

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**“Unofficial” MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2015**  
**REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING            5:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE TO THE FLAG / MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Board President, Mr. Daugherty, called the regular meeting to order, asked that all communication devices be turned off or silenced, and led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag, followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board members in attendance were Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Deck, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. Cord, and Mrs. Peters.

Others in attendance were Mr. Michael L. Jones, Cindy Haskell, Mona Crabtree, John Sieglitz, Rhonda Pennington, Sally Weales, Gregg Goewert , Greg Curlin, Sean McGarvey, Katie Mote, Mathew Hocker, Marla Edwards, Alex Edwards, Dawn Powell, Calleigh Powell, Samuel White, Susan Jacobs, Roy Leap, Chris Trader, Christine Demaree, Garrett Demaree, Jill Chase, Betty Chase, Rita Works, Gayla Bullock, Bailey Bennett, Michelle Oatman, Emily Oatman, William Carpenter, Lane Penick, Michelle White, Courtney Gullion, Angela Grubbs, Brooke Levell, Judy Kinne, Sara Pavey, and Jonathan Grice.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Deck made a motion to approve an amended agenda, with the addition of a Grant Report by Mrs. Pennington, an additional ECA fundraiser under New Business, and under Personnel, an additional employee resignation and an employee recommendation. Mrs. Peters seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

Betty Chase was recognized by the Board for her service to the School Corporation in the Food Service Department. Mrs. Chase retired this year. She has been a devoted employee for 47 years.

Title 1 Teacher, Sara Pavey, who is retiring at the end of this school year, was also honored by the Board for her 42 years of employment with the Corporation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Peters made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 07, 2015 Board Meeting with typographical corrections and the rewording of a paragraph indicated by highlights on copies given to the Board. Mrs. Collier seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the Minutes with the indicated changes was unanimous. Administrative Secretary, Mona Crabtree, mentioned that the Minutes from the April 20, 2015 Meeting were not yet complete, but will be completed within the week.

**FUND REPORT:**

The Financial Report for March, 2015, was presented to the Board for approval. Mrs. Collier moved to approve the report. Mr. Deck seconded. Mr. Bennett mentioned that he would like to see the Rainy Day Fund dollars invested as the amount was showing little interest each month. The Board's vote to approve the report as submitted was unanimous.

**CLAIMS:**

Mr. Deck made a motion to approve the following Payroll and Vendor Claims as presented, seconded by Mrs. Peters:

Payroll Claims: 04/24/2015 and 05/18/15

Prewritten Claims: #48596 - #48626; #48627 - #48643; and #48645 - #48656

New Claims: #48657 - #48725

Deputy Treasurer, Cindy Haskell, was on hand to answer questions regarding claims. When asked about the shredder described in Claim #48705 from Quill in the amount of \$2,307.27, High School Principal, Gregg Goewert, explained that they were purchasing two shredders a year for the school. He said this one shredded cd's and boxes. He further explained that he had checked with Mr. Sieglitz whether it was best to lease or buy outright. Claim #48693 to M.A.S.A. Sporting Goods for field marking chalk for \$246.75 was questioned by Mr. Daugherty. Ms. Haskell said this was actually a Capital Projects expense. Mr. Daugherty asked if the Corporation is still paying mileage. Mrs. Haskell explained that the Corporation paid mileage for things like Professional Development trips, only if the van is unavailable. Mr. Daugherty asked if it was normal procedure for the Corporation to pay for the Choral and Band awards, listed in claim #48687 to Instrumentalist Products Co. in the amount of \$297.00. Mr. Daugherty asked if the Corporation usually paid for them. Ms. Haskell affirmed that the Board has approved the Corporation to pay for them in the past. The Board's vote to approve the claims as presented was unanimous. Mr. Bennett mentioned that he had spoken with Superintendents of three Corporations that have full time mechanic on staff. He feels this would be beneficial for our Corporation.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Susan Jacobs and Chris Trader, of Madison Area Educational Special Services Unit, presented the Board with information regarding their services. The Civil Rights Movement during the 1960's brought about reforms in education, which prompted formation of their services in 1968. Our Corporation has ten Certified staff and 17 support staff for students with special needs.

Jonathan Grice provided the Board with information regarding the Music Department. Mrs. Collier moved to approve charging a \$100 music fee to the student book bill. Mr. Bennett seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Mr. Grice announced that the Band Concert will be on Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the High School Gymnasium and Choir Concert will be on Tuesday, the 19th, at 6:30 P.M. in the High School Cafeteria.

Angela Grubbs presented the Business Professionals Association students who competed in the State BPA competition. The students were very thankful to the Board for allowing them to go on the trip. Students who participated in the competition were: Calleigh Powell, Adeli Kinne, Garrett Demaree, Courtney Gullion, and Samuel White, Hope Tankersley and Alex Edwards. Hunter Zorn and Stephanie Smith, who also participated in the competition, were unable to attend the meeting.

Curriculum Director/Grant Writer, Rhonda Pennington, gave a grant report to the Board including 2014/2015 grants waiting RFP, grants that have been submitted, grants received, and grants that are currently being prepared. Mrs. Pennington explained the purpose of the grants and the amount of each one. (*see Exhibit A, following these Minutes.*) Mrs. Pennington invited the Board to let her know of any grants they might know of or hear about and she will check to see if the Corporation is eligible to apply.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT:**

Mr. Jones gave an overview of the following senate bills and house bills:

- House Bill 1001: Main thrust of 2015 session was school funding.
- House Bill 1019: Increases the threshold for public works from the current \$150,000 to \$300,000 for common construction wage requirements. Unions fought hard against.
- Senate Bill 566: Amended to allow early graduates to be counted in the February ADM count
- Senate Bill 1: (State Board of Education Governance) Permitted the State Board of Education to choose their chair

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A revised Ivy Tech Proposal was submitted to the Board for approval. Discussion ensued regarding student numbers, when the payment would be due from the Corporation, the technology fees involved, and the fact that book fees are not included in the cost. The question of whether or not to partner with the Endowment on the cost was also discussed.

After much discussion, Mrs. Collier made a motion to go forward with the proposal with the condition that parents will be responsible for 50% of the tuition and technology fees. Mrs. Peters seconded. The Board's vote was unanimous.

Board Committee Reports:

Negotiations Committee: Informal meetings are being held. The Board representatives for the Committee are Mrs. Collier and Mr. Daugherty. The staff representatives are Mr. McGarvey and Mr. Spoores.

Endowment Committee: No activity to report. They will meet on Tuesday, May 26.

Internal Controls Committee: No new activity.

Facilities & Ground Committee Report: Construction plans were discussed. Mrs. Peters said at the last meeting, a statement was made that sometimes it is better to go with who you know. Based on that philosophy, Mrs. Peters moved to hire Lancer+Beebe, Inc. to provide architectural services for the technology storage building and the concessions/restroom facility at the game field. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. Mr. Bennett mentioned that the Committee had met with a third party advisor, Kenneth Kidd, who had given them some good tips. Mrs. Collier said she did not feel the Board should pay Mr. Lancer's company a second time for work on the plans he has already provided. Mr. Daugherty said he thought Mr. Lancer drew up the plans for Jefferson-Craig on his own. Mrs. Peters said Mr. Lancer's company has not drawn up plans for a technology storage building yet. Also, she mentioned that she personally feels the initial concessions/lockers/restroom facility plans he provided were much more than what the Board was willing to spend. After the facility meetings, it was her understanding those persons wanting the locker rooms were willing to wait on that project. The bus barn was mentioned as a possible storage area. Mrs. Peters said the bus barn is still in mind for a later project. She said the technology storage building needs to be climate controlled, whereas the bus barn does not. Mr. Bennett said Jefferson-Craig is still his number one priority. Since these projects are being done in phases, based on Capital Projects Plans, going ahead with the concessions/restrooms facility and the storage building for technology equipment was the best scenario. Mrs. Peters' motion was amended by Mrs. Collier to include the provision that there will be no additional cost for plans already provided. Mr. Bennett seconded. The Board's vote was unanimous.

