

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 17, 2023

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on October 17, 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, Andrew Ruyle, Brad Schuchman, Nicholas Strohbeck, Dr. Kevin Bowman, Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary. Jacob Reno was absent.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence and Recognition:

Dr. Bowman discussed the District's Wellness Policy and stated that it had recently been updated.

Superintendent Bowman gave a rundown of the 2023 Facility Improvements which includes various updates, construction projects, yearly maintenance projects, beautification projects, etc.

Administrator Reports:

Stephanie Renken, Special Education Director, reported that the CPI training will be held soon for employees. She invited the board members to the Special Olympics Bowling sectionals to be held October 22nd at the Fairview Heights bowling alley. Mrs. Renken also mentioned the LEA determination that she had received for the district and indicated that it was a good report.

High School Principal, Mark Bearley, was not in attendance as it was the High School Volleyball Senior night, and he was needed there.

Mrs. Bowman, Middle School Principal, wanted to thank Mr. Bearley and Mrs. Nance for helping at the Middle School when she is not available. She also reported that the 1st quarter is over, and it had gone well at the middle school. Parent Teacher Conferences are next week, and the Middle School is looking forward to seeing as many as possible. Mrs. Bowman reported that the new Literature curriculum is working well, and the teachers like it. Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated 10/30-11/3/23 at the Middle School and plans are being made.

Shipman Principal, Rhonda Wooldridge, reported that report cards will be going home this Friday for 1st quarter grades. She updated the board on Homecoming week, Fire Prevention Week, and Parent Teacher Conferences. Ms. Wooldridge wanted to thank the Shipman Fire Department for coming to the school and teaching the students during fire prevention week. She also reported that Shipman's book fair will be at the end of October.

Kim Reed, Brighton North Primary Principal, thanked the Brighton Fire Dept. for coming to Brighton North on Friday the 13th and spending the day instructing the kids about fires, fire prevention, and fighting fires. Unfortunately, like every year, it rained, and the day was spent inside in the gym. Mrs. Reed thanked board members, Mrs. Hanks, and Mr. Strohbeck, for working on the grounds at Brighton North recently. Also, Mrs. Reed informed the board that the high school Industrial Arts class was getting hands-on experience lead by Mr. S. French, teacher, as they are constructing several areas of new sidewalk replacement at Brighton North. She stated they are doing a great job!! Mrs. Reed also reported on the new Skyward program being used in the district by staff; she thanked Mr. Blankenship, Mrs. Price, and Mrs. Whipps for their help and expertise.

Jon Baumberger, Medora Intermediate School Principal, reported to the board that the school has new window wraps in the front thanks to teachers, Mrs. Campbell, and Mrs. Robinson. He stated that they look great. He also thanked the Middle School basketball coaches for bringing concessions to a recent ballgame. Homecoming week and book fair was recently celebrated at Medora with fun activities and a great turnout per Mr. Baumberger. He thanked Mrs. Kallal for her work related to the book fair as well as Mrs. Sackman and Mrs. Smith for sponsoring the PBIS program. Mr. Baumberger indicated that Medora Parent Teacher Conferences are being scheduled thru Skyward and it is working very well-thanks Mr. Blankenship. Medora Fire Department recently visited and done a Fire Prevention program; they even provided a turkey fryer demo which left lasting impressions with everyone. Thank you, Medora Fire Department!

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Bowman gave the current enrollment and suspension report of 1164 students enrolled with a few in-school suspensions, a few out of school suspensions, and no expulsions.

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

- Renaming the High School track after Coach Gary Bowker. Well deserved and thanked Coach Bowker for his years of service and dedication.
- October 15-21 Principal Appreciation Week. October 20, 2023, is Principal Appreciation Day! Southwestern has awesome administrators! Thank you all for what you do.
- Dr. Bowman thanked everyone including the first responders who help with the yearly drills to make sure we are ready and up to date.
- Dr. Bowman gave a detailed preliminary facility cost estimate on possible upcoming projects for the district. He discussed 2024 summer projects and what is needed when. A discussion ensued and questions were answered.

Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement:

IDEA Determination FY 22 was mentioned. Dr. Bowman reported that Southwestern met the requirements.

The board acknowledged the resignations of Deanna Means, Floating Custodian, and Milissa Bland, Dietary Cook.

Ann Noble from Stifel, Public Finance Company, was present to discuss and explain to the board regarding issuing new bonds for the district to obtain money to fund needed projects over the next several years. She explained everything in detail and mentioned that bonds are tax exempt for companies who buy them. Ms. Noble discussed the process of issuing and obtaining bonds thoroughly. She indicated that it is a three-step process, and that the board needs to act as soon as possible to get this started. Questions were asked by several board members and a discussion ensued.

Items Considered for Action...

Consent Agenda:

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of September 30, 2023, as follows: Education Fund \$6,422,832.00, Operations/Maintenance \$1,084,582.00, Transportation \$897,735.00, Working Cash \$3,313,540.00, with the total being \$11,718,689.00, County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Revenue for September was down this month at \$57,267.30; October bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list-none...regular board meeting minutes from September 19, 2023...Closed Session Minutes from September 19, 2023...and Special Board Meeting Minutes-Budget Hearing September 19, 2023.

Dr. Bowman went over the financial report with nothing unusual to report. There were no questions regarding the consent agenda. Andrew Ruyle made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented and Jason Oertel seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to approve Employee A-Leave of Absence. Brad Schuchman seconded the motion to approve the leave of absence.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jenny Hanks made the first motion with Donna Loy making the second motion to approve Steven Haegele as a volunteer assistant trap coach.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The board approved adding a 4-hour teacher aide position in Shipman with Donna Loy making the first motion for such and Andrew Ruyle making the second motion with Amber Dunham-Curtis filling this position.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jason Oertel made a motion to approve reassigning Jack Harpole, HS Evening Custodian, to the Floating Custodian position. Andrew Ruyle made the second motion to approve the reassignment.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jenny Hanks made a motion to approve an individual boys' swimmer to compete in ISHA post season, and Brad Schuchman made the second motion to approve the swimmer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Becky Kershaw was approved as a volunteer swim coach after Donna Loy made a motion to approve and Andrew Ruyle seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to go into closed session with Brad Schuchman seconding.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME: 8:26P.M.

Nicholas Strohbeck made a motion to move back into open session with Andrew Ruyle seconding said motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME: 8:44P.M.

After closed session, Brad Schuchman made a motion to approve the board's action on recommendation to bar citizen from school district property and activities pursuant to Section 24-24 of the School Code. Nicholas Strohbeck seconded the said motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenny Hanks seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary