

**Special Meeting
October 23, 2017
High School Auditorium
600 S. Edgewood Drive
Ellettsville, Indiana**

Pursuant to notice, the Board met for a Special Meeting. Mr. Durnil called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Durnil, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Wright, Mrs. Merry and Mr. Larry Thrasher.

Others Present: Dr. Mike Wilcox, Dr. Sanders, Ferguson Law Office, and Ms. Robin May.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Two students from SES came to the mic and expressed their feelings to keep SES opened. The floor is opened to the parents who signed up. (Attached will be a list of who signed up to speak). One by one the parents came to the mic and spoke why they feel Stinesville should not be closed. They feel EIS and EPS will be too crowded and they like the small setting at Stinesville. In each of their own words they spoke to the board asking the board not to vote to close Stinesville. Randi Jackson was the last to speak for their committee. The public was given 30 minutes to speak. The floor is now closed.

Long Range Planning Overview by Dr. Wilcox

Dr. Wilcox started by saying that his job is to keep our corporation financially sound.

Board Discussion

Mr. Kerr started by explaining what he is basing his decision on. The biggest thing is enrollment at SES. The declining enrollment in the past several years. He looked up the amount of students who should be going to SES to see if the numbers add up. The numbers add up to where the students live and where they should be going to school. There is simply not enough student living in the RBB district that live in the Stinesville area. Because of the declining of students at SES it cost more to educate a student there then at EIS or EPS. We added Latch key trying to increase enrollment but that did not help. I know we have gotten a lot of suggestions on how to get more students at SES. Redistricting is one of them. This would only make other students have to go to a school where they know no one. At least all SES students would be moving together, so they will know someone. A benefit in closing SES will be that the teacher will have other teachers to collaborate with, with only having one teacher for each grade at SES the teacher did not have another same grade teacher to collaborate with. Another question we keep hearing is how is this going to affect class sizes? We have done our homework and found that there will be very little increase in class size and actually could be a decrease in some classes. I have always pushed for small class sizes. I am always asking for numbers in class rooms to make sure we do not have too many in each class room. If we close SES we will have a savings of 600,000.00 to our budget. I am hoping with the saving from closing SES this will help keep our class room sizes small.

We have gone through two huge budget cuts both times we were told that if we would close SES we would not have to lay employees off. We did not feel like we could close SES at that time because the enrollment was up, but since that time the enrollment has decreased and has continued to decrease till we have no other resource than to close SES. Another suggestion was to move EECC to Stinesville and to move SES to EECC. We need to keep our preschool in a central location, so this would not work. Another suggestion was to make SES K-6. This will not help enough to make a difference in enrollment. Unfortunately none of these suggestions could work to help the deficit on our budget. We have heard from you that you feel that your students are a number and will fall through the cracks. This is not true. At the last board meeting the principals got up and shared all the ways they are making sure this does not happen. They have a data wall that they have with each student's name on it to make sure all students are not falling behind or through the cracks. All the schools are A schools and I am very proud of them all. I have given this decision all a lot of time and thought process through the last couple of months. I have no other choice than to vote to close SES due to decreasing enrollment. I hope the SES community will get behind their children's transition and make this an easy transition for the students.

Mr. Durnil ask if there is any interest in any other board member to talk. Hearing none Mr. Durnil turned the meeting over to Dr. Wilcox.

At this time I am recommending to the board option 1 Long Range Plan which would close SES at the end of 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Wilcox ask the board to move forward with this recommendation. Motion Mrs. Merry and seconded by Mr. Kerr discussion Mr. Durnil ask if there were any other board member who had interest in giving SES one more year to be opened. Hearing none the **vote Approved 4/1**.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Dr. Durnil adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.

Mr. Jimmie D. Durnil, President

Mr. Dana Robert Kerr, Member

Mr. Larry Thrasher, Vice President

Mr. Randall C. Wright, Member

Mrs. Debra L. Merry, Secretary