

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2010
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING 5:00 P.M.
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6:00 P.M.**

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public school board meeting for an executive session beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Switzerland County School Corporation's Administration Office.

The board members present were Mr. Phipps, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. McKay, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz. Mr. Roberts was unable to attend. School Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Jones, School Board Attorney, Ronald Hocker, and Matt Hocker, were also in attendance.

The executive session was adjourned and the meeting was opened to the public.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Mr. Phipps called the regular meeting to order and led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag.

ATTENDANCE:

The board members present 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, Matt Hocker, John Druba, Michael Jones, Rhonda Pennington, Dan Noel, Ruth Lohide, Greg Curlin, Mark Helt, Laura Helt, Eric Cole, Jerry Peters, Nancy Peters, John Sieglitz and David Todd.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the agenda as amended to include items J.5.a and J.5.b. under New Business. Mr. McKay seconded and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the school board meetings of July 19, August 09, August 16, 2010 were approved unanimously in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mrs. Moore.

FUND REPORT:

The July fund report was approved unanimously by the board in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Waltz. Corporation Treasurer, Mrs. Wilma Swango, explained that the reason Fund #2100, the Endowment Fund showed a negative number was because the

corporation needed to go ahead and make payments from that account and the Endowment would pay the corporation back. She said there were also a couple of other negatives showing at this time. Mrs. Swango said that fund #7951 and #3721 are negatives because the corporation now has to go ahead and make payments from the account, but federal grant funds will be available for reimbursement upon request from the state and there were plans to do that. Mr. Phipps asked about negative amounts in some other funds, which Mrs. Swango explained were payroll issues due to some employees retiring and cashing out that would soon balance out. Mr. McKay asked about the Rainy Day Fund. Mrs. Swango said the corporation has started using it for paying textbook purchases. She said the Endowment Board has approved the corporation's request for reimbursement and when the corporation receives the money, it will be put back into that fund.

CLAIMS:

Mr. McKay made a motion that vendor claims #39857 through #40007 and Payroll claims for 08/20/2010 be approved for payment as submitted. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. Mrs. Moore asked about claim #39949 for \$822. Mrs. Swango said this was reimbursement for required training for the High Ability Grant program. Mr. Daugherty asked if all construction costs went through the Architect. Dr. Jones said regarding the Administration Building, all change orders went through Terry Lancier of RQAW who then notifies Maxwell Construction of what needs to be changed so that the architect can certify that the work has been completed satisfactorily in order to release payment.

At this time, Mr. Phipps interrupted the regular meeting in order to hold Public Hearings for Capital Projects, Bus Replacement, and the 2011 Budget.

Mr. Phipps opened the public hearing for Capital Projects Plan. Mr. Phipps invited Mrs. Swango to explain the plan. Mrs. Swango went over all of the financial components of the corporation's three-year plan broken down by each building for each year.

At this time, Mr. Phipps opened the floor for public comments.

Laura Helt said when she listened to all of the plans being made for the facilities and the costs involved, she wondered if the students could not be better served by transferring that money somewhere so that programs would not be cut and teachers could be paid better salaries. She asked if there was any way the corporation could do this. Mrs. Swango explained that small amounts can be transferred from the Capital Projects Fund into the General Fund which is used to pay teachers, but that it is a short term solution and is frowned upon by the State Board of Accounts. She said doing this sends a signal to the state that the corporation has financial concerns. Dr. Jones explained that the General Fund was once funded through property taxes. She said that now it has been changed so that it is funded by Indiana sales tax revenue. Dr. Jones said this seemed a good idea at the time, but the problem with that is, during this time of economic uncertainty, people are more frugal and are not spending as freely as they once were which reduces the amount the state has available for education. Mrs. Helt said she has

not come to many meetings, but has been trying to balance in her mind, the number of teachers exiting the corporation and all of the projects that are going on. Dr. Jones said the Endowment has been a huge contributor to the Capital Projects that are going on, but the Endowment cannot legally pay for teacher's salaries. She said she wanted to emphasize that people who have retired or resigned this year have done so for various personal reasons and not because programs were cut or they were unhappy with their salaries. Mr. Daugherty wanted to know what the small amounts were that could be transferred from the Capital Projects fund for other uses. Mrs. Swango said it was based on a formula and she thought it was something like five percent. She said there were also restrictions that went along with the transfer such as not being able to offer raises to teachers.

