

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2005

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on September 13, 2005, in the Learning Center at West Elementary School, 240 Fair Street, 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
Kathy Countryman, Assistant Supt.
Luke Glowiak, Assistant Supt.
Kathy Sloniker, Secretary

ADMINISTRATORS: M. Currie, J. Dargatz, P. Mobile, and M. Thurwanger.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); J. Kelleher, (Daily Chronicle); C. Beckley, K. Beckley, J. Bolda, C. Eggleston, D. Eggleston, B. Fewell, Y. Johnson, M. Killpatrick, NIA; J. McCormick, P. Nihan, V. Nix, C. Phillips, K. Reuter, B. Schlawin, P. Schramer, C. Stambaugh, D. Stambaugh, A. Wallin, J. Wennmaker, and J. Winterland.

President Dombek called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Colin Eggleston, a student at West Elementary School, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Mary Currie, Principal, conducted a tour of West Elementary School.

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

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

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

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting August 23, 2005
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session August 23, 2005
- 4.3 Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting August 30, 2005
- 4.4 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session August 30, 2005
- 4.5 Approval of Disposal of Equipment
- 4.6 2005-2006 Application for Recognition of Schools

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 Open Discussion/Audience Participation – None
- 5.2 Elementary School Report – Mrs. Currie reported that beginning of the year activities included ice cream socials at Southeast and South Prairie, a picnic at North, and a First Day Celebration at West. She stated that South Prairie begins each day with a morning assembly in the gym, where Julie Graves, Principal, gives announcements, acknowledgements, and celebrations. Mrs. Currie noted that Southeast is training 5th graders in peer mediation and North and West will be holding student council elections in the next few weeks. She explained that safety drills for fire, bus, disaster, and intruder have all been scheduled. Mrs. Currie stated that Ms. Gail Reichlin would be presenting at West on Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. on simple parenting strategies. She also commented that all of the elementary buildings are either collecting items or money to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.
- 5.3 Middle School Report – Mrs. Dargatz indicated that the Middle School Theme for the year is Teamwork Toward Triumph. She indicated that Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) have reduced office referrals by 35%, which equates to a savings of 99 man-hours. She noted that the Middle School English and Social Science departments are articulating with the High School.
- 5.4 High School Report – Mr. Thurwanger reported that nine new energetic and enthusiastic teachers have been hired at the High School. He noted that the current high school enrollment is 1,151. He stated that the open house was well attended. Mr. Thurwanger commented that the character education program held a freshman orientation and organized a water drive for a community near New Orleans with the Convoy of Hope.
- 5.5 Spotlight Segment – Dr. Riesen commented that, in an attempt to be more student-centered, the District would be recognizing students and staff at the first Board of Education meeting each month. He stated that Mrs. Jane Dargatz, Middle School Principal, has invited a couple of her staff members who she felt went above and beyond the call of duty. Mrs. Dargatz introduced Mrs. Carolyn Stambaugh for her “Second Step” efforts and Jill Bolda, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) Coach, for her extra efforts this past summer. President Dombek congratulated the staff members and presented each of them with a plaque.

6.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 6.1 District #427 FY06 Budget Hearing – President Dombek called to order the public hearing for District #427. No one was present to speak to the District budget.
- 6.2 NIA FY06 Budget Hearing – President Dombek called to order the public hearing for NIA. No one was present to speak to the NIA budget.

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE: Dr. Riesen stated that several communication/correspondence items were included in the Board’s packet for their review.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 8.1 Planning Commission – Dave Shipley – Shipley reported from the Plan Commission meeting. He indicated that a proposed increase in impact fees for the park, school, and library, was forwarded to the City Council with a favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission. He stated that a petition from Freda R. Herst for annexation

and rezoning of a 93-acre parcel at the northeast corner of Lindgren Road and Plank Road was discussed. Shipley reported that John F. Pappas submitted a concept plan for commercial and residential development of the Primm Farm, which is contiguous to the Peace Road Crossings' commercial subdivision at the northwest corner of Route 23, Peace Road, and Plank Road for the Plan Commission to review and discuss.

- 8.2 PTO Meetings – Barb King – King reported that she has begun attending PTO meetings and has been very well received.

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

- 9.1 Education Law Report
9.2 State School News Service

10.0 OLD BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Update on Facility Planning Process – Dr. Riesen informed the Board of two (2) upcoming meetings regarding the Facility Master Planning process; 1) Principals' Kick-Off Meeting on September 20th and 2) CAC/Task Force Meeting on September 22nd.

Mr. Glowiak indicated that Board members are invited to attend any and all of the meetings listed on the Facility Master Planning schedule included in the packet. He noted that the timeline includes a presentation to the Board on the results of the meetings at its December 13, 2005 meeting.

11.0 FINANCIAL:

- 11.1 Hurricane Katrina/Homeless – Dr. Riesen – Dr. Riesen reported that the hurricane victims have a right to enroll their students in the school district where they relocate under the homeless act. He stated that Sycamore School District currently has one family that has relocated in this area.
- 11.2 Report on State Superintendent's Conference – Dr. Riesen – Dr. Riesen stated that the theme for the conference was "Lincoln on Leadership." He stated that Randy Dunn, State Superintendent, talked about Lincoln's style of leadership and how we can lead schools utilizing his leadership style. He also briefly discussed the new Student Information System (S.I.S.) and changing laws regarding emergency drills for schools in addition to relationships with their local fire and police departments.
- 11.3 Approval of Resolution Regarding #427 FY06 District Budget – Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the resolution regarding #427 FY06 District Budget 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.
- 11.4 Approval of Resolution Regarding NIA FY06 Budget – Stanbery moved, seconded by Shipley, to approve the resolution regarding NIA FY06 Budget 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.

