

May 4, 2013

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2013
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING / RETREAT
SESSION 1: 9:10 A.M. / SESSION 2: 12:40 P.M.**

SESSION 1:

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Mrs. Peters called the regular meeting to order at 9:10 AM 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, Ronald Hocker, Matthew Hocker, Erin Deck, Sean McGarvey, Lesa McGarvey, Amanda Cole, Adam Cole and Terry Lancer.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve an amended agenda with the addition of the following New Business items: the approval of a BPA grant; Legislative Updates report by Ron Hocker; and Committee Appointments. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the agenda as amended was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adam Cole gave a presentation regarding formation of a technology committee. His proposal is to redesign what is done in the classroom through technology. He feels there are four obstacles to overcome: We should look at issues from different perspectives. How do we see ourselves as a corporation? What do we want to accomplish? We need to identify problems and seek solutions from all investors.

What does the Community say? Adam surveyed 3 community members. The common perception is that SCSC K-12 needs repair. They believe that there is a "good enough" mentality of educators. Adam stated that perception is not always accurate. He stated that technology allows education to be specific for students' talents and goals. More obstacles are lack of long range planning and communication. 25% of adults living in Switzerland County do not have a high school diploma.

Mr. Daugherty stated that our high school graduation rate is greater than 75%. Mrs. Hayes said that non-degreed adults move into Switzerland County and we are responsible for educating their students, but the parents don't consider it a priority. Mr. Cole said that we must battle the statistic by increasing the number of students achieving degrees.

May 4, 2013

Mr. Daugherty said that we have looked at this problem before but it boils down to dollars. We must also find a way to keep successful students living here.

Mrs. Hayes expressed concern with the Grad Point software which has the goal of graduating students, not educating them. Mr. Jones said that those students will be more employable because they have something they otherwise wouldn't, a diploma. Mr. Cole suggested that the board examine and review the budget with a committee of staff, administrators and community members who are involved in decision making. Mr. Cole said consideration could be given to reduce the number of copiers to save money. Mr. Roberts stated that if asked, teachers would not want to do away with copiers and hire additional teacher/s. Mr. Cole responded that if teachers are taught to use technology, they won't be dependent upon the copiers.

Mr. Jones said that he would welcome the input of all stakeholders. Mr. Truitt said that he doesn't see obstacles, he sees opportunities. We need to include all stakeholders and set our goals to fix it. Mr. Waltz said that technology is the way of the world. How we channel it is a decision we must make. Mrs. Hayes stated that teachers need proper training to use the Ipads the way we should. She also expressed concern that next year's freshmen will not have devices after using them for the past 3 years. Mr. Roberts said that technology is not part of teacher evaluations and that some teachers are afraid of change. Mr. Cole said that we need to fix this so that we don't fail our students and our teachers. Mr. Truitt said if we can't fix it, then we need to find the resources to do so. Mr. Deck said that after years of dedication, some staff members don't care anymore. Mrs. Hayes said that some administrators are not team builders.

Mr. Cole said that today's education is not teaching facts but teaching students how and where to get information.

A break from the meeting was called at 11:10 am. The meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

SESSION 2:

Mr. Hocker began the second session with a legislative update. He reviewed the laws passed this session by Indiana legislators. The major bill is HB1001 which is the biannual budget. The original bill changed the way casino dollars would be handled and would have been devastating to Switzerland County. Under this bill, school funding should increase 2% statewide for 2014 and 1% for 2015. This bill also provides a tax credit to Indiana residents over the next 4 years. Mr. Jones pointed out that this bill forgives charter schools Common School loans obtained for startup costs. This cost is \$91 million.

SEA1 provides the opportunity for schools with greater than 1000 ADM to receive a \$50,000 matching grant to provide for a school resource officer. Mr. Daugherty stated that we will need to find the matching amount either locally or through a federal grant. Mrs. Peter stated that this is a 2 year program match.

May 4, 2013

HEA 1003 expanded the school voucher program to siblings of students who received a scholarship the preceding year.

Mr. Hocker said according to Senate Bill 338, students must pass exams or have an attendance rate of 95% in order for the scores to be waived. A Corporation policy must be adopted by January, 2014.

Per Senate Bill 352, the Corporation must also pass a Gang policy by January, 2014.

Senate Bill 421 says that even though seat belts are not required in school buses at this time, if they are on the bus, the driver must instruct students on how to use them.

SEA 345 requires a policy on the use of seclusion and restraints which focuses on the Corporation's responsibility of providing training for staff with students who have IEP's.

The Bullying Policy format has been revised by the state and requires the Corporation to provide training to staff. Per House Bill 1423, a revised policy must be adopted by January, 2014.

HB 1012 allows for a waiver upon request of the School Corporation to sell a vacant school in less than a two year period. Mr. Hocker said the old Administration Office is not usable as a charter school.

In accordance with House Bill 1004, preschool programs are not funded by the state.

Superintendents of School Corporations are no longer required to have an educational license.

New Business continued with a discussion of Long Range Planning for the corporation. Mr. Jones said he wanted to look at school issues from a different perspective. He told the Board that they and other staff members needed to think about how they view themselves as a corporation and what goals they wished to accomplish. He said they needed to be aggressive about identifying problems and seeking solutions.

The first topic of discussion was the budget. Mrs. Swango provided Board Members with a copy of a Cash Flow Forecast of the General Fund for the year ending December 31, 2013, as well as a Grant and Benefit Calculations Worksheet. She explained how the funding formula works. She also provided Board members with a copy of the state fund formula estimates for 2013, 2014 and 2015 as provided by Representative Frye.

Mr. Jones mentioned that the cash flow estimate does not include any savings from teachers retiring this school year.

Mr. Daugherty asked who teaches at Charter Schools. Mr. Jones stated that Indiana Licensed teachers are employed and that the schools use smaller class size as a selling point to recruit students. Mrs. Peters said that students and parents now have a choice of

May 4, 2013

which school their students will attend. Mr. Truitt asked whether Endowment will be paying textbooks for students this year. Mrs. Swango said yes. Mr. Hocker said that Charter Schools cannot benefit from the Endowment. Mr. Jones told the Board that some Charter Schools are not private, but quasi-public.

Mr. Daugherty stated that Mr. Cole voiced concerns of the staff. Everyone who doesn't understand the budget has concerns. He asked if there is a way to add budget explanations for the staff.

The Board took a short break from 1:54 to 2:06.

The next topic of discussion concerned the grounds. Mr. Daugherty said that we have 3 quotes for football/soccer fields ranging from \$30,000 to \$100,000. He asked whether the Board wanted to use an architect to help determine specs for practice fields. Terry Lancer said that he was attending today regarding a high school safety project. However, he can help create drawings so that the bids will be based on the same information. Nancy asked whether there will be grass by fall. Yes, however the time is short. Mr. Roberts asked about the fee for these engineering services. \$7000-\$8000. Mr. Waltz said that we need like bids, as the current ones do not show the same work being done. Mrs. Hayes stated that we don't know what we are getting for our dollars. Mr. Truitt asked whether bids are required. No. Mr. Lancer said that the higher quote is likely the correct price range.

Mr. Daugherty said that he believes that no additional crown would be necessary for these fields because these are practice fields only. Mrs. Peters asked why crowns are needed on practice fields to which Mr. Lancer responded drainage.

Athletic/Administrative:

Mr. Lancer shared with the Board two proposals for remodeling the entrance/office areas at the High School. The purpose is for safety and security. Remodeling under plan 2 would also move the attendance office and increase the size of the nurse's office. Mr. Roberts asked whether the doors are bulletproof. Mr. Lancers said windows are, doors are not. Mr. Roberts said that the existing doors are not safe. Mr. Lancer said that this construction would reduce the glass by changing to aluminum plank doors. Mr. Lancer stated that option 2 is the less expensive.

Mr. Daugherty asked what hours Dawn Powell works at the high school. Mr. Jones said from 9:30 – 2:30 daily. Mr. Truitt asked about an option to extend the secure vestibule out from the present doors instead of into the building. Mr. Lancer said that can be considered as an option. Mrs. Hayes said that we definitely need to do something with the clinic area. Mr. Daugherty asked whether there are any concerns about the exit from the gym with these plans. Mr. Lancer said no.

Mr. Lancer said that Mr. Druba had contacted him to look at their entrance and to consider a connector between the Middle School and High School buildings for students travelling between classes. Mrs. Peters said that the Board needs a vision. Mr. Lancer

May 4, 2013

said that the estimate to secure the High Schools is \$35,000 to \$40,000 as presented. Doors extended to the outside of the building would be approximately \$35,000 to \$45,000. Mr. Lancer said that the connector between the High School and Middle School would be more expensive. By consensus, the Board agreed for Mr. Lancer to provide a conceptual design for securing the High School entrance.

Mr. Daugherty asked whether everyone was happy with the present mowing situation. He had concerns about the dead grass in the ditch at Switzerland County Elementary. Mr. Waltz stated that the Athletic Director was not happy with the dead grass on the soccer field and the ORVC held here on Thursday. Mr. Jones said that the mowing had been contracted at one time and is now done by employees which did not seem to be working any better. He suggested that the Board may want to consider seasonal employees for the Vevay campus as well. Mr. Deck asked whether Myron Browning can mow. Mr. Jones says that he has mowed in the past.

Mr. Waltz moved to have Lancer develop designs for the football/soccer practice fields. He said even if we have to wait a year to get it done, do it right. Mr. Deck seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts said that someone has to set the specs. Mrs. Peters reminded everyone that if the project is under \$50,000 quotes are acceptable, but the highest quote requires a bid process. Mr. Waltz and Mr. Deck rescinded their motion. Mr. Daugherty asked if a motion is made not to have football, can that decision be changed. Mr. Hocker said yes.

Committee Appointments was scheduled to be the next topic. Due to time constraints, this will be discussed at the May 20th meeting.

A grant in the amount of \$8500 from the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation for the High School BPA Students' travel expenses to the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, May 8-12, 2013 was approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Waltz.

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

Superintendent, Michael L. Jones made the following announcements:

- Next Superintendent /Community Roundtable discussion will be held at the Patriot Town Hall on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 6 PM with no official Board business
- Next Regular School Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2013 at 5pm
- ISBA Region 10 Spring Meeting in Seymour, IN at Pines Evergreen Room on May 21, 2013 at 6pm
- Next Endowment Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at 5 PM
- ISBA Summer Board Member Academy will be held at the French Lick Event Center and Hotel on Monday, July 8 and Tuesday, July 9, 2013 to discuss the legislative changes affecting Indiana public schools

May 4, 2013

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Truitt said that this retreat is the healthiest thing that our School Board has done in a long time.

Mrs. Hayes said that she had heard the following complaints concerning Jeff Craig. The purple color of the cafeteria walls, grades 5 and 6 have gender classes only, looping where the teacher stays with a particular class of students, a teacher assignment changed within 24 hours of the teacher being given the assignment, team building and professional development. She also wants to be proactive concerning a school resource officer. She said that she fears that Jeff Craig will lose teachers to Charter Schools because they want out. An example of concern was assigning books for teachers to read with no follow up afterwards.

Mrs. Peters said that she had heard a concern that Hanover College has a student who wants to student teach at Jeff Craig but had received no response from the principal. Mr. Jones said that those requests normally go to the superintendent. He stated that Sydney Sefton had just finished student teaching in grade 3 at SCES.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was so adjourned. (3:22 p.m.)

Nancy Peters, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Andy Truitt, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Josh Deck, Member

Tammy Hayes, Member

Vernon Waltz, Member