

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 01, 2010
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING
3:30 P.M.
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
4:45 P.M.**

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public meeting for an Executive Session beginning a 3:30 at the Switzerland County Middle School Library 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. Mr. Roberts was unable to attend.

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. Mckay, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz. Mr. Roberts was unable to attend.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Michael Jones, Dan Noel, Rhonda Pennington, John Druba, Ruth Lohide, Jill Cord, Michelle Mattox, Kimberly Temple, Lesa McGarvey, and Tara Justice.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. McKay made a motion to approve an amended agenda with names of the grants corrected in the first item under New Business, as well as an additional item under New Business regarding the Reconfiguration of Jefferson-Craig and the Middle School. 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 February 17, 2010 with corrections to the vote on a Use of Facilities Request which was pointed out by Mrs. Moore. Mrs. Moore made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Waltz seconded.

CLAIMS:

Vendor Claims #39083 through #39147 and Payroll Claims for 2/19/2010 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. McKay and seconded by Mr. Daugherty. Mr. McKay that payroll tax claim # 33662 seemed quite a bit higher than the others. Mrs. Swango explained that payroll taxes were separated for each school and that this amount was for Title 1 Instructional Certified Teachers for Switzerland County Elementary School and that each account number was listed twice with one amount being for FICA and the other amount for Medicare. The board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

The board voted unanimously to approve the second reading of a revised Return to Work policy in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Waltz. The policy changes made in the second reading will be voted on at the next regular board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the grant funds from the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation for the Grade 7 Reading Rewards and Career Exploration Grants submitted by Mrs. Cord. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. Mrs. Cord gave an overview of the projects to the board. The vote to accept the grant funds was unanimous.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve Donald K. Ball as an Architect for Jefferson-Craig improvements. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion. Dr. Jones explained that there were four areas that needed improvement which included new flooring, paint, locker base repairs, and windows. Mr. Daugherty asked why a different type of flooring was being considered as opposed to carpet. Dr. Jones said that she decided to look at something other than carpet because of the durability, as well as the issues of allergens with carpet. She said that after a tour through the building, the Endowment Committee indicated that they would be willing to meet the corporation part of the way if these things were done. Dr. Jones said that she had wanted to separate the project into the four different areas, because a state statute requires that if a project goes over \$100,000, which she expects, the corporation must have an architect and she wanted to try to get away from that so that local contractors could be used. Dr. Jones said that she had changed her mind when both Educational Services Financial Consultant, Jerry Moore and Board Attorney, Ron Hocker, advised her that this was not the best way to go. Dr. Jones said that she discussed the fact that she wanted to use local companies with the architect and that Mr. Ball was on board with the idea. Mr. Phipps asked about specs for the projects. Dr. Jones said that was actually part of what the Architect would handle for the corporation. There was some discussion as to why Energy Savings Group was not being used to oversee the projects. Mrs. Swango explained that ESG is required by the state of Indiana to monitor the corporation's energy costs for the next ten years and prove the energy savings or give the corporation a refund, so for this reason, they were not interested in the areas of the project that would not result in energy savings such as the painting, locker repairs, and

flooring. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve Donald K. Ball as the Architect for the Jefferson-Craig improvements project.

Two Endowment Requests were presented to the board for discussion. They will be voted on at the next regular board meeting. They are as follows:

- SCMS: Sixth grade trip to Camp Livingston: \$8,3235 Mrs. Temple explained what the students would be doing and how they would benefit from the experience.
- SCES Green Team: 65 trees for windbreak: \$10,595. Mr. Truitt asked for a diagram of the project. Mr. Jones said that Mrs. Barbour had worked with Mr. McKay on the project, so he would ask her to get something together for the board members to look at.

Dr. Jones brought up summer projects, which she felt she couldn't talk about without mentioning the Endowment Funds. She said that there were usable unobligated funds available, but the committee felt like paying the debt service and the textbook bills each year were their top priorities. Dr. Jones said that the Endowment committee indicated that they would like to put back a percentage of their draws into a fund for those designated payments to protect against future financial uncertainties. Dr. Jones said that she had recommended putting ten percent of each draw into a savings account. She said that she wanted to explain that because it would affect the amount of available for summer projects. Dr. Jones and other board members voiced their opinions on what they would like to see done this summer. Dr. Jones said that on her priority list was the traffic safety project for the Vevay campus and the JC improvements listed above. Regarding the traffic safety road, Dr. Jones said that she and Mrs. Swango had figured the available funds in Capital Projects to be \$666,335. She explained that the replacement of the Jefferson Craig playground equipment, as a result of its relocation when the road goes in, will be taken from the QZAB fund, which has a remaining balance of \$530,000. Dr. Jones said that the Endowment has traditionally met the corporation half way on such projects. She said that the traffic safety plan is only a preliminary plan created by RQAW and was definitely not set in stone. She said that she wanted to put in a soccer practice field, for instance, and she did not like where the student parking lot was on the this plan, and the Administration Building is not being constructed in the same place as is shown on this plan. Dr. Jones said she just wanted the board members to be aware of how many things would be affected by the project. Dr. Jones said that the track, athletic fields, portable locations, and playgrounds would all be affected. Dr. Jones said that she needed to know that the board members were in support of the traffic safety project and the improvements to Jefferson-Craig before she moved forward on them. Mr. Phipps, Mrs. Moore, Mr. McKay and Mr. Waltz voiced their immediate support for the traffic safety project. Mr. Truitt said that he would vote for the traffic safety project if he knew that things were also being done to the High School. Some of the specific areas Mr. Truitt said needed attention were the windows, the grounds in the front of the building, the front doors which needed to be painted or replaced, and fixing the heat pumps in some of the rooms. Mr. Truitt also voiced his concerns over the cost of maintaining asphalt for the road behind the schools. Other board members also voiced areas they felt needed attention, including putting an awning up at the High School; installing double

sets of doors at the High School for security reasons; and putting in subsoil for drainage for the athletic fields. Mrs. Swango explained that these projects needed to be included in the Capital Projects for the following year. She said that this was a way to prepare for the expenses to be incurred. She said that the administrators needed to make their lists and with the Superintendent's approval those projects would be prioritized and put into the Capital Projects, which is a three-year plan. Mr. Daugherty said that he supported the traffic safety project but that he was not going to vote on anything that the corporation could not show a way of maintaining.

Mr. Phipps said that he had been asked about future plans for the old Administration Building. Dr. Jones said that soon after the old building was vacated, she was approached by the Patriot and Vevay Alumni Associations as to the future of the building because they had a multitude of memorabilia they wanted to display. Dr. Jones said she also spoke with the Historical Society about the building. She said she gave them her word that the building would be left as it was for two years which would give them time to seek grant funds for refurbishing. Dr. Jones said that what concerned her is that if they were able to acquire grant funds to refurbish the building, would they also be able to find the funds to maintain it. Dr. Jones said that at the moment, there were a lot of miscellaneous items being stored in the building until the Spring auction.

Dr. Jones recommended the reconfiguration of Jefferson-Craig Elementary School and Switzerland County Middle School which would consist of taking all sixth graders out of the Middle School and placing them at Jefferson-Craig. Dr. Jones said that when she attended the Feasibility Study meetings concerning the construction of a new school building, the one thing that was mentioned by parents at every meeting was their desire that the sixth graders be moved back to the elementary environment. In addition, Mr. Druba said that he and Mrs. Pennington have done in-depth research that shows that the sixth graders would greatly benefit where the ISTEP is concerned due to 14,000 more classroom instruction minutes over the course of a year to focus on Math and Language Arts, which Mr. Waltz calculated to be over 20 days. Mr. Daugherty made a motion to table the recommendation until the next meeting or until such time as the principals have had a chance to have parent meeting at both elementary buildings. Mrs. Moore seconded and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Phipps opened up the meeting for public comments. Seeing none, public comments were closed and the regular meeting resumed.

USE OF FACILITIES:

Two Use of Facilities Applications were unanimously approved by the board in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Waltz. They are as follows:

- Jefferson-Craig Elem.: Margaret McPeck for Girl Scout Troop, 2:45 to 4:00p.m., on March 4, 2010.

- Old Gym: Lori Singer for YMCA Teen Leaders Club Doge Ball Tournament fundraiser, 3:00p.m., on March 19, 2010

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next regular board meeting would be held on March 15, 2010. Dr. Jones also announced that the next Endowment meeting would be held on March 23, 2010.

Dr. Jones also presented the board members with the first drafts of employee job descriptions. She said that these were open for comments and suggestions. Dr. Jones said that the teacher job descriptions were not included as she needed to work with Greg Curlin on those.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mrs. Moore said that it was nice to see those teachers who were in attendance and wished she would see them more often.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Truitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McKay seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (6:20 p.m.)

James Phipps, President

Wayne Daugherty, Vice President

William Roberts, Secretary
(unable to attend meeting)

Virgil Mckay, Member

Tonya Moore, Member

Andy Truitt, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member