

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
Piasa, Illinois 62079
December 15, 2020

TAX LEVY HEARING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Southwestern Board of Education was called to order by President-Andrew Bagley at 6:45 p.m. on December 15, 2020, in the Middle School Commons Room in Piasa, Illinois. Andrew Bagley-President asked Kim Albert, Recording Secretary to call roll showing those members present as Andrew Bagley-President, Tim Baker-virtually, Randy Gallaher, Donna Loy-virtually, Jason Oertel, Jacob Reno, Kyle Hacke-Superintendent and Kim Albert-Recording Secretary. Dara Simmons, Board Member, was absent.

Superintendent, Kyle Hacke, explained the Proposed 2020 Tax Levy (Collected in 2021) as presented. A short question/answer period was held.

Public Comments: None

A motion was made by Jason Oertel and seconded by Andrew Bagley to adjourn the Tax Levy Hearing.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2020

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on December 15, 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, Randy Gallaher, Jason Oertel, Jacob Reno, Kyle Hacke-Superintendent, and Kim Albert-Recording Secretary. Board members Tim Baker and Donna Loy were present via WebEx; and Dara Simmons was absent.

Andrew Bagley-President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

None

Correspondence and Recognition:

A Thank You card was received and read from the Gerald Cox Family.

Administrators Reports:

All school principals were in attendance by WebEx with the exception of Mrs. Milner who was absent.

Mrs. Renken, Special Education Coordinator, reported on the in-service refresher course that the Special Education staff had recently participated in. Also, on January 4, 2021, another in-service will be held regarding writing IEP's during COVID. Mrs. Renken commended her staff for working so well together and helping each other out during the current crisis.

Mr. Bearley, High School Principal, thanked the community, students, and staff for the participation in the recent fundraiser that benefited Toys for Tots. Roughly \$3000 was raised. He also wanted to thank the Southwestern Sports Boosters for their special offer given out at the event and for the money it generated. Mr. Bearley also mentioned Mr. Webb Cunningham and thanked him for his continued leadership with the Toys for Tots Program.

Shannon Bowman, Middle School Principal, read the names of the Students of the Month and reported that they had received their Dairy Queen lunches. She also indicated that the Middle School currently has 72 remote learners. Mrs. Bowman reported on the WebEx meetings being held between the teachers and the remote learners currently. She said these meetings are being well received and will also be used on the remote learning Wednesdays. Mrs. Bowman indicated that parents and students are communicating more with teachers which is a great thing.

Scott Hopkins, Medora Intermediate Principal, mentioned that the number of D's and/or F's actually had doubled during the recent remote learning stint; but he is now happy to report that by the end of the week that number will have fallen to less than 10%. His teachers, staff, and students alike are doing well all around. The majority of individuals in Medora are happy to be back to in-person learning. Mr. Hopkins reported that students had enjoyed a Dilly Bar last week which was a reward that was promised from raising so much money for the Toys for Tots program last month. He also reported that he would be fulfilling a promise he had made to the students on Friday, December 18th, by dressing up as something silly.

Superintendent Report:

Mr. Hacke reported that the enrollment is currently still at 1288 students. Mr. Hacke did report that discipline has been trending upwards just a little.

District Update:

The Superintendent wished to express his gratitude to all staff. They deserve a lot of credit for how they have performed during the last month. They are doing great and making these trying times successful for our students. Mr. Hacke reported to the board that the next semester will be planned for in-person learning as long as it is deemed safe. He will be sending out a letter thru email to parents/guardians regarding the next semester. Students will be allowed to switch from remote learning to in-person learning only at the end of 3rd quarter. Students will be allowed to switch at any time from in-person learning to remote learning. The district will count on students starting second semester (i.e. in-person or remote) in the same fashion as they end the second quarter (12/22/2020). If there is a change, please contact the school office where the student attends by December 18th.

Mr. Hacke stated he had received an email from IHSA indicating they are trying to schedule a meeting with the Governor and IL Dept. of Public Health prior to January, 2021, regarding certain winter sports. Mr. Hacke doesn't think the sanctions on basketball will change even if the meeting is held.

Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement...

Mr. Hacke gave an update on Press Plus Update 106-First Reading. There was only one substantial update which separates activity funds and Fiduciary funds. No action was needed regarding this update.

Items Considered for Action...

Consent Agenda:

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of November 30, 2020, being: Education Fund \$4,712,729.00, Operations/Maintenance \$1,336,821.00, Transportation \$269,825.00, Working Cash \$3,099,932.00, with the total being \$9,419,307.00, and the County Schools Facilities Sales Tax

Revenue received in November of \$42,030.32. November bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list...regular board meeting minutes from November 17, 2020.

There were no questions regarding the Consent Agenda. Randy Gallaher made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Jason Oertel made the second motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Loy made a motion to approve Shelly Robinson to be hired as the Education Pathway Coordinator and Randy Gallaher seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Leann Thornton was hired as a High School Lunchroom Monitor after Jason Oertel made such motion with Jacob Reno seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Diane Milner, BN and Shipman Elementary Principal, wishes to retire effective July 31, 2021. Donna Loy made a motion to accept her retirement with Andrew Bagley seconding the motion. Mr. Hacke expressed how the district will miss her and what an asset she is/was to the district during her career. President of the board, Andrew Bagley, wished her well in her retirement.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Hacke discussed the use of remote learning days in place of Emergency Days (i.e. snow days). He indicated that he was in favor of such in the beginning when this issue was brought to light; but after discussing with numerous staff/teachers, he has decided that maybe this is not in the best interest of all. Several teachers believe that there has been too much instructional time lost during this school year already and that if possible, students need to be here. Also, 4th grade and below have no devices to be remote with and the paper copies would not be available to them in a timely manner. Mr. Hacke recommended to the school board that we continue to have snow days at least for the remainder of 2020-2021. If the Covid issue changes for the 2021-2022 school year, the board could revisit this decision at that time and adjust accordingly. That being said, Andrew Bagley made a motion to not use remote learning days in place of emergency days. Randy Gallaher seconded the motion as such.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Tim Baker made a motion and Donna Loy seconded to approve keeping the Closed Session Minutes from January 2020-June 2020 for the Southwestern CUSD #9 Board of Education Closed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Jason Oertel to approve the Schoolwide Title I Plan for Medora Intermediate School. Andrew Bagley made the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Donna Loy to Adopt Press Update 105 as presented in regards to changes in Title 9 and Sexual Harassment with Randy Gallaher making the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Bagley made a motion to approve the Resolution Providing for Tax Levy for Year 2020 (collected in 2021). Jason Oertel seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The Resolution Allocating 2020 Tax Levy to Individual Funds of the District-Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, As Amended, was approved. Jason Oertel made the first motion to approve this with Tim Baker making the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

There were no issues to discuss in closed session.

Randy Gallaher made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Donna Loy seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary