

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

October 10, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on October 10, 2006, in the LRC at West Elementary School, 240 Fair Street, Sycamore, Illinois.

ATTENDANCE

Jim Dombek, President
Dannie Stanbery, Vice President
Donald Clayberg, Secretary
Barb King
Jay Montgomery
Dave Shipley
Diane Tyrrell

OTHERS

Wayne Riesen, Superintendent
Kathy Countryman, Asst. Supt.
Kathy Sloniker, Secretary

ADMINISTRATORS: M. Currie, J. Dargatz, M. Leffler, P. Mobile, K. Spallasso, and K. Wesley.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); B. Steckler, (Sycamore Journal); P. Alexander, R. Bemis, V. Boone, M. Bower, K. Busch, A. Cambier, K. Ernest, J. Heintz, E. Johnson, L. Jones, L. Koehne, N. Leifheit, J. McCormick, B. McGee, L. Montgomery, S. Murphy, W. Murphy, S. Nelson, D. Painter, C. Phillips, P. Poorten, S. Sabock, B. Schlawin, C. Sundly, S. Swenson, L. Totman, J. Ward, J. Wennmaker, and K. Wrenn .

6:30 p.m. - The West Elementary teachers gave the Board a literacy presentation. President Dombek thanked Mrs. Currie and the West School staff for their efforts regarding the literacy presentation.

President Dombek called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. When the roll was called the following members were present: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek.

3.0 Public Hearing for ISBE Waiver Modification: Dr. Riesen explained that the Board is seeking a waiver modification to allow Sycamore School District to attend school on Lincoln's Birthday, a state mandated holiday.

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Discussion – Shipley felt that the proposed waiver modification would result in a loss of tradition and history in Illinois. Dr. Riesen explained that the students would spend February 12th studying and learning about President Lincoln. He noted that the School District would then observe the President's Day holiday, which would be less disruptive to the regular school week since it always falls on a Monday.

4.0 Action Items from Public Hearing

4.1 Approval of ISBE Waiver Application – Tyrrell moved, seconded by Stanbery, to approve the ISBE Waiver Application 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.

5.0 Call Regular Meeting to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: President Dombek called the regular meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

6.0 AGENDA: King moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the agenda as presented. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Tyrrell, and seconded by King, to approve the consent agenda as presented, as follows:

7.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting September 26, 2006

7.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session September 26, 2006

7.3 Approval of NIA Personnel Report

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 Elementary School Report – Mrs. Currie: Mrs. Currie stated that this week is Fire Prevention Week. She noted that the Fire Department will be visiting all of the elementary schools and the schools will hold a fire drill while the fire fighters are present. Mrs. Currie explained that open houses have been scheduled at each building. She reported that the fall fund-raisers have been completed and fall field trips have been scheduled.

8.2 Middle School Report – Mrs. Dargatz: Mrs. Dargatz reported on how the Middle School is meeting some of the 14 demands outlined in the book “This We Believe”. She stated that they have implemented the following programs and/or activities; celebrate the adolescent, why I am proud of Sycamore Middle School, drop and read, color day, letter writing to the community, read-a-thon, walk everyday, Sycamore Middle School at a board meeting, self evaluation survey, public library involvement, etc.

8.3 High School Report – Mr. Leffler: Mr. Leffler explained that homecoming week activities have been completed. He pointed out that this year was their first Powder Puff Football game. He passed around a picture of the Homecoming Court and noted that the Homecoming King was Kurt Boekenhauer and the Homecoming Queen was Brittany Pivonka. Mr. Leffler stated that Rotary Students of the Month were Brittany Pivonka and Dan Emmons. He reported that Mr. Ken Goodman and Mr. Mark Ekstrom were named to Who’s Who Among American Teachers. Mr. Leffler announced that five (5) students received “Commended Student Status” from the National Merit Scholarship Program (PSAT). Those students are as follows: Megan Colen, Dan Emmons, Michelle Fogelsanger, Erin Girard, and Taryn Tilton. He also noted that the first newspaper was published and distributed at Rotary along with the newsletter.

