

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196
MARCH 11, 2024
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, March 11, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Jason Sample.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Zimbrow called the roll with the following result:

Members Present: Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser, Packer, Sample, Spence

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Henry, N. Page, K. Jones, L. Zimbrow, B. Gunter, T. Masters, R. Payne, K. Kelly, O. Page, S. Lappin, R. Towers, B. Harland, N. Wingo

Visitors Present: Dan Fulk

Jason Sample announced his resignation from the Office of Board President effective at the conclusion of the March 11, 2024, regular board meeting and indicated that he had delivered a written notice of such to Board Secretary John Spence prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Dan Fulk with Du Quoin State Bank introduced himself and gave a brief history of locally-owned bank branches, their service to small communities and his hopes to be more involved with the Sesser community.

REPORTS

SVEA: R. Payne provided a handout to board members that highlighted various activities, projects and lessons that several of the teachers and their students have participated in over the month. Payne addressed Association concerns with decisions made during the previous month's meeting including: 1) the decision to waive fees for an outside organization while other programs/organizations within the school have been required/are required to pay fees; and 2) the discussion and decision for custodial staff to work during an outside organization's event on a weekend with little to no concern of the employees' workload while being short-staffed. Payne stated that both unions are working with little resources while taking on

additional tasks to help each other out and hope that board members will take that into consideration when making future decisions that impact the district's employees.

LABORERS' LOCAL 773: No report.

CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: No report.

K-8 PRINCIPAL: Mr. Jones, Elementary/JH Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, recent activities, upcoming activities, Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) testing schedule, and special student recognitions.

H.S. PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Page, High School Principal, presented information regarding the following to the board: Trust fund, recent activities, upcoming activities, and special student recognitions.

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 a 2023-2024 Amended Public School Calendar
 - Authorization for renewal of membership in the IHSA
 - Approval of a facility-use request (SV Rising Stars; VFW Baseball/Softball Field)
 - Approval of the 2024 graduation dates (SVHS: Thursday, May 16, 2024; SVJHS: Friday, May 17, 2024)
2. Due to the starting & ending times of the partial/full solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024, Mr. Henry recommended that the District amend the 2023-2024 school calendar and close school on that day. The risks associated with potentially having students unsupervised during partial eclipse periods outweigh the benefits of holding school that day (either full day or ½-day school improvement day). Assuming that the District does not have to use any more emergency days during the 2023-2024 school year, school should still dismiss for the summer before Memorial Day.
3. Superintendent Henry is working with the District's architect to schedule a Phase II pre-construction meeting for the Summer, 2024, HVAC project work in the next 4 weeks or so as we start gearing-up for this year's summer work. While this year's work area is smaller than last year's Phase I work, the amount of moving/preparation required might be similar. He is hopeful that Heartland Mechanical can wrap-up the work this year a little earlier in July, 2024, so that Mr. Gunter and his crew can finish up the cleaning work without being rushed.
4. Mr. Henry attached the most recent edition of IASA Capitol Watch (March 8, 2024) for review.
5. Congratulations, again, to Sesser-Valier High School Principal Natalie Page on her selection as the 2024 Illinois Principals Association High School Principal of the Year. Mrs. Page will

represent the State of Illinois at the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) this year as Illinois' candidate for National High School Principal of the Year.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Menser and seconded by Garner approving the minutes of the previous meeting, including closed session minutes: February 12, 2024 (Regular Meeting); Treasurer's report; the bills in the amount of \$211,801.46 and salaries in the amount of \$417,066.04; approval of the 2023-2024 Amended Public School Calendar; authorization for renewal of membership in Illinois High School Association (IHSA); approval of facility-use request (SV Rising Stars; VFW Baseball/Softball field); and approval of 2024 graduation dates (HS: Thursday, May 16, 2024; JHS: Friday, May 17, 2024), as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser, Packer, Sample, Spence

Nays: None

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Page presented a handout from the Black Diamond Conference bylaws outlining admission fees set by the Conference, minutes from the August 8, 2023, Coal Belt Conference meeting where admission prices were established, and responses received from other Black Diamond Conference Schools when asked about their policies and fees for admission to athletic events. Discussion followed on ways to offer discounts for senior citizens and veterans.

