

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
RIPLEY AND DEARBORN COUNTIES, INDIANA
October 29, 2014**

A Work Session of the Board of School Trustees of the Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation was held October 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. E.S.T., in the Performing Arts Center at East Central High School with the following individuals in attendance: Brandon Burress, Jeff Lyness, Joyce Huffman, John McKay, Michael Norman, Joseph Graf, Glenn Scholl, School Attorney Frank Kramer, Interim Superintendent Dr. John Williams, Director of Support Services Tom Harris, Director of Financial Operations Charles Blake, Director of Human Resources Mary Ann Baines, and Recording Secretary Cheri Huff.

Mr. Lyness called the work session to order at 7:02 p.m. EST leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Dr. Williams reviewed with the Board enrollment, personnel, finances, and alternatives for consideration. He stated that factors to be considered is to do what is best educationally and financially.

Dr. Williams reviewed the alternatives and added two new alternatives. Option E is to close North Dearborn, move North Dearborn K-5 to the Intermediate School, keep 6th grade at Intermediate School, and reconfigure Bright and Sunman to be K-5. This would reduce 9 positions and save approximately \$629,487.

Option F is to keep all three elementary schools open and do a ratio of 25-1 in grades K-2 and 30-1 in grades 3-5. Dr. Williams does not feel that 30-1 is educationally sound.

Dr. Williams stated that there would be some challenges making the Middle School 6 – 8. There would also be some challenges making the Intermediate School and Elementary School. Configuring Sunman to be K-5 would cause us to move ROD out. Option F preserves the idea of community schools and it gives the Board time to see what is going to happen over time. Option F does not change transportation. If Option F is chosen, the Board has to make a commitment that as the younger grades move up that staff numbers have to be looked at.

Dr. Williams stated that any decision has to be a dynamic decision, which means it will have to continuously be reviewed.

The Board discussed the two new options. Discussion included how many aides were needed, building maximums, how we choose which teachers are reduced. Dr. Williams stated that maybe a retirement incentive could be offered.

Mr. Norman stated that maybe it would be easier if we take of the options that we know we are not interested in and just focus on what is left. Mr. Norman, Mr. Scholl, and Mr. Graf all said they were interested in option E. Mr. McKay stated that he was not in favor of any of them and asked when we will know what the state is going to do. Mr. Burress stated that he is in favor of option F so we can see what happens and then still have the option to centralize later. He is also in favor of option E. Mrs. Huffman stated that we need to make sure the kids are getting the education that is required. Mr. Lyness stated that he is in favor of E.

Dr. Williams listed some of the options of what North Dearborn Elementary could be used for as opposed to a charter school. These included a maintenance facility, ROD, Central Office, storage, or transportation hub. He added that the decision is not an overnight decision but if we want to implement it for next school year then it needs to be decided pretty soon.

Mr. Scholl would like to see how many aides would be needed if we go with option F and how that affects the savings cost.

Mr. McKay stated that we may lose even more students because parents would be mad that we closed North Dearborn. Mr. Norman said that he does not look at it like we are closing North Dearborn; he sees it like we are relocating North Dearborn.

Mr. Lyness stated that we are in agreement that we look closer to options E and F. He said that we need to add in utilities to come up with a better number of a true savings and also get more detail on what we will do with Administration at North Dearborn.

Mr. Scholl said it might help to get a number on how much it would be to renovate the Intermediate School to house elementary kids and to look closer at the licenses of teachers to determine which ones qualify to stay.

Mr. Burress asked how much more we need to stay out of the red. Mr. Blake answered that it depends on the funding formula is figured and what our enrollment does. Mr. Blake added that this issue was not any fault of our teachers, administration, Board, or the community; it was caused from what is going on in Indianapolis.

Mr. Norman asked if the State comes in and helps you out when you are in the red. Mr. Blake answered that the State figures out what is needed and puts an extra tax amount on the property owners tax bills.

Dr. Williams stated that we will concentrate on E and F and try to get some more finite details. He added that the PAC was available for the November meeting November 20.

Dr. Williams added that with options E or F we should be able to go ahead with bus bidding. Mr. Harris stated that he should be able to do bus bidding in January.

Mr. Lyness said a decision needs to be made at the November 20th meeting.

Mr. Burress thanked Dr. Williams for all his hard work. Dr. Williams thanked Mr. Blake, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Baines, and Mrs. Huff for their help.

There being no further business to discuss, the Work Session was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. EST.