The Switzerland County High School's Student/Parent Handbook was presented to the Board for first reading at a previous Meeting. At the previous meeting, concerns were voiced regarding the drug policy in the handbook.

Mr. Bennett felt the policy needed to be changed to reflect the waiting period after a positive drug test to return to participation in school activities be 45 calendar days. Mrs. Collier made the motion to approve 45 calendar days as the non-participation term. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The Board's vote is as follows: AYES: Daugherty, Roberts, Collier, Bennett, Deck. ABSTAIN: Cord, Peters. Mr. Goewert then asked for

clarification regarding participation in graduation ceremonies. Mrs. Collier moved to approve the participation in graduation and extra-curricular activities to follow the same drug policy guidelines. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The Board's vote was unanimous.

After comments were heard from the audience regarding the course re-take policy, also to be included in the handbook, the Board unanimously approved the following policy in a motion made by Mrs. Peters, seconded by Mrs. Collier: *“High School students are not permitted to retake classes unless they have failed a class and need to receive the credit. A student who needs to retake a class must take it in proper sequence. Both grades, (from the original class taken and the retake class), will be included in the student's GPA and will appear on the student's transcript. No student's grade will ever be eradicated from their transcript.”* This revised policy is a slight change from the updated version approved at the 5/07/2015 meeting.

Mrs. Collier then made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 High School Parent/Student Handbook with all of the aforementioned changes. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

An updated Administrative Benefit Policy was submitted to the Board for first reading on April 20, 2015. Some changes to the policy were suggested at that time but were not reflected on the policy presented for approval at this Meeting. The policy will be discussed during an upcoming Neola policy ad-hoc committee meeting and will be presented for final approval at the next regular Board Meeting. Mr. Bennett wanted to go on record as saying that the practice of providing Board Member medical insurance at no cost needs to stop. He said the cost to the Corporation for this insurance, which includes dental/vision coverage, came to \$312,000 during the period of January, 2012 to February, 2015.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Two ECA fundraisers were submitted to the Board for approval and were acted on as follows:

- SCES – Book Mark Sales for Storyfest donations – April and May, 2015  
Motion: Collier / Second: Bennett / Vote: Unanimous
- SCHS - Music Dptmt. hosting T. Griffiss & Band to play mini-concert, 5/29/15  
Motion: Collier / Second: Bennett / Vote: None (*motion failed for lack of vote*)

The Board unanimously approved two new High School courses and corresponding educational materials in a motion made Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mr. Deck. They are as follows:

- Course: Introduction to Criminal Justice Systems / Book: Criminal Justice Today
- Course: Introduction to Criminology / Book: Criminal Justice Today

An Endowment Request for High School video cameras was submitted to the Board for approval by Safety Resource Officer, Roy Leap, and Technology Director, John Sieglitz. The estimated project cost is \$123,796.34. The amount of funds requested from the Endowment is \$61,898.17. Mrs. Peters moved to approve the request. Mrs. Collier seconded the motion. Mrs. Cord asked why there was only one quote. Mr. Sieglitz explained that the cheapest on the internet will be significantly higher than the amount quoted by Dell. The Board's vote to approve the request was unanimous.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve Summer School classes and personnel as submitted. Mr. Deck seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve as submitted. *(see Exhibit B following Minutes.)*

Cafeteria Director, Gayla Bullock, requested that the Board approve the Summer Feeding Program which was implemented last year. She explained that this year it is downsized and will be held at the High School and Switzerland County Elementary School. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the program. Mr. Bennett seconded and the Board's vote was unanimous. *(see Exhibit C, following Minutes)*

A request from bus driver, Pansy Covington, to continue driving her 2000 Chevy Bluebird bus for the 2015-2016, even though the Corporation's policy states that the bus must be no older than 14 years at the beginning of the school year. The policy also states that upon special permission from the Board, the bus may be used, if it is in good condition and passes inspection. Mr. Bennett moved to approve the request. Mrs. Cord seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *(Anyone wishing to speak is asked to state their name and keep comments to 2 to 3 minutes. If this isn't enough time, participants are encouraged to submit the balance of their comments in writing and those wishing a written response are asked to leave their name and address with the Administrative Secretary).*

Mr. Daugherty opened the floor to comments from the public.

