

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2004
7:30 P.M.

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public meeting for an open working session from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

President Ranz called the meeting to order and lead the group in the pledge to the flag.

ATTENDANCE:

Board members in attendance were Mr. Ranz, Mr. Truitt, Mrs. See, Mr. Cole, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Swango, and Superintendent Caddell.

Others in attendance included Mona Crabtree, Ann Geyman, Ron Hocker, Pat Lanman, Candis Haskell, Haley Washnock, Sheila Gault, Darrell Hansel, Elizabeth Jones, Lauren Edwards, Michael Edwards, Marla Edwards, Mishayla South, Malia Morgan, Joanne Gaudin, Brian Bowen, Grant Priest, Dave Ray, Lisa Marie Ray, Sharon Barbour, Missy Morris, Katey Brichto, Sarah Brichto, Opal Coates, Haley South, Jim South, and Carol South.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended, in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mrs. See. The changes in the agenda included a recommendation for tabling two of the Endowment Requests and Mr. Liberson's contract until another time, as well as the addition of a special presentation to be made by Mr. Hansel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Cole moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2004 board meeting. Mrs. Swango seconded. The vote was unanimous.

FUND REPORT:

In a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mrs. See, the board voted unanimously to approve the Fund report as submitted.

CLAIMS:

Mr. Cole moved to approve claim numbers 29486 to 29732. The motion was seconded by M. Phipps. Mr. Phipps wanted to know what claim #29607 in the amount of \$1,400 for Ghost Maintenance was for. Mr. Caddell said it was for software that allows our technician, John Sieglitz, to work on a computer with problems from wherever he may be. Also, if all of the computers in a certain building are down, he can use a computer from another building to send programming messages to all of them as opposed to having to work on each individual computer, saving time and travel. Mr. Phipps also asked about claim #29609 for electrical cables buried. He wanted to know if the \$362 was for the electrical Poles out in the fields. Mr. Caddell said they were for additional electrical cables that were buried. Mr. Ranz asked if the toner for the corporation in claim #29616 was for the whole year. Mrs. Geyman said that she gets a better price if she buys in bulk and it should last approximately one year. She said there may be a few printers that couldn't use it, but most would. She also mentioned that the \$10,665.18 would be taken out of the CAPE Grant. Mr. Ranz asked if the VCR's purchased for buses in claim #29662 were for all of the buses. Mrs. Geyman said they were for 12 buses and that all of the buses had them, now. Mr. Ranz asked if they were all in working order. Mr. Caddell said that he assumed so, as no drivers have complained of theirs not working. Mrs. See asked if it was just the corporation buses that had the VCR's. Mr. Caddell said VCR's were installed in all of the buses, including those of the contract drivers. Mrs. Swango asked if the transfer tuition for a student listed in claim #29638 in the amount of \$2,236 was for a whole year. Mrs. Geyman said that it was. Mrs. See then asked about claim #29639 to Witham Toxicology for drug screening in the amount of \$585. Mrs. Geyman said that it was for student drug testing. Mrs. See then said she thought Midwest was the company we used for this. Mr. Caddell said that it was actually a combination of both. Midwest comes and does the testing and Witham analyzes the results of the tests. After these discussions, the board unanimously voted to approve the claims as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A special presentation was made by Mr. Hansel, principal of the Blue Ribbon award winning, Jefferson Craig Elementary. Mr. Hansel, who went to Washington, D.C. to attend the awards ceremony, presented a plaque to board president, Ranz, which he had accepted on behalf of the school. Mr. Hansel also showed the board and those in attendance a banner which had also been presented to him. He said he would be placing the banner in the school's library.

During the Celebrating Success portion of the meeting, the following students were introduced by the principal of their respective schools and presented with a pin by board president, Ranz.

SCE: Lauren Edwards, gr.4, nominated by Cynthia Griffith and Dr. Jones.

JC: Mishayla South, gr. 3, nominated by Joanne Gaudin.

MS: Haley Washnock, gr. 7, nominated by Mrs. Gault.

HS: Grant Priest, gr. 9, nominated by Brian Bowen and Mike McClure.

Mr. Caddell recommended to the board that the reciprocal scholarship program with the Switzerland County Community Foundation to offer scholarships using Endowment monies in the amount of \$50,000 be tabled and rather a committee be formed to study whether the corporation would meet all of the legal guidelines for it. Mr. Truitt moved to table the request, with Mr. Phipps seconding. Mr. Cole nominated Mr. Phipps, Mr. Truitt, Mrs. Swango, and Mr. Hocker to serve on the committee. The vote to approve the tabling of the request and the nominations for the committee was unanimous.

Mrs. See moved to approve the Endowment Request from the Middle School in the amount of \$7,983 for boilers at the Middle School. Mrs. Swango seconded. Mr. Caddell said that they were considered an emergency item. Maintenance Director, Danny DeBaun, said they are old and subject to failing at any time. He said he had a company called Star Solutions check them to make sure the problems we have had with the boilers was nothing we were doing or weren't doing and they said it was faulty equipment. Mrs. Swango asked if it was faulty equipment, would it be feasible to pursue this issue with the manufacturer. Danny said they were too old and that the warranty on them would no longer be good. The vote to approve the request was unanimous.

Mr. Phipps made a motion, while Mr. Truitt seconded, to approve the Endowment Requests for the reimbursement of \$10,713 used to refurbish the gym floor at the Old Gym and for \$5,862 for the High School gym floor.

A motion was made by Mr. Phipps and seconded by Mrs. Swango, to approve the Endowment Request for an early debt payment for the Switzerland County Elementary School bond, maturing in 2011, in the amount of \$417,500. Mr. Phipps asked what the interest rate was on the note and if this was the highest interest rate being carried on a loan. Mr. Caddell said he did not have the actual document, but that it was right around 7%. Mr. Phipps was just wondering if this was the total outstanding balance, as he thought there was a couple of ways this loan was being funded. Mrs. Geyman left the meeting briefly to get a copy of the amortization sheet to show the board members. The board then voted unanimously to approve the request.

Mr. Caddell recommended tabling the request for an early debt repayment for the Jefferson Craig Common School Loan in the amount of \$78,386.50. He said that he felt the board should look into the legalities of this matter before taking it to the Endowment Committee. The corporation could be assessed a penalty for early re-payment. Mr. Phipps moved to table the request and Mr. Cole seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the request for Endowment funds for a steamer/oven for the High School cafeteria in the amount of \$14,920. Mrs. See seconded. Mr. Caddell said he considered this to be another emergency item. Danny DeBaun explained that this oven/steamer was used on a daily basis. He said it was a miracle that it had lasted as long

as it has. He went on to say that all of the equipment in the cafeteria is quite old and in desperate need of replacement. The board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Mr. Roberts moved to approve the Endowment Request for \$47,542 to purchase dishwashers for the High School and for Switzerland County Elementary. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. Mr. Caddell mentioned that the board should also consider these to be an emergency item. He said if we do not take care of them, now, we could face problems with the Health Department. Mr. DeBaun said that he and Mrs. Bullock really had to get out there and work to get more than one bid. Even at that, Mr. DeBaun said, the two companies they received bids from, did not do the installation, so he had to go elsewhere to get a quote for this service. Mrs. See asked if the hot water problem now existing would be taken care of with these new dishwashers. Mr. DeBaun said that it would. The board unanimously approved the request.

Mr. Phipps moved to accept a donation in the amount of \$269.08 from the American Legion to purchase 5th grade weekly readers for Jefferson-Craig. Mr. Cole seconded. Mrs. Swango wanted to know the reason for the donation request and would they be available for anyone who wanted them or just for the 5th grade. Principal Hansel explained that the 5th grade teachers came to him three years ago, saying that they wanted to use the weekly readers in their classrooms, but they were included in the curriculum, and asked him to help them find a way to fund them. The vote to approve the donation was unanimous.

A collaborative agreement between the SIEOC Headstart and both Switzerland County Elementary School and Jefferson Craig Elementary, was presented to the board for approval. The board voted unanimously to approve the agreement in a motion made by Mrs. See and seconded by Mr. Cole.

Mr. Caddell asked Sarah Brichto and Katey Brichto to present an update of their After-School Spanish program. They gave several goals for the Learning Enrichment program and what they hoped to accomplish with it and what they felt they had accomplished with it. Last year, they asked for and received \$5,783 from a grant and were asking for more this year to compensate for research on students graduating this year who were the first kids to take part in the program. They also wanted to branch out and offer more students a chance to get involved with French and Spanish. Mr. Caddell said that research shows that students who picked up a foreign language very early, did better in their native language on tests such as the ISTEP. The program is a volunteer one, but their class sizes are expanding, as interest in the program continues to grow. The grant funding the program is a matching grant. Mr. Caddell said the program would cost the corporation around \$6,000.

Mr. Caddell announced that the High School had been awarded a grant called the English 11 Pilot Project as a means to administer the Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments. The corporation will receive 35 low-cost computers, monitors, and software with which the students are expected to develop a paperless classroom. All class notes and homework

assignments would be done on the computers. Mr. Caddell felt like this would be a win-win situation with the corporation getting the equipment, the State being able to get data as well as the corporation getting data. Mr. Truitt asked who would be getting the computers. Mr. Caddell said he believed Mrs. Harrell's class would get them. The project was set up for 11th grade English courses. Mr. Phipps made a motion to accept the grant as presented. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the resolution to change the date of the school board elections from the Primary elections to the General elections, beginning in 2006. Mr. Phipps seconded the motion. Mr. Caddell made the recommendation because it would allow for more voter participation. None of the other election policies would change. The school board member winning an election under this plan would be able to take office in January 1, following the election. The vote to approve the resolution was unanimous.

