

November 12, 2024

The South Central Community School Corporation Of Trustees Met Tuesday, November 12, 2024 At 5 pm In The Library Board Room 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, Nick Mills, Jr/Sr High School Principal, Nick Kimmel, Elementary Principal, Buzz Schoff, Business Manager.

Call To Order

The Meeting Was Called To Order At 5 pm 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.

Classroom Spotlight

Andrea Spiess, Literacy Coach/Literacy Cadre (Information Only)

Neola Updates First Reading For Vol. 36 Number 2 & Vol. 36 Number 2-EDGAR UGG(Information Only)

Mr. Ben Anderson, Superintendent, Gave The First Reading For The Updated Neola Policies

Consent Agenda:

Approval for October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Approval for October 28, 2024 Public Meeting

Personnel Recommendations:

- *Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Is Requesting Approval For Stacy DeYoung To Fill The Position For 1st Grade Instructional Assistant, From January 6- Arpil 21, 2025.*
- *Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Is Requesting Approval For Rebecca Lewis To Fill The Position For Pre-K Instructional Assistant, From January 6-Arpil 21, 2025.*
- *Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Is Requesting Approval For Jerrilynn Wade To Fill The Position For Kindergarten Instructional Assistant, From January 6-Arpil 21, 2025.*

- *Jennifer Marlow, Transportation Director, Is Requesting Approval For Barry Evans To Be Hired On As A Bus Driver Trainer Effective November 12, 2024.*
- *Jennifer Marlow, Transportation Director, Is Requesting Approval For The Resignation Of Patricia Clark As A Full-Time Bus Driver and Bus Driver Trainer, Effective November 8, 2024.*
- *Mr. Nick Kimmel, Elementary School Principal, Is Requesting Approval For The Resignation Of Hanna Mathias, Effective May 2, 2025.*

Professional Leave Requests:

- *John Bailey, October 10, 2024, Tie In Indian, Forth Wayne, IN.*
- *Deb Kammrath, October 23, 2024, coach Cohort, Indianapolis, IN.*
- *Buzz Schoff, October 24, 2024, IASBO Region I, Michigan City, Indiana.*
- *Andrea Spiess, October 28, 2024, Think Tank, Mishawaka, IN.*
- *Katie Hendricks & Esaleigh Hauptli, October 29, 2024, EES AI Infused Classroom, Crawfordsville, IN.*
- *Alynn Eggert, November 1, 2024, Cyber Presentation Ivy Tech, Valparaiso, IN.*
- *John Bailey, November 5, 2024, Welding Conference, Chicago, IL.*
- *Emily Homann, November 7, 2024, Human Resource Seminar, Fishers, Indiana.*
- *Nick Kimmel, November 18, 2024, Literacy Cadre Admin Workshop, Indianapolis, IN.*
- *Chris Walter, November 19, 2024, ILEARN Checkpoints Summit, South Bend, IN.*
- *Kellee Cummings & Lisa Rosebaum, November 21, 2024, IASBO ECA Seminar, Indianapolis, IN.*
- *Kelli Bennett, November 20-21, 2024, IASN Annual Conference 2024, Noblesville, IN.*
- *Lindzy Curtis, November 24-25, 2024, AP Conference, Indianapolis, IN.*

ECA Resignations and Assignments: N/A

Claims:

- *Approval of Presented Claims.*

Brian Lautenbach Motioned To Approve Consent Agenda, Gerri Grott Seconded The Motion, Motion Carried 4-0.

Donations:

To: Industrial Tech. = \$100.00

From: Anonymous Donor

To: Chemistry/Linissa Wirtes = \$300.00

From: South Central PTO

To: Athletics = \$30.75

From: Anonymous

To: Lunch Fund = \$100

From: Anonymous

To: Staff Breakfast = \$560.00

From: Everwise Credit Union

Jake Wade Motioned To Approve Donations, Sherry Shei Seconded The Motion, Motion Carried 5-0

Administrative Report/Information & Action Items:

Principals Report – Elementary & Jr-Sr High (Information Only)

Insurance Rates For Classified Staff (Action Requested)-Jake Wade Motioned To Approve, Brian Lautenbach Seconded The Motion, Motion Carried 5-0.

