

South Central Community School Corporation

School Board Minutes - June 13, 2023

The South Central Community School Corporation of Trustees met June 13, 2023 at 5:00pm in the library for both a regular board meeting and a public meeting. The following members were present: Deborah Allen, Geraldine Grott, Sherry Shei, Brian Lautenbach, and Jake Wade. Others who attended were Mr. Ben Anderson, Superintendent, Jarad Miller Jr/Sr High School Principal, Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Andrew Schoff, Business Manager/Corporation Treasurer, and Jennifer Marlow, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by the Board President, Deb Allen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Deb Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS

There were no public expressions.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION - OVERVIEW OF 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, OUTLOOK FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The Technology Department gave a short presentation highlighting technology/library accomplishments for the past 2022-2023 school year along with a projected outlook for the 2023-2024 school year.

APPROVAL FOR 4TH-6TH GRADE SCIENCE TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Requested Approval For The 4th-6th grade Science textbook adoption quote from SAVVAS. Gerri Grott motioned to accept, Jake Wade seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.

REQUEST FOR DECLARATION OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Mr. Mike Scheck, Band Director, requested approval to declare several band instruments as surplus. Jake Wade motioned to accept, Brian Lautenbach seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a) Approval for May 9, 2023 Board Minutes

b) Personnel Recommendations:

- Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Is Recommending Approval For Angie Bruner To Serve As The Summer IREAD-3 Remediation/Testing Teacher. Angie Will Work One Day The Week Of May 22, 2023.
- Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Is Recommending Approval For Abbigail Kosteba To Fill The Open Position Of K-12 Social Services Advisor For The 2023-2024 School Year.
- Mr. Ben Anderson, Superintendent, Is Recommending Approval For Kyle McCallum's Summer 2023 Supplemental Teaching Contract.
- Mr. Jarad Miller, Jr/Sr High School Principal, Is Recommending Approval For Lisa Cauley To Fill The Part-Time Position Of Virtual Lab Assistant as well as Choir Independent Study Supervisor For One Hour A Day.
- Mr. Jarad Miller, Jr/Sr High School Principal, Is Recommending Approval For

Dave Allen To Volunteer His Time As The Strength and Conditioning Coach for South Central's Students And Athletes.

- Mr. Jarad Miller, Jr/Sr High School Principal, Is Recommending Approval For Sharon Benson To Fill The Open Position Of Part-Time Virtual Learning Asst. In The Virtual Lab for 3.5 Hours Per Day.

c) Professional Leave Requests:

- Buzz Schoff, May 10-12, 2023, Annual IASBO, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- Buzz Schoff, May 19, 2023, Removal/Recycling RFP Education, NIESC Offices, Mishawaka, Indiana.
- Alynn Eggert, June 13-14, 2023, Sixth Quantitative Conference, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Ind.
- Alynn Eggert, June 15, 2023, Ivy Tech Dual Credit Summit, Garment Factory, Franklin, Indiana.
- Amber Bos, June 27-28, 2023, Smekens Education Solutions Conference PD Event, Shipshewana, Indiana.
- Alynn Eggert, June 29-30, 2023, Building Thinking Classrooms Conf., Franklin Community HS, Franklin, Indiana.

d) ECA Resignations and Assignments:

- Norma Garner Resignation - 7th Grade Volleyball Effective 2023-2024 School Year
- Alyssa Mulligan Resignation- JV Girls Basketball Coach Effective 2023-2024 School Year
- Eric Speer Resignation- PE/Health Teacher And Boys Basketball Coach Effective 2023-2024 School Year.
- Zach Coulter Resignation- Boys Baseball Coach Effective 2023-2024 School Year
- Brett Davis Resignation- Asst. Football Coach Effective 2023-2024 School Year
- Mike Ryan Resignation- 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach Effective 2023-2024 School Year

e) Claims

- Payroll Claims: 5/5/2023, 5/19/2023, 6/5/2023; Vendor/Fund Transfer Claims: #31522, #31448-31451, #31512-31516, #1385-1387, #31517-31520, #1388, #31521, #1389-1390, #31528-31533, #31523, #1391, #31524-31527, #1392-1396, #31534-31601

Jake Wade motioned to accept Consent Agenda, Sherry Shei seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

DONATIONS:

- To: FFA = \$8,000.00, From: National FFA Organization
- To: Top Ten Banquet= \$1,000.00, From: Teachers Credit Union

Deb Allen motioned to accept donations, Gerri Grott seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.

FIRST READING NEOLA POLICY VOL. 35 NUMBER 2

Presentation of Neola Policy Vol. 35 Number 2

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT/ACTION ITEMS:

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary Principal, presented the following report:

- Great closeout to the 2022-2023 school year

- ILEARN Results (3rd-6th grades) still embargoed but preliminary scores are trending in a good direction and look good compared to preliminary state averages
- Adopted 1 year Science Digital Textbook for 4th-6th Grades (Savvas). One year adoption suggested by the state, which will come out with a recommended textbook adoption list during the 2023-2024 school year
- STEM certification process making great progress (full-day work session on May 31st)
- Blended Learning Inservice on June 6th (best practices of instruction for a combination of in-person and virtual learning)
- Elementary Music Position Update
- K-12 Social Services Advisor hired (Abigail Kosteba)
- Classroom switches—thank you to custodial staff for making this such a quick and smooth process

Mr. Jarad Miller, Jr/Sr High School Principal, presented the following report:

- Thanked maintenance, staff, and board for their help and involvement during the graduation ceremony.
- Gave final details surrounding the end of the school year.
- Discussed transportation and A.K. Smith

AFTER SCHOOL CARE UPDATE (ACTION REQUESTED)

As you know, we've been investigating the possibility of bringing after school care back. After a lot of discussion, planning, and investigating, we have a proposal for the board. Our recommendation is for after school care to run from 3:00-6:00pm. There would be a \$20 registration fee for the school year and the cost would be \$3 per hour, per child. We believe we have enough interest to run the program, but it will hinge on how many students actually get signed up, and, of course, finding a staff member to run this program after school hours. Mr. Anderson, Superintendent, requested approval to post the position and to continue moving forward with implementation of after school care. Jake Wade motioned to accept the After School Care request, Sherry Shei seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.

CELL PHONE STIPEND FOR BUS DRIVERS (ACTION REQUESTED)

Mr. Biggs, director of transportation, would like to propose a small cell phone stipend for our bus drivers. The proposal would be \$25 per month for 9 months, totally \$225 for each driver, each year. Our drivers utilize their personal phones and cell phones regularly to communicate with parents / guardians regarding routes, pick-up and drop-off times, student behavior on the bus, etc. Many other schools pay a similar stipend, and it only seems fair. While approving, please include our new elementary dean of students, Mrs. Lindzy Curtis, in the cell phone stipend group like our other administrators, which is \$50 per month. Gerri Grott motioned to accept the cell phone stipend for bus drivers and Mrs. Curtis. Sherry Shei seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

TRANSFINDER BUS ROUTING SYSTEM (ACTION REQUESTED)

Mr. Biggs, director of transportation, along with Ms. Marlow, would like to request approval to purchase a contract with the Transfinder Bus Routing System. Previously, we have contracted with Easy Routing and Zonar. Those programs did not meet our needs, so we've discontinued those contracts. Transfinder is a well-known and reputable company that provides service to many schools local to us. Ms. Marlow has utilized Transfinder in a previous school corporation, and has 100% confidence in the program. Per the contract, Transfinder would cost \$8,190 for year one, then \$5,600 each year after. We were paying a combined \$11,000 a year for Easy Routing and Zonar. So not only are we getting a program we have more confidence in and can utilize, but we're saving a significant amount of money, as well. The contract with Transfinder includes 6 months of training,

setup of all the maps and roads for the county and our district, license usage for Mr. Biggs and Ms. Marlow, and viewfinder for other administrators to view routes, bus stops, and students assigned. Jake Wade motioned to purchase a contract with Transfinder Bus Routing Systems, Brian Lautenbach seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.

TCU CASH MANAGEMENT CONTRACT (ACTION REQUESTED)

Mr. Schoff, Business Manager/Corporation Treasurer, shared and discussed earlier in the meeting that our cash management agreement with Teachers Credit Union is up for renewal. As presented by Mr. Schoff, recommendation was made to renew this contract for a 2-year period. Gerri Grott motioned to accept request, Jake Wade seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.

CURRICULAR MATERIALS / TEXTBOOK FEES (INFORMATION ONLY)

As you probably have heard, as a part of the Governor's legislative priorities and HB 1001 (the state budget), curricular materials (otherwise known as textbook fees) are now "included" in the state budget and no longer will be billed to parents. While this seems like a wonderful change, because in theory it is, it's creating yet more challenges for all schools throughout the state. The legislature allocated \$160 million to fund this, which our state organizations are saying will be between \$150-160 per student. That is where the challenge comes. Right now, that is in line with and works well for our elementary textbook fees, which are right about \$150 per student on average. However, not for high school. On average, our high school textbook fees are around \$250 per student. The fees vary widely depending on which courses a student is enrolled in, particularly with AP and dual credit courses, courses like welding and agriculture, biomedical sciences, etc. Those courses are expensive to offer, which drives textbook fees up for many students. All schools in the area (and likely throughout the state) are facing this challenge, and have been trying to think of solutions to this problem. We are continually trying to think of ways to make this work. I wish I had a solution to share with you tonight, but as the state continues to share guidance and rules/regulations for this, we'll work through it.

PRESENTATION FROM STIFEL PUBLIC FINANCE (ACTION REQUESTED)

Luke Bruggeman from Stifel Public Finance attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the school corporation's debt structure and potential future financing. As I have previously discussed with the board, we are looking to manage the school corporation's tax rate. Luke will discuss how either doing another General Obligation Bond for 2023 or looking at a building project in the near future will help us manage it. It's important to note that we are only discussing TAX NEUTRAL options right now. We are not discussing raising taxes.

OTHER ITEMS/SUGGESTIONS BEFORE THE BOARD

No other items/suggestions came before the School Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Jake Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm, Sherry Shei seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS UPCOMING BUILDING PROJECTS AND RENOVATIONS

The public hearing was set to discuss objections to and/or support for the proposed renovation of and improvements to facilities throughout the School Corporation, including site and athletic improvements and the purchase of buses, equipment, and technology. Public was allowed to make the School Board aware of suggestions, ideas, and/or comments. There were no public suggestions or ideas presented to the School Board. The School Board was asked to approve the following

resolutions for signature; Project, Preliminary Bond, and Reimbursement Resolution. Gerri Grott made a motion to accept all three resolutions, Sherry Shei seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0.

Deborah Allen, President

Jake Wade, Vice-President

Brian Lautenbach, Secretary

Geraldine Grott, Deputy Secretary

Sherry Shei, Member