

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2012
EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING 4:00 P.M.
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 5:30 P.M.

The School Board of Trustees met before the regular 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. School Board Attorney, Ron Hocker and Matthew Hocker and Michael Jones 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 regular 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, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Michael Jones, Dan Noel, Terry Lancer, Greg Curlin, Ruth Lohide, Jill Cord, Gerry Peters, Sean McGarvey, Mark Powell, John Sieglitz, and Pat Lanman.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the agenda as amended to include ten grant approvals and two Personnel items as well as the omission of one Personnel item. Mr. Daugherty seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Terry Lancer of RQAW presented the Board with a revised set of tentative plans for renovations to Switzerland County Elementary School and estimated costs based on priority ideas he received from the members at last Monday's meeting. Mr. Lancer was asked about timelines. Mr. Lancer said depending on what was being done, he was estimating ten months. Board members were concerned about work being done while the students were present. Mr. Lancer said due to the implementation of Balanced Calendars,

their summer construction time was being reduced so there was no way of getting things done without the presence of students.

Mr. Phipps then asked Business Manager, Wilma Swango, to give some background for how the project might be financed. Mrs. Swango said she and Dr. Jones had worked on a list that might help them prepare for the project. Mrs. Swango said some of the items on Mr. Lancer's list were already scheduled to be paid for at least in part by Capital Projects Plans, such as drinking fountains, classroom door replacements in 2013, heating & cooling in 2014, ceiling tiles replacement, heat pump replacement, bleachers and stage in 2012, and playground wood fiber. Mrs. Swango said there was also money in the Rainy Day Fund which could be used for this project but the appropriations would need to be changed. She said there were a couple of other possible funding avenues for the Board to consider. She said one is the Endowment Committee that might be interested in partnering with the Corporation on this project, and the other is the Common School Fund loans which according to the state are not available right now but it was hoped that something might be done in the month of March. Mrs. Swango said another possibility might be a pool for long term debt from the Indiana Bond Bank. She said she did not know if this was available but she had requested information on it. Mr. Phipps asked if the Common School Fund would be available if the Corporation already owed money to them. Mrs. Swango said the Corporation previously had two Common School Fund loans at the same but one was for construction and the other for technology, so it might very well be the Corporation would be ineligible for two construction loans at the same time. Mrs. Swango said something to keep in mind is that monies from the Capital Projects Funds and Rainy Day Funds would not all be available right now. Mr. Phipps asked Mrs. Swango how it would work to pay for construction if it was decided to use Capital Projects Funds. She said it would be possible if the projects were prioritized and they fit within the amount of money available for that year.

Mr. Phipps said he felt the Board needed to prioritize and then move on. He asked each member of the Board for their ideas on each item on Mr. Lancer's projected cost list. The consensus was that the following priority items should be considered for the renovation project: the addition of a new wing containing five classrooms and restrooms to accommodate extra students based on the presumption that the sixth grade students from the East Enterprise district would again be attending that school; the replacement of heat pumps and electric thermal storage units; playground updates to bring them up to code; the restructuring of the administration area, main office, and clinic to increase security and efficiency; the replacement of 650 light fixtures and grids in tiles to conserve energy; and the remodeling of restrooms to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act and to conserve water. After much discussion, it was decided that the cost of widening the gymnasium was not feasible as the outside wall was a weight bearing wall. An alternate idea of lengthening the gym was brought up and Mr. Lancer said he could do a cost projection on that possibility, but the majority of the Board felt this was not a priority at the present time. Most members of the Board felt built-in storage cabinets in the classrooms was a good idea, but felt sketches were needed to be examined before deciding whether or not to make it part of the renovation project. The majority of the Board also felt that the terrazzo wall base and painting was not a priority at this time and

should be looked into at some other time. Mr. Jones was asked to see what might be done about making the kitchen serving line work more efficiently without having to do any restructuring, such as beginning the first lunch session at 10:15. Mr. Roberts said that the serving line situation was adequate years earlier when the sixth grade was at the school and asked Mr. Jones to investigate and find out how it worked in the past. Mr. Jones was also asked to check on the status of the rooftop exhaust fans and the make-up air handling units before the Board decided upon including them in the renovation project.

The Board asked Mr. Lancer if he could come back the first week of March to make a presentation at a joint meeting of the School Board and the Endowment Corporation. Tentative meeting dates of March 5-7, 2012 at Switzerland County Elementary School at 5:30 were discussed. Dr. Jones said she would need to check with members of the Endowment Corporation the following evening before confirming a meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the following ECA fundraisers in a motion by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Truitt:

- Ticket raffle for half a pig for the purchase of HS Baseball equipment
- Snappy Tomato Pizza cards for Girls Basketball summer camp expenses

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve several grants from the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation, Inc. and Dow Corning. Mrs. Peters seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous. They are as follows:

- \$1000 (Dow Corning): Graphing Calculator Purchase: Pam Jones
\$104.78 (VSCF)
- \$395 (VSCF) Sexual Assault Awareness Program: Pam Yates
- \$650 (VSCF) BPA Community Technology Workshops: K.Thayer / D.Seaver
- \$1000 (VSCF) Library Purchase of E-Readers: Anne Findley
- \$1050 (VSCF) Middle School Job Shadowing Project – R. Jesop

In a motion made by Mrs. Moore and seconded by Mr. Truitt, the Board unanimously approved the following grants from Community Foundation of Switzerland County, Inc.:

- \$225 – Kevin McSwain Memorial Fund for Pacer Band
- \$200 – Debbie Minch Memorial Fund for FFA Washington trip
- \$900 – 2011 Pacer Band Endowment Fund Continued Support
- \$43,750 – Technology Based Programming for HS Enrichment & Adult Learning

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jill Cord said the Board needs to think about why the sixth grade students from the Switzerland County Elementary School district were moved two years ago to Jefferson Craig Elementary School. She said it was to gain 14000 instructional minutes and she felt the research has shown that didn't necessarily happen. She asked if there was a study

being done to see how many minutes would be gained or lost by the 6th grade students being moved back into the school. She then asked if this would not be appropriate since it was the reason they had been moved in the first place. Mr. Phipps said the reasons for moving the sixth grade had not resulted in the desired effects and the public sentiment is that they want the sixth grade back out there, so it should be done. Dr. Jones said Switzerland County Elementary students have longer school days than any of the other students in the Corporation. Mrs. Moore said if her memory served her right, the sixth grade students were already at the Middle School when the move was made, so she did not think this was something that needed to be done right away but it would be interesting to know.

Mrs. Cord said she would like to bring to the Board's attention something she feels makes a tremendous impact on the quality of education in Switzerland County and that was the number of teacher assignment transfers to other grade levels, schools, subjects or classrooms initiated by Administrators. Mrs. Cord said even though there are good reasons for most moves, it seems to her that in the past some of the moves in the Switzerland County School Corporation have been excessive and detrimental to the educational process. She said she alone had six different teaching assignments in four school buildings in the last seven years, even though she received good or excellent Administrator evaluations from all areas taught. She said March seems to be the month for making the decisions for teacher transfers, so she is respectfully asking the Board to please consider seriously if the transfer requests made by Administrators are in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Curlin said he has gained a different perspective now that he has young children of his own. He asked the Board to think about their goal for the maximum number of students per classroom or in other words what they wanted the teacher to student ratio to be. He said he was hearing twenty-five students per classroom and asked if that is what they wanted the classroom sizes to be. He said he felt like a sixth classroom would be utilized to achieve a better ratio and ultimately a better grade letter for the school.

Mark Powell said the area around the school at East Enterprise was not developed yet but he knew it would be eventually. He said he feels the student count will increase when that happens and this should be factored into the renovation plans now being considered for the school.

PERSONNEL:

The retirement of Melody Smith was approved unanimously by the Board in a motion by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Waltz.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve Marla Edwards to serve as the Department Chairperson for Guidance. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the ECA recommendation was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve Mrs. Hendricks to take a Professional Leave April 11 through April 13, 2012 to Whiting, Indiana for the 2012 Preserving Indiana’s Historic Places Conference in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Dr. Jones made the following announcements regarding upcoming meetings:

- Next Endowment Committee Meeting – Tuesday, 2/28/12
- Executive Session Board Meeting – Wednesday, 2/29/12
- Next Regular Board Meeting – Monday, 3/19/2012
- Tentative Joint Meeting of School Board and Endowment Committee - 3/6/12 at SCES at 5:30pm

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mrs. Peters asked Mr. Noel if the North Central Association was at the school now. Mr. Noel said they would be arriving on the 19th of March. He said the reports have been completed, but are now being tweaked. He said North Central’s final report would be on March 21, 2012.

Mr. Waltz said he felt there were some good public comments and thanked them for their interest.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (7:50 p.m.)

Andy Truitt, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Tonya Moore, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Nancy Peters, Member

James Phipps, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member