



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

March 24, 2014

The second regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:40 p.m. on the above date (March 24, 2014) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Gunkle, Lycett, Dimmig, Hayes, Lindsay, Merkle, Parsons  
ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley  
OTHERS: Christman, Melber, Lewis, Millman, Kennedy, Buchman, Bergey (arrived 8:05PM), Takacs, Jordan, Lilly, Donahue, Hafner, McGinty, Yale (SLEA), Morning Call (Rizzo) and approximately 12 other members of the community.

### **OPENING PROCEDURES**

Mrs. Gunkle led the Board and others attending the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The Board recognized 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Hopewell Elementary School student, Sophie W. who was named the state winner of the PMEA Elementary Music Competition contest for her violin and piano composition entitled, Violet. Sophie W. played the violin and was accompanied on the piano by 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, Georgian F.

### **VISITORS**

Mrs. Carolyn Dunham, Middle School Cross Country Volunteer Coach addressed the Board with a proposal to request sport status for the Middle School Cross Country Club Team. There was Board discussion.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY** Hayes and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Lycett to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting as distributed to all Board members.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED BY** Parsons and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Merkle to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** items as follows -

Approve the bills to be paid list as of March 24, 2014 showing bills paid in the amount of \$378,408.43 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$213,854.31 for a total amount of \$592,262.74 for the General Fund and bills to be paid in the amount of \$763.90;

Approve the Treasurer's Report and Investment Report for the month of February, 2014;

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff-

Ellen Schmid, Instructional Assistant, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School, for May 14 through May 16, 2014

Accept the retirement of the following staff-

Jane Kline, Custodian, Lower Milford Elementary School, effective May 13, 2014. Mrs. Kline has been a district employee for 13 ½ years;

Accept the resignation of the following coach, effective the end of the 2013-2014 school year-

Ian Beitler, Head Wrestling Coach;

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2013-2014 school year-

Lindsey Derstine MS Club Lacrosse

James Oleskowitz Boys Lacrosse

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Hayes**

### **CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Lilly, Dr. Donahue, Mr. McGinty and Mr. Hafner reported on student and staff activities at the High School, Middle School, Intermediate School and the elementary schools.

#### High School report –

- 3/24– Pennies for Patients breakfast for the 2 homerooms that raised the most money. \$1200 in total was raised and goes to Lymphoma and Leukemia Research. The winning homerooms averaged \$15 and \$18 per student donated.
- 4/2 - During the first two weeks of April, we will be hosting a traveling exhibit related to the Holocaust. The exhibit will be set up in the library and open to all students and staff. Junior English classes will be viewing the exhibit to coincide with the reading of the novel *Night*, however all are invited to view the exhibit. Also, we have been fortunate enough to secure a local Holocaust survivor to visit our school and speak with our junior class. Both of these opportunities have been made possible through the efforts of the Holocaust Resource Center - Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley. The presentation is scheduled for April 2 at 10:00-11:05.
- 4/8 – National Honor Society Induction starting at 7PM.
- The students and faculty have adjusted as best they could to being moved out of the room with the broken steam valve. The rooms that were damaged continue to remain closed and under construction at this time.

#### Middle School report –

- PSSA Math and Reading : March 24-27
- 3/28 - Career Day
- 4/4 - MS Musical (in-house performance)
- 4/4-4/6 - MS Musical (public performance)
- PSSA Writing: 4/8 & 4/9

- 4/10 - Parent Course Selection Meeting for 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents
- PSSA Science: 4/29 & 4/30
- Board Visitation: 3/25

#### Intermediate School report –

- PSSA math and reading testing for grades 4, 5, and 6 will begin March 25
- 3/28 - Learning support teachers, and administration will have their first scheduling meeting for the 2014-15 school
- The Spartan Service Corps raised \$2500 for the American Red Cross during their most recent project.
- PTG is in the process of “renovating” the Sparken Lounge. The Sparken Lounge is a very popular component of our school- wide positive behavior support. PTG will add a variety of new activities for students, as well as some new furniture.
- Recently students have enjoyed more outdoor recess, as the playground is snow and ice free.
- 3/28 - PVAAS training for teacher roster verification

#### Elementary schools –

- PSSA Testing has begun at the K-3 level. Currently, only 3rd Graders are assessed in Reading and Mathematics.
- 3/28 - Act 80 Day with Early Dismissal at the elementary level. Teachers will be working on 2nd semester team goals, reviewing grade level data
- 3/11 - Liberty Bell hosted its annual Spanish Immersion Information Night. 48 families were in attendance.
- 3/25 - Tomorrow these same parents will have the opportunity to observe our 1st Grade Spanish Immersion program for an hour.

The Special Education Plan Report has been completed and will stand on record for community review and input for twenty-eight days prior to submission to PDE.

**MOVED BY** Hayes and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Lycett to approve (pending Solicitor’s review) the renewal agreement with Blended Schools for student online learning management system for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

**MOVED BY** Hayes and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Lycett to approve (*pending Solicitor’s review*) of the enclosed renewal subscription order and services agreement with K12 Systems for Sapphire Suite Software (Student Information System) for the 2014-2015 school year through 2017-2018 school year.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

**MOVED BY** Lindsay and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Lycett to approve Homebound Instruction for Student #031402.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

## **BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**MOVED BY** Hayes and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Lindsay to approve the Letter of Agreement dated March 11, 2014 between Southern Lehigh School District and Lehigh Career & Technical Institute clarifying responsibilities in connection with the National School Lunch program for our students who attend Lehigh Career & Technical Institute.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

Presentation by Mr. Jeremy Melber, Director of Business Services and Mr. Christopher Gibbons, Concord Public Financial Advisors, Inc. on the refunding of General Obligation Bonds Series of 2009. Mr. Melber presented that the bidding of different banks brought in lower interest rates than expected, and that the district would see 3.05% present value savings by refinancing this bond. Mr. Gibbons said the only caveat to this refinancing was that the bank was withholding the right to change the rate based on future banking law changes that could affect the amount of cash that banks are required to have liquid. Mr. Dimmig questioned what affects that could have on the district, and Mr. Melber said the risk is minimal and would still have savings for the district. Mr. Gibbons also said since the term of this financing is very short, that risk is minimized.

**MOVED BY** Lycett and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Lindsay to approve the resolution incurring non-electoral debt to be evidenced at a general obligation note in the maximum principal amount of \$4,646,400, to currently refund the school district's general obligation bonds, Series of 2009, and pay related expenses; accepting a bank loan proposal to purchase the note; setting forth the terms and substantial form of the note; creating a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository for the note; pledging the full faith, credit and taxing power of this school district to secure the note; and containing related provisions.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **PERSONNEL**

### **REPORTS**

#### **Education Committee**

Mr. Lindsay reported the committee met today and discussed the following-

- Special Education Plan Report
- GPA/Class Rank Survey Update
- Adolescent Depression Awareness Program

#### **Facilities Committee**

Mr. Lindsay reported the committee met on March 19, 2014 and discussed the following-

- Chiller/Energy Conservation Project
- MS security cameras
- Lower Milford Roof Project

- Recommendation to hire a construction manager and architect to assist in the Hopewell School project.

CLIU

Mrs. Parsons reported on the PATH program, a transition program to introduce students to workforce experience.

Budget & Finance Committee

Mr. Dimmig reported that the committee plans to meet with in April (with a date to be determined).

ACMC

Mr. Dimmig requested clarification of the teacher’s contract for approval for graduate increment to satisfy Master’s degree requirements. It was determined that this topic would be discussed in Executive Session after the meeting.

Superintendent’s Report

Mrs. Christman reported the following-

- The Morning Call announced that the district was again named one of the top 30 places to work in the Lehigh Valley.
- Area superintendents met with local legislators to discuss educational concerns.
- The Superintendent’s Report is available on the district’s website.

Strategic Plan and Middle States Report

Mrs. Lewis reported the following-

- Teachers continue to integrate new hybrid learning ideas as a result of professional development with Discovery Education
- The Strategic Plan/Middle States Report is available on the district’s website.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Lycett and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Parsons to approve a first reading of the following new policies-

- #123.3 Programs: District-Sponsored Activity, Varsity Sports Program or Club Sport Operations
- #229 Pupils: Student Fundraising
- #915 Community: Relations with PTA/PTO/PTG Organizations

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

**MOVED BY** Parsons and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Dimmig to approve a first reading reading of the following revised policy-

#915 Community: *Booster Organizations*

#918 Community: *Commercial Activities*

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

**MOVED BY** Parsons and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Lycett to suspend the punishment of expulsion of Student #031403 for a violation of the School District's Weapons Policy, Section 1317.2 of the Public School Code, and Section 912 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, subject to the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Waiver of Rights and Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of Suspension of Expulsion signed by the Student's parent, as discussed by the Board in Executive Session held on March 10, 2014.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**VISITORS**

The Board took a brief recess at 8:50 p.m.

The Board met in Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:40 p.m.

**MOVED BY** Dimmig and **2<sup>nd</sup> BY** Merkle to adjourn the meeting.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: McLoughlin, Quigley**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_ Board Secretary