

SSPO Oct. 3, 2014

President Kate Fineske opened the meeting at Noon. She explained the purpose of the meeting.

President Fineske called for a review of the minutes from the September meeting. Tomlyn Chambers moved for their acceptance. Cherly second the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Ann Francis reported that most SSPO dues have been collected and paid. Tomlyn Chamber's husband made a spreadsheet for SSPO use. Treasurer Francis reported that SSPO's account has a balance of \$1,112; however, there are still some outstanding expenses expected from the VIP Mixer

Superintendent Dr. Rieger provided comments about the District's priorities, which included making sure our students attain 21st century skills and developing community partnerships. He reported on the State's report card results, calling them "solid" with our highest performance index yet, 104.8. He stated that this is a reflection of the overall achievement of all our students and a reflection of staff & students' hard work. He concluded by announcing his recent visit to Northview where he lost a pie-eating contest to Mr. Swaggerty.

TOPIC: School Funding

Guests Stacy Anderson (who has 2 children at Southview) and Dan Greenberg (who teaches at SV and has 2 children at Sylvan) presented about the Northwest Ohio Friends of Public Education –a partnership for those with a vested interest in education.

<https://www.facebook.com/NWOFPE> Parents interested in assessing the ratings of charter schools that compete for Ohio tax dollars and Sylvania tax dollars can access that information here: <http://knowyourcharter.com/>

In summary, many did not know that when a student from Sylvania schools chooses to attend a charter school, the average deduction from the district to the charter school was \$8,054 per student. The district receives \$1,795 per student in state funding. These dollars are leaving Northwest Ohio for

charter schools that are not performing at the same standards as Sylvania Schools. Many charter schools are private corporations and are therefore not required to report public information about how the funds are used. They don't have the transparency that we have here in the Sylvania Schools.

Stephen Rothschild, a member of the Sylvania School Board, presented on the funding mechanisms for public education in Ohio. The State of Ohio provides a degree of funding for schools, but the majority of Sylvania Schools' funding comes from local property taxes. He explained that when a levy is passed it is usually a millage, or \$1 for every \$1,000 a home is valued at. House Bill 920 freezes millage to the \$ amount collected in the 1st yr of a millage cycle. Regardless of whether or not house values go up in subsequent years, no more money can be collected than what was collected in that first year. But, if home values go down, the amount collected will go down based on the millage per value and be frozen at that amount (again, regardless of whether not house values go up, the amount collected can never be more than the least amount collected). The net effect is that while levy dollars are frozen, costs to deliver education can inflate leaving the District to do the same with less purchasing power.

The Sylvania Public School budget is about \$80 million, about 80-85% of which is spent on employees' salaries and benefits. In school year 2009-2010, the operating expenditure per pupil was about \$13,000. Now, those numbers are closer to \$10-\$11,000 per pupil.

Mr. Rothschild's talk included supporting comments from Laura Sauber, the Sylvania Schools Treasurer/CFO.

Discussion from the floor followed.

President Kate Fineske closed the meeting at 1:00 PM and mentioned that our next SSPO meeting will be a Parent Sharing Meeting taking place on November 7th at noon.