



Schuyler Community Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2012 6:30 PM
Schuyler Central High School Music Room
401 Adam Street
Schuyler, NE 68661-2400

I. Call Meeting to Order

Discussion: Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM. Also present were Superintendent Stevens, Principals Vrba, Comley, and Grammer, Assistant Principals Cunningham and Cline, Curriculum Administrator Gibbons, Activity Administrator Egr, Director of Facilities Mundil, and student representative, Cesar Gonzalez.

I.A. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: All present participated in the pledge of allegiance.

I.B. Declaration of Open Meeting

Discussion: President Jedlicka declared the meeting was preceded by advance notice and declared to be an open session.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

II.A. Agenda

II.B. Minutes

II.C. Acceptance of Claims

II.C.1. Bills of \$5,000 or more

II.D. Financial

II.E. Other Listed Reports

III. Public Forum - We ask that all presentation be limited in their length.

III.A. Recognition of visitors and guests

Discussion: Visitors at the meeting included Susan Jacobus, Grace Torzcon, and Glenetta Misek.

III.B. Other topics (limited to 5 minutes - subject to guidelines of the Board Participation Policy)

Discussion: Glenetta Misek, teacher at Richland School, invited everyone to visit her school on Thursday, February 16 when they host "Wildlife Encounter." Students raised the money to host this company from Gretna for this all-day assembly from.

III.C. Student Representative's Report

Discussion: Student representative, Cesar Gonzalez, gave an update on activities involving FFA, FCCLA, State wrestling, and Little Girls Dance Camp.

IV. Board Requests/Reports/Action Items

IV.A. Americanism

IV.B. Budget

IV.B.1. State Aid projections

Discussion: In the last two school years, state aid for SCS has been cut by 1.7 million dollars. The projection for 2012-2013 shows us receiving an \$800,000 reduction. At present SCS is on a general spending freeze. Other spending reductions will involve: not filling positions of resignation/retirement; increasing class sizes; reducing a staff member at each of the rural/satellite schools; holding the line on building supply budgets; and continuing all cost saving items implemented throughout the district during the last year (i.e. transportation, sharing supplies across the district, etc.)

IV.B.2. Colfax County/Cargill tax refund

Discussion: SCS is responsible for repaying \$339,000 in property tax dollars to Colfax County from 2008, 2009, and 2010 due to a reduction in the valuation of Cargill Meat Solutions. The property taxes from 2008 will be paid within the next four years. Taxes owed for 2009 are \$72,797.36 and for 2010 are \$139,208.14. Property tax support that would have been due to SCS for 2011 from Cargill will be held back by the Colfax County Treasurer.

IV.B.2.1. Discuss, consider and take action on a Certificate of Hardship for 2009 taxes received from Cargill/Colfax County.

IV.B.2.2. Discuss, consider and take action on a Certificate of Hardship for the refunding 2010 property taxes received from Cargill/Colfax County.

IV.B.3. Discuss, consider and take action on entering into an interlocal agreement with Seminole Energy Services/NJUMP program

IV.B.4. Refinancing 2007 Bonds

Discussion: Scott Keene representing Ameritas spoke to the Board about refinancing school bonds from 2007 due to extremely low interest rates. He proposed two questions: Does the Board want to refinance these bonds, and if so, when? He presented two options, the accelerated savings solution and the uniform savings solution. The Board can choose to act soon, wait until the call date of 12/12/2012, wait until 2017 or do nothing until maturity in 2032. There will be administrative, sales, and bank fees connected to this refinancing process. The finance committee will meet within two weeks to choose the most beneficial option.

IV.C. Building and Grounds

IV.C.1. Water at Fisher's 24 - update

Discussion: A bid was received from Culligan Water Conditioning for installation of a reverse osmosis system to treat all of the water at Fishers #24 School. This is in response to a state-mandated solution to the problem of selenium in the water. The rental fee will be \$35 per each unit (two units.)

IV.C.2. EMC recommendations

Discussion: EMC - our liability insurance provider - has been working with the custodial and kitchen staff in an effort to make our work place a safer environment. The culmination of those efforts will be featured in a meeting on February 21 at 2:30 in the SCRC (Schuyler Community Resource Center.)

IV.C.3. Modular update

IV.D. Curriculum

IV.E. Negotiations

IV.E.1. Discuss, consider and take action on a request by the Schuyler Education Association to be the official bargaining unit.

IV.E.2. Negotiations meeting - February 23rd at 4:30?

Discussion: The negotiations committee will begin the negotiating process with the SEA on February 23, 2012.

IV.F. Planning

IV.F.1. Schuyler Elementary School - addition update

Discussion: Chuck Misek visited the construction site of the SES addition. The painters are scheduled to begin on March 1. Construction is on schedule with planned completion before the August 2012 school year.

IV.F.2. Discuss, consider and take action on increasing internet bandwidth

Discussion: This increase will allow our students to perform at a high level technologically. In addition, Mr. Gibbons commented that this new increase will be needed when 400-500 students are taking state assessments all at the same time.

IV.G. Policy

IV.H. Public Relations

IV.H.1. Buffet Foundation - Save the Children - proposal

Discussion: The Buffet Foundation funds this Save the Children Program in fourteen states and is looking for five more states to take advantage of their program. The program is involved in educating parents on how to prepare their children for school, early childhood education, literacy and physical activity and nutrition. A site coordinator would need to be hired to oversee the program who would visit the homes of students three times per month.

IV.I. Foundation

Discussion: Brian Vavricek reported that at the next Foundation meeting the focus will be on setting goals, guidelines, and electing officers. Sandy Seckman has joined the group.

IV.I.1. Update of activity

V. Action Items

VI. Administrative and Other Reports

VI.A. Rural/Satellite Schools Report

Discussion: Principal Grammer visited the rural schools to check over playground equipment at all three sites.

VI.B. Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment

Discussion: A graph assessment was shared with the board members with results gathered from graduates of the classes of 2011 and 2007 who answered questions about how SCS prepared them for science, math, reading and life in general after graduation. Twenty four out of two

hundred questionnaires were returned. At the February 8 teacher inservice, attendees were asked to suggest new vision and mission statements for SCS.

VI.C. Activities Administrator Report

VI.C.1. Bleacher update

Discussion: The bleachers at SCHS have been repaired and the basketball backboards now have safety straps. To accommodate a handicapped seating area, the first row of bleachers will be pushed in all the way across and a protective railing will be installed around this area after graduation in May of 2012. The SCHS welding class is constructing the railing. SCHS will be hosting conference track in the spring of 2012.

VI.D. Director of Facilities/Transportation Report

Discussion: Radon testing was completed January 29th at District 504R; we will get the results in March or April. The board would like radon testing done at SMS and SCHS.

VI.E. Schuyler Elementary School Report

Discussion: At parent-teacher conferences on February 2nd and 3rd, SES had 97% of parents attending.

VI.F. Schuyler Middle School Report

Discussion: The Colfax County Spelling Bee was held on February 6th at the Middle School Cafeteria. There were three schools represented from our district (Richland, Fishers #24, and SMS) involving twelve students. A new policy will be implemented immediately at SMS where all interior doors will be locked whenever there is nobody inside the room. The Science Fair, sponsored by the Science and Math Club at SCHS is scheduled for March 7 at SMS.

VI.G. Schuyler Central High School Report

Discussion: The language arts and math departments in grades 6-12 are meeting to begin the process of curriculum alignment and revision. We are in the process of reviewing our current discipline plan and making changes to better suit the needs of the school and students. We are researching a point system discipline plan. Principal Pavlik is finalizing his recommendation for the changes to be made to the 2012-2013 school day schedule.

VI.H. Superintendent's Report

VI.H.1. Sharing of evaluation with the SAA

Discussion: The evaluation of the superintendent was shared with all area administrators.

VI.H.2. Election date reminder

VI.H.3. Board Development

Discussion: There will be three opportunities for school board development; board members are encouraged to take advantage of at least one.

VI.H.3.1. Judge and Jury - March 13th - Lincoln Marriott

VI.H.3.2. Leadership - Norfolk February 22nd or Lincoln February 29th

VI.H.3.3. NRCSA Spring Conference - March 22nd and 23rd - Kearney Convention center

VI.H.4. Option Enrollment update

VI.H.5. Board Retreat - need to set a date

VI.H.6. Support/Administrative Staff Emergency Medical Leave Bank request

Discussion: A staff member requested 7.75 days from the support/administrative staff Emergency Medical Leave Bank.

VI.H.7. Discuss, consider and take action to pay the annual dues for the Nebraska Association of School Boards

Discussion: Superintendent Stevens would like to see SCS continue membership in this association. He noted that SCS is also a member of NRCSA and benefits from membership in each group.

VI.H.8. Discuss, consider and take action on the 2012-2013 Special Education Service Contract with ESU 7

VII. Correspondence Items

VIII. Executive Session

VIII.A. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss a student issue.

VIII.B. Motion to exit executive session to discuss a student issue.

IX. Adjournment

Prepared by: Sally Jakub, Secretary to the Board