

South Central Community School Corporation

School Board Minutes – November 15, 2023

The South Central Community School Corporation Board of Trustees met Wednesday, November 15 2023, at 6:00pm in the library for a regular board 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 Principal, Andrew Schoff, Business Manager/Corporation Treasurer, and Jennifer Marlow, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by the Board President, Deb Allen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Deb Allen, Board President, led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS

There were no public expressions.

FORM 9 FINANCIAL REPORT, ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR 2023 BUDGET YEAR, BUSINESS MANAGER/CORPORATION TREASURER, ANDREW SCHOFF (ACTION REQUESTED)

- Mr. Andrew Schoff, requested board approval for Form 9 Financial Report for period 1 of 2023 –1.1.23-6.30.23. Jake Wade motioned to approve Form 9 Financial Report, Sherry Shei seconded the motion, and motion carried 5-0.
- Mr. Andrew Schoff, requested board approval to advertise additional appropriation for 2023 budget year. The resolution will be brought to the school board meeting on December 12, 2023. Brian Lautenbach motioned to approve advertisement, Gerri Grott seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, MR. KIMMEL, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL (ACTION REQUESTED)

Mr. Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, requested board approval for the 2023-2026 Elementary School Improvement Plan. Sherry Shei motioned to approve the 2023-2026 Elementary School Improvement Plan, Jake Wade seconded the motion, and motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) **Approval for October 10, 2023 Executive Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Board Minutes, and October 16, 2023 Special Meeting Board Minutes.**
- b) **Personnel Recommendations:**
 - Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Is Requesting Approval For
 - Emily Mohlke's Maternity Leave to Be Extended Through January 7, 2024.
 - Ms. Karen Hagenow, Food Service Director, Is Requesting Approval for Megan Swanson To Fill the Open Full Time Position in The Cafeteria.
 - Ms. Karen Hagenow, Food Service Director, Is Requesting Approval for Jean Smith, Abby Rinker, and Amanda Dodd To Fill Substitute Positions in The Cafeteria.
 - Ms. Karen Hagenow, Food Service Director, Is Requesting Approval for Christine White To Work 3.5 Hours Per Day in The Cafeteria and For Julie Koppen To Receive an Increase in Wages.
- c) **Professional Leave Requests:**

- Kyle McCallum, October 3, 2023, Professional Curriculum Development, South Central School, Union Mills, Indiana
- Karley Yager, October 3, 2023, Professional Development, South Central School, Union Mills, Indiana.
- Linissa Wirtes, October 6, Professional Development, South Central School, Union Mills, IN
- Matthew Spagna, October 6, Professional Development, South Central School, Union Mills, IN
- Jen Schroeder, October 6, 2023, Professional Development, South Central School, Union Mills, IN
- Cortny Barnes, Daniel Konshak, Sam Colter, Cassandra Speer, October 27, Professional Development, South Central School, Union Mills, IN
- Zach Janssen, Emma Wiegel, Brent Jones, Professional Development, October 30, South Central Community School Corporation, Union Mill, IN
- Cortny Barnes, November 3, Training, Zoom Meeting, South Central Community School, Union Mills, IN
- Tina Randall, November 3, 2023, PNW Counselor Board Meeting, Purdue Northwest, Westville, IN
- Cortny Barnes, November 6, 2023, Essay Grading, South Central Community School Corporation, Union Mills, IN
- Derek Budka, Bobby Hanby, November 8-10, 2023, HECC 2023 Conference, Crown Plaza, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Karen Hagenow, November 8-10, 2023, ISNA Annual Conference, French Lick Hotel, French Lick, IN
- Curt Masson, November 14, 2023, Smart Indiana Personal Finance, Sunset Hill Farm, Valparaiso, IN
- Lindsay Gehrke and Abbigail Kosteba, November 15, 2023, Traumatic Loss/Grief Seminar, Donaldson Center, Plymouth, Indiana
- Kelli Bennett, Indiana Assoc. Of School Nurse Conf., November 15-16, 2023, Embassy Suites, Noblesville, IN
- Ashley Medley, January 18, 2024, Spelling Bee Sponsor for Elem and JR/Sr High, South Central North Gym, Union Mills, IN

d) ECA Resignations and Assignments:

- Approval for Daniel Konshak - Transfer from coaching 7th Grade Boys Basketball to 8th Grade Boys Basketball
- Approval for Caleb Kitchell - 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
- Approval for Harry Beebe - Volunteer Asst. Girls Basketball Coach
- Approval for Charles Wilhelm - 5th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
- Approval for Mike Ryan - Girls JV Softball Coach
- Approval for Jud Tolmen - 50% Golf Pay
- Approval for Olivia Tolmen - 50% Golf Pay

e) Claims:

- Approval of presented claims.

