

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**Minutes of the March 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. Daugherty, Mr. McKay, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz. Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Superintendent, and School Board Attorney, Ron Hocker, were also in attendance. Board Secretary, Bill Roberts, was not present during the session.

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:**

Board President, James 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. Daugherty, Mr. McKay, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz. Mr. Roberts was not in attendance.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Cindy Haskell, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Candis Haskell, Ginny Reeves, Michael Jones, Nancy Stearns, Greg Curlin, John Sieglitz, Denise Loaring, Ron Hocker, Terry Lancer, Jerry Firestone, Pam Acton, Michael Busch, Richard Hale, Bradley Street, John Haskell, and Neal Haskell.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Mr. McKay made a motion to approve an amended agenda. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The agenda was amended to include three Professional Development leave requests and a Use of Facilities application.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular school board meeting and Executive Session of February 16, 2009, and the regular meeting of March 2, 2009. Mr. Truitt made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Daugherty seconded. Mr. Truitt

mentioned that in the minutes, instead of just listing the names of those board members present, a separate notation should be made of those who were not in attendance.

### **FUND REPORT:**

No motion was made to approve a fund report. The report will be presented for approval at the April board meeting.

### **CLAIMS:**

Vendor Claims # 37216 through 37351 and Payroll Claims for 2/20/09 & 3/6/09 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. Truitt. Mr. Truitt asked about check #14440 on 2/20/09 to Melissa May in the amount of \$2,480.78 and wondered how many hours she had worked. Deputy Treasurer, Cindy Haskell, said that this amount was for 11 vacation days owed to Ms. May at the time of her resignation. Mr. Phipps asked about claim#37272 to the Department of Homeland Security. He said he did not know why this vendor would be dealing with boiler inspection. Mrs. Haskell said that she believed that this was a change from previous practices. Mr. Phipps also asked about claim#37274 to Dillard Electric HVAC, Inc., in the amount of \$5,594.68 for miscellaneous maintenance repair work. Mrs. Haskell said that it was for different schools and that it was for a time period stretching more than two months. Mr. Daugherty asked if any of the work being paid for in the previous claim was for the boiler at Jefferson-Craig. Mrs. Haskell said that Jefferson Craig was one of those listed on the claim. He then asked if the boiler wasn't fairly new and shouldn't the warranty still be good. Jefferson-Craig Principal, Darin Gullion, said that the work that was done was due to pressure problems created by the old compressor which was half full of water. He said the compressor would not be covered by a warranty. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The board voted unanimously to award the Lawn Care Bid to John Haskell in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz. Mr. Haskell's bid was for \$798 for weekly mowing at both the downtown and East Enterprise campuses.

Dr. Jones gave an update on the Administration Building. She said that everyone was out of the building now. Dr. Jones said that she had received estimates on repair work that needed to be done on the building and that the matter would be discussed in more detail at the next board meeting. She said that she would be asking for a specific vote at that time regarding the administration office staff's temporary or long term placement. As stated in previous meetings, the 1863 building has many issues that need to be resolved. They include extensive repairs to the sewage system; repaving of the parking lot; asbestos removal in the basement; removal of mold from basement and walls; upgrading the electrical system; window replacements; insect extermination; upgrading the building to meet current fire codes; and installation of a second story fire escape.

Mr. Gullion presented an updated Request for Proposals for Guaranteed Energy Savings and Facility Improvement Plan for Jefferson-Craig. A recommendation was made to approve a contract with RQAW/Triangle Design to do a traffic study and design/build a bus route in back of the schools and for an operational cost study on future building plans, whatever those plans might include. Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the agreement, subject to final approval of the document's language by School Board Attorney, Ron Hocker. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion. The board's vote was unanimous.

Mr. Phipps said that he believed there were three pressing issues that needed to be acted on. The first was the traffic pattern at Jefferson-Craig; the second was the renovation and wiring at Jefferson-Craig; and the third was the Administration Office. Mr. Phipps said he felt like the most pressing issue was the Administration Office. He said that the board had received facts and figures on what it would cost to renovate the old building, what it would take to build a new building, and the possibilities of obtaining other properties. Mr. Phipps said that he wanted the other board members to come ready at the April 20, 2009 board meeting to discuss the issues and make a decision at that time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The board unanimously approved the ratification of the Cooperative Agreement for the Madison Area Educational Special Services Unit in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Truitt. It is the first time the agreement has been updated since 1968.

