

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
Brighton, Illinois 62012

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2020

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on August 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Commons in Piasa, Illinois. Andrew Bagley-President, called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. and asked Randy Gallaher, Board Secretary, to call roll showing those members present as: Andrew Bagley, Tim Baker, Randy Gallaher, Donna Loy, Jason Oertel, Jacob Reno, Dara Simmons, Kyle Hacke-Superintendent, and Kim Albert-Recording Secretary.

Andrew Bagley-President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

None

Correspondence and Recognition:

None

Administrators Reports:

Mark Bearley, High School Principal, reported that today (first day of school) went very well. He wanted to thank Pat Dugas and Shelly Robinson, Instructional Coaches, for all the work they have done training employees and working on setting up links and step-by-step instructions for individuals. He also wanted to thank all of his staff for helping out and making everything run as smoothly as possible. He discussed Schoology and how it works; he indicated that some teachers are using video lessons, screencast (which involves 5-15 minute lessons). Schoology has an abundance of resources and it will continue to evolve as time goes on.

Middle School Principal, Shannon Bowman, indicated that the Middle School students were very cooperative and she was very proud of them. The Middle School staff worked as a team on opening day and things went very well. Middle School teachers will parallel lessons and those will be used for remote learners the same as in the High School.

Mrs. Milner, Shipman Elementary & Brighton North Primary Principal, reported that both her schools had a great first day back. There were no issues reported. Her staff are very dedicated, were at work early today, and ready to go. Kindergarten thru third grade teachers will be contacting parents/guardians to inquire about technology at home. 4th grade remote learners will be doing the same as the upper grades in which the teachers will record lessons, Schoology, etc.

Special Education Coordinator, Stephanie Renken, spoke regarding the Special Education Departments updates. She reported that they have nine new IEP's this year so far. She is starting to schedule IEP meetings with most of them done through a program called Web Ex.

The Special Education teachers are working on plans for remote learning to meet each students' needs. They must make sure they are continuing to make progress toward reaching the students goals in their IEP's. She has been updating the Special Ed teachers on new legal issues/laws. CPI training is being scheduled. She also mentioned that Plexi glass partitions are being used in some of the classrooms.

Scott Hopkins, Medora Intermediate Principal, commented on how good it was to see students back in the buildings as well as teachers/staff. He also said he could tell that kids were smiling behind their masks! There were no complaints at Medora Intermediate and it was a good first day back to school. Mr. Hopkins explained some of the remote learning happening through Medora in that some of the teachers had recorded lessons, some here having students remote in and join the class, etc. He also explained to the board that remote learners without internet access could do work on their computer at home and as soon as they were close to a Southwestern building and logged in, the downloaded work would update and be available to the teachers.

Superintendent Report:

COVID Update: Mr. Hacke wanted to give accolades to all staff in the district regarding starting day, getting ready, etc. He mentioned that he was in 75% of the classes during the day today and things were going exceptionally well. He was very concerned before starting, but he was pleasantly surprised how well things had went. He also indicated that the districts instructional coaches had done a great job training staff and getting programs up and running. He explained that new state guidelines had been sent out AGAIN and there is now an option to close one building at a time instead of closing the district as a whole if need be in regard to Covid-19. If this were to occur, it would be called an adaptive pause.

Per Mr. Hacke our enrollment as of today, 8/18/2020, was 1,011 in person students and 240 remote students; this did not include Pre-K students or any students that might be being homeschooled this year. Last years ending enrollment was 1385 including Pre-K students.

Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement...

Tyler Hamilton submitted his resignation as the Boys Soccer Coach. Mr. Hacke expressed his appreciation for his service.

Mr. Hacke discussed the PRESS Update 104-First Reading, but there was no action needed in this regard.

A report was given by Mr. Hacke on the FY20 Tentative Budget. He indicated that, as always, this is a conservative budget. Mr. Hacke pointed out that the districts funds are healthy at this point (some are listed in the Consent Agenda). The budget is available for public view for 30 days in the Southwestern Administrative Office.

Items Considered for Action...

Consent Agenda:

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of July 31, 2020, being: Education Fund \$3,767,967.00, Operations/Maintenance \$1,088,844.00, Transportation \$439,936.00, Working Cash \$3,057,559.00, with the total being \$8,354,306.00. The County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Revenue received in July amounted to \$36,784.12...July bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list...regular board meeting minutes from July 21, 2020, Closed Session Board Meeting Minutes July 21, 2020, Negotiations Committee Meeting Minutes August 3, 2020, Negotiations Committee Meeting Closed Session Minutes from August 3, 2020, Special Board Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2020, and the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2020.

There were no questions regarding the Consent Agenda. Being such, Andrew Bagley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Donna Loy made the second motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Baker, Gallaher, Loy, Oertel, Reno, Simmons, and Bagley

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Loy made a motion to hire Amy Clendenen as a full-time Special Education Teacher and Tim Baker seconded the motion. Amy was a part-time Special Education Teacher last year in the district.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Reno, Simmons, Bagley, Baker, and Gallaher

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Grace Vandygriff was hired as a Lunchroom/Recess Monitor at Shipman Elementary after a motion was made by Jason Oertel and seconded by Jacob Reno.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gallaher, Loy, Oertel, Reno, Simmons, Bagley, and Baker

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A Policy meeting was held and the school calendar was updated. The 2020-2021 Student Handbook was updated with the new school calendar. Tim Baker made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Student Handbook. Dara Simmons seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Reno, Simmons, Bagley, Baker, Gallaher, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

After the districts' attorneys reviewed and ok'd the paperwork from Ameren to obtain an easement at the southwest corner of the HS/MS, Andrew Bagley made a motion to approve such. Randy Gallaher seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reno, Simmons, Bagley, Baker, Gallaher, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The Southwestern Education Association voted to approve the contract agreement between Southwestern CUSD #9 and themselves. Donna Loy made a motion to approve the said agreement with Jacob Reno seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Simmons, Bagley, Baker, Gallaher, Loy, Oertel, and Reno

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Bagley made a motion to approve the compensation for non-union and Administrative Personnel for 2020-21 School Year. Tim Baker made the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bagley, Baker, Gallaher, Loy, Oertel, Reno, and Simmons

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

There were no issues to discuss in closed session.

With no further items for discussion, Jason Oertel made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Andrew Bagley seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Baker, Gallaher, Loy, Oertel, Reno, Simmons, and Bagley

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary