

The Effingham County Board of Education met in regular session on August 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: F. Lamar Allen, Vickie Decker, Troy K. Alford, C. Eddie Tomberlin and Beth Helmly.

C. Eddie Tomberlin opened the meeting with an invocation.

The agenda was adopted.

The board voted unanimously to approve the attached items on the Consent Agenda with a motion by Troy K. Alford and a second by Vickie Decker. The Consent Agenda included: Board Minutes from the August 6, 2014 board meeting; and approval of the 2014-2015 salary schedules.

Transition Specialist Denise Dawson and Project Search Instructor Jilliane Banks, along with two past Project SEARCH participants, presented the Project SEARCH 100% Employment Outcomes Award. This award will be displayed at the Effingham County Hospital.

Transportation Coordinator Jimmy Helmly presented a powerpoint presentation in regard to gated subdivisions in our county and surrounding counties.

Silverwood Homeowners Association president Wade Britt spoke regarding the gated entry to Silverwood Plantation. Mr. Britt stated that in order to preserve safety and minimize transportation in the neighborhood, the gate should be closed except for authorized vehicles. He felt it imperative that the homeowner's association and the school board work out a solution that would benefit both groups. The Homeowner's Association offered to provide decals for every bus in the system that would allow gate entry. That would include substitute buses as well.

Mr. Rob Lanham stated that there had been trouble with the gate not opening due to a lightning strike. The problem resulted from not having the database stored at a different location. That problem has been rectified and they now have the database stored off-site.

Board Member Beth Helmly asked why the gates could not be left opened only during the times that the buses would be entering and leaving to pick up students and take students home. Mr. Lanham replied that the automated system would be a better "fix".

Mrs. Sherri Gordy asked if the HOA could put bar codes on every bus. She stated that the number of instances that buses could not get in the gate was a relatively small number of times and asked to please consider allowing the buses to enter Silverwood as they have done in the past.

After some discussion, Troy Alford made a motion to put a sticker on every bus (including sub buses), with Sherri Gordy as backup in case gates failed to open. Vickie Decker seconded the motion. Board Member Beth Helmly asked permission to speak and stated that we should reconsider this action, because as the county continues to grow, and a new gated subdivision is built, we will have to do the same for them.

Mr. Rob Lanham stated that if there is a problem with the automated gates when using the stickers or decals, and it causes problems more than twice, he would personally pay to have the gates fixed with no charge to Silverwood.

Ms. JoAnna Cantrell asked if there was any data to indicate how many times there has been a problem with the gates.

Mr. Helmly asked who would put the decals on 167 buses. Mr. Britt stated that the Home Owner's Association would do this on a Saturday.

Mr. Rick Bohannon stated that he thought this was a good compromise. He also stated that if we allowed the children to be picked up at the entryway to Silverwood, there would be a possibility for a child to be hurt, or worse, due to traffic congestion in that area.

Board Chair F. Lamar Allen stated that the safety of our students is always foremost in the minds of the board members. He called for a vote on the original motion by Troy K. Alford. The vote was 4 Yeas and 1 Nay. Beth Helmly voted Nay.

The board voted unanimously to enter into executive session with a motion by C. Eddie Tomberlin and a second by Vickie Decker.

In a motion by C. Eddie Tomberlin and a second by Vickie Decker, the board voted to end executive session.

In a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Beth Helmly, the board voted unanimously to accept the Superintendent's recommendations as noted on the first attached personnel board action list. In a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Beth Helmly, the board voted unanimously to accept the Superintendent's recommendations as noted on the second attached personnel board action list with the exception of Troy K. Alford, who abstained.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m. with a motion by Troy Alford and a second by Vickie Decker.

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F. Lamar Allen, Chairman

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Dr. Randy Shearouse, Superintendent