

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196  
AUGUST 9, 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, August 9, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President Megan Rounds.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Malinee called the roll with the following result:

Members Present: Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, K. Jones, V. Malinee, B. Dilliner, L. Zimbrow, T. Masters, R. Payne, K. Spotanski, S. Garner, S. White

Visitors Present: See attached list

**PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE**

President Rounds asked for any public comment. Rachel Towers asked for district's status on the sex education curriculum currently in legislation. Superintendent Henry responded that he did not see the curriculum being adopted this year, and the initial reports indicate that the curriculum is not reflective of the community. April Baxter asked for status on district's intentions regarding mask wearing and full remote. Superintendent Henry answered that discussion is forthcoming during the meeting, and he would be glad to call her and talk to her about this issue. Mary Threewitt asked for district's intent regarding serving lunches and mask wearing. Superintendent Henry indicated that these issues would be discussed during the meeting.

**REPORTS**

SVEA: SVEA President Rachel Payne presented information regarding faculty involvement in the community and introduced the newly elected officers of the union (see attached).

LABORERS' LOCAL 773: No report.

CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Brandon Dilliner, Maintenance Supervisor, reported on the progress of elementary retaining wall and sidewalk entry way project (almost completed).

K-8 PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Page, High School Principal, in the absence of Mr. Jones, Elementary/Junior High Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust Fund, upcoming activities/dates, recent events/activities, and she indicated the enrollment data will be presented at the September board meeting.

H.S. PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Page, High School Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, upcoming calendar entries, and the annual high school business and individual solicitation program.

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):

- Authorization for the District Superintendent to approve a facility-use request (SV Rising Stars Youth Basketball Program) as needed
- Authorization for the District Superintendent to execute a dual-credit agreement (Rend Lake College)
- Authorization for the District Superintendent or designee to execute the 2021-2022 Section 125 plan(s)
- Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Regional Office of Education #21 regarding tuition-based, alternative school services and authorization for the District Superintendent or designee to execute the MOU
- Adoption of a certification of transportation safety hazard resolution
- Approval of revised board policies (final approval)
- Approval & display of the tentative district budget for FY22
- Scheduling of a budget hearing for FY22 for Monday, September 13, 2021, at 5:55 PM

2. The tentative initial budget for FY22 is slated for initial approval at this meeting. Final approval will be slated for the Board's September 13, 2021, regular meeting following a public hearing that same night.

As usual, the initial budget is prepared using two guiding principles: 1) under-estimate revenue; and 2) over-estimate expenses. In May/June, 2022, these estimates will be adjusted to closely reflect what has actually happened in FY22 and formalized in a budget amendment.

Over the next month or so, both the revenue and expenses will be adjusted as FY22 estimates become clearer and report the final numbers prior to September, 2021, final approval.

3. The Illinois State Board of Education opened the ESSER III grant application system in mid-July. Superintendent Henry is currently working on the grant application and should be able to submit it in early September. The ESSER III grant has several, additional requirements compared to the previous ESSER grants, but, based on anecdotal information shared among superintendents, ISBE is approving these grants quickly after submission. He is planning to submit this grant application in mid-September.



4. As of this writing, the District has fourteen (14) student privacy/data agreements with technology vendors out of a possible seventeen (17) companies. Those agreements were made possible through our partnership with the Illinois Student Privacy Alliance (ISPA), a service provided through our Learning Technology Center (LTC). ISPA has coordinated/facilitated agreements with hundreds of technology vendors and has developed a “piggy-back” agreement attachment that allows Illinois school districts to meet the requirement through that attachment. (The Alliance continues to work to obtain an agreement with Google.)
5. As of Friday, August 6, 2021, the HVAC remodeling project is progressing on-schedule. Mechanical Engineer Ben Boyt indicated (via phone call) that the building load calculations are almost complete and the ductwork design for the elementary school wing of the building is currently in-progress. Mr. Boyt has requested equipment information from manufacturers, and expects to receive that information soon. He said that the project is on-time (maybe a little ahead of schedule), and that we should be able to issue a request for bids as expected this winter.
6. A copy of the following report(s)/newsletter(s) is attached for board review:
  - Illinois School News Service (August 9<sup>th</sup>)

Superintendent Henry notified the Board that he expected to receive a notice from ISBE at any time regarding the availability of the Seamless Summer Option lunch program for 2021-2022. When that notice is received, the District will apply for the program and notify parents of modifications to lunch pricing (SSO allows all students to receive a free lunch).

Superintendent Henry reported that the District has partnered with the Illinois State Police on its Back-to-School Safe Driving campaign, and that partnership would be formally announced at a joint press conference on Tuesday, August 10th.

Superintendent Henry presented the proposed Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan and answered board members' questions regarding the draft.

Superintendent Henry asked for questions from the board. Board member, John Spence asked for discussion regarding the required mask mandate and possible waivers and/or changing to mask-option policy. Discussion followed regarding the mask mandate. Board member, Megan Rounds asked for discussion regarding how the board can support teachers if they are going to have to balance remote and in-person instruction. Discussion followed regarding the remote learning option this school year and how the district plans to handle short term absences and students that are unable to attend due to medical reasons (treat as homebound and handle as the district has in the past). Superintendent Henry indicated that an on-going conversation is being held with the SVEA and Laborers' Local 773 regarding this issue and others. He indicated that a team of employees is working on wellness type activities to help support faculty and staff.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey approving the minutes of the previous meetings: July 12, 2021 (Regular Meeting), July 12, 2021 (Policy Committee meeting); Treasurer's report; bills in the amount of \$224,044.70 and salaries in the amount of \$322,243.61; authorization for District Superintendent to approve a facility-use request (SV Rising Stars Youth Basketball Program) as needed; authorization for District Superintendent to execute dual credit agreement (Rend Lake College); authorization for District Superintendent or designee to execute 2021-2022 Section 125 plan(s); approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Regional Office of Education #21 regarding tuition-based, alternative school services and authorization for District Superintendent or designee to execute MOU; adoption of the certification of transportation safety hazard resolution; approval of revised board policies (final approval); approval and display of tentative district budget for Fiscal Year 2022; and scheduling of budget hearing for Fiscal Year 2022 (September 13, 2021 – 5:55 PM), as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey

Nays: None

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF DISTRICT SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN:** A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to approve the district's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan, as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Barry, Menser, Rounds, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: Sample, Spence

There being five (5) yeas and two (2) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 7:08 PM, a motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Menser 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)

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey, Acosta, Barry

Nays: None

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

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 7:32 PM, a motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Menser to reconvene from closed session.

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

#### **PERSONNEL (NEW BUSINESS)**

APPROVAL OF SALARY/BENEFITS FOR DISTRICT SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER: A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Acosta to approve the District Secretary/Bookkeeper Salary/Benefits & Terms of Employment for Leigha Zimbardo, as presented, retroactive to August 2, 2021.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Sample, Spence, Stacey, Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds

Nays: None

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION(S): A motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Menser to acknowledge the following employee resignation(s):

- Cook: Lisa Stanley (effective August 2, 2021)

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

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion was held regarding how to encourage parents and community members to contact legislators regarding changes to the mandates. A question was asked regarding how employees' absence days, related to COVID, will be handled. Superintendent Henry indicated that discussion between district and bargaining units will be held to determine this issue, based on case-by-case specific facts.


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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 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, August 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.

  
Board President

  
Board Secretary