

**SOUTH SPENCER COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**SCHOOL BOARD**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

School Board President, Cevin Collins, called the meeting to order. Everyone in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Board Members attended:

- Cevin Collins – President
- George Schwoeppe – Vice President
- Barbara Tuley – Secretary
- Derek Allen – Member
- Melissa Middleton - Member

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda of the December 20, 2019 special meeting of the Board of School Trustees was approved as presented.

Motion: Derek Allen  
Second: George Schwoeppe  
Vote: 5 – 0

**NEW BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

1. Approved the contract for Superintendent Dr. Richard Rutherford as presented.

Motion: Cevin Collins  
Second: Melissa Middleton  
Vote: 4 – 1 (George Schwoeppe)

**STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Blake Bunner – Thanked the Board for working together with Superintendent Dr. Rutherford to come up with this contract and stated: “I was here in the last board meeting and a fellow citizen of ours, Cheryl Waninger, stood-up and she itemized a tremendous list of accomplishments and highlighted the level of engagement of our current Superintendent. It is pretty amazing; in fact, it is a list that any school corporation would want of their Superintendent. After really thinking about that and considering what we have here with this contract; we all in this room know in a small county it is so important for us to work together. Anytime we have a fraction or a divide in our small county, in this particular corporation, which is only a subset of our county, we are at risk when we have this division. I have heard some things from this community here and there, but overwhelmingly in great support of Dr. Rutherford. I will tell you this that I have known Dr. Rutherford for a long time, even from childhood, there is not a finer man that I know for this particular job. I have never known us, there is no disrespect for prior Superintendents, but I have never known us in this community to have a Superintendent as engaged and as blue to the core as Dr. Rutherford.”

(Cevin Collins) – “So are you saying you agree with the terms of the contract?”

(Blake Bunner) – “I agree with the terms of the contract with one exception, I think that the board should, and I urge the board to consider doing everything in your power to extend his contract and make it as long as he is willing to stay here. Because we as Rebels need Dr. Rutherford in this position. And I understand that it was a collaborative agreement, that the board and he came up with this contract, but I truly urge the board to hang on to this man. We have never had a person of this caliber in this position and for us to let him slip through after three years would be a huge loss for our community. So, I urge the board to be thinking about this over the holidays and maybe come back with a better contract than this one. This is a great contract with one little flaw, we are not keeping him long enough. So thank you guys for allowing me to speak and those of course are my opinion. I have come to several different board meetings and it is interesting that we have never heard one negative thing about Dr. Rutherford, that is because they are all positive. In fact, Dr. Rutherford maybe the most positive individual I have ever met in my life. The man has lost people close to him in his family and he is resilient. Like water off a ducks back, he is unphazed, what great leadership that we all should look too. That we all should reach for. Wouldn't we all want to be as positive as Dr. Rutherford? So, thank you for my time up here. I will not go on and on but you know where I stand on this. Thank you for working on the contract and getting it done. I just urge you to go one step further and make it better. Thank you for serving our community. It is not easy being an elected official in our community. It is not easy for me to stand up here and have a position, because I do represent all people in Spencer County. Thank you.”

### **STATEMENTS/CONCERNS OF THE BOARD**

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be Monday, January 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the multi-purpose room at South Spencer High School.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Time: 7:17 AM

Motion: George Schwoeppe

Second: Derek Allen

Vote: 5 – 0

### **DOCUMENT SIGNING**

*All Students - All the Time*