

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

July 26, 2005

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on July 26, 2005, in the Cafeteria of the Sycamore High School, Spartan Trail, Sycamore, Illinois.

ATTENDANCE

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

OTHERS

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

ADMINISTRATORS: J. Dargatz, P. Mobile, M. Thurwanger, and K. Wesley.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); J. Kelleher; (Daily Chronicle); B. Miller, (Sycamore Journal); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); A. Armbrust, FGM Architects; Mary Loellke, Matt Loelke, and R. Loelke.

President Dombek called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

3.0 AGENDA: Tyrrell moved, seconded by Clayberg, to approve the agenda as presented. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Montgomery, and seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the consent agenda as presented, as follows:

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting June 28, 2005
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session June 28, 2005
- 4.3 Review of Executive Session Minutes January 2005 - June 2005
- 4.4 Approval of Disposal of Equipment List
- 4.5 Treasurer's Report
- 4.6 NIA Bills Payable
- 4.7 NIA Treasurer's Reports
- 4.8 Fuel Bids

President Dombek called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

5.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS: Dr. Riesen welcomed and introduced Mrs. Phyllis Mobile, Director of Student Services, to the Board. Dr. Riesen also took a few minutes to thank the members of the Board of Education, Mr. Glowiak, and Mrs. Countryman, the Administrative Team, Mrs. Sloniker, and all of the staff at the administration building, for giving him a warm welcome. Dr. Riesen also thanked the press, who have been gracious to him as well.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS: Dr. Riesen indicated that these items were included in the packet for the Board's information only.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7.1 Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee: Mr. Glowiak reported that Mr. Nicklas informed the Committee that employees and elected members of governmental bodies cannot actively participate in a referendum that they stand to benefit from (Transfer Fee). He stated that the Mayor requested volunteers from the committee to head the referendum support effort. He commented that Mr. Ken Anderson and Mr. Tom Taylor volunteered and were appointed to do that. Mr. Glowiak noted that a discussion was held regarding renters living in Sycamore being exempt from the transfer fee. He stated that it was the consensus of the Committee to exempt Sycamore residential property owners only. Dr. Riesen reported that a group was organized to "Sell Sycamore" through presentations to industries that express an interest in relocating to Sycamore. He explained that Mrs. Countryman and Mr. Thurwanger would represent the School District. He noted that they would be meeting on August 3 to make a mock presentation to the Ad Hoc committee.

Dombek stated that a referendum support meeting has been set for August 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Midwest Museum. He suggested that the CAC members be contacted to see if anyone would be interested in serving on the referendum committee. He also suggested that the SEA be contacted to see if they know anyone else that might be interested in serving on that committee.

Montgomery voiced concern about Mrs. Countryman and Mr. Thurwanger serving on a committee to "Sell Sycamore." He felt that Dr. Riesen should be the District's public relations person and had further concerns about Mr. Thurwanger being out of the High School building.

Dombek explained that this is a community-wide effort that benefits the people that we serve and represent as well as other taxing bodies.

7.2 Planning Commission - Shipley indicated that the Planning Commission meeting was basically a workshop session. He reviewed the various proposals that were presented, which included a concept plan for commercial development of Artery Farm, which is located on the northwest corner of DeKalb Avenue and Peace Road by First Rockford Group; a concept plan for commercial development of the southwest corner of Peace Road and Route 23 (Jewel/Osco); a concept plan for residential development of Walter/Cambier Farm (River Run of Sycamore), which is located north of Peace Road and east of Brickville Road; and a concept plan for rezoning of Turner Addition. Shipley indicated that the concept plan for residential development of the Whitwell Farm was postponed.

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

8.1 Education Law Report – ERO Option

8.2 Workplace Update from Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton and Taylor, Ltd.

8.3 State School News Services

9.0 OLD BUSINESS:

- 9.1 Approval of Auditorium Remodeling Plan - The Board took a tour of the High School auditorium area. Mr. Glowiak stated that, at the request of the Board, the architects have revised their proposal to conform to the amount included for renovation in the FY06 Budget. He commented that, after reviewing the architect's proposal, it is the recommendation of the administration that the air exhaust system be included in the bid as Alternate #1. Mr. Glowiak explained that much of the required ductwork would have been completed with the air conditioning option, which may reduce the cost of installing the air exhaust system. He further recommended that the additional set of entry doors be included as Alternate #2. He explained that it is anticipated that the actual cost of these doors will be below the budget estimate if bid as an alternate. He also pointed out that including these items as alternates allows the Board to include them or reject them depending upon the cost. Mr. Glowiak reviewed the proposed timeline with the Board. He stated that the administration is asking the Board of Education to authorize the architect's to proceed with the preparation of the bid documents for remodeling of the auditorium this evening. He then stated that the architects would present the final plan to the Board in December. He noted that, assuming there will be only moderate changes, the bids would be opened in February and then the Board would approve the bids in March.

Clayberg moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to authorize FGM Architects to proceed with the preparation of bid documents for the auditorium remodeling that conform to the FY06 Budget. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

- 9.2 Update on Facility Study with FGM - Mr. Glowiak distributed copies of FGM Architects' Master Plan Fee Worksheet along with a proposed timetable to the Board. He noted that the architects have included a capacity analysis in their proposal, which is required for CCD funding. He commented that if the Governor brings the construction bill back to light, he has indicated that he will escalate projects that have a dual purpose, i.e. school/community center combined. Mr. Glowiak stated that the architects have included several meetings with the Task Force in their proposal. He explained that the Task Force for the District would mostly likely be the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC). He pointed out that the architects have included three (3) community-wide meetings where one community forum might be sufficient. He recommended that the administration continue to discuss the plan with FGM Architects and come back to the Board at their August meeting.

Shipley felt it was important to have several meetings in order to strengthen communication.

Dr. Riesen noted that this Board wants, and should have, community involvement. However, he explained that the administration wants to streamline the process to make the project economical and efficient.

Dombek recommended utilizing the same process that was used to develop the District's Strategic Design Plan.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Board Policy Update Process - Dr. Riesen suggested that the Board might want to consider reviewing their current policy manual. He recommended subscribing to the IASB Policy Service. Once the review process is complete, the policy service guarantees to send the most recent updates in order to keep the policy manual current.

The Board inquired about the cost. Dr. Riesen estimated a cost of \$400-500 per year to belong to the policy service after purchasing the starter manual. Dr. Riesen indicated that he would bring back further recommendations after reviewing the current policy manual in greater detail.

- 10.2 Enrollment Update - Dr. Riesen stated that an enrollment update was included in the Board packet. He recommended that Board members contact Mrs. Countryman if they have any questions.

Montgomery noted that enrollment updates are geared to elementary schools. He indicated that he would like to see detailed class schedules for the Middle School and High School as well.

- 10.3 Administrative Retreat – Annual Event - Dr. Riesen informed the Board that he had scheduled an Administrators' retreat for Friday, August 12, 2005. He explained that the purpose would be to cover a variety of administrative and leadership topics as the administrators prepare for a new school year.

- 10.4 District-Wide Calendar Software Update - Dr. Riesen explained that new district-wide calendar software is currently being installed and should be operational shortly after the school year begins. He commented that it is the administration's hope that this calendar will help eliminate *major* conflicts in activities between the buildings in the school district. This calendar will also be available on the district's website.

- 10.5 District 427 Informational PowerPoint Presentation - Dr. Riesen indicated that he would like to develop a PowerPoint presentation encompassing everything about District 427. He is hopeful that it would be a great public relations tool for community groups, which would ultimately improve communication between the school and community. It was the consensus of the Board that Dr. Riesen proceed with the development of the proposed PowerPoint presentation.

