

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
May 9, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on May 9, 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
Karen Wickersham, Secretary

ADMINISTRATORS: M. Currie, J. Dargatz, C. Steinmeyer, and K. Wesley.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); A. Hernandez, (Daily Chronicle); P. Barick, T. Franks, II; and D. Larson.

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 removed item 12.1 from the agenda and noted that a correction was made to the minutes of the regular meeting of April 25, 2006. He noted that a copy of the correction was distributed to the Board this evening. Stanbery moved, seconded by King, to approve the agenda as amended. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

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

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting April 25, 2006 as amended
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session April 25, 2006
- 4.3 Disposal of Equipment
- 4.4 Recorded Minutes

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: Mr. Barick addressed the Board regarding their “Closed Campus” policy. He felt that when a policy no longer fits the purpose, a redirection of the policy is in order. He stated that opponents should be able to express their views and he asked the Board to place this on their agenda.

Mr. Dick Larson spoke to the Board asking them to allow an alternative presence to Military Recruitment at Sycamore High School in order to offer students a career choice.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE: Dombek 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 met last night to review the final plat of Sycamore Crossing. He pointed out that the background information was included in the packet. Shipley reported that the Plan Commission recommended approval of the final plat to the City Council.

8.0 LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Dombek indicated that these items were included in the Board's packet for information only. Dr. Riesen called the Board's attention to a couple of issues currently being addressed in the legislature. He stated that the open meetings act is being discussed regarding posting of meetings, what constitutes a meeting, public gatherings, etc. He also noted that legislators are discussing potential compromises to some elements of SB27 that was adopted last year regarding the 6% salary limitation provision for retiring teachers.

9.0 OLD BUSINESS:

9.1 Approval of 06-07 Student Fees: Mr. Glowiak indicated that the administration recommends that the Board approve the student fee schedule for the 2006-2007 school year as presented. He noted that a copy of the student fee survey was included in the packet as requested by the Board. He pointed out that the fees remain the same as presented at the April 25, 2006 meeting, except that Athletic Participation fees were increased by \$10.00.

Clayberg moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the 2006-2007 Student Fee Schedule as presented.

Stanbery indicated that he would like to hold fees at this year's level with the exception of the Driver's Education Fee and the Athletic Fees. He felt increases for those fees were justified because of the increased gas prices. Shipley agreed.

Stanbery offered a friendly amendment to the motion on the table that would freeze fees at the 2005-2006 level except for the Driver's Education Fee and the Athletic Fees. Clayberg and Montgomery agreed to the friendly amendment to their motion.

Mr. Glowiak asked about the non-reimbursable transportation fee increase, since that would also be affected by the rising gas prices. He also stated that the Foreign Language fee increase is due to an increase in the cost of the materials for that class and the KEC increase is a reflection of an increased cost to the District.

Dombek voiced concern about raising certain fees due to the rising gas prices. He pointed out that the District noticed a significant increase in heating costs this winter and felt that all costs to the District will increase because of rising gasoline prices.

Dombek called for a roll call vote on the amended motion to freeze all fees at this year's level except for the Driver's Education Fee and the Athletic Fees. When the roll was called the following members voted aye: King, Shipley, and Stanbery. Clayberg, Montgomery, Tyrrell and Dombek voted nay. AYES – 3; NAYS – 4. Motion Failed.

Montgomery felt that the proposed increases were fair and were comparable to surrounding districts.

Clayberg indicated that he voted no after listening to Mr. Glowiak's and Dombek's comments. He felt that the increases were justified and reasonable.

Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the FY07 Fee Schedule as presented.

Shipley voiced concern about the increase in the non-reimbursable transportation fee. He didn't feel that there would be an increased cost to the District to transport these students if the bus was driving right by the house on its regular route.

Mr. Wesley explained that the District currently transports 228 students that do not qualify for state reimbursement. He explained that 228 students equates to three (3) buses and (3) drivers that the District has to pay for in order to transport these students. He pointed out that additional routes and additional buses are required due to the capacity of the buses.

