

**Southwestern Jefferson County Consolidated School Corporation
239 S. Main Cross Street
Hanover, Indiana 47243**

March 1, 2021

Regular Meeting

The School Corporation Board of Trustees conducted their Regular Board Meeting on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Elementary Board Meeting Room located at 273 S. Main Cross Street, Hanover, Indiana 47243.

The following members of the Board of School Trustees were present:

Mr. Rick Stockdale
Mrs. Lacie Deputy
Mr. Jonathon Simpson

Mr. John Jones
Mrs. Misty Jacobs

A moment of silence was held for the passing of Southwestern Alumni, Dani Riley, and also all the others who have passed over the past year from our Southwestern family.

Reading of the Corporation Vision and Mission Statement

Vision – An Educated Community of Higher Character

Mission Statement

The mission of the Southwestern Schools is to provide all students an equal opportunity for exceptional success within a safe and secure learning environment.

Audience Call

Brandon Frye, teacher, asked to speak on agenda item M.

Retirement Recognition of Linda Shepherd

This was postponed until the March 29, 2021 board meeting.

Approval of the January 11, 2021 Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board voted, 5-0, and the motion carried to approve the minutes from January 11, 2021 as presented.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report

Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Jacobs, the Board voted, 5-0, and the motion carried to approve the payment of claims listed below.

All Fund Claims #13815-13978 Payroll Claims #796, #797, #798, #799

Donations

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deputy, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 5-0, and the motion carried to approve the following donations:

- \$100.00 from Steinhardt Heating and Cooling for the elementary student activity fund
- \$100.00 from Anonymous for the Senior Band Banner
- \$1000.00 from SuperATV for a pitching machine for baseball
- \$890.00 from the Hanover Softball League for softball catchers gear
- \$1000.00 from Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson Co. for classroom books for Mr. Cannon and Mrs. Schoch's classrooms
- \$241.00 from Southwestern School Corporation to the Southwestern Athletic Department for coaching raise for girls soccer

Personnel

Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Deputy, the Board voted, 5-0, to approve the following personnel issues:

- FMLA Extension for Alyssa Brawner through March 5, 2021
- Retirement of Cathy Bear, Central Office/Transportation Secretary, effective March 1, 2021
- Employment of Maria Bolivar de Perez as ESL/Title I Aide and Custodian. She will be paid 5.5 hours at \$12.10/hour from the Title I grant. She will also work 2.5 hours at \$10.60 per hour as custodian at the high school. Mrs. Bolivar de Perez will be a full time employee and this is effective as of February 3, 2021
- Employment of Tim Arnold and Bob Gauger as Instructors for the Garage Program. Their stipends will be paid from Title IV.
- Employment of Talisha Hite, Tayra Bright and Matthew Johnson as ASD and SMD Supervisors for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Employment of Brandon Frye as Junior Class Sponsor at a rate of \$1367 and as High School Yearbook Sponsor at a rate of \$1312.
- Employment of the following Spring sports coaches:
 1. Shelly Anderson-Hamilton and Kristin Miller - Co-Middle School Swimming coaches, split the stipend
 2. Ethan Leach - JV Baseball coach
 3. Brian Crank - Volunteer Assistant Baseball coach
 4. Brandon Bump - Volunteer Assistant coach
 5. Gage Hartman - Volunteer Assistant coach
 6. Michael Howell - Middle School baseball coach - volunteer
 7. Kenny Garrett - Varsity Tennis coach
 8. Zac Nussbaum - Varsity Boys Track coach
 9. Stephanie Nussbaum - Varsity Girls Track coach
 10. Brynen Chitwood - Varsity Boys Golf coach
 11. Ryan Rummel - Middle School Golf coach
 12. Kim Crawford - Boys Middle School Track coach
 13. Peggy Eaglin - Girls Middle School Track coach
 14. Paula Fulton - Varsity Softball coach
 15. Tom Scroggins - Junior Varsity Softball coach

16. Coby Cloud - Volunteer Softball coach
17. Robert Green and Jason Poteet - Co-Middle School Girls Tennis coaches, split the stipend

Conference Requests

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Deputy, the Board voted, 5-0, and the motion carried to approve the following conference requests:

- Jason Watson, Benefits Administration, Collective Bargaining Strategy, 1/20-1/21/21, \$180.00, paid by Title IIA
- Jason Watson, Fund Accounting/Budget Cycle/Audits, 2/2/21, \$90.00, paid by Title IIA
- Jason Watson, Accrual Accounting, 2/3/21, \$90.00, paid by Title IIA
- Matthew Johnson, Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, 2/6-2/9/21, \$40.00, paid by the Education Fund
- Jason Watson, Group Unemployment Insurance, Performance Evaluation, HR Administration and Payroll Administration, 2/10-2/11/21, \$360.00, paid by Title IIA
- Jason Watson, Budgeting Fundamentals for School Business Officials, 2/16/21, \$200.00, paid by Title IIA
- Jason Watson, 4 Day IASBO Budget Workshop, 2/23, 2/24, 3/9 and 3/10, \$660.00, paid by Title IIA
- Jason Watson, 4 Day Treasurer's Workshop, 3/2, 3/3, 4/13, 4/14, \$660.00, paid by Title IIA
- Jason Watson, School Law & Administrative Rules, Business Ethics and Fraud Prevention, 4/6/21, \$180.00, paid by Title IIA
- Jason Watson, Food Nutrition Administration, 4/8/21, \$90.00, paid by Title IIA
- Melissa Wynn, Stephanie Schindler, Shannon Dattilo, Emily Phillips, Jodi Pflaumer and Kassie Seaver, Ron Clark Academy, 5/20-5/21/21, All expenses paid through Grants and Title IIA
- Jason Watson, School Law Administrative Rules, Construction Finance, Public Works Law and Administration, 6/1-6/2/21, \$270.00, paid by Title IIA

Senior Trip

Darrin Means asked for permission to pursue making plans for a senior trip to Gatlinburg on March 15-18, 2021. The trip will cost between \$400-450. Darrin and Nora Means will be the chaperones. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 5-0, and the senior trip was approved.

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement

Mrs. Katie King, Food Service Director, stated that the agreement states that if the Coop dissolves, the money remaining in the Coop will be distributed between the schools. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deputy, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 5-0, and the agreement was accepted as presented.

Proposed School Calendars for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

Mr. Jeff Bates, the administrators and CTA met and came up with the proposed school calendars. We try and keep both semesters as balanced as we can and also to get a whole semester in before we go on Christmas break. Some of the changes to the school calendar are a one week Fall Break, a one week Spring Break and getting out for summer break one week earlier than usual. There will also be an Open House in all 3 buildings the next two school years. There are 3 snow make up days built into the calendar. Any other days missed after the 3 days would be E-Learning or Virtual days. Mr. Frye stated that Parent/Teacher Conferences have also been moved to the middle of the nine weeks instead of waiting till the end of the nine weeks. The first teacher day will be August 3 and the first student day will be August 5 in 2021-2022. The first teacher day will be August 2 and the first student day will be August 4 in 2022-2023. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 5-0, and the school calendars passed as presented.

Classified Employee Handbook Change

Mr. Bates stated that we had six E-Learning days recently and that meant that some classified employees didn't have the opportunity to work and thus earn money. These employees rely on consistent paychecks. It was discussed and decided that we would offer them a benefit of using five E-Learning Personal days to use. The Classified Employee Handbook would state the following:

Each classified employee, except for 12-month employees and all custodians, shall receive the following number of paid e-learning personal leave days each year: Up to 5 days. These days may only be used when Southwestern Schools participate in E-Learning instructional days. E-Learning personal leave days are only valid for use during a particular school-calendar year and unused days will not accumulate nor carry-over to subsequent years.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 5-0, and the change to the handbook was approved.

Covid-19 Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Bates explained that the federal government's Covid-19 policy expired on December 31, 2020, which had allowed employees to take up to 10 Covid days with pay. This MOU extends that till the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Deputy, the Board voted, 5-0, and the Memorandum of Understanding was passed as presented.

Maintenance

Mr. Roger Bickers, Maintenance Supervisor presented the following:

- ION Systems - Two bids were received for new ION Systems. The ION systems purify the air. This will be paid with money from the Cares Act. Upon a motion made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board voted, 5-0, and the bid from Circle R Mechanical Contractors was accepted for \$44,570.00.

- Mowing Contract - Four bids were received for mowing. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deputy, seconded by Mrs. Jacobs, the Board voted, 5-0, and the bid from Clouds Lawn Care was accepted for \$650.00.
- Fire Protection - Two bids were received. This is the contract to take care of the fire extinguishers, alarms, and smoke detectors. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Deputy, the Board voted, 5-0, and the bid from Cintas was approved for \$7177.75.
- Bus Block Heater - This is to go back behind the wrestling building where the busses sit now. The two bids received are from 2020. This item was tabled until a later meeting to give Mr. Bickers time to make sure the bids are still good for the amounts given.
- Elevator Contract - Otis Elevator sent an extension agreement that would allow us to take a 2% discount. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 5-0, and a 3 year extension was approved.

