

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

November 14, 2006

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on November 14, 2006, in the Library at Southeast Elementary School, 718 S. Locust Street, Sycamore, Illinois.

ATTENDANCE

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

OTHERS

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

ADMINISTRATORS: M. Currie, J. Dargatz, J. Graves, M. Leffler, E. Schlichter, K. Spallasso, K. Spiewak, C. Steinmeyer, and K. Wesley.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); B. Adams, (WDKB-FM); B. Steckler, (Sycamore Journal); A. Cambier, E. Coats, C. Countryman, D. Eggelson, J. Englum, B. Gelch, A. Hooker, E. Johnson, Y. Johnson, S. Jolicob, S. Klein, Klein, Hall, and Associates; S. Larson, N. Leifheit, L. Limberis, J. McCormick, K. Martins, S. Middleton, B. Olsen, G. Olsen, P. Poorten, S. Pruttan, N. Rigneny, T. Ryan, L. Totman, A. Weyland, J. Woods, FGM Architects; and K. Woodstrup.

6:30 p.m. - Southeast Elementary School staff and volunteers gave the Board a presentation regarding activities and programs at Southeast School. President Dombek thanked Mrs. Steinmeyer and the Southeast School staff and volunteers for their efforts regarding this presentation.

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, Stanbery, Tyrrell and Dombek. Shipley was absent.

3.0 AGENDA: President Dombek asked to remove items 4.3 Health/Life Safety Amendments and 4.5 Approval of Softball Field Scoreboard Bid from the Consent Agenda. He placed them under New Business as items 8.2 and 8.3 respectively. Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the agenda as amended. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Stanbery, and seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the consent agenda as amended, as follows:

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting October 24, 2006
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session October 24, 2006
- 4.3 REMOVED
- 4.4 Approval of 2006-2007 Library Grants
- 4.5 REMOVED

President Dombek called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

5.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

- 5.1 Elementary School Report – Mrs. Steinmeyer: Mrs. Steinmeyer reported that Parent/Teacher Conferences have been completed at all elementary schools. She noted that each school had a high percentage of attendees. She stated that reading coaches have been implemented in order to help support the literacy programs. Mrs. Steinmeyer stated that each school will have or has had a book fair. She reported that the construction at South Prairie is progressing. She noted that Southeast and South Prairie are focusing on their citizenship goal this month and are honoring our soldiers. She stated that each of the buildings are planning for the upcoming budget process.
- 5.2 Middle School Report – Mrs. Dargatz: Mrs. Dargatz reported that the Middle School also had a high percentage of participation for the Parent/Teacher Conferences and she noted that conferences are still continuing in order to accommodate all parents and students. She stated that there was also a higher level of student participation at the conferences. Mrs. Dargatz pointed out that the “Break Down the Walls” luncheon was today. She stated that students sat at different tables in order to get to know different students. Mrs. Dargatz stated that during World Kindness Week many groups focused on acts of kindness and several community service projects were conducted; clothing drive, food drive, read-a-thon, etc. She stated that the Student Council has formed many committees, such as; food committee, relax and read committee, scrapbook committee, ski trip committee, etc. Mrs. Dargatz reported that the Book Fair was very successful. She pointed out that the current sports taking place at the Middle School are; Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Pompons, and Cheerleading.
- 5.3 High School Report – Mr. Leffler: Mr. Leffler stated that the Boys’ Cross Country team were Sectional Champions and represented Sycamore High School at the state meet, where they finished nineteenth. He noted that the Boys’ soccer team lost, in overtime, in the regional championship. He pointed out that Brad Horton was named to the IHSSCA (Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association) All-State Team, NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America) All-Midwest Team, Suntimes All-Area Second Team, All-Conference, and named team captain for next year. Mr. Leffler also noted that Brad Horton broke the school record for goals and assists in the regular season, assists in a season and almost the record for goals in a season (he was one short of tying). Mr. Leffler informed the Board that the Girls’ volleyball team lost in the Regional Championship. He stated that the football team was two scores from being in the playoffs. He explained that our football team had a very tough conference this year as three teams in our conference are in the state playoffs (semi-finals) and two teams lost in the quarter finals. He noted that thirty-four students earned recognition by being selected to participate in the IMEA District

