

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2013**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD MEETING                      4:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR PUBLIC 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 the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans and systems, in compliance with Indiana Code, 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9) and Indiana Code, 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(3), respectively.

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

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG & MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

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

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board members in attendance were Mrs. Peters, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Truitt, Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Deck, and Mrs. Hayes. Mr. Waltz was unable to attend.

Others in attendance were Mr. Michael L. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Matthew Hocker, Greg Curlin, Josh South, Tony Spoores, John Druba, Rhonda Pennington, John Sieglitz, William Carpenter, Gregg Goewert, Lisa Combs, Melody Smith, Fred Ross, Ashley Kitts, Amber Brunner, Sally Weales, Leighla Day, Amber Carroll, Kelsey McAlister, Lance Collier, Katie Collier, Mark Powell, Josh Rogers, Kathryn Williams, Gayla Bullock, Helen Parks, W. Gene Parks, Brooke Levell, Stephen Lustig, Janelle Lustig, Erin Jackson, Wendy Byrd, Jedidiah Byrd, Rita Sebree, Steve Sebree, and Ashlee Adams.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Deck made a motion to approve an amended agenda with the addition of a Free Breakfast Program. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 21, 2013 school board meeting, following a motion to do so by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Truitt.

**FUND REPORT:**

The September, 2013 Financial Report was presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Deck moved to approve the report as submitted. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

**CLAIMS:**

The following Vendor claims were presented to the Board for approval in a motion by Mr. Deck, seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

Payroll Claims: 10/25/13 & 11/08/13

Prewritten Claims: #45706 - #45707; #45823 - #45855; #45856 - #45888

New Claims: #45889 - #45980

There being no questions from the Board, their vote to approve the claims was unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board recognized Gene Parks for his 11 years of service as a custodian for the Corporation. He was presented with a plaque by Superintendent Jones. Middle School Principal, John Druba, commented that Mr. Parks has been a great asset to the custodial staff and was sad to see him retire but wished him well.

A presentation was made by Switzerland County Elementary School Turn-Around Team. The team, which included Principal, Sally Weales, Amber Brunner, Fred Ross and Ashley Kitts, explained that the school had received a D rating at the end of the previous school year, and presented strategies of how to turn the school around to improve that score. The ideas presented included identifying student problem areas, improvement strategies and goals for achieving and sustaining higher test scores.

Matt Hocker explained that the Indiana Department of Education is requiring all school Corporations to update their Anti-Bullying Policy and presented a policy which includes all mandatory components included in an example provided by the state. It was determined that the Board had sufficient time to preview the policy and were comfortable making a vote without a second reading. The policy was approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Hayes and seconded by Mr. Deck.

A motion was made by Mr. Truitt to approve a 2014 Secured Schools Safety Program Grant in the amount of \$50,000. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The following ECA fundraisers were presented for approval:

- SCES Gr. 6: Talent Show for Camp Livingston funds, a Friday in Nov., at 1:00 P.M.

*(A presentation was given by Leighla Day, Amber Carroll & Kelsey McAlister. The date for the talent show has been changed and is still under consideration. The idea of the talent show came from the students and they have worked out all aspects of the program through meetings with their Principal, Mrs. Weales.)*

- HS Book Club: Scholastic Book Fair for funds for new books, Dec.9-13, 2013
- HS Student Council: bake sale to cover club costs, Jan., 2013
- HS Stud. Council: School Pride sales to cover Homecoming costs, Jan,'13-Feb,'14
- HS Stud. Council: Candy Gram sales to cover club costs, Dec., 2013
- HS Stud. Council: Valentine sucker/flower sales, Feb., 2014
- HS Class of 2017: Cookie Dough Sales for Graduation/Prom costs, Feb-Mar, 2014
- HS Stud. Council: Angel Tree donations collected by student Elves & Santas, Dec., 2013
- HS Outdoor Club: Bake Sales for Club field trip expenses, throughout school year
- HS Outdoor Club: Sucker Sales for Club field trip expenses, Mar., 2014

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the fundraisers as presented. Mrs. Hayes seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Clara Janet Boling for a position on the Board of Trustees of the Switzerland County Public Library. Mr. Deck seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The consideration of a Beverage Agreement was unanimously tabled in a motion made by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Truitt. The Board was advised by legal counsel that the agreement contained some unacceptable language and there has been no response from the company regarding the changing of that language.

Mrs. Hayes made a motion to accept a quote from Parham Excavating to provide snow clearing services for the Corporation during the 2013-2014 school year at the rate of \$75 per hour, per operator, per plow, and salt provided at .33 per pound; with salt application and snow clearing to be provided only upon the specific request of the Corporation; and the provision of proof of liability insurance. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous.

