

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 03, 2015
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING: 6:00 P.M.**

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

Board President, Mr. Daugherty, called the meeting to order, asking that all communication devices be turned off or silenced, and led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag. Superintendent Jones wanted those in attendance to keep the family of a recently deceased Switzerland County student, Janelle Lustig, in mind during a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present: Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Deck, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. Cord, and Mrs. Peters.

Others in attendance: Mr. Michael L. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, John Sieglitz, Tony Spoores, Sean McGarvey, Sally Weales, Gregg Goewert, Marla Edwards, Cindy Welch, Ivan Green, David Todd, Kellie Lockwood, Anna Lockwood, David Lockwood, Greg Curlin, Michelle Oatman, Chris Oatman, Kayla Jordan, and Pat Lanman.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

An amended agenda was presented for approval with the addition of Old Business items regarding consideration of a new bus route, and consideration of exit interviews; and under Personnel, employment of a bus driver if the route is approved. The motion to approve was made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mr. Roberts. Vote: Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The floor was opened up for public comments by Board President, Mr. Daugherty. He asked that anyone wishing to speak give their name and keep statements to 2 to 3 minutes. If they are unable to finish in the allotted time, they are asked to submit the balance of their comments in writing. The Board will take comments under advisement. If a written response is requested, their contact information should be left with the Administrative Secretary.

Michelle Oatman spoke on the topic of the revision of the Valedictorian/Salutatorian Policy being considered later in the meeting. She advised the Board of her likes and dislikes of the proposed policy revision. She feels a student's ethical and moral character should be taken into consideration. She feels the school should keep the class rank.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mrs. Peters to approve the revision of a Board Policy, thus affecting the previously approved HS Student/Parent Handbook, regarding the designation of Valedictorian/Salutatorian for college admission purposes, as well as Policy regarding Graduation Ceremonies. Mr. Deck seconded the motion.

The revised policy proposal includes the recognition of magna cum laude, summa cum laude, and cum laude students and the deletion of class ranking, as well as procedures regarding speeches and those students giving keynote addresses. Mrs. Edwards said they were recognizing more students at graduation ceremonies. Mr. Goewert said his team was fine with keeping the policy the way it originally was, but the administrative team was asked to revisit it for consideration at this meeting.

Much more discussion followed regarding the making the distinction of Valedictorian and Salutatorian and class ranking and the system of weighted classes. Concerns were expressed by some Board members regarding doing away with class ranking as well as the changing of the system in mid-stream of a student's career.

Mr. Bennett feels the cum laude titles was more of a college thing and feels the class ranking should be kept. He said the speeches should be limited and turned in prior to graduation with no exceptions. Mrs. Cord brought up such topics as the policies used by schools attended by transfer students, and whether or not it is a requirement for a student to take a certain number of Advanced Placement classes or ACT scores to be eligible for the title of Valedictorian.

Mrs. Peters rescinded her motion to discuss the policy as submitted. Mr. Deck seconded. VOTE: AYES: Bennett, Collier, Cord, Deck, Peters, Roberts, NAYS: Daugherty.

Following a five minute break from the meeting, more discussion was held regarding the Valedictorian/Salutatorian policy. Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve a revised policy to be effective immediately. Mrs. Collier seconded. More discussion was held on the topic and a clarification of Mr. Bennett's motion. VOTE: AYES: Bennett, Collier, Cord, Deck, Peters. NAYS: Daugherty, Roberts. The revised policy reads as follows:

VALEDICTORIAN 'POLICY FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION' – All graduating students with a cumulative GPA of a 4.0 or above will receive the designation of Valedictorian on their transcript. ACADEMIC/GRADUATION RECOGNITION POLICY – For the graduating class of 2016, the #1 ranked student will be designated as the Valedictorian and the #2 ranked student will be designated as the Salutatorian. These two students will give keynote addresses at the graduation ceremony. Beginning with the graduating class of 2017 and all graduating classes thereafter, there will be only one student, (the #1 ranked student), to give the keynote address at the graduation ceremony. Graduation speeches must be limited to 1000 words and approved by the administrative team. Speeches must be turned in to the administrative team no later than 2 school days prior

to graduation practice and finalized with administrators by the determined time of graduation practice; no exceptions.

