

SOUTHWESTERN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
November 10, 2010

Members present: Michael Burbrink, Jerry Drake, Jerry Erwin, Linda Isgrigg, David Rush, Misty Tennell and Joanna Yeend

President Jerry Drake called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m. He led the pledge to the United States Flag.

Public Comments

Angie Hamilton, Elementary Teacher, wanted to thank the few board members that had attended the celebration staff meeting. She said this act something so small goes a long way. It shows that the School Board believes in them. She noted great things are happening at Southwestern and she thanked them for believing in them. Mr. Drake also thanked the teachers for their hard work.

Consent Items & Claims

A. Minutes of previous meetings

Mr. Burbrink moved and Mrs. Yeend seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Carried 7-0

B. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers

Mrs. Isgrigg moved and Mrs. Yeend seconded the motion to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented. Carried 7-0

Business & Financial Reports

A. Financial Report

Mrs. Rooks updated the board on the current financial status. She has been contacting area banks to discuss their rates and fees. She is still continuing to work towards changing banks. She also informed everyone that the biannual audit is about to begin. The auditor will be here any day and if anyone has any questions for them they can feel free to stop by and talk to them.

B. Extra Curricular & Cafeteria Account Reports

Dr. Sargent informed the Board that the reports were not available tonight. He did not receive them from Mrs. Taylor this month.

Consideration of Old Business

A. Request from SWHS Athletic Department for approval to tile the Softball field. Mr. Ralston presented an updated quote for the tile work. Following discussion, Mrs. Yeend moved and Mr. Erwin seconded to go ahead with the tile work and make the payment after the first of the year when the monies are available. Carried 7-0

B. Approval of Board Goals for Southwestern Consolidated Schools

Dr. Sargent read the goals per the request of Board Member, Mike Burbrink. These goals were reviewed on October 4, 2010 by the Board. Mr. Burbrink moved and Mrs. Isgrigg seconded to approve the goals as presented. Carried 7-0

New Business

A. Review of Policy

Dr. Sargent explained that every month they will bring a few of the Board policies to the meetings to review and update if necessary. This will get our policy manual up to date and compliant. He went over the Staff Involvement in Decision-making, Non-discrimination Policy, and Non-discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Civil Rights Non-discrimination Grievance Procedure, and Sexual Harassment policies. Mr. Harrold, School Attorney, has reviewed these and noted that these policies are required by law. Mr. Harrold noted that these policies are federally mandated and they affect the district funding.

We can add to the language but we cannot do away with any of these discussed tonight. He also suggested assigning numbers to the policies for easier locating in the manual. Mrs. Isgrigg moved and Mr. Rush seconded to approve as written. Carried 7-0

B. Resolution to Transfer between Funds

Mrs. Rooks explained that P.L. 109-2010 authorizes a governing body to transfer money during the 2010-2011 school year to one (1) or more funds held by the school corporation for the purpose of the funds from any fund held by the school corporation, other than the debt service or racial balance fund. She explained that they would be allowed to transfer 5% of the school corporation's capital projects fund levy in calendar year 2010 under IC 20-46-6-5. The resolution asks to transfer from the Bus Replacement Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$21,297.44. The purpose of the transfer will help pay benefits for the new part time technology employee and to be able to hire an instructional assistant for the English Department at the JR/SR High School. Mr. Burbrink moved and Mr. Rush seconded to approve the resolution as presented. Carried 7-0

C. Request for approval to remove cafeteria workers from health insurance plan eligibility

Dr. Sargent explained that he received a request from the cafeteria to not be offered the health insurance. At current time we have not had anyone enrolled in the program and this will not eliminate insurance coverage for anyone. Following discussion Mrs. Isgrigg moved and Mrs. Yeend seconded to no longer offer health insurance to the cafeteria employees effective immediately. Carried 7-0

D. Field trip request from SWHS Culture Club to German Christmas Market in Chicago

Dr. Sargent asked the Board to approve the field trip request from the Culture Club to attend the German Christmas Market in Chicago, December 4, 2010. Mr. Burbrink moved and Mrs. Yeend seconded. Carried 7-0

E. Request for approval to pursue Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Grant

Dr. Sargent asked for approval for Paula Maurer, Elementary Principal to apply for a Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Grant. Mrs. Maurer explained that with this grant she will go to Africa this summer and learn from their culture. Mrs. Isgrigg moved and Mrs. Yeend seconded to approve allowing her to apply for the grant. Carried 7-0

F. Request for approval for Mr. Bill Taylor to pursue Lilly Teacher Grant

Dr. Sargent asked for approval for Bill Taylor, Science Teacher to apply for a Lilly Teacher Grant. Mr. Taylor explained that the grant money would be used to purchase \$500 software to update the science lab equipment. Mr. Rush moved and Mrs. Yeend seconded. Carried 7-0

Reports & Presentations

A. Public Report on IDOE Category Determinations for Southwestern Schools

Dr. Sargent informed the Board that on October 15 we received category determinations from the Department of Education. Dr. Bennett wants to change how we grade students based on categories of performance, improvement of over three years, and AYP. Our elementary school received an exemplary status and our high school received probationary status. The high school determination is from the overall school did not meet academic improvement. While we are not pleased with the high school being on probation; he did note that upon investigation, the majority (more than ¾) of the high schools in the state of Indiana have been placed on Academic Probation. We are not pleased and want to be in the other 15%. Mrs. Blake presented her P.L 221 plan of action (Attachment A) for making us compliant and helping our students to achieve academic success. She noted that they are making strides and they just need to make bigger strides. This plan will help bring this about. Mr. Burbrink said based on the increase/decrease and making AYP the last two years it is hard to believe that we would be placed on academic probation. Dr. Sargent noted that the public information has not been released yet. We have all been blind sighted by this.

B. Report on Southwestern High School and Indiana University Chemistry Department Partnership

Mr. Bill Taylor, HS Chemistry and Dr. Mu-Hyun Baik, IU Chemistry Department both presented their program that is being offered to Southwestern Students. This is a partnership program

between Southwestern and IU. Mr. Taylor updated everyone on what the students have done so far in this class and the field trip to IU so the students can see first hand what they will be learning while there. Allyson Lawson, HS Student talked about the experiences she has had from being in the class and the excitement of looking to the future of attending IU and her future successes. Dr. Baik then explained how the program would work, how the funding would work and the grant they are working to receive and how the students would then come back to Southwestern after completion of the program at IU and work at Southwestern for 1 year as Chemistry teacher to be funded through the grant dollars. This is an excellent opportunity for our students, our high school and our community. Mr. Rush thanked him for taking the time to come to Southwestern and offer this to our students. Following the presentation, Mrs. Isgrigg moved and Mr. Rush seconded to approve the partnership between Southwestern and IU. Carried 7-0

C. Principal Reports on School Improvement

Mrs. Maurer reported that her teachers are currently working on two book studies. The K-2 grade levels are working on Guided Reading integrating into the classrooms. Some of the teachers have gone on school visits to see how this is working in other schools. All staff in her building are reading Failure is not an Option. They have 2 netbook carts that give our students more opportunities. They stay focused and are more highly engaged therefore achieving more. They are working on recycling projects with paper and shoe recycling. The beginning band concert was very good and they had a very successful PTO Fall Fair. This benefits our students through their donations.

Mrs. Blake noted that the high school staff will have technology training tomorrow. Upcoming professional development also includes Student Apathy by Sarah Milner, Improving ECA test scores and data breakdown. The Veteran’s Day is 11:45 a.m. tomorrow. She thanked the Lions Club and the Community Foundation for their donations to help fund the incentive programs. The students are involved. They recently held a “Minute to Win It” type event and gave away items such as gift cards, movie passes, etcetera. This is a positive way to recognize students. They would also like to incorporate academic achievement into the future rewards.

Personnel

A. Professional Staff

Dr. Sargent asked the Board to approve FMLA leave for an employee. He asked the Board to approve the resignation of Lisa Andry, Custodian and the hiring of Eric Degelow as Custodian effective November 8 pending a clear expanded criminal history check. Mr. Burbrink moved and Mr. Rush seconded. Carried 7-0

Public Comments

Mr. Drake read a thank you note from Kim King Smith for letting them use the facilities for the annual March for the Cure event.

Board Comments

All Board Members thanked everyone for their presentations.

Mr. Drake adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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