

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2013
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 4:00pm at the Switzerland County School Corporation's Administration Office for the discussion of strategy with respect to collective bargaining, identified by Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2).

The Board members present were Mrs. Peters, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Deck, and Mrs. Hayes. Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz were unable to attend. Mr. Michael L. 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:

Mrs. Peters called the regular meeting to order and led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE:

Board members present for the public session were Mrs. Peters, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Deck, and Mrs. Hayes. Mr. Truitt and Mr. Waltz were unable to attend.

Others in attendance were Mr. Michael L. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Matthew Hocker, Pat Lanman, Rhonda Pennington, Sally Weales, Vickie Althoff, Cathy Curry, Amanda Curry, Adam Curry, Jill Cord, Sean McGarvey, Josh South, Tony Spoores, Gregg Goewert, David Todd, Melody Smith, Peggy Eckerty and Greg Curlin.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Deck made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a Memorandum of Understanding concerning an ECA position and the omission of a Professional Leave request. Mrs. Hayes seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Amended minutes of the School Board meeting of January 07, 2013 were approved unanimously in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mrs. Hayes with rephrasing in the last sentence of the paragraph regarding Board member benefits.

FUND REPORT:

The November Fund Report was unanimously approved by the Board in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Deck. Mrs. Swango explained to the Board that Capital Projects, Transportation Operating and Bus Replacement are all tax funds so the balances showing on November 30th are before the Corporation received December property taxes. She mentioned that a couple of funds are in the negative. One of those funds is Endowment Reimbursement which means that something that would be a normal Endowment expense, was paid for, probably by credit card, and will be reimbursed by the Endowment. She said the Federal grants are reimbursable so they will also run in the red until such time as they are reimbursed which has happened since this report.

CLAIMS:

The Board unanimously approved Payroll and Vendor Claims as follows in a motion by Mr. Deck, seconded by Mrs. Hayes:

- Payroll Claims for 1/18/2013
- Transfer Claims: #44270 (Payroll), #44271 (Self Insurance), #44273 (Payroll)
- Prewritten Claims: #44180, #44247, #44248-44267, #44268 (voided), #44269, #44272, #44274, #44275-44277, #44279-44282
- New Claims: #44283-44332

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the following grants in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Roberts:

- \$125 – Community Foundation of Switzerland County for George Robbins Memorial Fund Science Grant
- \$50,000 – Community Foundation of Switzerland County for Technology Based H.S. Enrichment & Adult Learning Fund
- \$29,057 – Indiana Department Of Education for the High Ability Grant

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve a \$15,000 donation from the Jerrold Fisher Trust Fund for the Football Program. Mr. Deck seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The following ECA fundraisers were unanimously approved by the Board in a motion by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Roberts:

- Soup & Sandwich Dinner before game on 2/15/13 for baseball/softball program
- Soup & Sandwich Dinner before game on 1/29/13 for girls basketball program
- Sale of Valentine Candy-Grams, Feb. 1-14, by JC's 5th grade for Relay for Life

Mr. Deck moved that the Compensation Component of the Master Contract concerning Leadership and Meeting the Academic Needs of Students be approved as submitted. Mrs. Hayes seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous.

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve a Memo of Understanding between the Board and the SCCTA agreeing to add the position of Football Program Coordinator to the Extra-Curricular Schedule of the 2012-2013 Master Contract as a volunteer position. Mr. Deck seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the MOU as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Adam Curry identified himself as the parent of a child who has been a victim of bullying on the bus for over a year. He said he's been hit, thrown at, spit on and verbally abused and the driver hasn't done anything about it. He said the driver claims not to have seen or heard anything going on between his son and the bully. He said the situation has been going on far too long with no action being taken. He was told that there are assigned seats on the bus but this is not being enforced. Mr. Curry said the driver put his son in the front of the bus but the bully was allowed to sit on the seat across from him or right behind him. He said that does not make any sense and doesn't understand why the situation can't be resolved. Mrs. Peters asked Mr. Curry to leave his name and a means of reaching him after the Board has had a chance to look into the matter. He said the school already has all of that information.

Cathy Curry, grandmother of the same student mentioned above, said her grandson told her he did not even want to wake up the next morning because he was being bullied so much. She said other kids are being bullied on the bus and in school and wondered what is going to be done about it. Mr. Jones said he knew that there have been some discipline issues where kids have been suspended. He said the Corporation does have a bullying policy but like everything else, he thought it might need to be revisited and has asked Mr. Hocker to look into it. Mr. Hocker said the bullying policy was originally a recommendation from the state that was adopted locally. Mr. Hocker said he did not think there was anything wrong with the policy. He thought what was being requested here was more enforcement. He said he would review the state law and the Corporation's policy and see what might be changed. Mr. Jones told Mrs. Curry that if she had other ideas or recommendations, he would like to hear them and would welcome her input.

Mr. Curry asked if it was a law that every bus has a video camera. He said his son rode two buses each day and one of them has a camera but the other doesn't. Mr. Jones said it was not a state law that the buses be equipped with cameras, but that Mr. Sieglitz was in the process of getting better cameras for them. Mr. Sieglitz said he is working on replacing all of the VCR video cameras with digital ones and they will be put in all of the Corporation owned buses as well as those owned by outside contractors. He said he has gotten prices for them and is bringing his proposal to the Board so it is in the works. He

said they are quite expensive, at around \$100,000, so funding for them is being looked into.

Mrs. Curry said she used to be a bus driver and knows it is a difficult job. She said she also knows there are big mirrors placed so that the driver can look and see what is going on behind them. She wondered why the bus driver cannot see what is going on when her grandchild is sitting right behind her and the child doing the bullying sits right behind him. She said in one day, a substitute driver on that bus saw everything that happened. She said eventually, when her grandchild reaches the point that he can't take it anymore, he will be the one getting into trouble for defending himself. She said she does not think the Board is taking this situation seriously enough.

Mrs. Curry wondered when the cameras will be installed. She asked Board members if they have read the Corporation bullying policy. She said it seems very generic like it had been pulled off the internet somewhere. She wondered if Board members are willing to go so far as putting a Resource Officer in the school why they won't also consider putting bus monitors on the buses.

PERSONNEL:

Mrs. Peggy Eckerty was recognized by the Board for her achievements in winning the State's History Teacher of the Year award. Mrs. Eckerty is in her 35th year of teaching for Switzerland County. She has been a sponsor of or been involved with many different programs such as Pioneer Day, Veterans Day and Statehood Day. Mrs. Eckerty said she had her fingers in some kind of pie about all of the time. Mr. Jones said this was not only an honor for her personally, but it also brings honor to our school on the state level and the Corporation was very proud of her. Mrs. Peters said if she shows the level of passion in her other endeavors as she showed at this year's Veterans Day Program, she truly deserves her award. Mrs. Eckerty received a round of applause.

Mr. Deck made a motion to approve the resignations of Adam Cole and Brian Grigsby from the ECA positions of Girls Varsity Track Coach and Boys Varsity Soccer Coach, respectively. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:

The Board unanimously approved several Professional Leave Requests in a motion by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mrs. Hayes. They are as follows: Amy Bovard, Patricia Bowling, Marlene Jones, and Kathy Keith to 2013 National Classroom Literacy Conference in Columbus, Ohio on 2/4 & 2/5, 2013.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve Mrs. Seaver and Mrs. Thayer's Field Trip request to take the BPA to Indianapolis for State Competitions, Mar. 10-12, 2013. Mrs. Hayes seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous. Mr. Jones said the BPA's performance has been outstanding the last few years, so the expectations for them at this competition is very high.

USE OF FACILITIES:

A motion to approve the use of the cafeteria & gym at SCES by Diana South and Karen Peelman for a benefit for Louis Peelman on February 9, 2013 from noon to 4:00pm was made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mr. Roberts. The Board's vote to approve the use of school facilities was unanimous.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent, Michael L. Jones made the following announcements:

- Next Endowment Meeting to be held Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 5pm
- Next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 18, 2013.

Mr. Jones reported that SCES Construction Site Supervisor, Bill Carpenter, was involved in a car accident a few days ago and was in the hospital but is out now and has been monitoring the construction progress. He said you could now see the outline of the new elementary school building. He also reported that the work with the fire alarm systems is still on-going at Jefferson-Craig and the High School.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Daugherty wanted an update on the construction at Switzerland County Elementary School. SCES Principal, Sally Weales, said the company was running a couple of weeks behind but plan to catch up during Spring Break. Mr. Jones said there will be a construction progress meeting next week.

Mr. Daugherty wanted to speak on the bullying issue. He said bullying is nothing new. He said it went on when he was in school. He said it is different now because there are so many ways to do it. Mr. Daugherty said the current bullying policy gives guidelines for handling bullying situations after they happen. He said he knew that this Board is concerned about bullying. He said he did not have clear answers, but preventing the bullying before it happens needs to be worked on and felt it was basically the result of a lack of respect. Mr. Daugherty mentioned that the Corporation was considering hiring a Resource Officer. He wondered where that officer was going to be, as one person could not be in each building all of the time. He felt that if a person wanted to come into one of the schools and do harm, a Resource Officer is just going to be a stumbling block until the next issue. He said the Board is going to have to do something.

Mrs. Peters asked Josh South how the football program funding was going, other than the generous \$15,000 donation approved at this meeting. Mr. South said there was a couple of thousand dollars that hasn't been donated yet. He said the plan is going to be directed by whoever the coach is. He said there has been some talk about some fund raising events. Mr. Jones said this is part of the football coach's job description.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Deck seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (5:50 p.m.)

Nancy Peters, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Unable to Attend
Andy Truitt, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Josh Deck, Member

Tammy Hayes, Member

Unable to Attend
Vernon Waltz, Member