

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 27, 2012
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 8:30 A.M.

The Board of School Trustees for the Switzerland County School Corporation met on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 8:30am in the Board Room of the Administration Office, located at 1040 West Main Street in Vevay, Indiana.

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, John Sieglitz, Rob Banta, Tony Spoores, Sean McGarvey, Angela Grubbs, Pat Lanman, Michael Jones, Rhonda Pennington, Jeff Weales and Sally Weales.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the agenda as amended to omit claims and include a resignation under Personnel. Mr. Daugherty seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of 6/04/2012 in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Jones recommended that the Board approve a contract with Darrell Hansel to serve as the Corporation's Title 1 Administrator for the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Daugherty said at the last meeting, Mr. Hansel indicated that it was his intention to provide this service for one year and then let someone else take the reins. Dr. Jones said that was the plan. Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the contract. Mr. Waltz seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: AYES: Daugherty, Moore, Phipps, Roberts, Waltz. NAYS: Truitt, Peters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

PERSONNEL:

Dr. Jones said the interview committee recommending Sally Weales from a pool of twenty candidates for the position of Switzerland County Elementary School Principal, consisted of Board members, Jim Phipps, and Andy Truitt; Administrators, Michael Jones and Elizabeth Jones; SCES staff members, Sharon Barbour and Regina Miles; and parent, Laura Schroer. Dr. Jones said the deciding factor for the recommendation was the fact that Mrs. Weales had a background in Elementary Curriculum which will play an important role in the new evaluation process. Mr. Phipps said he was impressed with the qualifications of the field of candidates and the five that were selected for interviews. The Board approved the employment of Mrs. Weales as the SCES Principal in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Roberts. Mrs. Weales will have a two-year contract on an Administrative salary formula and benefits. The vote to approve the employment as stated was as follows: AYES: Truitt, Roberts, Phipps, Daugherty, Peters, Waltz. ABSTAIN: Moore.

The resignation of Integrated Chemistry/Physics teacher, Timothy Eddy, was unanimously approved by the Board in a motion by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Roberts. Mr. Phipps asked about the posting for the position. Dr. Jones said it was posted the day that the resignation was received because of time issues. Mrs. Grubbs, who is in charge of the school and the IDOE website postings, said the closing date on the posting was the end of July. Mr. Phipps mentioned that there was a little bit of an issue brought to his attention about interviews being conducted before the closing date on the posting for another position and would like the posting period to be up before the interviews began. Mr. Jones said sometimes postings say until filled and he needed to make sure he understood what the right procedure is. Mrs. Grubbs said on the Corporation website, the posting for Mr. Eddy's position states the closing date as "until filled", but the IDOE website requires a closing date, so she put in the date as July 21 which could be changed. Mr. Phipps said he felt this gave an unfair advantage to some people if interviews begin before the posted closing date. Mrs. Peters and Mr. Daugherty expressed the same sentiment. Mr. Waltz asked if the Corporation was advertising in Kentucky and Ohio. Mr. Spoores said he had received one application from Florida and several from Kentucky for the Middle School position. Dr. Jones also mentioned that one applicant for the Spanish position was from Texas, so she felt applicants were getting the information. More discussion followed regarding deadlines for postings. Mr. Phipps said this was probably a topic that should be discussed further at another time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Dr. Jones said she had provided the Board members with an appropriation report on the Library Funds due to the questions brought up at the last meeting regarding the Bake Sale fundraiser to raise money for books. She said she spoke with Mrs. Findley who indicated she was wanting to purchase multiple copies of the same book in order for members of her Reading Club to have their own copy. She said the Reading Club consisted of about ten students and the Library only needs a couple of copies of a book, so Mrs. Findley wants to raise money through the bake sale to purchase the other eight.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Phipps said he would like to have a meeting on July 9 at 5:00pm. He said he had several items he would like to discuss and urged the Board members to bring a list of anything they wished to discuss as well. Among the topics Mr. Phipps wished to discuss at this meeting are:

- 1) Old Administration Building – The insurance coverage is through the end of 2012. Mrs. Swango is checking to see if liability insurance can be retained, but indicated the underwriter cannot answer this question until October.
- 2) Superintendent Evaluation Model – Mrs. Peters said she thinks the State approved model will serve the Corporation well.
- 3) Superintendent’s long-term and short-term goals
- 4) Meeting with new High School Principal about Nova-Net and other things
- 5) High School Athletic Director Responsibilities
- 6) Capital Projects Fund Plans
- 7) RISE Model Compensations
- 8) Central Office Situation – HR and Business Office

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Phipps presented Dr. Jones with a clock in honor of her retirement. He thanked her for the 24 years of service she has provided to the Corporation and said he has enjoyed working with her over the years. Mr. Phipps said he felt she had grown into the position of Superintendent, coming in at a difficult time during the aftermath of embezzlement of funds from a prior Business Manager. He said she has been a great leader and considered her a friend.

Mrs. Peters said she wanted to mention that she was working to make sure the Corporation’s Policy Manual was up to date. She said she has tried contacting the State liaison several times since January and is now waiting in the wings to hear from her.

Mrs. Peters said she was also concerned that with the frustrations in all of the changes being made at the State, by evaluating Administrators every three years, the Corporation might be remiss in following up with things. She said she personally felt, with Jefferson-Craig receiving a D rating, that the Administrator in that building should have been evaluated this year. Mrs. Pennington said the State made an error by judging on two different scales at the same time and that Jefferson-Craig had actually received a C rating. She said the Corporation, as a whole, has received an A rating. Mrs. Pennington said this happened to schools all over the State, not just ours. Mrs. Moore wanted to know why the Board did not know about this. Mrs. Pennington said she had told the Board. Mrs. Peters said it was her understanding that the sixth grade scores brought the school’s rating down. Dr. Jones said it was actually fifth grade test scores that brought the rating down. She said the Board may not have understood the terminology that was in the report that Mr. Ross gave at a Board meeting and apologized for that. Mrs. Peters asked if this C rating means average or above. Mrs. Pennington affirmed.

Mrs. Moore said she wanted to state the reason she abstained from the vote for Principal at Switzerland County Elementary School. She said she knew the staff did a wonderful job with the interviews but she wanted to ask the candidates some questions and did not get a chance to do that.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (9:05 a.m.)

James Phipps, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Tonya Moore, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Nancy Peters, Member

Andy Truitt, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member