

SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29, 2014
SPECIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 4:30 P.M.
OPEN WORKING SESSION

The School Board of Trustees held a special public meeting beginning at 4:30 P.M. at the Switzerland County Administration Office. The main purpose of holding the Open Working Session was to discuss future Facilities Planning.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE TO THE FLAG / MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mr. Truitt called the special public 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 Mr. Truitt, Mrs. Peters, Mr. Deck, Mr. Daugherty, Mrs. Hayes, and Mrs. Schroer. Mr. Roberts was unable to attend.

Others in attendance were Mr. Michael L. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Kara Walcott, Holly Deckert, Lois McKay, Pat Lanman, Rhonda Pennington, John Sieglitz, Lance Collier, Katie Collier, Gregg Goewert, Kelsi Amer, Katee Goodpaster, Rachel Gatto, Tristan Griffis, Chelsy Holyoke, Chantel Baatz, Jeana Rayles, Brenda Rayles, Donna Baker, Kasey Kittle, Jonathan Grice, Diann Kittle, Tammy Beitzel, Sherry Maloney, Matt Levell, Adam Cole, Brooke Levell, Rob Banta, Josh Rogers, and Kathy Williams.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mr. Deck made a motion to approve an amended agenda with an additional Professional Leave Request and the order of progression changed so that the Facilities Planning Discussion follows other items requiring Board action. Mrs. Hayes seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAVES / FIELD TRIPS:

Three Professional Development Leave Requests were approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mrs. Hayes. They are as follows:

- Curlin/Wright/Woolston: IAAE State Conf., (6/9-6/11) & Adv. Life Training (6/11 - 6/13) @ Purdue Univ.
- Curlin: NAAE Region Conf., 6/24-6/26, @ Univ. of Kentucky.
- K. Woolston: CASE Ag. Power & Technology Course Dev. Mtg., Johnston, IA, (6/5 - 6/7, 2014)

Mr. Daugherty thought the Professional Development Leave Request forms had a place to show the estimated cost of the trip and how it is to be funded. Mrs. Swango said the Field Trip forms did have that, but if that was desired for the Professional Development forms as well, that could certainly be changed. Mr. Daugherty felt the form should be changed to include that information in order to make a more informed decision.

Three Field Trips were approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Daugherty and seconded by Mrs. Schroer. They are as follows:

- Curlin/Wright: FFA State Convention, 6/15-6/19, @ Purdue Univ.
- Curlin: FFA Washington Leadership Conf., Washington, DC, 6/22-6/29
- Curlin: FFA Summer Leadership Training, Trafalgar, IN, 7/8-7/10

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Services Unit Director for Switzerland County School Corporation, Brooke Levell, mentioned that in order to apply for Medicaid funding, she needed to list the School Board of Trustees and get some personal information from them to enroll as a provider. Members gave their permission to gather the information for the application.

Mr. Sieglitz explained that the Technology Plan will not be available for approval by the Board until he hears back from the State. Mrs. Peters moved to table approval of the plan until further notice. Mr. Deck seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous.

Three grants were brought before the Board for approval. The Board acted on the grants as follows:

- CFSCI: \$2500 for Football Program
Motion: Peters / Second: Daugherty / Vote: Unanimous
- High Ability Grant: \$29,698
Motion: Peters / Second: Schroer / Vote: Unanimous
- CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation:\$233 for Reading Pen TS Classroom Sets at SCES - \$2,300
Motion: Daugherty / Second: Deck / Vote: Unanimous

FACILITY PLANNING DISCUSSION:

Mr. Jones said the main purpose of discussion on the following topics was to look at the projects that have already been done and look at how those projects were funded. In doing this, all desired future projects can be looked at for all of the same things. Then, the Board needs to prioritize these projects and decide how they can be paid for.

Topic 1: History of Capital Projects Fund Projects:

Mrs. Swango provided the Board with a list of past, current and future projects that have already been approved.

The blacktop project for each of the schools has been postponed until all of them can be done at the same time.

Mrs. Swango explained that the colored page the Board received shows technology projects. The chrome books are being paid for through multiple funding sources. Some software will be charged to Book Rental.

The use of Dr. Boyd or Educational Services for a Feasibility Study was brought up as a potential way to prioritize projects. Their services were used by the Corporation a number of years ago, when considering whether to add on to Switzerland County Elementary School or make renovations to Jefferson-Craig Elementary.

Mr. Jones said he was looking at suggesting a feasibility study to be done to prioritize and decide what funding sources are available to use for those projects. A Committee can be formed to report back to the Board with what needs to be done. Building conditions is a good place to start. Mr. Jones feels hiring a professional for reporting back these aspects is the best way to go.

Topic 2: Plans/Priorities for Future: All Principals were invited to speak

Mrs. Swango explained that there were major renovations done to Jefferson-Craig a few years ago, and renovations have just been completed at Switzerland County Elementary School, so the elementary schools are not showing much in the way of necessary building projects. The High School is showing several projects.

Terry Lancer, of LANCER + BEEBEE, Inc. addressed the Board. He explained that many items on the list don't need an architect to oversee, such as changing walls and locking doors. He said the Corporation just needs to use a professional to be sure that the building projects are compliant with ADA standards. On the other hand, Mr. Lancer explained, when a feasibility study is done, the person in charge, such as Dr. Boyd, will look at demographics, such as trends for education and growth in the area, whereas an architect looks at building needs. After meeting with some of the Corporation's staff members, it is obvious to him that security and safety of staff and students are major priorities. He said regarding this priority, fencing around the sports fields was one of those things that was at the top of the list. When it is finally decided what projects will be done first, it is important that the Corporation has professional, comprehensive specifications for concise bids, in order to compare apples to apples.

Topic 3: Feasibility Study

Mr. Jones said the most important thing to do now is prioritize the projects. The High School is the only building that hasn't recently had something major done to the inside of the building.

Mr. Goewert gave the Board a list of things that needed to be completed at his school. He mentioned some of the things that are a priority for him.

Topic 4: Funding Sources

Mrs. Swango explained that QZAB bonds were used for improving energy efficiency at Jefferson-Craig Elementary School when renovations were made, so that is an option, if the project meets the required specifications.

The computer labs are a large expense every year, but the cost for them is not listed due to multiple sources of funding.

Some projects have matching funds with other organizations, such as the PTA and Endowment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Truitt opened the floor to comments from the public.

Kathy Williams stated that the music department really needs something enclosed to haul instruments, rather than a trailer. She also feels, since outdoor athletic events have expanded, electricity in the back to use for outdoor concessions would be a huge plus. She would like to see some kind of connector between the High School and the Middle School. She mentioned that the cafeterias at our schools are way behind those of other schools and should be modernized.

High School Principal, Gregg Goewert, expressed his appreciation to the Board for considering the public's views and opening up discussion regarding the Fine Arts Program. He feels if the two schools are connected, an enlargement and modernization of the cafeteria facility would allow the schools to share a cafeteria, thereby showing a savings in personnel. He also feels a new gym and auditorium are needed. He said a new computer lab is needed, as well as a conference room and two weight rooms. If this renovation is approved, the music department would like to use the current cafeteria for a fine arts wing.

Mrs. Williams also mentioned that the music department is also in need of personnel. She expressed a need for a certified teacher at Switzerland County Elementary School. She said without this, a level problem is created when they get to the Middle School and High School. She said she will be bringing statistics and other information to the Board regarding high number of students excelling in academics who also participate in Fine Arts programs.

Music Teacher, Jonathan Grice, said he was in total support of a performing arts center.

Katie Goodpaster wanted to show her support for the choir and Band Boosters. She liked hearing about the music department being considered for improvements. She wondered who was teaching music and band at Switzerland County Elementary School next year.

Mrs. Beitzel urged the Board to seriously consider the need for facilities. She said an auditorium is grossly needed. She conveyed the value of everything being in one room.

Sherry Maloney, a parent of a choir student, feels the Corporation really needs to find someone to help out with music instruction, even if it is to find someone who needs an internship. As it is, the schedules are too unforgiving to allow her daughter to stay in Band. She said she loves sports, but also feels supporting the fine arts is important.

Student, Jeana Rayles, is grateful that the Board is considering changes in the music department. She said it is not right that kids have to give up something else if they want to be in Band.

Mrs. Williams said at the Middle School, sixth grade students had Band every day as a regularly scheduled class. When the sixth grade went back to the elementary schools, they took a step backwards. Something needs to be done to ensure more consistency and regularity of classes.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Truitt closed public comments and the meeting continued.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent, Michael L. Jones, made the following announcements:

- Next Regular Board Meeting, Monday, May 19, 2014 at the Administration Office. The Executive Session will begin at 4:00 P.M. and the Public Session will begin at 5:00 P.M.

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Mrs. Peters said everyone has an idea of what needs to be done. She said it just needs to be decided what needs to be done and suggested forming a Committee to prioritize the projects.

Mrs. Peters mentioned several meeting dates for the Board such as a law seminar on June 13; a Finance Seminar on June 20; and a Summer ISBA Academy in Indianapolis on July 7 and 8. Mr. Jones announced a Fall Conference will be held September 15 and 16, 2014.

An Endowment update will be included in the next Board packet for a regular meeting.

Mrs. Peters felt a closer look at the music department was needed. She feels a teacher replacement is necessary. She said there was considerable discussion at the Superintendent's Community Roundtable discussion regarding better academics.

Mrs. Peters feels we also need to look at substitute teacher pay. She feels we need to see what other schools are paying.

Mr. Daugherty said he was very encouraged about the sports fields after speaking with the Sedam representative. He was very congenial and wants to make things right. The young grass, growing out in the fall has frozen out. We had an unusually bad winter which hampered the growth. He said the ground should have been contoured not to hold water. He will come back and make repairs.

Mrs. Hayes agreed that the Corporation needs to try to accommodate students interested in the Fine Arts programs. She knows there is an interest in a Swing Choir which cannot happen with what we have in place now. She also feels the schools need to make accommodations for Drama performances and practices. Mrs. Hayes agrees that the cafeteria needs to be modernized. She assured attendees that members of the Board will take everything into consideration.

Mr. Deck mentioned that Brian Morton should receive better pay for what he does for the Corporation. He said Brian also mentioned that he needs better tools.

Mr. Truitt said he is a strong supporter of the Band and Board members are aware of the issues at stake.

ADJOURNMENT: (6:45 P.M.)

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting in a motion made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mr. Daugherty. The meeting was so adjourned.

Andy Truitt, President

Nancy Peters, Vice President

Josh Deck, Secretary

Wayne Daugherty, Member

Tammy Hayes, Member

Unable to Attend
William Roberts, Member

Laura Schroer, Member