Mark Helt explained that the concerns they had regarding their daughter attending the school was because of the AP classes. He said it seems all of the teachers who were qualified to teach the AP classes were leaving and nothing was said to them about it. Mr. Noel said the students would have an opportunity to sign up for virtual on-line AP classes as well as other things being worked out for the next trimester. Mr. Helt said he was concerned about testing scores being worse and only wanted what was in his daughter's best interest, as she was a top student and he wanted her to be prepared for college. Dr. Jones said she did not want Mr. Helt to lose perspective on what was actually being achieved through the corporation's educational system and sited Matt Hocker who has a law degree, Mr. Phipps' daughters who are pursuing doctorate degrees and her own children who have excellent degrees.

Mr. Waltz brought up the fact that Sunman Dearborn had seventeen teachers who were not replaced. Dr. Jones said money was a national problem. Mr. Phipps said that even though these were tough times, Switzerland County was still able to offer competitive teaching salaries. Mrs. Moore also said that the corporation had excellent administrators who were evaluating the replacements for those teachers who have left and was sure they were making the right decisions for the educational welfare of the students by choosing the best of the best. Mr. Helt thanked the board for their time and said he just needed to hear from them what was actually going on because he had heard so many things about the teachers leaving and their reasons.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Phipps closed the Capital Projects Hearing.

Mr. Phipps then proceeded with opening the Bus Replacement Hearing: Mrs. Swango talked about how the 12-year plan would allow the corporation to plan for purchasing new buses when needed.

Mr. Phipps opened the meeting for public comments. Hearing none, Mr. Phipps closed the Bus Replacement Hearing.

Mr. Phipps then opened the 2011 Budget Hearing: Mrs. Swango gave the totals for each fund contained within the budget and the advertised tax rate. Mr. Phipps opened the

floor for public comments. Hearing none, Mr. Phipps closed the hearing and proceeded to resume the regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The board voted unanimously to approve an Endowment Request for \$205,000.00 for the reimbursement of the purchase of textbooks for the 2010-2011 school year which was presented for first reading on August 9, 2010. The motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mrs. Moore.

NEW BUSINESS:

Each Principal gave the board updates on the first week of school.

High School Principal, Mr. Noel, said he wanted to thank the board members for the new parking. He said the Credit Recovery Program has been a big asset to the school, as there had been 105 students who were credit deficient. He said the FFA was in the top ten percent of the state and the top five percent in the nation. He spoke of the Advanced Manufacturing class and the interest that is being shown in that class.

Middle School Principal, Mr. Druba, said he had to be honest with everyone. He said at first the traffic situation was very bad. He said now the parents know the new drill and are okay with the plan. Mr. Druba said the school's office has been remodeled so that confidentiality is not the problem it once was. He said the school has three computer labs with two being state of the art. Mr. Druba said the teams have brand new uniforms. He said academically, the status quo is not going to get it and to help with improvements are programs like Agile Minds. He said this is the second year of acuity testing for Math. He said this year he had begun three minute walk-throughs which provide a good feel for what is going on in the classrooms. He said that he wanted to mention that Tony Spoores was a tremendous right hand man. Mr. Druba also spoke of the YMCA's after school program. He said this was a very good thing with the students spending the first hour on homework and then after a good healthy snack, getting individualized help with problem areas.

Switzerland County Elementary School Principal, Mr. Jones, said the school had a great turnout for their Open House. He said 350 had attended the Back-To-School Fun Fair sponsored by the school's PTA. He said there were eight new teachers in the building this year. He said the math scores have improved, especially in the fifth grade. Mr. Jones invited the board members to come out to the school and visit anytime.

Jefferson-Craig Elementary Principal, Mrs. Pennington, said the school has had a new facelift inside and out. She said the tile design was based on a student's design. She said the playground equipment is new and the students seem to like it very much. Mrs. Pennington said after the first few days, the transportation is going smoothly and is getting smoother every day. She spoke of the new computer lab and said one is shared

with the Middle School. She said during the transformation of the building, the teachers and staff have been very supportive. She thanked the board for their foresight.

Dr. Jones read a letter from Kim Temple, the sixth grade team leader regarding the transition of all sixth graders to Jefferson-Craig this year. She said she already feels a closeness with her sixth graders that took all year to achieve in years past. She said the other sixth grade teachers feel the same. She said Mr. Grigsby has said he loves his boys' gender class.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the Addition to the Records Retention Schedule as presented. Mr. Daugherty seconded and the vote was unanimous. The addition to the schedule concerns documents relating to recruitment, selection, retention, and termination of employees.

