

June 15, 2015

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 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, John Sieglitz, Sally Weales, Gregg Goewert, Peggy Higgins, Sean McGarvey, Mathew Hocker, Mike Bear, Jennifer South, Tim Hillman, Lindsay Vigil, Sandy Jones, Phyllis Weaver, Roger Weaver, Elizabeth Conrad, Chris Oatman, Tony Spoores, Matt Jung, Bonnie Baur, and Rob Furnish.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Mrs. Cord made a motion to approve an amended agenda, with the addition of a New Business item regarding meeting times and the moving of Public Comments and Personnel items to be moved up on the agenda to immediately following Recognitions. Mrs. Peters seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

Retiring employee, Phyllis Weaver, was honored for her 40 years of service to the Corporation. She has served as a teacher and a guidance counselor.

Athletes, Ben Curran, Eve Galbraith, and Whitley Schirmer were given recognition for their outstanding performance in track. Ben broke the 300 hurdle record. Eve broke the shot put record and competed in state finals. Whitley broke the two mile record. Mr. Goewert said he was also appreciative of Eve's basketball defense skills.

**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).*

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

Robert Furnish said he had several things he was concerned about. He was upset that National Honors Society was cancelled with no phone call. He feels the No Child Left Behind Act has taken the competitive edge out of schools. He has heard of no provisions for hiring a Calculus teacher. The Corporation needs to re-evaluate what's important for students. Some of the teachers are not doing what they should for their students because they are afraid of retaliation from Administrators. He hopes these problems are solved. Also, teachers need to explain to their students why Statistics and Chemistry is important to their future professions, not just teach the subject matter.

Chris Oatman thanked the Board for addressing the issue of the re-take policy. He feels the Corporation needs to keep the public more informed and make better leverage of available technology by publicizing the Minutes and agendas on the Corporation website in a timely manner for those who are not in the schools and don't get the local newspaper.

High School teacher, Peggy Higgins wanted to mention that she feels very supported by the Administration. She also mentioned that she wished that Mr. Furnish were still here to hear that she makes certain her students are challenged with material covered in her class.

Mr. Jones wanted to mention that this week, a beloved former teacher for the Corporation, Bonnie Fancher passed away. She was a great and caring teacher who will be greatly missed. Also, English teacher, Janet Hendricks, lost her husband on the same day. Mr. Jones asked those in attendance to remember these two families in their thoughts and prayers.

#### **PERSONNEL:**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the acceptance Kyle Woolston's resignation from his Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor position in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mrs. Peters. Mr. Jones said he knew that Mr. Bennett would like to get exit interviews from those who are resigning and that he will see if Mr. Woolston would be willing to do that.

Mr. Bennett moved to accept Rhonda Pennington's intent to retire at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Collier seconded the motion. The Board's vote was unanimous. Mrs. Pennington is the Corporation's Curriculum Director/Grant Coordinator.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve a Leave of Absence request from Tammy Beitzel for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Deck seconded. Discussion followed regarding FMLA and leave days. Business Manager, Wilma Swango, explained that a person eligible for FMLA and missing for more than 3 days is required to complete an FMLA leave request. A person not eligible for FMLA or has used that should request a leave of absence from the School Board. The Board may approve such leave a year at a time. The vote to approve the 2014-2015 Leave of Absence request was unanimous.

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Mrs. Beitzel also requested that the Corporation continue to pay the employer share of her insurance premium during her leave of absence. When asked what the procedures were for this situation, Business Manager, Wilma Swango, indicated that the Corporation does not currently do this. Mrs. Collier moved to keep procedures the same. Mr. Bennett seconded. Vote: AYES: Bennett, Collier, Daugherty, Deck, Peters, Roberts. ABSTENTION: Cord. Mrs. Beitzel also submitted a leave request for the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. By consensus, the Board chose to table that request until the July meeting.

