

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
Piasa, Illinois 62079

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2011

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on September 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Commons Room in Piasa, Illinois. Rodney Bailey-President asked Don Little-Secretary to call roll showing those members present were: Rodney Bailey-President, Steve Reed-Vice President, Don Little-Secretary, Brad Gillespie, Randy Gallaher, Tim Baker, Mike Wegener, Brad Skertich-Superintendent and Rose Bagley-Recording Secretary. Visitors' sign-in sheet is attached.

A motion was made by Steve Reed and seconded by Tim Baker to approve the minutes of the regular school board meeting and the closed session meeting of August 16, 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reed, Little, Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher, Baker and Wegener.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Randy Gallaher and seconded by Mike Wegener to approve the minutes of the special board meeting of August 29, 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Little, Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener and Reed

A motion was made by Mike Wegener and seconded by Don Little to approve the August bills and the consent agenda bills as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed and Little.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Randy Gallaher and seconded by Mike Wegener to approve the imprest bills and the extra pay and substitute pay as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed, Little and Gillespie.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Mike Wegener and seconded by Randy Gallaher to approve the financial report as presented for August, 2011 with fund balances in the Education Fund as \$1,882,882, Operations and Maintenance Fund as \$627,414, Transportation Fund as \$-20,511 and the Working Cash Fund as \$1,316,624. Our state aid will be less due to our lower enrollment.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed, Little, Gillespie and Bailey.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence & Recognition:

Jen Borkowski, Deb Gaffney and Tim Reed were recognized for their outstanding job in applying for a \$25,000 grant through Monsanto. Southwestern did receive a \$25,000 grant from Monsanto to be used in the Science program. Jen Borkowski headed the grant writing and was commended by Monsanto for the great job she did. Area farmers also had to nominate the school and many area farmers contributed by doing this. Monsanto will be at the Oct. 21st football game to present the check at half-time.

Scheffel and Company presented a summary of the audit report. The estimated 2012 Financial Profile Designation from Scheffel and Co. was Recognition. This will be calculated by ISBE for a final status. A copy of the report is in the District Office.

Committee Reports:

The Facilities Committee met on August 23, 2011 and Mr. Skertich gave a presentation on the condition of the track and Science labs. Mr. Skertich started with the track showing pictures of several areas that are deteriorating. We have not had the track surfaced since it was put down seven years ago and we should have had it resurfaced at least once if not twice since then. It would cost \$40,000 to resurface it, but it wouldn't do any good because it is in such bad shape. The committee asked the architect, Ittner, to put together a cost proposal to replace the track and mound the football field so it drains correctly and put in a different drain system so water doesn't sit on the track. The timeline for this project would be to start immediately after the 2012 football season. The 2013 track competition would all have to be away. It was asked what this would cost the taxpayers. We have around \$400,000 in Capital Project Money from when the District sold bonds to do remodeling in the District. Going on to the Science labs, Mr. Skertich had pictures of them. They are the original Science labs that were put in when the building was built. They have no running water, the gas lines are shut off due to leaks, no electricity and the drains are rusted out on the lab tables. The ventilation device that is used to remove gases from the rooms is not working properly so this limits the teachers as to what they can do and keep the students safe. There is only one sink working for both rooms at the time. The chemical storage room is in need of upgrade. The architect is also putting together a cost proposal for these updates also. After these proposals are received the Facilities Committee will meet and then discuss with the Board in October. The architects met with the Science teachers to see what they would like. Then when the District gets the proposals from Ittner they will decide what is possible to do.

A motion was made by Brad Gillespie and seconded by Mike Wegener to accept the Facilities Committee Meeting report of August 23, 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Baker, Wegener, Reed, Little, Gillespie, Bailey and Gallaher.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Social Media Policy 5.125 was reviewed as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards Press Plus and then tweaked by our legal council to make it more effective and appropriate for an educational setting. After some discussion, the Committee recommended to approve it to the Board.

A motion was made by Tim Baker and seconded by Mike Wegener to accept the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting on August 30, 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Wegener, Reed, Little, Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher and Baker.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent Report:

Resignations:

A motion was made by Steve Reed and seconded by Rodney Bailey to accept the resignation of Robert McHughes, custodian, effective September 30, 2011. Mr. Skertich presented this as a resignation because that is how Mr. McHughes stated it in the letter, but he is retiring and Mr. Skertich wished him the best in his retirement for many years to come.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reed, Little, Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher, Baker and Wegener.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Employment: None

Volunteers: None

Retirement: None

Leave of Absence: None

Substitute List:

A motion was made by Steve Reed and seconded by Randy Gallaher to accept Substitute List #2 as presented and attached.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Little, Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener and Reed.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Enrollment and Suspension Report:

A motion was made by Mike Wegener and seconded by Brad Gillespie to approve the district enrollment report and the suspension summary as presented by Brad Skertich and attached. As of August 31, 2011, district enrollment is at 1680. The total suspensions for the district stand at 3 for the month of August, 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed and Little.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

District Highlights:

Mr. Skertich reported that Brighton North started the year with a salad bar as a choice to try to increase revenues as they decrease expenses in the cafeterias. This has gone over very well. The High School/Middle School students have smoothie machines as well as cold sandwiches to help increase revenue. The smoothies are going over great in the Middle School. Right now the average number of reimbursable meals is up by 65 per day in the cafeteria. If we hold that number, or close to it, it will mean a drastic increase in revenues.

The curriculum realignment to Common Core Standards meetings with the High School and Middle School are off to a good start. There have been three lightning strikes in the last six months. We are at about \$40,000 in damages from what happened since last week that will be turned in to the Insurance Company. We are up and going pretty good, but the progress reports will be pushed back a week since the computers were down for a while and the teachers didn't have access to enter grades. On Sept. 19 we had the Diabetes Delegated Carry training on how to respond and react if a student goes in diabetic shock whether it be a sugar high or a sugar low and that meets our requirement for our Delegated Carry throughout the district.

Mr. Skertich gave Mr. Bearley's report upon his absence. Homecoming activities begin Friday, September 30 with a parade at 5:00 pm in Brighton followed by a bonfire at Snyder Park. Homecoming game is Saturday, October 1st at 1 pm with activities such as pass, punt and kick, face painting, a petting zoo and Betsy Bingo starting at 10:00 am. The Booster Club will have various items for food and drink. Everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy homecoming.

Mrs. Milner gave Shipman Elementary and Medora Elementary highlights. Shipman kicked the year off this year as sports teams "TEAM" which stands for "Together Everyone Achieves More" focusing on cooperation and being respectful. The students also made a huge flag by putting their handprints on it and presented it to the Shipman Fire Department in honor of the 10th anniversary of 911. For Medora she highlighted Mrs. Kroeschel's second grade class and how they are learning about organization, responsibility and team work.

Mrs. Willman presented Brighton North and Brighton West highlights. At both Brighton schools they have been collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonalds House. They saved 107 pounds for this project. At Brighton North, Mrs. Cox's 4th grade class has been studying animal and plant cells. They made a cell out of jell-o and then got to eat them. Thanks to Mrs. Champion and Mrs. Sullivan for bringing back the Student Council at Brighton North. Nathan Cairns, a student in Mrs. Hausman's 5th grade class, in on a trapshooting team and his team won 1st place at the Sparta AIM (Academic/Integrity/Marksmanship) Grand American trapshooting competition this summer. At Brighton West, the 1st grades have begun their "Guest Reader" program.

Mr. Hopkins, principal at the Middle School, wanted to thank the Southwestern Middle School Boosters for purchasing white boards for the classrooms. He also wanted to thank Jason Blankenship for getting the mobile computer lab set up. The Middle School is now wireless. The librarian, Mrs. Naugle is holding a Middle School book fair Sept. 20 – 22nd. There will be an open house at the Middle School on Sept. 21st from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The Middle School Language Department and Dan DeLong are working on the 7th and 8th grade curriculum. The Middle School baseball season just ended and the girls' basketball season is just starting. Mrs. Greco is the cheerleading sponsor this year with 16 girls participating.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

A motion was made by Mike Wegener and seconded by Rodney Bailey to adopt policy 5:125 as amended by district's legal counsel.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed and Little.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

A motion was made by Steve Reed and seconded by Mike Wegener to approve Resolution Agreeing to Withdrawal of Member Districts from Region III.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed, Little and Gillespie.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Don Little and seconded by Rodney Bailey to approve Application for Recognition of Schools for Brighton West, Brighton North, Medora, Shipman, Southwestern Middle School and High School.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed, Little, Gillespie and Bailey.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Closed Session:

A motion was made by Mike Wegener and seconded by Randy Gallaher to Negotiations and Employment, "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity". The board went into closed session at 8:27 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Baker, Wegener, Reed, Little, Gillespie, Bailey and Gallaher.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

At 9:25 p.m. a motion was made by Don Little and seconded by Rodney Bailey to open the meeting to regular session.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gillespie, Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed and Little.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Brad Gillespie and seconded by Mike Wegener to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bailey, Gallaher, Baker, Wegener, Reed, Little and Gillespie.

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Rosemary Bagley
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary