

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2023

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on March 21, 2023, 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, Jacob Reno, Nicholas Strohbeck, Dr. Kevin Bowman, Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary. Andrew Bagley, President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence and Recognition:** There were several students/groups to recognize this month. First off, the six Illinois State Scholars mentioned by Dr. Bowman...J. Beilsmith, K. Dempsey, A. Gordon, G. Schneider, B. Thompson, and C. Tutterow. Dr. Bowman congratulated the students on a great accomplishment! Second was the HS Scholastic Bowl Team and Coach M. Hasquin. Mr. Hasquin gave a run down of the teams well deserved accomplishments which were quite impressive. The team just won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the IHSA Scholastic Bowl State Championship. The team is ranked #65 in the Nation amongst all public or private schools and 9<sup>th</sup> in the state of Illinois public or private schools. The Scholastic Bowl team will soon be traveling to Chicago to compete in the National competition among small schools. And lastly, Dr. Bowman congratulated J. Beilsmith on her Illinois Academic All-State Honorable Mention in Cross Country.

**Administrators Reports:**

Stephanie Renken, Special Education Coordinator, reported on the students who attended Special Olympics. The athletes brought home two gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze medal. Good job! Mrs. Renken also mentioned that the Special Education Department is starting to give the alternate assessment testing to students.

Mr. Bearley, High School Principal, gave a shout out to the Scholar bowl team and their coach, Mr. Hasquin, on how well they have done. He also reported that Mr. Mosley's physics class will be competing in a trebuchet competition. Also, Mr. French's class has been designing paper bridges and seeing how many pennies (weight) each can hold.

Middle School Principal, Shannon Bowman, reported that the Middle School is getting ready to begin the IAR testing next week. She also reported that the Macoupin County Public Health Dept. has been to the school and gave an in-service on Bullying versus Conflict. Mrs. Bowman was happy to report that middle school track is beginning and the number enrolled is back up as it was before Covid.

Shipman Elementary Principal, Rhonda Wooldridge, mentioned how exciting it was to see the Scholar Bowl members at the Board meeting getting recognized as most were her previous students. She also mentioned that Shipman Elementary students will begin state testing soon. The Book Blast that was held last month will be finished tomorrow with Ms. Wooldridge passing out the books each student earned. She also mentioned the After-School program will be finishing and that a mock Olympiad will be held on the last day for the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Mrs. Reed, Brighton North Primary Principal, reported that the Week of the Young Child is coming up soon. She reported that Family Night will also be in conjunction with an Art Show on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Macoupin County Art Bus will be coming to Brighton North for several visits arranged by H. Campbell, Art Teacher. The Art Bus is being paid for by the Southwestern Foundation for Educational Excellence. Mrs. Reed also informed the board that Pre-K screenings will be April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and that Kindergarten registration will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> at Brighton North Primary.

Mrs. Reed also informed the board that the Southwestern Foundation for Educational Excellence will be paying for a new scoreboard for the Middle School gym after the new floor is installed. This will result in more athletic games being held in the Middle School gym.

Mr. Hopkins, Medora Intermediate Principal, reported that his students are gearing up for state testing as well. He was happy to report that the Middle School girls' basketball team has been hosting an open gym in Medora for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls with approximately 17 attendees. Mr. Hopkins also gave a mention about the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade band members who are doing so well and that there is a total of 92 band members in Medora. Also, Mr. Hopkins gave a report on Mrs. Campbell, Art Teacher, and the fence line project in Medora. He said it is very appealing and everyone should drive by and check it out.

### **Superintendent Report:**

Superintendent Bowman reported enrollment at 1205 and the number of discipline issues has stayed about the same each month recently.

### **District Update:**

Graduation will be held May 20, 2023, at 6pm in the High School gym. The county election will be held April 4, 2023, with board members appearing on the ballot. The county has until April 25<sup>th</sup> to canvas the votes. New board members will be seated at a board meeting held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The regular May board meeting will be moved from May 16<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It will be held after the Sine die meeting that evening.

**Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement:**

Resignations acknowledged by the board included:

HS Cheer Coaches-S. Robinson & T. Seymour  
Brighton North & Middle School Teacher Aide-C. Briles  
Medora Intermediate Principal-S. Hopkins  
Middle School Special Education Teacher-R. Cox  
Bus Rider-S. Means

The board thanked the employees for their service!

School fees were discussed shortly with no changes being made.

2023-2024 School Calendar Hearing – Holiday Waiver for Casimir Pulaski Day was held with no public comments. The 2023-2024 school calendar was reviewed. Graduation will be held May 18, 2024.

The board reviewed the storage shed addition bids with the lowest bid going to KCL Builders at \$79,643.83. Also, it was recommended to tear off the shingles on the existing shed and replace at the same time as addition is built at the cost of \$12,265. Total for shed addition and replacing shingles on existing shed \$91,908.83 approximately.

**Items Considered for Action...**

**Consent Agenda:**

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of February 28, 2023, being: Education Fund \$6,124,683.00, Operations/Maintenance \$1,116,882.00, Transportation \$838,482.00, Working Cash \$3,258,106.00, with the total being \$11,338,153.00, County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Revenue for February was \$57,774.40; February bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list...regular board meeting minutes from February 21, 2023, closed session board minutes from February 21, 2023, Special Board meeting minutes from February 28, 2023, approval of lease agreement with Step-By-Step, Inc. to provide before and after school program, and approval of lease agreement with Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation.

Superintendent Bowman reported that finances are doing good and that the County School Facilities Sales Tax is still coming in pretty high.

Jacob Reno made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with Donna Loy seconding the motion for such.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Andrew Bagley made a motion to adopt the 2023-2024 Public School Calendar with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion for such.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Jason Oertel made the motion to approve the Final School Calendar for 2022-2023. Randy Gallaher seconded the motion to approve the Final School Calendar for 2022-2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Jacob Reno made a motion with Andrew Bagley seconding the motion to approve the school fees with no changes for the 2023-2024 school year.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Dr. Bowman requested permission for the Bus Supervisor to seek bids on an 18 + 1 passenger wheelchair bus. Andrew Bagley made the first motion with Randy Gallaher making the second motion to authorize.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Derek Dempsey was hired as the HS Volleyball Coach after Donna Loy made a motion to hire him with Nicholas Strohbeck making the second motion for such.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Tyler Hamilton will be hired as the HS Boys Soccer Coach after first and second motions by Jacob Reno and Nicholas Strohbeck and unanimous vote.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Andrew Bagley made a motion to employ Holly Campbell as the HS Football Cheerleading Coach. Jacob Reno made the second motion to hire Mrs. Campbell.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Donna Loy made a motion to employ Richard Stuckey as a bus driver. Jason Oertel made the second motion to employ Mr. Stuckey.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Sara Bunting was approved to be a Trap Club Volunteer Assistant Coach after Jacob Reno made a motion followed by Donna Loy's second motion and roll call vote approving.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Andrew Bagley made a motion to authorize the superintendent to post for Medora Intermediate Principal with Jacob Reno seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

IHSA membership renewal is due. Donna Loy made a motion to renew with Jason Oertel seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Andrew Bagley made the motion to approve the storage shed addition bid by KCL Builders as well as tearing off old roof and replacing. Jason Oertel seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Donna Loy made a motion to move into closed session with Jacob Reno seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**TIME: 7:56 P.M.**

Jacob Reno made the motion to move back into open session with Andrew Bagley making the second motion to go back into open session.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**TIME: 8:46 P.M.**

Randy Gallaher made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.**

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Kim Albert  
Recording Secretary

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Board President

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Board Secretary