**Special Meeting Boone County Board of Education- Ignite**

**February 19, 2019 5:30 PM**

**Ralph Rush Professional Development Center**

**99 Center Street**

**Florence, Kentucky 41042**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Special Board Meeting Ignite Meeting of the Boone County Schools Board of Education February 19, 2019 was called to order by Chairperson Karen Byrd at the Ralph Rush Staff Development Center.

 **Attendance Taken at 5:30 PM:**

Present Board Members:

Dr. Maria Brown

Ms. Karen Byrd

Mr. Matt McIntire

Mrs. Julia Pile

Gerry Dusing attended as Board Attorney

Karen Evans, Board Secretary, recorded the minutes

**II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Mrs. Karen Byrd, Chairperson.

**III. RECOMMENDED ACTION - NEW BUSINESS**

At the request of the board members, a special meeting was called by Karen Byrd, board chair, the meeting was for the board members to ask questions and receive clarifications on questions concerning the Ignite MOU between Boone County School District and Kenton County School District partnership with the Ignite Institute. Questions and concerns were sent to Dr. Poe by board members ahead of the meeting and Dr. Poe along with administrators answered all the questions at the special meeting. Discussion on clarification of finances, student ratios, shared operating roles, students home schools, funding breakdowns, building ownership, decision making, curriculum, direction, staffing, discipline procedures, county calendars, hours of operation, food services plans, BCEA and stipend structures, plans for the first year and beyond for Ignite and other operating questions.

Dr. Poe, Superintendent, led the meeting with the history of Ignite Institute from inception to the current state of the regional program. Dr. Poe discussed the vision of the board for the need of innovation opportunities for our students, assets from Toyota with the building donation, 6.8 million dollar Workforce Development Grant from the Kentucky Department of Education and Governor Bevin’s support for a center to meet the needs of our students and their career paths into regional employment. Along with the innovation career paths, student’s graduating from ignite will have the opportunity to earn an Associate Degree in the offered fields. The five Career Transformation areas at Ignite will be Engineering, Bio-Med, Computer Science, Construction, and Design.

Dr. Poe explained the path of decisions that lead to the MOU with Kenton County and the partnership for all of our students and the appreciation of what Kenton County is bringing to this partnership. Dr. Poe described the operating cost would be shared with Kenton County School District, which is the approximate cost of operation as our current schools. Dr. Poe elaborated on the fixed operating costs that will be there whether Kenton County sends students or not. Boone would not meet the state workforce grant of 1000 students in 5 years, and in that we would have to pay back the $6.8 million. Dr. Poe explained Kenton County is lowering the cost to the building by the State Workforce Grant of $6.8 million, along with Kenton County PLTW teachers which are already trained in PLTW at the cost of $96,000, which is an expense that Boone would not incur. In addition, without the addition of Kenton, we would have to pay approximately $1.4 million in intellectual content for training to write our own curriculum that Kenton County will be bringing to the partnership. Dr. Poe described the fixed asset of the building with financials that entailed the $14.3 million for a $60 million asset, which was the value of the building from Ehmet Hayes and Associates. The Ignite building would always be an asset of Boone County and with that brings are opportunities to utilize the building with area businesses, corporations and adult programs in the evenings, which would bring in revenue to fund the cost. Dr. Poe discussed building will also include the Boone Makerspace and Children’s Inc., which will be a secondary operating source and bring needed services to Boone County

Dr. Poe reviewed The Ignite Institute Draft Operating Budget- Recurring (Personnel and Non-personnel costs) as follows in the below table:



Dr. Poe explained in detail the population of Ignite and what that will look like next year, with particular attention to the Freshman and Sophomore numbers… these numbers need three and four years to work themselves through and the way the MOU was written it will put Kenton with a population over 800 kids and Boone over 700, until things level out in 23/24 at approximately 651-651. Discussion on student cost of approximately $4000 per student, other than Boone County and Kenton County students, to attend Ignite. Additional business contributions, which Dave Fleischer is working on to lower the cost of operations at present. Dr. Poe related the cost per student numbers in our other schools are approximately $8,000, when students increases the operating cost will decrease.

Gerry Dusing, board attorney, spoke to the board concerning his review of the MOU and the excellent collaboration with Kenton, Boone, Superintendents, and Attorneys, his review is the MOU is legal and if need be could be defended in court. He expressed the MOU’s provisions keep contributions equal with Kenton and Boone with extra values and dollars.

Individual questions of the board members where answered, Karen Byrd Board Chair, discussed the board has always been supportive for all the reason that had been said for Innovation. She stated we have the highest respect for our Kenton County Administrators and board members. Mrs. Byrd stated we are binding not only this board, but future boards to this agreement. She expressed she believes we can do this, but the groundwork must be laid correctly for the future and to be fair to students and staff.

With the questions from the board members discussed and answered, Karen Byrd went forth with the motion on Item A.

**III.A. Memorandum of Understanding between Kenton County School District and Boone County School District Regarding the Ignite Institute**

Dr. Randy Poe recommended the board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Kenton County School District and Boone County School District Regarding the Ignite Institute, as presented.

1. A motion was made by Maria Brown, seconded by Julia Pile, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Kenton County School District and Boone County School District Regarding the Ignite Institute, as presented. Matt McIntire, Karen Byrd, Maria Brown, and Julia Pile voted, “aye” MOTION: The motion passed 4-0.

**III.B. Ignite Institute Positions**

Dr. Randy Poe recommended the board approve the Ignite Institute Positions with the extraction of the “plus IGNITE stipend” removed under TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT on each job description, as presented.

1. A motion was made by Matt McIntire, seconded by Maria Brown, to approve the the Ignite Institute Positions with the extraction of the “plus IGNITE stipend” removed under TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT on each job description, as presented. Matt McIntire, Karen Byrd, Maria Brown, and Julia Pile voted, “aye” MOTION: The motion passed 4-0.

 Dr. Poe explained the reason for the stipend to begin with was that Kenton County teachers are required to do extra duties therefore their pay is higher and including this would help financially with the work load if we did not require each extra duty to be posted and filled and paid separately. It is his understanding the BCEA Executive Council does not want the stipend added. This would now mean that the teachers would need to apply for extra duty positons for Ignite etc. If, at some point, BCEA may wish to revisit this item, this would be an item that may come back to the board for approval at a later date.

**IV. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

 Dr. Poe thanked Dr. Webb, Superintendent of Kenton County Schools, and the Kenton County administrators that attended in support of the partnership for the Ignite Institute.

**V. ADJOURN**

3. A motion was made by Maria Brown, seconded by Julia Pile, to adjourn the meeting. Karen Byrd, Maria Brown, Julia Brown and Matt McIntire voted, “aye” MOTION: The motion passed 4-0.

 Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:18 pm

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Karen Byrd /Chairperson

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Karen Evans/Secretary