

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on November 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Commons in Piasa, Illinois. Nicholas Strohbeck, Vice-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-by phone, Jacob Reno, Andrew Ruyle, Brad Schuchman, Nicholas Strohbeck, Dr. Kevin Bowman, Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary. Jason Oertel was absent.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence and Recognition:

Dr. Bowman thanked the board members for their service to the school and their community. Dr. Bowman provided a thank you dinner prior to the meeting for all board members and administrators.

Superintendent Bowman reported to the board regarding the district's summative designation letter which indicated that all the Southwestern CUSD #9 schools were commendable. He praised everyone involved for a job well done.

Dr. M. Bearley, High School Principal, presented Mr. Gary Bowker, Southwestern High School Track Coach, with a plaque in recognition of "Gary Bowker Track" 51 years of service. Mr. Bowker has had a positive impact on many students throughout his career at Southwestern since starting in 1955!! Mr. Bowker was extremely appreciative of this honor!

Mr. Bowker and Dr. Bearley then recognized Emma Wyman for her IHSA Cross Country State Track participation. She also broke a 15-year record at Southwestern track recently. Miss Wyman also received 6th place in the regional competition. Congratulations to Miss Wyman!

Mrs. Reed, Principal at Brighton North, Rhonda Wooldridge, Principal at Shipman Elementary School, and Mrs. Bowman, Principal at the Middle School, recognized teachers/staff that organize the PBIS program in each building. They explained the PBIS program and reported on what a great job each person does in their respective buildings. Those involved in PBIS include S. Hanebutt, T. Hanslow, J. Bechtold, T. Lemons, A. Hartman, M. Day, D. Pace, K. Gallaher, A. Clendenen, J. Kinser, K. Kleinschmidt, N. Nance, C. Moore, M. Walden, and A. Goetten. Thank you for all you do!

All-District Band and Chorus recognition rounded out the evenings district highlights. Ms. Wray, Band Director, introduced several of the band and chorus members (D. Collier, A. Harrop, A. Pulley, and A. Tennill). This competition is through the IL Music Education Association with thousands of students throughout the state. The competition was held in

Macomb and the participants were able to stay the night, rehearse all day with other participants, and put on a concert in the evening. Congratulations!!

Administrator Reports:

Stephanie Renken, Special Education Director, was absent tonight.

High School Principal, Mark Bearley, was in attendance and reported to the board that he had sent a thank you email to all his staff today thanking them for all they do and letting them know how thankful he is for all of them.

Mrs. Bowman, Middle School Principal, thanked Ms. Wray, Band Director, for all that she has done for the Southwestern band program as the Middle school band members has grown significantly in the last few years. Mrs. Bowman also reported that the middle school teachers are continually discussing and planning to try to improve the middle school in any way possible to continue being in the commendable recognition if not, exemplary.

Principal Bowman reported that the 7th grade girls' basketball team had recently won the regional competition and would be advancing to the sectional contest on November 29th. Hopefully, the Middle School will be taking a fan bus to that game. Mrs. Bowman shared that Shelly Griggs from LCCC, Talent Search, had recently sent an email bragging on the students from Southwestern Middle School that she had recently taken to several historical sites in the community, Mrs. Bowman was very proud to receive that compliment. Also, the Middle School will be hosting a dance on December 1st for students.

Shipman Principal, Rhonda Wooldridge, informed the board that she had given each employee at Shipman Elementary a handwritten note today thanking them for everything they do and telling them how much she appreciates each one. Ms. Wooldridge reported on the recent book fair held in Shipman and was grateful for how well it went. Ms. Wooldridge also wanted to thank Tammy Norris, Title Teacher, for organizing and implementing "Books giving" recently in Shipman. Mrs. Norris bought books for each child in the building, called each one to her room to let them pick out a book as well as a snack, and visited with them a bit. This was a first for this activity, but it was a very well appreciated activity!!

The After School program has begun in Shipman as well with 27 students attending. Seventeen students are participating in an enrichment program within the After School program.

Mrs. Reed, Brighton North Primary Principal, wanted to thank Mrs. Hanslow and Mrs. Carroll for their hard work and dedication in organizing the Book Fair. On Monday of the Book Fair 92 students and their families attended during the evening as well as 129 students and families throughout the week enjoying donuts. Brighton North Christmas program will be held December 7th at 7pm. Also, Mrs. Reed had some pictures that she shared with the board which were a few art projects of turkeys in disguise. These were very cute projects.

