

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

January 9, 2007

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on January 9, 2007, in the Library at South Prairie Elementary School, 820 Borden Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois.

ATTENDANCE

Jim Dombek, President
Dannie Stanbery, Vice Pres.
Donald Clayberg, Secretary
Barb King
Jay Montgomery
Dave Shipley
Diane Tyrrell, Left @ 10:00 p.m.

OTHERS

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

ADMINISTRATORS: J. Dargatz, J. Graves, M. Leffler, P. Mobile, C. Steinmeyer, and K. Wesley.

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Hernandez, (Daily Chronicle); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); N. Berger, D. Binkley, International Contractors; B. Boynan, Brescia, B. Buckner, P. Carlton, G. Chyson, E. Coats, N. Davis, J. Englum, S. Gibson, C. Gulke, K. Hirst, N. Holte, M. Hoorooja, C. Hummerich, K. Hulmes, S. Hueber, J. Johnson, T. Knapp, J. Kohler, M. Koertner, N. Malmassari, S. McCue, R. McDonld, D. Moulton, J. Nesler, R. Neubauer, C. Phillips, J. Pawola, C. Reynolds, K. Rhoda, D. Rich, R. Richardson, R. Richter, L. Rigdon, H. Schmidt, B. Smith, C. Siragusa, K. Sparrow, A. Sullivan, B. Wilkenson, and J. Woods, FGM Architects.

President Dombek called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. When the roll was called, the following members were present: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek.

Shipley moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the agenda 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.

3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO STUDENT DISCIPLINE: Clayberg moved, seconded by King, to go into executive session for the consideration of matters related to student discipline. 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 6:33 p.m. and out at 7:30 p.m.

King moved, seconded by Montgomery, to uphold the validity of charges of gross misconduct against student B0607. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Montgomery moved, seconded by Stanbery, to accept the recommendation of the administration to expel student B0607 for two calendar years. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

4.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

5.0 PRESENTATION BY SOUTH PRAIRIE STAFF – Mrs. Graves: The staff and students gave the Board a presentation on their theme for the year, “Bridge Builders.”

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

6.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting December 12, 2006

6.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session December 12, 2006

6.3 Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting December 18, 2006

6.4 Review of Executive Session Minutes July through December 2006

6.5 Disposal of Equipment List

6.6 Approval of Plumbing Repair Bids

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.

7.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

7.1 Elementary School Report – Mrs. Graves: Mrs. Graves gave the elementary report for January. She stated that all buildings are having field trips, assemblies, and book fairs. She explained that the truancy officer has been making presentations to the 4-5 graders in an effort to be proactive in the area of attendance. Mrs. Graves indicated that the Illinois Snapshot of Early Learning will be completed in grades K-2 in all buildings. She stated that progress reports would be distributed at the end of the month. She reported that the January 19th In-Service Day would focus on math and SIP activities. Mrs. Graves pointed out that Southeast and South Prairie are fielding a dodge ball team to benefit Opportunity House. She reported that the construction at South Prairie is going very well.

7.2 Middle School Report – Mrs. Dargatz: Mrs. Dargatz reported that the staff is continuing to follow the Middle School philosophy as outlined in the book; “Things We Believe”. She stated that Sycamore Middle School is sponsoring a dodge ball team which will benefit the Ben Gordon Center. She pointed out that the budget process has begun. Mrs. Dargatz reported that the week of January 27th is “No Name Calling Week”. She also stated that the Middle School is watching for acts of justice and kindness. She noted that their goal was 6,000 acts. She commented that some other things happening at the Middle School are basketball, wrestling, spelling bee, etc. Mrs. Dargatz commented that the Middle School has many student teachers this semester.

- 7.3 High School Report – Mr. Leffler: Mr. Leffler stated that during the month of December many concerts were held (choir, band and orchestra) and Madrigals held multiple community engagements, elementary and middle school tours, and caroling in the hallways. He noted that the Courtyard was decorated by students of DCP/SAFE, the Interact Club constructed and sold ornaments, and floral centerpieces were designed and sold by the Ag Program. He reported that the Boys basketball team finished first at the Hampshire Christmas Tournament, Wrestler Jason Schepler finished second at this weekend's 17 team invitational, losing only to the number 4 ranked wrestler in Iowa. Mr. Leffler noted that the Castle Bank Challenge will take place at NIU on January 26th. He stated that high school students are currently reviewing for and focusing on finals.
- 7.4 Spotlight Segment – Little Red School House Winners: Dr. Riesen and the Board of Education recognized the winners of the Little Red School House Award that is given to staff members who go above and beyond for students. The recipients for December were Elizabeth Coats, Jan Englum, Darcy Ray, and Romy Richter.
- 7.5 Open Discussion – Audience Participation: Rich Neubauer addressed the Board with a concern that the district may not have the appropriate funding available when it comes time to build a new middle school. He pointed out that there is a 46% difference between DeKalb and Sycamore's Land Cash Fee Ordinance. He urged the Board to consider increasing their ordinance fee in order to narrow the gap and provide more funding for Sycamore Schools.

President Dombek stated that the Land Cash Fee Ordinance is a City Ordinance that must be acted upon by the City Council, not the School Board. However, he stated that he would discuss Mr. Neubauer's request with Mayor Mundy.

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

9.0 OLD BUSINESS

- 9.1 Communications/Planning – Dr. Riesen: Dr. Riesen reviewed the administration's plans to communicate the referendum information to the public with the Board. He stated that the formation of a referendum committee, a group that can actual promote the referendum, is very important. He noted that the school district and the Board cannot encourage people to vote for the referendum, but they can present the facts. Dr. Riesen felt that the district needs to take an active role in the sharing of critical information. He pointed out that the first step is preparing an effective community forum on January 25th, followed by small group presentations throughout the community over the next several months. Dr. Riesen recommended that Board members attend meetings whenever possible to show support.

King urged the district to post vital referendum information on the district's website.

Dr. Riesen indicated that he would mail another district-wide newsletter at the end of March. He stated that the referendum committee would also prepare an informational pamphlet that would be available for all stakeholders.

Stanbery suggested that the Board hold an additional community forum approximately one week prior to the election.

- 9.2 SHS Improvement Plan – Mr. Leffler: Mr. Leffler reviewed Sycamore High School’s School Improvement Plan (SIP) with the Board. He pointed out that the high school is working on character education by trying to *catch* students who are doing something good, highlighting a different core value each month, and holding a Spartan Spirit Award winners’ breakfast. He highlighted other programs and partnerships at the high school such as; the Safety Net Program, the Principal Advisory Board, and their partnership with the Sycamore Historical Society. Mr. Leffler reported that this will be their 50th year with the North Central Accreditation program. He noted that the main goals for the high school for 2006-2007 are in areas of critical thinking and literacy.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Draft Calendars for 2007-2008/2008-2009: Dr. Riesen presented the proposed calendars for the next two (2) years to the Board. He stated that these calendars have been developed after collaborating with the Sycamore Education Association (SEA) and the neighboring school districts to coordinate at least the major elements of the calendars. Dr. Riesen stated that the two (2) calendars are very similar. He felt that planning calendars for two years at a time would allow for more effective planning for the district, staff, and parents. Dr. Riesen stated that the calendars will be placed on the January 23, 2007 agenda for approval at that time.

11.0 FINANCIAL:

- 11.1 Approval of Health/Life Safety Proposals – West Intercom System:* Mr. Wesley stated that the current public address system at West Elementary School has failed. He noted that the new system being recommended is a modular system that can be expanded if West Elementary School was to be remodeled or renovated.

King moved, seconded by Stanbery, to approve the emergency Health/Life Safety Amendment (in the amount of \$80,400) to replace the public address system and its related accessories 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.

- 11.2 Approval of Health/Life Safety Proposals – Stadium Lights:* Mr. Wesley stated that the current football stadium lights are the original lights from March of 1970. He stated that the electrical system has failed and has been repaired for the past three years. Mr. Wesley indicated that the wooden poles are also 32 years old and he is concerned about their condition due to age and deterioration.

Montgomery was concerned with the cost and indicated that lights are still needed for the soccer and baseball fields. He stated that he would like to see this project postponed. Mr. Glowiak explained that this is being recommended because it is a safety concern for the crowd and employees. He noted that the circuit breakers are no longer manufactured.

Stanbery suggested postponing action on this item for 30 days. Mr. Glowiak pointed out that the Health/Life Safety process requires that a formal request be made to the Regional Office of Education and the State of Illinois. He explained that this process can sometimes take between four weeks and six months to complete.

Stanbery and Montgomery requested that a plan be developed for the sports fields at the high school including lights for the soccer field, the baseball fields, and the girls' softball field; bleachers for the soccer field, etc.

Mr. Glowiak explained that the lights for the football field are eligible for Health/Life Safety funds.

Clayberg moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the amendment (in the amount of \$294,000) to replace the outdoor football stadium lights at the high school. When the roll was called the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, and Tyrrell. Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, and Dombek voted nay. AYES – 3; NAYS – 4. Motion failed.

- 11.3 Elementary School Planning Update – FGM Architects: Mr. Jim Woods from FGM Architects was at the meeting to update the Board on the latest plans for the new elementary building as well as proposed additions and modifications to the existing elementary schools. Mr. Woods also presented information to the Board regarding the advantages and disadvantages of using a general contractor versus using construction management.

Tyrrell left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

- 11.4 Discussion of Referendum Question: Mr. Glowiak stated that the draft question was prepared by the district's Bond Counsel at Chapman and Cutler. He noted that the draft question meets all of the legal requirements of the election law and provides the district with the flexibility to build and equip the new school as well as to complete renovations and provide required equipment for each of the existing buildings. He noted that this item would be placed on the January 23, 2007 agenda as an action item.

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 Imminent Litigation. King moved, seconded by Shipley, 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 imminent litigation. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

In at 10:40 p.m. and out at 11:20 p.m.

13.0 ACTION ITEM FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 13.1 Personnel Reports - 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, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Montgomery, 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: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

14.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions – Montgomery inquired about the Castle Bank Report. Dr. Riesen explained that the report would be available approximately 2 weeks after the basketball game. Montgomery asked for the second semester enrollment numbers for the high school.

Dombek indicated that he would contact Mayor Mundy regarding the Land Cash Fee Ordinance regarding the Audience to Visitor speaker.

King voiced concern about the lack of lighting in the back of North School. King also stressed the importance of posting the referendum information on the district website.

Dr. Riesen reported that the first Ski Club trip was cancelled due to lack of snow.

15.0 Future Agenda Items – None

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

This meeting was declared adjourned at 11:34 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education