- 11.5 Discuss Format of Future District #427 Minutes – President Dombek noted that information regarding Roberts Rules of Order on minutes of meetings was included in the packet. He mentioned that the Board briefly discussed this at its last meeting. He stated that the School District’s minutes tend to have quite a bit of information about what was said, but Roberts Rules of Order indicates that the minutes only need to record what was done. Dombek also pointed out that if a correction is to be made to the minutes, the original wording should be lined out and then the changed wording added.

King voiced concern that omitting what was said at the meetings would not provide any information to the general public. Montgomery agreed and felt that changing the way the minutes are currently recorded would be a mistake. Clayberg felt that the current minutes are useful to members who are unable to attend a meeting.

President Dombek noted that it is the consensus of the Board to continue to record minutes in the current fashion. He stated that corrections to the minutes should, however, be lined through and then the new verbiage inserted.

- 11.6 Curriculum/Enrollment Update/NCLB Presentation – Mrs. Countryman stated that a copy of her Curriculum Update was included in the packet and she reviewed that update with the Board. She noted that she and Mr. Thurwanger would be meeting soon to review the implications of SB575 that revised the graduation requirements. She is hopeful that current curriculum offerings can be modified to incorporate the new requirements. She explained that Mr. Mark Ekstrom, Ag Teacher at the High School, has developed a proposal for Biological Science in Ag to be recognized as a science credit for High School students. She stated that they would be bringing this proposal to the Board in October.

Mrs. Countryman commented that she would be meeting with one of the District’s interns through Aurora University to review the implications and implementation of HB312, State Mandated Genocide Education. Mrs. Countryman noted that a calendar of dates for progress on the math pilot program at the elementary level was also included in the packet. She indicated that a recommendation would be brought to the Board at its December meeting. Mrs. Countryman indicated that the Literacy Program, which began due to the elimination of Title I funding, was in its second year. She stated that Elizabeth Coats, Literacy Facilitator, as well as Mary Currie, Reading Improvement Grant Coordinator would give the Board an update on the program at an upcoming meeting.

Mrs. Countryman distributed copies of enrollment updates for the elementary schools and the middle school. She pointed out that there are only 8 students that are not attending their home school compared to 47 students last year. She noted that the average class size at the Middle School was between 28-30. She indicated that Mr. Thurwanger is finalizing the information at the High School and stated that she would get that to the Board as soon as possible.

Mrs. Countryman gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. She explained that this legislation states that Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is the minimum level of improvement that schools and school districts must achieve each year. She noted that each year the percentage of students that must meet AYP increases until 2013-2014, when 100% of students must meet AYP. Mrs. Countryman stated that while *all* of our schools met AYP individually, as a District we did not. She explained that this is because at the building level the sub group totals do not meet the requirements needed to count as a sub group, but at the District level we meet the sub group criteria in the areas of: White, Black, Hispanic, Students with disabilities, and Economically disadvantaged. She commented that the District has not met AYP in the area of Students with Disabilities for the past three (3) years. She noted, therefore, that Sycamore CUSD #427 is on the state academic early warning list, and must write a district improvement plan, present it to the Board in the spring, and then implement the plan.

- 11.7 Policy – Free/Reduced Price Lunches – First Reading – Dr. Riesen explained that this policy is a sample of the IASB Policy Services and it contains their recommendations for changes.

Stanbery moved, seconded by Clayberg to waive the first reading of the policy and approve the policy regarding Free/Reduced Price Lunches as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called. Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, and Dombek. Shipley and Tyrrell voted no. AYES – 5; NAYS – 2. Motion carried.

12.0 PERSONNEL

- 12.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Personnel 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 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 8:45 p.m. and out at 10:55 p.m.

- 12.2 Personnel Report - Motion by Tyrrell, 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, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Stanbery, seconded by King, to approve the appointment of Susan Ewasiuk to the CAC 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.

Tyrrell moved, seconded by King, to approve the resolution to dismiss and to authorize notice of dismissal and charges, and hearing rights pertaining to employee A0506, as specified in the Executive Session Minutes of September 13, 2005. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Stanbery moved, seconded by King, to approve the resolution to dismiss and to authorize notice of dismissal and charges, and hearing rights pertaining to employee B0506, as specified in the Executive Session Minutes of September 13, 2005. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. Montgomery abstained. AYES - 6; ABSTENTIONS - 1; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

13.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions – Montgomery voiced concern regarding students bringing water bottles to school.

Stanbery voiced concern about releasing students' names and addresses to various companies, i.e. Senior Pictures, Jostens, etc. The administration explained that there is a procedure in place where a parent can request to withhold that information if they so choose.

Montgomery asked to have a report regarding the Essie B. Smith Scholarship fund. He also requested a report on the Driver's Education summer program. Montgomery also suggested that Mr. Tim Carlson present a semi-annual report to the Board in the near future.

Stanbery voiced concern regarding developments in Cortland. Dombek noted that DeKalb and Cortland are negotiating right now and once they reach an agreement, then Cortland would begin to talk to Sycamore Schools.

A discussion ensued regarding the concession stand at the fieldhouse.

Mrs. Countryman informed the Board that the Middle School has participants from St. Mary's and Cornerstone Christian Academy on their football team.

Shipley urged the Board members to contact their City Council person and urge them to support the impact fee increases Monday evening.

14.0 Future Agenda Items – SEA Contract, October 4, 2005, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education