

**COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 117**  
**1625 DEEP LAKE ROAD**  
**COUNTY OF LAKE, LAKE VILLA, ILLINOIS 60046**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.**

Present

Absent

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**BOARD MEMBERS**

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Mr. Wayne A. Sobczak, President  
Mrs. Sandy Jacobs, Vice President  
Mr. Nick Ciko  
Mr. Randy Mathias (*via phone*)  
Mr. Ronald Vickers  
Mr. Bart Winkler

**ADMINISTRATION**

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Mr. James McKay, Superintendent

Dr. Merry Quinn, Asst. Supt.  
Ms. Jennifer Nolde, Asst. Supt.  
Mr. Bradford Hubbard, Principal  
Mr. Stephen Plank, Principal

**STUDENT AMBASSADORS**

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Arabella Gigliotti, ACHS  
Annalisa Roncone, LCHS

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

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Mrs. Nancy Hendrickson

The special meeting of the Board of Education of Community High School District 117 was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 in the Library at Lakes Community High School. Mr. Wayne Sobczak, President, presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 5:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

**COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 117**  
**SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
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Mrs. Jacobs resigned as Vice President of the Board of Education.

**ELECTION – OFFICER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Nomination for Secretary

Mr. Vickers nominated Mrs. Jacobs for Secretary of the Board of Education.

Mr. Vickers moved the Board close the nominations for Secretary of the Community High School District 117 Board of Education. Second by Mr. Ciko.

Voice Vote:                   Ayes: 6                   Nays: None                   Absent: None                   Motion carried.

Mr. Vickers moved the Board elect Mrs. Jacobs as Secretary of the Community High School District 117 Board of Education. Second by Mr. Winkler.

Voice Vote:                   Ayes: 6                   Nays: None                   Absent: None                   Motion carried.

Nomination for Vice President

Mrs. Jacobs moved the Board elect Mr. Vickers as Vice President of the Community High School District 117 Board of Education. Second by Mr. Winkler.

Voice Vote:                   Ayes: 6                   Nays: None                   Absent: None                   Motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 5:10 pm Mr. Vickers moved the Board enter into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the following exceptions to the Open Meetings Act:

- a. The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance 5 ILCS 120/(c)(3).
- b. 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).

Second by Mrs. Jacobs.

Roll Call Vote:                   Ayes: Mathias, Jacobs, Winkler, Vickers, Ciko, Sobczak  
Nays: None                   Absent: None                   Motion Carried.

Motion to Come out of Closed Session

At 6:30 pm Mr. Vickers moved the Board come out of Closed Session. Second by Mr. Winkler.

Voice Vote:                   Ayes: 6                   Nays: None                   Absent: None                   Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 117**  
**SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
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Appoint New Board Member to Fill Unexpired Term

Mr. Winkler moved Geoffrey Guttschow be appointed to fill the seat on the Board of Education vacated by Kenneth Dewitt effective April 17, 2014 and continuing until the person elected on April 7, 2015, is officially seated. Second by Mr. Ciko.

Voice Vote:                   Ayes: 5                   Nays: None                   Absent: Mathias                   Motion carried.

Approve Resolution authorizing adoption of opinion and order of Board of Education to dismiss Kent Sullens

Mr. Vickers moved the Board approve resolution authorizing adoption of opinion and order of Board of Education to dismiss Kent Sullens as presented. Second by Mr. Winkler.

Roll Call Vote:                   Ayes: Jacobs, Winkler, Ciko, Vickers, Sobczak  
  Nays: None                   Absent: Mathias                   Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:38 pm Mr. Winkler moved the April 9, 2014 special meeting of Community High School District 117 Board of Education be adjourned. Second by Mr. Vickers.

Voice Vote:                   Ayes: 5                   Nays: None                   Absent: Mathias                   Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

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President

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Secretary

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 117,  
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF ORDER OF BOARD OF  
EDUCATION TO DISMISS KENT SULLENS**

**WHEREAS**, in March 2013, the Board of Education of Community High School District 117, Lake County, Illinois (hereinafter "the Board"), received reports and recommendations from its administration regarding the conduct of Kent Sullens ("Sullens"), the Director of the Gateway Educational Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, the reports established conduct and actions of Sullens that the Board considered to be irremediable; and,

**WHEREAS**, after considering said reports and recommendations, the Board found that Sullens engaged in irremediable conduct and that his actions constituted grounds for immediate dismissal pursuant to Sections 10-22.4 and 24-12 of the *Illinois School Code* (105 ILCS 5/10-22.4 and 5/24-12); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board found that the best interests of the School District and its students required the dismissal of Sullens as a School District employee.

**WHEREAS**, on March 21, 2013, the Board considered and adopted Charges of Misconduct Against Sullens and a Bill of Particulars Relating to Charges of Misconduct Against Sullens as the grounds and cause for the dismissal of Sullens as a tenured teacher in this School District and as Director of the Gateway Educational Program finding the conduct of Sullens to be irremediable, that he was unfit and/or unqualified to teach in the School District, and that the best interests of the School District and its students required his dismissal.

**WHEREAS**, Sullens requested a dismissal hearing, pursuant to the provisions of the *Illinois School Code*.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 24-12 of the *Illinois School Code*, 105 ILCS 5/24-12, a hearing was conducted before an Illinois State Board of Education impartial hearing officer, Steven M. Bierig; and

**WHEREAS**, after the conclusion of the dismissal hearing and post-hearing briefing, the Hearing Officer made written findings of fact and conclusions of law, and recommended that Sullens' termination be changed to a long-term unpaid suspension and that Sullens be reinstated; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has reviewed the post-hearing briefs and hearing transcript and exhibits ("record"), along with the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation of Hearing Officer Bierig regarding the dismissal charges against Sullens; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 24-12 of the *Illinois School Code* (105 ILCS 5/24-12), the Board must issue a written order as to whether the teacher must be retained or dismissed for cause from its employ and the Board may incorporate the hearing officer's findings of fact or may modify or supplement the findings of fact if, in its opinion, the findings of fact are against the manifest weight of the evidence; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Board of Education that the Hearing Officer's recommendation is against the manifest weight of the evidence and that Sullens should be dismissed for cause.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

**Section 1:** That after considering Hearing Officer Bierig's findings of fact, conclusion of law and recommendation and the record of the dismissal hearing, the Board rejects the Hearing Officer's recommendation to reinstate Sullens determining that Hearing Officer Bierig's findings are against the manifest weight of the evidence.

**Section 2:** That the Board hereby accepts certain of Hearing Officer Bierig's findings of fact and conclusions of law, rejects certain findings of fact and conclusions of law and makes additional findings of fact and conclusions of law as set forth in the Board's Order.

**Section 3:** That the Board adopts the Order set forth under separate cover as discussed and reviewed in closed session.

**Section 4:** That Sullens is hereby dismissed for cause from employment with the Board of Education, effective March 21, 2013.

**Section 5:** That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.

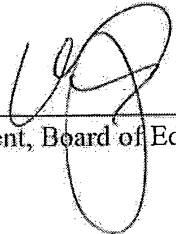
ADOPTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014, by the following roll call vote:

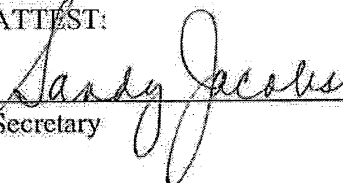
Ayes: JACOBS, WINKLER, CIKO, VICKERS, SOBCHAK

Nays: NONE

Absent: MATHIAS

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF COMMUNITY  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 117,  
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

By:   
President, Board of Education

ATTEST:  
  
Secretary