

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196  
FEBRUARY 8, 2021  
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, February 8, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President Teresa Stacey.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Malinee called the roll with the following result:

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

Members Absent: Ketteman

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, V. Malinee, B. Dilliner, C. Marlo, C. Garner

Visitors Present: See Sheet

**PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence presented.

President Stacey asked for any public comments. Michael Miller, Lori Miller, Mallory Howell, and Kendra Alexandra addressed the board regarding the request to have all students be able to return to school at least 4 days per week. The issues that were brought before the board included the number of students failing, the mental health and development of S-V students, CDC coming out with new guidelines, asking board to prioritize in-person instruction and foregoing the 6' social distancing mandate or to come up with a plan of the return to in-person instruction, asking board to research the positivity rate and statistics for our area, RTI (important extra help for students, but difficult for parents to get children back to school for an hour) and asking how the board can allow sports to start when in-person instruction is still following the 6' social distancing guideline.

**REPORTS**

SVEA: Craig Garner, SVEA President, reported that a lot of teachers have been getting their vaccines with several scheduled to have second shot in a few weeks.

LABORERS' LOCAL 773: No report.

CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Brandon Dilliner, Maintenance Supervisor, presented information on an upcoming meeting with Boyt Engineering and the district architect regarding the HVAC project, the pesticide licensing training and asbestos training, and readiness for the approaching winter storm.

K-8 PRINCIPAL: Mr. Jones, Elementary/Junior High Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, recent activities/news, upcoming activities, and state testing information. President Stacey asked Mr. Jones about the return of the K-2 students and how it was going. Mr. Jones reported that the transition went pretty well overall, but he indicated that he felt it was putting a strain on the kitchen staff.

H.S. PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Page, HS Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, upcoming activities, FCCLA activities, Art students' achievements, Scholar Bowl team achievements, and past events. Mrs. Page indicated that she has been researching a question from last month (how S-V High School can change report card designation to exemplary), and she will continue to research. Mrs. Page then updated the board regarding the status of the dual credit opportunities through Rend Lake College (after conversation with Margo Waggoner from RLC, two teachers fell into the academic category to teach dual credit classes and their transcripts were sent for review).

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 revised board policies (final approval)
2. Mr. Dilliner and Superintendent Henry are scheduled to meet with Mechanical Engineer Ben Boyt and District Architect Paul Lunsford on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, to review the current status of their findings regarding a possible HVAC remodeling project. It appears that this project would need to be completed in 3-4 phases during the summer months (when school is out-of-session). We are hoping to have rough budget estimates soon so that both project financing and project planning can begin (budget is expected to be ~\$2.5 million (combination of cash-on-hand and bonding)).
3. During Fiscal Year 2021, the Illinois State Board of Education required special education cooperatives and their member school districts to substantially change how federal IDEA grant monies were distributed and forwarded to the special education cooperatives. As a result, ISBE is now requiring those entities to formulate an agreement about how to "close-out" any previous years' grant carryover funds. It is Superintendent Henry's understanding that Franklin-Jefferson Special Education Cooperative #801 will be proposing such an agreement soon, and he is planning to recommend approval of that agreement at the regular March meeting. This action should complete the IDEA grant transition process for both FJSPED #801 and SV196.
4. One (1) recent Freedom of Information Act request and the district's response to it was presented to the board.

5. As of February 8, 2021, the following Fiscal Year 2021 payments are due & payable to the school district:

<b>Categorical Payments</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>Voucher Date</b>	<b>Regular Payment Date</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>
<b>Transportation: Regular</b>	\$60,080.18	9/28/2020	9/30/2020	10/21/2020
	\$60,282.64	12/28/2020	12/30/2020	1/22/2021
	\$60,282.64		3/30/2021	
	\$60,282.64		6/20/2021	
<b>Transportation: Special Education</b>	\$17,801.75	9/28/2020	9/30/2020	10/21/2020
	\$17,111.99	12/28/2020	12/30/2020	1/22/2021
	\$17,111.99		3/30/2021	
	\$17,111.98		6/20/2021	
<b>Driver Education</b>	\$1,832.44	9/28/2020	9/30/2020	
	\$1,832.44	12/28/2020	12/30/2020	
	\$1,832.44		3/30/2021	
	\$1,832.44		6/20/2021	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$317,395.57</b>			

Total payments to date: **\$155,276.56** (97.69% of payments due-to-date for FY21)

**Grand Total of Outstanding Fiscal Year 2021 State Payments (FY20 Claims; All 4 Quarters): \$162,119.01**

Superintendent Henry presented the Current Status of School Reopening Planning (as of February 8, 2021) as follows:

### **3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Re-entry Planning**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade re-entry maintaining 6-feet of social distance with an overflow area including live-streaming appears that it *might be possible* as soon as Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade re-entry maintaining 6-feet of social distance *may be possible* as soon as Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Additional, temporary substitute aide(s) and/or cook(s) may be needed to supervise students in overflow area(s) and help with breakfast/lunch preparation & distribution

