

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2011**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING    4:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING    5:00 P.M.**

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular public meeting for an Executive Session beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Switzerland County School Corporation's Administration Office to discuss I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9).

The board members present were Mr. Truitt, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Daugherty, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Phipps, 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.

The Executive Session adjourned and the meeting was opened to the public.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:**

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

**ATTENDANCE:**

The board members present were Mr. Truitt, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Daugherty, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Phipps and Mr. Waltz.

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Matt Hocker, Pat Lanman, Jill Cord, Cheryl Janes, Michael Jones, Lisa Rosenberger, Michelle Mattox, Sean McGarvey, Lesa McGarvey, Tony Spoores, John Druba, Ginny Reeves, James Hess, Greg Curlin, Janet Hendricks, Dan Noel, Kathy Williams and Ginna Watson.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

The board unanimously approved an amended agenda which included item #N.7., a Use of Facilities application, in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Waltz.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the school board meeting of January 10, 2011 were approved unanimously in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mrs. Moore.

**FUND REPORT:**

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the December financial report as presented. Mr. Phipps seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**CLAIMS:**

Mr. Phipps moved to approve vendor claims #40623 through #40812 and payroll claims for 01/22/2011 and 02/04/2011 for payment as submitted. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Mrs. Peters asked about claim #40643 to the YMCA for \$385.32. Corporation Treasurer, Mrs. Swango, explained that this was for YMCA membership dues which are automatically deducted from participating employees' paychecks. Mr. Phipps asked about claim #40758 for \$13,203.64. Mrs. Swango said ESI Technology Advisors was hired to assist the corporation in data backup for the corporation. Mr. Truitt asked what the charges for \$3,190.74 in claim #40773 to K&J Auto entailed. Mrs. Swango read off each charge indicating the bus numbers, the service performed, and the date it was performed. Mrs. Peters asked if the payment of \$1,486.88 to Educational Services Company in claim #40756 was the final payment to the company. Mrs. Swango said the payment was for their travel expenses and that it would be the final payment the corporation would make to the company towards the demographic study. Mr. Daugherty asked if there was any overtime on this payroll. Mrs. Swango checked and confirmed that there was none. Mr. Daugherty said since the corporation had the van to use, there shouldn't be any more mileage trips. Mrs. Swango said this was true for the most part but there were exceptions such as trips made by secretaries to the post office or store when it was not feasible to use the van. Mr. Daugherty said he had seen a ladder against the Jefferson-Craig building over the weekend and wondered if there was a camera being installed. Mrs. Pennington said there was gutter repair being done and the replacement of some roof shingles blown off during some recent high winds. The board unanimously approved the claims as submitted.

The board unanimously approved an allowance of transfers report in a motion made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Waltz. The resolution to make the transfers was approved by the board at the December 13, 2010 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Waltz made a motion and Mr. Phipps seconded, to approve an Endowment Request as presented for \$59,675 for the installation of new baseball dugouts and the demolition of the existing dugouts. There was lengthy discussion regarding the vagueness of the request. Mrs. Peters said she would like to see specifications for the project before there was a vote. Mr. Waltz said he wanted to make certain stipulations regarding the approval of the request. Board President, Truitt, said if he wanted to make those stipulations, he would need to make an amended motion. Mr. Waltz withdrew his previous motion and no other motion was made. The Endowment Request failed to pass as presented due to lack of a motion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Swango pointed out a few items regarding the State Board of Accounts Audit Exit Conference Report. She said the first item the auditors mentioned was the corporation's Capital Assets ledger was not available on June 30, 2010. Mrs. Swango said the corporation's response was that the company approved by the board to complete the inventory, Asset Controls, has completed the fixed assets ledger effective October 27, 2010 and has emailed the report to Ron Robertson of State Board of Accounts. Mrs. Swango said money from the Rainy Day Fund had been used to pay textbook invoices to alleviate the overdraft in the Textbook Rental Fund. Mrs. Peters asked what the Rainy Day Fund was. Mrs. Swango explained that this fund consisted of monies recovered from the embezzlement which occurred a few years ago. Mr. Daugherty asked if we are okay now on the Textbook Rental Fund. Mrs. Swango said that currently the Textbook Rental Fund is in the black, which is not the case for most school corporations. Mrs. Swango then pointed out other items that were items of discussion but will not appear in the final audit report. Those items included the approval of prepayment of claims by an annual school board resolution; the omission of some grants to the schedule of federal financial assistance prepared by the corporation prior to the audit; school board approval concerning use, maintenance and commissions and/or profits of vending machines located in the lobbies of the middle school and the high school; school board approval indicating control procedures and responsible officials/employees in charge of fund raising activities conducted within the schools and maintained in extra-curricular accounts; and the administration and school board approval of the use of school facilities for fund raising by support groups such as booster clubs and PTA's.

In a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Phipps, the school board unanimously approved the acceptance of grant funds from the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, Inc. for the following:

- \$200 for the Pacer Band Fund
- \$500 for the Kevin McSwain Memorial Fund for Band Support
- \$122 for the Debbie Minch Memorial Fund for FFA Washington, DC Leadership Trip

The board unanimously approved early graduation for several students in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Waltz. Those students who were approved are as follows: Shawn Brown, Taylor Chase, Bradley Dornbush, Ashley Johnson, Robert Morgan, Susanna Rapier, Garrett Schulz, Mary Sue Sandlin, Justin Smith, Dina Sun, Haley Williams, and Brittanie Little.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve a Resolution for Construction Fund Interest Deposits submitted by Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango. Mr. Phipps seconded the motion and the approval was unanimous. The resolution reads as follows:  
WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees is the governing body of Switzerland County School Corporation, Switzerland County, Indiana and  
WHEREAS, a Construction Fund has been established, and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the Construction Fund are invested and interest is earned on the proceeds, and

WHEREAS, the interest earned on Construction Fund proceeds is included as miscellaneous revenue in the 2011 School General Fund Budget, and

WHEREAS, sources of revenue in the General Fund are limited.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the administration and school treasurer to receipt interest earned on the Construction Fund proceeds as miscellaneous revenue in the 2011 School General Fund as per Indiana Code 5-13-9-6. This resolution was duly made, seconded and adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2011.

The board unanimously approved a Resolution to Authorize Payments Prior to School Board Approval in a motion made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Waltz. The resolution is as follows:

The Board of Trustees for Switzerland County School Corporation authorizes the Business Office to pay the following invoices prior to School Board approval. Items allowed are utility payments, credit card payments, corporation insurance premiums, payroll adjustments, employee and employer portion of employee benefits, and deposits for material for work scheduled to be completed by contractors. Appropriate vouchers will be presented for approval at the next regularly scheduled school board meeting following payment of these claims.

Approved by the following vote of the Board of Trustees for Switzerland County School Corporation this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2011.

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the Endowment Request for \$7000 for a Micro Robotics Kit to be used by High School classes and to waive the thirty days to be taken to the Endowment Board. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Mr. Noel explained that 41 students would be using fourteen units which cost \$499 each. Mrs. Moore said she felt like this was an excellent use of Endowment funds since it was being used for something that students can work with their hands. The board unanimously approved the request.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Jill Cord said she felt the last time she had addressed the board at a public session, some members of the board and administration were disrespectful by not taking her comments seriously. She said what she wanted to speak on at this meeting affected many more students than the topic she previously addressed. Mrs. Cord said she had tried numerous times to contact Mr. Hansel who was in charge of the Title 1 grant in order to get a copy of the public document and had been unable to reach him. She went on to say the copy she was finally able to obtain on December 13, 2010 had all specific budget information blacked out. She then asked when she would be able to see the document which should be made available at any given time for any member of the public to view, as well as an accurate Title 1 program description for Jefferson-Craig Elementary School. Dr. Jones explained to Mrs. Cord that there had been a problem with the on-line submission of the grant to the state. Mrs. Swango said the contact person at the Title 1 office thought it had been approved when it actually had not. Dr. Jones told Mrs. Cord the information she requested would be available to her on Tuesday.

Lisa Rosenberger said she was at the meeting as the President of the Music Club. She said she had read in the paper that the choir was not going to participate in the Choral Festival this year and that concerned her. She said she did not know all of the details about the reasons the choir was not participating but wanted the board to know that she felt it was a shame. Ms. Rosenberger said through the Music Club, she was able to assist Mrs. Beitzel with the choir in preparing for the Christmas Program. She said she wanted the board to know how good the kids were and how great the students and Mrs. Beitzel were to work with. Ms. Rosenberger said the trimester scheduling has made everything quite difficult. She said she was very disappointed that the choir wasn't able to go to the festival and asked if there was any way they could. Dr. Jones said they could not. She elaborated by saying that in May of last year, after Mrs. Williams retired, she had approached Mrs. Beitzel and said that if she could take over the Choral Department at the High School, in addition to the Band, it would really help out the corporation. Mrs. Beitzel said she could do it, but she would not be able to attend all of the functions involved in both programs. Dr. Jones said she had told Mrs. Beitzel to make a list of every single production in both programs and they would take a look at the list together and eliminate some from each, excluding the Swiss Wine Festival, of course. She said the Ohio River Valley Choral Festival was one of the events that had been crossed off the list. Dr. Jones said she sent a letter to the Choral Valley on September 2, 2010 informing them that Switzerland County High School would not be participating this year. Dr. Jones went on to explain that the trimester scheduling had made things very difficult for these programs. She said it had been tried in our schools and it was not a good fit and we would be returning to semester scheduling next year. Dr. Jones said she had not heard anything from anyone on this matter until 9 days before the Festival and suddenly a change was expected. She said we needed to stick with the plan and that next year would offer students an opportunity to participate. She said she had been working with Mr. Noel on introducing a Show Choir to the summer program that could perform at the Wine Festival. Dr. Jones said this was a transitional year and next year we would be back participating in the Choral Festival. Ms. Rosenberger thanked the board for their time.

Cheryl James said she also had a concern about the Choir not being able to go to the Choral Festival. She said she had been a choir member when she attended school and this was a highlight of her high school experience. She said being able to go to the festival enhances the students' experiences by meeting other choir students and performing with them. Ms James asked if it was fair that the students were not being allowed to participate in the festival. She said many of the students have worked hard this year and have competed at the state level as soloists and a group and received gold medals. She said she was wondering when they found out they would not be going to the Festival. Dr. Jones said she could not answer that but said the letter was written in September and multiple people knew. Ms. James asked if there was a way the students could still go if Mrs. Williams was willing to take them, and was there ever a time before when Switzerland County has not participated in this festival. Mr. Truitt said this time was for members of the audience to express their opinions or concerns, but was not a time for the board to take action on their comments. Mr. Truitt said the decision had

been made regarding this issue and board members would take their comments into consideration and investigate the circumstances, but did not see the possibility of any change being made at this time.

Retired teacher, Kathy Williams, asked to speak to the board. She said she was a former choir teacher and had assisted Mrs. Beitzel this year with the goal of being ready for the choral festival. She said the students, especially the seniors, were very upset and disappointed to hear they were not going. She said if the kids were to be allowed to go Thursday, they could not participate in any individual numbers, but the students would be able to participate in the group performance with the music selected for all of them. Ms. Williams said Switzerland County School Corporation had been replaced by a smaller school that had not participated before. Ms. Williams said she could not prevent the parents from taking their kids to participate in the mass performance of the festival and/or cutting school on Thursday to do that. She said if they wanted to take their child there, then that was their decision. She said her final comment on the issue is that she was worried about the High School's choral program because they did not have any kind of a feeder program from the Middle School and to be able to participate in competitions at the High School level, a feeder program is very important. She said she was happy to hear about the plans Dr. Jones was speaking of implementing. Ms. Williams said she did want to point out that she had been elected Treasurer of the Ohio River Valley Festival so she would be there on Thursday whether the kids got to go or not.

There being no further comments, Mr. Truitt closed public comments and continued the meeting.

#### **PERSONNEL:**

Mrs. Moore moved to approve the extra-curricular position resignation of David Cox as Assistant Girls Varsity Soccer Coach. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion and the vote was as follows: AYES: Moore, Peters, Phipps, Roberts, Truitt, Waltz. NAYS: Daugherty

Mr. Phipps made a motion to approve the extra-curricular assignment of Rick Wallace for Middle School Wrestling Coach and Mark Jackson for Voluntary Middle School Wrestling Coach. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The board unanimously approved the maternity leave for Sally Weales to begin on or around March 15, 2011 in a motion made by Mr. Phipps and seconded by Mr. Roberts.

The retirements of Joanne Gaudin and Martha Blodgett were approved unanimously by the board in a motion by Mr. Phipps and seconded by Mr. Waltz. Mrs. Moore stated that the corporation was losing two outstanding teachers and she was personally going to miss them very much.

**PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:**

Mr. Phipps moved to approve a professional leave request from Rita Ross to attend the Indiana Speech, Language & Hearing Association Convention in Indianapolis on March 31 and April 1, 2011. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The board voted unanimously to approve a field trip request from Mrs. Seaver for 17 BPA students to attend a competition in Indianapolis on February 27 through March 1, 2011 in a motion by Mr. Phipps, seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

**USE OF FACILITIES:**

Seven applications to use school facilities were approved unanimously in a motion by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Waltz. They are as follows:

- HS Gym: D. Meyer for After Prom - 4/8 to 4/10, 3pm-am
- SCES: D. Turner for Good News Club, Tuesdays, 3/29 to 5/3, 3-5pm
- HS Café, Stage, Band Room: Purdue Ext. for Switz. Co. 4-H Share the Fun on 4/08, 5pm-9:30pm.
- SCES Café: J. Meadors for Patriot Alumni Annual Dinner & Mtg. on 5/28, 4pm-9pm
- HS Café: R. Lohide for Relay for Life Survivors Dinner on 6/17, 2pm-7pm
- Old Gym: T.J. Justice, for Grand Race on June 18, 7am-4pm
- HS Café: P. Lanman for meeting on time & date to be announced

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Dr. Jones announced that the next board meeting would be held a week earlier than usual due to Spring Break, which would make it Monday, March 14, 2011. She also reported that the next Endowment meeting would also be a week early and would be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

**BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:**

Mr. Daugherty asked about the CDL information. Dr. Jones said information regarding the cost for an employee to get their CDL was included in the packet as an FYI and could be discussed at another meeting.

Mr. Daugherty also asked about the trimesters. Dr. Jones said when the trimesters were voted on, the motion was to try it for a year to see how it would work for our school corporation. She said it had been tried for two years and it was obvious that it was not working and we would be going back to semester scheduling next year. Mr. Druba said going back to the semester system will make it a lot easier to share teachers.

Mr. Daugherty said he wanted to throw out the idea of having a meeting at Switzerland County Elementary to look at the building and discuss any further plans for the school.

Mr. Daugherty asked how many wrestling matches the Middle School participated in this year. Mr. Spoores said there were around eight matches and for the first year, he was very happy with the program. He said they have participated in one Invitational and did quite well and they have one scheduled for this Saturday at Scottsburg and another one in March. Mr. Druba said Mr. Wallace has done a tremendous job teaching the kids fundamentals. Mrs. Moore said she has heard many great comments about the wrestling team and the job Mr. Wallace has been doing.

Mr. Daugherty said he wanted to make a point about his Nay vote against David Cox's ECA resignation. He said his reason was that he felt this would be a great loss to the soccer program.

Mr. Daugherty said he wanted to make one final comment. He said remodeling had been done in the gym, etc., because we were going to have Sectionals. He said we ended up getting the girls and boys sectionals quickly, and now nothing and was just wondering what happened. Mr. Noel said now we are on a two year rotation with schools the same size. He said, for example, Lawrenceburg had moved up to Triple A next year by one student. Mr. Noel said since we didn't know where we would be, he wanted to wait until next year to apply for the Sectional. Mr. Noel said the schools put in a "bid" with the state and it is not known which five or six schools we may have to play.

Mrs. Peters asked if the evidence based plan that the state put out as a model for improving student behavior could be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Waltz said he felt sorry for the seniors who were not able to participate in the choral festival because of the trimester scheduling issues. He said that did not seem fair. He said it shouldn't be an issue next year.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Moore seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (7:18 p.m.)

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Andy Truitt, President

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William Roberts, Vice President

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Tonya Moore, Secretary

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Wayne Daugherty, Member

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Nancy Peters, Member

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James Phipps, Member

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Vernon Waltz, Member