



Schuyler Community Schools
Board of Education Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2011 5:00 PM
Schuyler Central High School Music Room
401 Adam Street
Schuyler, NE 68661-2400

Attendance Taken at 5:05 PM.

Richard Brabec: Present
Lumir Jedlicka: Present
Chuck Misek: Present
Mr. Clint Parr: Present
Virginia Semerad: Present
Brian Vavricek: Present

Present: 6.

I. Call Meeting to Order

Schuyler Community Schools in partnership with parents, students, and the community will challenge and inspire students to be lifelong learners - District Mission Statement

Notice of this meeting was given in advance according to State Law 84-1411, by giving notice of the meeting to the public. Notice of this meeting was also given in advance to all members of the Board of Education

Others present were Superintendent Stevens, Principals Comley, Grammer, and Vrba, assistant principal Cline and Director of Facilities Mundil.

I.A. Pledge of Allegiance

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I.B. Declaration of Open Meeting

This meeting has been preceded by advance notice and is hereby declared to be in open session. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the hallway outside the Media Center. President Jedlicka declared the meeting was preceded by advance notice and declared to be an open session.

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

II.A. Recognition of visitors and guests

Visitors present were Ryan Stearns and Joseph Hewgley, representing Hewgley and Associates, and Brad Carne, representing the M.E. Group.

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

III. Board Requests/Reports/Action Items

III.A. Building and Grounds

III.A.1. SES Addition Presentation - Ryan Stearns

Mr. Stearns presented several plans depicting the planned addition at SES. These plans included grading, mechanical, electrical, heating and cooling, EPA, demolition, and storm water. In the existing kitchen, one wall will be removed; in the commons area all floor covering will be removed and replaced; front windows and one door will be removed in the library and used in another area of the building. New classrooms are similar in size to existing classrooms but will have individual thermostats. White boards will be raised to accommodate older children and larger lockers will be installed. A full size gym will feature three levels of lighting. An alternate gymnasium plan would include bleachers. The exterior walls will be tilt-up concrete painted to match the existing school building. The board discussed the angled ceiling above the computer room and the location of the new driveway and parking area. The project will take twelve to fourteen months to complete and should be ready by the fall of 2012 or the contractor would incur liquidated damages. A thirty-minute recess was declared at 6:30 PM. The meeting reconvened at 7:00 PM.

III.B. Planning

Superintendent Stevens welcomed a large group of parents and patrons to the discussion of rural school in the SCS system.

III.B.1. Rural/Satellite Schools Discussion

III.B.1.1. Educational Opportunities - Stephen Grammer

Principal Grammer shared positive educational values and educational concerns of rural schools. He stated that a teacher who teaches multiple levels of math and reading requires 90 minutes each per curriculum level, grades four thru eight thus making it difficult to offer a full curriculum to the same students in PE, family and consumer science, music, and art. He pointed out that rural teachers are doing a great job and are aided by older students mentoring younger students.

III.B.1.2. Radon Results

A report from Derry Stover, Environmental Health Analyst for Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services showed that radon levels at District 504R are still above the acceptable 4.0 level. Redirecting airflow in air vents and additional caulking have not had the desired effect; it is hoped that power-venting might help to lower the radon levels.

III.B.1.3. Preschool Information - Bill Comley

A request from patrons of District 504R to reinstate preschool brought a response from Principal Comley. He visited with Melody Hobson from the Early Childhood Department for the State of Nebraska. She pointed out that it would not be against the law to group preschool with K-3 children; but, it would be more desirable to group preschool with kindergarten. In addition, more staff would be required, as well as compliance with NDE rules 10 and 11, 35 square feet per child, the classroom would need to be a "hands-on based," and the teacher would need an early-childhood endorsement.

III.B.1.4. Financial Information - Expenditure Summary - Robin Stevens

Superintendent Stevens presented an unofficial expenditure summary broken down per school building. This summary gave cost per pupil for each of the following: SES - \$6131; District #24 - \$6978; SMS - \$8286; District #1 Richland - \$7396; and District 504R - \$10,153. The official audited overall cost-per-pupil in SCS is \$9666. At this time SCS receives \$6 million dollars in state aid. Within the next two years a projected shortfall of \$1.5 million is expected in state aid. For the 2011-2012 school year there will be a shortfall of \$946,398.

III.B.1.5. Enrollment History and Projection - Robin Stevens

Projected enrollment for 2011-2012 for the three rural schools are as follows: District #1 Richland - 71 students; District #24 - 65 students; and District 504R - 25 students.

Considering the financial shortfall and the projected increase in enrollment at SES and SMS, one teacher would be moved from District #1 Richland to SMS and a half-time teaching position would be moved from District #24 to SMS. If the decision to close District 504R is made, two half-time teaching positions would be moved - one to District #1 Richland and one to District #24, and one full-time teaching position to SES.

Superintendent Stevens pointed out that it is not uncommon to move staff within a district to where a need exists and the talents of the employee can best be put to use.

III.B.1.6. Options

Audience comments and questions centered on students attending other school systems in neighboring communities or transferring within the district, graduation rates at SCHS, reading scores, residency in the SCS district, cash reserves, education received at the rural schools, and the use of modular classrooms.

IV. Executive Session

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:13 PM. Passed with a motion by Lumir Jedlicka and a second by Mr. Clint Parr.

Richard Brabec: Yea, Lumir Jedlicka: Yea, Chuck Misek: Yea, Mr. Clint Parr: Yea,

Virginia Semerad: Yea, Brian Vavricek: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0