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Re-entry Planning**

- Initial discussions & analysis have begun
- Supervised overflow area with live-streaming will be necessary
- More planning/configuration work is set for Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

### **HS Seniors Re-entry Planning**

- Mrs. Page is currently planning toward bringing SVHS seniors back into in-person attendance in mid-to-late March
- An overflow area may be needed



- Helps to bring closure for seniors
- Idea came from a HS teacher

### **Staff Vaccination Progress**

- On Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, ISBE asked school districts to collect information regarding the status of staff vaccinations. Data collection in the District began that same evening (due to ISBE by noon on February 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- As of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 76 staff members had responded to a survey designed to determine the status/progress of vaccination with the following results:
  - 39 staff members (51.3% of respondents) indicated that they have already or plan to take the vaccination
  - 35 staff members will have completed their first shot by mid-March
  - 28 staff members will have completed their second shot by mid-March
  - 26 staff members (34.2% of respondents) are undecided about taking the vaccination
  - 6 staff members (7.9% of respondents) indicated that they are not planning to take the vaccination
  - 33 staff members indicated that they are taking the Moderna vaccine (28-day interval)
- ***It appears that SV196 staff members will have had a reasonable opportunity to be vaccinated (2-shot series) and have developed antibodies by late-March***

Kathy Schoenbaechler asked about the status on the backordered computers. Superintendent Henry explained that they are still on back order. He also presented information on another grant that has been approved and will be used to purchase additional technology devices.

Megan Rounds addressed the board asking the other board members to consider foregoing the 6' social distancing and returning students to at least four days in-person instruction. Discussion followed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Loucks and seconded by Acosta approving the minutes of the previous meetings: January 11, 2021 (Regular Meeting), January 11, 2021 (Policy Committee Meeting) and January 28, 2021 (Special Meeting); Treasurer's report; the bills in the amount of \$72,467.83 and salaries in the amount of \$348,042.52; and approval of the revised board policies (final approval), as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Acosta, Hicks, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey

Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER DUAL-CREDIT COURSES IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH EDUCATION, & MATHEMATICS:** The Board received a report from S-V High School Principal Natalie Page and indicated its desire to revisit this issue as new information becomes available. No action was taken.

**MODIFICATION OF IN-PERSON STUDENT ATTENDANCE/ACTIVITY OPTIONS FOR DISTRICT STUDENTS DURING 2020-2021:** Megan Rounds asked the board to forego the 6' social distancing and return S-V students to at least 4 days in-person instruction per week. Discussion followed regarding the school reopening plan presented by Superintendent Henry, the difference between following 6' social distancing in the classroom and not in sports, the possibility of new guidance from the CDC, allowing students the option to continue or begin remote learning, and the possibility of parent survey. A motion was made by Rounds and seconded by Schoenbaechler to forego the 6' social distancing rule and begin the process to return students to school in-person at least four (4) days per week.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas:                Rounds, Schoenbaechler

Nays:                Hicks, Loucks, Stacey, Acosta

There being two (2) yeas and four (4) nays, the president declared that the motion failed.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 7:07 PM, a motion was made by Rounds and seconded by Loucks 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 schedule 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, Hicks

Nays:                None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 7:28 PM, a motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Rounds to reconvene from closed session.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta, Hicks, Loucks

Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

## **PERSONNEL**

EMPLOYMENT OF ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM TEACHER (MASSIE, OLIVIA): A motion was made by Schoenbaechler and seconded by Rounds to employ Olivia Massie as an elementary classroom teacher, subject to her successful completion of a required, fingerprint-based criminal background check and presentation of an active Illinois Professional Educator License applicable for the position.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta, Hicks

Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER (MOORE, SUSANNAH): A motion was made by Loucks and seconded by Acosta to employ Susannah Moore as a high school English teacher, subject to her successful completion of a required, fingerprint-based criminal background check and presentation of an active Illinois Professional Educator License applicable for the position.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta, Hicks, Loucks

Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT COACH(ES) AND/OR SPONSOR(S): A motion was made by Rounds and seconded by Loucks to approve the following volunteer assistant coach(es) and/or sponsor(s):

- JHS Girls' Basketball: Dustin Payne

Roll call voting was as follows:



Yeas: Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta, Hicks, Loucks, Rounds

Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT(S):** A motion was made by Loucks and seconded by Acosta to approve a Principal Employment Contract for James Keith Jones, as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Stacey, Acosta, Hicks, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler

Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT(S):** A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Loucks to approve a Principal Employment Contract for Natalie Page, as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Hicks, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

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

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Stacey, Acosta, Hicks, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler

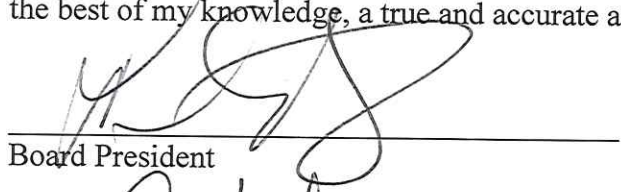
Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 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, February 8, 2021, at 6:00 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.

  
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Board President

  
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Board Secretary