

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 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, was 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 regular 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, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Michael Jones, Ginny Reeves, Candice Fulk, Rhonda Pennington, John Druba, John Sieglitz, Lowell Reynolds, Melissa Reynolds, Sean McGarvey, Eric Cole, David Todd, Daniel Noel, Debbie Allen, Bert Allen, Colleen Lay, and Amy McAllister.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of a ten twenty-eight hearing and a request for additional appropriations, and the addition of a Use of Facilities request. Mr. McKay 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 July 20, 2009. Mr. McKay made the motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Moore seconded.

FUND REPORT:

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the fund report as submitted. Mr. Daugherty seconded. Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango, wanted to explain the Stimulus Fund, #950, was now at zero as the monies were needed to be spent in July. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve the report.

CLAIMS:

Vendor Claims #37958 through 38087 and Payroll Claims for July 24, 2009 and August 07, 2009 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. McKay and seconded by Mrs. Moore. Mr. Truitt asked about a \$664 returned equipment shipment fee to Swiss Alps Printing in claim #38078. Mrs. Swango explained that this claim amount actually included several purchase orders and the computer would only pick up the first one listed. The actual amount for the returned maintenance items was \$7.58. Mr. Phipps asked about \$2,572.98 paid to Phillips Supply in claim #38054 for weed killer. Mrs. Swango said that this was not the only item on the bill. She said that the majority of the cost was for miscellaneous cleaning supplies, but as in the previously questioned claim, there were other purchase orders attached. Claim #37967 for \$14,905.38 to Roger Christman was questioned as to whether it was a payroll claim. Mrs. Swango said that it was not a payroll check to Mr. Christman, but a vendor check. She said the amount paid to Mr. Christman is for his contracted services which he then uses to pay his fleet drivers. The board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

A criminal history policy, which was presented at the previous meeting for a first reading, was approved unanimously by the board in motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. McKay. The corporation has had a policy in place, but the state Department of Education has new requirements for new employees after July 1, 2009. Previously, only an Indiana Limited Criminal History check was required, whereas now, an Expanded Criminal History Check is required.

NEW BUSINESS:

The School Board honored Deborah Allen for her years of service as a teacher for our corporation. Mr. Jones, the Principal at Switzerland County Elementary School, where Mrs. Allen has taught for many years, spoke of her dedication to the children in her classroom. Dr. Jones, Superintendent, and past Principal at SCES, spoke of her memories of Mrs. Allen and her classroom projects. School Board President, James Phipps, presented Mrs. Allen with a bell and wished her the best in her retirement.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the development of a Long Term Grounds Planning Committee with Mr. McKay and Mr. Daugherty as board representatives, as well as others to be announced by the Superintendent. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. Other

current members on the committee to oversee long term grounds issues are Mr. Noel, Mrs. Pennington, Mr. Todd, Mr. Spoores, and Mr. Jones.

The Switzerland County Elementary School Cooling Tower Installation Bids were opened at 4:00p.m. in the Middle School Library. Those representing the corporation at the opening were Dr. Jones, Mona Crabtree, and Myron Browning. The bids were received and recorded as follows: Triton Industries: \$82,844 / Nading Mechanical, Inc.: \$84,400 / Hudson Piping, Inc.: \$90,800 / Dillard Electrical Heating & Cooling: \$98,000. Upon a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz, the board unanimously awarded the SCES cooling tower installation to Nading Mechanical, Inc., which was not the lowest bidder, but was the lowest responsible and responsive bidder based on the following reasons: 1) Failure of the low bidder to provide references or any other means of assuring the board of the low bidder's ability to do the work required. 2) The fact that the successful bidder has provided similar services to the board in the past and the board was well pleased with the successful bidder's performance. 3) The successful bidder provided financial information and references along with their bid, as well as a bid bond. 4) The low bidder provided no financial information or other evidence of their ability to perform.

Mr. Truitt made a motion to discontinue the contract of Negotiations Representative, Marvin Liberson, effective January 1, 2010. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion. The board's vote was unanimous.

In a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. McKay, the board unanimously approved a request from Ginny Reeves to apply for funding through a Collaboration Higher Education Grant with Southwestern School Corporation through Indiana University for Mathematics Professional Development. The vote to approve was as follows: AYES: Truitt, McKay, Phipps, Moore, Waltz. ABSTAIN: Daugherty.

An annual Embarq Service Agreement for the 2009-2010 school year was approved unanimously by the board in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Daugherty. Technology Coordinator, John Sieglitz, explained that Embarq agreed to provide services through the agreement this year, with the understanding that the corporation will purchase new equipment, as the current system is at the end of its life, with no replacement parts available. Mr. Sieglitz said the corporation will see an increase in expenses of 3 to 4 thousand dollars on the year.

The board unanimously gave Treasurer, Wilma Swango, the approval to advertise the 2009-2010 school budget in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. McKay. Mrs. Swango said that she had worked closely on the budget with Financial Consultant, Jerry Moore. She pointed out several aspects of the budget that she felt they may not be aware of. She said that there will be no Preschool Fund in 2010, as it will become part of the General Fund at that time. Also, Mrs. Swango said that the corporation will no longer have property taxes in the General Fund, so our state funding will be tied directly to student enrollment numbers. Every student enrolled must be identified. Mrs. Swango

said that, as always, she is advertising the tax rates high in order to protect the corporation from any unforeseeable events.

The board did not vote on the Student Transfer Policy as this was the first reading. Mr. Daugherty said that he had heard some school corporations were not allowing any new students into their system. Mrs. Swango said that the bottom line for the policy was that if the sending superintendent and the receiving Superintendent agree, then the receiving Superintendent's corporation will get to count the student on its ADM.

Dr. Jones gave a summarization of the proactive practices the corporation has put into place in order to reduce the risk for the spread of the H1N1 flu virus. She said that sanitizers have been put into school entryways, classrooms and on buses and their use is being enforced by teachers and bus drivers. She said the values of proper hand cleaning techniques are being emphasized to the students, as well. Dr. Jones said that the corporation was working closely with Dr. Frede and Chris See of the Health Department and that she wanted the parents of our students to know of the things being done to ensure their children's safety regarding this health issue. She said that shots would be available sometime in October.

Endowment Requests were presented for the board's approval.

The request from Mrs. Swango that the Endowment pay for the 2010 Debt Service payment in the amount of \$457,604.00 was unanimously approved by the board in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

Mrs. Moore moved to approve the Endowment Request to fund the annual YMCA agreement in the amount of \$32,500. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. Eric Cole was on hand to answer the questions presented by Board President Phipps regarding the cost of free single memberships to each employee. Mr. Cole estimated the cost to be an additional \$50,000 if all staff members, estimated to be around 220, were given a free membership. Mr. Phipps suggested that a survey be presented to the staff in order to see who might be interested and then come back with a separate request for that amount. The board's vote to approve the original amount of \$32,500 was unanimous.

Due to the high volume and complexities of the nine remaining Endowment requests, Mr. Daugherty suggested that no further votes be taken, but that they should be considered as the first reading of the requests.

High School Principal, Dan Noel addressed three requests from his building. He suggested that the requests for a language lab and student calculators be tabled until more research could be done on alternate equipment and vendors, respectively. The request for CASE Models for Plant/Animal Science classes was also reviewed.

Middle School Principal, John Druba addressed two requests from his staff. Mr. Druba suggested tabling the request for an infrared sound field system due to its high cost and

feasibility. He also suggested tabling a list of miscellaneous items in another request until their usage and cost could be justified.

Switzerland County Elementary School Principal, Mike Jones, addressed three requests on behalf of his school. A request for new furniture and other equipment for various staff members was discussed. Mr. Jones explained that most of the furniture and equipment has been used since the school was built 30 years ago and desperately needs replacing. Mr. Jones also spoke of a request from the school's Green Team for a wind break with the installation of 150 pine trees which is projected to result in 50% wind reduction and heat consumption reduction of 25%. A request for playground equipment by the school's PTA was also presented. Mr. Jones said this was an ongoing project and that all new equipment would meet current safety codes for each playground level.

Media Specialist, Virginia Reeves, presented a request for additional robot equipment for the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering class at the High School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

PERSONNEL:

The board unanimously approved the retirement request from Mrs. Sharon Earls as presented in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Daugherty. Mrs. Earls was a teacher for the corporation for 38 years.

Mrs. Moore moved to approve the employment of Amanda McAlister as a Middle School Science teacher as of August 14, 2009. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. AYES: Daugherty, McKay, Moore, Phipps, Truitt. NAYS: Waltz.

Candice Fulk was employed as a Kindergarten teacher for the 2009-2010 school year in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mrs. Moore. The board voted unanimously to approve the employment.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the ECA resignations of Eric Cole as Middle School swim coach, Jeff Mullins as Middle School soccer coach, and Kathy Williams as Flag Corp. and Dance Team Sponsor. Mr. McKay seconded. The board's vote was unanimous.

The board voted unanimously to approve the ECA recommendation of Jeff Mullins to serve as the Varsity boys assistant soccer coach. Mr. Truitt made the motion to approve, with Mr. Waltz seconding.

Eric Cole was approved as the Varsity Swim Coach in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Truitt. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. McKay moved to approve the ECA positions of George Breeden and Kyle Self as volunteer assistant boys soccer coaches at the High School. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Truitt to approve Keli Hall as the Middle School volleyball coach. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion. The board's vote was unanimous.

The board voted unanimously to approve Rita Sebree as the flag corps sponsor for 2009-2010. Mrs. Moore made the motion to approve the ECA position. Mr. Truitt seconded.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

(None.)

USE OF FACILITIES:

Two Use of Facilities were unanimously approved by the board as follows in a motion by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. McKay:

- HS Kitchen by Gayla Bullock on Aug. 29, 2009 for the Vevay Alumni Dinner preparation
- HS Cafeteria by Chester Meisberger for a Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on October 13, 2009 from 4:00-9:00p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next Endowment meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

Dr. Jones also announced that the next regular board meeting will be held on September 21, 2009, but that another board meeting might tentatively be held on Tuesday, September 8th.

Bids for the new Administration Building construction will be opened at 1:00p.m. at the Jack Sullivan Senior Citizens Building on September 16, 2009.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Daugherty said that he wanted to acknowledge Dr. Jones for the excellent job she did for the staff on the first day back.

Mr. McKay said that he appreciated the great staff that the corporation has.

Mrs. Moore thanked the administrators for being at the meeting and for all of their hard work preparing for the opening day of school.

Mr. Waltz said that he wanted to also thank all of those staff members who work behind the scenes without much recognition for all of the time they volunteer, as well as other community members.

Mr. Waltz welcomed Candice Fultz to the staff.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. McKay moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Moore seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (9:25p.m.)

James Phipps, President

Wayne Daugherty, Vice President

William Roberts, Secretary

Virgil Mckay, Member

Tonya Moore, Member

Andy Truitt, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member