

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2023

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on June 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Commons in Piasa, Illinois. Jason Oertel, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. and asked Jenny Hanks, Board Secretary, to call roll showing those members present as: Jenny Hanks, Donna Loy, Jason Oertel, Jacob Reno, Andrew Ruyle, Dr. Kevin Bowman, Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary. Nicholas Strohbeck was late and arrived at 7:34pm.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence and Recognition:

The board recognized the HS baseball team for their accomplishments this year; but the team was not in attendance as they had a game. Congratulations on a great season!

Principal, Shannon Bowman, recognized the MS boys track state finalists and reported on their wins at the sectionals and great season. Congratulation's participants!!

Administrators Reports:

Mr. Bearley, High School Principal, mentioned that graduation went very well and was one of the cooler ones held in the gym. He thanked the teachers for a good year and for all they had done for their students. Principal Bearley also thanked all the departments for doing their part throughout the year which in turn makes everything work well!!

Middle School Principal, Shannon Bowman, stated that the middle school has ten students attending summer school. She also mentioned that she is working with Mrs. Renken, Special Education Coordinator, to locate a special education teacher for the Middle School as well as working with Mr. Bearley to locate a full-time substitute teacher.

Shipman Elementary Principal, Rhonda Wooldridge, reported that the end of the year activities went well, and she wanted to thank Piasa Team members for their donations/help. Ms. Wooldridge stated that summer school is going well with grades K-4 being held in Shipman with 28 students attending focusing on Math and Reading. She also mentioned that Roloff painting, and the maintenance department have been busy working in her building.

Mrs. Reed, Brighton North Primary Principal, stated that the end of the year activities went well. She indicated that construction has started at Brighton North on the restroom updating. She also thanked a few of her staff for cleaning out a classroom at the end of the year which will make room for the new special education class. Jun Construction also arrived last Friday to start their part of the construction.

Mrs. Renken, Special Education Coordinator, mentioned that she is trying to fill a few open positions in the Special Education Department. She is also planning for the new year, and she is finalizing grant information.

Mr. Hopkins, Medora Intermediate Principal, thanked Piasa Team for all their help at the end of the year party as well as the many parents that attended. He gave an update on the reading garden that is being erected at Medora Intermediate and said it looks good. He invited the board members to check it out. He thanked the current Custodian, Ms. Means, for working hard on getting the building cleaned for next year. Medora Intermediate has five students coming to summer school.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Bowman reported enrollment at 1191; he had hoped it would go up by the end of the year, which it did not. He also indicated the discipline issues were up a little again last month.

District Update:

Dr. Bowman congratulated the High School baseball team again for their 26-11 record which ties a school record. He also congratulated the Middle School track team and coaches. Students, C. Bryant, C. Cummings, D. Hall, K. Matuska, C. Robinson, and C. Wood made it to the IESA State track meet!!

Superintendent Bowman reported on the construction at Brighton North, the High School, and the Middle School. He thanked the custodial staff for all the hard work being done in the buildings in order to get ready for the new year. DeLaurent is working on the scheduled parking lot repairs. Also, Roloff Painting is working in district buildings.

Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement:

Dr. Bowman explained the Community Eligibility Provision to the board. He does not recommend that the district apply for this. This information is regarding every student getting a free lunch. If a district applies and is approved, that district is locked into the program for four years. This would be a loss of revenue for the district.

Resignations acknowledged by the board included:

Ag Teacher-Tyler Hamilton
CTE Teacher-Dan Beilsmith
Speech Pathologist-Rachel Wesley
Permanent Substitute Teacher-Kim Schieler
2-hour Lunchroom/Recess Monitor-Makayla (Morgan) McGuire
BN Special Ed. Teacher-Brooke Scott
MS Special Ed. Teacher-Dan Allen

Press Board Policy Issue 112 was mentioned but no action was needed. This was an information only update.

E-Learning Program Verification form was discussed briefly. This indicates that E-Learning would be available to use instead of a snow day when needed. The board/staff are not interested in this option.

Items Considered for Action...

Consent Agenda:

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of May 31, 2023, being: Education Fund \$6,464,061.00, Operations/Maintenance \$1,216,677.00, Transportation \$830,943.00, Working Cash \$3,278,556.00, with the total being \$11,790,237.00, County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Revenue for May was \$47,210.35; May bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list (none) ...regular board meeting minutes from May 9, 2023, Special Board Meeting Minutes from May 9, 2023, Closed Session Board Meeting Minutes from May 9, 2023, and Closed Session Minutes from July 2022 through December 2022 remaining closed.

Superintendent Bowman gave the financial report update with no issues reported.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jason Oertel made a motion to approve new board member, Brad Schuchman, being appointed to the board. Jacob Reno made the second motion to approve Mr. Schuchman.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jacob Reno made a motion to approve the appointment of the individuals identified in the list marked Exhibit A to the corresponding spring extra-curricular activities therein for the 23-24 school year. Donna Loy seconded the motion for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reno, Ruyle, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Kohl's Wholesale was awarded the bread bid for the 23-24 School year. Jacob Reno made a motion to approve Kohl's Wholesale bread bid with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion to approve them.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Ruyle, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, and Reno

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jason Oertel made a motion to approve Prairie Farms Dairy as the winning milk bid for the 23-24 school year. Donna Loy made the second motion to approve the Prairie Farms Dairy bid.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Reno, and Ruyle

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Kohl's Wholesale was also awarded the food and non-food bids for the 23-24 school year after motions by Donna Loy and Jenny Hanks consecutively.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made the motion to approve the fuel bid for the 23-24 school year submitted by Piasa Motor Fuels. Donna Loy made the second motion to approve Piasa Motor Fuels.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Republic Sanitation was the sole bidder for the trash removal in the district. Jason Oertel made a motion to accept this bid as submitted with Jacob Reno making the second motion to accept.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reno, Ruyle, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Bowman thanked Mrs. Nance, the new HS/MS Assistant Principal, for all the work she has done on the Student Handbook for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Nance has assumed this role as Mr. Hopkins is retiring. Jacob Reno made the motion to approve the Student Handbook as presented with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion to approve the handbook.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Ruyle, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, and Reno

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to approve hiring Assistant Volleyball coach, Kristen Ross, with Donna Loy seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Strohbeck, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Reno, and Ruyle

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jacob Reno made the first motion to hire Ron Plogger as the Assistant Director of Maintenance with Andrew Ruyle making the second motion to hire.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, and Strohbeck

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Cole Hagen was hired as an Assistant Football Coach after motions to approve being made by Andrew Ruyle and Jacob Reno.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Mrs. Bowman updated the board on 7th-12th grade Literature textbook curriculum update. The district needs to update the old books which are from 1997. The recommended Literature set is a set of cohesive textbooks. It would be the same company providing the new books as the old ones that we currently have. The set includes many extra supplements. The overall cost for the set would be \$104,408.93.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to approve purchasing the new 7th-12th grade Literature textbook curriculum. Donna Loy seconded the motion to purchase the new set.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Ashley Ballard will be a new Brighton North Special Education Teacher for the 23-24 School year after Donna Loy and Jenny Hanks made the approving motions.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The FY2023 Amended Budget was approved with Jason Oertel making the first motion with Andrew Ruyle making the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, and Reno

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Loy made a motion to approve the retirement of B. Schiller at the end of the 27-28 school year. Jacob Reno made the second motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Reno, and Ruyle

Nays: Strohbeck

MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Loy made a motion to employ Claire Smith as the Ag Teacher/FFA Sponsor for the 23-24 school year. Jacob Reno made the second motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, and Strohbeck

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Kassey Black was employed as the HS Science Teacher after first and second motions by Jason Oertel and Jenny Hanks.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made the first motion to employ Heather Ebling with Jacob Reno seconding to employ.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Loy made a motion to employ Courtney Gardner as a Teacher Aide at Brighton North Primary with Jacob Reno making the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Steve Mitchell was hired as the Boys' and Girls' HS Head Soccer Coach with Nicholas Strohbeck and Donna Loy making the motions.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, and Reno

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Sara Hanebutt requested the board approve her 5-year notice of retirement at the end of 27-28 school year. Jacob Reno made the first motion to approve this with Andrew Ruyle making the second motion for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Strohbeck, Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Reno, and Ruyle

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Also, Teresa Dankenbring turned in a 5-year notice of retirement at the end of the 27-28 school year. Donna Loy and Jenny Hanks made motions to approve her retirement.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanks, Loy, Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, and Strohbeck

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Lonny Unverzagt was hired as the new Welding and Manufacturing Teacher for the 23-24 school year with Jacob Reno making the first motion to employ him and Nicholas Strohbeck making the second motion to employ him.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Loy, Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, and Hanks

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Bowman presented the board with information to approve the non-union and administrative salaries for the 2023-2024 school year. Donna Loy made a motion to approve the salaries with Jacob Reno seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Oertel, Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, and Loy

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jacob Reno made a motion to approve Employee A's leave of absence with Andrew Ruyle making the second motion to approve the leave.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Donna Loy seconding the motion to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Reno, Ruyle, Strohbeck, Hanks, Loy, and Oertel

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary