

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
RIPLEY AND DEARBORN COUNTIES, INDIANA
September 4, 2014**

A Work Session of the Board of School Trustees of the Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation was held September 4, 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, Michael Norman, Joseph Graf, Glenn Scholl, 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. Board Member John McKay was not present.

Mr. Lyness called the work session to order at 7:00 p.m. EST leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Dr. Williams reviewed with the Board Enrollment, Personnel, Facilities, and Finances. He gave some possible alternatives and the Board had discussion.

Dr. Williams stated that there are 69 counties in Indiana that have a declining school age population. He shared current K-12 enrollment and K-6 class sizes in our district. He also shared enrollment numbers by school year from 2008 to current.

Dr. Williams showed the Board the number of staff per building and their costs for each school year from 2011 to current.

In regards to facilities, Dr. Williams stated that the good news is we have very nice facilities. The bad news is facilities have to be paid for and maintained and this can be very costly. Dr. Williams shared what year each building was built, what year(s) additions took place, and the capacity each will hold. A facility study conducted for our corporation gave us a 5 year plan with a price tag of almost \$7,800,000 which does not include updates to technology or HVAC which are two very important items.

Dr. Williams showed a five year estimated cost of updates by building. He also showed operating costs of each building over the last several years which are numbers that affect the general fund.

Dr. Williams explained that the General Fund is calculated through the Legislative adopted basic grant; its biggest influence is student enrollment numbers; and, it pays salaries, benefits, property insurance, utilities, and supplies.

Dr. Williams presented per pupil cost by year showing a decrease over a five year period of \$515.37 per student. This means less money and fewer students. Dr. Williams shared future funding estimates and suggested that we express to our legislators that they need to give us more local control as opposed to state control.

Dr. Williams reviewed alternatives for consideration. These included increasing class size, program reduction/elimination, attrition of certified and non-certified positions, reduction in force, realignment of current building grade configurations, closing a facility, referendum, any combination of these items, or, do nothing. Doing nothing is not recommended.

The Board discussed the different alternatives. Mr. Scholl asked how much money we need and how much money would be saved by closing a building. Mr. Blake answered that there is no set dollar amount that is needed and the savings would vary depending on how the grades are reconfigured.

Mr. Scholl stated that he is not in favor of a reduction in force or a referendum as an alternative, referring to a referendum as a “Band-Aid”. Dr. Williams added that it is hard to close a facility and avoid a reduction in force.

Dr. Williams noted that the decision the Board makes will play a part in who will fill the Superintendent’s position.

Mr. Scholl added that he would also not be in favor of a program reduction or elimination.

Mr. Graf asked if there would be interest in anyone buying a facility. Dr. Williams stated that if we close a building, law says we have to maintain the facility for 2 years.

A referendum was discussed briefly and Mr. Lyness stated that he does not think that a referendum is the answer right now.

A lengthy discussion took place on closing a building. Dr. Williams stated that we can work on different scenarios of closing a building and increasing class sizes and present it to the Board for review.

Mr. Lyness stated that closing a building looks like the only reasonable option right now.

Mr. Scholl stated that we just need to make sure we keep the kids in mind first; no program reduction if we don’t have to.

Mr. Lyness summarized that the Board will let Administration come up with options of which building to close and what the savings would be and that further discussion would take place at the October Board meeting if there is not a work session scheduled before then.

There being no further business to discuss, the Work Session was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. EST.