

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
September 24, 2007
7:00 P.M.

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public meeting for an Executive Session from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Switzerland County Administration Building.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Mr. Truitt called the meeting to order and led the group in the pledge to the flag.

ATTENDANCE:

Board members in attendance were Mr. Truitt, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Cole, Mr. Mckay, Mr. Waltz, Mr. Daugherty and Superintendent Caddell.

Others in attendance were Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Darin Gullion, Jim Heinzelman, Nancy Stearns, Candis Haskell, Blake Wheelles, Cheryl Sieglitz, Herb Rohmann, Steve Sebree, Gerry Peters, Nancy Peters, Sean McGarvey, Greg Curlin, Shauna Wiley, Mark Hall, Marlene Jones, Michael Jones, Casie Campbell, Julee Cole, Megan Meadors, Earl Holmes, Traci Holmes, Elizabeth Jones, Rachel Gurley, Katie South, and Megan Lohide.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item #4 under Personnel regarding the Superintendent's contract. Mr. Waltz 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 August 20, 2007 and September 10, 2007. Mr. Truitt wanted the September 10th minutes to reflect that a time was offered for public comments regarding the budget as well as a separate time for general public comments. Mr. Phipps made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cole seconded.

FUND REPORT:

Mr. Roberts moved to approve the fund report as submitted. Mr. Phipps seconded. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve the report.

CLAIMS:

Claims # 34505 through 34680 and Payroll Claims for August 31 and September 14, 2007 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. Cole and seconded by Mr. McKay. The board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS:

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

Jefferson Craig Elem.: Mark Hall, gr.5, nominated by Mrs. Blodgett and Mrs. Padgett

Switz. Co. Elem.: Nominee was unable to attend

Switz. Co. Middle School: Nominee was unable to attend

Switz. Co. High School: Blake Wheelles, gr. 9, nominated by Casie Campbell

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve the recommendation for a new fire alarm system at Switzerland County Elementary School. Mr. James Heinzelman of Schmitt Associates said the total cost of the new system and the replacement of three doors was approximated at \$95,790, which was the low bid from Stapleton Electric Company. The estimated date of completion would be mid December and they would work from 3:30 until 11:00 to ensure as little interruption to the students as possible. Mr. Phipps seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to approve the request which was to be presented to the Endowment Committee for approval the next evening.

The 2007-2008 Budget Hearing was held on September 10, 2007 and the Capital Funds Project and bus replacement plan adoption meeting was held on September 20, 2007.

Mr. Waltz moved to confirm the resolution to adopt the 2008 Capital Projects plan. Mr. Cole seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Roberts moved to confirm the resolution to adopt the Bus Replacement Plan. Mr. Phipps seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the 2008 General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Debt Service Fund, Transportation-Operating Fund, Bus Replacement Fund, and Pre-School Education Fund in a motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Phipps.

Mr. Cole moved to approve a resolution to adopt appropriations for the 2008 budget. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve a resolution to adopt tax levies and rates for the 2008 budget which are approved levies and rates adopted but these will not be the final levies and rates. Final levies and rates will be determined following assessment and approved levies/tax rates by the department of Local Government Finance. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The board unanimously approved a resolution to pass goals for expenditure categories in a motion by Mr. McKay, seconded by Mr. Cole. Mr. Caddell explained that this was a new mandate from the state.

NEW BUSINESS:

Endowment Requests were presented for the board's approval.

Mr. Phipps made a motion to approve a request from Julee Cole for approximately \$7500 for updated teaching equipment and furniture, as well as the purchase of whiteboards for classrooms at the High School. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Mr. Caddell presented an Endowment Request for \$593,606 to be used for the corporation's Debt Service payment for the budget year 2008. The payment from the Endowment for the Debt Service would save the tax payers of Switzerland County a good deal of money. Mr. Daugherty moved to approve the request. Mr. Cole seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Waltz made a motion to approve a request from Steve Konkle for heat for the activity barn. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion. The amount for the gas option was \$3,000 and the electric option was \$4,318. There was much discussion regarding the cost and use of gas versus the use of electricity for the facility. Mr. Phipps asked how much was actually raised for the barn project through outside donations. Mr. Caddell said that the project ended up being a lot different than the way it was started. Mr. Phipps said that he was not against the project. He just felt that the board needed to be accountable, since the project would not have been passed without the stipulation that outside contributions were obtained. Mr. Waltz said the he was not sure that the Lions Club contribution was ever asked for or was ever paid. Mr. Daugherty said that he hated not to see the project completed after all of the hard work that has gone into it. Mr. Caddell said that he would get with Mr. Konkle for figures. The vote was as follows: AYES: Truitt, Daugherty, Waltz, McKay, Cole, Roberts. NAYS: Phipps.