In your packet this evening are new proposed rates for insurance premiums for classified staff. Our certified staff rates are updated based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement, in which the board approved that 2-year contract last year. This year's certified rates split the 11% increase 80/20 (80% of the increase is covered by the school corporation, while 20% is passed on to the certified employee).

Last year, we made a significant stride in the right direction in terms of our classified insurance rates. Previously, they had been unaffordable. Now, PPO 2 and 3 family plans are much more affordable than they were. Single plans are very affordable, especially compared to today's standards for insurance. The MASE Trust had an 11% rate increase this year (same as mentioned above for certified staff). Essentially, my recommendation is that the school corporation incur all 11% of the increase. I wish we could do more, but this is what we are comfortable recommending for this year. Incurring the entire 11% by the corporation is more than what our teachers are getting toward their insurance this year. We have to keep the PPO 3 single plan in compliance with the Affordable Care Act's affordability percent (which we've maintained compliance over the years, but needed an adjustment this year with the 11% increase in premiums). This is something I would like to continue to monitor the costs of this next year, in hopes that we can continue to do better for our classified staff.

AOR Letter For Corporation Insurance (Action Requested) -Jake Wade Motioned To Approve AOR Letter, Sherry Shei Seconded The Motion, Motion Carried 5-0.

Substitute Teacher Pay (Action Requested)-Sherry Shei Motioned To Approve, Brian Lautenbach Seconded The Motion, Motion Carried 5-0.

As you know, substitute teachers can be scarce these days. We continue to be pretty fortunate, overall, to have a great group of substitute teachers... including a couple of retired teachers that work almost every day, some parents and community members with a vested interest in our school, some recent grads that are in college and have a little time to spare, etc. We pay our substitute teachers a small stipend as a daily rate, which we increased slightly in July of 2023. We pay subs \$70 if they have a high school diploma, \$75 if they have 60 college credit hours or a bachelor's degree, and \$80 if they are a licensed teacher. I would like to propose increasing those to \$85, \$90, and \$100 per day... so an increase of \$15-20 per day. Last year, we had a total of 1,036 leave days in WillSub. Of those, 671 of those were filled with subs. If our situation is similar this upcoming year, the \$15-20 increase would be a financial impact of \$10-10,500 for the school year. A spreadsheet was included in each board member's packet of information.

Stipends for Teachers & Staff (Action Requested)-Jake Wade Motioned To Approve, Brian Lautenbach Seconded The Motion, Motion Carried 5-0.

In your packet this evening is also information regarding monetary stipends we would like to recommend for our teachers and staff. Our school corporation is fortunate to be up 19 students on our Fall ADM count this year, while every other school district in LaPorte County is down students. Since we are in year 2 of a 2-year collective bargaining agreement with the teacher's association, we thought stipends would be a nice way to supplement the small base salary increases teachers and staff received this year. It is our recommendation that each full time teacher receive a \$1,000 stipend, and all other staff receive stipends ranging from \$500-\$1,000 based on their position, and how many days/hours they work. A spreadsheet was included in each board member's packet of information.

Updates on 2024-25 Building Project (Information Only)

Mr. Anderson provided an update on the current construction project.

Other Items That May Come Before the Board:

Joint Service Agreement For SLCSEC, South LaPorte County Special Education Cooperative. (Action Requested)- Gerri Grott Motioned To Approve, Jake Wade Seconded The Motion, Motion Carried 5-0.

Adjournment

Jake Wade Motioned To Adjourn The Meeting At 6:58 pm, Brian Lautenbach Seconded The Motion, Motion Carried 5-0.

Deborah Allen, President

Jake Wade, Vice-President

Brian Lautenbach, Secretary

Sherry Shei, Deputy Secretary

Geraldine Grott, Member

