

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2009**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING
5:30 P.M.
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
6:00 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, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz. Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Superintendent,; Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango; Board Attorney, Ron Hocker; and Matt 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 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. Roberts, Mr. Mckay, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Matt Hocker, Dan Noel, David Todd, John Druba, Melissa Reynolds, Lowell Reynolds, W.T. Scott, John Sieglitz, Rick Wallace, and Tony Spoores

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Moore 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 October 19, 2009. Mrs. Moore made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Daugherty seconded.

CLAIMS:

Vendor Claims #38429 through #38481 and Payroll Claims for October 30, 2009 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Truitt. Mrs. Moore had a question regarding payroll claim #29479 and said she actually wanted to know about the two before it. Mrs. Swango explained that the payment was for an extra-curricular lay coaching position, as were the other two. Mr. Daugherty asked for a report on what was spent for travel for conferences. Mrs. Swango said that she would try to do that for him, but she did not know if it would be possible to separate the amounts spent on travel to conferences from the amounts on trips such as to the post office. Mr. McKay wondered about claim numbers 16979 and 16980. He wondered why there were two checks to the same employee. Mrs. Swango explained that one check was for her teaching position and the other was for a non-certified position. Mr. McKay asked the Treasurer how she knew the amount of federal taxes to withhold from the second check. Mrs. Swango said that the amount was automatically figured by a certain formula by the payroll software. She said that employees may have additional dollars held from their paychecks for federal taxes and in unusual situations federal tax withholdings were manually calculated. Mr. McKay said that software was out there that would base the taxes on a year to date amount, rather than a specific payroll amount. Mrs. Swango said she had a meeting with the corporation's software company coming up and she would ask about it then. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Two Endowment Requests were presented for approval.

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve sending a request to the Endowment for \$11,900 to pay for transportation costs for the eighth graders to go to Washington. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The request was presented at the previous meeting for a first reading. Mr. Waltz asked if there were going to fund raisers. Mr. Druba said that there would be. He said that they have had one, and two more were planned, but he did not know how much money would be involved, but whatever was taken in, this would reduce the amount each student would have to pay for their trip. Mr. Phipps said that he felt this was a good trip, but his concern was that this would set precedence and that if this were to be approved this evening, then other groups would follow suit. He said that with the declining dollars, he felt that there should be other things to consider. The vote was as follows: AYES: Roberts, Waltz, Moore, McKay, Truitt, Daugherty. NAYS: Phipps.

A motion was made by Mr. McKay and seconded by Mr. Waltz to send a request to the Endowment for \$210,000 to cover 2009-2010 student textbook rental costs. The board's vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the Johnson Controls Service Agreement, but striking the line regarding late fees. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion. Mr. Phipps had a question about the equipment listing of "block hours controls". Mr. Sieglitz said that it had to do with setting certain hours in the evening to conserve energy and thus money. The vote was as follows: AYES: Phipps, Truitt, Roberts, Daugherty, Moore, Daugherty, Waltz. ABSTAIN: McKay.

The board members then discussed athletics and the possibilities for future athletic programs.

Wrestling was brought up by one of the board members. Middle School Athletic Director, Tony Spoores, gave some facts and figures that he was able to collect. The season would be from March until May. Those students surveyed for interest were students from fourth to seventh grades. Mr. Druba said that he felt some of them were not aware of what the true sport of wrestling was all about, so they were going to have someone come to the school to talk about it and give a demonstration. Mr. Spoores said that some of the equipment that would be needed are scales, a mat, time clock and uniforms, and there would be other costs for things like shoes, head gear, and mouth pieces. Mr. Spoores said that we would have to have practices and meets at another site. He said that right now they were looking at having practices at the Vevay Assembly. He said this might be an issue if they were to have contests with other schools there. Mr. Noel said that there would be major liability issues and that the corporation needed to check with our insurance carrier as well as the church's rider. Mr. Spoores said that the reason they were looking at offsite locations, is the conflict it presents with space for existing sports. Mr. Spoores asked Mr. Rick Wallace to speak about wrestling. He said that it was an individual sport, but also a team sport. He said that it was a sport that took a lot of self discipline and one that a person of all sizes could participate in. Mr. Walt said he felt that this would be a good avenue for a student who was not able to play basketball.

The next discussion was about the start up of a football program. Mr. Daugherty said that he was an advocate for football. He said that that while we still have the Endowment, the board could look to them for the uniforms and equipment. Mr. Daugherty said that wrestling would complement football and that football would complement wrestling. Mrs. Moore said she wondered how many kids were out there playing soccer or running cross country, when their real desire was to play football. Mr. Phipps said that the board needed to see some proposals or facts and figures for all aspects of starting up the program. He said that he had a lot of questions and felt like some other members did as well. Mr. Todd said that there would be about 4 or 5 years with no money being made, but after that, there would be enough money coming in to sustain it. Mr. Phipps said that there were a lot of things to be considered. He said that there would need to be two sets of goal posts, a practice field, a playing field, and pylons to name a few things. Mr. Phipps went on to say there would have to be coaches and referees, as well and that he

would like to see something tangible that he could sink his teeth into and discuss them at another time.

