

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

August 23, 2005

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on August 23, 2005, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 245 W. Exchange Street, Sycamore, Illinois.

ATTENDANCE

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

OTHERS

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); A. Armbrust, FGM Architects; C. Beard, DCSEA; S. Nelson, J. Schrock, A. Torres, and J. Woods, FGM Architects.

President Dombek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

3.0 AGENDA: President Dombek removed the Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting July 26, 2005, from the Consent Agenda and placed them immediately following the Consent Agenda. Stanbery moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the agenda as amended. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

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

- 4.1 Removed
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session July 26, 2005
- 4.3 Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting August 9, 2005
- 4.4 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session August 9, 2005
- 4.5 Treasurer's Report
- 4.6 Approval of Vehicle Lease/Installment Purchase
- 4.7 Approval of Buildings and Grounds Rental Rates

President Dombek called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, and Tyrrell. Dombek abstained. AYES - 5; ABSTENTIONS – 1; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting July 26, 2005: Shipley asked to insert the following sentences into the Financial Update section of the minutes: “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.” He further asked to revise the last paragraph under Financial Update as follows: “It was the consensus of the Board of Education to authorize the administration to ~~proceed with the financial plan to sell~~ **continue the process of evaluating the sale of** funding bonds to retire the outstanding 2003 debt certificates.”

Dombek felt that the minutes, as presented, were a sufficient record of what took place at the meeting. He noted that it is difficult to capture everything that everyone said. He voiced concern about the amount of content and the length of the Board minutes. He recommended that the Board consider recording minutes as required by Robert’s Rules of Order.

King voiced concerned about the shortened minutes not being very informative to the public. Montgomery agreed.

Dombek suggested that the Board add Minutes as an agenda item in September in order to allow the Board to further discuss this topic.

Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting July 26, 2005, as amended. President Dombek called for a voice vote on the motion. Dombek voted no. All other members present voted aye. Motion carried.

5.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS: Mr. Wesley introduced Mr. Fred Torres, Bus Driver, to the Board. He stated that Mr. Torres came in second place among 84 bus drivers at the Bus Rodeo that was held in June. Mr. Wesley indicated that this is the first time in 12 years that someone from our fleet of drivers has done this well.

Dr. Riesen welcomed and introduced Mrs. Julie Graves, South Prairie Principal, to the Board.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS: Dr. Riesen called the Board’s attention to Bob Pritchard’s Education Council, which will be holding its first meeting at 7:00 p.m. on August 24, 2005 at Sycamore Middle School.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 7.1 Planning Commission - Shipley reported that the Planning Commission approved 3 subdivisions; Sycamore Creek III, The Hamlet of Sycamore Creek, and The Commons of Sycamore Creek. He stated that the Planning Commission also approved the rezoning of the property located on the southeast corner of Peace Road and Route 64 to commercial. He noted that a workshop was held on two (2) potential subdivisions (Freda R. Herst Farm and Whitwell Farm) including the realignment of Lindgren Road.
- 7.2 Mayor’s Ad Hoc Committee: Mr. Glowiak stated that the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee was a role-play of a presentation that was put together to “Sell Sycamore” in an effort enhance industrial growth. He reported that Mr. Thurwanger and Mrs. Countryman did a great job of excelling the high points of District 427.

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

- 8.1 State School News Service
- 8.2 Alliance Legislative Report
- 8.3 IASB News Bulletin

9.0 OLD BUSINESS:

- 9.1 Approval of Facility Master Plan Process - Mr. Glowiak stated that the Board has discussed the potential need for facility expansion to meet the requirements of increasing enrollment. He felt that the creation and implementation of a Facility Master Plan would confirm the District's present enrollment projections, confirm facility capacity, work with the staff to assess instructional requirements, and work with the public to receive community input on school facility needs. Mr. Glowiak explained that a series of five community group meetings are being proposed. He noted that four of those meetings would be with the expanded CAC group, with the final meeting being an all community meeting to present the proposed Master Plan and seek community reaction. He indicated that after some negotiations and compromises, the cost to implement this planning process is \$28,080, which is included in the District's FY06 Budget. Mr. Glowiak recommended that the Board of Education authorize FGM Architects and Engineers to complete a District Facility Master Plan.

Mr. Jim Woods and Mr. Alan Armbrust from FGM Architects reviewed a proposed timeline with the Board.

