

June 21, 2010

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
(Unofficial) MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2010
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING 5:00 P.M.
AND
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 5:00 at the Switzerland County Elementary School to discuss I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9).

The board members present were Mr. Phipps, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Roberts, Mr. McKay, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz. Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Superintendent; School Board Attorney, Ron Hocker, and Matthew 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 public meeting to order and led those in attendance 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, Cindy Haskell, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Matthew Hocker, Dan Noel, Rhonda Pennington, Tony Spoore, John Sieglitz, Laura Lovern, Donita Cole, Ruth Lohide, Dawn Powell, Lisa Scranton, Lisa Arnoldy, Cindy Stewart, Marla Edwards, Carol Smith, Rita Sebree, Steve Sebree, Steve Konkle, Rachel Griffin, Becca Sittloh, Hayley South, Lauren Edwards, Maggie Devers, Trishia Smith, and Rob Daugherty.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular school board meetings of May 17 and May 24, 2010 were presented for approval. Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Truitt seconded. Mr. Phipps pointed out a couple of errors that needed to be corrected. The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with these corrections.

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FUND REPORT:

Mr. McKay moved to approve the fund report as submitted. Mr. Roberts seconded. There being no further questions, the board voted unanimously to approve the report.

CLAIMS:

Vendor Claims #39557 through #39692 and Payroll Claims for 5 /28/ 2010 and 6/11/2010 were presented for approval in a motion by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Waltz. Mr. Phipps asked about claim #39659 for \$110.40 to Lewis & Kappes for a report on the Geyman lien. School Board Attorney, Ron Hocker, said there was a motion filed by the U.S. Attorney to alter the original mortgage to sell the house and Lewis & Kappes have responded to that motion on behalf of the school corporation. Mr. Hocker said it was not detrimental to our interest, but there is a hearing scheduled and they will have to attend that hearing as well, so there will probably be another small bill coming. The board voted unanimously to approve the claims as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent Jones announced that the next Endowment Meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2010. Dr. Jones also announced that the next regular school board meeting would be held on July 19, 2010. Dr. Jones said the Administration Building is substantially done. Mr. Sieglitz said the internet cabling is being installed. Dr. Jones said the school corporation will take possession after the inspection which is planned for Wednesday. She said the plan was to move the furniture to the new building the second week in July.

Dr. Jones said the Jefferson-Craig classrooms have been cleaned out with the desks and those sorts of things being moved into the cafeteria and the gym for temporary storage. Dr. Jones said four rooms have been tiled and the painting in the rooms is 95% complete.

Dr. Jones said she wanted to address questions about the playground equipment. She said the equipment was determined to be 85% stressed and it was deemed to be a liability for the school to let someone else have it or purchase it.

Dr. Jones said the portables behind the schools have been moved and the work has begun on the road.

Next, Dr. Jones wanted to congratulate the girls' softball team for such an outstanding performance in the Sectional. Dr. Jones said the girls were not only winners, but they represented Switzerland County very well as individuals. She said she was impressed with their enthusiasm and the way they related to one another and wanted them to know she appreciated their victory as well as who they were personally. Mr. Noel said the coaching staff had done a great job with the team. Mr. Konkle told the board and Mr. Noel he appreciated the support given to him and the team. He said they were a special group of girls. Mr. Phipps presented each team member with a medallion in recognition of their accomplishment.

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OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2010-2011 High School Student Handbook was presented to the board for the first reading. High School Principal, Dan Noel, said the handbook had been checked to make sure it was updated according to Indiana Code. He said they were not going to make it into a daily planner as they have been doing, as that was fairly expensive and weren't being utilized by most students. He said the handbook would include a calendar with proposed athletic events which would, of course, be subject to change. Mr. Noel suggested the board members take a look at it and if they saw something that needed changed, to please let him know. Mr. Phipps asked if the Prom situation had been addressed. Mr. Noel said he could make it the same as being eligible for participation in athletics, with attendance, grades, and discipline being criteria for attending the Prom. Mr. Phipps asked if there was something in the handbook about how the Valedictorian and Salutatorian are selected. Mr. Noel said the President of the Senior Class proposed that the top two students be chosen for the positions. He said her proposal was that if there was only one student with a 4.0, they would be the Valedictorian, and if there was a student who had a 3.99, then they would be the Salutatorian. Mr. Phipps said there were reasons why the current board policy was passed concerning this topic and it had been changed to take into consideration weighted classes. Mr. Phipps said he thought an additional paragraph for the sophomores would be appropriate and suggested Mr. Noel discuss that later with Dr. Jones.

