

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE August 16, 2010
SPECIAL EMERGENCY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
8:30A.M.**

The School Board of Trustees met for a Special Emergency Board Meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Switzerland County School Corporation's Administration Office.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Mr. Phipps called the meeting to order and led those present 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 the meeting.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, John Druba, Myron Browning and Steve Higgins.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Jones recommended that the board make a declaration that an emergency exists at the Middle School due to the failure of the air conditioning system on August 12, 2010, and accordingly, under I.C.36-1-12-9, to allow her to proceed with the replacement of the chiller based upon the solicitation of proposals from Johnson Controls, Inc., Dillard Electric Heating and Cooling, and Nading Mechanical, Inc. The emergency occurred as a result of extremely hot weather creating health issues for students and staff. The outside temperature on the first day of school, August 13, 2010, registered 96 degrees, with a heat index of 105 degrees.

There was much discussion about the discrepancies in the price quotes from the three companies. Nading Mechanical was the lowest base bid of \$68,969.00, with the addition of \$2,926.00 for weekend work totaling \$71,895.00, but would not be able to get the chiller for eleven weeks. The next lowest bidder was Johnson Controls with a base bid of \$107,855.00 and an alternate bid addition of \$10,267.00 for overtime work on Saturday and Sunday if requested. Johnson Controls indicated that if they had a purchase order, they could order the chiller and it could be shipped out on Friday, August 20th, and they could be working in the meantime to get things ready for the unit to be installed as soon as the part arrived. Mrs. Moore was of the opinion that even though this company's bid was higher, they were already familiar with the system, as the current system at the Middle School was originally installed by them. The highest bidder was Dillard Electric at \$119,550.00. There were comments from board members regarding the type of units each company proposed to install. Nading proposed a Trane; Dillard proposed a Carrier; and Johnson Controls proposed a York. The board members agreed that these are all well-known brands and should perform well.

Dr. Jones called an engineer, Lary Jones, to try to help with questions the board might have. Mr. Waltz said it did not make sense to him to tie two units together, as Dillard proposed, instead of using one unit. Mr. Browning said it was because of the availability of what they could get their hands on at the present time. Mr. Browning said the company had the two units in stock and could have them installed within ten days. Mr. Jones said using an 80 ton unit and a 40 ton unit to equal one 120 ton unit was not necessarily a bad thing, especially if one unit could take over if the other failed.

Mr. Phipps asked what Nading has done in the past for our corporation. Mr. Browning said they installed heat pumps at Switzerland County Elementary and have done some work at the High School. Mr. Browning said the corporation used to have a maintenance agreement with them, but a past superintendent had stopped the practice because they were located in Hope, Indiana and charged the corporation road time for doing things like changing filters, which could be done by the corporation's own employees.

Mr. Waltz asked if there was a maintenance agreement with Johnson Controls for the current system and if so, why didn't they see something that would have prevented this. Mr. Higgins said they only came once a year to inspect it and on an as needed basis. Mr. Browning said they would not have detected that it was clogged unless they had taken it apart which they wouldn't have done unless it had been leaking. Mrs. Swango said that Mr. Browning was working on getting maintenance agreements with vendors back in place.

The board members asked Mr. Browning, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Druba what their thoughts were. Mr. Higgins and Mr. Browning agreed that Johnson Controls would know the most about their own system and since they indicated they could get the part here quickly they felt that might be the best way to go. Mr. Druba said that he did not know which company would be best to go with, but there were several things that needed to be considered. He said there was a difference of approximately \$50,000. Also, Mr. Druba said, typically, the next two weeks, are the hottest times of the year. He said even if we went with the vendor who could get the equipment here the quickest, there would still be no air conditioning for at least two weeks. Mr. Druba said he wondered if it would change anyone's mind if it is going to be three weeks until it is totally installed. Mr. Phipps said he felt since summer was winding down, if we had to wait, then we may as well go ahead with the low bidder. Mrs. Moore said she felt there could be several weeks of really hot weather to come and felt there would be parents complaining about their children having to try to learn while sitting in hot classrooms.

Mr. Phipps asked if anyone wanted to make a motion on the replacement of the chiller. Mr. Daugherty moved to declare that an emergency exists at the Middle School due to the failure of the air conditioning system causing health issues with temperatures of 96 degrees and a heat index of 105 degrees and therefore to reject the bid from Nading Mechanical due to the emergency that exists and their inability to provide the corporation with a unit for eleven weeks and furthermore to approve Johnson Controls to replace the chiller with the provision that the company could ship the unit within the next 7 days.

Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: AYES: Daugherty, Waltz, Moore, Truitt. NAYS: Phipps. ABSTAIN: McKay.

An Endowment Request for \$107,855.00 for the replacement of the chiller at the Middle School with an option of \$10,267.00 for possible overtime was approved by the board in a motion by Mr. Waltz, seconded by Mrs. Moore. The vote was as follows: AYES: Waltz, Moore, Truitt, Daugherty, and Phipps. ABSTAIN: McKay.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Truitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Waltz seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (9:40 a.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