Shipley stated that he felt uncomfortable with the fee increases because it seems that the District keeps hammering the parents with fees and taxes.

Dombek commented that the Board needs to remember that all taxpayers are not parents. He noted that many taxpayers do not have students in the District and they look favorably upon user fees.

Shipley voiced concern that the District wants the student fee increases to pay for the increased costs due to rising gas prices.

Dombek explained that the District wants to increase user fees to defer increasing costs. He pointed out that there must be a balance in fairness to the person who is paying the fee and the taxpayer that is not using the service.

Clayberg called for the question.

Dombek called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the FY07 Fee Schedule as presented. The following members voted aye: Clayberg, Montgomery, Tyrrell and Dombek. King, Shipley, and Stanbery voted nay. AYES – 4; NAYS – 3. Motion carried.

- 9.2 Health/Life Safety Resolution/Southeast Annex: Mr. Glowiak explained that the approval of this resolution would allow for the renovation of the Southeast Annex, which would provide four (4) additional classrooms for instructional purposes.

Stanbery moved, seconded by Tyrrell to approve the Emergency Resolution for the Use of Health Life Safety Funds for the Southeast School Annex 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 Board Meeting Brochure: Dr. Riesen stated that as a part of the recently approved Master Communication Plan, it was recommended that the Board consider approving a meeting brochure that would be available at all Board meetings. He stated that a draft copy of the brochure was distributed to the Board this evening. He explained that the purpose of the brochure would be to educate those in attendance on information regarding the Board of Education and their policies and procedures. Dr. Riesen stated that, upon Board approval, the brochure would be placed on the audience chairs at each board meeting.

The Board discussed the proposed brochure and made suggestions for changes, additions, and deletions. Dr. Riesen indicated that the Board's recommendations would be incorporated into the brochure and mailed to the Board in his Friday letter. He noted that if the Board had additional revisions, they should contact him by phone.

- 10.2 Health/Life Safety Bond Sale: Mr. Glowiak stated that the District has received approval from the Illinois State Board of Education for the 10-year Life Safety Survey, and the emergency resolutions recently approved by the Board of Education. He noted that a list of approved projects and possible payment options were included in the Board's packet for their information.

11.0 PERSONNEL:

- 11.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal or 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 7:55 p.m. and out at 11:10 p.m.

12.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 12.1 Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Educational Support Personnel - REMOVED

- 12.2 Personnel Report - Motion by Tyrrell, seconded by Shipley, that pages 1 and 2 of the non-certified personnel report be approved 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 Shipley, seconded by Stanbery, 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, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

- 13.0 OPEN DISCUSSION ISSUES/OBSERVATIONS/QUESTIONS** – Montgomery suggested that the Board meet with Mr. Carlson and Mr. Wesley regarding multiple purposes for the Sycamore High School football field prior to approving new lights for the field.

Montgomery and Stanbery brought up a couple of concerns regarding procedures at the High School.

Clayberg called the Board's attention to the invitation that was included in their packet to the banquet for the High School Cooperative Education students. He also stated that the National Vocational Honor Society induction would be held on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Kishwaukee College. He encouraged Board members to attend each of these events.

After a brief discussion regarding the request of Mr. Peter Barick, it was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Superintendent to send a letter to Mr. Barick indicating that they do not wish to change their current practice regarding his request at this time.

Dr. Riesen informed the Board of a couple of personnel issues in the Business Office. He also thanked the Board for their support in the recent hiring of a new High School Principal. Additionally, he explained that the weight room is nearing completion and expressed a desire for the Board to tour the facility once completed.

The Board inquired about the proposed fund raiser for the auditorium chairs. Mr. Glowiak indicated that he would contact Mr. Turok and suggest that he present the idea to the Music Boosters.

14.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Multiple Uses of Football Field

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:36 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education