Mrs. Haskell and Mrs. Reeves introduced Mike Bush, Vice President of Workforce Development for the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation, who gave a presentation on the Switzerland County ECO15 Initiative project. The main idea of the project promotes regional community development by preparing students to enter the workforce after graduation. The project involves the main three sectors of our economy, which are Manufacturing, Health Care, and Hospitality and Tourism. The students would work in teams on projects, rather than teachers lecturing. Mrs. Reeves would write a proposal for the ECO15 project which would be funded by the Switzerland County Community Foundation, Inc, in partnership with the Switzerland County Economic Development. For the first year, a teacher employed by Ivy Tech would teach the classes. A couple of Switzerland County teachers have expressed interest in teaching the class, so after that initial year, one of our teachers would be able to do that. Mr. Daugherty moved to approve the implementation of the initiative. Mr. McKay seconded. The board's vote was unanimous.

Mr. Brad Street of the Southeastern Career Center gave a presentation on a program called "Project Lead the Way". Mr. Street said he had written an initial \$20,000 grant to submit to the state if the board approved the project. The board unanimously approved the collaborative agreement between the school corporation and the Career Center in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mrs. Moore. The main idea for the program is to help students make a connection between Math and Science and how they relate to the world

of work. At the Middle School, the program is called Gateway to Technology and at the High School, it is called Pathway to Engineering.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Richard Hale said that he had lost sleep over the plight of our old Administration Building. He said that he felt he should come to the board meeting and verbalize his feelings so that he might once again be able to rest. He said that he had considered writing a letter to the editor, and decided coming to this meeting to verbalize his concerns was the better choice. Mr. Hale said that he had worked in maintenance for the corporation for 2½ years and during that time he had not been allowed to do some work that may have helped prevent some of the building's current problems. He said that when there was a lack of daily things done to a building, bad things happen. Mr. Hale went on to say that he would be happy to take a board member through some of the other buildings, as well, to show them some of the things that could be done in order to prevent future problems.

Mr. Phipps thanked Mr. Hale for his comments and said the board would take them under advisement.

### **PERSONNEL:**

The board unanimously approved a retirement request from Marcia Lock in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Truitt.

Mr. Waltz moved to approve Alan Konkle to fill the ECA position of Varsity Softball Assistant. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion. After some discussion about whether or not the position had been approved or renamed, the board's vote was unanimous.

### **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:**

Mr. Truitt moved to approve three Professional Leave Requests from Ginny Reeves, Marla Edwards, and Denise Loaring to attend a Career Pathways workshop at Bloomington Ivy Tech on April 15, and April 16, 2009. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. The board's vote was unanimous.

### **USE OF FACILITIES:**

Four Use of Facilities applications were unanimously approved by the board in a motion by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Waltz. They are as follows:

- SCES: Debra Turner for Good News Club, 4/1 - 5/13 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- JCES: Debra Turner for Good News Club, 4/2 - 5/14 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- SCES: T. Beatley for After School Drug Prev. Prog., 4/7 - 5/13, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- JCES: J. Lanman for Valley Achievers 4-H Club, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on every other Tuesday from 3/17 through 5/26.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Superintendent Jones announced that the next Endowment Meeting would be held this Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at the regular time at the Middle School Library.

Dr. Jones also announced that the next Regular Board Meeting would be held on Monday, April 20, 2009.

Dr. Jones said that she was happy about the new programs being offered. She felt they would teach students necessary leadership and communication skills, and provide them with problem solving ideas in the areas of Math, Science, and Technology.

**BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:**

Mr. McKay wanted to mention that he had attended a Leadership Seminar with Dr. Jones in Indianapolis and that he was quite inspired by the experience. He said the speaker was an excellent motivational speaker and the seminar had provided him with a chance to meet people from other corporations.

Mr. Daugherty said he wanted someone to check on the "I Will" program. Dr. Jones mentioned that she had attempted to check it through the internet, but there had been 41,000 sites to choose from, so she was going to try a different approach.

Mr. Waltz said that he was glad to see new technical programs being introduced to the students. He thanked all of those involved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Truitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McKay seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned.

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James Phipps, President

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Wayne Daugherty, Vice President

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William Roberts, Secretary

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Virgil Mckay, Member

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Tonya Moore, Member

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Andy Truitt, Member

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Vernon Waltz, Member