Stanbery moved, seconded by King, to authorized FGM Architects and Engineers to complete a District Facility Master Plan as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Enrollment Update - Mrs. Countryman updated the Board on the enrollment numbers to-date. She commented that two (2) Kindergarten sections were added this year. She also noted that some students have had to enroll in a school other than their neighborhood school and parents have been very understanding. She reported that no classroom assistants have been hired to-date and there are 4.5 contingency teachers remaining in the budget. She noted that the Middle School enrollment consists of 786 students, which is more than last year and earlier predictions indicated that the Middle School enrollment would decline this year.
- 10.2 HB 312 – Genocide Education – Mrs. Countryman explained that the Governor signed HB 312 on August 5, 2005, which goes into effect immediately. She explained that the bill expands Holocaust and genocide education for Illinois elementary and high school students. She stated that they would be talking to the administrators regarding this legislation since it is something that needs to be addressed immediately.
- 10.3 Upcoming Compliance Review for District 427 - Dr. Riesen stated that Sycamore School District is up for a full compliance review, which will take place October 31-November 4, 2005.

10.4

Follow-Up on District Administrative Retreat - Dr. Riesen indicated that copies of his PowerPoint presentation to the Administrators as well as a copy of the minutes of the Administrative Retreat were included in the packet. He also stated that he gave a PowerPoint presentation to **all** staff on the first institute day in August. Dr. Riesen noted that he required **all** staff to be present at this meeting and he emphasized the concept of the “total team”.

- 10.5 Transportation Notebook/Approval of Hazardous Routes - Mr. Wesley reviewed the Serious Safety Hazard Finding Report with the Board. He explained that no routes have been added this year. He stated that the District is required to bus students that live 1.5 miles from their home school or if their residence has been deemed a “hazardous route” by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Mr. Wesley noted that the District receives reimbursement from the state in the amount of \$162.00/student for eligible riders. He indicated that there are currently 419 hazardous route riders and 34 students who pay to ride. Mr. Wesley also reviewed the Transportation Notebook with the Board.

King moved, seconded by Stanbery, to approve the hazardous routes as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

- 10.6 Building and Grounds Update – Mr. Wesley, gave a PowerPoint presentation depicting some of the projects that were completed at the buildings over the summer.

11.0 FINANCIAL:

- 11.1 Approval of Bills Payable - Montgomery moved, seconded by Stanbery, to approve the bills payable in the amount of \$875,625.03. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

- 11.2 Financial Update - Mr. Glowiak stated that the Board will be holding a budget hearing and will be asked to approve the budget at its September 13, 2005, meeting.

- 11.3 ASBO Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting – Mr. Glowiak stated that District has been informed that it has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials for the fourth consecutive year. He noted that a copy of the letter from the Association of School Business Officials and a copy of the certificate were included in the Board packet.

The Board congratulated Mr. Glowiak on the receipt of this award. Mr. Glowiak credited the business office staff and especially, Ms. Cindy Vogeler, Head Bookkeeper.

- 11.4 District Insurance Coverage – Mr. Glowiak reviewed the District’s insurance coverage with the Board. He explained that the District belongs to the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC), which is a group of 131 school districts located in northeast Illinois who have joined together for insurance purposes.

12.0 PERSONNEL

- 12.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Personnel, the Purchase or Lease of Real Property; the Setting of a Price for the Sale or Lease of Property, and Collective Bargaining. * Tyrrell moved, seconded by King, to go into executive session for the consideration of matters related to the appointment, employment, or dismissal of personnel, the purchase or lease of real property; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of property, and collective bargaining. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

In at 9:03 p.m. and out at 10:17 p.m.

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

Motion by Shipley, seconded by King, that pages 1 and 2 of the certified personnel report be approved as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

- 13.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions** – The Board discussed possible dates for the Board Retreat with Dawn Miller, which was part of the Superintendent’s Search Process.

The Board discussed the Annual Joint Conference in November.

Dr. Riesen presented a draft of a press release regarding a friendly wager between the DeKalb School Board and the Sycamore School Board based on the outcome of the Sycamore/DeKalb football game on Friday, August 26, 2005.

Dr. Riesen asked Board members if they wanted to make their home e-mail addresses available to the public. It was the consensus of the Board that they did not want their e-mail addresses given to the public or posted on the website.

Dr. Riesen noted that the first meeting of the Steering Committee to promote the transfer tax was this week.

Dr. Riesen informed the Board of the upcoming IASB Semi-Annual Dinner and Conference Meeting on October 5, 2005. Dr. Riesen and Dannie Stanbery will attend.

Dr. Riesen informed the Board of an issue with the Head Start Program.

The Board discussed the possibility of an e-mail or cell phone notification program for emergencies and early dismissals.

- 14.0 Future Agenda Items** – Steroids, School Resource Officer Update, Professional Grant Writer, Minutes

- 15.0 Adjournment** – King moved, seconded by Stanbery, that the meeting be adjourned. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

This meeting was declared adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education