

## BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

September 12, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on September 12, 2006, in the Sycamore High School Cafeteria, Spartan Trail, Sycamore, Illinois.

### ATTENDANCE

Jim Dombek, President  
Dannie Stanbery, V.Pres., 7:15 p.m.  
Donald Clayberg, Sec., 7:10 p.m.  
Barb King  
Jay Montgomery  
Dave Shipley  
Diane Tyrrell

### OTHERS

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

ADMINISTRATORS: J. Dargatz, M. Leffler, P. Mobile, E. Schlichter, K. Spallasso, C. Steinmeyer, and K. Wesley.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); A. Armbrust, FGM Architects; L. Eriksen, R. Richter, and J. Wig, School Resource Officer.

The Board took a tour of the High School Auditorium, the main gym, the weight room, etc.

President Dombek called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

When the roll was called, the following members were present: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Tyrrell, and Dombek. Clayberg arrived at 7:10 p.m. and Stanbery arrived at 7:15 p.m.

**3.0 AGENDA:** President Dombek stated that a request had been made to remove the Approval of 2006-2007 Facility Rental Rates from the Consent Agenda. He placed this topic under New Business as item 9.8. Tyrrell 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 Shipley, and seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the consent agenda as amended, as follows:

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting August 22, 2006
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session August 22, 2006
- 4.3 Approval of Disposal of Equipment
- 4.4 2006-2007 Application for Recognition of Schools
- 4.5 REMOVED
- 4.6 NIA Personnel Report

President Dombek called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

## **5.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:**

- 5.1 Elementary School Report – Mrs. Steinmeyer: Mrs. Steinmeyer stated that the 2006-2007 school year began with a positive start. She stated that first day celebrations were held at West School and Southeast School. She pointed out that North school held a picnic and South Prairie School held an Ice Cream Social. Mrs. Steinmeyer noted that book sales would be coming up soon.
- 5.2 Middle School Report – Mrs. Dargatz: Mrs. Dargatz agreed that the school year began on a very positive note. She stated that orientations for 6-8 grades have been completed. She noted that volleyball has begun, as well as intramural flag football and volleyball. She explained that cross country was added this year and over 35 students have signed up to participate. She noted that the Middle School theme for this year is “Good to Great”. She pointed out that Second Steps training has been completed for all new staff. Mrs. Dargatz explained that the Middle School has experienced a few challenges related to growth; however, staff members have come together in an effort to help maneuver students through the halls. She commented that new formats for the open houses and orientation have been developed to make room for parents.
- 5.3 High School Report – Mr. Leffler: President Dombek thanked everyone at the High School for hosting the Board meeting. He appreciated the tour and noted that the building looked great.

Mr. Leffler introduced Mrs. Katie Heffernan-Spallasso and Ms. Erika Schlichter, two of his assistant principal’s to the Board. He explained that Mr. Tim Carlson, Assistant Principal/Athletics, had to leave the meeting due to the athletic events taking place that night. He noted that he met with the Character Education Group on how to change the climate at the High School. Mr. Leffler stated that the High School Administrative Team met with each class, freshmen through seniors, and explained their expectations and reviewed the handbook. He noted that Mr. Carlson held an athletic parent night where he discussed his expectations and reviewed the athletic handbook, the Western Sun Conference, and leadership. Mr. Leffler reported that the High School held a “Breakfast to Remember”, on September 11, 2006 and they invited all of the fire fighters and paramedics from the Sycamore/DeKalb area. He noted that the Castle bank challenge was a huge success with over 8,000 people in attendance at the game; not to mention that Sycamore won! Mr. Leffler pointed out that Daniel Emmons received a perfect score on the PSAE and Brittany Pivonka was Student of the Month. It was explained that he is working on strengthening the district’s relationship with the Sycamore Public Library. He also pointed out that the format of the bi-monthly newsletter has been changed and the first edition is going to parents today.

- 5.4 Open Discussion/Audience Participation: None

**6.0 COMMUNICATIONS:** Dr. Riesen indicated that these items were included in the packet for the Board’s information only.

## **7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 7.1 Sycamore Plan Commission: Shipley stated that the Sycamore Plan Commission met; however, nothing of any significance for the school district was discussed.

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

8.1 Alliance Legislative Report

8.2 State School News Service

**9.0 NEW BUSINESS:**

9.1 Report on State Superintendent's Conference – Dr. Riesen distributed a written recap of the Annual Fall Superintendent's Conference in Springfield. He attended the following sessions: Leadership and Learning: Transforming Research into action; Illinois ASPIRE: Training and Technological Assistance Resources for Early Intervention Services; Data Driven Results: Use Data to Drive Student Performance; Targeting Achievement through Governance: The School Boards Policy Role; and Incoming Freshman Academy. A copy of Dr. Riesen's report to the Board is hereby appended to and considered a part of these minutes.

9.2 School Resource Officer Annual Report to Board – Jeff Wig – Detective Wig reported that, overall, last year went very well. He noted that one highlight was the inception of the "Quick 50" program. He stated that another program that began last year was the availability of free drug testing kits for parents. Detective Wig reported that he attended the National School Resource Officer Conference and it was a great experience.

Stanbery asked how many students utilized the "Quick 50" program. Detective Wig reported that approximately 8 last year and 12 the year before. However, he pointed out that some students turn the money down.

Clayberg inquired about the air pistols. Detective Wig responded that they are a concern.

Dombek asked if Detective Wig had noticed any patterns that stand out every year that need to be addressed. Detective Wig responded that respect is an issue almost every year; however, he did feel that it was improving.

President Dombek thanked Detective Wig for his presentation to the Board.

9.3 Approval of Bids for South Prairie Addition – Mr. Glowiak stated that several bids were received for the South Prairie addition and they were within 5% of each other. He explained that an alternate bid was included for furniture and equipment for the addition. He reported that Deerpath Construction was the low bid and recommended that the Board accept that bid and the alternate bid as well.

Mr. Armbrust from FGM Architects reminded the Board that the addition includes nine (9) classrooms, expanding the cafeteria, and additional washrooms. He mentioned that they were successful in matching the outside brick.

Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the base bid and alternate #1 from Deerpath Construction in the amount of \$2,543,700 for the construction of a nine room addition to South Prairie Elementary School and the furniture to equip the building as presented.

Stanbery indicated that he would like to have a discussion regarding funding options.

Mr. Glowiak reviewed possible funding options for the South Prairie addition with the Board: working cash fund bond sale, debt certificates, alternate bonds, and funding bonds. The Board held a discussion regarding the pros and cons of each option.

Mr. Glowiak pointed out that the district will need to pass a referendum in order to finance a new school. He noted that there are only two (2) opportunities in the next couple of years when a referendum can be placed on the ballot; April 2007 and spring 2008. He explained that the district would like to be in a position to build new buildings with very little if any impact to the tax rate. Mr. Glowiak presented a chart depicting a 10 year tax rate history. He pointed out that the district's tax rate has fallen for five out of the last six years due to the impact of tax caps.

Stanbery asked which funding options would affect the district's debt capacity. Mr. Glowiak indicated that all would affect the district's debt capacity except the alternate bonds.

Stanbery asked Mr. Glowiak to explain to the Board the process for passing a backdoor referendum. Mr. Glowiak responded that the Board President signs an order calling for a BINA hearing. He stated that the district would have to publish a notice in the paper indicating that a BINA hearing has been scheduled. He explained that the Board would need to pass a resolution to sell working cash bonds and then the Superintendent and Mr. Glowiak would publish a notice in the paper stating that the school district has been authorized to sell bonds. The public then has until October 28, 2006, to turn in petitions. If no petitions are turned in, the district will have sold cash bonds and then the Board would need to pass a sale resolution.

Montgomery asked for Mr. Glowiak's recommendation on the funding options. Mr. Glowiak indicated that his first choice would be working cash fund bonds and his second choice would be debt certificates.

Shipley asked how much money the district has available in land cash monies and voluntary contributions. Mr. Glowiak responded that the district has close to \$2 million in the land cash fund, however, he has been advised by Chapman and Cutler that the district can only utilize those contributions received from subdivisions that will have a direct impact on South Prairie Elementary School.

Shipley asked about a debt repayment charge. Mr. Glowiak responded that he would have that for the Board at their next meeting.

Montgomery asked how many homes were left to build in the subdivisions that would be able to help pay for the certificates. Mr. Glowiak stated that he would have that information for the Board at their next meeting.

President Dombek called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the base bid and alternate #1 from Deerpath Construction in the amount of \$2,543,700 for the construction of a nine room addition to South Prairie Elementary School and the furniture to equip the building. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

- 9.4 Annual Board Calendar of Activities – Dr. Riesen reviewed the calendar with the Board. He indicated that this calendar would be placed in the front of the Board packet notebooks and would constantly be updated.

Montgomery asked about the budget workshop meetings. Dr. Riesen indicated that those meetings have not been set at this time.

- 9.5 KEC Building Plan - Information – Dr. Riesen reviewed the Kishwaukee Education Consortium (KEC) building proposal with the Board. He explained that the current building is no longer adequate for the current level of programming. He noted that the Kishwaukee College Board has offered to provide land at no cost to the cooperative if approved in September or October. Dr. Riesen reported that the Sycamore School District has a total of 94 students enrolled in 23 different course offerings at KEC for the 2006-2007 school year. Dr. Riesen noted that the proposed building would be a one story facility of 32,000 square feet. He reviewed the proposed costs and building timeline with the Board.

Clayberg discussed the location of the building and the programs that will be offered.

Dr. Riesen indicated that he would get a copy of the resolution to the Board in his Friday notes.

- 9.6 Set Special Meeting Dates for Facility Planning – The Board agreed to meet for the purpose of facility planning on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. and Monday, November 6, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.
- 9.7 6<sup>th</sup> Day Enrollment Update – Dr. Riesen reviewed the 2006-2007 6<sup>th</sup> Day Enrollment Report with the Board. Stanbery asked if the 2005-2006 6<sup>th</sup> Day Enrollment Report could be put in the Board's Friday notes for comparison purposes. Dr. Riesen responded in the affirmative.
- 9.8 Approval of 2006-2007 Facility Rental Rates – Montgomery pointed out a typographical error on the time and a half hourly rate for custodians for the 2005-2006 school year.

Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the 2006-2007 Facility Rental Rates as amended. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

## **10.0 CURRICULUM:**

- 10.1 Student Services/Special Education Overview – Mrs. Mobile - Mrs. Mobile, Director of Student Services gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding the many roles of the Student Services Department. A copy of Mrs. Mobile's PowerPoint presentation is hereby attached to and considered a part of these minutes.

Stanbery inquired about an ISP. Mrs. Mobile explained that an ISP is written for a student who attends a private school.

Stanbery asked Mrs. Mobile what she would consider her most significant challenge. Mrs. Mobile responded that growth and space and how that impacts what they are trying to do for the students are her most significant challenges.

## **11.0 PERSONNEL**

- 11.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Personnel, and Imminent Litigation. Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to go into executive session for the consideration of matters related to the appointment, employment, or dismissal of personnel, and imminent litigation. 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 9:37 p.m. and out at 10:31 p.m.

## **12.0 ACTION ITEM FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 12.1 Personnel Reports - Motion by Stanbery, seconded by Tyrrell, to approve pages 1-3 of the non-certified personnel report as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 1. Montgomery voted no. Motion carried.

Motion by Tyrrell, seconded by King, that the certified personnel report be approved as amended. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. Clayberg abstained. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0; ABSTENTIONS - 1. Motion carried.

- 13.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions** – Montgomery voiced concern about the football bleachers being slippery when wet. He also inquired about the availability of portable bleachers for the visitors.

Montgomery inquired about the impact fee to build a five bedroom home.

Stanbery inquired about the speed limit at the middle school. Dr. Riesen responded that Mr. Wesley has made contact with the local officials, but he has not heard back at this time.

Stanbery pointed out that the drop off times at the elementary schools varies. He also reported that the Southeast Annex is very noisy. Mr. Glowiak stated that Mrs. Steinmeyer was to meet with her staff to come up with some options on how to handle the situation. Mr. Glowiak noted that Mrs. Steinmeyer would be meeting with Mrs. Countryman and him tomorrow.

Clayberg voiced concern about the use of the lunch card by 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. King also reported that parents and students don't know the prices of the food items. She indicated that the mealtime online program is very confusing.

Montgomery asked if all of the Board members received a letter from a concerned parent. He asked if the administration would follow up with that letter. Dr. Riesen stated that he would follow up with the parent.

Mr. Leffler reported on some beautification projects taking place at the High School. He also reported on the "Breakfast to Remember" that took place at the High School on September 11<sup>th</sup>. He distributed a copy of the new newsletter cover and stated that he would be sending the high school newsletter and newspapers to local businesses. Mr. Leffler reviewed the new locker room rules and improvements with the Board.

Dr. Riesen inquired about the Board's intentions for the joint conference in Chicago in November.

Dr. Riesen stated that he and Bill Nicklas will be working on drafting an agreement between Cortland and Sycamore. He noted that they will then meet with Cortland and try to get the agreement signed.

Dr. Riesen commented that Mr. Fleetwood has resubmitted his proposal to raise funds for student scholarships.

Dr. Riesen discussed the Ski and Snowboarding Club with the Board. Montgomery inquired about insurance. Mr. Glowiak indicated that since the club is a “School Sponsored” Club, it would be covered under the District’s insurance. Dr. Riesen noted that students and parents would also be asked to sign waivers as well.

**14.0 Future Agenda Items – None**

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

This meeting was declared adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Minutes approved (\_\_\_\_\_)

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education