

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**“Unofficial” MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 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 to discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees, identified by Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9), and to receive information about and interview prospective employees, identified by Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2).

The Board members present were Mrs. Peters, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Truitt, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Deck, and Mrs. Hayes, and Mr. Waltz. 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. Truitt, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Deck, Mrs. Hayes and Mr. Waltz. Others in attendance were Mr. Michael L. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Ronald Hocker, Matthew Hocker, Rhonda Pennington, Sally Weales, Jill Cord, John Druba, Josh South, Ryan Jesop, John Sieglitz, Christopher Jacob, Tony Spoores, Gregg Goewert, David Todd, Melody Smith, Ted House, Angela Grubbs, William Carpenter, Reggie Honaker, and James Richards.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the agenda with the omission of a Project Based Learning Presentation and the addition of an ECA Fundraiser, a Principal’s Building Report and an ECA position recommendation. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2013 meeting in a motion by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mrs. Hayes.

**FUND REPORT:**

Mr. Deck moved to approve the December Financial Report. Mrs. Hayes seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the report was unanimous.

**CLAIMS:**

The following Payroll and Vendor Claims were recommended for approval by the Board in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Truitt:

- Payroll Claims for 2/1/13 and 2/15/13
- Transfer to Payroll: #44370 (Payroll)
- Prewritten Claims: #44278, #44333-44369, #44371-44398, and #44399
- New Claims: #44400-44494

Mr. Truitt asked if the fire hydrant moved in claim #44409 to Bovard & Leap for \$1,588 was the one in front of the Administration Building. Mrs. Swango said that was correct. Mrs. Peters asked about claim #44466 to Purdue University in the amount of \$500. Mrs. Swango explained that this was a certification fee for a program at the High School called Project Lead the Way.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The following ECA fundraisers were unanimously approved by the Board in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Deck:

- \$1 fee to wear hat on Hat Days for JC's Student Council Funds – 2/22, 4/5 & 5/17
- Sale of Thirty-One products for new SCHS Girls Soccer Uniforms – 2/1 to 2/19
- Magazine Sales for HS's FCCLA/FACS classes, 2/6 through 2/22
- Sale of products made by SCES 2<sup>nd</sup> gr. students & t-shirts for PBL project to feed 7,000 meals to African children

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

- \$1850 – Community Foundation of Switzerland County for Pacer Band Endowment Fund Grant for Pacer Band Support
- \$600 – Community Foundation of Switzerland County for Kevin McSwain Memorial Endowment Fund for Pacer Band Support
- \$350 – Debbie Minch Memorial Endowment Fund Grant for FFA's Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve an Appropriation Transfer Report with claim docket as submitted by Treasurer, Wilma Swango. Mrs. Hayes seconded. The resolution authorizing Mrs. Swango to pay claims and make transfers within major account classifications was approved at the December 17, 2012 School Board meeting. The Board's vote to approve the Transfer Report was unanimous.

A motion to approve a contract with ProSource, subject to the terms and conditions stated in the RFP, for the 60-month lease of office machines for the Corporation was made by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. Deck. Mrs. Swango pointed out that ProSource was the low bidder, with Kyocera coming in second and Modern Office Methods in third. Ted House gave a synopsis of the reverse bid process conducted by his company for this project which he pointed out resulted in a significant savings for the Corporation. The Board's vote to approve the contract contingent upon the company's agreement to these terms was unanimous.

Mr. Roberts moved to approve an Endowment Request in the amount of \$31,727.50 for the updating of bus cameras to digital and sound for student safety. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. Mr. Jones explained that 50% of the cost of the upgrade would come from the Corporation's Transportation fund and 50% from the Endowment if they approved the project. The Board's vote to approve the request was unanimous. Mr. Jones added that other Endowment Requests he has received are being put on hold due to the construction project at Switzerland County Elementary School, but in the Spring, the Endowment will probably be in the position where those requests can be considered.

Each of the Corporation's Principals gave reports on what is happening in their buildings and how things are going so far this year:

High School Principal, Mr. Goewert: For the first time since 2007, there has been an increase in student enrollment at the High School which now stands at 434. On the topic of RISE Evaluations, there are 144 observations at the High School that need to be completed. He has spoken with Mr. Sieglitz and the Department Chairs about cuts in State funding tied to the Endowment. He said he was in favor of giving his students laptops as opposed to I-Pads because of the increased responsibility and academic needs of students at the High School level. Mr. Goewert said he was proud of the participants of the Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics this past weekend. He said it was that time of year for Boys Basketball in Indiana and was proud of the school's athletic programs. He said in March, 26 students will be competing in the Business Professionals Association competitions. He mentioned that several of the Band members were gold star award winners. He was proud of the fact that Tyler Thomas was Switzerland County's first student participating in Regional Competition in Wrestling. Mr. Goewert said there always needs to be parent involvement which usually declines at the High School level. With the help of Mr. Todd and Mrs. Edwards, a collection of 32 parents were selected to form a Parents Advisory Group to work on handbooks and dress codes which has generated a lot of good conversation.

