

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 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, Mrs. Hayes and Mr. Waltz. 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. Mr. Jones asked everyone to remember recently deceased, Ron Hocker, the current legal representative for the Corporation. Mr. Hocker has been connected with the Corporation since the early 1970's.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board members in attendance 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, Matthew Hocker, Pat Lanman, Greg Curlin, Tony Spoore, John Druba, David Todd, Rhonda Pennington, John Sieglitz, William Carpenter, Gregg Goewert, Lisa Roy, Phyllis Collier, Pat Collier, Katie Collier, Mary Ellen Waltz, Ron Paradise, Adam Cole, Matt Levell, Angela Grubbs, Brooke Levell, Pam Acton, and Sharon Hansel.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Truitt made a motion to approve an amended agenda with the addition of an Endowment request and a request for a professional leave. Mrs. Hayes seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting, following a motion to do so by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Deck.

**FUND REPORT:**

The Financial Report for October, 2013, was presented to the Board for approval. Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango, explained that Corporation was not in possession of property tax funds yet, but expects to receive them by the end of December. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the report as submitted. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion, which then passed by a unanimous vote.

**CLAIMS:**

The following payroll and vendor claims were presented to the Board for approval in a motion by Mr. Truitt, seconded by Mr. Daugherty.

Payroll Claims: 12/06/13

Prewritten Claims: #46028 (approved 12/2); #46029 - #46037;  
#46038 (transfer to payroll); #46039 - #46052

New Claims: #46053 - #46129

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Deck moved to table consideration of job descriptions until the January meeting. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Adam Cole, serving as spokesperson for the Technology Committee, gave a report to the Board. The Committee's vision is to prepare each student for a digital world. It is made up of teachers, principals, technology staff members, the school superintendent, the curriculum director/grant writer, and community representatives. In summary, the committee recommended moving forward with the purchase of chromebooks for grades seven through twelve; addressing staff needs by hiring a computer technician, and hiring a technology integration specialist; and the reviewing of professional development and planning for successful teacher training. The devices will be managed differently at the Corporation level for security purposes, etc. The committee is also proposing that the I-Pads currently being used at the Middle School level will get pushed back to grades three and four. From the cost perspective, cb's are more economical than I-Pads. The committee was not yet ready to make a recommendation on how to purchase the devices. More research needs to be done. Sprint Corporation has a "reduced buy" program which would allow the Corporation to purchase the device up front at a lower rate. A monthly rate per student use would be paid to Sprint for three years, at which time, new devices would be purchased. The numbers of users for the devices will be 1625. There is just not enough computer support for classrooms on a daily basis, which is the reason for the

recommendation for additional technology staff. Teachers need to be trained how to use the devices, and how to teach the current curriculum to the kids using these devices.

The Board had many questions for Mr. Cole. He explained that the I-Pad is just a flat copy of a textbook in PDF form, while the chromebooks, (cb's) are interactive. A chromebook is like a computer without a large physical hard drive. Most of the programs run by internet- based applications. Google docs can be made available off-line so that when a student goes home and has a paper to work on, they can do so without internet. When the student returns to school, the device connects to the internet and those updates are made to the cloud. Mr. Cole said he was very confident that, with this process, the kids will still have access to the information they need even when they are not connected to the internet. Mr. Daugherty had concerns whether the purchase of the chromebooks every three years is going to be a good fit for our school corporation. Mr. Cole explained that the devices will probably still work after three years, but the supporting software may no longer be useful. Mrs. Pennington said there is no clear answer to what the cost will be right now. Mrs. Swango said e-rate money will be used to help out with the original purchase of the chromebooks. Mr. Daugherty said the I-Pads were to supposed to have textbooks on them, but that didn't turn out to be true, and wondered if it was going to be the same scenario with the chromebooks. Mr. Cole said that is why we need to hire an Integration Specialist so that teachers can make the chromebooks an interactive tool to use with the textbooks. Mr. Sieglitz said our "fair use" clause does not allow us to copy a whole book on a scanner and put it on the I-Pad. We can do a few chapters at a time. It's a less than ideal situation. Mr. Daugherty asked about how the purchase of the devices will affect the budget. Mrs. Swango said someone needs to decide where the priorities will be. She said she and Mr. Jones had discussed some of these issues and felt this was a priority for our students. Mr. Cole said if learning devices are not used correctly, they become distracting devices. He explained that quite a bit of money has already been spent on these devices. He felt if this is going to go forward with any kind of success, this whole plan has to happen. If not, then the brakes need to be put on now.

Mr. Truitt made a motion to purchase chromebooks for staff. Mr. Deck seconded the motion. Mrs. Hayes commented that she felt this is the right move, but it is her sincere hope that students won't be let down by not providing teachers with the proper training and resources, as she felt happened in the past. The Board's vote to approve the purchase was unanimous.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Deck, seconded by Mr. Roberts, to accept \$1000 in grant funds from the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, Inc., to be used to purchase supplies for various projects in Mrs. Hansel's classroom. CFSCI representative, Phyllis Collier, was on hand to present the check to Mrs. Hansel.

A presentation was given by Sprint representative, Lisa Roy, regarding School Bus GPS real life tracking systems. She explained the benefits of the system, including monitoring whether the bus is left running during stops, where the bus begins the route and where the

route ends. If there is an emergency situation, such as the appearance of a check engine light, this will actually read the bus diagnostics and let the tracker know if the bus will be okay to get back to the bus yard and do repairs at that time, or whether a replacement bus is needed for the remainder of the route. She explained that the system is customizable to what the customer wants it to do. Mr. Daugherty asked if the buses could be tracked anywhere in the county, as a lot of cell services did not work in a lot of places. Ms. Roy explained that the system works off the very first cellular data every provided, so it is solid. There will be a 60-day period that the Corporation can decide if the system is feasible for Switzerland County. There was more discussion regarding cost of the equipment. Mrs. Hayes mentioned that if this plan was implemented, someone would need to be responsible for doing the tracking on the computer. Mrs. Swango said if the Board agreed to implement the system, the Transportation Secretary would be responsible for that. Mr. Daugherty made a motion to approve the implementation of the GPS system. Mr. Deck seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Mr. Deck moved to approve an Endowment Request from the Transportation Department for \$3,242.20 for School Bus GPS system equipment cost on the 60-day trial basis. There will be no bill until January. Mr. Truitt seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the request was unanimous.

The Board voted unanimously to approve an Appropriation Transfer and Claim Payment Resolution in a motion made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Waltz. The resolution reads 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 2013 General, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Transportation and Bus Replacement Funds between December 17, 2013 and December 31, 2013. 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, 2014.*

Mrs. Hayes moved to approve the recommended salaries for Non-Certified Salaried Employees as presented. Mr. Daugherty seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the recommendation was unanimous.

A Designated Endowment Fund of Community Foundation Policy was presented to the Board for consideration. No action was taken by the Board, as this was the first reading. Mrs. Swango explained that other school corporations have chosen to adopt a policy of this kind in order to use donated funds for students' academics, arts and athletics; to begin an Alumni Association; and, to establish a grant advisory committee to determine how the funds are spent annually.

Mr. Roberts moved to approve an extra-curricular fundraiser request from Natalie Wheeler for the boys and girls golf teams to raise money for equipment by raffling off the following items at basketball games: a Taylor-Made driver and putter; a round of golf for 4; and one overnight stay with a breakfast buffet at Belterra. Mrs. Hayes seconded the motion. Matt Hocker reminded the Board that this is a raffle, which is considered gambling. According to the Indiana Gaming Commission, an entity is only allowed one event per calendar year, unless they wish to apply for a gaming license. Mr. Hocker wanted the Board to be informed, as this raffle will be considered their one event, if they chose to approve it. The motion passed in a six to one vote, with Mrs. Peters voting against the request.

