

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Minutes of the January 26, 2009
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING
5:30 P.M.
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
7:00 P.M.

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public meeting for an Executive Session beginning at 5:30 at the Switzerland County Middle School to discuss I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9).

The board members present were Mr. Truitt, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. McKay, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Waltz. Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Superintendent, and School Board Attorney, Ron Hocker, were also in attendance.

The board discussed no subject matter in the Executive Session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Mr. Phipps 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. Daugherty, Mr. McKay, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Waltz.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, John Sieglitz, Greg Curlin, Michael Jones, Nancy Stearns, Jessica Mullins, Tracey McFarland, Terry Lancer, and Jerry Firestone.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Moore 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 January 12, 2009. Mr. Truitt made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McKay seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Swango gave an update on the school corporation's current financial status and her meeting with Jerry Moore of Educational Consulting Services, who outlined ideas for future savings options for the corporation.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Federal Construction Stimulus Package has been introduced in the Senate that would benefit new construction or renovation projects needed by school corporations across the nation. In response to this prospect of obtaining funds, the board wanted to discuss Switzerland County's eligibility. To receive Federal Stimulus money, a project would need to be shovel-ready. This means that the final drawings would need to be ready for bids from contractors. Right now, the money is on a first come, first serve basis. However, the state may decide to divide the money equally, in which case Switzerland County would receive \$600,000.

Mr. Gullion gave an overview of the results of the Feasibility Study done a few years ago. He said the main idea that came from the study was that the public wanted to see the sixth grade moved from the Middle School back into the elementary schools. He wanted to remind the board members that findings from his research indicated that, academically, this move did not make any difference, but there was much more parental involvement when the sixth graders are still in elementary school. Mr. Gullion also mentioned that redistricting would be necessary.

Jerry Firestone and Terry Lancer of RQAW were on hand to make a presentation regarding building and renovation options for the corporation. Terry Lancer gave a list of elements that would need to be incorporated into a project if the goal was the construction of a High Performance School.

Jerry Firestone presented an outline of a project that would include moving sixth graders back to the elementary schools; renovating the Middle School to house Jefferson-Craig's first through sixth grades; building a wing at the end of the High School for grades 7 & 8; and renovating Jefferson-Craig to house Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten classes and offices for the Superintendent and administrative staff. The estimated total cost of all phases of the project, at the top end, would be \$13 to \$14 million.

Board members had many questions regarding the renovation plans. Mr. Daugherty asked whether the cost of the renovation to Jefferson-Craig included new electric throughout the building and new plumbing. Mr. Firestone said that it did not include all new electric and that there would be new restroom facilities attached to each of the Kindergarten classrooms. Mr. Phipps asked if there would need to be a referendum vote. Mr. Firestone said that if there were multiple projects that would be done in phases, he did not believe a referendum vote would be necessary. His suggestion was to do the

project in three phases. Mr. Waltz asked if there was a big difference in the cost from what was presented two years ago, when the Feasibility Study was actively being discussed. Mr. Firestone said that the cost was up and that the time to find the best bids would be now. Mr. McKay asked when the board would need to act in order to get the stimulus money. Mr. Firestone said that in order to get the stimulus money, the project would need to be shovel ready in the next seven or eight months. He said the cost for materials would only go up, so the best time to act would be right now.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

PERSONNEL:

Mrs. Moore made a motion to employ Cindy Haskell as Deputy Treasurer for the corporation. Mr. McKay seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: AYES: Waltz, Moore, McKay, Roberts, Phipps, Daugherty. NAYS: Truitt.

A motion was made by Mr. Waltz to approve the termination of Dana Kidwell as recommended. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The board was presented with professional leave requests from Denise Loaring, Cindy Haskell, John Sieglitz and Marla Edwards to attend an STI conference on February 18 and 19 in Indianapolis. Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Waltz asked why there was a need for Cindy to go to the conference if she would be moving to the Deputy Treasurer's position. Systems Administrator, John Sieglitz, explained that there was a need for these persons to attend as there would be a transition period. He said that everyone would need to get all the updates and changes and familiarize themselves with other aspects of the system that they may not be as familiar with right now. He said that Cindy really needed to go because she is the go-to person right now and she may be needed to help train someone else. He also mentioned that there had been some tri-mester scheduling difficulties, so he felt it was important that the guidance personnel be there so that they might get answers to any questions they might have. Mrs. Moore amended her motion to approve four persons, as determined by the Superintendent, to attend the conference. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: AYES: Truitt, Moore, Phipps, Waltz, Daugherty, McKay. NAYS: Roberts.

The board voted unanimously to approve four board members to attend the National School Board Association Conference in San Diego, California, April 4th through the 7th in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Truitt. Those attending the conference will be Mr. Truitt, Mr. Waltz, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Phipps, and Mr. Roberts.

USE OF FACILITIES:

In a unanimous decision, the board approved two applications for the Use of Facilities in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz. They are as follows:

- HS Gym by Diana South for After Prom on April 4, 2009, from 9:00pm to 6:00am
- SCES Cafeteria by Janice Meadors for Patriot Alumni Assoc. Mtg. on May 23, 2009 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next Endowment meeting will be rescheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 6:30pm.

Dr. Jones also announced that there would be an Executive Session at 5:30pm and an Open Working Session at 7:00pm on Monday, February 2, 2009 at the Middle School Cafeteria. She reminded the board members that the next regular monthly meeting would also be at the Middle School on the third Monday of the month, February 16, 2009.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Phipps said that he would like an analysis of the corporation's ISTEP performance report at the next regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

James Phipps, President

Wayne Daugherty, Vice President

William Roberts, Secretary

Virgil McKay, Member

Tonya Moore, Member

Andy Truitt , Member

Vernon Waltz, Member