

South Central Community School Corporation

School Board Minutes – December 12, 2023

The South Central Community School Corporation of Trustees met Tuesday, December 12, 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, School Board President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS

There were no public expressions.

BUSINESS MANAGER/CORPORATION TREASURER, BUZZ SCHOFF, REQUESTING BOARD APPROVAL

- Mr. Schoff requested approval for the resolution to authorize 2023 year end transfers; Mr. Jake Wade motioned to approve resolution, Sherry Shei seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.
- Mr. Schoff requested approval for the additional appropriation resolution/ordinance; Brian Lautenbach motioned to approve, Sherry Shei seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.
- Mr. Schoff requested approval for liability updates/insurance renewal with permission to sign off when we receive McGowen quote; Jake Wade motioned to approve, Gerri Grott seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a) Approval for November 15, 2023 Board Minutes

b) Personnel Recommendations:

- Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Is Requesting Approval for Andrea Spiess To Serve as The Elementary Literacy Coach Starting in January 2024 Through the End of the 2023-2024 School Year.
- Mr. Ben Anderson, Superintendent, and Kelli Bennett, School Nurse, Are Requesting Approval for Amanda Musall To Fill the Open Position as A Nurse Assistant Effective Immediately.
- Ms. Karen Hagenow, Food Service Director, Is Requesting Approval for A Wage Increase for Substitute Cafeteria Workers.
- Ms. Karen Hagenow, Food Service Director, Is Requesting Approval for A Wage Increase for Christine White, Cafeteria Worker.

c) Professional Leave Requests:

- Abbigail Kosteba, 11/15/2023, Grief Conference, Center at Donaldson, Plymouth, Indiana.
- Nick Mills, 11/17/2023, IASP-Asst. Principal Conference, JW Marriott Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Buzz Schoff, 11/29/2023, IASBO Region I, Administrative Building, Michigan City, Indiana.

- Dan Siford, Karley Yager, Kyle McCallum, 12/1/2023, Professional Half Day Work on Ivy Tech Requirements, South Central School, Union Mills, Indiana.
- Buzz Schoff, 12/7/2023, IASBO Finance Seminar, Embassy Suites, Plainfield, Indiana.
- Melissa Gilchrist, Matty Bush, Jen Noveroske, Alynn Eggert, 12/8/2023, Math Dept. PD ½ Day-Afternoon, Markers Space, South Central School, Union Mills, Indiana.
- Elizabeth Zbuka, Megan Cassady, Heather McGuire, Jackie Snyder, Jamie Cipares, Tina Coburn, 12/14-15/2023, PD w/UDL and Secret Stories, Makers Space, South Central Schools, Union Mills, Indiana.
- Nick Kimmel and Andrea Spiess, 1/10/2024, 3/15/2024, Literacy Coach training, John Young Middle School, Mishawaka, Indiana.
- N. Kimmel, A. Spiess, M. Cassady, J. Cipares, A. Medly, A. Morrison, 02/22/2023, Intro to The Science of Reading, School City of Hobart, Hobart, Indiana.

d) ECA Resignations and Assignments:

- Approval for Brianna Perez-Resignation as Elementary Cheer Coach Effective 10/26/2023
- Approval for Andrea Welsh-Resignation as Varsity Volleyball Coach Effective 11/14/2023
- Approval for Katie Hendricks-Resignation as 7th Grade Volleyball Coach Effective 11/14/2023
- Approval for Ashley Rinker - Resignation as Varsity Assistant Volleyball Coach Effective 11/14/2023
- Approval for Daniel Kurth - Non-Renewal 7th Grades Girls Basketball Coach
- Approval for Amy Morrison - Elementary Cheer Coach Effective Immediately
- Approval for Eric Snyder - Boy JR High Volleyball Coach
- Approval for Paul Fasshauer - Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach
- Approval for Jenel Zepik - Volunteer Asst. JR High Girls Basketball Coach

e) Claims:

- Approval of presented claims.

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

DONATIONS

None to report at this time.

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:

- News - 5th/6th Band Concert, Holiday Concert (2nd and 4th Grades), Junior Council Caroling, STEM Project Week, Christmas Sing-Along, 5th/6th Boys Basketball.
- Curriculum/Data Updates - Science of Reading Grant allowed us to purchase two adaptive reading programs for K-6 students along with other curricular purchases and professional development for staff, continuing to update curriculum maps to align with the new Indiana Academic Standards and the new ILEARN.
- Staffing/Personnel - Andrea Spiess—Literacy coach from January-May to Work with staff to implement the elements of the Science of Reading, Title I job posted for January-May.