Jon Baumberger, Medora Intermediate School Principal, reported to the board that the Parent Teacher Conferences had attendance of approximately 70% of his students. Also, honor roll and perfect attendance honorees were presented with certificates and pictures of them were on

the Medora Facebook page for viewing. Mr. Baumberger mentioned that Medora has implemented a tutoring program recently; the first week began with four students in attendance and now the program has close to 15 attending for tutoring.

Also, Principal Baumberger thanked Ms. Wray, Band Director, as well for such a good job. He indicated that 90% of the 5th & 6th graders were participating in band class. She is laying a great foundation at the early ages.

On a fun note, Mr. Baumberger reported to the board that Southwestern staff have been challenged to a staff volleyball game against Bunker Hill staff to be held on December 1st at 6pm at Bunker Hill. Attendees are encouraged to bring can goods or non-perishable items for people in need which will be split between the districts. Also, there will be a prize for the district donating the most items. As for the losers of the game, the Superintendent will be expected to wear the winning schools team jersey for a day! Good luck Birds!

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Bowman gave the current enrollment and suspension report of 1157 students enrolled.

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

- Reiterating the track dedication and thanks to Coach Gary Bowker
- Thanked the Board members for their service and dedication
- Recognized the greatness of the school with all the honors mentioned tonight as well as previous honors.

Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement:

Dr. Bowman presented the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Esser III Funds Usage document. The information is a breakdown of the district's original allocations, current allocations, and the remaining allocations that are to be spent by September 30, 2024. There were no questions or additions recommended.

Also, for discussion/acknowledgement was the Press Issue 113 updates for the board policy. Dr. Bowman reviewed several updates to policies.

Items Considered for Action...

Consent Agenda:

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of October 31, 2023, as follows: Education Fund \$7,465,140.00 Operations/Maintenance \$1,209,007.00, Transportation \$1,112,213.00, Working Cash \$3,336,537.00, with the total being \$13,122,897.00, County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Revenue for October was \$55,193.08; November bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list...regular board meeting minutes from October 17, 2023...Closed Session Minutes from October 17, 2023...Special Board Meeting Minutes-November 10th and 14th, 2023.

Dr. Bowman went over the financial report stating that the district is 33.3% thru the fiscal year already. There were no questions regarding the consent agenda. Jacob Reno made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented and Brad Schuchman seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The Preliminary 2023 Levy and resolution was presented by Superintendent, Dr. Bowman. He explained the process to the board members. Dr. Bowman went thru the 2023 Levy Calculation page, the 2023 tax extension worksheet, and the certificate of tax levy that will be submitted to the county clerks next month. This is a complicated process, but the district has followed this basic procedure throughout the years with no major issues.

There were no questions or concerns with the presentation. Therefore, Brad Schuchman made a motion to approve the resolution regarding estimated amounts necessary to be levied for the 2023 year with Nicholas Strohbeck seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Loy made a motion to approve the appointment of the individuals identified in the attached list marked Exhibit A to the corresponding fall extra-curricular activities therein for the 24-25 school year. Andrew Ruyle made the second motion to approve the list.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Jenny Hanks made a motion to allow Superintendent Bowman to apply for the Property Tax Relief Grant for the district. Brad Schuchman seconded the motion. There are two steps used to determine the maximum possible abatement amount and, hopefully, our district will be awarded this grant after applying.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Bowman requested permission to apply for the School Maintenance Project Grant for FY24. If awarded, a portion of the abatement of asbestos could be paid with this grant. The grant is a \$50,000 match.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to approve the Transportation Director to seek bids for 5-new 71-passenger diesel buses with trade-ins. Donna Loy seconded this motion to approve to seek bids.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Kali Mills was hired as a Shipman Elementary cook after Jenny Hanks and Brad Schuchman made motions, respectively.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Cody Hanold has volunteered to help coach the MS Boys' Basketball team. Jacob Reno made a motion to allow, and Donna Loy seconded the motion to allow Mr. Hanold to volunteer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Two volunteers, Jeff Hall and Chris Springman, were approved as HS Boys' Basketball Assistant Coaches after motions were made to approve by Brad Schuchman and Jenny Hanks.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

A discussion was held regarding the Shipman Elementary ball diamond which is used by the Middle School boy's baseball team, and a few select area teams. Coach Hanslow was present to answer questions/concerns. It was determined that a fence will be installed by TNT Fence Company.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Vice President, Nicholas Strohbeck, read parts of a resolution of intent to issue of not to exceed \$5,500,000.00 of working cash fund bonds. This matter has been discussed in prior special meetings. There were no questions or concerns at this time.

Brad Schuchman made a motion to approve the resolution of intent of not to exceed \$5,500,000.00 of working cash fund bonds. Jenny Hanks seconded this motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

There were no issues to discuss in closed session this month.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22P.M.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary