

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

September 26, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on September 26, 2006, in the Sycamore Middle School Library, 150 Maplewood Drive, 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, Asst. Supt.
Luke Glowiak, Assistant Supt.
Kathy Sloniker, Secretary

ADMINISTRATORS: J. Cleven, J. Dargatz, M. Leffler, P. Mobile, K. Spiewak, and K. Wesley.

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); P. Anderson, A. Armbrust, FGM Architects; V. Ehlers, J. Flaherty, S. Frankiewicz, T. Franks, M. Gentile, M. Hammack, C. Hoeve, M. Holcomb, J. Holly, M. Hooper, J. Johnson, A. Kapvelian, M. Kovac, L. Limberis, S. Lloyd, D. Meyer, J. Munch, P. Nelson, P. Pickens, C. Quick, C. Stambaugh, M. Stoddard, C. Stracner, D. Strand, J. Tekiela, F. Torres, L. Wilkinson, J. Woods, FGM Architects, and A. Zantout.

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.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO STUDENT DISCIPLINE: Tyrrell moved, seconded by Clayberg, 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 7:07 p.m.

Tyrrell moved, seconded by King, to uphold the validity of charges of gross misconduct against student A0607. 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 Tyrrell, to accept the recommendation of the administration to expel student A0607 for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year. 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 PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE SALE OF \$3,000,000 IN WORKING CASH BONDS:

- 4.1 Public Testimony: President Dombek opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak to the issue. Dombek noted that no one appeared to give testimony and no testimony was taken. Dombek closed the hearing.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- 6.0 AGENDA:** President Dombek stated that items 7.4 NIA Treasurer's Reports and 7.5 NIA Bills Payable should be removed from the Consent Agenda. He also noted that item 7.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting September 12, 2006 be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under the Adoption of Agenda as item 6.1. Clayberg moved, seconded by King, to approve the agenda as amended. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

- 6.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting September 12, 2006: Stanbery asked that the minutes be corrected to indicate that he was the one late to the meeting, not Mr. Shipley. He also requested that the minutes reflect that the motion was made to approve the bids for the South Prairie addition, prior to the discussion. Montgomery moved, seconded by Shipley, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting September 12, 2006 as amended. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

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

- 7.1 REMOVED
- 7.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session September 12, 2006
- 7.3 Treasurer's Report
- 7.4 REMOVED
- 7.5 REMOVED
- 7.6 Bills Payable
- 7.7 Resolution Directing the Superintendent to Prepare the Budget

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.

8.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

- 8.1 Willie Murphy – President of CAC: Dr. Riesen reported that Mr. Murphy was unable to attend the meeting due to personal injury and that he would be rescheduled at a future meeting.

- 8.2 Comments from the Public: None

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

10.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Dr. Riesen informed the Board that Mr. Montgomery initiated a fund-raising idea for the Sycamore Education Foundation. The Foundation organized a committee of 14 ladies from the community to develop this idea and it culminated into an event that was held last Saturday evening. Dr. Riesen stated that it was a phenomenal night! He commended Jay Montgomery and the committee for creating such an outstanding event.

Dr. Riesen noted that the Homecoming Parade would take place tomorrow night. He stated that this year the Sports Boosters would be serving Spartan Chili Chow and Hot Dogs prior to the parade.

Mrs. Countryman reported that the Curriculum Coordinating Council (CCC) elected her as the Vice Chairperson. She stated that the Council is beginning to talk more about the subgroup areas. She noted that people are very involved and it is exciting to be a part of the process.

Dr. Riesen gave the Board an update from the CAC meeting held on Thursday, September 21, 2006. He explained that the committee is working to develop a mission and vision for the CAC.

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

11.1 State School News Service

12.0 OLD BUSINESS:

12.1 Approval of KEC Resolution for Facilities – Dr. Riesen stated that a copy of the resolution was included in the Board's packet. He noted that all of the other four districts in the consortium have received approval from their local Board of Education including tentative approval from the Kishwaukee College Board.

Stanbery moved, seconded by Clayberg, to approve the KEC resolution 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.

13.0 NEW BUSINESS:

13.1 Facility Planning – Middle School Philosophy - Mrs. Dargatz, Middle School Principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the "Fundamentals for Student Success in the Middle Grades". She included comparison information in the Board's packet on how the middle school philosophy and the junior high approach align with the District's Strategic Design. Mrs. Dargatz illustrated a day in the life of a Junior High student versus a day in the life of a Middle School student. She explained that a junior high school is departmentalized, which requires students to travel throughout the building to get to all of their classes. She noted that a middle school is configured in teams, which allows students to remain in one section of the building for most of their day.

Shipley asked if there were specific requirements for teachers of the middle school philosophy. Mrs. Dargatz stated that a middle school endorsement is required.

Montgomery felt that the most difficult transition students are experiencing is from 8th grade to 9th grade. He inquired about utilizing the middle school philosophy for grades 6 and 7 and a junior high philosophy for grade 8.

Mr. Woods from FGM Architects responded that some districts are developing their high schools into more of a middle school philosophy to ease the transition from 8th to 9th grade.

Clayberg inquired about Industrial Arts and Family Consumer Science programs and how they fit into the Middle School concept. Mrs. Anderson responded that, while they do not participate in a common planning time, they can inquire of one of the team members when problems arise.

Clayberg asked how the gifted program was handled in the Middle School philosophy. Mrs. Dargatz responded that the gifted students are all placed on one team at each grade level and attend a different literacy and math class.

Mr. Armbrust and Mr. Woods from FGM Architects reviewed several possible layouts for a Middle School building with the Board.

Tyrrell stated that she would like to know which of the proposed layouts the teachers would choose.

King felt that it was important for the building to be flexible in order to meet the needs of students for the next 20 years. Mr. Woods noted that the Frankfort layout is very flexible. Mr. Armbrust suggested that the Board might want to consider taking a road trip to view some of the various layouts.

President Dombek thanked Mrs. Dargatz and the Middle School staff members for their time and effort in preparing and presenting to the Board on middle school philosophy.

14.0 FINANCIAL:

- 14.1 Financial Update – FY08 Budget Development Calendar – Mr. Glowiak reviewed the proposed budget calendar with the Board. He noted that he was recommending a change in the February Board Program Review Dates. He stated that last year the Board held three consecutive evening meetings in February to review program objectives and implementation strategies with the program managers. He explained that this year he is proposing to shift these meetings to all day sessions on succeeding Fridays. He felt that this would provide additional time and would be less physically and mentally taxing.

It was the consensus of the Board that the evening meetings were easier for them to attend. The Board set February 5th, 6th, and 7th, from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for the program review meetings with the administration.

Stanbery voiced concern about only having one Board meeting in March. He suggested that the Board hold a special meeting on March 20th at 7:00 p.m. to prioritize budget items.

Stanbery moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the FY08 Budget Development Calendar as amended. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

- 14.2 Resolution for the Intent to Sell \$3,000,000 in Working Cash Fund Bonds – Mr. Glowiak gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding financing options for upcoming construction needs for the district. He noted that the district's tax rate is projected to decline over the next 10 years as the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) increases. He explained that the goal is to establish the tax rate to prepare for an eventual referendum for facility construction. He felt that the district could do this by selling working cash fund bonds to finance the South Prairie addition. Mr. Glowiak stated that an April 2007 referendum would place the district in the best position to meet expected growth.

Shiplely stated that he is not in favor of backdoor referendums. He felt that the community has shown that they are willing to help the district with funding when needed and he believes that they will continue to support the district in the future.

Montgomery inquired about the use of debt certificates. Mr. Glowiak responded that debt certificates could be used; however, the interest rates are usually ½% higher than the working cash fund bonds.

Shiplely asked about the potential impact fees from Nature's Crossing and Reston Ponds subdivisions. Mr. Glowiak responded that by the time those subdivisions are built out, the district may receive a little over a million dollars, but he had no idea when that would take place. He noted that the builder has indicated about 4-5 years, but it depends on the economy.

Montgomery moved, seconded by King, to approve the resolution for the intent to sell \$3,000,000 in Working Cash Fund Bonds as presented. The following members voted aye and the motion carried: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. Shiplely voted no. AYES – 6; NAYS – 1. Motion carried.

15.0 PERSONNEL:

- 15.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Personnel, Imminent Litigation, and Student Disciplinary Matters. Tyrrell moved, seconded by Stanbery, to go into executive session for the consideration of matters related to the appointment, employment, or dismissal of personnel, imminent litigation, and student disciplinary matters. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shiplely, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

In at 10:05 p.m. and out at 10:52 p.m.

16.0 ACTION ITEM FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 16.1 Personnel Reports - Motion by Tyrrell, seconded by Shiplely, 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, Shiplely, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Stanbery, seconded by Tyrrell, that the certified personnel report be approved as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shiplely, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

17.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions – King asked about the Southeast Elementary School’s playground equipment. She also reported a general concern for additional parking and the traffic pattern at South Prairie Elementary School. Mr. Glowiak indicated that the district is aware of the issues and is in the process of developing solutions.

Montgomery stated that he has heard much positive feedback regarding the auditorium and High School gym remodeling projects. However, he feels that something needs to be done with the bleachers in the gym. Mr. Glowiak responded that the High School gym bleachers are on the five-year replacement list.

Montgomery pointed out that people are driving on the sidewalk at Southeast School and parking on the playground to watch their children play football. Dr. Riesen indicated that he would look into that situation.

The Board held a discussion regarding the district’s playground philosophy. Mrs. Countryman stated that the elementary principals create a 5-year plan for their building, which includes internal and external needs, including standard playground equipment. She noted that the PTO organizations sometimes pay for extra items.

Mr. Glowiak pointed out that the elementary principals are scheduled to meet with Mr. Wesley this week and he would be sure that elementary playground equipment was included in their discussions.

Montgomery inquired about fund-raising policies.

Dr. Riesen distributed the High School enrollment by classroom numbers to the Board per their request.

Dr. Riesen discussed plans for the Joint Conference in Chicago with the Board.

18.0 Future Agenda Items – None

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

This meeting was declared adjourned at 11:39 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education