

South Central Community School Corporation

School Board Minutes - January 11, 2022

The South Central Community School Corporation of Trustees met January 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the library for a regular board meeting. The following members were present: Jake Wade, Allen Stevens, Deborah Allen, and Geraldine Grott. Others who attended were Dr. Theodore Stevens, Superintendent, Ben Anderson, High School Principal, and Rachel Dutoi, Business Manager/Treasurer. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Deb Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS

There were no public expressions.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD/APPROVAL OF DATES AND TIMES OF BOARD MEETINGS/APPROVAL OF SCHOOL ATTORNEY

Mrs. Grott nominated Deborah Allen for President. Jake Wade seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Therefore, Deborah Allen became President of the Board by acclamation.

Deborah Allen nominated Dominic Notaro for Vice-President. Allen Stevens seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Therefore, Mr. Notaro became Vice-President of the Board by acclamation.

Allen Stevens nominated Jake Wade for Secretary. Ms. Allen seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Therefore, Mr. Wade became Secretary of the Board by acclamation.

Allen Stevens nominated Geraldine Grott for Deputy Secretary. Jake Wade seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Therefore, Ms. Grott became Deputy Secretary of the Board by acclamation.

The superintendent recommended the appointment of Rachel Dutoi for Corporation Treasurer. Ms Grott moved to appoint Rachel Dutoi. Jake Wade seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Mrs. Dutoi was appointed Corporation Treasurer.

The superintendent recommended the appointment of Emily Homann for Corporation Deputy Treasurer. Jake Wade moved to appoint Emily Homann. Allen Stevens seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Ms. Homann was appointed Corporation Deputy Treasurer.

Deborah Allen moved to approve the regular meeting dates the second Tuesday of the month and the fourth Tuesday of each month for special meetings. She also moved to approve the time of the meetings for 6:00 p.m. Ms. Grott seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Jake Wade recommended the board retain William Kaminski, Newby, Lewis, Kaminski and Jones for legal counsel. Allen Stevens seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

APPOINT BOARD OF FINANCE

The superintendent is recommending the board appoint a president and secretary to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Morrow made a motion to appoint Deborah Allen, President and Jake Wade, Secretary of the Board of Finance. Ms. Allen motioned and Mrs. Grott seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the December 14, 2021 Board Minutes

b) Personnel Recommendations:

- Mr. Kimmel, Elementary Principal, is recommending approval for the title of Danielle Erickson's position of employment to be changed from Instructional Assistant to Temporary Substitute Assistant effective for school year 2021-2022.
- Mrs. Deb Kammrath, Director of Instructional Technology, is recommending approval for Amy Morrison and Jenny Minich for the position of Elementary Technology Coach and Elementary Robotics Sponsors.

c) Personnel Resignation:

- No personnel resignations at this time.

d) Professional Leave Requests:

- No Professional Leave Requests at this time.

e) ECA Resignations and Recommendations:

- Approval for Paige Ruesch- 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach

f) Claims:

- Approval of Claims: #30209-30213, 30222-30287, 900-924

Jake Wade made motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Grott seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

DONATIONS

- Red Zone Fan Club -\$1,000.00 to Athletics for football pants.
- Anonymous Donor-\$400.00 to Fund 2000.

Mr. Jake Wade made motion to approve donations as presented. Deb Allen seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

FIRST READING NEOLA POLICY UPDATE, VOLUME 34, NUMBER 1:

- Bylaw 0167.3 - Public Participation at Board Meetings (Revised)

This policy has been revised to provide a clear process of approval for any person or group who wants to place an item on the Board Agenda. It is advisable for the superintendent to recommend the policy revisions for adoption by the Board, and the Board should adopt the revised policy, given the current climate at public Board meetings.

- Policy 1220 - Employment of the Superintendent (Revised)
- Policy 1520 - Employment of Administrators in Addition to the Superintendent (Revised)

These policies have been revised pursuant to Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 55 - School Referendum that prohibits a corporation from issuing bonuses or other incentives to Administrators as a result of a favorable outcome of a referendum.

- Policy 2262 - Latch-Key Programs (Revised)

Two new options have been provided regarding the availability of a latch-key program during declared emergencies pursuant to HEA 1101. These options are available when the Corporation provides a school-aged child care or utilizes a nonprofit or for-profit organization to provide a school-aged child care program

- Policy 2370.03 - Indiana Course Access Program (Revised)

Pursuant to State statute and the Indiana Department of Education ("IDOE") students who are pursuing a diploma with any designation available for a student in Indiana or an industry certification that appears on the State Board's approved industry certification list is eligible to participate in the Indiana course access program (iCAP).

House Enrolled Act 1438 (HEA) - Course Access Program, requires that each Corporation shall respond to a student request for participation in an iCAP course not later than fifteen (15) days after submittal. The Board should adopt the policy to comply with State statute and IDOE recommendations.

- Policy 2603 - School Performance Internet Dashboard (New)

This new policy, pursuant to HEA 1514, requires the State Board of Education to develop required data points that each school will place on a "dashboard" on the Corporation's webpage.

- Policy 4120.08 - Employment of Personnel For Extracurricular Activities (Revised)

- Policy 8455 - Coach Training, References, and IHSAA Reporting (Revised)

- Policy 3120.08 - Employment of Personnel For Extracurricular Activities (Revised)

These policies have been revised to include a marching band leader or a sponsor of an activity in which a student has an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest, as determined by the IDOE, to participate in the same training on sudden cardiac arrest as athletic coaches pursuant to the revision of I.C. 20-34-8 by HEA 1040. The documentation of completion of the course on sudden cardiac arrest for the marching band leader and activity sponsor should be retained in the same manner as those for athletic coaches.

- Policy 3120.11 - Public Hearing Before Commencement of Collective Bargaining (Revised)

A public meeting has been added to discuss a Tentative Agreement, allow for public comment, and the meeting must be conducted at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to a Board vote on the agreement. Additionally, the agreement must be posted on the Corporation website within fourteen (14) days, pursuant to the amendment of I.C. 20-29-6 by HEA 1549, and must include a provision specifying when the public meeting occurred. The statutory amendments also allow for Board members and the public to participate in the public meeting by electronic communication.

- Policy 3214/4214 - Staff Gifts (Revised)

The word Christmas has been replaced by "some special holidays" in these policies to make the content secular in nature.

- Policy 3220 - Staff Evaluation (Revised)

Revisions made to this policy reflect the amendment of I.C. 20-28-11.5-4 by HEA 1002 regarding the components of teacher evaluations. Notwithstanding current Indiana code, objective measures from statewide assessments taken in the Spring of 2019 and 2020 cannot be used for a certificated employee's performance evaluation unless these scores or the particular school's improvement category would improve the certificated employee's annual performance rating.

- Policy 5113.02 - School Transfer Options (Revised)

This policy has been revised to comply with the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act (ESEA), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and current IDOE procedures for the unsafe school choice option.

- Policy 5340.01 - Student Concussions and Sudden Cardiac Arrest (Revised)

This policy has been revised to modify the existing requirements for completing a certified education approved training course for sudden cardiac arrest to include a marching band leader or a sponsor of an activity in which a student has an increased risk of cardiac arrest.

- Policy 5460 - Graduation Requirements (Revised)

Pursuant to Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 101, what shall be included in and when the School Corporation must prepare each student's graduation plan have been modified. The policy has been revised to incorporate an option because a graduation plan is a requirement of I.C. 20-30-4-2; however, it is not mandated to be part of the Corporation's graduation requirement policy.

- Policy 5540 - The Schools and Governmental Agencies (Revised)

This policy is revised to account for HEA 1531 adding a new Indiana Code provision, I.C. 31-9-2-44.1 that defines "exigent circumstances" and includes the criteria for which DCS may be granted permission to interview a student alone at school.

- Policy 5722 - School-Sponsored Student Publications and Productions (Replacement)

This replacement policy is proposed because of the wide variety of school-sponsored student media that are present in schools today and due to the many technological advances, that have occurred. These revisions are driven by the impact of social media on student publications and productions and are based on the evolving social media environment. The language in the policy has been modified to encompass the newer online electronic forms of school-sponsored student media.

- Policy 6105 - Authorization To Accept and Distribute Electronic Records and To Use Electronic Signatures (Technical Correction)

This policy is being corrected by adding one statutory citation and providing a reference to a memorandum from the State Board of Accounts regarding electronic signatures.

- Policy 6114 - Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds (Revised)

This policy has been revised to provide greater detail in allow ability guidance for corporations regarding the expenditure of federal funds.

- Policy 6220 - Budget Preparation (Revised)

This revision includes a strike-through of content that refers to academic, instructional support, overhead and operation, and non-operational expenditures that are no longer a required part of budget preparation.

- Policy 6230 - Budget Hearing (Revised)

If a referendum levy is included in the proposed budget, a spending plan must be included at the public hearing, pursuant to SEA 55 amendments. The spending plan is to include an estimate of expected revenue from the referendum, specific purpose of the funds generated by the referendum and an estimate of expenditures in annual dollar amounts.

- Policy 7300 Disposition of Real Property (Revised)

Pursuant to SEA 385 revisions have been made regarding the sale or lease of unused or vacant property. Specifically, school corporations are to provide for the maintenance of unused or vacant buildings until leased, sold or disposed of.

- Policy 7310 - Disposition of Surplus Property (Revised)

Pursuant to I.C. 20-26-5-40.2, it is the obligation of the Board to develop a plan related to the preservation or transfer of memorabilia, trophies, or other property of historical significance, as determined by the Board if a resolution to close a high school has been passed.

- Policy 7450 - Property Inventory (Revised)

A drafting note has been added to this policy noting the federal threshold of \$5,000 for differentiating between supplies/materials and a capital expenditure for equipment purchase. See the note on Policy 6114 - Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds. This policy may need to be revised if the Corporation's current policy uses an equipment/inventory threshold higher than \$5,000.

- Policy 7540.03 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised)

- Policy 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised)

These policies have been revised to include language reflecting the State law requirements that specifically prohibit the sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading of materials harmful to minors and it mandates that this content must be posted on the corporation website.

- Policy 8305 - Information Security (Revised)

This policy has been revised to include policy language that the school will work to protect data from attack vectors. Categories of attack vectors of a cybersecurity incident are identified.

- Policy 8600 - Transportation (Revised)

Pursuant to 2021 legislative revisions to I.C. 20-27-5-6 by HEA 1549, a school corporation may enter into a fleet contract with a contractor and permit the contractor's drivers to be eligible for life and health insurance benefits and other fringe benefits available to other school personnel.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT/ACTION ITEMS

DUAB SCHOOL CORPORATION FISCAL INDICATORS

Per Indiana Code (IC 5-13-7-8), the school corporation's fiscal indicators as presented on the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB) website must be presented and discussed in a public meeting during the month of January. This presentation will review the indicators as statutorily outlined. It is important to note that the indicators are for the 2020-2021 school year, so the data is lagging.

RESURFACING FRONT PARKING LOT

In reviewing the facilities at South Central, it appears one of the most pressing concerns continues to be the front parking lot(s) and rear playground portion of paved surface (the basketball courts on the playground). In consultation with area providers, one potential area of opportunity might be to take the millings from the areas and utilize them as a base for a new parking area in the green space between the mailboxes and the north drive. Adequate parking is often an issue at South Central. This may be one way in which this concern can begin to be addressed.

This project will likely exceed \$150,000 - therefore, it requires sealed bids. The total cost of project may be between \$250,000 to \$315,000. If approved, South Central will advertise to accept sealed bids through Friday, January 28 at noon, where they will be opened in a public meeting. After the bids are open, the Board will then have the authority to approve a vendor during the February meeting. If approved, it would be recommended that South Central utilize Rainy Day Funds to complete the project.

Ms. Grott motioned to receive bids for parking lot and Jake Wade seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

UPDATE WELDING ROOM

Mr. Bailey has completed the certification(s) necessary to teach basic and advanced welding. If South Central could obtain 10 welders (5 TIG, Tungsten Inert Gas, and 5 MIG, Metal Inert Gas),

we are confident that we could keep students at South Central that currently attend A.K. Smith in Michigan City. This may not be an overnight transition, but is one we feel would be in the best interest of our students. If the proposal is approved, South Central would need to upgrade the electrical service to the shop area to run the new machines, upgrade the ventilation in the room, and potentially create an opening so that Mr. Bailey’s “classroom” could be used for woodworking and instructional purposes, yet he could be present to supervise welding in the shop. In total, we estimate the total cost of this proposal to be \$60,000. If approved, it would be recommended that South Central utilize Rainy Day Funds to complete the project. Then, as CTE dollars are accumulated from students taking the program, SC will repay the Rainy Day Fund in the amount expended.

Jake Wade made motion to proceed with Welding Program, Ms. Allen seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

COVID-19 UPDATES

LaPorte County continues to be in the “red” tier (1/3/22). LaPorte County was in the “red” tier score of 3.0 as of 12/6/21. Last week, South Central updated our COVID protocols to align with the ISDH and CDC updated recommendations.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - CDL LICENSE

Please know that I have completed my CDL “B” to be a licensed school bus driver. Please see my formal written request to NOT receive compensation if needed to drive a school bus.

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Maintenance schedule as well as bringing back the Pre-K program were additional items of discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Jake Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Mrs. Deb Allen seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

Deborah Allen, President

Dominic Notaro, Vice-President

Jake Wade, Secretary

Geraldine Grott, Deputy Secretary

Allen Stevens, Member