

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20, 2015  
REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING            5:00 P.M.**

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

Board President, Mr. Daugherty, called the regular meeting to order, asked that all communication devices be turned off or silenced, and led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag, followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board members in attendance were Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Deck, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. Cord, and Mrs. Peters.

Others in attendance were Mr. Michael L. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Angela Grubbs, John Sieglitz, Rhonda Pennington, Matt Levell, Sally Weales, Tony Spoores, Gregg Goewert , Deb Archer, Greg Curlin, Sean McGarvey, Pat Lanman, Katie Mote, Lisa Cutshall, Josh Rogers, Tom Conroy, Chris See, Marlene Jones, Mathew Hocker, Marla Edwards, Ruth Lohide, Peggy Eckerty, David Todd, Ashley Kitts, and Sarah Brichto.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve an amended agenda, with the addition of a Curriculum/Professional Development Presentation by Mrs. Pennington, as well as three additional ECA fundraisers. Mr. Deck seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

Members of the girls basketball team were present to receive recognition from the Board for their outstanding athletic achievements this year. Mr. Todd made a brief introduction of the team. He said he was proud that the girls had such a successful season and were just a few points shy of winning the Regional Competition. The girls expressed their appreciation of the support they received from the schools and the community. Mr. Bennett recognized a lot of the girls as also being on the volleyball team. Mr. Todd acknowledged and commented that most of the girls were also A,B honor students. He said the community will support those that work hard and they recognized the effort these girls put forth. Each team member was presented a pin by Mr. Daugherty on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Daugherty closed the public meeting in order to hold a public hearing on the proposed Superintendent Contract.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

*The public hearing on the Superintendent Contract was then opened, and the President asked for public comments. Newly elected Board members expressed their interest in reviewing a copy the Superintendent's performance evaluation. School Board Attorney, Matthew Hocker, said this hearing was about contract terms for any superintendent, not a specific individual. The length of time on the contract extension was questioned by Mrs. Cord. Mr. Hocker explained that the original contract must be at least 36 months. The recommended extension in this case is 3 years, but it can be shorter. The extension is what the Board agrees to.*

*Hearing no further comments, Mr. Daugherty closed the public hearing and resumed the regular meeting.*

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Collier made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2015 meeting with corrections highlighted on copies provided to the members of the Board. Mrs. Peters seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the Minutes with the indicated corrections was unanimous.

### **FUND REPORT:**

The Financial Report for February, 2015, was presented to the Board for approval. Mrs. Cord moved to approve the report. Mrs. Collier seconded. Mr. Bennett asked about how the Rainy Day Fund dollars were invested, as the amount was showing little interest each month. Mrs. Swango explained that the revenue dollars in this account was not from interest, but from money received as payments from a previous employee who embezzled funds from the Corporation. She further explained that individual funds were not invested. Interest is received on total funds in the General Fund, from a regular interest bearing checking account. Mrs. Peters asked if interest from Rainy Day funds could go into the Rainy Day account. Mrs. Swango affirmed that this could be done, but she could not think of an instance where that would be beneficial. She explained that originally, the fund was set up to use as funds for emergency purposes, such as to replace a roof or for the replacement of a faulty HVAC. She further explained that ultimately, the Board can spend the money however it chooses. Mrs. Swango said she would be happy to provide Mr. Bennett with the original list showing how the Rainy Day Funds were to be spent. The Board's vote to approve the report as submitted was unanimous.

**CLAIMS:**

Mrs. Collier made a motion to approve the following Payroll and Vendor Claims as presented, seconded by Mrs. Peters:

Payroll Claims: 03/27/2015 and 04/10/15

Prewritten Claims: #48437 - #48511

New Claims: #48512 - #48595

Mrs. Swango pointed out that there was a correction on the claims. The vendor name identified in Claim #48564 should be Phillips Supply and not Phillips Network. Mr. Deck then made a motion to approve the claims as amended. Mrs. Collier seconded. Mrs. Cord had a question about claim #48555 to Lancer+Beebee in the amount of \$1,200 for locker room/concessions design plans. She wanted to know if this amount was above and beyond the \$50,000 paid to the architectural company. Mrs. Swango explained that the description of the payment was incorrect. She said it was for the secure entrance renovation at the High School which she believed to be 95% complete. Mrs. Peters questioned claim #48536 in the amount of \$2,646.27 to Evergreen Lawn Care. She wanted to know what was entailed in that amount. Mrs. Swango said this was for the Spring maintenance treatments of the athletic fields. The plan is for the Chase's to take over the care of the fields at some point. Mrs. Peters asked what was paid for out of the \$629.36 payment to Lowes Credit Card in claim #48501. Mrs. Swango said it was for conduit for fiber optics and for a lawn sprinkler pump for Switzerland County Elementary School. Claim #48537 to Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$1,673.68 was questioned by Mr. Bennett. He asked if this was for just one urinal. Mrs. Swango said it was for a wash fountain push button at Jefferson-Craig and for thirty-two replacement cartridges for water free urinals at the Middle School. Mr. Bennett said he also wanted to ask about claim #48546 to Dean Housemeyer in the amount of \$1,450.00. He said in that claim, \$50 was spent for replacing an electrical outlet and wondered why our own people could not have handled this and commented that it seems a lot of maintenance work was being farmed out. Mrs. Swango explained that in this particular instance, it was necessary to employ a certified electrician to install a receptacle for a projector at the High School. Mrs. Cord asked about claim #48534 for \$600 for 3 semesters of German. She wondered if precedence was being set for paying for a foreign language to be taught to individual students that can't be covered by the current staff. Mr. Jones said we do pay a portion of the cost and this is not the first year this has been done. The Board's vote to approve was unanimous.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Katie Mote, President of Madison IVY Tech, presented the Board with information regarding a proposal of a dual credit relationship with the Corporation that will be accepted by a number of colleges and universities in Indiana. A Memorandum Of Understanding will be presented for consideration at the May 18, 2015 meeting, as the summer courses will begin June 8. Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Goewert were present to answer some questions raised by the Board such as which grade levels will be involved, payment options and which courses will be offered. Courses will be scheduled according

to the students' needs. Mrs. Swango asked if the Corporation will be responsible for transportation. Mrs. Mote affirmed. Mrs. Swango said she would like to see the language of the MOU prior to the next meeting so that she and the Board's legal counsel could review.

Lisa Cutshall provided an update on the progress of the 5-Star program implemented in the Corporation called an impact analysis update. If there are other questions, the report can be reviewed at the following website address: [five-startech.com/switzerland](http://five-startech.com/switzerland).

Curriculum Director/Grant Writer, Rhonda Pennington, gave a Curriculum/Professional Development report to the Board: Bio-Med is a new PLTW course being taught by Valerie Smith. Using Google, the student management system, Skyward, is accessible by parents to see their children's homework, progress, and other information. The Corporation is meeting the state professional development requirements for meeting the needs of the students by also meeting the needs of the staff. Instructional Resource teachers meet with the staff on a weekly basis. Meetings with the Administrators are usually held on a monthly basis. The Instructional Resource teachers also provide on-demand professional development that meets the individual needs of teachers. When the Corporation hosts its own professional development classes, the Principals choose who goes from their buildings. The offer is there to teachers if they want it. When queried, Mrs. Pennington reported that there are no teachers who have not taken advantage of the professional development. There are some who have received less.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT:**

Mr. Jones gave an overview of the following senate bills and house bills and state budget that will be voted on by midnight, April 29<sup>th</sup>:

- House Bill 1001: (State Biennial Budget)  
Amendments: Giving Schools ability to use CPF for utilities and property/casualty insurance through July 1, 2017 / Language was added that would allow advertising on buses
- House Bill 1019: Increases the threshold for public works from the current \$150,000 to \$300,000 for common construction wage requirements
- Senate Bill 566: Amended to allow early graduates to be counted in the February ADM count
- Senate Bill 1: (State Board of Education Governance) Permits the State Board of Education to choose their chair

Mr. Jones further reported that the April revenue forecast was revised from December, with a reduction of \$105 million for FY2015, \$119 million for FY2016, and \$94 million for FY2017. If and how much the K-12 funding in House Bill 1001 will be impacted is still unknown. IASBO believes there will be a concerted effort by legislators to keep the \$466 million increase over the biennium for public education. The next two weeks will determine how the funding for K-12 will be impacted.

**OLD BUSINESS:**Board Committee Reports:

Negotiations Committee: Mr. Jones stated the CTA met last month, as they do each month. The Negotiations team will be setting a date for an informal negotiations meeting, hopefully before school is out.

Endowment Committee: No activity to report.

Internal Controls Committee: Committee member, Mrs. Cord, submitted a written report to the Superintendent and to the Board after she and Mr. Roberts conducted an internal audit, looking at ECA ledgers, deposits, and verification of all transactions of how the money was spent. (Members of the State Board of Accounts are continuing with their regular audit for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years.)

Facilities & Ground Committee Report: Mrs. Peters reported that on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 6:00 P.M., another public committee meeting was held in the Board Room. The public was invited to attend the informal meeting for the discussion of short and long term facilities needs of the Corporation. Based on those meetings, discussions and past findings of the Feasibility Studies regarding growth trends of the student population, they determined that the need for additional classrooms at Jefferson-Craig was a major priority. A 40x40 storage building to house electronics for the Technology Department was a second priority. Third on the list was a camera which can be added for less than \$1000 with battery back-up. Mrs. Weales stated that they still desired a window which would end up costing less money than the camera. Mr. Sieglitz said the battery back-up for the camera would only last for about 30 minutes, so he could see why the window would be beneficial. It was also determined, after extra-curricular activities schedules were reviewed, an auxiliary gymnasium would be a necessity as a long term need. Mr. Terry Lancer, of the architectural company, LANCER+BEEBEE, Inc., was present at the committee meeting and provided drawings for additional Jefferson-Craig classrooms as well as drawings for a sports building that housed just restrooms and concessions, with the ability to make additions. Mrs. Peters said the restroom and concessions building should be put on the sideline for now and the focus shifted to the students' needs for more classrooms. Mr. Bennett made a motion to go forward with requesting proposals for design concepts from architects. Mrs. Peters seconded the motion. Much discussion followed regarding the need for so many classrooms. The Board's vote to approve was unanimous.

Mrs. Peters moved to approve a revised Electronic Device Acceptable Use Policy, submitted for a first reading on March 16, 2015. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The policy will be provided as an attachment to the 2015-2016 Student/Parent Handbooks.

A High School Credit Re-take Policy was presented for first reading. Mr. Goewert explained that the re-take policy he proposed was on page 35 of the High School Student/Parent Handbook. The Board unanimously approved tabling the re-take policy until the next meeting in a motion made by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Mrs. Peters.

The Board unanimously approved modification of the 2015-2016 school calendar to show Good Friday as a possible makeup day in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mr. Deck.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A number of ECA fundraisers were unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mr. Roberts. They are as follows:

- SCES-Kroger Community Rewards funds, 4/15/15 until the end of the year
- FFA-Summer Sausage Sales for State Convention expenses, 5/1-5/30, 2015
- HS Stud. Council- 2015 Talent Show entrance fees for Riley Hosp.donations, 4/24/15
- JC Student Activity Club-Donations for Animal Shelter, Mar., Apr., & May
- JC Dram Club-Performance donations, for future club performances, February, 2015
- JC (Grades 3-6) T-shirt Design for Field Day Shirts, 4/6 & 4/30
- HS/MS BPA -Yard Sale for National Leadership Conf. expenses, 4/25/15
- HS BPA-Pancake Breakfast for NLC expenses, 4/18/15
- HS BPA – Soup & Salad Dinner for NLC expenses, 4/24/15
- HS BPA – Donations from Legion, Friendship Bank, K. Green, 4/15/15

The Board unanimously approved two grant agreements from the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation, Inc. in a motion made Mrs. Peters and seconded by Mr. Bennett. They are as follows:

- \$1050 for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Job Shadowing Project expenses
- \$10,000 for BPA National Leadership Conference expenses

An updated Administrative Benefit Policy was submitted to the Board for first reading. Some changes to the policy were suggested. The policy will be discussed during a Neola Policy committee meeting and will be presented for final approval at the next regular Board meeting.

Mrs. Peters made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Student/Parent Handbooks for Switzerland County Middle School presented at the February meeting for first reading, with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade retake policy to be added upon its approval. Mrs. Collier seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the handbook was unanimous.

The 2015-2016 Switzerland County High School Student/Parent Handbook was submitted to the Board for first reading. Some members of the Board were not in favor of the current student drug policy within the handbook. Discussion followed regarding

their ideas as to what it should entail. The handbook will be presented for final approval at the next regular Board meeting.

Board President, Mr. Daugherty, appointed himself as a Legislative Liaison for the Board.

A policy regarding age of school buses was submitted to the Board for first reading. The policy will be considered for approval at the next meeting. All buses will be bid out after next year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *(Anyone wishing to speak is asked to state their name and keep comments to 2 to 3 minutes. If this isn't enough time, participants are encouraged to submit the balance of their comments in writing and those wishing a written response are asked to leave their name and address with the Administrative Secretary).*

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

Switzerland County Middle School Principal, Sean McGarvey, thanked the Board for supporting the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington. He said, despite the problems that arose, the students enjoyed themselves and it was a great educational experience for them.

Switzerland County High School Guidance Counselor, Marla Edwards, asked for permission to speak to the Endowment about dual enrollment.

Hearing nothing further, public comments were closed.

#### **PERSONNEL:**

The Board unanimously accepted the retirement of Switzerland County Elementary School's Head Cook, Betty Chase, effective April 15, 2015, in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mrs. Peters.

The Extra-Curricular Activity resignation of Matt Jung as High School Bowling Coach was unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Deck.

Several Extra-Curricular Activities position recommendations were unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Peters and seconded by Mr. Bennett. They are as follows:

- Jamie Slone – Elementary Music and Elementary Band
- Marcus Duckworth – Elementary Band
- Kaulene Green – MS Softball Volunteer Coach
- Shane Griffin – MS Baseball Volunteer Coach
- Kelsie Phillips – HS Summer Volleyball
- Levi Simpson – JV Girls Basketball Coach for 2015-2016

The recommendation for long-term classroom substitute pay for Michelle Detmer was approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Cord and seconded by Mr. Roberts. The long-term substitute position was necessitated due to the regular teacher being out of the classroom recuperating from injuries sustained in an accident.

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

Two professional leaves were approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mrs. Cord. They are as follows:

- Kyle Woolston – CASE Ag. Lead Teacher Trainin, Minneapolis, MN., 4/23-4/25
- Valerie Smith – PLTW Core Principles Training, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN, 6/24-6/26

The Board unanimously approved the following field trips in a motion made by Mrs. Cord and seconded by Mrs. Collier:

- T. Justice : 6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Whitewater Camp, Lake Geneva Rd., 5/13, 5/14, 5/15, 2015
- Dennis: Boys Basketball Camp, Vincennes, IN, 6/11-6/12, 2015
- Grubbs/D. Powell: Middle School BPA to National Leadership Conf., Anaheim, CA, 5/5-5/10, 2015
- Grubbs/D. Powell: High School BPA to National Leadership Conf., Anaheim, CA, 5/5-5/10, 2015
- Grice/Williams: Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade, 5/22-23, 2015
- D. Jackson: Student to Ireland and England, 3/15-3/23, 2015

### **USE OF FACILITIES:**

Chris See of the Switzerland County Emergency Medical Association addressed the Board earlier in the meeting requesting use of school grounds as a staging area in the event of a large scale emergency. The use of parking lots was specifically mentioned in the request. He said they are looking at possibly putting in a siren for bad weather warnings around the East Enterprise area. The EMA request, was unanimously approved in a motion by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Three other requests for the use of school facilities were unanimously approved in a motion made by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Mrs. Cord. They are as follows:

- SCES Cafeteria: J. Meadors for Patriot Alumni Association 4:00-9:00 P.M., 5/23/15
- SCES PTA : G. Day for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Pictures, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M., 5/6/2015
- SCHS Cafeteria, R. Lohide for Switz. Co. Farm Bureau Relay for Life Survivors Dinner, 6/27/15, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

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

- Next Endowment meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Administration Office
- Next Regular Board Meeting, Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Administration Office at 5:00 P.M.
- The NEOLA policy meeting went well. Mr. Jones felt this one was very productive and expects that sessions after this will go a lot smoother.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Cord was thankful to Mr. Goewert for hosting the STEM initiative. There were 50 parents and students from grades 7 through 10 in attendance and a lot of information was disseminated for those not seeking a college degree. She also mentioned that those interested in the future of facilities should review Dr. Boyd's 2008 Feasibility Study.

Mrs. Peters mentioned that there will be a quarterly ISBA meeting at the Pines in Seymour, Indiana on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jones added that anyone interested should contact Cindy Haskell for reservations.

Mrs. Peters feels that Administrators should get two-year contracts. She reiterated a previous statement she has made on the subject that if you treat an employee like they make a difference, they will.

Mrs. Peters also asked if Mr. Grice was being paid for his services such as leading the Pep Band. Mrs. Swango responded that he may be going above and beyond the call of duty but that he was receiving an ECA stipend for Pep Band.

Mrs. Peters also asked if the topic of seeding and topsoil for the football fields had been addressed. Mr. Jones responded that he had spoken with Mr. Jesop earlier in the day and a meeting for discussion was scheduled for Tuesday.

Mr. Bennett said he had received unsolicited compliments on the school grounds at a ball game, so kudos to those responsible were in order. He also mentioned that he feels the practice of giving employees leaving the Corporation the option of exit interviews should be considered.

Mrs. Collier wished luck to everyone as they begin ISTEP testing. She complimented the Muffins for Mom event at Jefferson-Craig Elementary.

Mr. Daugherty mentioned that he had spoken to Mr. Duckworth about people in the community getting enjoyment out of listening to stringed instruments. He said Mr. Duckworth had taken that to heart and the music performance at the Switzerland County Elementary School was excellent.

Mr. Daugherty mentioned that there will be an Executive Session Meeting beginning at 4:00 P.M., followed by a Regular Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on May 18. He said there will be an Open Working Session prior to that date, but because of conflicting schedules, it would be determined in the next few days and that the other Board members will be notified when that happens.

**ADJOURNMENT:** (8:55 P.M.)

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Meeting in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Bennett. The Meeting was so adjourned.

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Wayne Daugherty, President

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William Roberts, Vice President

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Josh Deck, Secretary

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Joseph Bennett, Member

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Katie Collier, Member

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S. Jill Cord, Member

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Nancy Peters, Member