Consideration of new bus route for 2015-2016 due to increase of student population resulting in overcrowded buses – Motion was made by Mrs. Peters to approve. Seconded by Mrs. Collier. VOTE: Unanimous.

Exit Interviews – Mrs. Peters made a motion to pursue procedures for exit interviews to see if it will be a beneficial tool for the Corporation. Mr. Bennett seconded. Discussion followed. Mr. Jones told the Board he would forward an email to them containing information he had on the topic. VOTE: AYES: Peters, Bennett, Collier, Deck, Cord. NAYS: Roberts, Daugherty.

PERSONNEL:

Bus Driver Resignation – Mrs. Peters moved to approve the resignation of Mark Powell as presented. Mrs. Collier seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Bus Driver Recommendation – Mr. Roberts moved to approve Douglas McNeely to fill the open position with employment to begin 8/11/2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Deck. VOTE: Unanimous.

Bus Driver Recommendation – Motion was made by Mr. Deck to approve the employment of Judy Lozier to fill the position for the new bus route. Mrs. Collier seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Endowment Committee:

No new business. Two meetings will be held in August due to rescheduling.

Internal Controls Committee: None.

Negotiations Committee:

Negotiations committees have had two informal meetings so far. Committees have also met. The first formal meeting will be held Wednesday, 8/5/15 at 2:00 P.M. in the Board Room.

Facilities & Grounds:

Mr. Jones mentioned that Terry Lancer will be coming at 4:00 P.M. prior to the Endowment Meeting for an informal discussion regarding the proposed Restrooms and Concessions Building. Mrs. Peters mentioned that she had gotten some estimates for the Technology Storage Building in a location that it might be best utilized. Mr. Sieglitz touched on what the building would entail: climate controlled summer storage for

technology devices to clear out space in all of the school buildings and long-term storage for cameras, g.p.s. equipment, etc. Mr. Daugherty asked Mr. McGarvey what changes will be made at the Middle School when some of the students are moved back to the Jefferson-Craig addition. Mr. McGarvey mentioned that he and his staff had thought about some things, one of them being a conference room for meetings, rather than having to re-arrange the library each time. He said if need be, they can always convert it back into a classroom. The average class size is around 22 to 25 students. Mr. Daugherty had questions regarding the relocation of gas lines. Mr. Spoores said he has spoken with Alan Konkle and Terry Lancer who were supposed to get together to discuss the issue. Mrs. Swango mentioned that there are contingency fund dollars built into the estimate to cover those types of things. More discussion was held regarding the technology storage building. Mrs. Peters said the estimates to get it under roof have been \$35,000 to \$39,000. Phase II would need to be done in 2016, which would include climate controls.

NEW BUSINESS:

Health Care Flexible Spending Account Amendment – Mr. Deck made a motion to approve as presented. Mrs. Peters seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Textbook Rental Technology Fee for Ag Experience Tracker Program – Mrs. Collier moved to approve. Mrs. Peters seconded. Mr. Curlin spoke as to what the program entailed. VOTE: Unanimous.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Superintendent):

Mr. Jones made the following announcements:

- Next Endowment Meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.
- Next Regular Board Meeting: Monday, Aug. 17, 2015 at 6:00 P.M., including:
 - 1028 Additional Appropriation Public Hearing for CPF
 - Budget Workshop
 - Bond Adoption
- Will begin accepting credit card payments for technology fees and charges for damaged or lost technology devices. Students are being given the option of setting up a payment plan of three payments for those who cannot pay the full price at once. The technology fee for each student is \$25.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Cord: There needs to be a clarification in the local newspaper regarding the Ivy Tech classes being held at Ivy Tech instead of the Switzerland County Technology Center. She asked Mr. Spoores if any of his staff members had concerns regarding the proposed additional classrooms being without sinks in the rooms. Mr. Spoores said the majority of his staff are aware and had no issues with it.

Mr. Bennett: Thanked Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Goewert and Mr. Todd for their input regarding the change to the policy.

Mrs. Peters: Wanted to know if the items on the maintenance list from previous meeting are being checked into. Mr. Jones said he was making sure they were addressed.

ADJOURNMENT: (8:05 P.M.)

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

Wayne Daugherty, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Josh Deck, Secretary

Joseph Bennett, Member

Katie Collier, Member

S. Jill Cord, Member

Nancy Peters, Member