Food Service Director, Gayla Bullock, presented information regarding a Free Breakfast Program for all students for one month that she would like the Board to consider. It is her hope that the program will entice more students to eat breakfast at school, especially at the higher class levels, which could even help boost testing scores. Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the program. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Peters opened the floor to the public for the privilege of speaking. She asked that those wishing to speak, state their name, keep statements to 2-3 minutes and, if they felt this wasn't enough time, feel free to submit the balance of their comments in writing. She also advised that if a written response was desired, they should leave an address with the Administrative Secretary.

Erin Jackson wanted to know why a bus driver that touched her daughter in an inappropriate manner was still being allowed to drive students to school. She said she was told the investigation of the incident is over because there is not enough evidence to hold against him. She expressed frustration over the fact that when she went to the police about this, her daughter would not speak about it. She said this driver was only suspended one day. She felt that was unacceptable. She wanted to know what policy was in place regarding inappropriate behavior of a staff member towards a student. Mrs. Jackson said what made things more difficult for her was the fact that the driver was not employed by the Corporation but was employed by a different company. She said those busses are still filled with Switzerland County students, and she did not want this to happen to any other child. She said all parents need to be aware that their child could be one of the students riding that bus. Mrs. Jackson said she did not know where to go from here.

Janelle Lustig said the same thing happened to her children last year and that an agreement had been made to put her kids on a different bus. She said that took care of her situation. She felt doing that, along with the addition of cameras on the bus, should be enough to keep kids safe; but then this happened to Erin's little girl. Mrs. Lustig said someone needs to be held accountable and do what is necessary to keep the children safe.

Mrs. Peters said she understood and appreciated their concerns, but she could not address them right now. She said the situation was being looked into thoroughly and could not engage in a dialogue about it at this point.

Mrs. Jackson again voiced her concern that the investigation hinged on her daughter's account, but she won't talk about it; so the investigation stops. She said when the bus is turned off, the camera shuts off and because her daughter gets on the bus first, there is no video proof of what happened to her daughter. She said this driver took advantage of the fact that her daughter is insecure and vulnerable when there was no one else on the bus to witness it. She fears that when this investigation is over, because of lack of evidence of his actions, he will eventually be allowed back on her child's bus, and this will happen again. She does not understand how this can happen. She said she has, and will, continue to stay in contact with Mr. Jones about this. Mrs. Jackson felt it was totally unacceptable that this driver was allowed to drive for eleven days after the accusation was first made.

**PERSONNEL:**

The employment of the following staff members were unanimously approved by the Board for after-school remediation in a motion made by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mrs. Hayes:

**INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF:**

| <b><u>SCHS Math</u></b> | <b><u>SCHSEnglish</u></b> | <b><u>SCMS</u></b> | <b><u>JCES</u></b> | <b><u>SCES</u></b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Adam Dennis             | Kelli Lockwood            | Mark Boggs         | Lesla McGarvey     | Amy Bovard         |
| Barry Smith             | Shaun Holliday            | RaheJean Griffin   | Dawn Ransdell      | Cayla Chase        |
| Matthew Jung            | Janet Hendricks           | Becky Meyerhoff    | Jill Cord          | Shellie Fowler     |
| Pam Jones               | Peggy Higgins             | Amy Hill           | Kathy Daugherty    | Rob Banta          |
| Sherrie Hookey          | Michelle Fox              |                    | Tara Justice       |                    |
| Casie Jesop             |                           |                    | Rob Maust          |                    |

**BUS DRIVERS:**

Danny DeBaun, Ginna Watson, Janet Scott, Mark Powell, and Jerry Monjar at the specified daily rates as follows: (Routes = .5 daily rate)

|   |             |           |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| ≤ | 45 miles    | = \$78.90 |
| ➤ | 45-60 miles | = \$86.50 |
| ➤ | 60 miles    | = \$93.99 |

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve the employment of Rochelle “Nikki” Thomas as 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian at the Middle School, effective November 1, 2013. Mrs. Hayes seconded the motion and the Board’s vote to approve the employment was unanimous.

The Board’s vote to approve the employment of Lisa Combs as an Instructional Assistant at Switzerland County Elementary School in a motion made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mr. Truitt was unanimous.

Mr. Deck made the motion to approve the Extra-Curricular Activity resignation of Brienne Swango as Sixth Grade Middle School Cheer Sponsor. Mr. Truitt seconded. The Board’s vote to approve the resignation was unanimous.

The following Extra-Curricular Activities recommendations were presented and approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Deck:

**Positions/Stipends:**

- Katina Ray - M.S. 6<sup>th</sup> gr. Cheer Sponsor
- Amanda Cole - M.S. 7<sup>th</sup> gr. Class Sponsor
- Kathy Keith - SCE Spell Bowl Sponsor
- Zack Stewart – HS Assistant Wrestling Coach
- Equal Girls Soccer stipends for Roy Leap, Jeff Mullins & Eric White
- Fred Wilson - *Volunteer* Wrestling Coach
- Calvin Godwin – *Volunteer* Assistant Wrestling Coach
- Trevor Smith - *Volunteer* Boys Basketball Coach

## **PROFESSIONAL LEAVES/FIELD TRIPS**

Two Professional Leaves were presented for approval for Matthew Jung as follows in a motion made by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mr. Truitt:

- Thursday, Jan. 2 thru Mon., Jan. 13, 2014 for Introduction to Engineering Design Core Training as part of Project Lead the Way at the University of S. Carolina.
- Thursday, Jan. 23 thru Monday, Feb. 3, 2014 for Principles of Engineering Core Training as part of Project Lead the Way at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York

The Board had questions regarding the availability of classes during the summer. Mr. Goewert explained that Mr. Jung needed to take these two classes, as well as two others during the summer, for certification, in order for the Project Lead the Way program to continue. Questions also arose regarding the cost and the number of students in the classes. Mr. Goewert reiterated the need for Mr. Jung to take the classes regardless of the cost. Board members also expressed the need for some type of plan for reimbursement to the Corporation in the event the teacher moves on to other employment. The Board's vote to approve the leaves was unanimous.

Additional Professional Leaves and Fields Trips were presented and approved as follows:

- Tony Spoores & John Druba - Principals Conference in Indianapolis, IN at Marriott, November 25-26, 2013  
Motion: Hayes / Second: Deck / Vote: Unanimous
- Kathy Keith and Amy Bovard - 2014 National K-6 Reading Recovery Literacy Conf. in Columbus, Ohio, February 1-4, 2014  
Motion: Daugherty / Second: Truitt / Vote: Unanimous
- McKenzie Wright – NAAE Convention at Las Vegas, NV, Dec. 3-Dec. 6, 2013  
Motion: Truitt / Second: Daugherty / Vote: Unanimous
- Michael Jones – 2013 Annual IN Assoc. of Public School Superintendent's Conf. at Indianapolis, Marriott, East, December 9, 2013  
Motion: Deck / Second: Roberts / Vote: Unanimous
- Paul Hewitt – 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Trip to Gettysburg/Washington, D.C. , April 3-April 7, 2014  
Motion: Truitt / Second: Hayes / Vote: Unanimous

**USE OF FACILITIES:**

Two Use of Facilities applications were unanimously approved by the Board in a motion by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mrs. Hayes. They are as follows:

- HS Café./Stage: Mishpachah, Inc. for musical drama, Dead Serious about Life 1/25/14, 10:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M. and 1/26/14, 1:00 P.M. -8:00 P.M.
- 1 to 2 buses: for transportation from SCES to YMCA for Kiwanis Christmas Party , 12/8/13

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Superintendent, Michael Jones, made the following announcements:

- Next Endowment meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at the Admin. Office
- Special Open Working Session Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, 12/02/13 for discussion and some business items.
- Superintendent's Round Table Meeting @ East Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department on Thursday 11/21/13 at 6:00 P.M.
- Next Regular Board Meeting, Monday Dec. 16, 2013

**BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:**

Mr. Truitt said they joked around a bit about people going places like Rochester, New York and Las Vegas, but he wanted to remind everyone that there is a level of accountability here to ensure that these people are properly educated. He said the Board does hold building administrators accountable by asking them to report back on what their staff learned or accomplished from attending these classes.

Mr. Daugherty commended the students who gave a presentation on their talent show fundraiser for Camp Livingston. He felt their idea of not having judges for the competition to prevent hurt feelings, but still giving them an award for their participation, showed some deep thinking and he appreciated that. Mr. Daugherty also commented that the students at the Veterans Day programs he was able to attend, as well as those participating in the programs, were very professional and did an outstanding job. He was thankful the schools put them on.

Mrs. Peters said she had a question about athletics. She wondered if the rules regarding fouls had been changed. Mr. Goewert answered that they had. She said she was asking because she when she watched the girls' first basketball game, both sides had 26 fouls.

**ADJOURNMENT:** (6:25 P.M.)

Mr. Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Truitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was so adjourned.

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Nancy Peters, President

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Wayne Daugherty, Member

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William Roberts, Vice President

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Josh Deck, Member

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Andy Truitt, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Hayes, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unable to Attend  
Vernon Waltz, Member