

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
Brighton, Illinois 62012
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023; 6:45 PM

The Southwestern Board of Education met for a special board meeting on September 19, 2023, at 6:45p.m. at the Middle School Commons. Jason Oertel, President, called the meeting to order. President Oertel asked Jenny Hanks, Board Secretary, to call roll with the following members being present: Jenny Hanks, Jason Oertel, Jacob Reno, Brad Schuchman, Nicholas Strohbeck, Dr. Kevin Bowman-Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary. Andrew Ruyle was absent.

There was no public comment or questions regarding the FY 2024 Proposed budget.

A motion to adjourn was made by Donna Loy and seconded by Nicholas Strohbeck.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on September 19, 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, Brad Schuchman, Nicholas Strohbeck, Dr. Kevin Bowman, Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence and Recognition:

Kim Reed, Brighton North Primary Principal & Pre-K Coordinator, presented the Pre-K Program employees and commended them on their recent compliance audit. The program was awarded the Gold Circle of Quality. This audit is conducted every three years. Congratulations to the Pre-K Program.

Several thank-you cards were received and read by the board.

Administrator Reports:

Stephanie Renken, Special Education Director, reported that the 504 meetings were finished recently and that IEP meetings have begun for the school year as well. She also reported that Coach Keith is coaching the Special Olympics bowling team with four students participating. Recently two of the students placed and will soon be participating in sectionals. Good luck to the Special Olympics Bowling team!

High School Principal, Mark Bearley, commended the new High School/Middle School Assistant Principal, Nicole Nance, on how well she is doing and learning quickly. Dr. Bearley also thanked the FFA Alumni for putting the new Ag shed together; he said it looks great and that some of the FFA members had painted it as well. He also reported that the new Ag teacher, Claire Smith, is doing a lot of new things in the Ag Dept. including growing hydroponics. Dr. Bearley also commended Ms. Wray and the High School band on how well they do and how the program has grown in recent years.

Mrs. Bowman, Middle School Principal, reported that Mrs. Hausman had two students that had won placement in the American Library Poetry Contest held recently. Mrs. Bowman also mentioned that two of the middle school students were on the Special Olympic bowling team. The middle school baseball team had done well, and their season is over this year. Also, Mrs. Bowman thanked the students, teachers, and staff for a great year so far; everything has been going very well!

Shipman Principal, Rhonda Wooldridge, reported that school is already at the first mid-term. She indicated that Shipman Elementary has been busy doing drills in the building. Also, she reported that the PBIS program is off to a great start with an ice cream social recently with 75% being able to participate. Coming in October for PBIS will be homework passes. On another positive note.... Shipman has had twelve new students register.

Kim Reed, Brighton North Primary Principal, reported that the kindergarten classes have had their yearly nursery rhyme day and that first grade recently had Charlotte's Web Day. The children had a great time on these special days. Mrs. Reed presented the board with a thank-you card and a picture of Mrs. Hanslows' class sitting on their new rug thanking the board for purchasing it. Principal Reed gave a big thank you to Christy Barkley, Transportation Secretary, for being so helpful whenever needed!

Medora Intermediate's new principal, Jon Baumberger, reported that Medora has had a successful year thus far with everyone learning the expectations and settling in to do some learning. Mr. Baumberger thanked Mrs. Sackman, Mrs. Campbell, and Ms. Wray for their efforts coordinating the recent pep assembly. He reported that all the students were wet after the foam party, but everyone enjoyed it very much. He also spoke on the good exposure the band, cheer, and sporting disciplines have on the 5th & 6th grade students and how much that can influence the students to get involved and promote good outcomes.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Bowman gave the current enrollment and suspension report of 1161 students enrolled with no suspensions or expulsions.

Dr. Bowman gave the board a district update reporting on the following:

- Brighton North bathroom construction is done with a few f/u items to be done
- HVAC units may be delivered and put in over Columbus Day weekend
- The high school gym floor may be refinished in November depending upon scheduling
- Dr. Bowman congratulated the Pre-K Coordinator & employees again on the Gold Circle of Quality
- fall sports
- Thanked Jenna Andres on a good audit
- Congratulated Dr. Mark Bearley on his recent doctoral degree

Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement:

Dr. Bowman gave an overview of the Administrative Strategic Planning Targets.

The board acknowledged the resignation of Betty Schiller as the Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach.

Items Considered for Action...

Consent Agenda:

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of August 31, 2023, as follows: Education Fund \$5,901,717.00, Operations/Maintenance \$1,015,747.00, Transportation \$872,164.00, Working Cash \$3,299,884.00, with the total being \$11,089,512.00, County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Revenue for August was up again this month at \$60,725.74; September bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list...regular board meeting minutes from August 15, 2023...Serious Safety Hazards Resolution...Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report...PA-96-0434 Administrator Compensation Report...and PA-07-609 IMRF Total Compensation Report.

Superintendent Bowman gave the financial report update. He also explained the Serious Safety Hazards Resolution that needs approval this evening. He also mentioned that the County Schools Facilities Sales Tax is doing well. There were no questions regarding the consent agenda. Andrew Ruyle made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented and Donna Loy seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Tyler Jackson from Scheffel & Boyle Accounting Firm was present and presented the board with the FY2023 Annual Financial Report and Shared Services Report. He gave a rundown of the districts recent audit in July and explained the three different opinions that the accounting firm gives when finished. He reported that the district has enough cash on hand to run for nine months, but the accountants suggest having at least six months' worth with twelve months being ideal.

Mr. Jackson said the audit went well and there were no adverse or abnormal findings. With that being as noted, Jason Oertel made a motion to approve the Annual FY2023 Financial Report and Shared Services Report with Jenny Hanks seconding the said motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

President Oertel asked for a motion to approve the FY2024 Annual Budget as presented. Jacob Reno made a motion to approve the FY2024 Annual Budget with Brad Schuchman seconding the motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jenny Hanks made a motion to hire Megan Carter as a 2-hour lunch/recess monitor in Medora. Jacob Reno seconded the motion to hire Mrs. Carter.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Loy made the first motion with Nicholas Strohbeck making the second motion to employ Karen Jackson as the Library Aide.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Brad Schuchman made a motion to hire Lexi Bates as a Brighton North Teacher Aide. Andrew Ruyle seconded the motion to hire Ms. Bates.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Rachel Akers was hired as a Middle School Teacher Aide after Donna Loy made a motion to hire with Andrew Ruyle seconding the motion to hire.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jenny Hanks made a motion to employ Lauren Baker as the Special Education Secretary. Jason Oertel made the second motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Lisa Wittman was hired as the Full-time Substitute Teacher for the district after motions were made by Donna Loy and Nicholas Strohbeck.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Certified Employee A requested a leave of absence from the board. Jacob Reno made a motion to grant the leave of absence with Andrew Ruyle seconding the motion to approve.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to approve Stephen French and Heather Gustafson as After School Parking Lot Monitors. Donna Loy seconded the motion to approve both.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Bowman asked the board for permission to purchase a new aluminum trailer to haul the sky lift when needed as well as other items when needed. Andrew Ruyle made a motion to approve the purchase of the aluminum trailer with Brad Schuchman seconding the approval.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Nicholas Strohbeck made a motion to approve the track improvements as presented by Dr. Bowman. Andrew Ruyle made the second motion to approve the track improvements.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Bowman requested the board approve the addition of a 4-hour part-time teacher aide to be placed in Shipman Elementary. Donna Loy made a motion to approve this hiring along with Jenny Hanks seconding it.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jason Oertel made a motion to employ Melissa Tungett as the Assistant Boys' Soccer coach with Jenny Hanks seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion with Brad Schuchman seconding to hire Jill Darr as an Assistant Cheer Coach-Basketball.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME: 7:49P.M.

Jacob Reno made a motion to move back into open session with Donna Loy seconding said motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME: 8:15P.M.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicholas Strohbeck seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary