

MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
RIPLEY AND DEARBORN COUNTIES, INDIANA
February 25, 2014

A Work Session of the Board of School Trustees of the Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation was held February 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. E.S.T., in the Trojan Conference Room at East Central High School with the following individuals in attendance: Jeff Lyness, Brandon Burress, Joyce Huffman, Michael Norman, Joseph Graf, John McKay, Glenn Scholl, Director of Support Services Tom Harris, Director of Financial Operations Charles Blake, Director of Human Resources Mary Ann Baines, Superintendent Dr. Jeff Hendrix, and Recording Secretary Cheri Huff.

Mr. Lyness called the work session to order at 6:05 p.m. EST leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Dr. Hendrix stated that number 6 on the agenda will not be discussed due to not receiving all of the information in time.

For the first item on the agenda, Mr. Harris reminded the Board that at the February Board Meeting summer projects were approved with the exception of the English wing roof at East Central. He introduced Brian Hogan from the Garland Company to present information on roof options for this particular project.

Mr. Hogan thanked the Board for allowing him to be there. He shared information about the Garland Company, discussed the footprints of all of our buildings, life cycles and costs of different roofs, and lastly advantages and disadvantages of roof systems.

Mr. Lyness discussed many items with Mr. Hogan, including the R-Value, bonding the project, using local contractors, and when roofs on our others buildings will become due to be replaced. He also asked about hail damage and whether or not our insurance policy covers this. Mr. Harris is going to find out the answer to this question.

For the next item on the agenda, Mr. Blake stated that we need to stabilize the general fund and the capital projects fund. He presented information about pending legislation and how it can and will affect the corporation. He reminded the Board of their goal to maintain a 5% cash balance in the General Fund, which is approximately \$1.2 million.

The first change is that the state legislature is currently considering elimination of the business personal property tax and if passed this will affect all public entities that rely on property taxes for their source of revenue. The second is that it is estimated that the existing property tax caps that were enacted in 2008 are expected to cause losses of \$800 million dollars in 2015 for all local taxing units. It is unknown how much, but this will affect CPF, Transportation, and Bus Replacement funding.

Mr. Blake went on to mention our student count and how it affects the general fund. He shared a chart that showed our declining enrollment and another one that compared the number of students, teachers, and administrators along with how employee costs were broken down by groups over a period of time. His point was that 85-90% of the general fund pays for employee costs and if you have to save money or curtail expenses then employee costs is where you will find the majority of your reduction/savings.

Mr. Blake shared a copy of our January “paycheck stub” from the State. He noted the number of times our total payment amount has changed since the beginning of the school year. Then he shared a copy of the February stub showing that the total changed once again. He mentioned that this WILL change again in May and June due to the decline in our February student count.

Mr. Blake discussed with the Board some possible solutions/opportunities to help with the decline in funding which included a reduction in staff and changes in the Technology department. The changes in the technology department included outsourcing the entire department or just the Director’s position. He asked for the Board’s input and direction on either hiring our own Tech Director, hiring an outside firm to act as our Tech Director, or a complete outsourcing of the technology department.

The Board discussed and suggested the RFP process for the complete outsourcing option. Mr. Lyness stated that an RFP does not constitute a commitment to anyone so it would not hurt to proceed with this process. He suggested we set parameters so we do not get proposals from companies that are not even qualified.

Mr. Lyness asked if the Board could receive an email with the company information of who Dr. Hendrix and Mr. Blake had already met with and what they quoted. Also, if the Board could receive information on expenses as far as if we change this, then this will happen, and if we change this, then this will happen.

Mr. Scholl added that doing nothing is not an option.

The last item on the agenda is personnel. Mrs. Baines reminded the Board of the email she sent them in regards to overtime. She stated that we do have a Board Policy on overtime that is based on the Fair Labor Standards Act which states we will pay overtime when an employee works over 40 hours in a week. It also states that the Superintendent shall prepare Administrative Guidelines to implement this policy. The issue is whether or not overtime should be paid when over 40 hours is met when using a sick, vacation, or other paid non-work day during that same week.

The Board Members agreed that this topic needs to be discussed further. Mr. Burress volunteered to write a proposal on a revision to the Board Policy and will share it at the next Board Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the Work Session was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. EST.