Three employment recommendations were submitted to the Board for approval. Discussion followed regarding the fact that an extra section for third grade at Jefferson-Craig had not been approved. Principal Spoores responded that he had based his recommendation to the Superintendent on the numbers and was trying to keep the class sizes down. The recommendations were acted on as follows:

- Jennifer South: JC Teacher - Motion: Peters / Second: Deck / Vote: Unanimous
- Lindsey Vigil: JC Teacher – Motion: Collier / Second: Deck / Vote: Unanimous
- Liz Conrad: MS Guidance Counselor – Motion: Cord / Second: Deck / Vote: Unanimous

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Peters made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2015 Board Meeting. Mr. Deck seconded the motion. The Board's vote to approve the Minutes with the indicated changes was unanimous. The Minutes of the May 18 Meeting will be considered for approval at the following Board Meeting scheduled for June 18, 2015.

#### **FUND REPORT:**

The Financial Report for April, 2015, was presented to the Board for approval. Mrs. Collier moved to approve the report. Mr. Roberts seconded. Mrs. Swango explained that the Property Tax funds are low because the Corporation receives property tax distributions in June. Mr. Bennett mentioned that he knew Rising Sun was doing something different with their investing. Mrs. Swango responded that she would check with Kelley, but wondered if it was a Sweep Account. 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. Cord:

Payroll Claims: 05/22/2015 and 06/02/15

Prewritten Claims: #48726 - #48763; #48764 - #48777; and #48779 - #48788

New Claims: #48789 - #48876

Voided Claim: #48778

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Mrs. Cord asked about claim #48748 to YMCA in the amount of \$573.60. Mrs. Swango explained that this was a monthly payment to the YMCA from payroll deductions for employee memberships. The Board's vote to approve the claims as submitted was unanimous.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Matt Jung, Advanced Manufacturing teacher at the High School, wanted to address the Board regarding what has been done this year with PLTW and his hopes for next year. He has had some wonderful experiences with the program. This past year, he taught an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Engineering class. This year, he will be teaching an additional class at the Middle School called Design and Modeling. He will also be teaching an Introduction to Engineering & Design dual credit class offered through Ivy-Tech with the condition that the students pass an end of course PLTW assessment. The other class he will be teaching is Principles of Engineering which focuses more on robotics. Mr. Jung also wishes to start a Robotics Club which participates in state and national competitions, much like the Archery team. He will also be teaching a dual credit Physics class through Ivy-Tech. So far, he has ten students enrolled in that class.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

An updated Administrative Benefits Policy which had its first reading on 4/20/15 and revised on June 10, 2015 was presented for approval. Mrs. Peters moved to approve the policy as submitted. Mr. Roberts seconded and the Board's vote was unanimous. The approved policy can be found on the Corporation's website.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Negotiations Committee: Informal meetings will be held the first of July with CTA President, Greg Curlin. Formal negotiations will begin around the first of August.

Endowment Committee: The Endowment waived the thirty day waiting period for the Technology Department's request for cameras, and approved the project, estimated to cost \$123,796.34. The amount of funds approved by the Endowment was \$61,898.17. The cameras will be installed this summer. Mr. Sieglitz said the equipment was ordered and on its way.

Internal Controls Committee: No new activity.

Facilities & Ground Committee Report: Mr. Jones mentioned that the grounds looked very nice and the mowers needed to be complimented. He also had good things to say about the custodial staff at the High School. The facilities looked great for Graduation ceremonies.

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There will be a special meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2015 regarding construction/renovation of Jefferson-Craig Elementary School. It will begin with a tour of the building.

Mr. Jones noted that there have been two major power outages in the last six months which have impacted the whole town. Both were caused by a transformer close to the blue barn by the track which feeds the whole town. Duke Energy will be taking out all of the old growth, hopefully in the next two weeks.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Peters made a motion to approve an IDOE Excellence in Performance Grant in the amount of \$2,273.00. Mr. Deck seconded. Mrs. Cord questioned the number of teachers that this was for. Mr. Jones said the number from the state was 2 & 2/3. The Board's vote to approve the grant as submitted was unanimous.