Gerri Grott motioned to accept the consent agenda, Deb Allen seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

DONATIONS:

- To: FFA = \$285, From: South County Gleaners for SOAR Camp
- To: Student Senate = \$1,000.00, From: Pine Lake Realty LLC

- To: Girls Basketball for T-Shirts = \$377.44, From: Tolmen Financial LLC

Jake Wade motioned to accept donations, Gerri Grott seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT/ACTION ITEMS:

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Each building principal gave a short report on items related to their respective buildings.

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

- Science of Reading Grant Update
- School Improvement Plan Highlights
- Spell Bowl at Knox (11/13)
- 5th/6th Boys Basketball
- PTO Craft Bazaar (Saturday, November 18th)
- Principal Conference (11/19-11/21)
- Curriculum/Data Updates/ Staffing/Personnel-
- Teaching staff focusing on new standards and new ILEARN (pilot test next school year)
- Caitlyn Barnes-3rd/4th Grade Special Education Teacher

BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2024 (ACTION REQUESTED)

Mr. Ben Anderson, Superintendent, requested board approval for the proposed dates for 2024 board meetings and a proposed start time of 5:00pm.

Jake Wade motioned to approve dates and 5:00pm start time for 2024 board meetings, Gerri Grott seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

MOU W/ LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (ACTION REQUESTED)

Mr. Ben Anderson included in each board packet a copy of a memorandum of understanding for board consideration to enter into with the LaPorte County Health Department. The MOU would allow the health department to utilize South Central Schools as a location in south county for the coordination of activities related to disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The last time a MOU was signed was 2005. In my 10 years at SC, we've never had to utilize this agreement. However, it seems wise to have it in place should we need to.

Gerri Grott motioned to approve agreement, Jake Wade seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

INSURANCE RATES FOR CLASSIFIED STAFF (ACTION REQUESTED)

It's been a long time since we've made any type of significant adjustments in contributions to insurance for our classified staff, and the board had asked me to look into this. In the proposal, we look to bring the PPO 3 single plan into compliance with the affordable care act's affordability percent (which we've maintained compliance over the years, but need an adjustment this year with the 6% increase in premiums), and look to more than double the contributions toward family plans. This makes our single plans very affordable, and the PPO 2 and 3 family plans much more affordable than they were. While we still have some work to do, it's a step in the right direction. I'd like to present this proposal for your consideration, then monitor the costs of this over the next year before determining if we can make further adjustments.

Jake Wade motioned to approve adjusted insurance rates, Brian Lautenbach seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

UPDATES ON SUMMER 2024 BUILDING PROJECT (ACTION REQUESTED)

As you know, we've continued to take small steps in the direction of our building project for summer of 2024. We've worked with Stifel Public Finance and Ice Miller on the financial and legal aspects of the project, we've hired Tonn and Blank as our Construction Manager as Constructor, and we've interviewed architectural firms. We received 3 proposals, and interviewed 2 potential architectural and engineering firms with the help of Tonn and Blank. Tonight, I have a recommendation for you to contract with Elevatus Architecture to provide the architectural and engineering services for our project. Jon Gilmore assisted in negotiating a contract with Elevatus, and I'm pleased to be able to make this recommendation this evening. Elevatus has been wonderful to work with thus far, and they come highly recommended from other educators I know. Nik Vilamaa, Project Executive for Education at Elevatus, is here with us this evening to tell you a little about Elevatus and their work. As of now, we are still on track so that we can begin these projects late May and maximize the summer months. I've been in continual communication with Ice Miller, our bond counsel attorneys, as we've moved through this process. We will have a working group meeting the week of December 4th. This will bring Ice Miller, Stifel Public Finance, Tonn and Blank, Elevatus Architecture, and the school together for collaboration. We will need to start getting things in order for publications, public hearings, board resolutions, etc. related to the bonds for this project. All-in-all though, things are in order and moving along well.

Mr. Ben Anderson, Superintendent, requested board approval to contract with Elevatus Architecture to provide the architectural and engineering services for the project, Jake Wade motioned to approve the contract, Brian Lautenbach seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

OTHER ITEMS/SUGGESTIONS BEFORE THE BOARD

Mr. Jarad Miller, Jr/Sr High School Principal, requested board approval for the 2023-2024 Jr/Sr High School Improvement Plan. Gerri Grott motioned to accept plan, Brian Lautenbach seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Jake Wade motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm. Sherry Shei seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

Deborah Allen, President

Jake Wade, Vice-President

Brian Lautenbach, Secretary

Geraldine Grott, Deputy Secretary

Sherry Shei, Member