

March 6, 2017

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD
FACILITIES & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

A Facilities & Grounds Committee Meeting was held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, March 6, 2017 in the Administration Office of the Switzerland County School Corporation, located at 1040 W. Main Street, Vevay, Indiana.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Facilities & Grounds Committee Members Present: Joseph Bennett and Greg Bosaw.

Others Present: Wilma Rosenberger, Cindy Haskell, Michael L. Jones, Tye Sullivan, Jill Cord, John Sieglitz, and Terry Stephenson.

Topic of Discussion: Old Administration Building located at 305 W. Seminary Street. It is located next to the Old Gym which is still in use for games, practices, and other activities. The Old Administration Building was vacated in 2009. This building is currently vacant and is no longer of use to the School Corporation.

Joe Bennett opened the discussion, stating that this meeting was advertised in the local papers and the Board has discussed it several times since 2009, as the Board Minutes reflect. The posting of the committee discussion has also been placed in all buildings and on our web site. On one occasion, Jared Holbrook came to assess the building and that has also been discussed in detail. Mr. Bennett feels the future of the building has been discussed at length and it seems no one really cares what the Corporation does with it.

Mr. Jones spoke to Vevay Alumni members a few weeks ago and they voiced concerns regarding the building being torn down, but the Alumni has no money to keep the building up to standards.

Mr. Bennett stated the school has no additional monies for anything at this time and he feels a parking lot would be a nice thing to have for the Middle School ballgames that are held in the Old Gym.

Mr. Bosaw expressed his concerns about the expense of removing the lead paint, mold, and asbestos. He felt it would be great if the building could be deeded to someone.

Mrs. Jill Cord has spoken to the Tourism Board and they are interested in the building but no member has responded to the Corporation. Mrs. Cord also spoke to Martha Bladen of the Historical Society, but they do not have the money to keep up the building. Mrs. Cord wondered how it was possible to promote tourism without historical buildings. She asked how much it would cost to maintain the building. Mr. Jones responded that he

believed that information was provided earlier, but felt it to be around \$8000.00. Mrs. Cord believed this to be a mistake. Mrs. Cord stated that she and her husband owned the old First National Bank and the insurance was only \$1200 per year. Mr. Jones asked Business Manager, Wilma Rosenberger, if he was making a correct statement. Mrs. Rosenberger stated she didn't remember exactly what the expense report showed but she felt that would be the total expense for that particular location.

Mr. Jones announced a dumpster will be ordered and over spring break, contents will be sorted to decide what will be kept and the rest will be discarded. Mrs. Cord ask that she be notified when this will occur, as she would like to be a part of the removal group. Mr. Jones, Mrs. Rosenberger and John Sieglitz all stated that the scheduled date was Tuesday, March 28, 2017. All items to be saved will be transferred to the Administration Office. The original chalkboard will be one of the last items taken from the building. Mr. Jones stated he thinks that will need some much needed planning to remove and transport in one piece.

Mrs. Cord stated that this coming summer will be the Vevay High School Alumni 50-year reunion. There was discussion of what year the last graduating class graduated from the old building. The last class to graduate from the Vevay School was 1967. There was a combined class from Patriot and the Vevay School in 1968, after a fire destroyed the building in Patriot. The class of 1969 attended the old school, but actually walked through the graduation ceremony at the new Switzerland County High School.

Mr. Bennett asked if there were any other comments anyone wanted to share. Mr. Terry Stephenson, Project Director of the Historic Hoosier Hills, spoke to the group. He stated that some folks have taken older buildings in our region and placed exhibits of their past memorabilia. This has worked out very well for some. One thing our Corporation must have, however, is community involvement. This is a big factor. If the interest isn't there, it won't work.

Mr. Sullivan feels we have discussed the topic enough with the public. There have been articles in the paper and only one individual from the public has shown up other than our Board and some staff members. Mr. Sullivan did feel the need for an article to be placed in the local paper informing the county of the possibility that the building could be torn down.

Mrs. Cord asked Mr. Jones if a survey can be implemented. Mr. Jones replied he could possibly talk to Pat Lanman, Editor of Vevay Reveille, to see if he would be willing to do an article on the building. Mr. Jones stated that he can inform the public of the possible demolition of the building. This would get the word out a little better.

Mrs. Cord asked about forming possible questions for a survey. Mr. Bennett believes that the Board members can discuss among themselves and discuss with the public their thoughts and call for a vote in two weeks at the March 20, 2017 Board Meeting.

Mr. Stephenson stated there is a need for a contact person to lead the group and asked Mrs. Cord if she was that contact person. Mrs. Cord answered that she was not. Mr. Jones agreed that there needs to be a one on one contact person for people to talk to.

Mr. Bennett said if we have available funds, it could always be used in the old gym for needed repairs.

Mr. Stephenson asked that the Board also keep in mind the environmental hazards that this building might have.

Mr. Bennett asked Mrs. Rosenberger, Mr. Sieglitz and Ms. Haskell when the building was evacuated and why. Mrs. Rosenberger stated that she and Ms. Haskell were at a conference and when they returned, their office had been moved. Mr. Sieglitz stated there was approximately 2 feet of raw sewage in the basement the day things were moved.

Mr. Jones stated that there are a lot of sentimental feelings about the building, but if the money is not there to keep up a facility serving no useful purpose, there isn't much that can be done. There has been some discussion about doing something with the stage at the Old Gym to display old memorabilia which would also take money to convert.

Mrs. Cord asked Mr. Jones if he would like her to contact the local paper to do a write up on the Old Administration building. Mrs. Cord asked if she could place a survey in the paper to find out the community's views on the issue. Mr. Jones said he would contact Board President, Katie Collier, to see what her thoughts are on how to proceed.

Mr. Jones stated that the Corporation does not want to give up the parking area for the Old Gym. Mr. Bosaw mentioned the fact that if the property is deeded to someone, that area will also go.

With no further discussion, Mr. Bennett closed the meeting.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:33 P.M.

Joseph Bennett, Committee Member

Greg Bosaw, Committee Member