

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

April 25, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on April 25, 2006, in the Administration Center, 245 West Exchange Street, 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: J. Dargatz, J. Graves,
C. Steinmeyer, M. Thurwanger, and P.
Mobile.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek);
J. Kelleher, (Daily Chronicle); A. Armbrust,
FGM Architects; P. Barick, J. Benson, J.
Brown, B. Cessna, Mary Jo Cessna, Mike
Cessna, K. Drake, S. Eischeid, M. Ekstrom,
C. Emmons, D. Emmons, J. Emmons, T.
Emmons, J. Flanigan, Mr. & Mrs. Flanigan,
T. Franks, M. Gilmer, D. Jenke, C. Johnson,
Dean Johnson, Dustin Johnson, D. Klock,
M. Kovac, C. Laning, Cortland Trustee; R.
Larson, M. McDowell, C. Meyer, K.
Mundy, Mayor of Sycamore; B. Nicklas,
Sycamore City Manager; C. Phillips, N.
Schramer, L. Schramer, J. Schrock, Bob
Seyller, Mayor of Cortland; D. Swann, S.
Taylor, J. Van Buren, L. Van Buren, L.
Voss, C. Williams, A. Zantout, and L.
Zantout.

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: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek.

3.0 AGENDA: Dombek asked to remove items 4.7 Copy Paper Bids and 4.8 Recorded Minutes from the consent agenda. He placed the Copy Paper Bids as item 11.5 under Financial and he placed the recorded minutes as item 13.2 under Executive Session. Dombek also moved item 6.2 Suspension Report, from Communications/Correspondence/Information Items to item 13.3 under Executive Session. He moved item 5.3 Public Discussion to item 5.4 under Audience to Visitors and added Principals' Reports as item 5.3. 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 Stanbery, and seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the consent agenda as amended, as follows:

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Session March 28, 2006
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session March 28, 2006
- 4.3 Treasurer's Report
- 4.4 Bills Payable
- 4.5 NIA Bills Payable
- 4.6 NIA Treasurer's Report
- 4.7 REMOVED
- 4.8 REMOVED
- 4.9 Interfund Loan Working Cash to IMRF

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 Little Red School House Awards: The Board of Education recognized Ms. Judy Schrock and Ms. Jan Benson, the District's Little Red School House Award recipients for January 2006 and Ms. Cristy Meyer and Mr. Mark Ekstrom, the District's Little Red School House Award recipients for February 2006.
- 5.2 Student Spotlights: The Board presented spotlight awards to the High School FFA Students that earned their State FFA Degrees; Dustin Johnson, for his 1st Place State FFA Proficiency Award and advancement to Nationals; Jenny Flanigan for her State Gymnastics Title and qualifying for Nationals; and the WYSE Team for their Advancement to the State Academic Challenge.
- 5.3 Principals' Reports: Ms. Steinmeyer reported that the elementary schools had completed their testing. She stated that Kindergarten screening was scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of this week at the High School Fieldhouse. She pointed out that the elementary principals have completed interviewing for position openings in their buildings. Ms. Steinmeyer stated that celebrations for volunteers at the elementary schools are taking place at each building. She reported that North School's fun fair was scheduled for this Friday, Southeast School's book fair was this week, and South Prairie School's Open House and Cinco De Mayo Celebration would be held next week.

Mrs. Dargatz reported that the Middle School recognized their volunteers in their newsletter. She stated that Teacher Appreciation activities are being planned for next week. She explained that they are beginning to plan for their 6th and 7th grade recognition celebration. She pointed out that the 8th grade recognition would be held on May 30, 2006 and that the 8th grade party had been scheduled for Friday, June 2nd. Mrs. Dargatz commented that the 5th grade students would be coming to visit the Middle School on May 12th and 19th. She stated that the Middle School is beginning to plan for next year, adding staff, dealing with some challenges from growth, and sharing rooms for the first time. She noted that positive teamwork was developing through this endeavor. She reported that this Thursday evening they are having their Fine Arts Night and she invited everyone to come.

Mr. Thurwanger reported that the High School FFA and WYSE Teams were very successful in recent competitions. He noted that Spring Fling week was held April 3-7, 2006. He stated that Quinn Bolander was Student of the Month for April.

Mr. Thurwanger reported that four students; Janelle Pasch, Will Barbrey, Megan Schramer, David Martin, participated in the Northern Illinois Architects conference in Rockford. He noted that the High School would be conducting testing later this week. He pointed out that Senior Class Night has been scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2006, in the fieldhouse at 7:00 p.m. He reported that graduation has been set for Sunday, June 4th at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Thurwanger explained that he has been busy interviewing staff for vacant positions, as well as continuing to work on scheduling.

- 5.4 Public Discussion: Mr. Peter Barick addressed the Board seeking school access to provide an alternative presence to Military Recruitment at Sycamore High School. He felt that his presence would present an ethical balance to that of the military and asked that the Board consider the consequences of not affording Sycamore students this balanced viewpoint.

Joan Brown and Diana Swanson also spoke in favor of allowing an alternative presence to Military Recruitment at Sycamore High School. Ms. Swanson felt that there were many other honorable and valuable ways students could serve their country.

Dombek indicated that this was a policy issue. He stated that the School District has a closed campus and closed curriculum policy.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE:

- 6.1 Various Newsletters, Letters, etc.: 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 agenda for April 10, 2006, was distributed to Board members this evening. He pointed out that there were two (2) items on the agenda. He indicated that the first item was a request for a Special Use Permit for a Bed and Breakfast Facility at 331 N. Main Street in Sycamore. He stated that the second item was the consideration of a Final Plat for Phase 2 of Stonegate at Heron Creek. Shipley stated that both items were recommended to the City Council.

- 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 18-21 Program Agreement with Opportunity House: Stanbery moved, seconded by King to approve the preliminary agreement with Opportunity House as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, and Tyrrell. Dombek abstained. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0; ABSTENTIONS - 1. Motion carried.

- 9.2 Facility Planning: Mr. Glowiak stated that a recommendation was brought to the Board to consider an addition to South Prairie Elementary School as a method of dealing with the current population growth that the District has been experiencing. He indicated that the Board came up with seven (7) questions at the March 28, 2006 meeting. Mr. Glowiak reviewed and answered the questions for the Board. Mr. Glowiak further recommended that the Annex located at Southeast Elementary School be remodeled for classroom use, which would cost approximately \$100,000. He noted that the estimated cost of the South Prairie addition would be 2.8-2.9 million dollars. Mr. Glowiak stated that these additional classrooms would allow the District some time to plan for the building of a new elementary school. He explained that a referendum would be required for the building of a new, free-standing school.

He pointed out that there are only certain times when a referendum could be placed on the ballot (November 2006, April 2007, and March 2008). He commented that it would take two to two and a half years from the time of planning to the opening of a new elementary school. Mr. Glowiak reviewed the projected enrollment charts, the Sycamore School District boundary map, and the City of Sycamore development map with the Board. He noted that the projected enrollment indicates that the District will need 33-48 new elementary school classrooms in the next 10 years. He projected that, utilizing a 3 section building (20-21 classrooms) as a school average, the District would need between 2-3 new elementary schools.

Montgomery asked about the cost of building a new school compared to the cost of adding on to existing buildings.

Mr. Armbrust from FGM Architects responded that, in general, additions to current structures cost 20-30% more per square foot than new construction.

Dombek commented that he would like the District to update the facilities that they currently have in order to make full use of them.

Mr. Glowiak stressed that if the Board wants to open an addition to South Prairie Elementary School by the fall of 2007, then they need to make a decision extremely quickly in order to have the architects begin the design process. He voiced concern about putting an addition on to West Elementary School because there is not enough land at the site. He further explained that an addition to North Elementary School would be problematic.

Dr. Riesen reiterated that the District is at a critical point and time is of the essence. He stated that South Prairie Elementary School is the newest building, but it has some functional issues. He noted that the Board has an opportunity to make a good building even better. Dr. Riesen felt that this was the best common sense approach because the District could add 13 classrooms without a referendum.

King indicated that she went to South Prairie Elementary School and met with Mrs. Graves, Principal. She stated that half of the additional rooms proposed for South Prairie Elementary School could be filled with students that are currently in our building which would then free up the ancillary spaces that have been turned into classrooms. She complimented the administration for looking at the entire District and not just focusing on one school. King indicated that she is in favor of putting an addition on to South Prairie Elementary School. She recommended that Mrs. Graves be invited to a future meeting to explain what the addition would be used for so that the Board would have a better understanding of what should go into that addition.

Tyrrell stated that facilities, and how they are used, change every year to accommodate students, curriculum, etc. She felt that adding on to some of the District's elementary schools would be putting good money into a bad situation.

Shipley felt that the additional classrooms at South Prairie Elementary would help the District accommodate the immediate need for the growth that is happening in Cortland. He also voiced support for upgrading and maximizing the other elementary schools regarding health/life safety.

Clayberg stated that it is obvious that the District is in need of additional classrooms and felt that the Board needed to take action tonight.

Dombek agreed that the Board needs to take action and the next step is to authorize the architects to proceed with the appropriate planning for the proposed addition to South Prairie Elementary School and to refurbish the annex at Southeast Elementary School. However, he felt that the Board also needs to upgrade the District's other buildings over time.

Stanbery indicated that he was not in favor of having 600-640 students in an elementary building. He recommended a smaller addition to South Prairie Elementary School and refurbishing the annex at Southeast Elementary School. He voiced concern about one school having 200-250 more students than the rest of the schools. Stanbery thanked the City of Sycamore and the Town of Cortland for their efforts in bringing both of the communities together.

Dombek introduced Mayor Bob Seyller and Chuck Laning, Trustee, from Cortland and Mayor Ken Mundy and City Manager Bill Nicklas from Sycamore.

Clayberg moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to authorize the architect to proceed with the appropriate planning for the proposed addition to South Prairie School 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.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS:

- 10.1 Sycamore Presentation at Upcoming November School Board Conference: Dr. Riesen informed the Board that the proposal he submitted for presentation at the upcoming Chicago School Board Conference in November has been accepted. He explained that the Sycamore School District will be presenting a program in one of the breakout sessions at the November Conference entitled "Dealing with Growth: How to Develop and Implement a Long Range Master Facility Plan". He explained that the details of the presentation would be finalized over the summer months.

11.0 FINANCIAL:

- 11.1 Budget Update: Mr. Glowiak distributed copies of his FY07 Preliminary Budget Report to the Board. A copy of this report is hereby appended to and considered a part of these minutes. Mr. Glowiak indicated that the extension amounts came in as anticipated. He noted that the DeKalb County EAV amount and the new construction amount were each approximately \$5 million higher than estimated. Mr. Glowiak indicated that, as of this date, no action had been taken on the State's budget. He estimated the Operational Funds (Education, O & M, Transportation, and Retirement) deficit to be \$441,173, which equates to 1.81% of available fund balances. Mr. Glowiak pointed out that this is within the Board's guidelines and will not require the filing of a deficit reduction plan with ISBE.

Shipley recommended that, at some future time, the Board review the Balanced Budget Act PowerPoint slides.

- 11.2 Student Fees: Mr. Glowiak reviewed the proposed fee schedule with the Board. He commented that this was presented for informational purposes only this evening; however, the Board would be requested to take action on this at its May 9th meeting for budgeting purposes as well as a courtesy for parents. He explained that the proposed fee schedule includes: a \$5.00 increase in instructional fees at all schools, a \$25.00 increase in the Driver's Education Fee due to fuel charge increases, an increase in the fee for Foreign Language, an increase in the KEC fee, an increase in

the non-reimbursable transportation fee to \$200.00 with an “early bird” program that would provide a \$25.00 discount to families that registered and paid by July 1, 2006. He pointed out that the instructional fees have not been increased for the past 2-3 years. Mr. Glowiak stated that the increase for Foreign Language is based on the cost of the materials for the class and the KEC fee increase is to help offset the increased costs for participation.

