

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Minutes of the January 11, 2010
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING
4:30 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 Library to discuss I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1(b)

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, and School 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 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, Michael Jones, Rhonda Pennington, Julie Huffner, Austin Huffner, Erin Keith, Kathy Keith, and Ruth Lohide.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. Waltz made a motion to approve the agenda with the omission of the YMCA report which will be presented at February's regular meeting, and the addition of the employment of a teacher and the consideration of holiday pay for non-certified employees. Mr. McKay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD:

Mr. Daugherty moved to nominate Mr. Phipps to serve as the President of the board, seconded by Mr. McKay. Mr. Phipps abstained from the vote while all other board members voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

Mr. McKay made a motion to nominate Mr. Daugherty for the Vice Presidency of the board, with Mr. Roberts seconding. Mr. Daugherty abstained from the vote while all other board members voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

Mr. Truitt moved to nominate Mr. Roberts to serve as Secretary of the board, seconded by Mr. Daugherty. Mr. Roberts abstained from the vote while all other board members voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to nominate Wilma Swango for the Corporation Treasurer's position. Mr. Waltz seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve Mrs. Swango's appointment of Cindy Haskell as Deputy Treasurer. Mr. McKay seconded the motion. The vote to approve the appointment was unanimous.

Ronald Hocker was nominated for the position of School Board Attorney in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mrs. Moore. The vote was unanimous.

The board unanimously voted to approve meeting dates and times in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Waltz. The dates and times are as follows:

- Executive Sessions as deemed necessary
- Regular Sessions to begin at 6:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the bonding of certain school personnel. Mr. Truitt seconded. The unanimously approved bonding is as follows:

- Kim Stout, ECA, SCHS: \$ 10,000
- Donita Cole, ECA, MS: \$ 5,000
- Melody Smith, ECA, JC: \$ 5,000
- Marilyn Devers, ECA, SCE: \$ 5,000
- Wilma Swango, Corp. Treasurer: \$100,000
- Cindy Haskell, Deputy Treasurer: \$ 75,000

Mr. Daugherty wanted to mention that he felt since Indiana schools would be receiving 3 ½ % less funding from the state than anticipated, the board should consider cutting their salaries by that amount as well.

The board voted unanimously to approve the salaries of the regular meetings; committee meetings; annual salaries and other benefits to remain the same as last year's in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. McKay.

Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz were appointed to the Negotiations Committee by Board President Phipps and approved by a unanimous vote.

Board member, McKay, agreed to serve on the Endowment Committee again this year upon the request of Mr. Phipps and was unanimously approved to do so by the board.

Mr. McKay and Mrs. Moore were unanimously approved to serve on the Internal Review Committee again as requested by Board President, Phipps.

In a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz, Conflict of Interest Statements from Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Roberts were approved by the board. Mr. Truitt, Mr. Waltz, Mr. Phipps, Mr. McKay, and Mrs. Moore voted to approve while Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Roberts abstained from the vote.

Mr. Daugherty asked Board President Phipps if he could be excused from the meeting as he had other pressing engagements. Mr. Phipps told Mr. Daugherty that he was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular school board meetings of December 7, 2009 and December 14, 2009 as presented. Mr. Truitt made the motion to approve the minutes with Mr. Roberts seconding.

FUND REPORT:

Mr. Roberts moved to approve the fund report as submitted. Mr. Truitt seconded. Mrs. Swango pointed out that on this report, the board members could see what the beginning balances were as of January 1, 2009 for each fund and compare that to the ending balances on December 31, 2009. She said that as they could see, the corporation has been very frugal. Mr. Roberts asked about Fund #7950. Mrs. Swango said that Fund #7950 was a Stimulus Fund and is now at zero. She explained that Federal stimulus funds were used by the state for tuition support. Since that revenue went in fund #7950, both revenues and appropriations were reduced proportionately in the general fund for 2009. Mrs. Swango went on to explain that the #7951 fund was for special federal stimulus money given to us this year which ties into the Title 1 program. Dr. Jones explained that the stimulus money was actually federal money that is given to the states, so the state actually supplanted the money. She said that the state didn't give us the stimulus money in addition to what was originally anticipated for the general fund money. Dr. Jones said that in spite of that, the corporation's ending balances were healthy. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve the report.

Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango, presented facts and figures concerning the 2010 Budget. Mrs. Swango said that a letter from Melissa Ambre, Director of the Office of School Finance, showed that based on the information available, the estimated 2010 Tuition Support Funding is \$10,094,309.96. At the time the Department of Local Government Financing approved the corporation's budget, the amount was \$10,183,971.00. Mrs. Swango said that she has not seen the DOE 54, which will come out on January 14th. She said that we do have a common school fund loan for \$221,000 every six months. She said that 1/12 of the money is withheld each month when the state sends us our share of the money and then every 6 months, a check is written from the debt service account to the general fund to put the money back.

Other points made by Mrs. Swango regarding the 2010 Budget are as follows: The assessed valuation for 2010 is \$463,970,779.00. That is the number across the board that taxing units have. The 2010 Budget estimate amounts that have been approved by the D.L.G.F. for General Fund is \$11,469,142; Debt Service Fund is \$452,604; Capital Projects Fund is \$2,125,799; Transportation Operating Fund is \$1,194,898; and Bus Replacement Fund is \$91,000. The tax rates for the last three funds are as follows: Capital Projects, .3774; Transportation Operating, .2246; and Bus Replacement, .0258.

Mrs. Swango then reported on comparisons with previous years. She said that in 2008, the assessed valuation was \$515,943,345. In 2009, it was \$466,357,028. So, that amount has been going down each year. Comparisons from 2007, 2008, 2009 and the expected budget for 2010 were outlined by Mrs. Swango on a spreadsheet for the board members showing advertised budgets, actual budgets, expenditures, actual revenues, advertised rates, and actual rates for each fund.

Mrs. Swango presented the board with an email from Dennis Costerison, who is the Executive Director of the Indiana Association of School Board Officials, regarding a press release about cuts in state funding to Indiana schools. She pointed out that Mr. Costerison had some major concerns regarding the 3.5% reduction in revenue which will occur over 12 months instead of 18 months as previously expected. Mrs. Swango said that our corporation does not intend to reduce staff salaries right now, but she wanted the board members to see what Mr. Costerison suggested that each school corporation should be looking at in the future in order to trim their budgets.

CLAIMS:

Vendor Claims # 38761 through #38902; and Payroll Claims for December 22, 2009 and January 8, 2010 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mrs. Moore. Mr. Phipps asked Mrs. Swango if she had anything she wanted to point out regarding the claims. Mrs. Swango pointed out that there were overages on the M.O.M. copiers again. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Status of Student Case #091015 was reviewed in the executive session prior to the regular meeting. The student's status remains unchanged from the hearing officer's decision due to lack of a motion by the board.

Mr. Phipps and Mr. Roberts were nominated to the Board of Finance Committee in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. McKay. Mr. Phipps and Mr. Roberts abstained from the vote while all other members voted to approve their nomination.

Mrs. Swango said that the Investment Policy which was in their board packets has not changed, so she would not go over the whole policy, but would be glad to answer any questions the board members might have.

Mrs. Swango said that she had a cash sheet and she records every place that the money goes. If the money is in a C.D. it is on there, or if it's in a checking account, it's on there. She said that basically that is the same as the summary that is provided to the board members each month. Regarding the Investment Report, Mrs. Swango said she also used a spreadsheet to record each time the corporation invests in a C.D. She said that it has the interest earned on the C.D., the date it matured, and the date it was cashed. Mr. McKay asked whether that form is audited. Mrs. Swango said that the state Board of Accounts does not always ask to see it, but the spreadsheet she uses is in the same format as the SBA approved form.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve Friendship Bank and Main Source Bank as the two depositories for the school corporation to use. Mrs. Swango pointed out that of all of the institutions that were listed on the Treasury of the State website's list, those were the only two that were located in the Switzerland County School District. Mr. McKay seconded the motion and the vote to approve the depositories was unanimous.