The board voted unanimously to approve the 2010 YMCA Agreement at a total of \$32,500 in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

Mr. Waltz made a motion to approve the 2010-2011 Hansel Consulting Agreement as submitted. Mr. McKay seconded and the vote was unanimous. Mr. W. Darrell Hansel will serve as a part-time Title 1 Director and ISTEP coordinator. Mr. Hansel is to be paid in equal monthly installments, not to exceed \$20,000.

An Endowment Request for \$32,500 for payment for the 2010-2011 YMCA agreement was approved unanimously by the board in a motion by Mr. Waltz, seconded by Mrs. Moore.

The Endowment Request for \$6,237 for the recoating of the High School's gym floor was presented as a first reading. The request will be presented for a vote at the next school board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ruth Lohide said she wanted to personally thank Dr. Jones for attending a Farm Bureau Meeting. She said she also wanted to thank Mr. Phipps for having two representatives in attendance and Mr. Curlin for the FFA member who also attended.

Lora Cole asked about the official enrollment date for the schools. Dr. Jones said Friday, September 17th is this year's official enrollment date for the state.

Nancy Peters said 45 students were enrolled in the after school program sponsored by the YMCA and there were 34 in attendance the first day. She said she was excited about the After Shock program and that the school's staff is very supportive.

YMCA Director, Eric Cole, said he was very excited about this program and wanted to thank the corporation for all that was being done.

PERSONNEL:

The board unanimously approved resignation requests from Shannon Barger and Sunshine Hartwell. The motion to approve the requests was made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Truitt.

The board also approved a resignation request from Travis Martin in a motion by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Waltz. The board's vote was unanimous.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve two employment recommendations. Mr. McKay seconded and the vote was unanimous. They are as follows:

- Mallory Nelson: Family and Consumer Science
- Kodi Driver Thayer: Business

The board unanimously approved ECA resignations from Casie Jesop as Boys/Girls High School Track Assistant; Tara Justice from Builders Club; and Brian Ford from Academic Science Coach and Middle School Swim Coach in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Waltz.

Mr. Waltz moved to approve the ECA recommendations of Casie Jesop as High School Pep Club Sponsor and Ashley Chase as Girls 7th Grade Basketball Coach. Mr. Daugherty seconded and the vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The board unanimously approved two Professional Leave requests in a motion by Mrs. Moore. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. The approved requests are as follows:

- S. Barbour: NEED Free Energy Workshop in Muncie, IN, Sept. 9, 2010
- C. Ingels: NEED Free Energy Workshop in Muncie, IN, Sept. 9, 2010

USE OF FACILITIES:

The board unanimously approved two Use of Facilities requests in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz. They are as follows:

- HS Café: C. Meisberger for Farm Bureau Dinner, 10/12/10, 5-9:30 p.m.
- SCES: C. Gilliam for Girl Scout Meetings beginning 9/9/10, 3:10-5:15 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Jones, announced that the board would be meeting on September 13, 2010 and would be voting on the budget at that time.

Dr. Jones also said the next Endowment meeting was scheduled for September 28, 2010.

In other announcements, Dr. Jones said the Open House for the new Administration Building had gone well with at least 55 people attending. She said the student attendance

is down which is a concern for the budget this year. She said the number was now down to 1,388.5 students. She said O'Mara will be paving the road tomorrow. She said the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation had contributed grant funds of \$4,500 to the Flag and Rifle Corp for uniforms and equipment and \$1,991.40 to the sixth grade team for the purchase of a cotton candy machine and a \$1,995.90 for a snow cone machine in order to have fund raisers for their trip to Camp Livingston.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mrs. Moore said thank you for appreciating the board members' sense of humor. She said on a serious note, she wanted to plead for the support of the family of the deceased individual who was a former Switzerland County student.

Mr. Daugherty said he knew there were concerns about how the family was going to get her back here, so any support that could be given on their behalf would be appreciated. Mr. Daugherty said on the business side, it was looking to him as though the end of the construction was getting close. He said the corporation has had a lot of things on its table the last three years. He said he was thankful it was getting done, and he was proud of how it all came together.

Mr. McKay said he wanted to express his thanks to the principals and teachers for their patience and for their support in all of the changes that were made.

Mr. Waltz said it was hard to tell, educationally, if the board had done the right thing, but from what he was hearing, the 6th grade reconfiguration is better for the kids.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Truitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Waltz seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (8:45 p.m.)

James Phipps, President

Wayne Daugherty, Vice President

(Unable to attend meeting):
William Roberts, Secretary

Virgil McKay, Member

Tonya Moore, Member

Andy Truitt, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member