Mr. Daugherty said that he wanted to mention the baseball program. Mr. Phipps said that he wondered why we don't have more participation from teachers as coaches. He didn't know if it was a stipend problem or some other issue that the athletic director might know about. Mr. Noel said that you only have a limited number of people to choose from. Mr. Phipps said that when staff members are hired, they are hired as educators, not coaches. Mr. Waltz said that you have quite a few positions and not that enough staff members to fill the positions, so you have to look outside and hire lay coaches. Mr. Noel said that some of them serve in several different positions and they end up getting burned out. He said that a lot of the programs end up going year round, so there are no breaks, but that was what was needed for a program to be really successful. Mr. Daugherty said that about three years ago, there was an extra stipend for summer baseball. He said that he didn't think that it ever panned out. He said that he didn't think anyone ever really wanted to do it. Mr. Daugherty said this was a problem. Mr. Noel said that when you have a program like that, the kids need to be involved when they are younger. He said that the school principal and athletic director needs to sit down with prospective coaches and lay out what is to be expected from them. He said that when a coach is referred for a position, if that coach does not perform their duties to their satisfaction, it is the responsibility of the principal and athletic director to let that coach know they are no longer wanted for the position. Mr. Daugherty said that last year, we had one team and now we are going to have probably two. Mr. Daugherty said that he would rather see junior high baseball started. Mr. Druba said that the ORVC has been kicking that around. He said that last year, he had talked about starting up a small junior high baseball program and doing it on weekends so that it didn't interfere with other fall sports, and have a round robin kind of games with other conference schools. Mr. Druba said that it was not met with much favoritism from the other conference schools. Mr. Todd said that no matter what program you talked about, if a coach is hired who doesn't have passion for the sport, the kids will see right through that. He said that it takes passion and commitment for those kids to stay interested. Mr. Todd said he felt that the mix they have now is a good mix.

Moving on to the next item, Mr. Daugherty moved to approve the AFLAC Flexible Benefits Plan as presented, subject to the opinion of Bose McKinney. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion and the board's vote was unanimous.

There was a first reading of the Student Internet Safety Policy. The Indiana Department of Education requires the school corporation to update its policy on a local level as part of its Technology Plan. The policy will be voted on at the next school board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lowell Reynolds said that he was glad to see that the board was considering other sports programs. He said he did not believe there would be a conflict with football and cross country. He said there might be some conflicts with soccer. He said that there were only

seven girls who went out for freshman girls basketball, so we were seeing a decline in basketball. But, he said our student body is growing and that we needed other opportunities for them.

Mr. Todd said he wanted to clarify that seven freshman is really not a decline in girls basketball. He said that most schools don't even have a freshman team.

PERSONNEL:

Two new ECA recommendations were presented to the board and were approved unanimously in a motion made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Daugherty. Mr. Daugherty said he appreciated the background information with the recommendations. They are as follows:

- Jamie Lay for 6th gr. boys basketball coach
- Corey Lay for 6th gr. boys/girls volunteer basketball coach

Four ECA recommendations that were tabled from the last meeting were presented for approval by the board. Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve, while Mr. Waltz seconded. The board's vote was unanimous to approve the following:

- Chris Mattox for varsity baseball coach
- Chad Combs for junior varsity baseball coach
- Larry Gault for varsity assistant baseball coach
- Noel Kinney for volunteer assistant baseball coach

Mr. Waltz moved to employ Janett Bowling for the second trimester for two periods of English and after school credit recovery. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion. Mr. Noel explained about the credit recovery program. He said that the students would pay up front to take the class and they would be reimbursed according to their grade. He said that perhaps the parents would push them to do better so that more of their money could be reimbursed.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

None.

USE OF FACILITIES:

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve two applications for the Use of School Facilities. Mr. McKay seconded and the vote was unanimous. They are as follows:

- SCE: PTA Pres., A. McAllister for Summey Photography, Sat., Nov. 21, '09, 8:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.
- SCE GYM: Lady Scots Soccer Coach, T. Anderson for Indoor Soccer, 7:30-9:00p.m., schedule to be determined.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next board meeting will be on Monday, November 16, 2009, and that the next Endowment meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2009.

Dr. Jones announced that there has been one confirmed case of H1N1 at Switzerland County Elementary School and that a letter has been sent home to the parents.

Dr. Jones said the administrative team has developed an alternative plan in the event of high numbers of flu cases and because of the plan, we may have an opportunity to apply for a waiver.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Daugherty said that he spoke with someone from another school corporation who said that cell phone use by students was prohibited there. He asked why this school corporation couldn't do the same. Dr. Jones said that cell phone use was not allowed in our schools, either. Mr. Todd said that when students are caught, the cell phones are kept in the office and returned to them later. Mr. Daugherty said he thought we couldn't ban them because of a medical communication law. Mr. Todd said that law says that we can't turn on a scrambler system that shuts off their cell phones.

Mr. Daugherty asked about the testing of students' eyesight. He wanted to know the extent to which the student is identified as having difficulties due to vision problems. Dr. Jones said that we don't buy their glasses. Mr. Druba said that if problems are detected at school, the parents are contacted and made aware of the problem. He said that then, it was up to the parents to do something. Mr. Daugherty said that he had been approached by a parent that did not think the school was doing enough when it came to their child's vision difficulties.

Mr. Daugherty also said he wanted a report on the soccer field and the tree situation. Mr. Noel said that Mr. McKay had worked with him on this and the only thing that hadn't been done was the three trees replanted out front. He said that before he signed off on anything that H & L had done, he had Mr. McKay work with him through the whole process.

Mr. Druba told Mrs. Moore that the Veterans Day program began at 9:30, when she asked about the Middle School's program time.

Mrs. Moore thanked everyone for coming and for all the work they did on their presentations.

Mr. Todd said that he wanted to invite everyone to the fall sports banquet on Tuesday night. He said that also, at 6:00 on Thursday, they were having a seniors versus faculty volleyball night which everyone was invited to attend and it should be fun.

Mr. Truitt said that he wanted to say that the sports programs were important, but what is most important, right now, is the academic part of their education.

Mr. Waltz said that he wanted to do all the things he could for the kids, but first, the students needed to be educated.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (8:20 p.m.)

James Phipps, President

Wayne Daugherty, Vice President

William Roberts, Secretary

Virgil Mckay, Member

Tonya Moore, Member

Andy Truitt, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member