The board voted unanimously to approve a bid of \$550 from Olive Branch Baptist Church for the portable classroom behind the High School in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Mr. McKay moved to approve the delay of the adoption of Mathematics Textbooks until next year, after the state standards have been set. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The textbooks will be charged at a rate of 15% which is the usual rate for continued-use textbooks. Mathematics books will be reviewed in 2011 for adoption of new material or the re-adoption of currently used books.

A motion was made by Mr. McKay to approve Educational Services to provide a Demographic and Building Capacity Study for the corporation. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion. Mr. Daugherty asked if this was a law or if it was something that is just being asked for. Dr. Jones said this was not a law. Mr. Phipps said the study's purpose was to guide the board in what options should be considered at this point, such as adding three classrooms or four; would there need to be an additional bathroom; and what do we need to do in the cafeteria, when talking about putting the sixth grade back into Switzerland County Elementary. Mr. Waltz said he thought that a study had been done a few years ago and nothing was ever done with it. Mr. Phipps said that a study was conducted when space issues at the elementary schools sparked questions about re-districting or adding on to Jefferson-Craig or building a new elementary school. The board's vote to approve the study was as follows: NAY: Truitt. AYES: Phipps, Roberts, Daugherty, Moore, McKay, Waltz. The total cost of the demographic and building capacity study will be

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\$14,250. The cost of the Educational Adequacy analysis is \$1,300. Costs and expenses (except mileage) to be reimbursed by the school corporation will include, but not be limited to parking fees, copying costs, over-night accommodations, meals, etc., if agreed upon in advance by the school corporation. Mileage expenses will be based upon travel time and charged at one-half of the current hourly rate (currently \$200 per hour), not to exceed \$1,400.

The board unanimously approved the 2010-2011 Child Nutrition Program Agreement between the corporation and the IDOE as presented in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Daugherty. Dr. Jones explained that this annual agreement allows the corporation to be reimbursed by the state for providing free and reduced price meals for qualifying students.

The 2010-2011 Bus Driver Handbook was presented to the board for the first reading. Action will be taken at the July 19 meeting. Changes to the handbook were highlighted for the board to review. Dr. Jones said that one notable change was the assignment of drivers to bus routes, extra curricular activity trips, and field trips at the discretion of the transportation department in the best interest of the school corporation. She said at times in the past, the system of seniority had been used, but this was found to not always be in the corporation's best interest. Dr. Jones said they had also just defined in-county and out-of-county field trips. Dr. Jones pointed out the addition to the handbook of the statement that all bus radios should be turned on to channel one at all times and that the bus radios should only be used for conducting school bus business.

Three previously considered Endowment Requests were presented to the board.

Mr. Waltz moved to approve a request for \$17,890 for a swimming timing device. Mrs. Moore seconded. YMCA Director, Eric Cole said that if the board wanted, he would add a clause into their annual contract that the YMCA and the school corporation would be equally responsible for any repairs to the device. He said the device had a two-year limited warranty. Mr. Cole said that other schools have had problems with used systems. The vote to approve the timing device was unanimous.

The board unanimously approved a request for \$9,418.50 to be sent to the Endowment for sports uniforms. Mr. Truitt made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Waltz seconded. Mr. Truitt asked who would be in charge of ordering the uniforms. Mr. Spoore said he would be doing the ordering. Mr. Daugherty said he wanted to make it clear that he was wanting to approve this because he wanted our teams to be a class act and he thought maybe some of the kids could not afford them, but he was trying to sort out needs from wants and maybe the next time, he would not approve something like this.

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve an Endowment request for \$19,183 for wrestling mats and a scoreboard. Mr. McKay seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding the wrestling program and the increase in the amount from the original request. Mr. Spoore said he had received used mats from another school, but they were unacceptable for use and couldn't be reconditioned. He said he was making plans to

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dispose of them. Mr. Daugherty asked how the scheduling was going for the wrestling. Mr. Spoores said he had run into some difficulties concerning the scheduling. He said he had contacted several other schools and had received two confirmations and three denials for the Middle School to be added to their wrestling docket. He said there were others he had not yet heard from. Mr. Phipps, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Truitt, and Mr. Waltz voted to approve the request. Mr. Daugherty voted NAY.

Due to time issues, one newly presented Endowment request was voted on by the board. Mr. Roberts moved to approve a request for \$6,980.06 for the Middle School's Office to be enclosed. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. Mr. Spoores said this had been needed for a long time and that most schools have enclosed offices to give more privacy and protection to the staff as well as visitors. Mr. Spoores explained that what they were looking for was a wall with a doorway between the hallway and the open office area and two sliding glass windows above the existing counter area. The vote to approve the request was unanimous.

