

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196  
JANUARY 8, 2024  
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, January 8, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Jason Sample.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Zimbrow called the roll with the following result:

Members Present: Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser, Packer, Sample, Spence

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, K. Jones, L. Zimbrow, K. Spotanski, T. Masters

Visitors Present: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**REPORTS**

SVEA: K. Spotanski highlighted the month's activities including the PTO's Sunshine Cart, sock hop and listed several teachers' involvement and activities with various clubs and class projects.

LABORERS' LOCAL 773: No report.

CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: No report.

K-8 PRINCIPAL: Mr. Jones, Elementary/JH Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, recent activities, and upcoming activities and events including JH sock hop and 8<sup>th</sup> grade nights for sports concluding seasons.

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

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):

- Approval/display of revised board policies (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)
- 2. Heartland Mechanical is currently working to prepare for the Summer, 2024, phase of the District's HVAC project. Equipment for the project is stored, and their sheet metal shop personnel are working to fabricate ductwork and other inside winter projects in an effort to start on-time as soon as school is out for 2023-2024.

We are currently experiencing some minor problems with the Phase I control system that we hope to remedy soon. Specifically, it appears that the main control panel is not "communicating" with the individual wall controls. Mr. Henry is confident that Heartland will get the problem solved.

- 3. The Board's policy committee is meeting immediately following the January regular board meeting to review/consider revisions for the January/February, 2024, policy cycle. Thirty-six (36) policies are slated for revisions, with some of those revisions technical in nature. Following the Committee's meeting, the policy revisions will be slated for final approval in February, 2024.
- 4. As of this writing, we are working to confirm some specific details regarding the District's commercial dishwasher temperature before engaging Lanz Drain Cleaning & Underground Solutions to reline the main drain lines (2) for the kitchen. Mr. Henry is hopeful that this permanent repair can be made later this week. The cost estimate to reline all 4" main kitchen drains is \$38,254. After the relining project is completed, some minor, above-floor re-piping of one garbage disposal drain is likely necessary (minor expense).

After this process is completed, we will seek to purchase a hydro-jet drain cleaning machine to keep on-hand in the event of another sewer backup. Once the kitchen drains are relined, a mechanical "snake"-type drain tool cannot be used in that area.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Lance and seconded by Spence approving the minutes of the previous meeting: December 11, 2023 (Regular Board Meeting); December 11, 2023 (Truth-in-Taxation Hearing); December 11, 2023 (Fire Prevention & Safety Tax Levy Public Hearing); Treasurer's report; the bills in the amount of \$188,861.61 and salaries in the amount of \$410,389.21; and approval and display of revised board policies (1st reading), as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas:           Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser, Packer, Sample, Spence

Nays:           None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

SUMMARY/REVIEW OF 2023 SESSER-VALIER HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT: Mrs. Page thanked all those that assisted with the 2023 Sesser-Valier Holiday Tournament and listed some changes that were made including the number of teams participating, concessions and hospitality rooms. Page provided comparisons of recent years, sharing profits/losses and mentioning that she will provide a more detailed breakdown once all funds and expenses have been calculated. Discussion followed on how decisions were made and communications between the athletic department and the participating teams.

STATUS OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES AND/OR DESTRUCTION OF CLOSED SESSION VERBATIM RECORD AUDIO RECORDINGS: MOTION TO KEEP ALL CLOSED SESSION MINUTES CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC: A motion was made by Menser and seconded by Packer to keep all closed session minutes closed to the public.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Garner and seconded by Spence to authorize the district superintendent to destroy the verbatim closed session records (audio recordings) for the following closed session meetings: February 14, 2022; March 14, 2022; April 19, 2022; May 9, 2022; June 13, 2022; June 27, 2022.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 6:55 PM, a motion was made by Menser and seconded by Kirk to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing the following exceptions to the Open Meetings Act:

- a) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-57)
- b) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning the salary schedules for one or more classes of employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2))

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Packer, Sample, Spence, Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 9:04 PM, a motion was made by Spence and seconded by Packer to reconvene from closed session.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

**PERSONNEL (NEW BUSINESS)**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION(S) AND/OR RETIREMENT(S) NOTICE(S): A motion was made by Lance and seconded by Garner to acknowledge the following employee resignation(s):

- HS English Teacher: John Shadowens (retirement effective December 31, 2026)
- Title I Reading Teacher: Pat Sample (retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year)

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Menser to adjourn.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 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, January 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.

  
Board President

  
Board Secretary