- 8.4 Willie Murphy, President – CAC: Mr. Murphy presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Kathy Sloniker for the outstanding contributions she has made to the committee over the past several years. Mr. Steve Nelson, Vice President and Ms. Barb McGee, Secretary, were also in attendance and took part in the presentation.
- 8.5 Spotlight Segment: The Board of Education presented spotlight awards to Ron Bemis and Gary Evans for generously giving of their time and talents to host the Castle Spirit Challenge. Spotlight awards were also presented to a committee of fourteen (14) women for their tremendous efforts on organizing the first annual Sycamore Education Foundation fund-raiser “Take Root”. Those ladies were: Tami Armstrong, Liz Bockman, Sheri Emmert, Julie Evans, Lisa Feuerbach, Lynn Montgomery, Patty Poorten, Sandy Sabock, Karla Sauber, Kathy Stice, Linda Sullivan, Cathy Sundly, Kathy Taylor, and Kris Wrenn.
- 8.6 Open Discussion/Audience Participation: None

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

10.0 Public Hearing – Health Life Safety for the Repair of Sidewalks, Playgrounds, and Bus Turnarounds

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 Discussion: Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the Health Life Safety Application as presented. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

11.0 NEW BUSINESS:

- 11.1 Presentation of 2006-2007 Board/Administrator Goals: Dr. Riesen distributed copies of the 2006-2007 Board/Administrative Goals Booklet to the Board members. He pointed out that this year the Board’s Goals were included along with the individual administrators’ goals. He noted that another addition to the Goals Booklet this year is the individual leadership growth plans for each of the administrators. Dr. Riesen gave the Board a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Leadership Development Process.
- 11.2 Approval of Health/Life Safety Application – Mr. Wesley: Clayberg moved, seconded by Shipley, to approve the amendment to the Fire Prevention and Safety Survey for site work at North Elementary, West Elementary, and Southeast Elementary 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.

12.0 CURRICULUM

- 12.1 New Course Presentation – Mrs. Spallasso: Mrs. Spallaso explained that Geometry AB is a year-long course that aligns with State Standards. She stated that this course was presented to the Curriculum Coordinating Council (CCC) and they were very excited about it. Mrs. Spallaso noted that Senate Bill 575 requires all students to have three years of math, including geometry, in order to graduate. This course would help students who have shown difficulty with math concepts through previous coursework and/or students who require a slower paced course to be successful.

Shipley inquired about how the course would be modified. Mrs. Spallasso responded that the course would have all of the same material as the regular course, but the proofs would be eliminated.

Shipley asked if other districts were utilizing the Geometry AB course. Mrs. Spallasso stated that Hononegah High School is currently using the course and DeKalb High School is planning to use something similar either next year or the year after that.

Clayberg moved, seconded by Shipley, to approve the new Geometry AB course 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.

- 12.2 New Curricular Process Overview: Dr. Leifheit presented the Board with an overview of the new CLI curriculum process that the district has adopted. She covered the complete scope of the process including what was done last year, this year's goals, as well as plans for the future.

13.0 PERSONNEL

- 13.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal of Personnel, and Imminent Litigation. 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 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 8:31 p.m. and out at 8:34 p.m.

14.0 Action Items from Executive Session

- 14.1 Personnel Reports: Motion by Stanbery, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the non-certified personnel report 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.

- 15.0 Open Discussion – Issues, Observations, Questions**: Tyrrell felt that the District needs to address school security issues *now*. Dr. Riesen explained that the buildings are all locked except for the front doors. He felt the best prevention right now would be to make sure that all employees understand the District's crisis procedures and to put everyone on high alert. He suggested that the Board include security issues as part of its facility discussions.

Montgomery suggested that Board members attend seminars on safety at the upcoming Joint Annual Conference in November to see what other districts are doing with regards to safety. Dr. Riesen indicated that the administration would look into several options and bring some ideas to the Board at a future meeting. President Dombek asked Dr. Riesen to check with the District's law firm to see if the Board would be allowed to discuss safety issues in executive session.

Stanbery inquired about the status of the speed limit on Route 23 by the Middle School. Mr. Wesley responded that the speed study of that area has been delayed due to construction.

Dr. Riesen reminded the Board of their special meeting on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board room. He stated that Kathy Countryman and the elementary principals will be in attendance to discuss elementary philosophy.

Dombek stated that he and Dr. Riesen will be attending a meeting regarding North Grove School. Some organizations have voiced an interest in the school and the current lease is about to expire. He pointed out that North Grove School is the only one room schoolhouse in the county located on its original site.

16.0 Future Agenda Items: None

17.0 Adjournment: Tyrrell moved, seconded by Shipley, that the meeting be adjourned. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

This meeting was declared adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education