

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196
NOVEMBER 9, 2020
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 Commons at 6:00 PM on Monday, November 9, 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 (by telephone), Hicks, Kettelman, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, K. Jones, V. Malinee, B. Dilliner, C. Garner, M. Garner, A. Bartoni, P. Sample, B. Harland, D. Laur, T. Masters, S. Hicks, S. Garner, M. Sample

Visitors Present: See attached sign-in sheet

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Stacey welcomed the visitors and indicated that the ones that signed up to address the board can do so during this section of the board meeting. She called each name on the list individually to address the board. Several visitors addressed the board regarding the blended schedule and surveys that were sent to parents and employees. Comments and concerns presented included the blended schedule not being adequate for their child's education; wanting to know obstacles that are keeping board from bringing students back to at least four days per week; maximizing all available space to help increase days of in-person instruction; why elementary teachers were not all live-streaming; helping teachers and students connect; early elementary not being able to utilize Teen REACH tutoring opportunity; possibly extending the hours each day (two more hours in attendance); asking for ideas to expand in-person learning; asking status of making technology available to students (devices and internet); status on basketball; possibility of S-V offering waivers for students to attend another school, if blended schedule continues; and ideas for combating the increased failure rate.

Superintendent Henry outlined the answers to parent questions raised during public comment, as follows:

- Chromebooks funded by the Digital Equity Formula grant have been ordered, but are currently backordered until December. The same grant also has a set-aside amount for purchase of wireless hotspots.
- The District has provided outdoor wireless access points on the school campus and has partnered with local organizations (churches, restaurant) to make wireless internet access available.
- The District has also resumed Response-to-Intervention activities to assist students who are behind on their work. The Teen REACH after-school program has also modified its hours in an attempt to increase student participation.

In response to a specific parent inquiry, Superintendent Henry indicated that he was not aware of an Illinois law or rule that would permit a school district to issue a waiver for a resident student to attend another school district for increased instructional time or more in-person attendance. He asked the parent to provide a statutory reference or administrative rule that would permit such a process and indicated that he would review it when provided.

President Stacey thanked the visitors for their comments and concerns. She assured them that their concerns would be taken into consideration.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS

SEA: SVEA President, Craig Garner, thanked the board for allowing selected members to address them in closed session regarding a recent SVEA proposal.

LABORERS' LOCAL 773: Laborers' Local 773 Representative, Sandy Hicks, addressed the visitors' comments regarding the employee survey. She indicated that the support staff are working hard to help make sure the students are safe and fed.

CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Brandon Dilliner, Maintenance Supervisor, presented information regarding the 10-year Life-Safety Survey (district architect will get process started) and on the parking lot project (few items on punch list to be completed).

K-8 PRINCIPAL: Mr. Jones, Elementary/JH Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, recent events/activities, and upcoming activities.

H.S. PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Page, High School Principal, presented the high school information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, upcoming calendar entries, recent activities, and congratulations for student achievements.

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

1. The results of the recent board surveys of staff and parents regarding COVID-19 instructional models were presented. Twenty-nine (29) staff members and 289 parents responded to the surveys, which included similar questions. Superintendent Henry stated that

Mr. Jones, Mrs. Page, and he will be happy to answer any board member questions regarding the surveys/results.

2. Information regarding the 2020 tax levy, including the adoption of the tentative tax levy resolution for 2020, was presented to the board. Superintendent Henry strongly encouraged the board to utilize the following five (5) guiding principles (as the board has discussed in detail in the last 13 years), as the tax levy for 2020 is being considered. :

- Realization that the levy is based on unknown (projected) property values;
- Realization that this year's levy represents next (fiscal) year's local revenue;
- Realization that each year's levy impacts all future years' levies;
- The need of the board to determine the appropriate balance between the fiscal responsibility (Are we levying enough to meet budgetary needs?) and fiscal excess (Are we levying too much to meet budgetary needs?); and
- An understanding of the impact of the board's property tax levy on the district's property tax rate (a part of the overall rate for property tax payers in the district).

Please refer to two (2) property tax levy handouts (chart packet & presentation packet) as needed.

3. On Monday, November 2, 2020, District Architect Paul Lunsford completed a final walkthrough/inspection of the parking lot project. He identified 2-3 items that remained incomplete or unacceptable and is in the process of working with the contractor, Samron Midwest, to get those items completed/corrected as soon as possible so that the project can be closed-out and final payment can be issued.

This has been a very good project for the District, and Samron Midwest has done a very good job. Superintendent Henry expects that this project will serve the District well for many years to come.

4. Copies of the two (2) recent Freedom of Information Act requests and the district's response to both were presented to the board.

Superintendent Henry updated the board about the current disagreement between IDPH/Governor's Office and the IHSA regarding basketball. He indicated that the district has received an e-mail from its liability insurance agent notifying the district that it may not have liability coverage if it moves forward with playing basketball. At this time, he said, basketball is "on-hold." He also notified the board that the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association has suspended basketball until later in the school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Ketteman and seconded by Schoenbaechler approving the minutes of the previous meeting: October 13, 2020 (Regular Board Meeting); Treasurer's report; bills in the amount of \$221,757.55 and salaries in the amount of \$353,765.59, as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

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

Nays: None

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE TAX LEVY RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Kettelman and seconded by Loucks to approve a Resolution Regarding Estimated Amounts Necessary to be Levied for the Year 2020 (Tentative Tax Levy), as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

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

Nays: None

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

CLOSED SESSION: At 7:20 PM, a motion was made by Schoenbaechler 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: Kettelman, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey, Acosta, Hicks

Nays: None

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

Roger Hicks left at 8:40 PM.

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 9:33 PM, a motion was made by Loucks and seconded by Kettelman to reconvene from closed session.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. 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 Acosta and seconded by Kettelman to adjourn.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 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, November 9, 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

Roger Nicks