

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Minutes of the February 2, 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) and I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(6)(B).

The board members present were Mr. Truitt, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Daugherty, 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, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Waltz.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Shannon Barger, David Todd, Darin K. Gullion, Greg Curlin and John Sieglitz.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the agenda as amended to include a presentation by Baseball Coach, Shannon Barger. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the recommended Valedictorian/Salutatorian procedure with the first paragraph staying the same, and including a revised version of the last sentence of the second paragraph. Mr. Daugherty said that he was not in favor of changes in the middle of a student's academic career, but that a revised policy needed to be put into place in order to be fair. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. Much discussion was held among board members about past practices regarding the choosing of the Valedictorians and Salutatorians of the senior class. In some years, the top ranking

student was chosen as the Valedictorian and the second ranking as the Salutatorian. In other years, there have been multiple students sharing the distinction of the two positions. Discussion was held regarding weighted grades being taken into consideration. Also, there was discussion concerning which students would be chosen to make the speeches. Mr. Gullion said the real question that needed to be decided upon was that of ranking. He said that when a scholarship committee of a college called and wanted a ranking, we need to give them a number. He asked what ranking we should give if one student has a 4.5 grade point average and another, a 4.4. He said a decision needed to be made whether these two students would be ranked one and two or one and one. Mr. Phipps said that he was not in favor of this policy. He felt it should be the top two ranking students who should receive the Valedictorian/Salutatorian honors. Mr. Truitt asked Dr. Jones to read the policy again with the suggested changes before the vote was taken. The vote was as follows: AYES: Daugherty, Moore, Roberts, Truitt, Waltz. NAYS: Phipps. The approved procedure reads as follows: (In effect for students graduating 2009-2012). The senior class Valedictorian shall be the student or students with the highest academic cumulative Grade Point Average. All students with a GPA of 4.0 or above will receive the designation of Valedictorian. The Salutatorian shall be the student or students with the highest GPA below a 4.0 GPA. A committee chosen by the principal and guidance counselor will select two students to give the graduation addresses.

Dr. Jones said that she would develop a committee to make recommendations to the board of a long term policy that would affect students beginning with the class of 2013.

Mr. Gullion said that the Federal Construction Stimulus Package had passed in the senate. Before the board discussed what this might mean for Switzerland County, Mr. Gullion went through the results of the feasibility study. The main result of the study was that the public wanted to see the sixth graders go back to the elementary schools. Other aspects being looked at were a separate wing for seventh and eighth graders added on to the High School; the Middle School being renovated to house grades 1-6; Jefferson-Craig being renovated to house Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten classes, as well as offices for the Superintendent and administrative staff; and redistricting so that students are more equally distributed between the elementary schools.

Mr. Daugherty asked if we really needed \$300,000 to move the baseball field. He went on to say that the board needed to figure out what needs to be done and how much it will cost. Mr. Roberts said that the board needed to figure out what the corporation's needs are as opposed to its' wants. He felt that the board should not rush into something just so that they could get \$500,000 of stimulus money when you are talking about a total project of \$12 million. Mr. Gullion said he felt the board needed to get a design committee together to make designs that are the corporation's and not the architects. He said it was too difficult for an architectural firm to give costs with any kind of accuracy if they had no design specifics.

Mr. Daugherty said that something that everyone also needed to consider was that Jefferson-Craig Elementary school was built in 1954 and since it was that old, there were problems now with electricity and plumbing. He said that the taxpayers now were

enjoying some low taxes because of the building being so old. Mr. Daugherty said he felt that if we wait and don't build a new elementary school, the burden to the tax payers in the future will be tremendous. He asked why we should not share some of that burden now. He said that he knew transportation costs would only be going up. He said he knew this would not be a popular idea but that to him, it is something that needed more serious thought. He said that he did not want to pay more taxes and he knew that no one did.

Mr. Phipps suggested that Mr. Gullion get a committee together that included a board member or two and perhaps an administrator and a teacher to decide what the corporation's needs and wants should be. Mrs. Moore said that she would like to be on the committee. She said that she wanted to make sure that whatever renovations were done at the Middle School that every possible available space was utilized and she did not want to see so much glass. Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Waltz also said they would like to be on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

A recommendation was made to the board to consider the appeal status of student #12009. There being no motion, the current status remains unchanged.

A report was given by Baseball Coach, Shannon Barger, about the IHSBCA Coach's Clinic that he and Chris Mattox attended on January 22nd and 23rd. Mr. Barger said that the clinic was invaluable for smaller school corporation coaches to meet and build a rapport with larger school corporation coaches in order to get a chance to play ball with some of them. Coach Barger said that he felt there was much more to coaching than winning or losing. By playing these larger teams, the ball players would learn more from playing bigger schools and they would get exposure to some college coaches at those games.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next Endowment meeting would be scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 6:30pm. Dr. Jones reminded the board that the next regular meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 16, 2009.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Phipps said that he would like the next meeting to be held at the Middle School. He said that the topics for discussion at the March 2nd meeting would be Graduation/Dropout Rates and Endowment Requests and perhaps get some information on the building committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Daugherty 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