

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2011
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING 4:00 P.M.
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6:15 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)(11).

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

The board received instruction from Dr. Adamson, the Indiana School Board Association’s Director of Training, and discussed no subject matter 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, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Phipps and Mr. Waltz.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ron Hocker, Matthew Hocker, Rhonda Pennington, John Sieglitz, Fred Ross, Michelle Detmer, Jill Cord, Laura Nay, Chelsea Duvall, Courtney Roland, Greg Curlin, David Todd, Justin Kasson, Diana Kasson, Richie Kasson, Michael Jones, John Druba, Dan Noel and Debbie Allen.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Phipps made a motion to approve an amended agenda with the omission of item K.1., and the addition of item K.3. (b) under Personnel. Mr. Daugherty seconded. The board’s vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the school board meeting of September 06, 2011 were unanimously approved in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mrs. Moore.

FUND REPORT:

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the August, 2011 fund report as presented. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. Mr. Phipps asked Mrs. Swango if she wanted to make any comments regarding the report. Mrs. Swango said there was nothing in the August report she needed to comment on but there would be regarding the September report when it was brought to the board for approval. Mr. Phipps asked if the corporation was switching banks. Mrs. Swango told board members the corporation was in the process of changing the Lead Account from Main Source Bank to The Friendship State Bank. She said, as in the past, the school corporation will still be doing business at both banks. She said the move would involve a transition period with things such as ordering checks which should be completed by the end of the year. The board's vote to approve the report was unanimous.

CLAIMS:

Vendor Claims #41832 through #41919 were approved unanimously by the board in a motion by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mrs. Moore. There were no questions regarding claims.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board unanimously approved several Extra-Curricular Fund Raisers in a motion made by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. Phipps. They are as follows:

- Outdoors Club – Bake Sales (Nov. & Dec.) - Sucker Sales (March)
- Student Council – Bake Sales (Jan.) – Candy Sales (Oct., Dec., Feb.) – Sucker Sales (Nov.) – Homecoming Dance (Jan.)
- Boys Basketball – Sportswear Sales – 11/7 through 11/21
- Senior Class –High School Hallways Haunted House – 10/29 - \$1 per person

Each school presented their ISTEP Reports.

Mr. Jones said last year, Switzerland County Elementary received an Exemplary status and this year it was Commendable. He said the school's student attendance had improved but they were working on bus behavior because of situations when a child is kicked off the bus for 2 or 3 days and ends up not coming to school because they have no transportation. Mr. Jones said Special Education students performed very well in Math and he was very pleased with that, but noted the Language Arts scores were slightly

below the state average. He said some of the things they were being very aggressive with this year were Star Reading and Math and RTI. He said there was a large second grade this year that was divided into three sections with an Instructional Assistant in each, doing Differentiated Instruction. Mr. Jones said the Title program has expanded by identifying those students and getting them help. Mrs. Moore asked what was being done to improve the Language Arts scores for Special Education students. Mr. Jones said extra work was being given in writing and reading, and of course the state mandated 90-minute block of uninterrupted reading. Mr. Ross mentioned the RTI program. He said the Tier 2 students will be monitored twice a month and the Tier 3 students will be monitored once a week. Mr. Jones said the key is identifying those students that need extra help and getting them that help. Mrs. Moore asked if they were tested in a small group. Mr. Jones said yes. Mrs. Moore asked if their Special Education teacher was the one doing the testing. Mr. Jones said the high numbers meant she couldn't test all of them, but she had assistance from the Instructional Assistants who also had teaching licenses and from others such as retired teacher, Helen Parks. Mrs. Moore said she has heard that Special Education students bring us down. She said some of them really struggle because they can't be read to and some of the Math problems involve reading and comprehending and wondered what could be done to help them. Mr. Jones said the Special Education students had achieved AYP the last two years. He said they were not where the school wanted them to be, and even though it would not happen overnight, he believed the people and programs presently in place would help them get there. Mr. Waltz said he saw that the 5th graders had not performed well in Math and that boys were lowest. He asked Mr. Jones if gendering was being considered at the school. Mr. Jones said they were looking at gendering, but he really did not know. He said Mr. Griffith had taken the lead with using Project Based Learning and it shows, but also wanted to point out that every year is going to be different, so it is hard to say. Mrs. Peters asked if the 200 Title 1 students are in grades K-5. Mr. Jones said it was grades 1 through 5. He said historically, the staff felt students were underserved at Switzerland County Elementary, but feels the school finally has the people and programs that will best serve the students. Mrs. Peters asked if each of those 200 students received special instruction every day. Mr. Jones said small groups of under ten students were participating in the special programs. Mrs. Peters asked if the Title 1 students receiving individualized instruction were also kept in small groups. Mr. Jones said they were in groups of less than ten students.

Mrs. Pennington began by introducing Michelle Detmer, a new Instructional Assistant at Jefferson-Craig Elementary. She said she wanted to give some demographics of the school first. She said fifty percent of the students are on Free & Reduced, which is a great concern. Mrs. Pennington said last year was the first year for the re-configuration which increased the school's enrollment by 125 students. She said the attendance rate increased by two percent, which she was thrilled about. She said one of the main changes being implemented to improve ISTEP scores was more of a concentration on Reading in Kindergarten through Grade 3. She said the school made 13 out of 15 categories for AYP. Mr. Ross said the school did not make AYP in the Free and Reduced or the Special Education categories. He said the school was only nine tenths of one percent from being a B school. He said with the RTI program and the implementation of the 90-

minute reading block, they hope to bring scores up. Mr. Ross said the fifth grade class did not perform well in Math. He said in Grades 4 and up, Math gets very technical. Mrs. Moore said she felt the third grade was a very pivotal grade because if students learn their multiplication and division then, they won't get behind and should perform well in subsequent grades. Mrs. Pennington said in addition to the previously mentioned programs, four days a week, all of the students are receiving an additional forty minutes of instruction. She said in the RTI tiers, the instruction is tailored to the students' specific needs. She said this is also when the Enrichment Groups meet. She said by doing it this way, they are not missing out on their regular classroom instruction, and those that need it receive targeted instruction. Mrs. Pennington said there are 30 students who ride the late bus that are structured into twenty additional minutes. She said they are also aiming at putting students arriving at 7:30 in the morning into a mentoring program with older students and younger students. She said it was possible that the students could gain an additional eighty minutes of instruction time.

Mr. Druba said for two straight years, Switzerland County Middle School has reached AYP, which means the school met 15 of 15 categories. Mr. Druba said the state has grids showing where the school ranks, and in Language Arts, both the 7th and 8th grades were very, very close to reaching the High Growth, High Achievement grid. He said in Math, they did reach the High Growth, High Achievement ranking. Mr. Druba said since the school improved at a rate of 12% overall in both Language Arts and Math, they were given a grade of Exemplary. He said they were very, very proud of the teachers and the students. He said they were at 82% for both Language Arts and Math in both 7th and 8th grades, so they have a little cushion, but if they drop off a little bit, they will be in trouble. Mr. Druba said the standards are set high and they will meet the challenge. Mr. Druba explained that the state was doing things a little different, now. He said before, this year's seventh grade students would have been compared to next year's seventh graders, which was not comparing apples to apples. He said they are now tracking students as they progress, so that next year, if the same seventh grade students' scores go down as eighth graders, the school has not done a good job. He said it was a much more logical way of evaluating a school.

Mr. Noel said a lot of the information he was giving tonight was a repeat of the High School's Improvement Plan. He said the school's enrollment went down eighteen students, but increased 5% in the testing areas. He said in Math they went to 51% and the state average is at 66%. In Language Arts, Mr. Noel said the school was at 62% and the state is at 64%. Mr. Noel said the school is at 50% in Biology, which is Science, and the state is at 55%. He said there was an increase of students who took Advanced Placement classes. He said 37.8% of the graduating class got three, four or five on the test, which is passing. He said there was a major increase in the number of students taking the SAT from 48 to 57, but there was a decrease in students taking the ACT. He said there was an increase in Academic Honors diplomas and Core 40 diplomas. Mr. Noel said the school had increased in the number of students going on to college from 55% to 59%. He said the graduation rate has stayed pretty steady at 76.9% and the state wants 90%. He said it had to do with about 15 students. Mr. Noel said the situation with that is every time a student drops out, that is 1%. He said that is why the school did not meet AYP. Mr.

Noel said some of the things the school is doing differently this year involve a new writing program on the Nova-Net; an acuity test that is extremely helpful in identifying students' problem areas; more hands on instruction; and credit recovery classes in the evening. Mr. Noel said he had been disappointed about the school's status, but seeing the progress the school has made in a short amount of time and where they can possibly go makes him very excited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mrs. Jill Cord asked the board what amendments are being made to the Title 1 Grant and when those amendments would be finalized so that the grant can be made accessible to the public. Dr. Jones said Mr. Hansel was the Title 1 Coordinator. She said additional grant funds were received that the corporation was able to use for a teaching position at Switzerland County Elementary School. Dr. Jones explained that each time a name or anything was added to the grant, an amendment had to be submitted and that submission had not yet been approved. Mrs. Cord asked when the finalized grant could be expected to be seen. Dr. Jones said she hoped it would be expedient, but Mr. Hansel would need to be contacted in order to answer that question.

Mr. Richie Kasson asked what had happened to school dances. He said the kids should be given something to do. Mr. Kasson also said he felt the students' dress was disrespectful and they should be wearing uniforms. He said his son was threatened with getting kicked out of school because he brought something to school that was considered to be drug paraphernalia. He said just because a kid dresses or acts a little different doesn't mean he is doing drugs.

Mr. Truitt thanked Mr. Kasson and said they could not respond at this time but would take his comments into consideration.

Diana Kasson said some of her friends have been bullied at school to the point they wanted to commit suicide. She said she did not mind speaking out on behalf of her friends to let everyone know that bullying is a problem.

PERSONNEL:

The board unanimously approved the resignation of Stacy Lay as the sixth grade girls' basketball coach in a motion by Mr. Phipps, seconded by Mr. Waltz. Mrs. Moore said she was not happy about this because he was wonderful.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve Courtney Dayadharum to fill the sixth grade girls' basketball coaching position. Mr. Phipps seconded and the vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

Two Professional Leave requests and one Field Trip request were approved unanimously by the board in a motion by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Roberts. They are as follows:

Professional Leaves:

- Mr. Druba: 2011 Principal's Conference in Indianapolis, Nov. 21-22
- M. Edwards: Indiana School Counselor Assoc. Conf. in Indianapolis, Nov.10-11

Field Trip:

- S. Holliday & Student Council to State Convention in Indianapolis, Nov. 4-6

USE OF FACILITIES:

The board unanimously approved the following Use of Facilities requests in a motion made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Daugherty:

- HS Café- SAY Soccer Banquet Awards on Fri., Oct. 28 from 4:30 to 7:30pm
- SCES Parking Lot – Trunk or Treat on Mon., Oct. 31 from 5:30 to 7:30pm
- SCMS Café – Switz. Co. Home Makers Club Program on Oct. 27 from 5 to 8pm
- JCES - JC PTA Family Fun Night on Nov. 4, 6 to 9:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Dr. Jones announced that the next Endowment meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2011 and the next regular board meeting would be held November 21, 2011.

Dr. Jones also mentioned to the board that she had visited each school and met separately with the certified and non-certified personnel regarding the lump-sum payment and the balanced calendar and invited any thoughts or ideas they might have.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Daugherty said he felt it would be a good idea if Mr. Christman gives the corporation an exact plan for the work he has planned for the grounds. Dr. Jones said she had told Mr. Christman to wait on doing anything until after the Regional.

Mr. Todd said the soccer teams have had a very successful season and he had received a lot of comments about how smoothly everything went with the sectional and their hopes that it would come here again. Mr. Druba mentioned that the stands were full and it was a great atmosphere. Mr. Noel said he was very pleased that the grounds keeper has kept the weeds cut back and the facility looked very good. Mr. Todd said the Regional would begin Thursday at 5:30.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Moore seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (7:55 p.m.)

Andy Truitt, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Tonya Moore, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Nancy Peters, Member

James Phipps, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member