Mrs. Collier moved to approve the re-appointment of Sharon Deck as a member of the Switzerland County Public Library Board. Mrs. Cord seconded the motion. Mr. Deck abstained from the vote while all other Board Members voted to approve the appointment.

The Board unanimously approved Jefferson-Craig Elementary School to be a Pre-K-6 Elementary School in a motion made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mr. Roberts. The restructuring is a result of adding Pre-Kindergarten instruction in the coming school year.

Mrs. Cord moved to approve a Hold Harmless and Release Agreement submitted by the Transportation Department. Mrs. Collier seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agreement was unanimous. The agreement was created from problems arising with parents or guardians not being present when the student is dropped off of the bus after school.

A Switzerland County High School / Dearborn County Hospital Emergency Shelter Agreement was unanimously approved as presented in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mrs. Cord. The agreement is actually for the new owners of Swiss Villa Nursing Home, previously owned by Dearborn County Hospital, to use the gym for shelter in the event of an emergency.

A number of Jefferson-Craig ECA Fundraisers were submitted to the Board for approval. Mr. Deck moved to approve. Mrs. Cord seconded. Mr. Daugherty abstained from the vote, while all other Board members voted to approve the fundraisers as submitted. They are as follows:

- JC Library: Scholastic Book Fairs for new library books: 12/15 and 4/16
- JC Office: Student Pictures- Life Touch Pictures: Fall & Spring
- JC Stud. Council: \$1 Christmas Light/Foot sales for Relay for Life donations: Dec. 7-11, 2015 and May 9-13, 2016
- JC Recycling Club: Recycling for JC pond and court yard improvements: school year
- JC Recycling Club: Donations for local Animal Shelter: March, April, May, 2016

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- JC Gr. 's K-6: ISTEP Kick-Off for ISTEP incentives mid January through February, 2016
- JC Office: Sale of Science Boards for donation to needful students, April-May, 2016
- JC Gr. 6: Home Interior Candle Sales for Camp Livingston Fees: February, 2016
- JC Gr. 4: Candy Gram Sales for Relay for Life donations: Feb. 3-14, 2016
- JC Stud. Council: Item solicitations for donations to troops: Nov. 1-11, 2016
- JC Drama Club: Free Will Donation Collection for funding of future performances, Feb., 2016
- JC Student Council: \$1.00 Hat Day Sale for donation to troops: 2015-2016 School Year
- JC Office: Yearbook Sales : April to May, 2016

Mrs. Peters brought up the subject of Board meeting times. She indicated that perhaps some members of the Board and the community might be rushed to be able to attend the meetings at 5:00 P.M. for a regular meeting. Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve moving the regular Board Meeting time to 6:00 P.M. and Executive Sessions at 5:00 P.M. on a three-month trial basis, beginning in July. Mrs. Collier seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Discussion was held regarding the desire of a previous Board President to have the meetings streamed live to the public. Mr. Sieglitz said that he could begin doing that in August. He did not know how well the cameras and microphones would work, but he would give it a try.

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

A professional leave from Cindy Grigsby to attend the Linda Mood Bell Seeing Stars Workshop at the Crowne Plaza in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 6 through July 7 was approved unanimously by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mrs. Peters. The cost of the workshop will be paid through a Special Needs grant and the General Fund.

#### **USE OF FACILITIES:**

Four requests for the use of school facilities were presented for consideration by the Board. They are as follows:

- SCES Field & Restroom: Andy Brookbank for Switz. County SAY Soccer, April, 2015
- SCHS: Mark Jackson for Lynx Wrestling Clinic, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M., 6/19 & 6/20, 2015
- SCHS Wrestling Room: Hannah Cook for Tumbling classes on Tuesdays, May 25-Aug., 2015 from 3:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- SCES Library: Lisa Combs on specific dates for tutoring, from June through August 6, 2015, 9:00 A.M. – Noon.

