	ACTUAL CAPACITY	% OF ACTUAL CAPACITY
Rockville	411	428	17	96.0%	500	82.2%
Turkey Run	267	320	53	83.4%	375	71.2%
TOTALS	678	748	70	90.6%	875	77.5%

In essence, educational programs have often been characterized as "expanding to fill the space allotted to them." While this may be true in the elementary programs of the NCPCS, such expansion has been educationally sound and enhancing for the delivery of effective and efficient educational programs. Given the total Functional Capacity of 748 students and the projected elementary student population developed for this study, the schools will continue to be within efficient utilization capacities from a cost effective viewpoint.

Number of Sections, Student Population, and Students per Classroom For the Elementary Schools of the NCPCS, 2014-2015

Grade	Rockville Elementary	Turkey Run Elementary	Corporation Average
K	3@66 = 22	2@40 = 20	5@106 = 21.2
1	2@41 = 20.5	2@31 = 15.5	4@72 = 18
2	3@55 = 18.3	2@28 = 14	5@83 = 16.6
3	3@56 = 18.7	2@47 = 23.5	5@103 = 20.6
4	2@53 = 26.5	2@35 = 17.5	4@88 = 22
5	3@56 = 18.7	1.5@31 = 20.7	4.5@87 = 19.3
6	3@70 = 23.3	2@42 = 21	5@112 = 22.4
Totals	19@411 = 21.6	13.5@267 = 19.8	32.5@678 = 20.9

Five support classroom areas at Rockville Elementary School could be utilized to accommodate grades seven and eight as regular instructional areas without impacting negatively on total program delivery.

The 25 General and Special Purpose classrooms of Rockville Junior/Senior High School are scheduled at 47.2% of their Actual Capacity. Classrooms based on 25 students per classroom per period in general educational areas are currently assigned 76.6% of available periods over the daily academic schedule. Given an Actual Capacity of 645 students per period in general educational areas, and a combined high school enrollment ranging from a high of 373 to a low of 318 students as projected for this study, the Rockville secondary facility will be able to accommodate efficiently the total grades nine through twelve student population of the NCPCS.

The current condition of the Rockville facility suggests the need to address several areas, namely: site size, music, science lab areas, physical education, large group instructional areas/student performance areas, and cafeteria.

The 25 General and Special Purpose classrooms of Turkey Run Junior/Senior High School are scheduled at 43.8% of their Actual Capacity. Classrooms based on 25 students per classroom per period in general educational areas are currently assigned 75.0% of available periods over the daily academic schedule. As compared to the Functional Capacity of 484 students per period, the facility is most able to efficiently house the grades seven through twelve educational program for Turkey Run.

As the NCPCS contemplate a grade nine through twelve configuration, to be housed at the Rockville high school facility,

making meaningful use of the excess space at Turkey Run will be important to the success of reconfiguration.

**NCPCS CAPITAL DEBT (PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST) OUTSTANDING
AS OF JULY 1, 2015**

CAPITAL DEBT ISSUE	YEAR RETIRED	TOTAL PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST AS OF 6/1/2015
Rockville School Building Corp. 2006	2020	\$2,720,000
Turkey Run First Mortgage Bonds, 2005	2025	\$4,053,103
Rockville School Building Corp. 2014 RVHS Refinanced Bond	2027	\$7,552,000
Total		\$14,325,103

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The North Central Parke Community School's elementary and junior/senior high school educational programs meet the needs of students and are productive in the delivery of educational programming. The four facilities are rated as ADEQUATE - 20 PLUS YEARS OF FUNCTIONAL LIFE . However, the high school grades educational program for grades nine through twelve is lacking both the economies of scale in staffing for effective and efficient programming and an appropriate offering of elective courses for the delivery of modern, high school educational programming for all high school students. This could be achieved if the educational program for all grades nine through twelve students were delivered at the current Rockville secondary site. This would create a grade configuration of Kindergarten through grade eight at Turkey Run and a grades Kindergarten through grade eight at the Rockville Elementary School facility.

The two buildings that make up the Rockville Elementary and Rockville Junior/Senior High School programs have sufficient instructional and support spaces to accommodate a grade Kindergarten through grade eight program for current Rockville students at the elementary school and a grade nine

through twelve high school program to include all NCPCS high school students. However, there are a number of spaces as detailed in this report that are less than appropriate for the delivery of sound educational programming at the Rockville secondary site, namely: physical education, music, large group instructional and student performance areas, and updating of science lab areas. In addition, the Rockville Elementary School would need to repurpose some current instructional areas to accommodate the rotation program important to a modern middle grades program.

While the development of an effective and efficient elementary program and a viable middle grades program for the NCPCS might best be enhanced if all elementary or all middle grade students attended the same school site, the demographic and geographic logistics of the NCPCS at this time does not suggest this as an effective and efficient alternative to the current grade configuration. Therefore, in the planning process for the future of the Turkey Run facility, thought should be given to the useful future of the excess instructional space available with the relocation of grades nine through twelve to the Rockville facility.

This study supports the conclusion that the NCPCS utilizes more educational space than is needed for an effective and efficient educational program for Pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. Given the recent significant declines in total student population together with the enrollment projections presented in the study of continuing declines, the corporation will continue utilizing far more educational space than is essential. Further, given the continuing decline in State financial support to the corporation and the current limitations in high school programming, it is prudent to begin planning for a combined high school program that serves all grades nine through twelve students of the NCPCS. In addition, significant resources could

be redirected to enhance educational programming for all students.

After Dr. Boyd's presentation he took questions from the Board members and the audience.

President Ramsay gave everyone who wanted to ask a question the opportunity to do so. After all questions were addressed, Mr. Ramsay indicated that the Board will spend additional time reviewing the report and will plan further discussions in the near future.

III. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

North Central Parke Community School Corporation

Scott Ramsay, President

Jim Wrightsman, Member

Rusty Akers, Vice-President

Joe Seward, Member

Kim Cooper, Member

ATTEST:

Gina Sunderman, Secretary

Greg Harvey, Member