

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
March 14, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on March 14, 2006, in the Sycamore High School Library, Spartan Trail, Sycamore, Illinois.

ATTENDANCE

Jim Dombek, President
Dannie Stanbery, Vice Pres.
Donald Clayberg, Secretary
Barb King
Jay Montgomery
Dave Shipley
Diane Tyrrell

OTHERS

Wayne Riesen, Superintendent
Kathy Countryman, Assistant Supt.
Luke Glowiak, Assistant Supt.
Kathy Sloniker, Secretary

ADMINISTRATORS: T. Cullison, J. Dargatz, K. Heffernan-Spallasso, K. Spiewak, M. Thurwanger, and K. Wesley.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); J. Kelleher, (Daily Chronicle); J. Grace (Sycamore Journal); M. Anderson, A. Andree, J. Aust, A. Barnes, C. Boekenhauer, A. Boltz, P. Cabeen, D. Chamberlain, C. Countryman, J. Davey, M. Deck, K. Dombek, S. Doty, M. Fleetwood, D. Fraedrich, Z. Fraedrich, G. Gable, M. Gilmer, K. Goodman, B. Gregg, M. Grimes, K. Hermes, L. Jones, M. Kilpatrick, A. Kruckenberg, W. Kruckenberg, B. Maher, D. Maher, R. Majerus, K. Mundy, Mayor; G. Patterson, L. Patterson, M. Patterson, C. Phillips, P. Pritchard, Y. Richardson, D. Sabock, V. Sherrod, T. Slack, B. Sorrel, J. Stadie, S. Stevens, G. Taylor, K. Taylor, A. Thurow, M. Turok, N. Vohra, B. White, C. White, and K. Young.

President Dombek called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

When the roll was called, the following members were present: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek.

Mrs. Barb White and Mr. Matt Anderson hosted a “video tour” of Sycamore High School.

Dan Sabock, Sycamore High School Senior, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 AGENDA: Montgomery asked to remove item 4.4, Approval of Weight Room Bids, from the consent agenda. President Dombek placed it under New Business as item 10.3. Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the agenda as amended. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Shipley, and seconded by Stanbery, to approve the consent agenda as amended, as follows:

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting February 28, 2006
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session February 28, 2006
- 4.3 Approval of Minutes of Special Meetings February 20, 21, 22, 2006
- 4.4 REMOVED
- 4.5 NIA Personnel Report
- 4.6 NIA Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Part-Time Teachers
- 4.7 NIA Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of First Year Probationary Teachers
- 4.8 NIA Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Second-Year Probationary Teacher
- 4.9 NIA Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal of Supervisor Contract and Probationary Teacher Employment
- 4.10 NIA Resolution Authorizing Non-Renewal of Supervisor Contract

President Dombek called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

5.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

- 5.1 Spotlight Segment – The Board of Education recognized Dan Sabock for assisting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board presented spotlight awards to: the Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation students from Sycamore Middle School that advanced to the State Wrestling Championship; the Sycamore High School Cheerleading Squad for advancing to the State Cheerleading Competition; the Sycamore High School winter athletes who were named “All Conference”, including Marcus Doctor who was also honored for his advancement to the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament; and 34 Sycamore High School students that were named “Illinois State Scholars”.
- 5.2 Elementary School Report – Mrs. Spiewak, North Elementary Principal, stated that the elementary schools are currently taking the ISAT tests. She noted that Kindergarten registration has been completed for the 2006-2007 school year. Mrs. Spiewak reported that South Prairie and West Elementary schools have completed their fun fairs and Southeast and North Elementary schools fun fairs are still up-coming. She stated that the third reading improvement evening for Kindergarten parents will be held on March 27, 2006 at South Prairie Elementary School.
- 5.3 Middle School Report - Mrs. Dargatz, Middle School Principal, indicated that the Middle School is also administering the ISAT tests. Mrs. Dargatz reported that the Girls Basketball Team took 2nd place in the tournament. She also noted that two students qualified to participate in the Spelling-Bee at Kishwaukee Community College and Iris Jorgensen took 2nd place. She stated that Mitchell Meerman won the school Geo-Bee, and advanced to the state competition in Chicago. Mrs. Dargatz noted that the Builder’s Club (which is the Middle School equivalent to the Key Club) celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with a fund raiser. She stated that the 8th Grade Community Service Project was to collect school supplies for families in need. Mrs. Dargatz explained that she has been hosting “focus groups” with students in order to obtain their input regarding various student programs offered at the Middle School. She stated that the staff is reviewing home work policies and procedures.
- 5.4 High School Report – Mr. Thurwanger, High School Principal, reported that several FFA students received awards: Dustin Johnson Placed 1st in the District 2 Proficiency Award and Vegetable Production and will be advancing to the state competition; Joe Shearer, Natalie Schramer, Christine Williams, and Justin Larsen placed 2nd and Ryan

Klock, Nelson Hillquist, and Brad Cessna placed 3rd in the District 2 Proficiency Award. Mr. Thurwanger stated that the WYSE finished 2nd at Northern Illinois University and will be representing Sycamore High School at the University of Illinois. He commented that the High School Cheerleading Squad advanced to the state competition. He noted that the Interact Club collected \$3,400 to assist hurricane victims and the High School Spring Play, Come Away Death, will be held this weekend in the Auditorium.

- 5.5 Open Discussion/Audience Participation – President Dombek stated that he had received a number of phone calls regarding the Transfer Tax Referendum and he asked Mr. Glowiak, Assistant Superintendent for Business, to give an overview of how the transfer tax would be administered.

Mr. Glowiak explained that the City of Sycamore has placed a question on the ballot asking voters to approve a .005% tax on the sale of real estate within the city limits to be paid by the buyer. He noted that there is an exemption for someone who currently lives within the city limits of Sycamore buying a new house in Sycamore. He stated that the transfer tax would be applied to all homes, commercial, and industrial buildings sold in the City of Sycamore. Mr. Glowiak also explained the voluntary fee that a few developers have agreed to pay at the time of final platting. He explained that this fee is negotiated between the developer and the City of Sycamore during the development of the annexation agreement. He pointed out that the money received from this voluntary contribution can be used for operational or construction costs.

Mr. Earl Gable addressed the Board concerning over-crowding in the school district. He asked the Board to add teacher aides to each of the classrooms to alleviate the burden on the teachers.

- 6.0 COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE:** Dr. Riesen stated that several communication/correspondence items were included in the Board's packet for their review.

- 7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Shipley stated that the Plan Commission continues to work on the sub area plan on the east side along Airport Road.

- 8.0 LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Dr. Riesen indicated that these items were included in the Board's packet for information only.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS:

- 9.1 Demonstration of New Website School Calendar: Ms. Melanie Deck gave the Board a presentation on some of the improvements to the District's website and demonstrated the new web calendar that is currently being piloted.

President Dombek thanked Ms. Deck for the presentation and was glad to see the web calendar coming to fruition.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Approval of 2006-2007 School Calendar: Dr. Riesen explained that the proposed calendar has been reviewed by the SEA, the administrative team, and the District's In-Service Committee. He noted that his goal is to synchronize the northern DeKalb County school calendars (DeKalb, Genoa, and Sycamore) in the next couple of years in the areas of start date, winter break, and spring break. He pointed out that Lincoln's birthday is on Monday in 2007, and that he would probably be bringing the Board a mandated waiver so that in the future the District would take Presidents' Day as a holiday in February instead of Lincoln's Birthday.

Dr. Riesen noted that spring break will be the last week in March and the last day of school will be Friday, June 1, 2007.

Stanbery inquired about the length of the last day of school. Dr. Riesen responded that the last day of school would begin at the regularly scheduled time and would conclude at 11:30 a.m.