The Board approved a 2013 Rainy Day Transfer Resolution, as presented, by a unanimous vote. The motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Truitt and seconded by Mr. Daugherty. The resolution reads as follows:

*WHEREAS, the Switzerland County School Corporation has established a Rainy day Fund to be used for such situations as determined by the School Board, and  
 WHEREAS, a school corporation may transfer not more than ten percent (10%) of the total budget of the listed tax bearing fund to the Rainy Day Fund each year;  
 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Treasurer to make the following transfers for the budget year ending 2013 from the following funds to the Rainy Day Fund.*

<i>General Fund</i> _____		<i>Capital Projects Fund</i> _____
<i>Transportation Fund</i> _____		<i>Bus Replacement Fund</i> _____
<i>Total Transfer to the Rainy Day Fund</i>		_____

Mr. Roberts moved to approve an Endowment Request for \$6,250 for Track and Swim records boards for the High School Gym. Mr. Truitt seconded. Mr. Daugherty asked if other sports record boards were also going to be purchased. Mr. Todd said he was willing to look into getting records boards for other sports. He went on to say that he felt swim and track were necessary because those sports have more individualized records, whereas more subjective since a record number of goals scored by a student in a particular game might be due to the fact that the opposing team may not have been on the same level as ours, or our guards did a better job of playing defense, allowing the student to make those goals with less obstruction. In swimming or track, there is no question as to the individual's record. Mrs. Hayes said she didn't have anything against approving records boards for Swim and Track, but she wanted things to be fair for all sports. The Endowment Request was approved by a six to one vote, with Mr. Daugherty voting against.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**PERSONNEL:**

Mr. Deck moved to approve three Extra-Curricular Activities volunteer assistant position recommendations. Mr. Waltz seconded. The motion passed by a six to one vote with Mr. Daugherty voting against. The recommendations are as follows:

- Tom Stow – Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach
- Rick Roberts – Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach
- Brenda Baatz – Volunteer Assistant Bowling Coach

Mr. Deck made a motion to approve the retirement of Administrative Secretary, Janet Daugherty. Mrs. Hayes seconded. Mr. Daugherty abstained from the vote while all other Board members voted to approve the resignation as submitted.

**PROFESSIONAL LEAVES/FIELD TRIPS**

The Board unanimously approved two Professional Leaves in a motion made by Mrs. Hayes, and seconded by Mr. Truitt. They are as follows:

- Matthew Levell- Technology Workshops in Indianapolis, IN, Jan. 15-16; March (TBA); and June 25-26, 2014
- Jonathan Grice – Indiana Music Educators Association Conference in Fort Wayne, IN, January 23-25, 2014

**USE OF FACILITIES:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Superintendent, Michael Jones, made the following announcements:

- Next Endowment meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013 at 5:00 P.M. at the Admin. Office
- Special Reorganizational Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, 01/13/14 at 5:00 P.M.
- Next Regular Board Meeting, Monday, January 27, 2014 (one week later than originally scheduled)

**BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Hayes asked how Cross Country athletes were recognized for records. She wants everything to be fair for all sports so as not to leave anyone out.

Mr. Goewert thought there needed to be a vision going forward for academic competitions as well. He was disappointed that there is only one glass case showing the students' and the school's academic awards.

Mr. Deck thanked the Technology Team for their work and for their report.

Mr. Waltz announced that his house in Switzerland County has been sold, and, as a result, will be moving out of the district. He is resigning from his position on the Board, effective December 31, 2013. Mr. Waltz conveyed his love for Switzerland County, and the kids, and his enjoyment of living here the last 13 years. He feels, in his heart, he has done what is in the best interest of the students in the county. He will always be a Pacer, no matter where he lives, and will be back to visit as much as possible.

Mr. Jones presented a clock to Mr. Waltz in recognition of his service to the Board.

Mr. Daugherty appreciates all Mr. Waltz went through when he was Principal at the High School during all of the remodeling that was done there. He is sorry to be losing him as a fellow Board member.

**ADJOURNMENT:** (7:15 P.M.)

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting in a motion made by Mrs. Hayes and seconded by Mr. Truitt. 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

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Tammy Hayes, Member

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Vernon Waltz, Member