- 10.6 Opening Day Workshop/Institute Schedule - Dr. Riesen invited the Board members to attend the District's opening day workshop, which begins at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 22, 2005, in the Sycamore High School auditorium.

Montgomery inquired about the New Teacher Handbook/Faculty Handbook. He felt that Board members might want to have a copy of that handbook.

- 10.7 Future Board Meeting Schedule/Locations, etc. - President Dombek suggested that the first Board meeting of the month be held at the various school sites throughout the year and the second Board meeting of the month be held in the Board Room of the administration building. He further suggested that the first meeting of the month be held at 6:30 p.m. for a tour of the building. The second meeting of the month would continue to meet at 7:00 p.m. It was the consensus of the Board to hold one meeting per month at the various school buildings beginning at 6:30 p.m. President Dombek stated that he would put an itinerary together.

- 10.8 IASB/Finance Workshop - President Dombek stated that Dawn Miller from IASB indicated that she would conduct a workshop once the new superintendent was in place. He stated that the Board also discussed the possibility of a financial workshop. Dombek suggested that the financial workshop be held in August. Dombek also reminded the Board that they need to set goals for Mr. Glowiak and Dr. Riesen. He noted that this should be done in September.

11.0 FINANCIAL:

- 11.1 Approval of Bills Payable - Montgomery moved, seconded by Clayberg, to approve the bills payable in the amount of \$283,940.67. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.
- 11.2 Financial Update - Mr. Glowiak stated that he is seeking authorization from the Board to proceed with the financial plan to sell funding bonds to retire the outstanding 2003 debt certificates. He explained that the sale of funding bonds would allow the District to “free up” the annual debt service presently required from operational sources. He noted that the District would then be able to “bank” land/cash revenues and reserve that money for future classroom construction needs. Mr. Glowiak explained that the sale of funding bonds requires that the Board adopt a sales resolution and announce the date and time for a public hearing. Mr. Glowiak reviewed a proposed timetable with the Board estimating that the bond sale could be completed by October 5, 2005.

Shipley indicated that he was very uncomfortable with this and he felt that the District would be increasing taxes for the people. Shipley was also concerned that the Board needs to fully understand the potential ramifications. He stated that this is considered a backdoor referendum and can have negative consequences with the public. Shipley felt that if the District needs money, they should approach this in a regular referendum where people vote for it versus petitioning against it.

Mr. Glowiak responded that this procedure is legal and above board. He explained that the sale of funding bonds would allow the District to bank land cash money so that when it is needed in the future the District will be able to save the taxpayers a portion of that building cost. He also stated that the District could make this transfer and keep the tax rate the same.

Dombek disagreed with Shipley’s implication that the District would be increasing the taxes for the people. He indicated that he did not see it from that angle.

Mr. Glowiak reiterated that his recommendation is that the Board allow the administration to proceed, not a recommendation for action. He urged the Board to think about the ultimate good for the community and for their constituents.

It was the consensus of the Board of Education to authorize the administration to continue the process of evaluating the sale of funding bonds to retire the outstanding 2003 debt certificates.

12.0 PERSONNEL

- 12.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Personnel, and Student Disciplinary Matters. Tyrrell moved, seconded by Stanbery, to go into executive session for the consideration of matters related to the appointment, employment, or dismissal of personnel, and student disciplinary matters. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye:

Clayberg, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

In at 8:58 p.m. and out at 10:17 p.m.

12.2 Personnel Report - Motion by Stanbery, seconded by Montgomery, to approve pages 1 and 2 of the non-certified personnel report as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Tyrrell, seconded by Montgomery, that the certified personnel report be approved as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

13.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions – The Board held a discussion concerning a spill by the fuel provider. A discussion ensued about summer hours on Fridays at all schools. A question arose regarding cooperative swimming and the new conference.

14.0 Future Agenda Items – Sale of Board property by sealed bid, and NCLB.

15.0 Adjournment – Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, that the meeting be adjourned. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

This meeting was declared adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education