

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2024

The Southwestern Board of Education met in regular session on January 16, 2024, 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 Kim Albert, Board Secretary, to call roll showing those members present as: Jason Oertel, Donna Loy, Andrew Ruyle, Brad Schuchman, Nicholas Strohbeck, Dr. Kevin Bowman, Superintendent, and Kim Albert, Recording Secretary. Jacob Reno was absent. Jenny Hanks arrived shortly after the meeting started.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence and Recognition:

M. Ernst, Special Olympic Sponsor, recognized the Special Olympic Bowling Team for their accomplishments recently, as well as recognizing Coach Pat Keith for all his help! There were four participants in Special Olympic Bowling. Mrs. Ernst also wanted to thank Bowl Haven for sponsoring the team!!!

Middle School Principal, Mrs. Bowman, recognized the 7th grade girls' basketball team and their coach, Mr. Joe Durham. The girls had a 25-2 record this season. They also won the regionals and the sectionals. The team placed 3rd in the IESA state competition. Congratulation's ladies!!

Administrator Reports:

Mrs. Renken, Special Education Coordinator, reported that the last CPI refresher training was held last week. She also updated the board about the Alternate State Assessment coming in March that five teachers will be participating in.

High School Principal, Mark Bearley, thanked Brian Hanslow for the time and effort he has put in to arranging and running the Macoupin County Basketball Tournament taking place this week as well as the new Christmas Basketball Tournament that was held over Christmas break. Dr. Bearley also thanked the board for approving the door updates for the district; it has helped in the high school. Dr. Bearley also congratulated M. Basnett for his bowling accomplishments.

Shannon Bowman, Middle School Principal, thanked the board again for the new middle school gym updates! She reported that it is great, and the kids are super excited to have a new gym remodel. She also thanked the teachers for their flexibility during the construction. Mrs. Bowman informed the board that the curriculum mapping is moving forward, and she is hoping that it will all be done by the end of next school year.

Rhonda Wooldridge, Shipman Principal, told the board that the new fiber ran into the Shipman building is great & working wonderful! She reported that two of the classrooms that had carpet in them had been renovated with the carpet being removed and new tile flooring being placed. The book blast is happening again this year at Shipman Elementary beginning next Monday with a kick-off taking place. Next month 50 of the 4th grader students will be randomly chosen by the National Assessment of Educational Progress to be assessed in reading and math.

Mrs. Reed, Brighton North Principal, also reported regarding the book blast that will happen when students return to school. There will be prizes to be won as well as books to be had. She also reported that Brighton North had finished the Acadience testing. Also, some of the second graders have graduated from the reading program which has allowed for more kindergarteners to participate.

Medora Intermediate Principal, Mr. Baumberger, was not in attendance as he was supervising the Macoupin County Tournament in the High School.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Bowman gave the current enrollment report of 1158 students holding steady. He also reported that there was only one in-school suspension during December.

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

- New tile installed in two rooms in Shipman Elementary
- Two storage containers delivered for summer work project storage
- Fiber installed at Medora, Shipman, and HS/MS is working great. This was funded by Dolt Consortium through the State of IL. Thank you, Mr. J. Blankenship, Technology Director for making this happen.
- Summer Projects 2024 Update:
 - Asbestos abatement pre-bid meeting was held 1/12/24 for contractors to view the project.
 - Dr. Bowman has reviewed an initial drawing from Cordogan Clark outlining the summer work at the HS
- Ask the board to consider hiring a second elementary physical education teacher for the district. This would provide the elementary students a physical education class four times a week. The fifth time would be with the classroom teacher.
- Macoupin County Basketball Tournament being held this week at Southwestern High School. Thanked Athletic Director, Brian Hanslow, for arranging and hosting the tournament, and to Dr. Bearley, Mrs. Nance, and Mr. Baumberger for their supervision during the week. Good luck to the teams this week!!
- Mentioned recommendation for bus bids from Central States.

Items for Discussion or Acknowledgement:

The board accepted the following resignations:

Lisa Wittman-Full-Time Substitute Teacher

Jennifer Borkowski-High School Science Teacher

The board also acknowledged the Southwestern Education Associations Demand to Bargain Letter.

Items Considered for Action...

Consent Agenda:

Items discussed in the consent agenda included the following...the financial report with balances as of December 31, 2023, as follows: Education Fund \$7,538,335.00 Operations/Maintenance \$1,433,796.00, Transportation \$930,215.00, Working Cash \$3,350,117.00, with the total being \$13,252,463.00, County Schools Facilities Sales Tax Revenue for December was \$56,047.45; January bills...Imprest bills...extra and substitute pay...substitute list...special board meeting minutes, tax levy hearing, December 19, 2023...and regular board meeting minutes from December 19, 2023.

Dr. Bowman went over the financial report stating that the district is 50% thru the fiscal year already. He indicated that fund balances are up some. He also noted that Mrs. Andres, Financial Services Director, noted at the bottom of her report that beginning in Dec. 2023, per the advice of our financial advisor, 100% of the County Schools Facility Sales Tax payments will be receipted to the Capital Projects Fund. After a tax abatement resolution is passed in February, that dollar amount will be moved to the Debt Service Fund. There were no questions regarding the consent agenda. Andrew Ruyle 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, Oertel, Ruyle, Schuchman, and Strohbeck

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Brad Schuchman made a motion to hire Nathanael McGuire as a HS Evening Custodian. Donna Loy made the second motion to hire Mr. McGuire.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

A bid of \$719,000 was submitted by Central States Bus Lines for five new Bluebird diesel buses/five trade-ins. Andrew Ruyle made the motion to accept this bid and Brad Schuchman seconded the approved of the bid.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Donna Loy made the first motion with Nicholas Strohbeck making the second to authorize the superintendent to post for a second Elementary Physical Education Teacher.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Board President Oertel read the following resolution:

Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,250,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2024, for the purposes of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and altering and reconstructing school buildings and purchasing and installing equipment therein for fire prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Mr. Oertel asked for questions. Being none, Jason Oertel made a motion to accept the resolution as read with Andrew Ruyle seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew Ruyle made a motion to move into closed session with Donna Loy seconding to move into closed session.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME: 7:33PM

Nicholas Strohbeck made a motion to move back into open session with Jason Oertel making the second motion to do so.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

TIME: 8:13PM

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Donna Loy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenny Hanks seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15P.M.

Kim Albert
Recording Secretary

Board President

Board Secretary