

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 16, 2006
7:30 P.M.

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public meeting for an executive session from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Switzerland County Administration Building.

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. Roberts, Mr. Truitt, Mrs. See, Mr. Cole, Mr. Phipps, Mrs. Swango, and Superintendent Caddell.

Others in attendance were Ann Geyman, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Darin Gullion, Nancy Stearns, Dr. Elizabeth Jones, Greg Curlin, Virgil McKay, Aaron Moore, Cyndi Barnes, Emilee Waldron, Dorie Peelman, Adam Dennis, Jacquita Lanman, Debbie Christman, Ginger Furnish, Angie Satterfield, Eric Cole, Candy Haskell, Carrie Truax, Abigail Dayadharum, Charles Dayadharum, Elizabeth T. Jones, Jacqueline Bridges, Darrell Hansel, Melissa Smith, Stacy Lay, Gayle Lay, Hailee Lay, Pat Lanman, Joseph Spoore, Tyler Frazier, Tony Spoore, Shannon Barger, and Steve Konkle.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of one New Business item and one Personnel item. Mrs. See seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular school board meeting of September 18, 2006. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Truitt.

FUND REPORT:

Mrs. See moved to approve the fund report as submitted. Mrs. Swango seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the report.

CLAIMS:

Claims #32591 through 33053 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. Phipps and seconded by Mr. Cole. The vote to approve the claims was unanimous.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS:

In the Celebrate Success part of the meeting, the school board recognized the nominees for each of the schools. Board President, Ranz, congratulated each student with a pin and a handshake. The nominees are as follows:

Switz. Co. High School: Will honor next month, as honoree was unable to attend

Jefferson Craig Elem.: Abigail Dayadharum, gr. 1, nominated by Mrs. Lanman

Switz. Co. Elem.: Hailee Lay, gr. 4, nominated by Mrs. Christman

Switz. Co. Middle School: Will honor next month, as honoree was unable to attend

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Phipps moved to approve several board policies, including the use of automated external defibrillators, admittance of students from home-schooling or non-accredited schools, Constitution Day observance, and the notice of restriction to release student directory information to Military representatives. An amendment to the policy regarding school board meetings affecting the beginning dates of the board year, election dates, and length of Township residency was also presented for approval. Mr. Cole asked who would be responsible for the regular inspection of the defibrillators. Mr. Caddell said that Carol Banta would do the inspections or appoint someone to do this. The board's vote to approve the policies was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Two Endowment Requests were presented for approval.

Mr. Cole moved to approve the Endowment Request from Steven Konkle and Shannon Barger for a Multipurpose Athletic Barn in the amount of \$23,000. Mr. Konkle said the pole-barn type building was needed for a place to hold softball and baseball practices, P.E. classes, and golf and soccer practices, etc. Mr. Phipps seconded the motion. Questions about heating, structural issues, and fire code, and insurance issues were brought up regarding the building. The board voted unanimously to approve sending the request to the Endowment Committee for approval.

A request from the YMCA CEO, Eric Cole, to obtain Endowment funds for the intramural basketball program for the fourth and fifth grades for the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval to the board. The funds are needed to help offset their expenses. This program has been run internally by the school corporation in the past, but due to gym space and scheduling, the coaches have approached the YMCA for assistance. The United Fund has agreed to pick up part of the cost. The remaining \$3,660 is the amount being requested. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the request, with Mr. Cole seconding. The board's vote was unanimous.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve a Joint Program Transportation Fund Agreement between our school corporation as well as several other local school corporations and South Harrison Community School Corporation to provide special transportation services for visually and hearing impaired students in our respective corporations to the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf in Indianapolis for the 2006-2007 school year. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Phipps and seconded by Mr. Truitt to form a committee of a maximum of ten members to investigate the need for more stringent dress codes and the possible impacts of school uniforms for students of our school corporation. Mr. Caddell recommended that the committee be comprised of a couple of board members, a couple of administrators, a couple of parents and a couple of students. The board's vote was unanimous. Mr. Roberts and Mrs. See volunteered to serve on the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Melissa Smith asked why her daughter, who is a High School student, was sent home to change her clothes when no one would say what was inappropriate about her outfit. The student was wearing the same outfit as the day she was sent home. Mrs. See asked the student to come forward so that she could get a better view of the outfit. Mrs. Smith asked again why the student was sent home. Mr. Ranz said that the board would not make a comment at this time. Mr. Caddell did wish to point out that there was an omission from the outfit. Mrs. Smith said that her daughter was wearing a sign and had removed it when requested to do so. High School Principal, Mrs. Haskell, said that the student was not sent home. She said that the student was warned that she would not be able to return to school wearing the same outfit or any other resembling it. Mrs. Smith said that she was proud that her daughter had the self-confidence to wear this type of clothing and asked again what it was about her clothes that they considered to be inappropriate. Mr. Ranz said again that the board would not make a comment at this time.