Band/Choir/Orchestra competition. Mr. Leffler noted that the Fall Musical “Honk” was a big success and was directed by Ashley Johnson and Cecilie Huber (former SHS students). He pointed out that Katie Doonan received 1st place, Lauren Potthoff received 2nd place and Holly Martin received 3rd place in the Voice of Democracy Speech Contest. He stated that the FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team received 1st place at the Section Six Contest and Brad Cessna received 1st place for floor member and Grant Bend received 1st place as chairperson. Mr. Leffler stated that Taryn Tilton was the Midweek student of the month. He noted that the Student Council held a “trick or treat” night at Oak Crest Retirement Center and commented that the Sophomore Class held their annual pork chop dinner in conjunction with the Fall Musical.

5.4 Spotlight Segment: Dr. Riesen recognized the Little Red Schoolhouse recipients for the month of October: Angie Cambier, Donna Eggleston, Ed Johnson, and Linda Totman. The Board of Education presented spotlight awards to Yvonne Johnson for receiving the Clifford Danielson Outstanding Citizen Award; the 8th Grade Volleyball team for winning the Conference Volleyball Championship; the High School Cross Country Team for winning the sectional and advancing to the state tournament; and to Megan Colen, Daniel Emmons, Michelle Fogelsanger, Erin Girard, and Taryn Tilton for being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program as “Commended Students”.

5.5 Comments from the Public: Mrs. Beth Paulsen addressed the Board regarding the North School Clothing Sale. She explained that the sale has outgrown the gym and cafeteria at North School and she would like to hold the sale at the Fieldhouse. President Dombek explained that procedures for using the fieldhouse have already been put into place and she would need to contact Mr. Kreg Wesley regarding that.

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

7.0 OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 Update on Policy Review Process: Dr. Riesen informed the Board that he has talked with the IASB Policy Service and they normally assign a person to the district to review all of our manuals and to cross reference those documents with the IASB Policy Manual. He pointed out that the process takes approximately 9 months and he felt that the Board would still need to appoint a policy committee. He indicated that he would continue to explore the options and the costs and will bring his findings back to the Board at a future meeting.

7.2 Appointment of Policy Review Committee: President Dombek appointed Mr. Stanbery and Mr. Clayberg to serve on the Policy Review Committee.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS:

8.1 Wellness Policy – 1st Reading: Mrs. Countryman stated that the proposed Wellness Policy meets the requirements of the state statutes as well as the vision for the students in the Sycamore Community School District.

Dr. Riesen recommended that the Board approve this policy in order to meet the requirements and then the Board can review it again as we go through the entire policy manual with the IASB. Dr. Riesen stated that a final version of this policy

would be presented to the Board for a second reading and approval at the December 12, 2006 meeting.

- 8.2 Health/Life Safety Amendments: Montgomery asked if both staircases in the gym were included in the health/life safety amendment. Mr. Glowiak indicated that both staircases were included in the proposal.

Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the Health/Life Safety Amendments as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

- 8.3 Approval of Softball Field Scoreboard Bid: Montgomery asked about the possibility of a corporate sponsor for the softball scoreboard. Mr. Wesley indicated that corporate sponsorship was not considered. Montgomery felt that it might be something to consider in the future.

King moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to award the Softball Scoreboard Bid to Baum Sign Inc., Montgomery, Illinois, as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

9.0 CURRICULUM:

- 9.1 Approval of World Cultures and Psychology Classes at SHS – Ms. Schlichter/High School Staff: Mrs. Schlichter stated that the World Cultures class is a year-long required course that students can take their freshman or sophomore year. She noted that this course would replace the one-semester geography requirement for sophomores.

Mr. McCormick stated that the World Cultures class would build upon the current geography class. He noted that the study skills learned in this class will foster success across all academic and elective areas, as well as improve standardized test performance. He felt that this class would facilitate a successful transition for students from Middle School to High School. Mr. McCormick also pointed out that students would learn key concepts in many areas of social studies to they will be better prepared for the PSAT test taken in April of their junior year.

Ms. Turner explained that Psychology would be offered as a one-semester social studies elective to students in grades 10-12. She noted that students would study the scientific basis for human psychology, as well as the social and cultural implications of human psychology. She pointed out that seniors have consistently indicated a wish for a psychology elective in preparation for college studies. Ms. Turner explained that all of the schools in the Western Sun Conference currently offer psychology. She felt that psychology would enhance student's knowledge of psychology concepts covered in Reading Comprehension passages on the PASE/ACT.

Mr. Leffler stated that the Social Studies Department has done extensive research on these course offerings and the entire department is present tonight to show their support. He recommended that the Board approve both of the proposed course additions.

Montgomery voiced concern about requiring freshman to take additional courses since it seems to be the toughest year for students. Mr. Leffler responded that approximately half of the current freshman class elected to take World History. He felt that World Cultures would be a better choice for freshman and felt that the class could improve grades, lower failures, and improve ACT scores.

Clayberg felt that study skills could be incorporated in English, Math, Science, etc. and he was concerned about reducing the number of electives for students.

Stanbery was concerned that the addition of this class would dramatically impact Home Economics, Ag, etc. He suggested incorporating the study skills portion of the class at the 8th grade level.

Tyrrell stated that these course additions were presented to and approved by the Curriculum Coordinating Council (CCC). She felt that the Board should not be looking at who the course is offered to and when it is offered, but rather the content of the course. She stated that she totally supports the addition of both of the courses.

King asked if the World Cultures course could be offered as an option rather than a required course. Mr. Leffler voiced concern that if the class was offered as an elective, the students that need the class the most would probably choose not to take it.

Mrs. Countryman indicated that both proposals went to the CCC and they asked some similar questions. She stated that the World Cultures course can fit in with all of the other requirements and all of our staff is supportive of this proposal.

Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the World Cultures Class at Sycamore High School as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: King, Montgomery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. Clayberg and Stanbery voted no. AYES – 4; NAYS – 2. Motion carried.

Montgomery moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the Psychology Class at Sycamore High School as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

- 9.2 Presentation of Elementary School Improvement Plans-Elementary Principals: Mrs. Currie, West Elementary School Principal, explained the School Improvement Process and how the 4 elementary schools involve stakeholders and the community in their programming. Mrs. Graves, South Prairie Elementary School Principal, discussed the programs and services offered at the elementary level. Mr. Steinmeyer, Southeast Elementary School Principal, reviewed the curriculum (What We Teach and Learn) portion of the School Improvement Plan, and Mrs. Spiewak, North Elementary School Principal, explained the assessment/data collection section to the Board.

The Board of Education thanked the elementary principals for their school improvement presentation. The Board was very complimentary of how the principals are working together to form unity, without compromising each building's uniqueness.

10.0 FINANCIAL:

- 10.1 FY06 District Audit: Mr. Glowiak introduced Mr. Scott Klein, of Klein, Hall, and Associates, to the Board and indicated that he was in attendance to review the audit report with the Board. Mr. Klein distributed and reviewed the synopsis of the main pages of the report with the Board. He explained that the full report would be received in the next 30 days.
- 10.2 2006 Tax Levy Resolution: Mr. Glowiak indicated that the Preliminary Levy information for 2006 was included in the packet. A copy of the levy information is hereby appended to and considered a part of these minutes. Mr. Glowiak reviewed the process of the development of the preliminary levy with the Board. He explained that the tax rate for the School District would not increase from last year. He noted that the hearing date for the adoption of the levy has been set for December 12, 2006, and that appropriate notice would be placed in the Daily Chronicle.

Stanbery moved, seconded by Tyrrell, that the resolution regarding the estimated amounts necessary to be levied for the year 2006 be approved as presented. The following members voted aye when the roll was called: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS – 0. Motion carried

- 10.3 Working Cash Fund Bond Sale: Stanbery moved, seconded by King, to approve the resolution authorizing the sale of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) of Working Cash Fund Bonds as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 6; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.
- 10.4 Facility Planning – Administrative Recommendation: Dr. Riesen and Mr. Glowiak gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation outlining the recommendations of the administrative staff regarding future facility development. Mr. Glowiak presented information regarding up-to-date research on the successful passage of recent referendums. Dr. Riesen reviewed the specific recommendation of the administration for the development of facilities with the Board as follows:
- Build a new 3 section elementary school that at the Board’s discretion could be expanded to four sections in the future. This school should be constructed on the 15 acre site located at Sycamore Creek.
 - Renovate existing elementary schools to ensure and effect appropriate building security for the future.
 - Improve and expand multi-purpose room space at West and Southeast Elementary Schools.
 - Construct a classroom addition of four elementary classrooms to Southeast School.
 - While planning the new elementary school, design a standard playground for elementary students that will serve as a model for the entire district. Once designed, it will become the district’s responsibility to evaluate and provide the same base playground to all elementary schools. Beyond that point, it will become the responsibility of the local school to provide any additional enhancements as desired.

- Create a middle school study committee for continued discussion regarding middle school philosophy as it relates to a potential new facility. The committee will report back to the Board in 2008 with the consideration of a potential referendum for a new middle school in the spring of 2009.
- Through referendum, the District 427 Board of Education seek \$25,000,000 for the construction of a new elementary school and improvements to existing facilities as described above. This shall be placed on the ballot for the April 17, 2007 election.

Montgomery requested to see architectural drawings of the proposed additions to the existing elementary schools as well as the proposed design of a new elementary school.

Mr. Glowiak responded that the architect will have preliminary plans for the Board to review at its November 28, 2006 meeting. He anticipated that final plans would be available to the public in January 2007. Mr. Glowiak stated that the administration is seeking a decision from the Board to place a referendum on the ballot in April 2007, not a final product design.

Clayberg inquired about the needs of the Middle School. Mr. Glowiak responded that the administration believes that in order for a referendum to be successful, it must be specific to the public and we do not believe we could be specific by the time a spring referendum would occur. He stated that 2011 appears to be the date that something needs to be done at the MS in order to handle the expected capacity at that point, which gives the District an excellent opportunity to come up with a plan and go to referendum in 2009.

Stanbery asked to see how security concepts for each of the buildings would be included. He also wanted to see how the new elementary building would look on the site including possible future expansion, service drives, bus turnarounds, parking, etc.

Dr. Riesen reviewed the Board's requests for information and indicated that the materials would be presented at the November 28, 2006 meeting.

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

In at 11:20 p.m. and out at 11:29 p.m.

12.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 12.1 Personnel Reports - Motion by Tyrrell, 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, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES - 6; NAYS - 0. Motion carried.

13.0 Open Discussion/Issues/Observations/Questions – Stanbery inquired about a comparison of impact fees received for this year and last year. Mr. Glowiak distributed that information to the Board.

Montgomery voiced concern about middle school students being dropped off at school by the bus and then having to stand outside until the door to the building is unlocked.

Montgomery stated that he is interested in getting a pep bus started again at the High School and possibly the Middle School as well.

Clayberg stated that last year there was some discussion about the possibility of the Middle School joining the IESA and he was wondering if that had occurred.

Dr. Riesen distributed the Joint Conference packets to the Board members and briefly reviewed the itinerary for the weekend.

18.0 Future Agenda Items – None

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

This meeting was declared adjourned at 11:51 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education