

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
“Unofficial” MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2011
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING 4:00 P.M.
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6:00 P.M.

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public meeting for an Executive Session beginning at 4:00p.m. 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, Mr. Daugherty, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Phipps and Mr. Waltz. Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Superintendent and School Board Attorney, Ron Hocker, were also in attendance. Mrs. Moore was unable to attend the meeting.

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, Mr. Daugherty, and Mrs. Peters, Mr. Phipps and Mr. Waltz. Mrs. Moore was unable to attend.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Michael Jones, Rhonda Pennington, David Todd, Tony Spoores, Eddie Bright, Sean McGarvey, Rita Sebree, Marla Lamson and John Sieglitz.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Phipps made a motion to approve the agenda with the omission of item #I.5 under New Business; the addition of the discussion of Full Day Kindergarten, also under New Business; and an additional Use of Facilities request. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The amended minutes of the school board meeting of May 9, 2011 and the minutes of the meeting of May 16, 2011 were approved unanimously in a motion made by Mrs. Peters and seconded by Mr. Roberts. A paragraph from the May 9th meeting was deleted upon

the suggestion from a board member who said the statement it contained regarding an opinion about contained classrooms was inaccurate.

FUND REPORT:

Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango, said she wanted to point out a few items the board might have questions about. She said the Transportation Operating Fund (#410) is operating in the red. She said it is a taxable fund so she expects to get a tax settlement in June which will put it back in the black. Mrs. Swango said Title 1 is also in the red due to a mistake in their office in May and a payment from them is also expected in June. She said the clearing accounts, which are the 9000 and up, should all be zero at the end of June and at the end of December. She said the construction has now gone to zero and that account has been closed. Mr. Phipps said he noticed the cafeteria is still making money which is a good thing, but was wondering what happens when there is a surplus in the account. Mrs. Swango said even though Mrs. Bullock was not present, she was fairly certain that she would be asking for an increase in lunch prices due to the fact that the federal school lunch program mandates that the amount taken in for students qualifying for free and reduced lunches cannot be greater than what is taken in for those students paying full price for their meals. She said she did not foresee a big difference in the cash balance since no great expenses were expected. Mr. Daugherty asked for clarification on why the prices would be increased. Mrs. Swango said the federal government sets the rate by which it pays for students qualifying for free and reduced meals and right now that rate is higher than the rate that our students pay for their meals. She said we can't reduce what the federal program is willing to pay, so an increase in our meal prices would make those rates the same. There being no further questions, the fund report for April, 2011 was unanimously approved by the board in a motion by Mr. Phipps and seconded by Mrs. Peters.

CLAIMS:

Mr. Phipps made a motion to approve **Vendor** Claims #41232 through #41369; and 41380 through 41386 and **Payroll** Claims for 05/27/2011 and 06/10/2011. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion. Mrs. Peters asked about claim #41334. Mrs. Swango said the claim to K&J Auto in the amount of \$4,647.53 was for the repair of busses. Mrs. Peters also asked about claim #41354 to Secure Content Solutions, Inc. for \$10,568.75. Mrs. Swango said this was for anti-virus software for the whole school corporation. Mrs. Peters asked about claim #41358 to Madison Special Services Unit for \$60,315.37. Mrs. Swango said this was for monthly services provided to the schools' special needs students as well as preschool expenses which is billed twice a year. She said to explain the comments, the shared expenses means that each school corporation pays its share of expenses to the coop and then the specific expenses is what we owe for expenses specific to Switzerland County students' needs. Mrs. Peters said she had one last question concerning claim #41361 to Bob Sumerel Tire Company, Inc for \$2,764.12. Mrs. Swango said this was also a transportation fund payment for bus tires. The board's vote to approve the claims as presented was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Todd presented facts about the High School Wrestling program. He said if the board would approve the program he could begin searching for a coach. He said there were 17 different weight classes which the other schools that have been participating for years don't have students participating in, as will be the case for Switzerland County. Mr. Todd said right now there are 4 or 5 students coming from the Middle School and he would like to use that Freshman class to build the High School program on. He said the response at the High School has been very positive. Mr. Todd said he would definitely need to present Endowment Requests for things such as uniforms and mats and would eventually like to look into having a designated area for the wrestling. Mr. Truitt asked how much and Mr. Todd answered that he really did not know at this point but thought it should be somewhere between \$15,000 and \$20,000 which is similar to what the Middle School asked for when they started their program. Mr. Phipps made a motion to approve the HS Wrestling program. Mr. Waltz seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The Elementary and Middle School Handbooks were presented for a first reading at the previous board meeting held on May 16, 2011. Mr. Waltz moved to approve the handbooks as presented. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion and the board's vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Jones asked Mr. Todd to point out some of the changes that were being made to the 2011-2012 High School Handbook.

Mr. Todd said one of the changes pertained to the dress code. He said the current rule was that shorts could come to the bottom of the fingertips. He said for this next school year, only knee-length shorts would be acceptable as it was felt this would be easier to police. Mr. Todd said another area for change was the scheduling. He said the school would be going back to semester scheduling rather than trimesters and the number of periods per day would now be seven instead of five. Mr. Todd said according to the IHSAA, if a student has five classes, he or she must pass four out of those five classes to participate in athletic programs. He said if students have seven classes, the IHSAA allows them to fail two of those classes and still participate. He said even though schools cannot make their rules more lenient, they could make them stricter. He said some schools have ruled that students must not fail any of their classes in order to participate in athletics. He said they felt this was too harsh, but they did want to change the number of classes a student must pass to six out of seven. Mr. Waltz said he thought this was an excellent idea. Mrs. Peters said she liked the long shorts change and asked about flip-flops. Mr. Todd said a lot of schools' dress codes restrict flip-flops because their buildings have two stories and going up and down stairs is an issue. He said he thought there had been some discussion on that but it was not changed. Mrs. Peters said she was just curious. She asked if the high school was going to have agenda books next year. Mr. Todd said last year, they did not have agenda books, but this coming year, they would be going back to using them. Mr. Truitt said he noticed a section in the handbook

about visitors that read “all visitors to the school campus must report to the attendance office before visiting other parts of the school, as required by Indiana Code.” He said he still did not see where there was any control over this. Mr. Todd said he believed Mr. Noel had plans to put a kiosk in the lobby of the school this year that would be manned by a different student each period and visitors would need to check in with them. Dr. Jones said Marla Edwards and Jokay Beatty are going to be in the two rooms to the right in the front lobby. She said this way an adult would be able to monitor things from nearby. Mr. Sieglitz added that next year a new software program was being implemented called I-Denti-Kit which will do a background check on the spot. He said it was being provided free to schools and others are starting to use it. Mr. Daugherty asked about the school colors. He said he didn’t see Columbia Blue listed in the handbook with the Navy, Orange and White. Mr. Todd said he would have to check on that and would change the handbook to reflect his findings. Mrs. Peters asked if he knew what the percentage was for parental attendance at parent-teacher conferences. Mr. Todd said he knew it was not very high at the High School. He said they’ve tried giving incentives to get the students’ parents there, but the parents that usually show up are not the ones the teacher needs to be seeing. Mr. Todd said if there were any suggestions as to how to improve parental involvement, he would be glad to hear them. Mr. Daugherty said by looking at the thickness of the handbook he did not see how the students and parents could be expected to read and retain all of the information in it. Mr. Todd said there were some specifics in it, but most of the rules were just common sense things that haven’t changed in years. Mr. Truitt reminded the board that this was just the first reading of the handbook and that it would be brought to the board in July for final approval.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve the 2011-2012 textbook adoption for Science, grades 3 through 5; Math, grades 1 through 5; and for one year only, the use of I-Pads for grades 6 and 7. The motion was seconded by Mr. Waltz. Mrs. Peters asked Mr. Jones to explain what it meant about the write-in student edition on-line access to digital courseware for the Science books. Dr. Jones said these were regular textbooks. Mr. Sieglitz said a digital copy of the textbook is available. He said he has been emphasizing to the schools to get the free teacher materials in digital format, plus they give you test taking software that the students can utilize. Mr. Sieglitz said even though this is for grades 3,4, and 5, the software is needed so that it can be utilized in the future if need be. Mr. Jones said the results are showing that the students scores are much better when the testing is done on-line. Dr. Jones gave her reasons for recommending the introduction of iPads to the sixth and seventh grades. She explained that her goal was to keep moving it up so that in the future when funds were available each student would have an iPad instead of a textbook. She said once the iPads were older and it was time to buy new ones, they might be handed down to the third grade. Dr. Jones said in accordance with state guidelines, once books are adopted, they are used for a six year period. She said she did not believe students will still be carrying around hardback textbooks in six years. She said schools are moving rapidly away from textbooks and using technology. Dr. Jones said she felt the students would not be as bored using an iPad as opposed to a book. She said students are very engaged in technology and believed they will be more enticed by the material. She said since testing is now done on-line, if they are taught from a book, that might hinder them because they won’t have the same familiarity with the content. She felt we

owed it to the children to offer them the opportunity to use this technology. Dr. Jones mentioned that a large number of the corporation's students are eligible for free or reduced price meals and textbook assistance. She said if those students are not able to have technology at home, and then we don't offer them the technology at school, she is afraid they will not be given all the tools they need. Dr. Jones said she felt the corporation needs to step up to the plate. She said the money was there and felt the iPads needed to be ordered. Technology Director, John Sieglitz gave the board a quick demonstration of the iPad, showing how it worked and the applications and programs that could be utilized. Mr. Sieglitz said the students' guardians would be able to see their grades on line, their schedules, their attendance and their discipline. He said the iPads did not have a G.P.S. system installed, but he can print reports that show its use, just like the computers at school. He said textbooks are stored on the iPad and no internet connection is necessary to access them. Many comments and questions regarding the iPads were voiced by board members. Mr. Waltz asked how much it cost. Mr. Sieglitz said the cost for one is \$538 with two years of insurance. He said the students will be given chargers to take home and there will also be charging stations in the classrooms. Mr. Truitt asked how the teachers will be trained. Mr. Sieglitz said there would be a week's worth of training and a regional representative from Apple will come and give free pointers and software. He said each unit also has a tutorial on it that will show step by step how to use it. Dr. Jones said the cost for the iPad is \$538. She said 237 are needed and \$15 to \$20 is being thrown in for covers which comes to around \$13436.00. She said money saved from the Health book is \$32,000 and the Science textbook is a savings of \$20,000. She said the School Technology Fund has \$62,758.71 of which \$20,000 will be used and the Community Foundation Grant, designated for student technology has \$41,437.00, of which \$33,000.00 would be used. Dr. Jones said the corporation should also have \$100,000.00 left over from the Endowment Request for the 2010-2011 textbooks. She said she has asked the Endowment Committee to extend that request an additional year. She said in the past, the Endowment has paid for student costs of the books, but now the corporation is asking them to pay from the actual textbook invoices. She said this will not be a new expense for the Endowment, since the money is already sitting there, but she will ask to reclaim that left over money. Dr. Jones said there were plans to have a parent night, when the parents will receive instructions and information regarding the iPads, and of course the students will receive training. Mr. Daugherty asked how low of grade level was being planned for the use of iPads. Dr. Jones said she would be skeptical of using the iPads any lower than the fourth grade. Mr. Truitt asked for a clarification of the difference between an iPad and a Kindle. Mr. Sieglitz explained that a Kindle does not have internet access on it, it only uses Amazon books, it is a little more difficult to use and it would be a nightmare to administer because it's set up to funnel everything through Amazon.com. He said he thought they were about \$139 right now, but even though they say they may have internet in the future, as of now, everything is limited to Amazon.com so it's uses would be very limited. Mr. Sieglitz said the iPad is a full functioning computer and it is the safest and it requires the least maintenance than other type of unit on the market. He said there is no keyboard to get dirty, lose keys or get drinks spilled on. He said they were not waterproof, but were still low maintenance. Mr. Daugherty asked what the process would be if one were destroyed. Mr. Sieglitz said it was his understanding, with the insurance, if a student drops it and breaks it, the first time there is