The board voted unanimously to table a recommendation of three buses being declared surplus items in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Phipps.

The board voted unanimously to table the recommendation of a one-year extension of the contract of Marvin Liberson. Mr. Truitt made the motion with Mr. Cole seconding.

Mrs. See made a motion to approve the state Gifted and Talented Program 2004-2005 grant application in the amount of \$13,015. Mr. Cole seconded. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pat Lanman wanted to voice his concerns of the cost of the senior trip which he believed would ultimately result in many kids not being able to go. The three-day trip would cost \$650 plus food. He wondered if the board could possibly find some way to reduce the cost of the trip so that every senior could have the opportunity to go. He thought perhaps the board might take this to the Endowment Committee for consideration. He said that in looking at the timeline, there would be no way to do that this year, but for future years, this could perhaps be an option. He felt like every senior should get a chance to go on this trip, not just the students whose parents could afford it.

Mr. Caddell said that he appreciated Mr. Lanman's comments. He said that the reason he had not as yet presented it to the board was that he felt Mr. Hocker needed to look at the particulars regarding the Endowment committee paying for a student's trip unless it was deemed educational. He went on to say that in the future, if we were to consider doing this, a set of educational guidelines would have to be established which listed the Indiana standards and how the trip met those standards. The senior trip currently has no such guidelines.

Mr. Roberts also voiced concerns about doing this. He said it would probably not just be considered Endowment money, but also tax money and paying for a student's plane

tickets to Florida would be questionable to some people. He felt the only way to be safe with something like that would be to make it an educational trip and do it across the board.

PERSONNEL:

Mr. Roberts made a motion to employ Karen Peelman as a full time custodian at the High School. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Truitt moved to accept the resignation of Timothy Arradondo, the ISS supervisor, with Mrs. See seconding. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Truitt made a motion to post an Alternative Placement teacher, which would replace the ISS position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phipps. Several points were given for considering the position. Students would no longer be considered suspended, which would help the suspension rate. Students would be getting instruction outside the regular classroom from a licensed teacher. When no students are in the alternative placement class, the teacher would be a permanent sub in that building for the day. Also, it would not count against our day limit in special education. Another point is that the class would serve as an alternative to corporal punishment. The teacher would be at the High School for three days, (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday), serving both Middle School and High School students, at Jefferson Craig one day, (Tuesday), and at Switzerland County Elementary one day, (Thursday). Mrs. See asked how many students would be in the class during the day. Mr. Caddell said that there should be no more than ten. He wanted to keep the class size small in order to give the students a little more one-on-one attention. Mr. Caddell answered in the negative when Mr. Ranz asked if there was a financial penalty associated with a high suspension rate. The pay would be \$15,000 to \$16,000 additional, plus benefits. The vote to approve the Alternative Placement teacher position was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE/FIELD TRIPS:

Agriculture teacher, Greg Curlin, requested permission to attend an Agricultural Science/Horticultural Science Units trip to the Jefferson County Fairgrounds on November 22 2004, and if the students advance on December 10-11, 2004 at Purdue University, as well as an FFA chapter budget meeting in Trafalgar from January 14th to the 16th, 2005, and a dairy foods/meats evaluation at Purdue University, January 28th and 29th, 2005. Mr. Truitt moved to approve the trips, with Mr. Cole seconding. Mrs. Swango asked if there would be a substitute hired while he is gone or whether the students would be going with him. Mr. Caddell said the FFA students would be attending these functions, so it probably would not be necessary to hire a substitute for those days. The board unanimously approved the trips.

USE OF FACILITIES:

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the Use of Facilities request from Joy Briggs of the American Cancer Society for the use of the Switzerland County High School for the Relay for Life from 6:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. on June 17 and 18, 2005. Mr. Roberts seconded. Mr. Phipps asked if the corporation should waive the fees since it was for a charitable organization. Mr. Caddell said that we have done so in the past. Mr. Cole asked if anyone could define what part of the facilities was being requested. He said he was concerned about using the gym. Mr. Lanman said they probably wouldn't need the gym area. The board voted unanimously to approve the request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Mr. Caddell announced that the next meeting of the Endowment Committee would be held on November 23, 2004.

Mr. Caddell also announced that there would be a Special Board Meeting on November 29, 2004. He said there would be no Executive Session prior to the meeting. He said that bids for restroom renovations at the Middle School would be awarded at that time.

Mr. Caddell also mentioned that he was looking over budget numbers with respect to the debt service, teacher retirement and severance. He said that the tax rate may change, but to keep in mind that what is published in the newspaper is always higher than the actual rate.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mrs. Swango mentioned that she knew that the bread company the corporation did business with had declared bankruptcy. She wondered if it would have any impact on the schools. Mrs. See said that she knew another company had bought them out and that it should not present a problem.

Mr. Cole asked about the upcoming audit. He wondered what kind of audit it was. Mrs. Geyman said that it was a regular audit done by the State Board of Accounts every two years.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote.

