

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196
DECEMBER 14, 2020
6:00 PM**

Superintendent Henry read the following statements regarding the board meeting. This board meeting is being held remotely pursuant to Section 120/7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act [5 ILCS 120/7(e)] due to the state-wide COVID-19 disaster declaration issued by Governor Pritzker to ensure the health and safety of our community members, staff members and students. The head of the public body (superintendent) has determined that members of the public should not meet in-person during the board meeting because their attendance is not feasible due to the COVID-19 disaster declaration. The head of the public body (superintendent) has determined that members of the Sesser-Valier Board of Education shall be physically present in-person at the regular meeting location during the board meeting. The board of education has made alternative arrangements and has provided notice to the public on the school district's website describing how any interested member of the public may contemporaneously hear all discussion, testimony and roll call votes taken during the board meeting by offering a web-based link. The board of education will keep a verbatim record of all board meetings held remotely in the form of an audio recording. The recordings of open session meetings will be made available for public inspection.

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, December 14, 2020. The meeting was called to order by President Teresa Stacey.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Malinee called the roll with the following result:

Members Present: Acosta, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey

Members Absent: Hicks, Kettelman

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, K. Jones, V. Malinee, C. Garner (remote), J. Hollis (remote)

Visitors Present: None

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS

SEA: No report

LABORERS' LOCAL 773: No report.

CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Superintendent Henry presented the report in the absence of Brandon Dilliner, Maintenance Supervisor. He presented information regarding the parking lot project (substantially completed with one year warranty period), the 10 year Health Life Safety Survey (starting process), and bonding process started as district prepares for HVAC work and other areas to be addressed from survey.

K-8 PRINCIPAL: Mr. Jones, Elementary/JH Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, recent events/activities, upcoming activities, and the SAP (Student Assistance Program) Christmas report.

H.S. PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Page, High School Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, upcoming calendar entries, list of students receiving special achievements and awards, and the CAP/TAP Christmas report.

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 of a 2020-2021 Public School Calendar (amended)
- Approval of a resolution referencing disposition of obsolete equipment
- Approval of two FY21 seniority lists
- Approval of the 2020 tax levy resolutions

2. Following the board's adoption of the Tax Year 2020 levy this evening, the necessary documents will be filed in both Franklin & Jefferson Counties on or before the due date (last Tuesday of December; December 29, 2020).

3. The parking lot project is substantially complete, and final payment approval is included in this meeting's board bills. The project includes a one-year warranty period, and there are two areas that we will be monitoring during that time (cross-drive drainage tile and one section of asphalt).

This has been a very good project for the district, and those involved in it (Lunsford Architects and Samron Midwest) did a very good job.

4. Mr. Dilliner and Superintendent Henry are currently working with Lunsford Architects and their associates on the district's 10-Year Health/Life/Safety survey. At this time, it looks like our best plan is to do some HVAC work to achieve two goals: 1) Provide better control of the room/common area temperatures throughout the building; and 2) Reduce energy usage/electricity costs. Superintendent Henry also expects a few, very small health/life/safety projects as part of the 10-year survey.

In tandem to that work, he has started working with the district's bonding agents, Stifel, to make prudent preparation for funding a fairly large project like HVAC work. The district

will retire all of its outstanding bonds during next calendar year, and the time to start looking toward the next bonding action is now. He expects to be able to provide a project cost estimate and preliminary bond sale information in Spring, 2021.

5. One (1) recent Freedom of Information Act request and the district's response to it was presented to the board.

Superintendent Henry discussed recent principals' meetings with staff members, at which he asked early elementary staff members to start thinking about if/how the District could safely handle bringing K-2 students back into school in-person more frequently. He indicated that, while he wants to keep that goal in view, he doesn't envision it happening until the COVID-19 surges in the region diminish, with a goal of reviewing this item again in mid-January, 2021.

Superintendent Henry wanted to express a huge thank you to the Franklin-Jefferson County Special Education office for providing counselors on such short notice during the recent tragedy of the loss of one of S-V's students. He also wanted to thank the Ministerial Alliance for working to provide support for the staff and students. He informed the board that Erin Basso, Counselor at Carterville High School, contacted him and offered to be available to our staff and students, as well. Superintendent Henry stated that he could not have been more proud of how everyone involved handled the situation. They all did an unbelievable job in dealing with students and serving/helping each other. We all will be placing the focus on how we can serve the family over the weeks and months to come.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Loucks approving the minutes of the previous meeting: November 9, 2020 (Regular Board Meeting); Treasurer's report; bills in the amount of \$220,637.05 and salaries in the amount of \$350,860.59; approval of 2020-2021 Public School Calendar (amended); adoption of a resolution referencing disposition of obsolete school equipment; approval of licensed staff seniority list; approval of educational support personnel seniority list; adoption of resolution authorizing final aggregate tax levy for year 2020; adoption of resolution authorizing tax levy for fire prevention, safety, energy conservation, disabled accessibility, school security and specified repair purposes for year 2020; adoption of a resolution authorizing tax levy for tort immunity for year 2020; and adoption of a resolution authorizing tax levy for special education purposes for year 2020, as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Acosta, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey

Nays: None

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

NEW BUSINESS

AUTHORIZATION FOR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT TO ADJUST INDIVIDUAL FUND LEVIES, NOT TO EXCEED BOARD-APPROVED AGGREGATE TAX LEVY FOR 2020: A

motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Rounds to authorize the District Superintendent to adjust individual fund levies, not to exceed the Board-approved aggregate tax levy for 2020.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: None

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

CLOSED SESSION: At 6:30 PM, a motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Rounds 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: Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: None

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

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 7:00 PM, a motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Rounds to reconvene from closed session.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: None

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

PERSONNEL

EMPLOYMENT OF DISTRICT CUSTODIAN (HARMON, NATHAN): A motion was made by Loucks and seconded by Acosta to employ Nathan Harmon as a district custodian, subject to his successful completion of a fingerprint-based criminal background check.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta, Loucks

Nays: None

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

APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH SESSER-VALIER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: A motion was made by Schoenbaechler and seconded by Rounds to approve a memorandum of agreement with the Sesser-Valier Education Association, as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta, Loucks, Rounds

Nays: None

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION(S)/RETIREMENT(S): A motion was made by Schoenbaechler and seconded by Loucks to acknowledge the following employee resignation(s) and/or retirement(s):

- HS Family & Consumer Science Teacher: Lisa Trail (retirement effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year)
- School Office Secretary: Autumn Erwin (effective December 18, 2020)
- Special Education Classroom Aide (Certified): Maria Redding (effective December 21, 2020)

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Stacey, Acosta, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler

Nays: None

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

POSTING OF POSITION(S): A motion was made by Loucks and seconded by Rounds post the following positions:

- Elementary Classroom Teacher
- High School English Teacher

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: None

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

President Stacey appointed Vera Malinee as board recording secretary in the absence of Roger Hicks, Board Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Rounds and seconded by Schoenbaechler to adjourn.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta

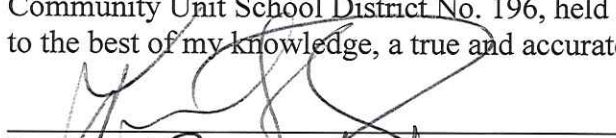
Nays: None

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 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, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.



Board President



Board Secretary