

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
September 11, 2007

The Board of Education of Sycamore Community Unit School District 427 met in regular session on September 11, 2007, in the Library at West Elementary School, 240 Fair Street, Sycamore, Illinois.

ATTENDANCE

Jim Dombek, President
Dannie Stanbery, Vice Pres.
Donald Clayberg, Secretary
Barb King
Jay Montgomery
Steve Nelson
Diane Tyrrell

OTHERS

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Hines, (Midweek); K. Beckley, R. Beezhold, N. Bonkowski, V. Boone, K. Busch, B. Butter, A. Cambier, N. Copple, K. Crobbe, D. Eggleston, B. Fewell, V. Foster, D. Graves, S. Graves, J. Heintz, R. Horan, E. Johnson, D. Marcinkowski, J. McCormick, S. Palm, J. Rosing, B. Schlawin, J. Ward, J. Wennmaker, and J. Winterland.

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, Nelson, Tyrrell, and Dombek. Stanbery arrived at 7:34 p.m.

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

3.0 INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY WITH CURRICULUM: Mrs. Currie, Principal, led the Board to Mr. Heintz's Classroom, where a presentation was given by Mr. Heintz, Ms. McCormick, and Ms. Busch. They demonstrated how easily technology can be integrated into the classroom utilizing the internet via a laptop computer, a proxima mounted from the ceiling, and an ELMO projector.

4.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA: Dombek corrected the minutes of the August 28, 2007 meeting to include his name as one who voted yes on item 10.1 Policy Revision – 9.23/IV/A – Second Reading. A motion was made by Montgomery, seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the consent agenda as amended, as follows:

- 5.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting August 28, 2007 as amended
- 5.2 Approval of Minutes of Executive Session August 28, 2007
- 5.3 2007-2008 Application for Recognition of Schools
- 5.4 Approval of Voice over IP Financing

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

6.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

- 6.1 Elementary School Report – Mrs. Currie: Mrs. Currie reported that elementary open houses and curriculum nights have been scheduled for the next 3-4 weeks. She stated that pictures were successfully taken. She noted that the ISEL tests and running records for K-5 have been completed. Mrs. Currie also stated that fire, bus, and disaster drills have been completed at each of the elementary schools.
- 6.2 Middle School Report – Mrs. Dargatz: Mrs. Dargatz reported that the Middle School has 67 more students than last year. She stated that the announcements at the middle school are being placed on the website. She commented that this year she will be making positive calls to parents. Mrs. Dargatz reviewed the Middle School Goals; achievement data and action plans; positive climate for staff and students; working with the Board regarding facility planning and surveys; and science SAC validation. She explained that fire, bus and disaster drills have been completed. She noted that the middle school would continue to practice PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention System). Mrs. Dargatz indicated that the open houses were very well attended. She pointed out that the entire school would be traveling to the Memorial Wall at Sycamore Park on Friday. She reported that Volleyball, Cross Country, and Intramural Football are all underway. She reported that an all school positive point activity has been scheduled for October and an Anti-Bullying Assembly will take place on October 1, 2007.
- 6.3 High School Report – Mr. Leffler: Mr. Leffler reported that the High School enrollment is down 24 students from last year. He stated that the High School has seven (7) new teachers for a total of 78 instructional staff. He explained that mail-in registration was done differently this year and allowed people to participate in express registration. He pointed out that 700 families participated and he received many compliments regarding the process. He stated that freshmen orientation was held, which included a parent component. He reported that Back to School Night was held and he thanked the student ambassadors that helped with that. A “Breakfast to Remember” was held on September 11, 2007, and was sponsored by the social studies students and teachers. Police, firemen, paramedics, etc. from the County were invited to attend. Mr. Leffler indicated that class meetings were held to discuss the changes in the handbook. He stated that a testing center has been set up for students that were absent during a test. He explained that students go to the testing center during lunch or study hall to make up the test so that they do not miss their regular class instruction time. He stated that homework for suspended students is underway and credit recovery is up and running instead of study hall. Mr. Leffler stated that the first fire drill was held. He stated that the Castle Spirit Challenge Football Game vs. DeKalb was held last Friday evening. He stated that the high school held a back to school dance. He reported that the Volleyball team is undefeated (8-0), the Cross Country team finished first place in a 44 team tournament, and Derek Campbell finished in first place.

Mr. Leffler voiced appreciation to the Board for its consideration and support of the progressive ideas brought before them, i.e. fiber to the high school, wireless capabilities, new phone system, email data base software, and on-line sign-up for P/T conferences.

Mr. Leffler recognized Mr. Kreg Wesley for his hard work during the flood situation in getting the students to school on time. Mr. Leffler commended Mrs. Phyllis Mobile and Mrs. Kathy Spiewak for their tireless efforts on behalf of the homeless students.

6.4 Open Discussion/Audience Participation: None

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

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS: Nelson reported from the City's Plan Commission meeting. He indicated that the Plan Commission approved the annexation and rezoning request by Milan Krpan for property located on the southwest corner of Peace Road and Bethany Road. The new zoning would be "ORI" Office, Research, and Light Industrial District. He also indicated that community forums regarding the comprehensive plan would probably begin in mid October.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Enrollment Update: Dr. Riesen reviewed the FY08 6th day enrollment numbers with the Board and compared them to the FY07 figures. Montgomery asked how the numbers compared to the district's predictions. Dr. Riesen indicated that he would look up that information and include it the Board's Friday letter.

10.0 CURRICULUM:

10.1 Summer OSCAR Celebrations/Fall Program Update: Mrs. Countryman distributed copies the Summer Programming Summary for 2007. A copy of this information is hereby appended to and considered a part of these minutes.

Stanbery arrived at 7:34 p.m.

Mrs. Countryman reviewed enrollment and staffing numbers of the various summer programs with the Board. She stated that all staff members for the Spartan Reach Academy met for training and curriculum goals facilitated by Dr. Leifheit and Thomas Franks. She noted that the OSCAR childcare program provided one hour of academics each day and a variety of community field trips. She explained that the Spartan Reach program, facilitated by Director Tony Stahl, maintained learning throughout the summer by working on basic skills, engaging in real world experiences, and a 6th grade orientation program. She noted that optional YMCA activities were also provided.

Dombek suggested that this information regarding the Summer Programming be incorporated in the next District Newsletter.

11.0 PERSONNEL:

11.1 Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal or Personnel, and Imminent Litigation: Tyrrell moved, seconded by Nelson, 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, Nelson, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

In at 7:57 p.m. and out at 8:08 p.m.

12.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

12.1 Personnel Reports - Motion by Tyrrell, 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, Nelson, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Montgomery moved, seconded by Nelson, to approve the certified personnel report as presented. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Nelson, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Stanbery moved, seconded by Tyrrell, to approve the following people to three-year terms on the District's Ag Advisory Council: Jason Johnson, Don Kendall, and Pam Olson. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Nelson, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

13.0 OPEN DISCUSSION ISSUES/OBSERVATIONS/QUESTIONS: Montgomery voiced his disappointment in the lack of participation by parents at High School orientation.

He inquired as to whether or not a Pep Club exists at the High School. Mrs. Countryman responded that the Pep Club was a pilot club last year.

Montgomery suggested that the Board of Education hold one of their meetings at the new KEC facility. Tyrrell requested an update on the 18-21 year old program.

Nelson felt that, in light of the technology presentation tonight, it is important that the appropriate infrastructure for this type of technology be built into the new building as well as the existing buildings. He recommended that a 3-5 year plan be developed and incorporated into the budget process to upgrade the existing buildings.

Dr. Riesen reported that the Southeast Ice Cream Social/Meet the Principal night will be held on Thursday, September 13th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Riesen informed the Board that he would be meeting with the architects to begin discussions regarding the middle school process. He also stated that he called Chuck Schwahn regarding the Strategic Design.

Dr. Riesen reviewed the tentative agenda for the Board's Retreat scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

Dr. Riesen commended Mrs. Countryman for her efforts regarding the flood victims. He noted that 80 students were displaced due to the flooding. Mrs. Countryman stated that the district was informed as soon as the families were evacuated. She applauded Kreg Wesley and Melinda Murphy for their outstanding efforts regarding the transportation of displaced students and Nancy Copple who worked with the ELL students that were affected by the flood.

14.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Lights for Athletic Fields, Redistricting

Executive Session for the Consideration of Matters Related to the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal or Personnel: Motion by Stanbery, seconded by Tyrrell, to go into executive session for the consideration of matters related to the appointment, employment, or dismissal of personnel. When the roll was called, the following members voted aye: Clayberg, King, Montgomery, Nelson, Stanbery, Tyrrell, and Dombek. AYES – 7; NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

In at 8:57 p.m. and out at 10:10 p.m.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT: Tyrrell moved, seconded by Montgomery, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted aye. The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Minutes approved (_____)

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education