Mr. Phipps moved to approve an Endowment Request from the teachers at the Middle School for replacement carpet for the portable building and rooms 211,155 and 157. The proposed bid was \$8,693.69 from the Flooring Gallery. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. After some discussion regarding the age of the portable and what the long term plans might be for its use, the board's vote was as follows: ABSTAIN: Daugherty. AYES: Waltz, Cole, McKay, Truitt, Roberts, Phipps.

Mr. Pat Lanman gave a presentation on a project which involved Switzerland County Students. Members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Big Stuff raised money to build an African Well. Those in attendance watched a video presentation regarding the project and the enormous importance of the wells to the people of Africa.

Mr. McKay made a motion to accept the donation of 26 student Career Education books as well as a teacher's edition. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. The vote to approve the donation was unanimous.

Mr. McKay said that he had planned to present the Internal Control Plans to the board for a first reading. Due to some suggestions to revise the plan by the State Board of Accounts, the committee decided to postpone the first reading of the plan until those suggestions had been considered and revised accordingly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Herb Rohman made a request to the board that Public Comments be opened after the Personnel segment of the meeting.

Earl Holmes made a request to attend an Executive Session to discuss school matters regarding his daughter, Traci. He said he felt like whenever he tried to speak with his daughter's principal, he was treated as a bus driver and not a parent. He said that he felt like his job was being threatened whenever he spoke to someone about his concerns.

Herb Rohman asked what the cessation of the Superintendent's contract meant. He wondered if that meant he was going to stay until the contract was terminated. He wondered if the board members had lost their confidence in him. Mr. Rohman questioned the Superintendent's professional conduct and asked if he was going to get training in public relations with the staff and in public and private forums so that people did not feel intimidated. He said that there were lots of questions in the community. Mr. Rohman said he felt like the board and the Superintendent had done a good job, but he believed the Superintendent's effectiveness had been diminished to the extent that he needed to move on.

PERSONNEL:

The board voted unanimously to approve a notice of intent not to extend the Superintendent's contract. The motion was made by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. McKay. When the contract renews, it will be for the four remaining years in the contract currently in force.

Mr. Waltz moved to approve two leave requests and an Extra-Curricular position. Mr. McKay seconded and the vote was unanimous. They are as follows:

- Recommendation of Kyle Jolly for gr. 9 girls basketball coach
- Request from Tara Justice for a leave of absence
- Request from Angie Todd for a continued leave of absence.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The board unanimously approved several professional leave and field trip trips as follows in a motion by Mr. Phipps, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

- 6th gr. trip to Camp Livingston on May 14-16, 2008
- FFA students to National Convention in Indianapolis on Oct. 23-27, (accompanied by Greg Curlin and Kyle Weaver)
- AP Environmental Science floating laboratory on 10/3, 2007, with Mrs. Fancher
- Lisa McGarvey to High Ability Coordinator meeting in Charlestown on 10/3/07
- Adam Dennis to Nike Coaching Clinic in Chicago on 9/28/07
- Mr. Caddell to Beginning Administrator Mentor Training in Jasper on 10/5/07

USE OF FACILITIES:

The board voted unanimously to approve two requests for Use of Facilities. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the requests and Mr. Phipps seconded. They are as follows:

- HS Cafeteria for Democrat Fish Fry on Nov. 3, 2007
- SCES Gym for Girl Scouts on 2nd and 4th Friday, each month, unless occupied.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Caddell announced that the next Endowment Meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 6:30.

Mr. Caddell said that he wanted to congratulate the Marching Pacer Band for their outstanding performance at the Canaan Fall Festival where they achieved First Place.

He said that he also wanted to recognize Ginny Reeves for receiving the 2007 Hoosier Historian award from the Indiana Historical Society to be presented at their Founders Day Dinner in Indianapolis on December 3, 2007.

Mr. Caddell also mentioned that the Switzerland County Historical Society is receiving the Chapter of the Year Award. As a part of that, Mrs. Hendricks is being recognized for having the Number One Junior Historical Society in the State for two years in a row.

Mr. Caddell wanted to congratulate Greg Curlin for his work with the FFA students who were awarded the honor of being a 3-Star Chapter in the National Chapter award program.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

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