

December 17, 2012

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2012**  
**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 Administration Office to discuss a job performance evaluation of an individual employee and for the discussion of strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

The Board members present were Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz. Michael L Jones, Superintendent and School Board Attorney, Matthew Hocker was also in attendance.

The Board discussed no subject matter in the Executive Session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, the Executive Session meeting was adjourned.

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

Vice President, William Roberts called the regular meeting to order and led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board members in attendance were Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz. Mr. Phipps and Mr. Daugherty were unable to attend.

Others in attendance were Michael L. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Matthew Hocker, Rhonda Pennington, John Druba, Fred Ross, Gregg Goewert, William Carpenter, Tammy Hayes, Jill Cord, Tony Spoores, Sean McGarvey, Angie Grubbs, Pat Lanman, Kathy Williams and Greg Curlin.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2012 meeting in a motion by Mrs. Peters, seconded by Mr. Waltz.

**FUND REPORT:**

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the October fund report as submitted. Mrs. Moore seconded. There being no further questions, the Board voted unanimously to approve the report.

**CLAIMS:**

The following Vendor Claims were presented for approval in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Waltz:

- Prewritten: #43826 through #43827; #44012 through #44035; and #44029
- New: #44107 through #44113; and #44114 through #44143

The Board voted unanimously to approve the claims as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Waltz moved to approve the 2013-2014 School Calendar as presented. Mr. Truitt seconded. Mrs. Moore said she noticed that her calendar showed Memorial Day as a makeup day. Mrs. Grubbs said that was an error that has been changed. Mr. Truitt asked that the correct version of the calendar be sent to the Board members. The Board's vote to approve the calendar was unanimous.

Mrs. Moore moved to approve Mrs. Grubbs to proceed with a Corporation Newsletter. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The Board unanimously approved the following ECA fundraisers in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mrs. Peters:

- Fellowship of Christian Athletes – selling pink camouflage bracelets for Susan G. Komen charity, January, 2013 (Sponsor: Yates)
- Golf Teams – Equipment and game raffle for February 15, 2013 (Sponsor: Wheeler)

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ISTEP Coordinator, Mr. Fred Ross, gave a power point presentation explaining each school's test results and grade reports given by the State. He went through each grade level's scores for each building. Mr. Ross said there had been an appeal filed on behalf of each school with the IDOE's scoring committee citing concerns regarding the grades, but all appeals were denied. The overall grade for the Middle School was a B, earning 3.50 points out of a maximum of 4.0. Switzerland County Elementary School's grade was a D, earning 1.50 points of 4.0. Jefferson-Craig Elementary School earned an overall grade of C, with 2.00 points. Switzerland County High School's overall grade was a D, earning 1.75 points. A school's grade is based on the following scale:

A = 3.51 - 4.00  
 B = 3.00 - 3.50  
 C = 2.00 - 2.99  
 D = 1.00 - 1.99  
 F = 0.00 - 0.99

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Corporation and the Switzerland County Classroom Teachers Association regarding retirees. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous. The text of the document reads as follows:

*Memorandum of Understanding*

*Between the Board of School Trustees of the Switzerland County School Corporation ("Board") and the Switzerland County Classroom Teachers Association ("SCCTA")*

*Background:*

*At the time of negotiating the terms of the 2012-2013 school year contract between the parties, both parties believed that no teacher was in the process of seeking severance benefits under the Early Retirement and Severance Benefits provisions of the Master Contract between the parties for the 2011-2012 school year. It now appears that one or more teachers may have been contemplating early retirement.*

*Agreement:*

*The parties agree that teachers who have taught in the Switzerland County School Corporation or component thereof, for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive years and give final notice of their retirement prior to March 15, 2013 for the 2013-2014 school year shall qualify for severance benefits without having provided notice prior to the last day of the school year.*

*This MOU shall apply to teachers seeking early retirement prior to the 2013-2014 school year.*

Mr. Truitt moved to approve several new High School Courses as presented. Mrs. Moore seconded. Mrs. Moore asked if one of the teachers from the music department would be teaching those classes. Mr. Goewert said any licensed teacher with a background in music will be eligible to teach the music classes. Mrs. Peters asked if all of the classes were classified as elective classes with no requisite for graduation. Mr. Goewert said that was correct. The Board unanimously approved the new classes as follows:

- Leadership (1 semester), Grades 9-12
- Rock & Roll History, a High School Course (1 semester), Grades 9-12

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- Music Therapy, a Tool for Resilience (1 semester), Grades 9-12
- Percussion Tech (1 semester), Grades 9-12
- Beginning Guitar (1 semester), Grades 10-12

The Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the Treasurer to pay claims and make transfers within selected funds as submitted in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz. The approved resolution is as follows:

*WHEREAS, It is necessary to have Board action in order to pay claims and to transfer Appropriations within major account classifications; and*

*WHEREAS, It is deemed to be in the public interest to facilitate the payment of amounts which are owed by the school corporation, and to ensure that adequate appropriations are available for payment of such claims;*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board authorizes the Treasurer to pay outstanding claims and to transfer appropriated amounts within the 2012 General, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Transportation and Bus Replacement Funds between December 18, 2012 and December 31, 2012. A claim docket and an appropriation transfer report for this period will be presented to the Board at the regularly scheduled Board meeting in February, 2013.*

*Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.*

The Board unanimously approved a list of students submitted by Guidance Counselor, Marla Edwards, requesting early graduation in a motion by Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Truitt. Those students are as follows: Austin Boggs, Kyle Brubaker, Emily Bush, Taylor Hart, Sarah Karaus, Cory Scudder, Bryanna Wells, Desirae Griffin, Katlyn Stephenson and Holly Bright.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Pat Lanman encouraged the Board to look at ways to eliminate school involvement on Sundays. He said this was one day in the week that should be savored as a day to spend with families. He said he feels kids actually perform better when they have had that day to rest. He said he greatly respects those trying to schedule their events, but feels that it can be done without that one day a week.

Mr. Goewert said he would like to get a list of all those things that happen on Sundays because he agrees one hundred percent.

Mrs. Kathy Williams said she felt the Board needed to offer incentives for other school personnel to become spare bus drivers and to put adds in the paper each week for more bus drivers. She asked if there was any way that another load of gravel could be put back in the bus yard to alleviate the mud puddle by the gas tank.

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**PERSONNEL:**

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve an Amended Teacher's contract for extended days for Kyle Woolston. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous. Mr. Woolston's days were extended from 193 to 201 days.

Mr. Jones said there were two outgoing Board Members that he would like to recognize for their service. Mr. Phipps was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Roberts presented Tonya Moore with an engraved clock and thanked her for serving as a Board member for the last four years.

**PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:**

The following Professional Leave request was unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mrs. Peters.

- Jonathan Grice – Jan. 17-19, 2013 for Indiana Music Education Assoc. Conf. at Ft. Wayne.

**USE OF FACILITIES:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Superintendent, Michael Jones made the following announcements:

- Next Endowment Meeting: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 5pm
- Special Reorganizational Board Meeting on January 7, 2012 at 5pm
- The rain has hampered things somewhat, but the base for the footers is being poured at the construction site at SCES
- Peggy Eckerty won the Caleb Mills Indiana History Teacher of the Year for 2012

**BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:**

In light of the recent school shootings, Mrs. Peters wanted to know if individual classroom doors could be locked. Mr. Druba said they could at the Middle School. Mrs. Weales said at Switzerland County Elementary School, the Pod doors can be locked and individual classroom doors have the potential to be locked, but only with a key. She said some teachers have already expressed concerns and their crisis team would be meeting in early January to discuss options. Mr. Goewert said at the HS, the individual classroom doors can be locked. Mr. Druba said over Christmas Break, Mr. Sieglitz was going to install a better camera which was needed to see who is outside.

Mrs. Peters asked if there were regularly scheduled drills for emergency situations like fire and tornado drills. Mrs. Weales said a state law requires fire and tornado drills twice

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a year as well as lockdown situations and the school does practice those in compliance with the law.

Mr. Spoore said to be honest, he is not absolutely confident that you could ever be prepared for a situation such as that. He said since the occurrence of the Connecticut incident, they have been re-evaluating current safety procedures. He said he contacted the YMCA today to discuss situations that might arise while the students are in that facility. He said he has contacted the sheriff's office and town police and is going to be meeting with Officer Richards and Sheriff Leap to discuss some additional safety measures and looking at grants that might help fund the placement of security personnel in the buildings. Mr. Druba said he felt the Corporation's Safety Specialists, Mr. Spoore and Mr. Todd, do an excellent job.

Mr. Waltz said something like this can happen anywhere at any time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Truitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Moore seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (6:35 p.m.)

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Unable to Attend  
James Phipps, President

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Unable to Attend  
Wayne Daugherty, Member

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William Roberts, Vice President

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Nancy Peters, Member

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Tonya Moore, Secretary

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Andy Truitt, Member

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Vernon Waltz, Member