

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
Brighton, Illinois 62012
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022; 6:45 PM

The Southwestern Board of Education met for a special board meeting on September 20, 2022, at 6:45p.m. at the Middle School Commons. Andrew Bagley, President, called the meeting to order. President Bagley asked Randy Gallaher, Board Secretary, to call roll with the following members being present: Andrew Bagley, Randy Gallaher, Jenny Hanks, Jason Oertel, Dr. Kevin Bowman-Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary. Jacob Reno and Nicholas Strohbeck were absent.

There was no public comment or questions regarding the FY 2023 Proposed budget.

A motion to adjourn was made by Donna Loy and seconded by Jason Oertel.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49p.m.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2022

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on September 20, 2022, 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, Jenny Hanks, Donna Loy, Jason Oertel, Nicholas Strohbeck, Dr. Kevin Bowman, Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary. Jacob Reno was absent. Andrew Bagley, President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence and Recognition: Dr. Bowman gave a short report on the Dual Credit offerings for students at Southwestern High School provided by Lewis & Clark Community College and Southwestern Illinois College. There are 22 courses available thru LCCC and two courses available thru SWIC. This is a very good resource/opportunity for our students.

L. Richey and A. Medford were present to report to the board on their FFA trip to Washington, D. C. The ladies had a slide presentation and described their experiences while there. They also wanted to thank the FFA Alumni group for sponsoring their trip.

Administrators Reports:

Mrs. Renken, Special Education Director, shared with the board regarding what several of the Special Education classrooms have been doing. The 1st & 2nd grades were using some of the new materials that were obtained this year as well as the Middle School special education classes having green/gold days on Fridays and posting their pictures in different locations. Mrs. Renken also spoke about a new program called PASS (Pupils Attitudes to Self & School). The program is a screening tool to help staff identify at-risk students and to develop and provide suitable interventions.

Mark Bearley, High School Principal, spoke about how great the students at Southwestern were and how proud he is to work at a great district. He thanked the board, teachers, parents, and community members for raising such outstanding children. He mentioned the numerous clubs/activities available at Southwestern and all the people who volunteer their time to run these activities. Mr. Bearley also mentioned the Homecoming Parade to be held in Medora this year on October 5th.

Middle School Principal, Shannon Bowman, also reiterated Mr. Bearley's thoughts about great students at Southwestern. She reported that she actually just had a group of students in the Middle School request to start a PEP Club. Mrs. Bowman stated that they are pursuing this and will have sign-ups tomorrow to join the PEP Club. Middle School has 62 students in the band this year. Middle School baseball and softball just finished up per Mrs. Bowman and girls' basketball will be starting soon along with cheerleading. Mrs. Bowman reported on the

PBIS Network and the Middle School meeting their goals. She wanted to thank her staff for helping in all of this as well.

Rhonda Wooldridge, Shipman Elementary Principal, reported that the district is halfway through the first quarter of school already and things have been going great in Shipman. There was already a PBIS party held. Ms. Wooldridge reported that the roof project is coming along slowly. Shipman Elementary received new swings that are very colorful and new basketball hoops will be installed very soon. She also reported that the staff and students have been practicing their emergency drills in case of an actual emergency and everyone would know exactly what to do and where to go. The teachers are excited to be planning field trips again this year! The new K-2 Fundations curriculum has started, and the teachers will be visiting other schools who currently use this program to learn more about how to implement it in our district. Ms. Wooldridge also reported that the third thru sixth grade new writing curriculum is working well.

Kim Reed, Brighton North Primary Principal, reported on the Pre-K program currently. The a.m. program only has three openings and several openings in the p.m. program. Mrs. Reed reported that the Pre-K transportation is going well with several students taking advantage of that. The Pre-K program will also have a state audit this year per Mrs. Reed, and the staff are getting ready for that.

Mrs. Reed also wanted the board to know that the Southwestern Foundation for Educational Excellence had approved funding for three mini grants that were submitted to them. The three mini grants include a book vending machine for Brighton North, a project with “The Macoupin Art Collective-the mac”, and the last one being a project that would involve putting Southwestern designs with cups into the fences at Shipman and Medora Schools.

Mr. Hopkins, Principal at Medora Intermediate, told the board that Medora is teaching kids now. He stated that at the beginning of school you get everyone lined out with rules and how to do things and then you transition into teaching them. Mr. Hopkins also mentioned the new writing series going well with the students. He also told the board about a new math curriculum that two of the sixth-grade teachers are piloting with students. Mr. Hopkins was happy to report that 13-14 sixth-grade girls were playing Middle School basketball this year and that the coach was trying to get some 6th grade games lined up. Attendance at Medora Intermediate has been good so far this year. Mr. Hopkins reported that he has also been doing emergency drills preparing students in case of a real emergency. A presenter from the Regional Office of Education was recently at school doing magic tricks and informing students about social media. Also, Mr. Hopkins reported on a fund raiser to be held by Medora students in the near future.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Bowman reported to the board that the current enrollment is 1190 students, but he thought that this number may come up a little by the October meeting. He also mentioned that discipline issues have been minimal.

District Update:

Dr. Bowman reported on the Macoupin/Montgomery Joint CTE Consortium meeting that he and Mr. Bearley recently attended. More information will be forthcoming per Dr. Bowman.

Superintendent Bowman mentioned to the board that the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) for FY23 will be \$176,556.37. Southwestern CUSD #9 is now a Tier 1 School.

Per Dr. Bowman, the Shipman roof project is nearing the end and that the high school and middle school roof work is completed. The superintendent also reported about the districts crisis prevention intervention training that was held recently. He along with numerous other staff attended the CPI Refresher Training. Dr. Bowman and Mr. Hopkins were trained recently on how to operate the Piasa Bird flame at the football games by Mr. Ruyle and Mr. Constable from the Maintenance Department.

Dr. Bowman also mentioned to the board that a second round of maintenance grant funding will be available in November which would be a \$50,000 matching grant. The architects are also updating the district's health, life, and safety survey.

Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement:

C. Spencer-Mull 5-year notice of retirement was submitted to the board and acknowledged. P. Roberts lunch-room worker retirement at the end of the 2022-23 school year was also submitted to the board and acknowledged.

Dr. Bowman mentioned board policies that were updated and will be adopted at the next board meeting. He also stated that the Press Plus program that the district utilizes is a great asset to the district.

E. Schrieber's bus rider resignation was also acknowledged effective immediately.

Items Considered for Action...

Consent Agenda:

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of August 31, 2022, being: Education Fund \$6,119,054.00, Operations/Maintenance \$1,002,184.00, Transportation \$1,089,111.00, Working Cash \$3,238,369.00, with the total being \$11,448,718.00, County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Revenue for August was \$62,308.89; August bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list...regular board meeting minutes from August 16, 2022...and the Serious Safety Hazards Resolution.

There were no questions raised regarding the Consent Agenda. Jason Oertel made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with Andrew Bagley seconding the motion for such. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, and Strohbeck

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Three reports were reviewed by the board which included the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits, the Administrator Compensation Report, and the IMRF Total Compensation Report. There were no questions raised. These reports will be available on the district's website.

Representatives from Scheffel and Boyle Public Accountant Firm were present and presented the board with the FY2022 Annual Financial Report stemming from their audit in July. They reported that the districts adverse opinion-GAAP was clean as well as the other two opinions being clean also. The districts profile score was 3.90 out of 4.0, which the auditors state is a guideline set by the IL State Board of Education. This is a good score. The auditors stated that the SAS 114 letter, which is a requirement regarding how the audit went according to issues with the staff or district, was positive as there were no issues noted.

Donna Loy made a motion to approve the FY2022 Annual Financial Report as presented with Jason Oertel seconding the said motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, and Bagley

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The FY23 Annual Budget that was reviewed at the August board meeting was approved tonight after the Budget Hearing with Andrew Bagley and Randy Gallaher making the first and second motions for such.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, and Gallaher

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Every year the EBF Spending Plan is reviewed and approved. Donna Loy made a motion to approve the EBF Spending Plan FY23 with Jason Oertel making the second motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Bowman reported on the Supplemental Savings Plan (SSP) that is offered to eligible TRS employees. This is an optional deferred compensation retirement plan for TRS members. Jenny Hanks made a motion to adopt the TRS SSP resolution. Jason Oertel seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A recommendation to hire Mary Kroeschel as a 2-hour lunch/recess monitor was presented to the board. Nicholas Strohbeck made a motion to employ Ms. Kroeschel with Andrew Bagley making a second motion to do so.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Bagley made a motion to employ M. Morgan as a 2-hour lunch/recess monitor with Nicholas Strohbeck seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, and Strohbeck

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

L. Crader was employed as a 2-hour lunch/recess monitor after Nicholas Strohbeck and Donna Loy made such motions.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, and Bagley

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jason Oertel made a motion to hire B. Funk as a 3-hour lunchroom worker at the High School. Nicholas Strohbeck seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, and Gallaher

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Kelly Jacoby was hired as the High School Assistant Softball Coach after Jenny Hanks made the first motion to employ her and Donna Loy made the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Bagley made a motion to employ C. Strack as the Computer Lab Aide with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

It was recommended to hire Jenna Wernsing as the HS Assistant Track Coach. Donna Loy made a motion to employ Jenna Wernsing as the HS Assistant Track Coach and Jenny Hanks made the second motion to employ Jenna.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Randy Gallaher made the first motion with Andrew Bagley making the second motion to employ Ashlyn Robinson as the MS 7th Grade Volleyball Coach.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, and Strohbeck

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Bowman presented the board members with information and bids to consider for the district to obtain an activity bus. There are no activity buses available currently, but the district needs to get their name on the waiting list. This will be a 14-passenger vehicle plus the driver. Anyone with a regular driver's license will be able to transport students in this vehicle. After a few questions were answered, Andrew Bagley made a motion to approve the bid from Central States Bus at \$81,706. Randy Gallaher made the second motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, and Bagley

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent Bowman updated the board on recommended rule changes for the Southwestern Trap Club. One of the main changes is to include 7th & 8th grade students in the club if they meet all the other requirements. Jason Oertel made a motion to approve the changes for the Southwestern Trap Club. Jenny Hanks seconded the motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, and Gallaher

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Nicholas Strohbeck and Donna Loy made the said motions to employ C. Briles as a MS Teacher's Aide.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Shelby Reno was hired as a Teacher's Aide in the Middle School after Donna Loy made a motion to employ her with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Kristen Ross will be the new Assistant HS Girls' Basketball Coach after Nicholas Strohbeck made the first motion to hire her in this position. Andrew Bagley seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Bagley made a motion with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion to employ A. Dunham-Curtis as a 2-hour lunch/recess monitor.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, and Strohbeck

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Sandra Powers was hired as a 3-hour lunch worker at the High School after Donna Loy made a motion and Randy Gallaher made the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, and Bagley

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

7.21 was tabled.

Mr. Bearley asked the boards permission for the Foundations in Education overnight field trip to IETC Conference in Springfield, November 2-4, 2022. There would be nine students from Southwestern attending as well as one student from Staunton who is a virtual student in this class. Jason Oertel gave the first motion to approve the overnight trip with Donna Loy granting the second motion to approve the trip.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, and Gallaher

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Randy Gallaher made a motion to move into closed session with Andrew Bagley seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME: 8:39p.m.

Donna Loy made a motion to move back into open session. Nicholas Strohbeck made the second motion to move back into open session.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME: 10:04p.m.

There were no more items for discussion.

Andrew Bagley made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Strohbeck, Bagley, Gallaher, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04pm.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary