

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE
FEBRUARY 16, 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. Phipps, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. McKay, Mrs. Moore, and Mr. Waltz. Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Superintendent, Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango, 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. Phipps, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Mckay, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Candis Haskell, Denise Loaring, Michael Jones, Darin Gullion, Nancy Stearns, Phyllis Weaver, Greg Curlin, John Sieglitz, Diana Donley, John Dolan, Judy Dolan, Emerson Schroer, Roger Christman, Pansy Covington, Glo Asbury, Doug McNeely, Tracey McFarland, Fred Ross, Tom Scott, Lowell Reynolds, Melissa Reynolds, Jessica Mullins, Abby Dayadharum, Cheryl Dayadharum, Iretta Wainscott, Matt Lieland, Chester Lay, Mary Lay, Gayle Lay, Stacy Lay, Corey Lay, Sharon Colen, Linda Colen, David Colen, and Jason Colen.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. Additions to the agenda included a policy regarding board approval of payroll transactions, a Treasurer's Report, and an addendum to the contracts of each of the corporation's contract drivers. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The board voted to approve the minutes of the school board meetings of January 26, 2008 and February 2, 2009. Mr. McKay made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Daugherty seconded. The vote was as follows: AYES: Phipps, Truitt, Waltz, McKay, Roberts, Daugherty. NAYS: Moore

FUND REPORT:

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

Mrs. Swango gave a report on the corporation's budget to be approved at a hearing scheduled for Thursday at the Switzerland County Courthouse. Mrs. Swango pointed out some of the funds that were reduced from advertised amounts to actual amounts and gave the tax rates for each of the funds that had a tax levy. She also showed the comparisons for 2008 and 2009 budgets. She said that after Thursday's meeting, it was her hope that the corporation would then have an approved budget.

CLAIMS:

Vendor Claims # 37048 through 37211 and Payroll Claims for January 23 and February 6, 2009 were presented for approval in a motion by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. McKay. Mr. Daugherty asked about a payment for a translator. Mrs. Swango explained that a Spanish translator was needed for a parent conference. The board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS:

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

Jefferson Craig Elem.: Abby Dayadharum, gr. 3, nominated by Vonda Downing
Switz. Co. Elem.: Emerson Schroer, gr. 3, nominated by Tricia Bowling
Switz. Co. Middle School: Jason Colen, gr. 6, nominated by Cathy Fox
Switz. Co. High School: Corey Lay, gr. 12, nominated by Greg Curlin.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve a policy authorizing the corporation's Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to process all payroll transactions according to approved pay schedules, with the payroll vouchers to be approved at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. The reason for the policy is that the board meetings are not scheduled so that the payroll can be approved and paychecks written on a biweekly basis as is required by the State Board of Accounts. This policy will help meet that requirement. The vote was unanimous.

The board voted unanimously to approve the acceptance of a \$1000 grant from the Switzerland County Awareness Team for the Think Smart-Stay Safe Program, submitted by Switzerland County's Elementary Counselor, Marla Edwards. Mrs. Moore made the motion for approval. Mr. McKay seconded.

Mr. Waltz moved to approve the acceptance of \$5,000 in grant funds from Dow Corning Foundation and Dow Corning's Carrollton site for the AP Environmental Science students. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The funds will be used to support the purchase of equipment and supplies for water sampling and testing. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Waltz made a motion to approve an amendment to the Corporation's contract and the contract with bus providers to state that the gas modification clause not be enforced or reduced if the contractor's pay falls below the base price in the contractor's original bid. This change should be made retroactive to the date of the first adjustment. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Each school principal gave a report on the ISTEP results for their school.

Mr. Gullion said that even though he was happy with Jefferson Craig's scores, his real concern was Science. He said that the test will be given to fourth graders next year, so his focus now will be exposing third graders to more science in hopes of bringing those scores up. He said that a grant for summer school has been written to address this issue.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Ross said that their 4th graders' weakness on the ISTEP was common with others throughout the state. They are going to work diligently to bring up their scores for the Spring testing by using Coach series materials which were developed by the same company that develops the ISTEP exams and also using test prep materials from their textbooks and test prep materials from the DOE website. They are still having small remediation groups and providing Title One services as before with much more concentration on writing skills.

Mrs. Weaver and Mrs. Stearns said that the Middle School's Science scores were an issue as they were down from 58% last year to 52% this year. Mrs. Moore said she believed that doing more hands on lab experiments would boost student interest in Science resulting in raised test scores. Mrs. Stearns said that was a good point.

Mrs. Haskell and Mrs. Loaring gave statistics for the GQE which is administered to the tenth grade. She said the Core 40 exam, which is an entirely different concept, is scheduled to be administered in February to ninth graders. She said they were very pleased with the Language Arts scores for the GQE, but Math scores were down 2% in

the higher level students, so she felt like these students were not being challenged enough. She said that some teachers who were already in the building were working one on one with students in Algebra. The Core 40 exam will cover Algebra and Reading Comprehension.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

PERSONNEL:

Mr. Waltz moved to approve the resignation request submitted by Candis Haskell. Mr. Truitt seconded. The vote to approve the resignation was unanimous. Mrs. Haskell intends to fulfill the requirements of her contract which concludes June 30, 2009.

The board unanimously voted to approve the resignation request of Kevin Kelly in a motion by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Truitt. Mr. Kelly's resignation date was effective Thursday, February 12, 2009.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

In a unanimous vote, the board approved the Business class trip to Indianapolis, on March 8-10 for state contests. The trip was requested by Business teachers, Mrs. Seaver and Mr. Martin. The motion to approve the trip was made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. McKay.

USE OF FACILITIES:

The board unanimously approved a request from Sara Rodgers to use the High School Cafeteria for a bridal shower on March 1, 2009 from 12a.m. to 8:00p.m. The motion to approve the use of school facilities was made by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. McKay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next Endowment Meeting was scheduled for February 24, 2009. She also announced that the next Special Meeting of the School Board of Trustees would be held on March 2nd and the next Regular meeting would be held on March 16, 2009.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Truitt thanked the principals for their work on the ISTEP reports. He said that he knew the bar had been set very high and he appreciated all of the principals coming to the meeting and laying out their plans for increasing test scores.

ADJOURNMENT:

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