Questions arose regarding the lack of the provision of certificates of liability from a couple of applicants and whether or not it was the intent of the individual to make a profit from the activity. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the first two applications, with the proper certification provided, and to pull the last two until more information could be gathered from the applicants. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. It was noted that the tumbling and tutoring classes needed to cease until the requested information was provided to the Board.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

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

- Next Endowment meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Administration Office
- Special Board Meeting, June 18, 2015 @ 5:00 P.M. at Jefferson-Craig Library
- Next Regular Board Meeting, Monday, July 20, 2015 at the Administration Office at 6:00 P.M.

### **BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Cord appreciates the other Board members for being more responsive and listening to the public by moving up the Public Comments to earlier on the agenda. She thanked Mr. Goewert for allowing Board members to sit on the stage during the Graduation ceremonies. She is agonizing over the Jefferson-Craig project. She has done lots of research and has been looking through records going back thirty years. She gave Board members a copy of some of her findings.

Mr. Bennett said it was an honor to participate in graduation ceremonies. On that subject, he was approached Saturday with concerns over some things that took place prior to graduation and during graduation. He was asked for a Board apology to the Senior Class. From his point, he will do everything he can to make sure it does not happen again. As far as Jefferson-Craig goes, he has had nothing but positive feedback.

Mrs. Collier congratulated the teachers and administrators for making it another successful year. She knows they are all experiencing a huge sigh of relief now that it's summer. She thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

Mrs. Peters threw out the idea of ROTC at the High School. She said she has gotten some positive remarks about it and wonders how everyone else feels about it. Mr. Jones feels it is a good thing. He knows there are a couple of schools in the area that has it. Mr. Goewert said Lawrenceburg was starting a program there. He has spoken with Donna Baker and Barry Smith, but they are retired too far out from it to be able to head it up. He's going to have Mr. McGarvey check with Mr. Byrd, who may qualify from his Navy experience. The key is to find someone on staff who has been retired from the military less than five years.

Mrs. Peters asked who pays for students who take a foreign language on line. Precedence has been set for the Corporation to pay, but the power to approve lies with Mr. Goewert.

Mrs. Peters was invited to attend an Advanced Placement meeting. She was thankful to Mr. Goewert and Mrs. Higgins for the open concept meeting involving a school Principal and Teacher.

Mrs. Peters said the number of scholarships that were given out at Senior Awards Night was awesome. She mentioned that she was disheartened about the forty scholarships

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awarded that night but were not picked up by the recipients because they were not in attendance.

Mrs. Peters hopes the Board is still thinking of adding another counselor at the High School.

Mrs. Peters asked about topics discussed at a Safety Meeting she missed. Mr. Spoores touched on some issues that were discussed. The issue of students leaving the High School during the day was mentioned. She asked if the High School is a closed campus. Mr. Goewert voiced his concern regarding this issue because students were actually losing credits fourth period because they were leaving to go to lunch elsewhere and coming back late to class. Also mentioned was the use of the road in the back to use for the landing of a medical helicopter instead of using the field. Mr. Jones said they would need to bring it to the Board. Safety lighting was also discussed.

Mrs. Peters said the Rachel's Challenge program was excellent. She mentioned that the Pacer event was coming up on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Daugherty has every confidence in the Superintendent, the Principal, and the Assistant Principal to handle situations like the one that happened during graduation. He apologized to the Board for allowing the last meeting to get out of hand. He feels that it is the Board President's responsibility to take control and he will not let it happen again.

Mr. Jones mentioned that an acquaintance told him that her nephew had issues at South Ripley being able to graduate. The student was able to come to the High School and thanks to the Credit Recovery Program, he was able to finish his requirements. She had positive things to say about Mr. Goewert, Mr. Drake, and Mrs. Barwick. She was extremely happy that she was able to see her nephew graduate and walk across the stage.

**ADJOURNMENT:** (7:20 P.M.)

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Meeting in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Deck. 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