Middle School Principal, Mr. Druba: He said every day, more and more students are asking about when they can start Football. This provides him with a chance to ask the students about their grades and discipline referrals which they promise will improve so they will get that chance to play. Fuel-Up, Play Sixty sponsored by the Indiana Colts/NFL donated \$1500 which will be used to fund the painting of a mural in the cafeteria of healthy food choices such as fruits and vegetables during Spring Break. Mr. Druba announced that during the last two weeks, the school has put up an anti-bullying

site on its website inviting comments from parents directly to him, Mr. Spoores and Mrs. Weaver regarding any bullying issues they may know about. Mr. Boggs is also working on putting up a box for students to report anonymous bullying situations. Twelve of fourteen athletes placed in the top three spots in their weight classes at the Wrestling Tournament this Saturday. Mr. Druba gave praise to Mr. Spoores and Mr. Todd for their work in making the all-day affair run smoothly. He said their Drama Club was being started up again this year and 60 students were already signed up so hopefully after ISTEPs, there will be a performance which he will inform the Board about. He said the morale of the students and staff this year is awesome. Mr. Spoores mentioned that the Basketball team is also doing very well and swimming matches were being held at the YMCA. Mr. Druba said he was a firm believer that participation in extra-curricular activities strengthens the students emotionally, physically and academically.

Switzerland County Elementary Principal, Mrs. Weales: A few Project Based Learning projects are going on her building. Kids Against Hunger is the Second Grade's PBL project going on right now. The fourth grade is working on the Blueprint for the Gateway Finish. The ISTEP schedule is complete and everyone is very optimistic about the progress the students have made this year and are hoping to see those scores soar. The Technology Department has installed 25 more cameras. Mrs. Weales said the Construction Project is coming along with big changes in the lighting in the Library. The school's Positive Based Intervention Support System implemented last year to improve student morale will be having a Faculty Has Talent program Friday, March 1, which will also act as the ISTEP kickoff. The fourth round of RISE evaluations will begin in the building tomorrow and hopefully will not interfere with testing. A Science Fair will be held again this year which will be in conjunction with the school's Book Fair with a Science theme. She said the Leadership SAS Team will be working the rest of the year on improving and updating the Student Handbooks. Mrs. Weales said Dean Carter from the State had visited them to help with ideas for revisions to their School Improvement Plans. She said on the subject of Safety issues for the school, 25 working cameras have been added and she and Mr. Spoores and Mr. Todd are working on additional ideas. She spoke with an SRO when they visited Greensburg last week who was excellent and gave them insights on how to empower teachers. The Professional Development goals she set at the beginning of the year have been completed. She said her teachers would like to have more time to work together in groups to build a stronger curriculum.

Jefferson-Craig Elementary Principal, Mrs. Pennington: Mrs. Pennington mentioned that their Drama Club play was held last week and she is happy that there will be a Drama Club for the sixth grade participants to continue on with at the Middle School. She said as part of a positive student driven program, the school now has Cadets. She said you hear so much about what you should not do in cases of bullying, but you don't hear what you should be doing. She said the Cadet program will be expanded to include all students and will have team captains to start with. She said her school also works very closely with Purdue Extension which is continuing their programs in the school. Mrs. Pennington said one of the projects going on in the school involves eggs in an incubator in the Library. Thirty-four chicks are anticipated on March 4 or 5. Professor Popcorn of Purdue Extension and Mr. Tolbert will be coming to the school to speak about nutrition

and fitness. Read Across America will be held on March 1 in honor of the birthday of Dr. Seuss. There will be a Read-In at 2:00pm and members of the community are invited to participate. A two-week Hunter's Education program will be provided to the sixth grade students beginning March 4. Mr. Ross has been working very hard preparing for Intercession and tracking students' progress in preparation for the ISTEP. Mrs. Pennington announced that Glenda Ritz will be hosting a webinar in the Board Room 10-11:30am the next day regarding the RISE Evaluation. She also announced that the school's Kindergarten Registration will be on April 9. Their Science Fair and Book Fair will be held April 15. She said the teachers are very dedicated and the school is a very busy place. Mrs. Peters had a question regarding recess. Mrs. Pennington assured her that every student gets recess. She said in lieu of keeping them in those 30 minutes of recess time for discipline issues, they will receive lunchtime detention during which they will not be allowed to sit with or interact with their friends.

Mr. Waltz said he appreciated weekly reports from the schools as to what was happening in their buildings.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Jones asked Officer Richards to give the Board information regarding the efforts to help finance a Resource Officer for the school Corporation.

Officer Richards said the effort to place a Safety Resource Officer in the schools is still only in the talking stages. He said they are waiting on a legislative bill that may or may not be passed that would provide a grant to fund the position. Mr. Jones said after discussions with various individuals, it has been decided that the position would be covered by a member of the Vevay Police Department. He said the Criminal Justice Institute has all of the information and as soon as the grant process reopens, he will be notified and the process can begin.

Mrs. Peters said her personal concern is that one person cannot do it all. Officer Richards said it would be great if there were two because there is a good deal of distance between the schools downtown and the school at East Enterprise, but financially, he did not think it would be feasible. He said there will still be county officers on patrol out in that area. He explained that a confidential schedule would be set up so that the officer would spend a certain amount of time at each campus. Mr. Waltz agreed with Mrs. Peters that there should be more than one officer.

Josh South of the Town Council said this would mean two additional officers and financially, at this time, it would be impossible to fund that position. Mr. South also mentioned that the grants being looked into are matching two-year grants. Mr. South said when the two years is up, the grant will no longer be paying for half of that officer's salary and the money may not be there to pay them and asked that the Board please keep that in consideration when it came down to the hiring phase of their discussions. Officer Richards felt if the Town Council, the County Council and the Corporation all work together, they could make this happen.

Mr. Goewert mentioned that the last time there was an incident at the school, five officers arrived within one minute of being contacted. He said it was impressive and he appreciated the support from these entities.

Mr. Druba wanted to make a point that a uniform is important, but it is crucial that the person also be able to work well with students and the staff.

### **PERSONNEL:**

Three Extra-Curricular Activities position recommendations were approved unanimously by the Board as follows:

- Amanda Alford – MS Girls & Boys Tract Assist. Coach – Motion: Daugherty / Second: Waltz
- Ryan Jesop – Volunteer Football Coach – Motion: Daugherty / Second: Hayes
- Adam Pietrykowski – Varsity Girls Track – Motion: Daugherty / Second: Truitt

The retirement notice of Rosalind Harrell from her teaching position at the High School at the end of this school year was approved unanimously by the Board in a motion by Mr. Waltz and seconded by Mr. Roberts. Mr. Waltz said Mrs. Harrell was a wonderful lady and dedicated teacher. He said she will be missed.

Mr. Truitt moved to approve the employment of Christopher Jacob to fill the Systems Administrator Assistant position as recommended by Mr. Sieglitz. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion. Mr. Jacob is a graduate of Hanover College in Business and Computer Science. The Board's vote to approve the employment was unanimous.

### **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE / FIELD TRIPS:**

Mr. Roberts made a motion to retroactively approve the Professional Leave requests from Lesa McGarvey and Tara Justice to attend the HASTI Conference in Indianapolis, 2/7 and 2/8, 2013. Mrs. Hayes seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous.

A request from Kyle Woolston to attend a CASE Curriculum Training session at Oregon State University, 7/4-7/18/2013 was approved unanimously by the Board in a motion by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Deck.

### **USE OF FACILITIES:**

The Board unanimously approved the use of the SCES Cafeteria by Sara Holman to hold Cub Scout Meetings from 5:30pm to 8:00pm on the following dates in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Waltz: 2/20, 2/28, 3/20, 3/28, 4/17, 4/25, 5/15, 5/23, 6/19, 6/27, 7/17, 7/25 & 8/21.

There was much discussion regarding the Application for the use of the High School gym submitted by Adam Griffin of WKID for a Chris Cagle Concert from 3:00pm to 10:00pm

on April 25, 2013. Mr. Truitt moved to approve the application contingent upon WKID providing proof of Special Events Insurance coverage acceptable to the Corporation's insurance provider and with the exception to the current policy of not renting the High School gym for non-school events. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Mr. Jones said the Corporation is always looking for community support and felt this was an opportunity that would help several school entities as well as different organizations in the County. Mrs. Hayes said she was all about organized fun but had safety concerns and wondered how many tickets were being sold. Several persons spoke on the issue of how many people could be seated in the gym and how they managed such events as graduation ceremonies when chairs were on the gym floor. The Board's vote to approve the application for the use of the HS gym as specified in the motion was unanimous.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Superintendent, Michael L. Jones made the following announcements:

- Next Endowment Meeting to be held Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 5pm
- Next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2013 at 5pm

Mr. Jones said he wanted to mention that former employee, Susie Burke, passed away recently and hoped everyone would remember the family at this time.

Mr. Jones mentioned that SCES Construction Site Supervisor, Bill Carpenter, had surgery on Valentine's Day and was already back on the job. He said things were coming along and was proposing to have the April 15 Board meeting at SCES so that Board members could do a walk through. He asked Mr. Carpenter to give a report on how things were going. Mr. Carpenter said that things were actually ahead of schedule. He said they have been laying block and there has been a lot of progress. Mrs. Weales said the lights in the library and outside cameras have all been updated and the difference is remarkable.

#### **BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:**

Mr. Truitt wanted to know what is going to be done for the safety of the students while we are waiting for a Resource Officer. He was also doubtful that the state will pay for two officers.

Mr. Daugherty was in agreement with Mr. Truitt and felt something should be done right now. Mr. Daugherty also mentioned that the beams in the front of the Administration Building are turning black and are looking very bad. Mr. Carpenter said the boards were originally treated with polyurethane and felt they should have been painted instead. Mr. Daugherty felt a power sprayer would take care of the black and then something could be done from there. He wants the grounds committee to meet soon.

Mr. Waltz said in the past, the Corporation has always come up with money to do other things so we should be able to come up with the money to pay a Resource Officer.

Mr. Deck said he was in agreement that something should be done quickly.

Mrs. Hayes stated that with a rough estimate for one officer's salary being \$50,000, she did not know how we could come up with \$120,000 for two people.

Mr. Spoore said he shares their concerns which will be conveyed at a Safety Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, at 3:30pm at the Middle School Library with Mr. Jones and representatives from the County Sheriff's Office and the EMS Squad.

Mrs. Peters wondered if a Resource Officer was the only precautionary measure being considered. Mr. Spoore said each of the school building's safety plans are being sent to the police departments and EMS for review and will be making changes to those with comments from those entities being considered. He said during the last fire drill here in town, the fire department actually showed up and witnessed evacuation procedures. He said they have recommendations for each of the buildings based on their observations which will be presented at Wednesday's meeting. Mr. Spoore further explained that officers from the police department are going through the buildings to see where an active shooter might hide. Other things being looked into include getting the drug dogs back in the school and putting safety kits in each classroom that would include class lists, radios, and minor medical kits. Funding for the kits, estimated to cost around \$5,000, is being discussed at a Fire Chief's Association meeting tonight.

Mr. Daugherty said, when looking at just the High School, there are at least 12 entrances, and it seems to be an insurmountable task for one person to provide protection for the students. Mr. Spoore said all you can do is what you can do.

Mrs. Peters said the pride taken in the sport of Wrestling is an awesome thing to see.

Mrs. Peters wondered if we were working on cutting Sunday events. Mr. Spoore responded that even though he agreed whole heartedly on this topic, as an example, the Madison Leagues play all of their third, fourth and fifth grade level games on Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Todd commented that because of High School regulations that the varsity teams cannot play or practice on Sundays, that is the only time Elementary and Middle School teams can find gym space to play and practice.

There was more discussion regarding the necessity of Saturday and Sunday events and what might be done to correct the situation.

Mrs. Peters wanted to convey some things she learned from a meeting she recently attended. She said Senator Smith wants to propose a bill requiring School Board candidates to declare a political party when they run for office because he felt that some voters opting to vote a straight ticket often skip voting for Board members. She begged to differ but she wanted others to know about it. She also mentioned that there is a new bill being discussed which states that Superintendents of School Corporations do not have

to be educators. Mr. Jones said the bill says that a Corporation can petition the State to go that route if they find a non-educator they want to fill that position.

Mr. Hocker stated that he was going to recommend that some policies be eliminated from the Policy Manual as some are covered by state laws and others that are not state laws need to be taken out of the policy manual and included in staff handbooks.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (7:00 p.m.)

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Nancy Peters, President

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William Roberts, Vice President

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Andy Truitt, Secretary

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Wayne Daugherty, Member

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Josh Deck, Member

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Tammy Hayes, Member

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Vernon Waltz, Member