

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196
OCTOBER 13, 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 Library at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, October 13, 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, Hicks, Kettelman, Loucks, Rounds, Schoenbaechler, Stacey

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, K. Jones, V. Malinee, B. Dilliner, C. Garner, T. Masters, B. Harland, R. Payne, S. Hicks, L. Miller, D. Laur, B. Williams

Visitors Present: Several visitors – see sign in list

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence reported. President Stacey asked for any public comment. Several parents addressed the board members regarding the current blended schedule. The issues presented included their concerns about remote learning (felt the students were struggling; were getting behind; causing stress and frustration for all family members; long term effect academically and emotionally on their children; mental health issues stemming from absence from school). Several visitors asked the board to consider changing the schedule and bringing the students back to 4 or 5 days per week; some asked for consideration to extend the days and/or hours of in-person instruction; several asked for a parent survey to be sent to find out the number of parents willing to forego the 6' social distancing regulation in order to get their children back to in-person instruction; several asked why Sesser-Valier School is continuing blended schedule when so many area schools are going full schedule or almost full schedule. Discussion regarding the possible consequences of foregoing the CDC guidelines for social distancing (when a student tests positive several more students, along with possibility of several teachers, having to quarantine; a student that is exposed to COVID in the school setting possibly exposing family members with health issues; possibility of having to go to full remote instruction for whole district with little or no notice). Questions were asked regarding the failure rate on the blended schedule and if there is a possibility of expanding in-person instruction and offering remote to those that want to continue.

REPORTS

SEA: No report.

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, upcoming activities, and 30 day enrollment.

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

Samantha Kettelman asked if having a Homecoming was being considered. Mrs. Page indicated that the Homecoming events are on hold at this time with the possibility of having activities during basketball season.

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 the annual library program media evaluation
 - Conditional approval of FY21 field trip requests (dependent upon COVID-19 situation)
2. Samron Midwest Contracting moved on-site and began repair/completion work on Monday, October 12, 2020, and should be mostly finished by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 (the time window that we offered them to work with the least disruption). Once their work is complete, the district's architect will work through the final list of outstanding items ("punch-list") with Samron to get the project wrapped up.

This has been a very good project for the school district and Samron, and Superintendent Henry believes that this work/project will serve the district well for many years to come.
3. The district has received and accepted a federal grant award to update safety and security features in and around the school campus. The U.S. Department of Justice COPS School Violence Prevention Program grant is a \$90,000+, 3-year project that will provide funding (75%) for installation of an interior antenna/booster system for cellular phone service, new intercom systems at both ends of the main building, and security camera additions at the main campus, VFW ball field, and Old Gym location. At this time, Mr. Dilliner has begun work on these projects (starting with the cellular phone system booster), and Superintendent Henry expects that most of this work will be completed by the end of Summer, 2021.
4. COVID-19 Updates
 - ISBE has not revised its guidance to schools since the last board report.
 - IDPH has slightly modified its school exclusion guidance, but has not changed its positions on mask-wearing, space limitations, and social distancing.

- An October 5, 2020, Associated Press story reported that the CDC has updated its guidance to indicate that COVID-19 can spread more than 6 feet through the air.
- At this time, SV196 is continuing to provide instruction using a blended model until such time that IDPH/ISBE/CDC guidelines change in such a way that would allow us to provide more in-person instruction.
- Right now, it looks like we will be operating on an unusual school schedule for the foreseeable future. As a result, as school improvement days arise along the way, we will attempt to schedule those on Wednesdays (full remote learning day) to help parents navigate childcare issues.
- The Teen REACH program has restarted on a limited basis (from 3:30 PM-5:30 PM) and is exploring the possibility of expanding its reach through a modification of starting/ending times to make pick-up more convenient for parents. Superintendent Hnery is hoping that this change can be made before the first of November.

5. The following newsletter(s) and/or report(s) was presented to the board for review:

- Illinois School News Service (October 13, 2020)

Superintendent Henry also explained the idea of "close contact" as it relates to COVID-19 and the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines regarding school exclusion (when social distancing is greater than or equal to 6 feet vs. less than 6 feet). He answered a parent's previous question regarding the District's applications for pandemic-related grants, including a Fall, 2020, application for grant funding to support the purchase of Chromebooks (currently backordered). He updated the board regarding a school district partnership with local churches/businesses that are willing to allow students to utilize free WiFi at those locations, and he explained the purpose and involvement of the District's COVID-19 Planning Team (advisory group to superintendent/principals since March 13, 2020).

SVEA President Craig Garner addressed the board regarding teachers having to use accumulated sick leave in the event of quarantine(s), and requested that the board consider 1) granting additional sick leave days for quarantine periods that exceed federally-mandated emergency paid sick leave; and/or 2) allowing teachers who are able to teach-from-home in lieu of using regular sick leave.

Superintendent Henry indicated that he would address some of the questions and concerns that were discussed earlier. He indicated first that there is no one in the school district that likes the schedule. This was a very difficult decision, and it is not a perfect or "right" answer, but everyone in the district is doing the best they can. He stated that a common theme with every person sitting in this room is that all care about our kids. Several parents asked that a parent survey be sent out. A discussion regarding a possible survey of parents and staff resulted in a board consensus to conduct both surveys.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Schoenbaechler and seconded by Kettelman approving the minutes of the previous meeting: September 14, 2020 (Regular Meeting); Treasurer's report; bills in the amount of \$91,572.66 and salaries in the amount of \$350,522.23; and approval of library

program media evaluation; and conditional approval of 2020-2021 out-of-state and/or overnight field trip requests (Sesser-Valier Elementary/Junior High School; Sesser-Valier High School; Teen REACH Program), 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

CLOSED SESSION: At 8:26 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: 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.

Roger Hicks left at 8:46 PM.

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 9:13 PM, a motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Schoenbaechler 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.

PERSONNEL

APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER EXTRACURRICULAR COACH(ES) AND/OR SPONSOR(S): A motion was made by Schoenbaechler and seconded by Kettelman to approve the following volunteer extracurricular coach(es) and/or sponsor(s):

- HS Boys' Basketball: Marcus Clarry, John Shadowens, Luke Thompson
- JHS Boys' Basketball: Jamie Lance
- JHS Girls' Basketball: Kevin DeLatour & Zach Rounds

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

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATION OF IASB MASTER BOARD MEMBER (LEVEL 1) AWARD: Superintendent Henry presented Kathy Schoenbaechler with the IASB Master Board Member (Level 1) Award. He explained that Mrs. Schoenbaechler completed the Master Member Series through IASB.

President Stacey asked for any other discussion on survey. She directed Superintendent Henry to send out survey to staff, then to parents, as discussed. She also indicated that if needed, a special board meeting may be scheduled.

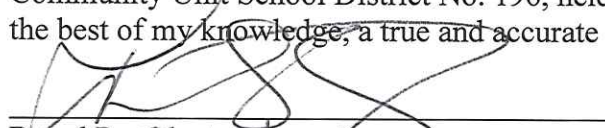
ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Kettelman to adjourn.

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 9:16 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 Tuesday, October 13, 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