Two other Endowment Requests were presented for first reading and will be presented at the July 19 meeting for approval. They are as follows:

- \$3,900 for a tractor to bush hog back property
- \$12,800 for the second phase of window repairs at the Middle School

The board unanimously approved a Broadband Technology Opportunities Grant, (BTOP), in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mrs. Moore. Technology Director, John Sieglitz was able to acquire a \$1.1 million grant for the corporation through the Educational Networks of America. Mr. Sieglitz explained that this will enable the corporation to receive high speed internet connection between Switzerland County Elementary School and the Vevay campus. He said with this money, a fiber optic network will be built from Vevay to East Enterprise which would be full speed and would also reach all the way back to the Department of Education's internet tube connection. He said internet connection speed would be tripled. Mr. Sieglitz said that by approving the grant, the corporation would be required to commit to five years of usage.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mrs. Jill Cord read a prepared statement to the board. She said it was her understanding that one of the main purposes of a board of education was to keep citizens intelligently informed of the value, conditions, and need for public education within the community as well as promoting positive public relations and winning the community's confidence by ensuring that all actions are done in the best interest of school children. She said this seemed to go against the Switzerland County Board of Education's policy of not answering citizens' questions during public meetings. She said that hopefully the school board members and the Superintendent will give some serious thought as to how to open up honest lines of communication between themselves and concerned citizens.

There being no other comments, Mr. Phipps closed public comments and the meeting continued.

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PERSONNEL:

Mr. Waltz moved to approve the resignation of Scott Frye as an elementary teacher for the corporation. Mr. Roberts seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Three retirement requests were unanimously approved by the board in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. McKay. They are as follows:

- Debbie Graybill - Food Service Employee
- Diane Sigmon – Elementary Library Paraprofessional
- Rhonda Scott – Elementary Classroom Teacher

The board unanimously approved the employment of Cindy Stewart as a Special Education Teacher for the 2010-2011 school year, in a motion by Mr. Waltz, seconded by Mr. Truitt.

Mr. McKay moved to approve the employment of Jennifer Druba as an Elementary Teacher for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. Mr. Phipps abstained from the vote, while Mrs. Moore voted NAY. Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Waltz, Mr. McKay, and Mr. Truitt voted to approve the employment.

Mr. Waltz moved to approve the employment of Laura Lovern as a Special Education/Alternative School Teacher for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Truitt seconded. The vote was as follows: AYES: Waltz, Truitt, McKay, Roberts, Daugherty. Mr. Phipps and Mrs. Moore abstained from the vote.

The board unanimously approved the employment of Lisa Arnoldy to serve as a Library Instructional Assistant at Jefferson-Craig Elementary for the 2010-2011 school year in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

Mr. McKay moved to approve a grant-funded Administrative Retreat at Wooded Glen on July 28-29. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. Dr. Jones said the administrative teams of Southwestern Schools and Madison Consolidated Schools would be joining them on the trip and Dave Emmert would be one of the speakers at the retreat. The trip was not approved with the vote being as follows: AYES: McKay, Waltz, Phipps. NAYS: Moore, Roberts, Daugherty, Truitt.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve several professional leave requests from James Hess. Mrs. Moore seconded. The vote was as follows: AYES: Daugherty, McKay, Moore, Waltz, Phipps. NAYS: Truitt, Roberts. The leaves are as follows:

- Math Matters: Columbus, IN, June 21-25
- Advanced Manufacturing: Jeffersonville, IN, June 14-18
- Advanced Manufacturing: Vincennes University, July 6-8
- Math Matters: Columbus, IN, July 20-22

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USE OF FACILITIES:

The following Use of Facility application was unanimously approved by the board in a motion by Mr. Waltz, seconded by Mr. Truitt:

- SCES Parking Lot – by A. McAllister for PTA’s Back to School Fun Fair, Aug. 20, 5:00 to 9:00p.m.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Daugherty said he would like to see a report on the care of the baseball field as well as the soccer field. He said he has mentioned it several times, but he was going to state again that he was not going to approve any more of these types of projects without knowing how they would be maintained.

Mr. Truitt said the girls’ softball team played with great professionalism and if anyone had not been to watch a game this year, they had really missed something.

Mr. Waltz said the issue of weeds needed to be addressed. He said we had nice facilities and needed to keep them looking respectable.

Mr. Phipps said he would like to see a report on the mowing and the expenses incurred by site. He said he wanted to know what this was costing the corporation. He said he knew the total bill ended up being more last year than what they were expecting and he was sure it was going to be the same this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (8:15 p.m.)

James Phipps, President

Wayne Daugherty, Vice President

William Roberts, Secretary

Virgil McKay, Member

Tonya Moore, Member

Andy Truitt, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member