

April 20, 2009

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20, 2009
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
7:00 P.M.**

The School Board of Trustees met for a regular board meeting beginning at 7:00 at the Switzerland County Middle School Cafeteria.

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:

All board members were in attendance: 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, Pat Lanman, Candis Haskell, Michael Jones, Darin Gullion, John Sieglitz, Mike Loaring, Denise Loaring, Adam Dennis, Madonna Jordan, Chase Kelso, Billy Jordan, Jennifer Lawyer, Rhonda Scott, Terry Lancer, Cindi Wagner, Kacey Sullivan, Jim Singer, Mark Lohide, Michelle Carfield, Kali Carfield, Phyllis Carfield, Ginny Leap, Emily Lanman, Michael Stearns, Nancy Stearns, Myron Browning, Deb Archer, Penny Clayton, Jeremiah Clayton, Magnolia Clayton, Lowell Reynolds, Melissa Reynolds, Tonya Pike, Billy Pike, Will Pike, and Sydney Pike.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Waltz 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 March 16, 2009. Mr. Daugherty made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Truitt seconded.

FUND REPORT:

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the fund reports of February and March as submitted. Mrs. Moore seconded. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve the report.

Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango, gave the board an update on the Energy Savings Committee's activities. She said that right now, there is a competition going on between the buildings as to which one best conserves energy.

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CLAIMS:

Vendor Claims #37346 through 37505 and Payroll Claims for 3/20/2009, 4/03/2009, and 4/17/2009 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. McKay and seconded by Mr. Truitt. Mrs. Swango said that she wanted to point out a couple of claims. She said that claim #37377 to ACH had the wrong amount listed. She said that claim #37468 was listed as the wrong vendor and that it should have been East End Auto. Mr. Daugherty asked about claim # 37258. Mrs. Swango said that this was for unemployment claims determined by a rolling period. The board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS:

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

Jefferson Craig Elem.: Magnolia Clayton, gr. 2, nominated by Mrs. Archer
Switz. Co. Elem.: Will Pike, gr. 4, nominated by Mrs. Scott
Switz. Co. Middle School: Hunter Jordan, gr. 7, nominated by Mr. Mattox
Switz. Co. High School: Kali Carfield, gr. 9, nominated by Mr. Dennis

OLD BUSINESS:

Board President, Phipps, told fellow board members at the previous board meeting that he wanted them to come to this meeting prepared to make a decision about the Administration Building. It was the Superintendent's recommendation that the board approve the construction of a new Administration Building due to the costly renovation that the present building required, and the fact that we would still be left with an old building. Mr. Daugherty made the motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. McKay seconded. Mr. Roberts said that he felt like we were spending too much money and asked if there weren't any vacant buildings that we could use. Mr. Daugherty said that he had heard from someone that the Dollar General Store was available for something like \$350 thousand, but that was before anything that we might need to do to it. The vote to go forward with the construction of a new Administration Building was as follows:
AYES: Phipps, Daugherty, McKay, Moore, Truitt, Waltz. NAYS: Roberts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Lohide, President of the Switzerland County Endowment Committee, gave an update on the committee's status. Mr. Lohide mentioned the other committee members: Tom Conroy, from the County Council; Tom Scott, from the Town Council; K.C. Banta, a County Commissioner; and School Board Member, Virgil McKay. He said that if the Endowment Committee could not afford to build a new building for the Administration Offices, then they would like to pour some money into updating the Jefferson-Craig Elementary School.

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Mr. Truitt made a motion to terminate the contracts of Denise Loaring and Tammy Martin, effective the final day of the 2008-2009 school year as a result of a Reduction-In-Force. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: AYES: Phipps, Mckay, Moore, Roberts, Truitt, Waltz. NAYS: Daugherty.

Mr. Truitt moved to terminate the contract of Michael Berg, effective the final day of the 2008-2009 school year as a result of a Reduction-In-Force. Mrs. Moore seconded. The vote was as follows: AYES: Phipps, McKay, Moore, Roberts, Truitt, Waltz. NAYS: Daugherty.

Mr. McKay said that hopefully, the board could look at the Reduction In Force situation at another time. Mr. Waltz said that this was the hardest thing he has had to do so far in his career as a board member.

Each of the school principals presented their 2009-2010 student handbook changes to the board. No vote was taken as this was the first reading of the documents.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to appoint Mr. Truitt to serve on the Non-Certified Personnel Pay Committee. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Truitt replaces former board member, Duane Cole.

Mr. Roberts moved to appoint board members, Waltz and Phipps to serve on the Selection Committee to review High School Principal Applicants for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The two board members will join teachers, Janet Hendricks and Valerie Smith; parent, Barbara Coy; and School Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Jones on the committee.

The board voted unanimously to approve each of the schools' 2009-2010 School Improvement Plans as presented in a motion by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Waltz.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lowell Reynolds said that there should be a new cell phone policy. He said that he felt like parents should start a committee to check into what can be done, as this was becoming a serious issue.

Mark Lohide said that he knew there were a lot of things to be considered with the building of a new Administration Building. He said that the corporation could find something already built, but that you would probably end up with a house. He said that since the corporation already owned land, he hoped that a new building should be built on it, and he would like to see the project done by local builders using USA or Indiana materials. Mr. Lohide also wished the board members luck with replacing Mrs. Haskell as a High School Principal.

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PERSONNEL:

Mrs. Moore moved to approve the ECA resignation of Erin Gerth as JV/Varsity Cheerleading Coach and the recommendation of Tara Justice as Middle School Assistant Track Coach. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The board voted unanimously to approve three leave requests in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz. The requests are as follows:

- S. Hartwell - a FACS Professional Development Conf. in Indianapolis, 4/21,22
- D. Seaver – accompanying 2 BPA students to NLC at Dallas, TX, 5/6-10
- W. Swango/C. Haskell – annual IASBO Conf. in Ft. Wayne, 5/13-15

USE OF FACILITIES:

The board's vote was unanimous to approve several Use of Facilities applications with the fees waived in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Roberts. They are as follows:

- HS Cafe.- R. Duckworth for Relay for Life Survivor Dinner on June 19, 3-7 p.m.
- MS Gym - C. Wilhoite for Girls Basketball Camp Fundraiser Dance on April 24 from 7-9 p.m.
- SCE Cafe. – M. Henseley for a benefit fundraiser for Dorie Peelman on June 19 from 5-9 p.m.
- SCE Cafe. – C. Lay for PTA's Spring Carnival on May 15 from 5-9 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next board meeting would be held on Monday, May 4, 2009 and that the next regularly scheduled board meeting would be held on Monday, May 18, 2009.

Dr. Jones also announced that the next Endowment meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Daugherty said that he assumed the school corporation was still operating under the idea that there was no overtime permitted for non-certified employees. He said that he would like to see a report from January through April with the department supervisor listed as well as the reason for the overtime. He said that he would also like to see job descriptions for the positions we have now. He said that we either needed to go with it or drop it.

Mr. McKay thanked the principals for all of their work on the Student Handbooks and especially the School Improvement Plans.

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ADJOURNMENT:

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