Michelle Oatman voiced her concerns regarding the current grading process and its inequities. She feels that if a student is not happy with a grade required for the academic honors diploma, they should not be allowed to retake the courses online as they are not meeting the same rigorous standards as their peers who take the classroom version. She presented the Board with a list of questions regarding this topic and requested a written response.

Judy Kinne feels parents and students need to be better informed on this topic and about the whole grading system. She feels the present grading system, with its weighted classes, is not a fair one.

Mr. Curlin praised the sixth grade program involving Hanover College and Purdue University. He feels it is a very optimistic program and is very pleased.

Mr. Jones commended Mr. Curlin, the FFA and the High School administrators for the Japanese educators' program. They observed our Science and Ag classes and were very positive about the experience.

Hearing nothing further, public comments were closed.

### **PERSONNEL:**

Mrs. Collier moved to accept the resignation of Danielle Griffin as Elementary School Nurse/Attendance Officer as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The Board's vote was unanimous.

Mr. Deck moved to accept the resignation of High School English teacher, Kellie Lockwood. Mrs. Cord seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Board unanimously approved the following Extra-Curricular Activities Recommendations in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mr. Deck:

- Barry Smith – HS Math Department Head
- Tyson Skinner – Summer, 2015 Wrestling (\$500)

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the employment of Sandy Bowling to fill the recently vacated School Nurse/Attendance Officer position. Mr. Roberts seconded. The Board's vote to approve the employment was unanimous.

### **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:**

Two professional leaves were approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mr. Bennett. They are as follows:

- G. Curlin – CASE Ag. Region IV NAAE, Moline, IL., 6/22-6/24, 2015
- G. Curlin – Indiana Ag Teacher Conf., IUPUI, Purdue University, 6/9-6/11, 2015

The Board voted unanimously approved the following field trips in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mrs. Collier:

- G. Curlin : MS/HS FFA, Purdue Campus, 6/15 - 6/18, 2015
- G. Curlin: Ag/FFA, Holiday World, 6/2-6/3, 2015

### **USE OF FACILITIES:**

Three requests for the use of school facilities were presented for approval by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Mrs. Cord. They are as follows:

- SCHS Soccer Fields: YMCA for Spring Coed Soccer, April, 2015
- SCHS Cafeteria: K. Collier for 4-H Queen Contest, 3:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M., 6/19/15
- SCHS Cafeteria, R. Sullivan for Vevay HS Alumni Mtg. & Dinner, 8/29/15, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Mrs. Collier abstained from the vote while all other Board members voted to approve the requests. Mr. Jones assured Mr. Daugherty that the soccer folks have been notified that they should refrain from parking their cars on the athletic fields.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Superintendent, Michael L. Jones, made the following announcements:

- Next Endowment meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Administration Office
- Next Regular Board Meeting, Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Administration Office at 5:00 P.M.
- ISBA District Meeting at the Pines in Seymour, Indiana on Wednesday, 5/20/15 at 6:00 P.M.
- Rachel’s Challenge on Friday, May 22, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the HS Gymnasium

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Cord mentioned that two parents had to wait three hours to give their comments and feels this is not acceptable.

Mr. Bennett enjoyed the biscuits and gravy Ag breakfast. Mr. Curlin said they had a good turnout.

Mrs. Collier thanked the teachers and administrators for all their work this year.

Mrs. Peters said at the last meeting, the use of custodians in the buildings was discussed. She wondered if that information had been gathered.

Mrs. Peters asked about evaluations. Mr. Jones said individual administrator evaluations are due at the end of June and the support staff evaluations are due at the end of the school year.

Mrs. Peters hopes the Board is thinking about putting another counselor in at the High School.

**ADJOURNMENT: (8:30 P.M.)**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Meeting in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Bennett. The Meeting was so adjourned.

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Wayne Daugherty, President

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William Roberts, Vice President

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Josh Deck, Secretary

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Joseph Bennett, Member

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Katie Collier, Member

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S. Jill Cord, Member

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Nancy Peters, Member