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

- The first semester is ending - Final exams will be the last three days of school and our students are studying and getting ready for them. Our 7th grade students are doing a cross curricular project-based final exam that takes different standards from each class. I'm excited to see the outcomes and their presentations as they continue to work in their classes!
- JH Incentive Field Trip- Our Junior High students have been working hard to meet the incentive requirements set forth by teachers this semester. Students who have met these standards will be rewarded with a trip to the movies to see Willy Wonka on Friday, December 15th. This has been a neat program that our team has put together and I appreciate all the hard work our JH team has done to help students be successful!
- JH & HS Band & Choir- Concert will be on Thursday, December 14th at 7:30pm in the South Gym. We're excited to see what Mr. Scheck and Mrs. Cauley have been working on with all of our students over the past few months!
- A quick shout out to our Special Education teachers- Mrs. Iseminger, Mrs. Christy, and Mrs. Krueger. They always go above and beyond for our students, no matter what and work incredibly close and hard with our students. Thank you for what you do for our students!
- Athletics - We will be hosting the Girls Varsity PCC Basketball tournament this year! The tournament will be held the week of January 15th. This is an exciting event and we are thrilled to host! Our Girls basketball team have continued their great start to the season and currently sit at 6-4. Their holiday tournament will be at Knox this year on December 23rd. Boys basketball also has had a good start to the year, including a thrilling 42-41 victory over Hobart! The team sits at 2-1 heading into conference play on Friday, December 8th.
- A huge thank you - To our staff for a great first semester to this school year. We have incredible leaders in our building and people who connect with kids past the content. Our community, students, and administration are lucky to work with the team we have!

UPDATES ON PERSONNEL & STAFFING (ACTION REQUESTED)

Mr. Anderson will update the board on Mr. Jeff Rucker and a transition plan we've created with Mr. Rucker's upcoming retirement. As I've discussed with the board, it has been imperative to me to try to create a transition plan with Jeff and his pending retirement coming next summer. Jeff has been our Director of Maintenance for about 8 years now, and has been in school maintenance for a long time having come to SC from LaPorte Schools. We'll simply not be able to replace Jeff and his knowledge of the school building and school maintenance in general. However, I want to leverage his expertise and experience as much as we can. That being said, I've outlined a plan for you that I'm asking for your approval this evening. Mr. John Haggard, our current athletic director, would transition into the role of Director of Maintenance / Facilities. Mrs. Melissa Santana, current JH social studies teacher and assistant athletic director, would transition into the role of Athletic Director. Then Mr. Steve / Butch Nedza, retired JH social studies teacher, has agreed to come back to teach JH social studies in Mrs. Santana's room for the 2nd semester. My hope is for a smooth transition, though I know there will be some bumps in the road along the way. Everyone has been on board with these potential changes and seem excited for the possibility. I think we'll be able to utilize these employees' strengths in these new roles. Jake Wade motioned to Approve Personnel and Staffing Updates, Sherry Shei Seconded the Motion, Motion Carried 5-0.

UPDATES ON SUMMER 2024 BUILDING PROJECTS (ACTION REQUESTED)

Our building project plans are progressing nicely. All entities have been wonderful to work with so far, including Ice Miller, Stifel Public Finance, Tonn and Blank, and Elevatus. We had our working group meeting last Monday, hosted by Ice Miller. At that meeting, we specifically discussed the timetable for financing the project, along with all the legal aspects of the project. For today's meeting, I'll ask the board to authorize a Project Hearing and a Preliminary Determination Hearing.

The first Preliminary Determination Hearing would be at our regularly scheduled meeting on January 9th. Stifel Public Finance will review financial information related to the project and the taxes for our school corporation. The Project Hearing and second Preliminary Determination Hearing would be at the special board meeting on Monday, January 22nd that I emailed the group about. At that meeting, the board would adopt the project resolution, adopt the preliminary determination resolution, and adopt the reimbursement resolution. I will continue to work with Ice Miller, our bond counsel attorneys, along with Bill Kaminski's office to keep us in compliance and forging ahead. Otherwise, like I mentioned, things are moving forward nicely! (I will share some preliminary plans from Elevatus.) Jake Wade motioned to approve public hearing dates for January 9th and 22nd, 2023, Brian Lautenbach seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

OTHER ITEMS/SUGGESTIONS BEFORE THE BOARD

No other items/suggestions to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian Lautenbach motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm. Jake Wade seconded the motion, motion Carried 5-0.

Deborah Allen, President

Jake Wade, Vice-President

Brian Lautenbach, Secretary

Geraldine Grott, Deputy Secretary

Sherry Shei, Member