BUDGET/FINANCE

Mrs. Boldery presented the following:

- Conflict of Interest Statements were presented for John Jones, Rick Stockdale, Jonathan Simpson and Laura Boldery. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 5-0, and the Statements were accepted.

*Note: Mr. Jones left the meeting.

- Resolution 2021-07 Borrow or Transfer Between Funds was presented. This allows the Treasurer to transfer money between funds. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deputy, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted by Roll Call, 4-0, and Resolution 2021-07 passed as presented.
- Resolution 2021-08 Allows the Treasurer to Pre-pay Claims was presented. This allows the Treasurer to pay claims as needed before board meetings. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deputy, seconded by Mrs. Jacobs, the Board voted by Roll Call, 4-0, and Resolution 2021-08 passed as presented.
- Resolution 2021-09 Transfer Funds at Year-end was presented. This allows the Treasurer to transfer funds to make sure all accounts are positive. Upon a motion made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mrs. Jacobs, the Board voted by Roll Call, 4-0, and Resolution 2021-09 passed as presented.
- 2020 Year End Transfers was presented. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deputy, seconded by Mrs. Jacobs, the Board voted, 4-0, and the 2020 Year end transfers were accepted.
- State Board of Accounts Audit - The auditor is coming on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and will be auditing from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

Audience Participation

Karla Thornton and Brandon Frye, teachers, discussed current legislation that would expand school vouchers and education savings accounts. They said this takes money away from public education. Board members and local residents were encouraged to

write to the legislature opposing the legislation. Mr. Bates along with other superintendents had joined together and wrote a letter stating our financial needs.

Technology Report

Mr. Kevin Dillman, Technology Coordinator, reported on the following:

- We are looking into the feasibility of purchasing 65" Viewsonic boards for the elementary teachers. We have several in use currently and the price just dropped by \$500 each.
- We will be evaluating a possible Go Guardian replacement hopefully starting next week.
- We are going to postpone leasing Chromebooks due to still having CARES Act Funding available.

Principals Reports

Mr. Robert Adams, Elementary Principal, reported on the following:

- This week is Read Across America Week
- IREAD will be held March 9, 10, 11
- Kindergarten registration will be on April 15 from 12:00-6:00

Mr. Jason Watson, Middle School Principal, reported on the following:

- Shared that the 8th grade trip to Washington DC is still on, however the company has postponed all trips through April. They are trying to make decisions about 60 days out from departures. Also requested and received school board approval to administer the Monitoring the Future survey to 8th grade students. Parents/guardians have the option to request that students not participate. The school receives a \$500 payment for our participation.

Mr. Matt Owens, High School Principal reported on the following:

- We are currently working on plans for prom and graduation. Due to safety protocols and restrictions, those events will most likely look different than in years past, but at this point, we are moving forward with planning those events.
- We would like to congratulate sophomore **Olivia Fresh** for being named the WORX/WXGO Student of the Week for Jefferson County. Olivia is a hard-working and successful student and we are very proud of her.
- On Tuesday, Friday and Saturday nights, we will be hosting the IHSAS boys basketball sectional #45. All fans will need a ticket voucher from their home school in order to purchase a ticket. Each school will be limited to 750 vouchers. There will be two games on Tuesday and Friday nights. After each game, the gym will be emptied of fans and our staff will sanitize the gym for the second game.
- Per the IHSAA: no "season" passes will be sold.

Safety Report

Mr. Jason Watson, Safety Coordinator, reported on the following:

- The board had received the individual building level reports from the recent School Safety and Security Assessment conducted by Safe Havens International

and that the corporation would be receiving a Strategic Report with suggestions for improvements to assist us in prioritizing and improving in this area. Mr. Stockdale commented that it was nice to see that there are a number of areas where it was indicated that we are already performing well. Camera proposals and plans for transitioning to an IP based system to take advantage of improved image quality, artificial intelligence, and analytic capabilities were discussed. Upon a motion made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mrs. Jacobs, the Board voted, 4-0, and the project proposal for \$30,102.57 from ERS Wireless was accepted.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jeff Bates, Superintendent, reported on the following:

- Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deputy, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 4-0, and the Resignation of Devin Brierly was accepted, effective March 12, 2021

Board Comments and Information

None.

Future Board Meetings

Monday, March 29, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Monday, April 26, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deputy, seconded by Mr. Simpson, the Board voted, 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Lacie Deputy, Secretary of the School Board of Trustees