Mrs. Swango explained that according to Indiana Code, at the end of two years, any checks that are outstanding as of December 31st, are to be re-deposited into the same fund they came from. Four checks were presented for a total of \$574.84. The Outstanding Check Report was unanimously approved in a motion by Mr. McKay, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Dr. Jones gave the board a synopsis of the Race to the Top program. She explained that this was a \$4 billion competition created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act aiming to reward states for making progress on a series of redesign assurances, including turning around low-performing schools, improving teacher quality and distribution, bolstering state data systems, and improving the use of data and assessments. She said that Indiana will submit their grant on the 15th of this month, and if it is approved, Indiana could receive \$400 million. Dr. Jones said that Switzerland County School Corporation had applied for the grant, and if they were to be approved, the corporation would receive a minimum of \$222,000. She said that it depended upon the number of corporations that applied for the grant. Dr. Jones said that it was a controversial grant because President Obama required grant recipients to adopt the internationally benchmarked standards in assessments with greater emphasis on the workplace; building a data system which would better track student testing assessments, from grades K-12, and recruit, develop, retain, and report effective teachers and principals. Dr. Jones said that this was the most controversial part of the grant, as in the future, 51% of the teacher's evaluation would be based on student success. Dr. Jones said that teachers would receive bonuses if a student makes a year and a half progress, or if the student makes a year progress, there would receive a bonus. Also, then, the fourth point was to identify struggling schools and turn them around. Dr. Jones said that

Indiana had already identified the 23 high schools that were struggling, and the idea was to put money into those schools in order to turn them into successful schools. Dr. Jones said that Switzerland County's application was sent in last week signed by Mr. Curlin who represents the Teacher's Union, and by School Board President, Jim Phipps. Dr. Jones said that it could mean a lot of money coming into our county due to our severe poverty status. Dr. Jones said that once she receives confirmation that the application has been received by the state, the corporation has 90 days for Ginny Reeves to write the grant. She said that even though it is a competitive grant, she felt Switzerland County was in a very good position to receive it.

The YMCA report by Eric Cole was postponed until the following month's meeting.

It was recommended by Dr. Jones that the board make an exception to the current policy regarding holiday pay for those full-time, non-certified employees who were hired after July 1, 2003, if as stated in the current policy, the employee worked the day before and the day after the holiday; and if the board approved the exception to the policy, pay for the receiving employees would be retroactive for the 2009-2010 school year. Dr. Jones further recommended that the policy be permanently changed to reflect the same changes in the policy handbook and for this to serve as the first reading and voted on at the next board meeting. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the exception and for the pay to be retroactive. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion and the board's vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

PERSONNEL:

Mr. Waltz moved to approve the resignation of elementary school teacher, Nicole Berg, effective January 8, 2009. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The board unanimously approved the employment of Erin Keith to fill the aforementioned vacant teaching position for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year in a motion by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. McKay.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve Adam Cole for the ECA position of Middle School Boys Track Coach as recommended by Middle School Athletic Director, Tony Spoores. Mr. Waltz seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The board voted unanimously to approve the ECA recommendation of Mr. Spoores for Amanda Alford to fill the Middle School Boys/Girls Assistant Track Coach position in a motion by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Roberts.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the professional leave request from Chad Combs to attend a Baseball Coach's Clinic, Jan. 21-22, 2010 in Indianapolis. Mr. Waltz seconded. The vote was as follows: AYES: Phipps, Truitt, Waltz, McKay, Roberts. NAYS: Moore.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve a professional leave request from Chris Mattox for an Internship at the Center for Teaching and Learning in Edgecomb, Maine, from January 11-15, 2010. The leave was approved in a vote as follows: AYES: Truitt, Phipps, Waltz, McKay. NAYS: Moore, Roberts.

USE OF FACILITIES:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next Endowment meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

Dr. Jones also announced that the next regular school board meeting would be held on Monday, February 15, 2010 at 6:00p.m.

Dr. Jones gave an update on the construction of the Administration Building. She said that most of the trusses were up for the roof and they were waiting on shipment of the rest. Dr. Jones said that the outside sheeting is on. She said that the sewage system and water lines had been connected and that Mr. Carpenter was on hand when the inspections of the systems were done. Dr. Jones said that there will be a construction meeting on Monday, January 18, 2010.

Dr. Jones said that the Graduation Rate for 2008-2009 was 83%. Dr. Jones said that she felt that the difference in the improvement from the previous year was due to how the state tabulated the information provided to them.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Truitt said that he would like a cost analysis done regarding the use of two small buses as opposed to using one big bus for athletic events.

Mr. Truitt also mentioned that someone should inform the coaches and lay coaches that they should not be using i-pods and cell phones while they were driving.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (7:40 p.m.)

James Phipps, President

Wayne Daugherty, Vice President

William Roberts, Secretary

Virgil Mckay, Member

Tonya Moore, Member

Andy Truitt, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member