King asked if a letter would be sent to everyone on the non-reimbursable transportation routes regarding the fee increase and early payment incentive program. Mr. Glowiak replied that a letter would be sent to everyone on those routes.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Glowiak asked the Board members to call him between now and the May 9th meeting to share their thoughts on the proposed fee schedule.

The Board asked Mr. Glowiak if he could provide a comparison sheet that shows what the surrounding school districts are charging for fees. Mr. Glowiak indicated that he could put that information together for the Board.

- 11.3 Auditorium Financing RFP*: Clayberg moved, seconded by Stanbery, to accept the proposal from Castle Bank in Sycamore to finance the auditorium renovations at Sycamore High School. 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 Reston Ponds Phase 3 Subdivision Assignment: Mr. Glowiak stated that the administration is recommending that the Board of Education assign Reston Ponds Unit Three to the South Prairie Elementary School attendance area. He noted that this item would be placed on the May 9th Board agenda for a second reading and Board action.

Montgomery asked to table this decision until the addition to South Prairie Elementary School has been approved. Mr. Glowiak felt that a decision could be delayed until the May 23rd Board meeting, however, he voiced concern that homes were beginning to be built and people would want to know where their children would be going to school.

- 11.5 Copy Paper Bids: Shipley voiced concern that the District only received one bid for the purchase of paper. He suggested that the District explore the utilization of an internet reverse auction. Mr. Glowiak responded that the District uses such a high volume of paper that some suppliers are not able to accommodate the District's needs. He further noted that Midland indicated that they were not interested in submitting a bid and that U.S. Communities told the District that Unisource is their supplier and they could not touch this bid.

Clayberg moved, seconded by Montgomery, to award the bid for copy paper for the 2006-07 school year to Unisource in Addison, Illinois, as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. Shipley voted no. AYES - 6; NAYS - 1. 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 10:18 p.m. and out at 11:45 p.m.

13.0 Action Items from Executive Session

13.1 Personnel Reports

- 13.1.1 Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel: Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the resolution authorizing dismissal of educational support personnel 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.
- 13.1.2 Certificated Personnel Report: Montgomery moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to approve pages 1 & 2 of the certificated personnel 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.
- 13.1.3 Non-Certified Personnel Report: King moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to approve pages 1 & 2 of the non-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.
- 13.2 Recorded Minutes: The Board reviewed the Recorded Minutes in executive session and it was the consensus of the Board to table this item until further evaluation had been completed.
- 13.3 Suspension Report: The Board reviewed the suspension report in executive session and no action was required.

- 14.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions** – Montgomery asked if the District would be buying or renting chairs for graduation. Mr. Glowiak responded that the District would be renting the chairs. Montgomery inquired about the progress of the fund raising proposal for the auditorium seats. Mr. Glowiak indicated that he has not looked into that recently. Montgomery stated that the area behind Southeast School has not been mowed. He also inquired about the ownership of the tennis courts at West School. Mr. Glowiak stated that the school district owns the tennis courts located at West School. Montgomery inquired about what was provided for students when they go out for a sport and what the student was required to provide.

Dr. Riesen discussed the Administrative Retreat with the Board which is scheduled for August of 2006. He also discussed the possibility of adding a Ski/Snowboard Club at the High School during the 2006-2007 school year. He indicated that there would be no cost to the District associated with this club. Dr. Riesen and Mr. Glowiak discussed the possibility of setting up a Summer Music Camp.

15.0 Future Agenda Items – Spring Break Sports Camp Report

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:12 a.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education