

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District No. 196 was held in the High School Library at 6:00 PM on Monday, September 13, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President Megan Rounds.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Malinee called the roll with the following result:

Members Present: Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, V. Malinee, B. Dilliner, Rachel Payne, T. Masters, S. Hicks, K. Spotanski, L. Hacker, A. Van Zandt, S. Garner, C. Dennison, S. Lappin, A. Tindall, B. Harland, G. Wingo

Visitors Present: Doug Ess, Glass & Shuffett, LTD (District Auditing Firm)
See list attached

REPORTS

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT: Superintendent Henry introduced Doug Ess and asked Mr. Ess to present the district audit information for Fiscal Year 2021. Mr. Ess presented the audit to the board. He then thanked the board for giving Glass & Shuffett the opportunity to serve the district.

Kevin Acosta expressed his appreciation for Sesser Junior Football honoring of the 13 soldiers lost in Afghanistan at a recent game. He also presented information regarding scholarships that are available through the Patriots' Pen Program and the VFW Voice of Democracy public speaking contest.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

President Rounds asked for any public comment. Jason Hoffard addressed the board asking for information regarding students who were sent home due to close contact with a student that tested positive for COVID-19. Mr. Hoffard indicated that he would probably file a lawsuit in an effort to get his child back in school. Brandy Harland, a district aide, asked for information regarding the mandate for weekly testing (if not vaccinated) that resulted from the Governor's recent executive order. She indicated that she is not comfortable with vaccination or testing.

Paige Ruffino, a district teacher, presented information regarding vaccination or testing mandates, the Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act and asked that the board take this information into consideration. She also indicated that there have been some concerns about the nasal swab testing that would cause inflammation and possibly contain carcinogenic material. She also asked the board to consider different options that would allow the district to apply for waiver of mandate. Parent Kendra Burgess addressed the board with questions regarding her daughter being sent home from school due to close contact. She said that the District did not have the right to send home her child without a court order. She also asked what the district had in place for those students who have to miss school due to close contact exclusion. Julia Leon addressed the board regarding the notification of parents when a student is suspended from school for disciplinary reasons and other discipline matters involving her child. President Rounds indicated to Ms. Leon that the Board would consider her comments after seeking information from the building principal.

SEA: SVEA President Rachel Payne presented information regarding faculty involvement with the orientations held in August and different school and community activities. She indicated that the teachers are waiting for the ISBE interpretations of the Governor's mandates for testing and vaccinations.

LABORERS' LOCAL 773: No report.

CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Brandon Dilliner, Maintenance Supervisor, presented information on the elementary entrance (completed) and the upcoming annual review and inspection with the Regional Office of Education and the State Fire Marshal.

K-8 PRINCIPAL: Mr. Jones, Elem/JH Principal, presented the following information to the board: Trust fund, enrollment information, recent activities, upcoming activities, and planned professional development activities.

H.S. PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Page, High School Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, upcoming calendar entries, extra-curricular activities, and student enrollment. Mrs. Page also congratulated Coach John Shadowens for recently becoming the all-time wins leader/coach in high school football in the District.

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Henry, Superintendent, presented the following information to the board:

1. The consent agenda for this month's meeting includes the following additional item(s):

- Approval of administrator & teacher compensation reports
- Approval of out-of-state and overnight field trips
- Approval of the FY22 School Maintenance Project Grant application
- Approval of the FY22 Evidence-Based Funding Spending Plan
- Approval of the FY21 District Audit
- Approval of the initial FY22 District Budget

2. The Fiscal Year 2022 district budget (initial) is presented for approval at this meeting (see green summary sheet). As usual, Superintendent Henry expects to recommend a “clean-up” budget amendment in Spring, 2022, as the district approaches the end of the fiscal year (amended budgets are usually slated for final adoption in June).

This budget has been prepared as a conservative plan for the fiscal year using (hopefully) underestimated revenues and overestimated expenses. Following board approval, the FY22 budget will be filed in both Franklin & Jefferson Counties, as well as with the Illinois State Board of Education.

3. As of this afternoon, the HVAC remodeling project is progressing on-schedule. Mechanical Engineer Ben Boyt provided the following updates (via e-mail):
 - To-date, no mid-design estimated budget changes are needed;
 - The dedicated outdoor air system (DOAS) will have main electric duct heaters (emergency backup) for supplemental heat to provide equivalent, if not better, heat than previously possible for cold weather events.
 - The exhaust fans will be connected to the building automation system (BAS) to allow for confirmation of building positive-pressure (important to maintaining temperature).
 - Design Review: October/November, 2021
 - Anticipated Bidding: December, 2021
 - Anticipated Award: January, 2022
 - Projected Completion Dates: Summer, 2022 (33%); Summer, 2023 (66%); Summer, 2024 (100%)
4. Correspondence from Regional Superintendent Lorie LeQuatte regarding the amount of money ROE #21 has distributed to the school district during Fiscal Year 2021 was presented to the board.

President Rounds asked for discussion regarding the onsite COVID-19 testing and Test-To-Stay options. Discussion followed regarding the Return to In-Person Learning plan that was approved in the August 9, 2021, board meeting; possibility of engaging testing vendors (mandating open access to K-12 students), and the availability of the Sesser Clinic (will do testing and results will be available quickly). Jason Sample asked questions regarding what is considered “close contact,” and Superintendent Henry explained the ISBE/IDPH definition. Discussion followed regarding the district being subject to IDPH and Bi-County Health Department regulations, no state-issued step-by-step rules/regulations to follow regarding the vaccination or testing mandate (need for patience, expecting emergency rules and procedures before deadline), and possible need to have a special board meeting to address any new emergency rules and procedures.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Menser approving the minutes of the previous meeting: August 9, 2021 (Regular Meeting); Treasurer’s report; bills in the amount of \$164,635.62 and salaries in the amount of \$344,067.36; approval of the administrator and teacher compensation reports; approval of field trips; approval of Fiscal Year 2022 School Maintenance Project Grant application; approval of Fiscal Year 2022 Evidence-Based Funding

Spending Plan; approval of district audit for Fiscal Year 2021; and approval of district budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (Initial), as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION: At 7:21 PM, a motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing the following exceptions to the Open Meetings Act:

- a. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-57)
- b. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning the salary schedule for one or more classes of employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2))

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 9:01 PM, a motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to reconvene from closed session.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (PERSONNEL)

EMPLOYMENT OF DISTRICT COOK (BYERLY, JESSI): A motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Acosta to employ Jessi Byerly as a district cook.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey, Acosta, Barry, Menser

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF EXTRACURRICULAR COACH AND/OR SPONSOR (GRASKEWICZ, BETH): A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to employ Beth Graskewicz as JHS Girls Basketball Coach, subject to her successful completion of a required, fingerprint-based criminal background check.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Sample, Spence, Stacey, Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF EXTRACURRICULAR COACH AND/OR SPONSOR (RUFFINO, PAIGE): A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to employ Paige Ruffino as JHS Cheerleading Sponsor.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Spence, Stacey, Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT COACH(ES) AND/OR SPONSOR(S): A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to approve the following volunteer assistant coach(es) and/or sponsor(s):

- JHS Boys Basketball: Addison Page
- HS Football: Andy Janello

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

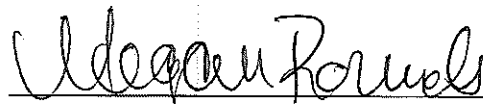
ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Menser to adjourn.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared the motion carried.

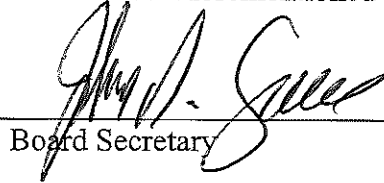
The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

The above-listed account of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District No. 196, held on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 6:00 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.



Board President



Board Secretary

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING THE 2021-22
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #196 BUDGET**

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

A public hearing regarding the 2021-2022 Sesser-Valier CUSD #196 district budget was held at 5:55 PM in the High School Library on Monday, September 13, 2021. The hearing was called to order by Board President Megan Rounds.

Members Present: Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, V. Malinee, B. Dilliner, Rachel Payne, T. Masters, S. Hicks, K. Spotanski, L. Hacker, A. Van Zandt, S. Garner, C. Dennison, S. Lappin, A. Tindall, B. Harland, G. Wingo

Visitors Present: Doug Ess, Glass & Shuffett, LTD (District Auditing Firm)
See list attached

Superintendent Henry presented the 2021-2022 budget and explained that the hearing was to hear any public comments regarding the district budget. He explained that the budget presented has very few adjustments from the tentative budget presented in August. He informed the board that the projected deficit spending is less than what the district has seen in previous years and indicated that the projected deficit is not expected to be as much as indicated by the budget (underestimated revenue and overestimated expenses). He added that he would be submitting an amended budget toward the end of the fiscal year that will be more in line with actual revenue and expenses.

Superintendent Henry recommended approving the FY2022 Initial Budget.

Superintendent Henry asked for any other questions or additional public input, and there were none forthcoming.

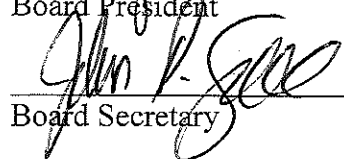
Superintendent Henry closed the hearing at 5:58 PM.

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

The above-listed account of the public hearing of the Board of Education of Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District No. 196, held on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 5:55 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.



Board President



Board Secretary