

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2012
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Mr. Phipps called the 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 Mr. Michael Jones, Cindy Haskell, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Eric Cole, Paula Kinghorn, Dawn Powell, Kathryn Williams, Melody Reese, Todd Reese, Crystal Otter, Brandon Otter, Jed Byrd, Tabatha Coyne, Darlene Marple, Chuck Marple, Bonnie Baur, Fred Ross, Laura Wentworth, Kelly Rogers, Travis Peelman, Dennis Roark, Justin Roberts, Karen Nickell, Jessica Mullins, Tony Spoores, John Druba, Diana Land, Tim Land, Colton Castle, Anthony Henderson, Adam Pietrykowski, Gerry Peters, Neil Washnock, Devin Scudder, James Richards, III, Jerry Clayton, Tammy Beitzel, Lisa Craig, Lean Brown, Colton Brown, Alex Herbert, Connie Wallace, Dustin Wallace, Dakota Wallace, Matt Levell, Carol Smith, Rick Wallace, Josh Deck, Josh South, Ryan Jesop, Tammy Hayes, David Todd and Gregg Goewert.

Mr. Phipps announced that the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the particulars regarding the starting of a football program. He said his plans were to bring the topic up for a vote at the Board's next regular monthly meeting which was to be held the following Monday, November 19, 2012.

Mr. Jones started by explaining that he realized in order for the Board to make an informed decision about the start-up of a football program, all aspects regarding the program needed to be explored, but no more important than the consideration of potential funding and the status of the Budget which has already been approved for the upcoming year.

Mr. Jones said he has seen things happen when community people rally around something they believe in. He said he saw it in the school system with wrestling and now football. He said he did not think things happen by chance, but through good decisions by the Board and Superintendents.

Mr. Goewert said one of the questions being asked by educators is how to get boys interested in school. He wants Friday nights to become a community event so that the students and parents can get involved.

Mr. Goewert said he believed that the Corporation's enrollment will increase by 24 students with the addition of an additional major sport. He said, currently, the state reimburses the Corporation \$6,000 per student which should offset the price for startup costs. He said he didn't want students to be taken from other sports and that the coaches are highly encouraged to share athletes. He said one of the questions being posed is whether to start at the Middle School and have a "C" team at the High School.

Mr. Goewert made mention of some of the things that would need to be done such as irrigation; 2 practice fields; expansion of the mower/equipment shed; installation of 3 gates; the addition of restrooms through Capital Projects funds in year two, with portables being used during year one; a weight-room schedule needs to be implemented; during year three, bleachers will be needed in anticipation of a varsity season (Gallatin County fans bring their own chairs); field turf which should pay for itself in 7 to 8 years; additional parking; 70 helmets for Middle School and 100 for High School at \$200 to \$220 each; the construction of a building during year two for housing a weightroom, wrestling room, locker rooms, coaches offices, film room and classroom; and of course the startup cost of \$150,000 in equipment, filed goal posts and uniforms and field paint (\$40,000). The cost of insurance is estimated to be \$12,000 per year.

Mr. Phipps mentioned fundraising efforts and asked Mr. Goewert if the Corporation is being expected to pick up the initial costs. Mr. Goewert said that was the plan.

Mr. Goewert said it is his belief that if you market something and work at it, you'll see results. He said the program needs to be phased in and after it is started, then it can be made successful.

Josh South said football parents were going to be seeking funding from everyone from Belterra Casino to Mike's Barber Shop.

Mr. Hocker said it is very awkward to be asking for pledges without commitment. There needs to be an entity and the entity is the parents and community members. He said there must be a procedure where an organization donates funds and the School Board then approves that donation.

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve an amended pledge form presented by Mr. Hocker. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous.

Mr. Waltz wondered how many kids were actually going to play. He said his experience has been that more will come out than will stay on the team. He said the Community really needs to get involved and be supportive. He also wondered if other schools are making money on their football program. Mr. Todd said he spoke with Gallatin County and they are not losing money on their football program.

Mrs. Peters wondered about the effect this was going to have on hiring classroom teachers. She said a trainer will cost \$10,000 and felt that money would be better used

for catching up students that are behind in credits. She said there is going to be a negative impact on a student's education when there are 25 to 30 kids in one classroom.

Mr. Truitt said this is a huge undertaking. He said Mr. Spoores and Mr. Todd already have lives and they don't have time for something this big. He said if an additional Athletic Director is hired, then that is another person's salary and benefits which will be coming from the General Fund.

Some of the communities' comments regarding football are as follows:

Karen Nickel said she did not have children or grandchildren in school, but she wanted to mention some facts that she heard regarding football and wanted to say that she hoped the school would use the same helmets used by professionals. She said she heard a pediatrician state that no student under the age of 14 should be playing tackle football. She said they had suggested testing the kids for concussions before and after a game. She said she was only stating these facts in hopes the Board would make an informed decision.

Eric Cole said he wanted to speak both as a parent and as a past participant of football. He wondered if the benefits outweighed the negatives. Some of the pros Mr. Cole mentioned were that more male students will be physically active and more engaged in school. He said this can encourage students to achieve better grades. He mentioned that the addition of football could possibly bring in more students. Mr. Cole also listed some cons. He said football and wrestling were predominantly male sports and did not want there to be a gender gap. He said no numbers were being released to the public about the cost of locker rooms. He said if more students are drawn to the school for this sport, we may see larger classroom sizes. He said teachers have not received a pay raise for the past two years and wondered what impact the addition of football will have on the General Fund. He said he was also afraid the soccer program will suffer. Mr. Cole said he personally loves football and will be the first person to buy a ticket and support it if it comes. He said he would like to see numbers published in the newspaper outlining exactly what this program is going to cost.

Tom Reese said football will have injuries, but they can be avoided with proper training and conditioning of athletes. He said according to percentages, cheerleading has more injuries than any other sport.

Tom Coyne said he has kids and friends with kids that play football and he encourages it. He said a child can get a concussion from a skateboarding accident and has seen pretty severe injuries in basketball.

Connie Wallace said she has seen real success with the young footballers. She said there were 88 kids involved and could not thank Madison enough for their support. She said that program had all started with support from bake sales. She said they could start there again, and then go to Corporate Sponsors, but it was kind of hard to get them to commit if the football program wasn't already up and going. Mrs. Wallace said she believed

playing on a football team teaches kids that a good work ethic will take them a long way and that hard work and dedication are part of a successful life.

Lisa Craig wondered about the Band and what their expectations would be. Mr. Goewert said he has been very up-front and honest with Mrs. Beitzel about his expectations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS (SUPERINTENDENT):

Mr. Jones announced that the next Regular Board Meeting would be held November 19, 2012 at the Administration Building.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Daugherty said he would like to make a closing comment in response to an earlier comment about a gender gap in sports programs. He said there were currently 10 varsity sports for girls and 9 for boys.

Mr. Phipps asked each of the Board members to consider all the facts that have been presented to them and to come ready to talk more about football at Monday’s meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (7:04 p.m.)

James Phipps, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Tonya Moore, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Nancy Peters, Member

Andy Truitt, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member