

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2011**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING    4:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING    5:30 P.M.**

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public meeting for an Executive Session beginning at 4:00 at the Switzerland County School Corporation's Administration Office to discuss I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9).

The board members present were Mr. Truitt, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Daugherty and Mrs. Peters. Mr. Phipps and Mr. Waltz were unable to attend. Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Superintendent; School Board Attorney, Ron Hocker and Matthew Hocker were also in attendance.

The board discussed no subject matter in the Executive Session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

The Executive Session adjourned and the meeting was opened to the public.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:**

Mr. Truitt called the regular meeting to order and led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag.

**ATTENDANCE:**

The board members present were Mr. Truitt, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Daugherty and Mrs. Peters. Mr. Phipps and Mr. Waltz were unable to attend.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Matthew Hocker, Michael Jones, Rhonda Pennington, Dan Noel, Pat Lanman, Jill Cord, Janet Hendricks, Gregory Curlin, John Schroer, Laura Schroer, Emmerson Schroer, Shellie Fowler, Joanne Gaudin, Martha Blodgett, Melody Smith, Michael L. Jones, Larry Monjar, Don Ball and Dometrie Liapis.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a Professional Leave. Mrs. Moore seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the school board meeting of March 24, 2011 were approved unanimously in a motion by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mrs. Peters, with the correction of Mrs. Swango answering a claim question from Mrs. Peters instead of Mrs. McGarvey.

**FUND REPORT:**

The fund report for February, 2011 was unanimously approved by the board in a motion by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mrs. Moore.

**CLAIMS:**

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve **Vendor** Claims #40939 through #41102 and **Payroll** Claims for 03/18/2011, 4/01/2011, and 04/15/2011. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Mrs. Peters asked about payroll claim #31463 in the amount of \$400.00. Dr. Jones said this was for a retired teacher's help with ISTEP remediation. Mrs. Peters asked about claim #40999 to Switzerland County Classroom Teachers in the amount of \$6,540.36. Business Manager, Wilma Swango, said this was for Classroom Teachers Association dues that were automatically deducted from their payroll checks. Mrs. Peters also asked what claim #41022 for \$25,000.00 to the Adventurous Child was for. Mrs. Swango said this was for playground equipment at Switzerland County Elementary School that was purchased through a matching fund plan by the school's PTO. Mrs. Peters mentioned claim #41026 to Buddy Roger's Music for \$618. Mrs. Swango said that was for the repair of school owned instruments used by the students. Mrs. Peters said she was concerned that the corporation was not supportive of Band and Music but obviously we are doing some things. Mrs. Swango said if she would take a look at claim #41077 to the SCHS ECA Account, she would see that \$552.19 was also paid to Fashion Cleaners on behalf of a request from the Band Boosters for the cleaning of band uniforms. Mrs. Peters asked about Claim #41039 to Dave Geis, DBA in the amount of \$933.94 for a pressure snake for drains. She wanted to know if this was payment for service to the corporation. Mrs. Swango said that it was not. Although the claim was listed as a purchase, it was actually for payment of the repair of the snake. Mrs. Peters asked about a claim #41090 for \$3,387.62 to True Green Lawn Care for Spring field aeration. She asked if it was the baseball field that was done in the Spring. Mrs. Swango said she would need to look at the claim but she thought it was multiple fields. Mr. Daugherty said it was also for the softball and soccer fields. Mrs. Peters asked if this was something that was done every Spring or Fall or both. Mrs. Swango said it was done in both seasons although she didn't think as much was done in the Fall. Mr. Noel said there was also something that is done during the summer. Mrs. Peters asked if aeration was done in the summer, also. He said no, but some over-seeding and weed control was done. The board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

**CELEBRATE SUCCESS:**

In the Celebrate Success part of the meeting, the school board recognized the nominees from Switzerland County Elementary School and from the High School. The nominees from Jefferson-Craig Elementary School and the Middle School were unable to attend the meeting and will be recognized at the regular May meeting. Board President, Truitt,

presented each of the students present with a medallion and a handshake. The honored nominees are as follows:

Switz. Co. Elem.: Emerson Schroer, gr. 5, nominated by Shellie Fowler

Switz. Co. High School: Demetrie Liapis, gr. 9, nominated by Janet Hendricks

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Two retiring teachers were honored by the board for their years of service to the education of Switzerland County students.

Martha Blodgett was an elementary school teacher and is retiring with 38 years of credit to her service. Current Jefferson-Craig Elementary School Principal, Rhonda Pennington, spoke of how Mrs. Blodgett was part of the community and how she was a teacher that truly made a difference in students' lives. She said Mrs. Blodgett was welcome to stop by and visit the school anytime. Dr. Jones said when she first came to Switzerland County, she and Mrs. Blodgett had worked together in giving the first ISTEP test to students. She said she appreciated everything that Mrs. Blodgett had accomplished. Mr. Mahoney said he wanted to thank Mrs. Blodgett since she had worked with many of his Special Education students since he had been here and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Mr. Truitt presented Mrs. Blodgett with an engraved clock. Mrs. Blodgett received a round of applause. She thanked everyone very much.

Joanne Gaudin was an elementary school teacher for 34 years, mostly working with Special Education students. Mrs. Pennington said she was a dedicated teacher that had also made a big difference in the lives of so many students. She said she really appreciated her wisdom. Dr. Jones said when she was Principal at Jefferson-Craig Elementary, she had observed Mrs. Gaudin monitoring students in the hallway and she was the person who knew what was happening in that school. She said she appreciated Mrs. Gaudin and her positive attitude so much. Dr. Jones said she was happy that Mrs. Gaudin and Mrs. Blodgett were retiring so they could relax, enjoy life and get up late if they wished. Mr. Mahoney said he just wanted to add some things. He said he loved to sit in conferences with her when the students are the children of students she once had in class years before. He said she was always knowledgeable about the current laws and jumped right in and learned it all. Mr. Mahoney said he would truly miss her. He presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Larry Monjar said he wanted to share a bit of trivia. He said many years ago, before he came to Switzerland County, he had attended a school called Bethel-Tate Local and Mrs. Gaudin had worked there at that time. Vice President of the Board, Bill Roberts, said he had also worked with Mrs. Gaudin. He said whatever the situation was, he didn't need to worry because she took charge and everything was taken care of. He said he was very appreciative of having someone like that. He said she had made a great contribution to our school system. Board Member, Tonya Moore, said the two of them went way back. She said when her daughter had struggled, Mrs. Gaudin and Mrs. Todd had been the ones who had identified her problem. She said Mrs. Gaudin had not only been a blessing to her daughter by helping her through so many things, but had also stood beside her. She said Mrs. Gaudin and Mrs. Blodgett

would be sorely missed. She said Mrs. Gaudin's talents as a teacher of students with special needs would never be forgotten. Mrs. Gaudin received a round of applause following the presentation of an engraved clock by Mr. Truitt.

Melody Smith, secretary at the Jefferson-Craig Elementary School where the two ladies taught, said she thought both Mrs. Gaudin and Mrs. Blodgett knew the kids and knew what was going on in the school. She said she knew it was going to be a great loss for the school corporation. Fellow colleague, Jill Cord, said what she felt was overwhelming about these two ladies is that they were educated in Switzerland County, went to college, then came back to Switzerland County to educate Switzerland County students. She said she had enjoyed working with them this year after being apart from them for a very long time and will miss them very, very dearly.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. Jones explained that she had been visited by Beth Carter, a state Pesticide Investigator, informing her of new laws pertaining to the use of pesticides by schools. She said Ms. Carter told her the corporation was pretty well on track with our procedures except that all school corporations are now required to have a registry regarding their use of pesticides. She said what that does is offer parents an opportunity to let us know if they want to be contacted prior to a spraying. Dr. Jones said she was also informed that the corporation needed to have a policy in place and tonight was the first reading of that policy. She said she would bring the policy to the May board meeting for final approval.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve a Science Grant in the amount of \$200 from the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, Inc.'s George Robbins Memorial Fund. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The board's vote to approve the grant was unanimous.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve a Local Coordinating Council of the Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana Grant in the amount of \$1500 submitted by the Switzerland County Awareness Team, (SCAT). Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The grant monies will be used for a drug testing program for the schools.

Mr. Roberts moved to approve a Rural School Grant in the amount of \$51,990 from the Indiana Department of Education. The grant will be used for NovaNet and Alternative School for the purpose of remediation and After School for credit recovery at the High School and Middle School so that more students will graduate. Mr. Daugherty said he thought our school did not qualify for this grant. Mrs. Swango explained that he was correct about our corporation not qualifying for a grant called the Small Schools Grant. She said this was a different grant. Mrs. Peters asked if there were boundaries for how the grant money is spent. Dr. Jones said absolutely. She said it was all spelled out and we must show growth and that sort of thing. She said every state grant is tedious. The board's vote to approve the grant was unanimous.

Dr. Jones recommended the board's approval of proceeding with the legal advertisement for bids for summer construction projects. She said she had talked with the board earlier about several things that needed to be done this summer and she had already spoken to the Endowment Committee about partnering with the corporation on these projects. Dr. Jones said this was not a request for specifics at this time but the corporation needed to legally advertise to put the mechanisms in place for the summer construction to be done. She said she had asked Mr. Ball to speak to the board about the projects, some of which were actually extensions of what was started last year. Mr. Ball presented the board with drawings for the dugouts, the street lighting project, and the repaving project. He said the resurfacing project consisted of putting an additional layer of asphalt on the student parking lot, as well as paving the bus parking lot and the excavation of the soccer field. Mr. Ball said these were all lumped together as one project. Dr. Jones said we would not know the cost of these projects until we advertised and bids were received. Mr. Ball said the dugouts needed to be done because the roof of the existing dugouts posed safety issues. He said he and Mr. Noel had gone over the design and were both happy with it. He said it was sunk in the ground and contained a storage bench, a built-in sump system for drainage, and a couple of electrical outlets for pitching machines. Mr. Ball said it would be a concrete block structure with a metal deck and concrete slab and should not have any maintenance issues at all except for sealing and painting. He asked if there were any questions before he moved to the next project. Mr. Roberts said at the last meeting there were concerns voiced about some of these projects and wondered why they were even being brought forward. Mr. Roberts said if it came down to approving the schedule, it looked like it would be an all or none thing. Mr. Ball said he was not present at the last meeting but wanted to just say that the dugouts were a big safety issue as well as the lighting, as he had heard comments about how dark it was in the back after a ball game. He said the corporation had taken the alternate to not top the student parking lot due to budget restrictions but it needed to be topped to keep it from breaking up. Mr. Ball said the bus lot was more of a luxury item because that was something that did not have to be done. Dr. Jones said she had received some complaints from the drivers when there was snow and ice because there were a couple of ladies that almost fell and for this reason she felt this was more than a luxury. Mr. Ball said the soccer field was just a small portion of that job and the longer they waited, the more the cost would go up. He said the rationale was that the paving contractor generally does excavating anyway which would further lower the cost of the soccer field. Dr. Jones said this would not be a final approval of the project, this would just be an approval of getting bids so the board could see estimates of what each project will cost. She said she felt a practice soccer field was really needed, but a board member may feel he or she can support the dugouts but cannot support the soccer field. She said unless there are concrete bids, no decisions can be made on what to go ahead with. Mr. Daugherty said he felt what Mr. Roberts was saying was that if we approved this project, we would be approving all of them. Mr. Roberts said at the last meeting, there were certain things that most board members were not in favor of and did not see why they should go ahead with them. Mrs. Moore said she did not feel comfortable voting on this until after the future of the Switzerland County Elementary building has been discussed. Mr. Ball said he was just trying to get things going so the contractor could be given enough notice to get the equipment here when it needs to be this summer. Mrs. Peters asked why block would be used for the dugouts

instead of something else if there were drainage issues. Mr. Ball said dugouts are not required to be bone dry. He said there was an open area in the front where the steps are that is going to allow rain in. He said it was designed to get wet once in a while. He said there were two drains that go to pipes underneath that go to a sump pump that kicks on and pumps the water out. Mr. Ball said a dugout will get wet and dry out. He said the outside of the block is waterproofed so there is not a constant migration of water through the block into the inside that would cause mold issues. Mr. Ball said the walls would be block, but below grade every core would be poured solid and there would be dowels in each of them, making it as strong as a poured wall. He said it would just not be as costly as a poured wall. He said the contract person may or may not do his own masonry and may end up deciding to do a poured wall. Mrs. Peters said when you are talking permanence, solid concrete doesn't crack as easily as block. Mr. Ball said it was all in the foundation. He said there would be a nice foundation that went four feet down. Mr. Daugherty wanted to make sure he understood correctly that if the board approved investigating the cost of each project they would be able to see that with no obligation. He said they could pick and choose the projects they wanted to go with or not go with. Mr. Ball said revisions could be made and split out a little finer. He said the dugouts were one project because they would be done by a concrete person. He said the street lighting is another project because that involves an electrician, and the soccer field and the parking lots are combined as a third project because they involve a paver. Mr. Truitt said the board is not going to know what any of this costs until the approval is given to advertise for bids. Mr. Daugherty made the motion to approve the investigation into the costs for the three projects with the understanding that the board is not bound to approve any or all of them. Mrs. Peters seconded the motion. Mr. Truitt asked if electric was being run to the dugouts. Mr. Ball said the dugouts would have a couple of g.f.i. elements to run a pitching machine and a sump pump would be hard-wired in them. The board voted to approve the legal advertisement for bids as follows: AYES: Mr. Daugherty, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Truitt. NAYS: Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Moore.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Larry Monjar said at a previous meeting he had requested a meeting with the board but was never notified of when that meeting would be held. Board President Truitt said he did not have a problem meeting with Mr. Monjar. Mr. Truitt said he could come to the Executive Session meeting at 5:00pm which would be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011.

Jill Cord said with only six weeks left in the school year, she was wondering what the board intended to do with the sixth graders for the next school year. She asked the board if they could respond to that. Mr. Truitt said they would be discussing that matter at a meeting to be held May 4, 2011. He said there would be an Open Working Session for that purpose. Mrs. Cord also wanted to know where the board stood on the purchase of electronic books for downloading as textbooks for our students in grades 3 through 6. Mr. Truitt said the board had not discussed that issue. Technology Coordinator, John Sieglitz, said the investigation into doing that had just started, so they were still in the information stage.

**PERSONNEL:**

Mr. Daugherty moved to table an Extra Curricular Activities recommendation from Mr. Todd for the position as third High School Cheer Coach until more information could be obtained. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The recommendation will be reconsidered at the May meeting.

**PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:**

The board unanimously approved two field trips and a professional leave in a motion made by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Roberts as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Camp Livingston, May 11 through May 13, 2011
- Boys Basketball Camp Field Trip to Danville, KY, June 13 through June 15, 2011
- Professional Leave from Mr. Curlin to Fresno, CA for Ag/NAAE Regional Conference, April 20 through April 23, 2011.

**USE OF FACILITIES:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Superintendent Jones announced that the next Endowment meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

Dr. Jones also announced that on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, at 5:30pm, there would be an Open Working Session with the emphasis on the Feasibility Study and where the 6<sup>th</sup> grade should be housed the next school year, followed by a special board meeting in order to conduct some school business. She also announced that there would be a regular school board meeting held on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Dr. Jones wanted the board to know that she was meeting with the bus drivers the following morning and in the afternoon. She said usually the bus inspection was held during the summer but the state has cut back on their number of employees and as a result the bus inspection would be held during the first week of May. She said that was a lot to ask because of having students on buses that morning.

Dr. Jones said on April 21, 2011, she is meeting with parents at Switzerland County Elementary School at 6:00pm just before Jud McMillan's town meeting at 7:00pm in order to discuss the proposal of a balanced calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. She said she wanted to ask parents what their feelings were about the calendar.

Dr. Jones said the elementary schools had their Kindergarten registrations the previous week and at Switzerland County Elementary, 51 students were enrolled, while at Jefferson-Craig Elementary, there were 35. She said there was no way to know what the exact numbers would be, but this gives them a good indication of what to expect.

Dr. Jones said on a lighter note, she and Mr. Noel, Mr. Todd, and Dawn Powell had been deputized. She said they were going to make a concerted effort to get the buses out swiftly and safely in the afternoons.

Dr. Jones said last Friday, there was a legislative luncheon at Belterra. She said she wanted to thank Belterra for their generosity. She said five board members were in attendance.

Dr. Jones said one of the things she has been working on is a grant for a School Resource Officer for next year. She said this person would be an employee of the town police.

### **BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Moore said she wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Daugherty said he was saving his comments on the retired teachers for this part of the meeting, but they were no longer there. He said the corporation was losing a lot of valuable experience. He said they have been good employees. Mr. Daugherty said he also was wondering if the drug testing was working. Dr. Jones said if you were in athletics and that sort of thing, it was voluntary. Mr. Noel said actually if a student drove to school or was in extra-curricular activities such as band or choir or athletics, it was voluntary. He said 15 students are randomly selected every two weeks. Mr. Daugherty asked if the kids weren't staying ahead of them. Mr. Noel said kids are challenging. He said if there was a student who failed, it could be for a number of reasons. He said they may be taking a prescription medication that was not known about. He said he thought they were doing a good job and hoped it would continue. Mr. Daugherty said he thought that within 5 minutes of the truck pulling in the parking lot, every student knew what was happening. Dr. Jones said the fifteen students that were randomly selected were chosen by their student number.

Mrs. Peters asked if that was the reason we were paying an officer to be in the schools. Dr. Jones said she could say that every High School has a drug problem. She said it was the main reason she would like to have an officer in the schools. Dr. Jones said a job description for this individual has been developed and besides patrolling the halls at the High School and occasionally at the Middle School, part of his duties would be educational in that he would speak to school children regarding the negative effects of bullying and drug use. She said just opening a dialogue with kids and gaining a rapport with them would be helpful. She said this person could also go into the elementary classrooms and speak to them about bullying and that sort of thing. Dr. Jones said this School Resource Officer would have training through a National organization and would also train the staff.

Mr. Daugherty asked if there would a selection process for the Resource Officer position. Dr. Jones said he would not be the corporation's employee. She said she had already written one grant. She said she and Officer Richards had been working together on the job description and they were going to the Vevay Town Council to try to get some

money. Dr. Jones said he would be one of the town policemen and she would be participating in the interviews along with a number of others. She said the corporation wanted someone who was not just a policeman but would also be effective with the students and that takes an unusual type of individual. Mr. Truitt said this person would be a college graduate and this would not be an easy find and won't be an overnight thing. Dr. Jones said when this person is not working in the schools, such as during the summer, he would be working for the town.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Moore seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (6:55 p.m.)

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Andy Truitt, President

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William Roberts, Vice President

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Tonya Moore, Secretary

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Wayne Daugherty, Member

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Nancy Peters, Member

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James Phipps, Member

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Vernon Waltz, Member