

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

October 24, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on October 24, 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, absent

OTHERS

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek);
A. Prais, (Daily Chronicle); B. Steckler,
(Sycamore Journal); F. Stanbery, and J.
Woods, FGM Architects.

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, and Dombek. Tyrrell was absent.

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

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

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting October 10, 2006
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session October 10, 2006
- 4.3 Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting October 12, 2006
- 4.4 Treasurer's Report
- 4.5 NIA Bills Payable
- 4.6 NIA Treasurer's Report
- 4.7 Bills Payable
- 4.8 Statements of Completion

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, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

5.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS: Mrs. Dargatz shared that one of the teams at the Middle School has asked Mayor Mundy to shadow a 6th grade student. She felt that it was a wonderful thing for him to do and wanted to share it with the Board.

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

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Shipley reported from the Plan Commission Meeting. He noted that the agenda was included in the Board's packet. He pointed out that the final plat for unit two for the Sycamore Creek Planned Unit Development was approved. The Board inquired about the land "set aside" for an elementary school. The Board also asked about the additional "donation" of 8 acres to the school district as a "development credit". Mr. Glowiak stated that he would investigate the Board's concerns.

Clayberg reported that the CAC met on Thursday, October 19th. He noted that the meeting focused on vision and procedures for the CAC.

8.0 LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Dr. Riesen called the Board's attention to several new requirements recently passed by the legislature. He noted that some may require the Board to modify existing or develop new policies. Stanbery reviewed some changes that were made to the election process.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Philosophical Discussion on Policy Development – Dr. Riesen explained that the Board has agreed to utilize the IASB Press Service to develop and maintain their policy manual. He stated that he is seeking direction from the Board on how to proceed with this endeavor. He noted that the Board has always operated as a whole in the past; however, in an effort to simplify the process, he suggested that the Board might want to consider forming a policy committee.

Montgomery asked when the process would begin and how many Board members would be on the committee. Dr. Riesen responded that the policy review has been scheduled to begin in February and he felt that two Board members would be appropriate for the policy committee.

Stanbery indicated that he would be willing to give the policy committee concept a try. Montgomery agreed stating that the committee format might be more efficient.

President Dombek asked the members of the Board to let him know if they would like to serve on the policy committee and he would make the appropriate appointments at the next meeting.

9.2 Pre IASB Conference Details: Dr. Riesen stated that copies of the conference program were distributed this evening. President Dombek suggested that Board members review the conference offerings and the Board will discuss them further at their special meeting scheduled for November 6, 2006.

10.0 FINANCIAL:

10.1 Facility Planning – Continued Discussion on the Scope of Elementary Facilities – Mr. Glowiak explained that, since the last meeting, he has talked with Montgomery and Dombek about additional information they would like to have regarding the elementary facilities. He stated that they would like to know what type of elementary schools our neighboring districts are building (3 section/4 section); what the difference in administrative costs would be for a 3 section vs. a 4 section building; could our current elementary buildings be expanded to 4 section schools; and the cost per student comparison between adding on to the existing schools and building new schools.

Dr. Riesen stated that the architects and administration would have this information to present to the Board at its special meeting scheduled for Monday, November 6th.

Montgomery asked if the administration would also list all of the parcels of land that the district owns or will own, the location of the property, and what type of school could be built on that land.

Mr. Glowiak indicated that he would provide that information for the Board. He also suggested that the Board bring their development notebooks with them to the special meeting on November 6th.

- 10.2 Concept Planning for Middle School – Mr. Jim Woods, FGM Architects, gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed remodeling/expansion of the middle school. He explained that the proposed remodeling would not increase student capacity (800), but would accommodate the Middle School Philosophy. He noted that adding on to the east consumes parking spaces and storm water and detention will become a problem as you continue to expand the building.

Stanbery asked what the capacity of a new Middle School building would be. Mr. Woods responded that he would recommend a capacity of approximately 1200 students.

Montgomery asked if the proposed remodeling would lend itself to further additions. Mr. Woods explained that it would, however, land, parking, etc. become issues.

Clayberg asked if a second story could be added to the current Middle School. Mr. Woods responded that the current foundation would prohibit adding a second story.

Mr. Woods reported that the approximate cost of the Middle School addition as presented would be \$25.5 million, which, he reiterated, would not increase the current capacity of the building (800 students). He noted that the new Frankfort Middle School, which was built a couple of years ago, cost \$57 million for a 200,000 sq. ft. building on 35 acres. He stated that the Frankfort Middle School is a two-story building with an approximate student capacity of 1200 students.

Stanbery inquired about the difficulty of turning the current Middle School into an elementary building. Mr. Woods responded that the cost would be significantly less to convert the middle school to an elementary school because additions to the building would not be necessary. Stanbery asked if the architects could develop a proposal to present to the Board. Mr. Woods indicated that he would bring back a proposal showing the current middle school as a 3 section and a 4 section elementary school.

11.0 PERSONNEL:

- 11.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Personnel, and Imminent Litigation. Stanbery moved, seconded by King, 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, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

In at 8:45 p.m. and out at 8:50 p.m.

12.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

12.1 Personnel Reports - Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Stanbery, to approve the non-certified personnel report as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Shipley, Stanbery, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

Motion by King, seconded by Montgomery, 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, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

13.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions – Montgomery voiced concern that the Middle School philosophy only applies to academics and not extra curricular activities. Montgomery was also concerned about the long line to get into the Homecoming Dance.

Clayberg commented on the enrollment report that was included in the packet. He explained that the additional 118 students make it difficult to maintain class sizes. Dombek commented that the difficulty is magnified when space is not available.

Shipley inquired about the details of the IASB Joint Conference in November. Dr. Riesen explained that he would be putting a packet of materials together along with an itinerary for the weekend as soon as he receives the information from IASB. Stanbery suggested that Mr. Wesley attend the conference as well. Dr. Riesen distributed copies of the 2006 Resolution Committee’s Report to the Board and suggested that they review it prior to the special Board meeting on November 6th.

Mr. Glowiak distributed an informational packet regarding the Business Partnership Agreement/Abatement information to the Board. He stated that the Board would review it at a future meeting when all members are present.

Dr. Riesen distributed information to the Board regarding the new Ski/Snowboarding Club at the High School.

18.0 Future Agenda Items – Castle Bank Report

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

This meeting was declared adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education