

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2012
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING 4:00 P.M.
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 5:30 P.M.**

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

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

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

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:

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

Others in attendance were Dr. Elizabeth T. Jones, Cindy Haskell, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Matthew Hocker, Michael Jones, Rhonda Pennington, Dan Noel, John Druba, Terry Lancer, Connie Wallace, Kodi Thayer, Greg Curlin, Ruth Lohide, Jill Cord, Gerry Peters, Barb Covington, and David Todd.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Roberts seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the School Board of Trustees meetings held on 1/16/12, 2/06/12, 2/09/12, and 2/10/12, were approved unanimously in a motion by Mrs. Peters, seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

FUND REPORT:

The fund report for December, 2011 was unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Waltz.

CLAIMS:

Mr. Waltz made a motion to approve **Vendor** Claims #42468 through #42617 and **Payroll** Claims for 1/20/2012, 2/03/2012, and 2/17/2012. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion and the Board's vote to approve was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board acknowledged the details of the transfer of appropriations within major account classifications as described in a resolution approved by the Board at their December 19, 2011 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Sundra Penick Whitham to serve on the Switzerland County Public Library Board in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mrs. Moore.

In a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz, the Board unanimously approved an Endowment Requests for \$16,675.00 for Transportation Department to purchase new FCC required narrow band radios to replace current bus and hand-held radios.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve a \$30,129.53 Endowment Request for Band instruments and Flag Corps equipment and uniforms. Mrs. Peters seconded the motion and the Board's vote to approve the request was unanimous.

The Board was presented with two Extra Curricular Activities Fund Raiser requests. In a motion by Mr. Truitt, and seconded by Mr. Daugherty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the sale of cookie dough to students and parents for the Freshman Class Fund. The second request was not voted on due to Mr. Hocker's concerns that it might be in violation of current gaming laws.

Mr. Jones, Mr. Druba, Mr. Noel and Mrs. Pennington participated in making a power point presentation to the Board regarding a new teacher evaluation system called RISE which the state believes is the most appropriate for schools to use. The principals explained that they would have to go through six days of extensive training on the system and then they would be training their teachers who need to be very much aware of what will be expected of them so they can be prepared. They said that most schools are using the RISE model because if they wanted to use another model, they would first need permission from the state to do so. Mr. Druba said President Obama had given Indiana and nine other states exemptions from the No Child Left Behind act since they are going

to be using such tough evaluation systems. They gave the Board a basic overview: The two major components of the RISE system are Professional Practices and Student Learning and the four evaluation categories the Primary Evaluator has to choose from are Highly Efficient, Efficient, Improvement Necessary, and Ineffective. As a result of the evaluations, a teacher's base salary cannot be lowered, but money can be added if they achieve a Highly Effective or Effective rating, which has very rigid criteria. If a teacher receives a rating of Improvement Necessary or Ineffective, they must be put on an Improvement Plan. The teacher must tell the Evaluator what they plan to do to improve their weaknesses and the Evaluator must help them achieve that goal. Three main areas of the Teacher Effectiveness program are Planning, Structure, and Leadership for which they can receive additional points. In a fourth area, Professionalism, a teacher can only have points taken away. Every teacher starts out with the competency rating of Effective. One of the things that will change for the Principals as Evaluators is that they will be spending much more time in the classrooms in order to make a more accurate and fair evaluation and as a result will not be as accessible to teachers and parents who walk in and want to speak with them. In the Student Learning portion of the system, some of the evaluation criteria will be ISTEP growth, school wide achievement, college career readiness and graduation rates. Teachers will need to submit their plans for reaching their objectives in these areas well before the school year starts. Dr. Jones said the Principals and Assistant Principals are required by law to attend training sessions which are conducted by the Wilson Center and other service centers in the State.

Terry Lancer of RQAW gave a presentation to the Board regarding possible renovations to Switzerland County Elementary School based on the Board's input and observations he and one of his Engineers made during a walk-through. Mr. Lancer provided information on two concepts regarding a new wing on the west side of the building to house additional students if a decision was made to house sixth grade students from that district. There were four classrooms in each concept, but one of them involved more of a relocation of the road around the building and relocation of utilities. In both scenarios, playground areas would need to be moved. Mr. Lancer also presented the Board with a list of items that the Board might want to consider changing or repairing. Some of the items on the list were kitchen modifications; electric thermal storage unit replacement; playground upgrades; renovations to Administration and entry; replacement of 650 light fixtures and ceiling grids and tiles; replacement of drain down sump / heat pump piping system insulation; renovation of restrooms and drinking fountains; interior finishes upgrades, such as new doors, terrazzo wall base, and paint; addition of built-in classroom storage cabinets in classrooms; and a gym expansion or a new gym, with seating for 500. Mr. Phipps said since this is the first presentation, he would like for the other Board members to look over the list and the associated costs so that on February 27th they could give Mr. Lancer a more detailed idea of what they would like to see done. One of the ideas that the Board members agreed upon was that with the addition of four classrooms, not a lot of student growth was being considered and it would be less expensive to go ahead and add another classroom now, rather than wait for the cost of labor and materials to increase. Mr. Lancer said the costs on the list were construction costs only. He said soft costs, such as interest on money borrowed for the project, was not included in the cost list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Jones asked if the staff's ideas or thoughts would be considered if the project were approved. Mr. Lancer said he had sent out his project architect who spoke with the kitchen staff and some others regarding their concerns and will do that more exhaustively once the project is approved. Mr. Jones also asked if the public will be informed about the financing of the project. Mr. Hocker said as long as the project stayed in these cost ranges, it would not be subject to a referendum. Mr. Lancer said anything over one million dollars would require a 1028 hearing.

Barb Covington asked about the timeline for the project's completion. Mr. Lancer answered that there was no timeline at this point. He said he was just making a presentation regarding his observations of the building and possible items the board might want to address, but that the building addition would take at least eight months. She also asked if the addition of a lunch line had to do with not having enough room for them to sit in the cafeteria. Mr. Lancer said the restructuring of the kitchen has to do with expediting the lunch line by opening two lines instead of having the one. Mr. Jones said the issue is more the serving than the seating.

Gerry Peters asked if it would be structurally sound to use the east wall as a common wall for the existing gym and a new gym or addition. Mr. Lancer said there would probably be some new structure to hold the load, but it could probably be used as a common wall between the gymnasiums.

Connie Wallace said as a parent she wanted to give some input. She said from her understanding of the plans for Switzerland County Elementary, the number of classrooms was based on twenty students per classroom and felt that was a large number of students. She wondered if enough rooms were being considered.

PERSONNEL:

The resignation of Angela Powers was approved unanimously by the Board in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Waltz.

Mr. Roberts moved to approve Andrea Brogan to serve as a Volunteer Assistant Track Coach. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Greg Grove was approved unanimously by the Board to serve as JV Baseball Coach in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Waltz.

The Board unanimously voted to approve Kodi Thayer to serve as Varsity Volleyball Coach and Summer HS Volleyball Coach in a motion by Mr. Phipps, seconded by Mr. Roberts.

The Board's vote to approve Ashley Chase as the Girls Summer Basketball Coach was unanimous. The motion to approve the position was made by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the following Professional Leaves in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mrs. Peters:

- Kodi Thayer / Deb Seaver: BPA State Leadership Conference, Indianapolis, 3/18 to 3/20
- Cindy Haskell / Wilma Swango: IN Assoc. of School Bus. Officials Annual Conference, French Lick, 5/8 to 5/11

USE OF FACILITIES:

In a motion by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Truitt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Use of Facilities requests:

- HS Biology Room – V. Smith for Kiwanis Club's Costa Rica Presentation, 3/7 or 4/4, 6-7pm
- SCE Gym – L. Powell for Olive Br. Youth Group Basketball, 1 Sunday ea. month in 2012, 12:30-2:30pm
- HS – V. Smith for Relay For Life rain backup, from 4:30pm, 6/8 to 1:00pm, 6/9/12
- SCES - L. Webb for Afternoon ROCK (Substance Abuse Program), 2/28/12, 2:50 to 5:15pm
- HS Café – M. Jones for Meet the Candidates Democrat Dinner, 4/21/12, 5-9pm
- SCES - D. Turner for Good News Club, 7 Mondays, 3/5 through 4/23/12, 2:30 to 5:15pm
- JC – C. Wallace for Good News Club, 6 Tuesdays, 3/6 through 4/17/12, 2:50-4:45pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Jones, announced the following meetings:

- Next Endowment Meeting, Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 5pm
- Executive Session Only Meeting on February 22, 2012 at 6pm
- Executive Session and Special Board Meeting on Monday, 2/27/12, 4:00 and 5:30pm
- Next Regular Board Meeting on March 19, 2012

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mrs. Peters asked if someone could make an RTI presentation to the Board at the March meeting so they would know what it is all about.

Mr. Daugherty said we need to educate the public about what certain terms mean in relation to education. He said those who deal with it on a daily basis know what the terms mean but the general public may not know what is being talked about.

Mrs. Moore agreed and said if a parent sees that a teacher is let go because they don't meet the required standards under the new RISE evaluation system and they feel that teacher taught their child perfectly, there is going to some protesting from the public. She said there needs to be better communication with the public so they can be educated about this. Mrs. Moore addressed Mrs. Thayer and said she was proud that she was willing to take on the Volleyball team and wished her much success.

Mr. Daugherty said he had reservations about the teacher ratings. He said he knew teachers started out as Effective, but the percentage on the lower end of not being very good is much higher than the other way around. Mr. Druba said the state is saying it is up to the Evaluator to decide if the Highly Effective teacher gets more money than an Effective teacher. Mr. Druba said if he had one or two teachers who rated Highly Effective and Effective, he would divide that money evenly so there would be no squabbling or animosity among that group of teachers.

Mr. Waltz said the terms rubric and domain were new to education and good luck with educating the public. He said he appreciated Mrs. Wallace's comments about the number of classrooms and questioned whether more needed to be considered for this project as well, as he knew it would cost more money to make additions later.

Mr. Phipps offered Kodi Thayer his congratulations for the ECA position and felt she would do a great job.

Mr. Noel said if anyone needed sectional tickets to contact Mr. Todd. He said Switzerland County played next Tuesday at 7:30pm. Mr. Daugherty said in the past, the Corporation had gone to great lengths to be able to host the sectional here. He said we hosted it for two years in a row and haven't hosted a sectional since. Mr. Noel said the state makes that decision now and Switzerland County applies to host it every year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (7:30 p.m.)

Andy Truitt, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Tonya Moore, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Nancy Peters, Member

James Phipps, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member