APPROVAL OF REVISION TO ADMISSION PRICING FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, VETERANS & SENIOR CITIZENS: A motion was made by Lance and seconded by Menser to approve a discount of athletic event admission pricing to the established student admission price for active duty military personnel, veterans and senior citizens age sixty-five (65) years or more effective the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, with implementation procedures to be established by applicable school personnel, as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser, Packer, Sample, Spence

Nays: None

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

Board Member Jennifer Menser initiated a Board discussion of the possibility of adding a student advisor/member to the Board. The Board discussed the matter, including an applicable policy change, and asked Superintendent Henry to gather additional information for Board study/consideration. The Board did not take any action at this time.

CLOSED SESSION: At 7:10 PM, a motion was made by Spence and seconded by Kirk 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))
- c. Security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property (5ILCS 120/2(c)(8), as amended by P.A. 93-79 and P.A. 93-422)
- d. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11))

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Packer, Sample, Spence, Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser

Nays: None

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

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 8:03 PM, a motion was made by Garner and seconded by Spence 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.

PERSONNEL (NEW BUSINESS)

Board Member Clark Lance recused himself from the next action of the Board.

EMPLOYMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER (LANCE, JAMES): A motion was made by Packer and seconded by Garner to employ James Lance as High School Social Studies Teacher, subject to and contingent upon his successful completion of a statutorily-required employment history review.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Spence, Garner, Kirk, Menser, Packer, Sample

Nays: None

There being six (6) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

Board Member Clark Lance resumed full participation in the board meeting.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISTRICT CUSTODIAN (ORT-WILLIS, ROSEMARY): A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Menser to employ Rosemary Ort-Willis as District Custodian, subject to and contingent upon her successful completion of a statutorily-required fingerprint-based criminal background check and employment history review.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser, Packer, Sample, Spence

Nays: None

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

EMPLOYMENT OF EXTRACURRICULAR COACH(ES) AND/OR SPONSOR(S) (BASSO, C.): A motion was made by Garner and seconded by Packer to approve the following extracurricular coach(es) and/or sponsor(s).

- JHS Boys Track: Chip Basso

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Lance, Menser, Packer, Sample, Spence, Garner, Kirk

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) (WALLE, C.; LANCE, J.; LAUR, B.; ROUNDS, Z.; PAGE, O.): A motion was made by Menser and seconded by Kirk to approve the following volunteer assistant coach(es) and/or sponsor(s).

- HS Boys Track: Chris Walle
- JHS Boys Track: Jaden Lance, Brian Laur, & Zach Rounds
- JHS Girls Track: Olivia Page & Brian Laur

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION(S): A motion was made by Garner and seconded by Spence to acknowledge the following employee resignation(s):

- JHS Social Studies Teacher: Johnny Hollis (effective April 15, 2024)

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

ROUTINE PERSONNEL MATTERS/COMBINED ACTIONS: A motion was made by Lance and seconded by Menser to adopt the following resolutions:

- “Resolution Reference Decision To Terminate Extra-Duty/Stipend Assignments And Duties” regarding Regina Tinsley as presented.
- “Resolution Reference Decision To Terminate Extra-Duty/Stipend Assignments And Duties” regarding Leslie Hacker as presented.
- “Resolution Reference Decision To Terminate Extra-Duty/Stipend Assignments And Duties” regarding Marcus Clarry as presented.
- “Resolution Reference Decision To Terminate Extra-Duty/Stipend Assignments And Duties” regarding Jake Vanwey as presented.
- “Resolution Reference Decision To Terminate Extra-Duty/Stipend Assignments And Duties” regarding Beth Graskewicz as presented.
- “Resolution Reference Decision To Terminate Extra-Duty/Stipend Assignments And Duties” regarding Cheyenne Pitchford.
- Adopt the resolution “Resolution Reference Decision To Terminate Extra-Duty/Stipend Assignments And Duties” regarding Mikala Wingo.
- Adopt the resolution “Resolution Reference Decision To Terminate Extra-Duty/Stipend Assignments And Duties” regarding Brandy Harland as presented.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Sample, Spence, Garner, Kirk, Lance, Menser, Packer

Nays: None

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 Spence and seconded by Kirk to adjourn.

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

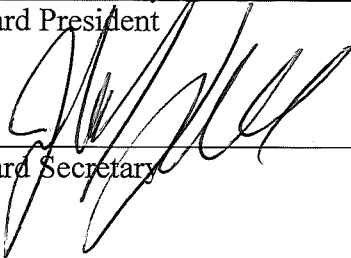
The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

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, March 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.

 4/15/24

Board President



Board Secretary