no charge for its replacement or repair. He said the second time, if it is the same person using it with the same serial number, after some scrutinizing, a co-charge would be assessed. He said if the repair bill were \$500, then maybe a fee of \$200 would be assessed. Dr. Jones said her position on that will be to inform the student that once it is broken, the student will then have to use a written textbook. She said she felt this will be a good incentive for them to be more responsible in their care of the unit. Mr. Waltz asked if there was a carrying case. Mr. Sieglitz said they would have a rubberized wraparound case but no satchels were being purchased. The board's vote to approve grades 3 through 5 Science and grades 1 through 5 Math textbook adoptions and the use of iPads for the 2011-2012 school year for grades 6 and 7 was unanimous.

Dr. Jones said the state is requiring each school corporation to put in place a three year Student Behavior Plan. She said year one will be collecting data from the new student management program, Skyward, and then build year two and three based upon that information. Dr. Jones said in the future we will need to know the date student referrals take place, where they take place, and the time they take place. She said the data will be analyzed and then strategies can be developed in year two and three that will hopefully improve student behavior. She said the plan was also about developing relationships with local agencies such as the Community Mental Health Department, the Department of Child Services and the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Daugherty moved to approve the plan. Mr. Waltz seconded. The vote to approve the plan was unanimous.

An updated Anti-Bullying Policy was presented to the board for first reading. Dr. Jones said in this policy, bullying is defined. She said it also defines where and what the corporation's responsibilities are. She said previously, if the bullying took place at the river park as opposed to on school property, it was not considered the school corporation's problem. She said now, if the school deems that a student's ability to receive an education is significantly impaired as a result of the bullying, whether it is on school property or not, disciplinary sanctions may be issued. Dr. Jones said there will be Student Support Officers that will address acts of violence and school safety. She said the policy would be presented at a subsequent meeting for approval.

Mrs. Pennington provided the board with a power point presentation of the proposed Elementary Reading Plans for Jefferson-Craig and Switzerland County Elementary Schools. Mrs. Pennington said this plan was in accordance with the state's plan to ensure student literacy at or above grade level by the end of third grade. Mr. Waltz said he wanted to clarify that if a student does not pass the reading assessment, the school would retain them. Dr. Jones said this issue was very controversial because there are some that say a student should never be retained. She said the Governor was adamant that students in the third grade be retained if they did not pass those assessments. Mrs. Peters moved to approve the Elementary Reading Plans as presented. Mr. Phipps seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The board voted unanimously to approve three Endowment Requests in a motion made by Mr. Phipps and seconded by Mr. Waltz. The approved requests are as follows:

- \$100,000.00 – All Schools: Project #331 Extension of 2010-11 Textbooks (no additional funds appropriated)
- \$215,000.00 – All Schools: Science, Math and Lang. Arts Textbooks per Invoice (estimated for 2011-2012)
- \$538,174.79 – Central Office: 2012 Debt Service

A Full Day Kindergarten Program for the 2011-2012 school year was unanimously approved by the board in a motion made by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. Roberts. Dr. Jones said currently the corporation has half-time Kindergarten supplemented with Title program. She said the corporation had applied for a grant on the recommendation of the state during the last legislative session. Dr. Jones said at this time it is not known how much of the additional grant money the corporation will receive. She said the minimum is \$718 and the max is \$2500 per student. She said she believes with the current funding and the grant and utilization of some Title monies, Full Day Kindergarten can be offered for one year only. Dr. Jones said, hopefully it could continue, but there are no guarantees that this will be possible beyond one year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PERSONNEL:

The board voted unanimously to approve retirement requests from Howard Bragg and Reva Bragg in a motion by Mr. Phipps, seconded by Mr. Roberts. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Waltz moved to approve three summer school contracts. Mr. Roberts seconded. Mr. Daugherty abstained from the vote while all other board members approved the contracts as follows:

- L. Lovern McClure: NOVANET - June 6 to July 25
- N. Daugherty Wheeler: NOVANET – June 6-July 25
- R. Ross: Speech Therapy – Eleven, one-hour sessions

The board unanimously approved the resignation of the Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Mallory Nelson in a motion by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. Phipps.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve the ECA recommendation of Timothy Eddy to serve as the Varsity Assistant Boys Soccer Coach. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion and the board's vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The board unanimously approved the following Professional Leaves in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Waltz:

- James Hess: 6/15-17 to Indianapolis for meeting on state standards for Advanced Manufacturing

- Janet Hendricks: 6/20-24 to University of Louisville for AP English Lit. & Comp. Summer Session
- BJ McAllister: 7/11-14 to Morehead St. University for AP History Workshop

A Field Trip request from Mrs. Beitzel for the High School and Middle Schools Band to go to Charlestown, Illinois to learn marching techniques and routines from July 12 to July 15 was approved unanimously in a motion by Mr. Phipps, seconded by Mr. Roberts. Concerns were voiced by Mr. Phipps, Mr. Waltz and Mr. Daugherty when they learned Mrs. Beitzel would not be accompanying the students. Mrs. Sebree and Mrs. Lamson assured the board that the parents and volunteers who would be going to chaperone were very familiar with the students and Mrs. Beitzel's practices as they work with them on a daily basis. Mr. Phipps said he would like to see the Band performing in the Wine Festival and Patriot's July 4th parades.

USE OF FACILITIES:

The board unanimously approved the use of the Vevay Campus for a YMCA sponsored 5-K Run/Walk on Saturday, June 25, 2011 from 7:30am to 10:00am and the use of the HS Gym and Cafeteria by the Sheriff's Office on June 11, 2011 from 8:00am to 4:00pm in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Phipps.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Dr. Jones asked Wilma Swango to give a Capital Projects Report. Mrs. Swango said she wanted to point out that the maximum amount allowed was written into projects for each building. Mr. Phipps asked if renovations were written in for Switzerland County Elementary School.

Dr. Jones said Switzerland County is listed as 89th out of 92 for unhealthiness and for this reason wants to try to make the Health curriculum relevant and in order to do that some changes need to be made. She said the goal is to cover nutrition, perhaps once a month, until they get it. She said Mrs. Furnish of the Purdue Extension Office is working with the corporation on this. She said there would be theme-related literature of high interest and trade books, videos, etc.

Dr. Jones said Tara Justice, Regina Miles, Kathy Daugherty, Becky Curlin, Pam Yates and Marlene Jones are the committee members responsible for developing the new Health curriculum and instruction for Kindergarten through the Eighth grades.

Dr. Jones said she was happy to find out that the Gender Classes were a huge success.

Dr. Jones announced that the next Endowment meeting would be held on June 14, 2011 and that the next regular board meeting would be held on July 18, 2011.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Daugherty said he was on the Building and Grounds Committee. He said he believed the mowing of all of the grounds the corporation owns is almost too much for one person to cut. He said Mr. Jones used to have Louis Peelman mowing at Switzerland County Elementary School. He said he didn't know about the ditch. Mr. Daugherty also said he was concerned that with all of the cut backs in Education, he thought the first area that would be affected might be Physical Education and he felt that was a shame. He also wanted to know if the corporation was still teaching GED classes. Dr. Jones said the Career Center has always handled GED classes, but as of last year, there is no GED center in Switzerland County. She said Workforce One was an extension of the unemployment office and was now responsible for offering GED classes in the state of Indiana. Dr. Jones said she was unsure if it could be obtained on-line. Mr. Jones said he would be surprised if a person couldn't.

Mr. Waltz said he wanted to compliment the band parents for all of their dedication and hard work.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Waltz seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (8:50 p.m.)

Andy Truitt, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Unable to attend meeting
Tonya Moore, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Nancy Peters, Member

James Phipps, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member