

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

May 23, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on May 23, 2006, in the Sycamore High School Library, Spartan Trail, 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.
Karen Wickersham, Secretary

ADMINISTRATORS: J. Dargatz, P. Mobile, K. Spiewak, and M. Thurwanger.

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Armbrust, FGM Architects; P. Barick, G. Brink, L. Diehl, R. Diehl, T. Diehl, S. Eischeid, M. Fleetwood, B. Griffith, D. Grimm, T. Grimm, M. Hardesty, B. Henson, M. Kasper, D. King, J. King, K. King, R. Larson, D. Lotan, Y. Lotan, M. McMillan, S. McMillan, B. Meerman, C. Meerman, M. Meerman, S. Meerman, A Meyer, C. Phillips, B. Riddle, C. Stambaugh, B. Steczo, L. Steinbis, M. Steinbis, and L. Voss.

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 arrived at 7:04 p.m.

3.0 AGENDA: Dombek asked to move item 5.2 Principal's Report up to 5.1 and item 5.1 Student Spotlights to item 5.2 under Audience to Visitors. He further added a special presentation as 5.1a under Audience to Visitors. Shipley 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 presented, as follows:

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Session May 9, 2006
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session May 9, 2006
- 4.3 Treasurer's Report
- 4.4 NIA Bills Payable
- 4.5 NIA Treasurer's Report
- 4.6 Bills Payable
- 4.7 Disposal of Equipment
- 4.8 Assignment of Subdivision – Reston Ponds Phase 3
- 4.9 School Technology Revolving Loan Program

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 **Principals' Reports:** Mrs. Dargatz reported that the Middle School is finishing up the school year with celebrations and recognitions for all grade levels. She noted that all grade levels have taken field trips to enhance student learning. She stated that the Students of the Month would be recognized this week. She explained that there have been 13-14 students acknowledged each month by their teams for making good choices in work ethic, social skills, and citizenship. Mrs. Dargatz indicated that while planning for the year's end is now in focus, plans are also underway for next year. She stated that all staff will be given the book "This We Believe," which outlines best practices for middle schools. She also noted that all staff will be reading "Camelmakers," which teaches how to form strong working teams for middle school.

Mr. Thurwanger reported that the High School had a successful spring sports season; the Baseball team placed second in the conference; the Girls Soccer team won their regional competition and are playing sectionals tonight; and the Track team had two (2) students qualify for State: Brian Hutsler (300 hurdles, 110 High Hurdles) and Stephen Turner (Triple Jump). He stated that the Sports Boosters honored Joe Jordan and Chauncey Carrick as coaches of the year. Mr. Thurwanger indicated that Danielle Holland won the Congressional Art Award. He proudly pointed out that there was one (1) perfect score of 36 on the ACT test. He stated that Samantha Eischeid was named to the All Academic Team for Region 4 from the Chicago Tribune. He reported that tomorrow the High School will be distributing the Standard Is Excellence Award to over 300 students. Mr. Thurwanger announced that the Senior Dinner Dance would be held on Friday, May 26th from 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. He also noted that Senior Class Night would be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 1st and Graduation had been scheduled for June 4th at 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. Spiewak reported that kindergarten testing had been completed and that the data would be analyzed in the near future. She stated that the elementary Band concert was held last night and the elementary Orchestra concert would be held on Thursday night. She indicated that the awards night for art students would be held tomorrow. Mrs. Spiewak noted that each building had met with all of their kindergarten parents and the 5th grade transition meeting with the middle school had been completed. She pointed out that the elementary school Field Days have been scheduled for the first week of June. She stated that North Elementary and South Prairie Elementary held their 5th grade luncheon for their graduating seniors. She pointed out that this was South Prairie's first year to have graduating seniors. She stated that Southeast will be holding an event for their graduating seniors in the near future. Mrs. Spiewak indicated that each building is in the process of reviewing their School Improvement Plans. She also stated that an author would be coming to North School, who happens to be Mrs. Woods' daughter, to discuss her book on twins.

- 5.1a Special Recognition: Dr. Riesen introduced Mr. Ron Everett, Executive Director of IASBO, who was at the meeting to make a special presentation to the School District and the Board. Mr. Everett presented Mr. Glowiak with a check for \$1,000 made payable to the Sycamore School District in appreciation for his years served on the IASBO Board of Directors. Mr. Everett stated that Mr. Glowiak was involved with the Illinois Energy Consortium, he helped craft the procurement card program, and he kept IASBO focused on professional development. He thanked Mr. Glowiak for his years of service on the IASBO Board of Directors and the school district for allowing him to serve.

Mr. Glowiak accepted the check and indicated that the money would be put to good use for the students of the Sycamore School District.

- 5.2 Student Spotlights: The Board presented spotlight awards to High School students that advanced to the State Journalism competition and to the National Skills USA competition. Spotlight awards were also presented to High School drafting students for obtaining their AIA Student Scholarship; Samantha Eischeid on being named to the 2006 Illinois High School All State Academic Team; Carolyn Amberg and Lisa Steinbis for their accomplishments in swimming at the Special Olympics; and to David Lotan and Daniel King for being named top Middle School Best Buddies in the state.

Dr. Riesen introduced Mr. Mark Leffler, the new Sycamore High School Principal, who will be officially joining the staff on July 1, 2006.

- 5.3 Public Discussion: Ms. Lolly Voss, from DeKalb, addressed the Board to ask that a Peace Table be permitted at Sycamore High School.

Mr. Peter Barick, from Sycamore, spoke to the Board indicating that he is a stakeholder in the District and, as such, he is seeking permission to offer special career information to Sycamore High School students for peaceful opportunities that are not available through the military.

6.0 PUBLIC HEARING:

- 6.1 Public Hearing to Consider the Sale of Health/Life Safety Bonds: Dombek asked if anyone from the audience would like to speak regarding the sale of Health/Life Safety Bonds. No one from the audience spoke to the issue. Dombek closed the hearing.

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- 7.1 Various Newsletters, Letters, etc.: Dr. Riesen stated that several communication/correspondence items were included in the Board's packet for their review. He pointed out that Sycamore High School has received Accreditation from the North Central Association (NCA) for the 2005-2006 school year. He stated that this a great accomplishment and commended Mr. Mark Thurwanger, Principal, and the High School staff for their efforts in this regard. Dr. Riesen also called the Board's attention to correspondence received from students regarding a guest speaker at the High School that made a great impact on them.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Dr. Riesen reported from the Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee. He stated that a summary on the Transfer Tax was presented, a discussion regarding the Housing study ensued, and he gave an update on the District's facility process. He indicated that the next meeting of the Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee would be late September or early October.

Dr. Riesen noted that the CAC was utilized throughout this past year as the task force for the District's facility process. He indicated that since that has been completed; the District is now in the process of revitalizing the CAC committee. Dr. Riesen stated that an organizational meeting was held recently and their first goal is a membership drive. He reported that they are seeking new and vibrant members to commit to the once a month meetings and to develop a vision and mission for the CAC.

9.0 LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Dr. Riesen indicated that these items were included in the Board's packet for information only. Dr. Riesen pointed out that SB 49 regarding the adjustments to the 6% salary limitation provisions from the TRS pension bill passed the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor for his signature. He also called the Board's attention to legislation that was passed amending the open meetings act. Dr. Riesen noted that the State Superintendent, Randy Dunn, had resigned.

Shipley inquired about SB1682 and its effect on the Sycamore School District. Mr. Glowiak stated that SB1682 would have very little effect on Sycamore School District in the foreseeable future since the District has no plans for a tax rate referendum.

Shipley inquired about SB 2795 regarding the Governor's school district reorganization plan. Mr. Glowiak explained that this bill allows elementary school districts within a high school district to consolidate whether or not they are contiguous. He stated that this bill will not impact the Sycamore School District.

10.0 OLD BUSINESS:

10.1 Facility Planning: Mr. Glowiak stated that Mr. Alan Armbrust, FGM Architects, is here to give the Board an updated on the South Prairie Elementary addition. Mr. Glowiak pointed out that Mr. Armbrust is also working on a chart that would show the "ideal" elementary school for Sycamore School District based on the public meetings that were held in the fall and winter of last year. He explained that this chart would also compare the District's existing elementary buildings to the "ideal" building in order to insure equity between buildings. He explained that this would most likely result in renovations to a number of existing buildings. Mr. Glowiak commented that Mr. Armbrust would be making this presentation at the Board of Education's June 27th meeting.

Mr. Alan Armbrust distributed a chart depicting the proposed timeline for the addition to South Prairie Elementary School. He indicated that bidding would begin August 1st and bids would be brought to the Board for approval at its August 22nd meeting. He estimated that the project would be ready for occupancy on August 10, 2007.

Mr. Armbrust also reported on the progress of the High School auditorium and mechanical equipment replacement at the Middle School.

11.0 FINANCIAL:

- 11.1 Budget Update on Revenues and Expenditures: Mr. Glowiak reviewed the preliminary budget with the Board. He noted that the projected deficit is less than 1%, which falls well within the Board's guidelines. He explained that the largest deficit is in the Education Fund (approximately \$455,400). He commented that the preliminary budget includes all of the items on the priority list. He explained that many items in the O & M budget have been put on hold and will be re-evaluated before moving forward to be sure they are truly needed.

Mrs. Countryman reviewed the staffing update with the Board.

Mr. Glowiak indicated that he will have the Preliminary Budget prepared for the June 27, 2006 Board of Education meeting.

Montgomery asked that the bleachers in the O & M fund be put on hold until the Board holds a discussion concerning the future of the athletic fields.

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 Stanbery, 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 8:10 p.m. and out at 10:39 p.m.

13.0 Action Items from Executive Session

- 13.1 Personnel Reports: Tyrrell moved, seconded by Shipley, to approve the non-certificated personnel report as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. Clayberg abstained. AYES - 6; ABSTENTIONS – 1; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Montgomery moved, seconded by Stanbery, to approve the 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.

- 14.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions** –The Board reviewed some preliminary ground work regarding the Bird Flu and a discussion ensued regarding a recent decision by a suburban high school district regarding myspace.com. The Board expressed the need for a monitor of non-profit school groups.

15.0 Future Agenda Items – Preliminary Budget

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education