



Southern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors Meeting

February 22, 2016

The second regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:30 p.m. on the above date (February 22, 2016) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Dimmig, McLoughlin, Gehman, Gunkle, Lycett, Merkle, Sisselberger, Smith

ABSENT: Parsons

OTHERS: Christman, Melber, Millman, Kennedy, Lewis, Bergey, Knoll, Takacs, Harakal, Buchman, Butz, Guarriello, Sinkler (SLEA), Diaz (SLEA), Peterson (Morning Call), Higgins (Carter Group), Johnston, and 78 other members of the community.

OPENING PROCEDURES

Mr. Dimmig 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.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Christman introduced Lehigh Carbon Technical Institute students who placed in the SkillsUSA District 11 Championships on February 3, 2016. William M., Alejandro R., and Matthew M. were recognized and presented with board awards for their accomplishments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2016 meeting as distributed to all Board members.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: Parsons

VISITORS

CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** items as follows -

Approve the bills list dated February 22, 2016 showing paid bills in the amount of \$12,512.33 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$255,993.57 for a total amount of \$268,505.90 for the General Fund and bills paid in the amount of \$825,503.47 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$89,416.90 for a total amount of \$914,920.37 for the Construction Fund;

Approve the Treasurer's Report and Investment Report for the month of November, 2015;

Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2015-2016 school year-

Michelle Barker 7-12 English, Elementary

Approve the following student teacher placement-

Sarah Ponessa, Music Education, Moravian College, with Dr. Nancy Beitler, Southern Lehigh Middle School, March 14, 2016 to April 20, 2016.

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff-

Lisa Crowley, Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, April 7 and 8, 2016

Marissa DellaValle, Instructional Assistant, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School, February 29, 2016

Charise Grube, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker, Southern Lehigh High School, March 7 through 11, 2016;

Approve the following substitute for the 2016-2017 school year-

Meghan Cowell, Substitute Instructional Assistant, an hourly rate of \$16.01

Approve the following SAT prep Instructor, an hourly rate of \$43.44 for the 2016-2017 school year-

Nicole Ott

Approve the following coaches for the 2015-2016 school year-

Meryah Harding Asst. Girls Lacrosse \$1317**

Julia Martinez Asst. Girls Lacrosse \$1505**

***Shared position and stipend;*

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2015-2016 school year-

Nicole Fiscella Track and Field

Chelsea Rivenbark Track and Field

Colten Fenstermacher Volleyball

Steven Kluemper Volleyball

Brandon Evans Baseball

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Parsons

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

Southern Lehigh High School Update

Mrs. Beth Guarriello, Assistant Principal, provided a an update on several student community services activities at the high school, including:

- Pennies for Patients (Lymphoma and Leukemia) – National Honor Society
- Laughing At My Nightmare day (Muscular Dystrophy) – Boys Basketball
- Autism Awareness Night – Girls Basketball
- African Library Book Collection – Freshman Seminar Classes and Teen Counselors

She also invited board members and the public to attend the Southern Lehigh High School Student Symposium, a science fair and art show, on March 3.

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the following student trip request:

Southern Lehigh High School Speech and Debate Team to attend the Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Championships, April 8 and 9, 2016 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Parsons

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Lycett to approve the following research proposal requests-

1. Mrs. Mara Lambert, a Masters candidate at Penn State University to conduct a research project to explore Using Technology to Increase Oral Language Development and Phonics Understanding with ESL students at Liberty Bell Elementary School.
2. Ms. Judith Higgins, a Doctoral candidate at Drexel University to conduct a research project to explore Global Classroom in Eastern Pennsylvania and Its Impact on Students' Development of Global Competencies with Southern Lehigh High School students participating in the Global Nomads program.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Parsons

Proposal for All Day Intervention Kindergarten Pilot

Dr. Christman presented the proposal for All Day Intervention Kindergarten Pilot for at-risk children. All kindergarteners will be screened at registration. A classroom within the program would be limited to 12-15 students.

There was board discussion.

(Dr. McLoughlin left the meeting at 8:26 p.m. and returned at 8:30 p.m.)

(Mr. Lycett left the meeting at 8:28 p.m. and returned at 8:30 p.m.)

Private Funding of Sports Facilities Committee

Mr. Stephen Higgins, Carter Group and Mr. Harry Johnston, representing the Private Funding of Sports Facilities Committee provided a presentation on private fundraising opportunities. The feasibility study was estimated to cost \$27,000 to \$35,000.

There was board discussion and the following motion made.

MOVED BY Smith and **2ND BY** Sisselberger that the district fund a feasibility study at the cost of \$35,000.

There was board discussion and the motion tabled to allow visitor comments.

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Sisselberger to table the previous motion.

Vice-President Dimmig announced that discussion was open to the public and visitors wishing to comment were directed to sign the *Request to Address the Board* sheet.

Ms. Kadisha Stout, spoke in support of district funding of the feasibility study.

Mr. Arlen Schantz concerned about the use district funds for the feasibility study.

Ms. Yun Wolfe spoke in support of district funding of the feasibility study.

Mr. Tom Scozzafava spoke in support of district funding of the feasibility study.

Mr. Doug Frederick spoke in support of district funding of the feasibility study.

Dr. Anthony Colasurdo spoke in support of district funding of the feasibility study.

Mr. Tim Rice, Coopersburg, spoke in support of district funding of the feasibility study.

Mrs. Susan LaBrie, Coopersburg resident and representative of the Southern Lehigh Music Parents spoke in favor of private funding of the feasibility study.

Ms. Samantha Falcone, Center Valley, spoke in support of splitting the cost of the feasibility study with public and private funding.

Mr. Dimmig announced that public comments were closed.

MOVED BY Smith and **2ND BY** Sisselberger to approve the funding of the proposed feasibility study.

Mr. Dimmig called for a roll call vote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: “NO” – McLoughlin, Gunkle, Gehman, Merkle, Dimmig-
Motion Denied
“YES” – Sisselberger, Smith, Lycett
ABSENT: Parsons**

There was additional Board discussion, including the suggestion by Dr. McLoughlin to partner with the Southern Lehigh Education Foundation in raising funds for the cost of the feasibility study.

MOVED BY Sisselberger and **2ND BY** Smith to approve funding for half (\$17,500.00) of the proposed \$35,000.00 feasibility study cost.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: “YES” – McLoughlin, Sisselberger, Merkle, Smith, Lycett-
Motion Carried
“NO” – Gunkle, Gehman, Dimmig
ABSENT: Parsons**

Dr. Trisha Colasurdo, Southern Lehigh Education Foundation (SLEF) member, will discuss sharing half of the cost of the proposed feasibility study with SLEF board members.

Cameron McColgan, high school student and Center Valley resident, addressed the Board in support of district funding the feasibility study.

The Board took a brief recess at 10:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:27 p.m.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the audit report for fiscal year 2014-2015 as prepared by the firm of France, Anderson, Basile and Company, P.C.

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

SUPPORT SERVICES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the following adjustments for construction of the New Hopewell Elementary School. These unanticipated costs were included in the contractor’s base contract and will not result in an increase or decrease of the contractors bid amounts-

Lobar, Inc., General Contractor-Six adjustments totaling \$11,898.22
Albarell Electric, Electrical Contractor-Two adjustments totaling \$14,226.00
DeWalt Plumbing, Plumbing Contractor-Single adjustment totaling \$9,708.00

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

(Mrs. Gehman returned at 10:30 p.m.)

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve award of the Electric Supply Agreement for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019 to Constellation New Energy, Inc., 1221 Lamar St., Suite 750, Houston, TX 77010. The purchase was made on February 9, 2016 at a fixed price of \$.03805 per kWh having a total yearly value of approximately \$190,250.00, which reflects a 26% savings over the current agreement. Preapproval of purchase was discussed at the December 16, 2016 Facilities Committee Meeting.

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

PERSONNEL

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the transfer of Thomas Ruhf, High School Gifted teacher to the position of Dean of Students, Southern Lehigh High School for the balance of the 2015-2016 school year. There will be no change in compensation. This transfer is due to the resignation of *Jason Lilly*, Assistant Principal, Southern Lehigh High School.

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

REPORTS

Education Committee

Mrs. Gunkle reported that the committee met prior to this meeting and discussed:

- Field trips
- New plan for data analysis

Facilities Committee

Mr. Merkle reported that the committee met on February 17, 2016 and discussed:

- Middle School Asphalt & Concrete Project was put out to bid with 6 contractors submitting bids
- Improvements to Preston Lane, including a roundabout are anticipated to be complete in the summer of 2017-2018
- First installment of LEEDS grant in the amount of \$450,000 received
- Furniture options for the new Hopewell Elementary School Building

Mr. Merkle also thanked the custodial and grounds staff for the exceptional job of snow removal during the recent snowstorm.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Christman made a correction to information reported at the February 8 meeting regarding summer Driver's Education training. She clarified that summer hours for on-the-road training were reduced, but not eliminated.

OLD BUSINESS

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve a second and final reading of the following revised policies-

#120.1 Programs: *Participation in Activities*

#227 Pupils: *Controlled Substances*

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

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to change the 2015-2016 District Calendar and convert the current last day for students to an in-service day for all teachers for the purpose of packing of classrooms K-3 at Hopewell and Lower Milford Elementary Schools and curriculum review at the other buildings.

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

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve a first reading of the following revised policies-

#111 Programs: *Lesson Plans*

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

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2nd BY** Merkle to approve the termination of Employee #13795.

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

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2nd BY** Sisselberger to approve an additional assistant Track and Field coach position due to increased enrollment numbers.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

VISITORS

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Gunkle and 2nd **BY** Merkle to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

ATTEST: *Diana S. Millman*, Board Secretary

PENDING APPROVAL