Jill Wilson voiced her concerns over her son's not being allowed to return to classes at the High School until he changed his hair color. She wanted to know what the color of his hair had to do with events that happened at the school earlier. She said that since he colored his hair wild colors, he must be thinking of bombing the school. She felt the school was discriminating against his right to express who he wanted to be. She said that some of the teachers wore worse clothing than some of the students. She also wanted to know why she did not receive anything from the school except for an absentee report that she received yesterday. She said that her son just wanted to graduate and that he should be left alone to do that with any color of hair he wanted to wear.

Jacquie Bridges said she wanted to know what emergency plans were in place for the schools. She was concerned about the safety of the children at school and on the bus. She said she believed that the events of the last two weeks should be a wake up call for all adults. She went on to say that she believed there should be zero tolerance when it

came to student conduct. She said that she was curious if the school was allowing some children to come to school because of money. She said that she was in favor of a more uniform dress code so that perhaps there would be less discrimination against some of them for the way they dress now.

Eric Cole wanted to mention the YMCA swim team. He said that many of the students are interested in the Sharks, and he was hoping to have some older students participate as well. He would like to see a Varsity swim team, perhaps next school year. He also wanted to mention that this year there had been a very successful football program down at the Ogle Park where over 200 parents had attended each Friday night. He said the number one question parents wanted to know the answer to was might there be a future for football at the Varsity level for Switzerland County School students.

Debbie Christman wanted to mention something from the perspective of a fourth grade teacher regarding Inclusion. She said that she that for the past two years she has had Inclusion L.D. students in her classroom. She said she has four at the current time. She said that Brooke Level, a licensed L.D. teacher, has been in her classroom to help with these students. She said that when Ms. Level has to travel to other schools and be out of the classroom, and there is no one hired to fill in, the students are missing out on the help they needed as they are entitled by their IEP. Mr. Caddell said that he had discussed this with CTA representatives and that the discussion was ongoing. He said that he also wanted to say that no child's IEP was being violated.

PERSONNEL:

The board voted unanimously to approve three personnel matters in a motion by Mrs. See, seconded by Mr. Truitt. They are as follows:

Lesa McGarvey's appointment as Middle School Girl's Track coach.

Retirement of SCES cafeteria employee, Wilma Cole

Resignation of SCES Instructional Assistant, Cathy Hopper

Mr. Cole asked whether Lesa McGarvey was going to continue as the boys assistant track coach. Mr. Caddell said that he would have find out and get back with him.

Mrs. Virginia Furnish, a recent retiree from the school corporation was recognized for her 26 years of service to the school corporation. Mrs. Furnish was given an engraved bell and commended for her services to the corporation by Board President, Ranz.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the professional leave request from Darin Gullion and John Sieglitz to attend the student management STI conference in Lexington, Kentucky on December 4-6. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The board's vote was unanimous.

USE OF FACILITIES:

The board unanimously approved the request from Betty Chase to use the Switzerland County Elementary School Cafeteria on November 23, 2006 at 11:00 for Thanksgiving Day Family Dinner in a motion by Mrs. See, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Caddell announced that there would be an Endowment meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 6:30.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mrs. Swango said that she just wanted to make a comment regarding the student from Switzerland County who was chosen to participate with the All American Band. She said she felt this said something very positive about our music program.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Swango seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned.