

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196
AUGUST 10, 2015
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District No. 196 was held in the High School Library at 6:00 PM on Monday, August 10, 2015. The meeting was called to order by President Carroll Kelly.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Malinee called the roll with the following result:

Members Present: Acosta, Hicks, Kelly, Stacey

Members Absent: Gulley, Loucks, Robbins

Staff Present: J. Henry, J. Logsdon, N. Page, V. Malinee, B. Dilliner, S. White, S. Hicks, R. Schwartzkopf

Visitors Present: None

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Henry presented the following correspondence to the board members: thank you note from Mr. Choate, retiring HS Principal, and a letter from Regional Superintendent regarding the recent compliance visit.

Donald Robbins arrived at 6:09 PM.

REPORTS

SEA: No report.

LABORERS' LOCAL 773: No report.

CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Brandon Dilliner, Maintenance Supervisor, reported on the progress of projects (parking lot repair, new long jump runway on track, lighting project).

K-8 PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Logsdon, Elementary/JH Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust Fund, recent activities, and upcoming date and activities.

H.S. PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Page, High School Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, upcoming calendar entries, and 2015-2016 student

registration. She also informed the board members that the packets have been sent out for the annual high school business and individual solicitation program.

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Henry, Superintendent, presented the following information to the board:

1. The consent agenda for this month's meeting includes the following additional item(s):
 - a. Adoption of a certification of transportation safety hazard resolution;
 - b. Approval of the district's Section 125 plans;
 - c. Approval of revised board policies (final approval);
 - d. Approval & display of the district's tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2016;
 - e. Scheduling of a district budget hearing for September 14, 2015, at 5:55 PM (immediately prior to the regular board meeting).
2. School funding for Fiscal Year 2016 continues to remain uncertain, despite the enactment of the school budget bills in the Illinois General Assembly. Superintendent Henry indicated that he believes the district will continue to see a statewide budget stalemate, and, until that conflict is resolved, school funding will be uncertain for FY16. He stated that he is still concerned that, similar to Fiscal Year 2015, a mid-year, unilateral reduction in school funding is possible.
3. Board members received the tentative budget summary (green) as a part of the board packet. As a reminder, the tentative budget should be presented in August, put on public display for at least 30 days, adopted in September, and filed with the county clerks, regional superintendent, and ISBE prior to the end of September.

The current version of this year's tentative budget shows an overall deficit of \$1,009,135. The majority of the deficit is projected in the Education Fund (\$816,450). Superintendent Henry indicated that *while he was very concerned about this projected deficit, and believe the district will actually experience a significant deficit for Fiscal Year 2016, despite reasonable efforts to limit spending, it is encouraging that the district has significantly reduced projected expenses for Fiscal Year 2016. While there are still additional reductions that must be made, he believes the deliberate approach that was adopted last year remains the best course of action.* The current version of the tentative budget retains the previous assumption that the State of Illinois will make three (3) of the FY16 quarterly MCAT payments by June 30, 2016.

The budget represents an educated "guess" about the District's financial revenues and expenditures for the year, and should be viewed as a "work-in-progress" until the September adoption. Both the revenue side and expenditure side of the budget can experience unforeseeable reductions or increases that are not predictable. (The revenue side of the budget has been prepared using the assumption listed above, and the expense side of the budget has been prepared using a "worst-case scenario" assumption.)

As has been discussed for several years, officials at the Illinois State Board of Education who "rate" the financial health of school districts recommend that districts carry at least six (6) months of unencumbered cash in operating funds. Such a fund balance should help the

district to achieve the highest level of financial ranking available from ISBE, although the district's long-term indebtedness will have a marginal negative impact on such a rating. Based on the budget deficit projected for Fiscal Year 2016, Superintendent Henry expects the district's ISBE financial profile score to go down (much like what is happening in other Illinois school districts that are state aid-dependent).

4. As of mid-July, 2015, all Fiscal Year 2015 state mandated categorical payments (MCATs) have been paid to the school district. A Fiscal Year 2015 close-out expense report for the district's Teen REACH program was filed last week, and it is expected that this FY15 program will be wrapped up soon.
5. Superintendent Henry notified the board that it would need to consider a letter from a Franklin County assistant state's attorney regarding a recent student disciplinary case that was previously considered by the board. He indicated that he would slate that consideration of a student disciplinary case for the regular September, 2015, board meeting.
6. Superintendent Henry informed the board that the district's auditor, Doug Ess of Glass & Shuffett, Ltd., would be present at the regular September board meeting to present the FY15 district audit.
7. Superintendent Henry informed the board that he had recently received an unusual facility use request for the Sesser-Valier High School gym to be used for a benevolent fundraising professional wrestling event. He cautioned the board about opening access to the school's main facility, and about the school student behavior implications of hosting such an event at the school, especially among young boys. Board members expressed a general consensus that a more appropriate facility might be the Old Gym location. Superintendent Henry indicated that he would bring additional information to the regular September board meeting.
8. Superintendent Henry indicated that he and District Maintenance Supervisor Brandon Dilliner were talking with a professional audio/sound system company to determine what, if any, improvements might be made at the district's football complex. He indicated that he planned to use some of the proceeds of the RC contract to fund the project.
9. Superintendent Henry notified the board that Board Member Glenn Gulley was a proud new grandparent as of earlier in the day. Board members expressed their congratulations.
10. Superintendent Henry encouraged board members that, as the district begins a new school year, the board show support for district staff members, especially building principals, as they make decisions, sometimes unpopular ones, to operate the school.
11. Superintendent Henry complimented the district's custodial crew, including the summer student workers, for a job well-done in the summer cleaning & maintenance processes. He specifically noted that the custodial crew had 1) solved several minor problems as they went about some special projects and 2) sought excellence in their individual tasks and overall performance in preparing the buildings for school in 2015-2016. Board members also expressed their compliments and thanks.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Acosta approving the minutes of the previous meeting: July 13, 2015 (Regular Meeting); Treasurer's report; bills in the amount of \$94,331.34 and salaries in the amount of \$347,828.62; adoption of the certification of transportation safety hazard resolution; approval of district Section 125 plan(s); approval of revised board policies (final approval); approval and display of tentative district budget for Fiscal Year 2016; and scheduling of budget hearing for Fiscal Year 2016 (September 14, 2015 – 5:55 PM), as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Acosta, Hicks, Kelly, Robbins, Stacey

Nays: None

There being five (5) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS (PERSONNEL)

EMPLOYMENT OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SPONSOR (MORRIS, SAMMY): A motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Hicks to employ Sammy (Bauman) Morris as Junior High School Cheerleading Sponsor.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Hicks, Kelly, Robbins, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: None

There being five (5) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION (ROBERTS, ELIZABETH): A motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Robbins to acknowledge the following employee resignation:

- Aide (Special Education): Elizabeth Roberts (effective July 31, 2015)

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being five (5) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS/ TRANSFERS FOR 2015-2016: A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to transfer Leslie Hacker to a kindergarten teaching

position for the 2015-2016 school year. Discussion was held regarding the monitoring of federal regulations on special education and the placement of Mrs. Hacker's students to other classes.

Superintendent Henry indicated that he recommends not replacing a retired, special education aide at this time. He indicated that the Budget Deficit Reduction Plan called for a lay-off of a support staff member in Spring, 2016, therefore; that reduction could be done now through attrition. He reported that Mrs. Logsdon was working on different scenarios to redeploy staff members.

OTHER BUSINESS

Teresa Stacey asked for discussion regarding the number of days a substitute can work during the week. Superintendent Henry indicated that unless prior approval from Superintendent and Board (i.e.: maternity leave substitute) a substitute can work up to four (4) days per week.

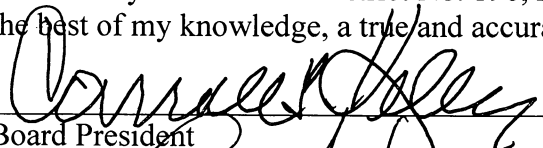
ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Robbins to adjourn.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being five (5) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

The above-listed account of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District No. 196, held on Monday, August 10, 2015 at 6:00 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.



Board President



Board Secretary