Stanbery moved, seconded by King, to approve the 2006-2007 school calendar as presented. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

- 10.2 Approval of 2005-2006 School District Amended Calendar: Dr. Riesen explained that the District is required to file an amended calendar with the State Board of Education at the end of each school year. He stated that the amended calendar reflects any emergency days that were taken during the year. He pointed out that no emergency days were needed this year and recommended that the Board approve the 2005-2006 amended calendar as presented.

Stanbery moved, seconded by Tyrrell to approve the 2005-2006 amended school calendar as presented. All members voted aye and the motion carried.

- 10.3 Weight Room Bids: Montgomery asked if installation and renovations were included in the bid. Mr. Glowiak responded that installation and most of the renovations were included. Montgomery asked if additional staff would be required to man the weight room. Mr. Countryman indicated that there are always 2-4 coaches in the weight room, which would be sufficient. Montgomery noted that the District would be losing a teaching station in the gym and asked if the District would have enough spaces for physical education classes. Mr. Glowiak responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Shipley voiced concern about receiving only one bid. Mr. Glowiak explained that only one bid was received due to the specific type of equipment requested. Dr. Riesen asked about the time line for completion of the weight room. Mr. Wesley responded that the weight room should be ready by mid-June.

King moved, seconded by Montgomery, to award the weight room bid to Direct Fitness Solutions in the amount of \$43,893.25, as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

11.0 CURRICULUM:

- 11.1 Mentoring Program Information: Mrs. Katie Heffernan Spallasso reviewed the mentoring program with the Board. She explained that District 427 needs a mentoring program because: 1) the state requires every school to have some type of mentoring program, 2) there is concern about the teacher turnover rate, 3) to increase student achievement, 4) to increase professional development, and 5) to help new staff members transition into the Sycamore Community and understand the District's mission as outlined in the Strategic Design plan. Mrs. Heffernan Spallasso explained that the mentoring program would be a two year program and would be aligned with the Strategic Design and state requirements. She noted that the program would include; orientation, classroom visits, support groups, and tutoring. Mrs. Heffernan Spallasso reviewed the qualifications for and responsibilities of the mentors, and a tentative mentoring schedule.

Montgomery inquired about the cost of the program. Mrs. Heffernan Spallasso did not have an estimated cost at this time.

Dombek asked if substitute teachers would be required. Mrs. Heffernan Spallasso responded affirmatively.

- 11.2 Technology Update Information: Mrs. Gregg, Director of Technology, gave the Board a presentation regarding unitedstreaming, a web-based video delivery system from Discovery Education. She explained that unitedstreaming is the largest and most current library of K-12 digital video/video clips available containing over 40,000 digital clips. She pointed out that teachers can search the video library by: keyword, subject, grade level, state standards, etc. Mrs. Gregg indicated that this is a wonderful way for teachers to enhance their lessons. She demonstrated the program by showing the Board a video clip regarding cell division.

12.0 PERSONNEL

- 12.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal or Personnel, and Collective Bargaining. * Stanbery moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to go into executive session for the consideration of matters related to the appointment, employment, or dismissal of personnel, and collective bargaining. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

In at 9:15 p.m. and out at 11:16 p.m.

13.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 13.1 Personnel Report - Motion by Tyrrell, seconded by King, to approve the non-certified personnel report as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Tyrrell, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the certified personnel report as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

- 14.0 OPEN DISCUSSION ISSUES/OBSERVATIONS/QUESTIONS** – Stanbery voiced concern that the breaker box at the high school was not lockable. He felt that would be a Health/Life Safety issue.

Dr. Riesen reminded the Board of their Special Board Meeting scheduled for 7:00 a.m. on Friday, March 17, 2006.

- 15.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – 18-21 Year Program and Charge for Kishwaukee College for use of buildings

- 16.0 ADJOURNMENT** – Tyrrell moved, seconded by King, that the meeting be adjourned. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:28 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education