

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Minutes of the
March 2, 2008 Meeting of the
School Board of Trustees
6:30 p.m.

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, and Mr. Truitt. Mr. Waltz was unable to attend the meeting.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Darin Gullion, Nancy Stearns, Candis Haskell, Denise Loaring, John Sieglitz, Jerry Firestone, Bob Gehrlich, Dave Ziegler, Lynn Works, Matt Lieland, Tom Scott, Lowell Reynolds, Melissa Reynolds, and Sean McGarvey.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Administration Building issues were discussed. Problems that are currently plaguing the building include asbestos containment; mold; sewage drains; electrical capacities; and fire safety issues on the upstairs level. The problem of the sewage drains has forced the central office and Special Services staff to leave the building until these issues can be addressed. If the existing drains in the basement are capped off and re-routed to the outside through the Transportation office, at least part of the parking lot would need to be destroyed in order to tie into the main line that is behind Mr. Hocker's office. Using heavy duty equipment in and around the basement is an issue, as the structural integrity of the building, being over 100 years old, is questionable. It was suggested that the company that has performed the building's past inspections regarding the asbestos be called in for an assessment and ask if this work is done, what the consequences might be on the existing asbestos. The electrical facilities are at a maximum in the building. If the toaster or microwave is running, the air conditioner or space heater needs to be turned off in order not to trip a breaker. If there was ever a fire that closed off the stairway, those persons in the upstairs offices would need an alternative means of escape, such as a ladder or chute. The old windows are also an issue. It was suggested that the mold also be checked out. Mold has been a long time issue, as part of the basement is a dirt floor and stays damp most of the time. Mr. Phipps said that due to the building's multitude of

problems, his choice of options is to close the building and look at Plan B, whatever that might be. He said that finding a suitable alternative should be the board's number one priority right now.

The next topic of discussion was the Jefferson Craig building. Mr. Gullion said that he, along with other members of the building committee, came up with a set of short term and long term problems and options for short term and long term solutions. The short term problems were 1954 light and electric; pneumatic controls on the HVAC, as opposed to digital; and old projectors and equipment. Short term solutions involved issuing RFP for lighting, electric, HVAC, with projections needed by April for summer completion; temporary housing for administrative and Special Services staff; hiring an architect with knowledge of traffic flow for design and construction. Other long term problems consisted of the necessity for additional, modern educational space; special services, administrative housing; redistricting to balance enrollment and a transportation garage or area. Some of the long term solutions suggested were doing an operational cost study comparing grade configuration, redistricting, and better building utilization; community and staff plan made up by design teams formed after completion of the cost study; formation of a redistricting/transportation committee; and setting a date for action. A suggested timeline was presented. In a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. McKay, the board unanimously approved the issuing of RFP's for Jefferson-Craig only. Mr. Firestone answered a question from Mr. McKay involving the traffic study by saying that there would be huge strides made if the buses were able to go in the back of the buildings. Mr. Truitt asked if they hadn't done the traffic flow study before. Mr. Gullion said that drawings had been made up, but there were no specifications. Mr. Phipps said that he remembered the drawings and that the board had liked the proposal. He asked Mr. Gullion to show Mr. Firestone the proposal so that they could perhaps come up with something to present to the board.

The topic of Endowment requests was then brought up. Mr. Phipps said that he felt the requests needed to be put on hold until a decision was made on the building issues, unless an emergency presents itself. Mr. Scott said that the Endowment wouldn't be spending any money unless the board asks for it, so he saw no problem with it. He did want to point out, however, that the Endowment had recently spent \$30,000 on the ball fields. He felt that if driveways were put in behind the buildings, a survey of the topography needed to be done in order to keep water from draining into those athletic fields.

Mrs. Haskell and Mrs. Loaring gave statistics on the graduation rate for this year and the past year. Mr. Truitt said he wondered what Switzerland County's GED rating was with the state. Mrs. Loaring said that those students who turn 18 and want to quit school and then get their GED are considered dropouts. She went on to say that kids will enroll in the GED program, but they hardly ever complete it. She said that the new trimesters may be an issue that will keep students in school. Mrs. Haskell said that the armed services has also kept some students in school. Mrs. Moore said that keeping teachers enthused will help keep the students enthused.

The lawn care bids were then discussed. No decision was made as to whether to accept one of the presented bids or to hire a part-time person to do the work. It was calculated that a part-time employee would cost the corporation approximately \$650 to do the job. Some board members felt that a fair assessment could not be made from the information that was presented. Mr. Phipps suggested that a recommendation be made at the next meeting after more information was obtained from bidders.

Mr. Daugherty wanted the minutes to reflect that he asked for someone to check up on a program called "I Will".

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The board unanimously approved a staff development request from Elementary School Guidance Counselor, Marla Edwards, to attend a Counselor Day on Campus at Indiana State University on Tuesday, March 17, 2009. Mrs. Edwards will be going to Terre Haute the evening of the 16th, as the meeting begins at 8:00a.m. Topics presented will be bullying, cyber-bullying, aggressive students, and updates on new IDOE guidelines. The motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Truitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McKay 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