



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

January 12, 2015

The first regular monthly meeting and Act 34 Hearing of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:30 p.m. on the above date (January 12, 2015) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Parsons, Gunkle, Hayes, Lycett, Merkle

ABSENT: McLoughlin, Dimmig, Lindsay, Quigley

OTHERS: Christman, Melber, Millman, Katz, Kennedy, Limpar, Bergey, Buchman, Takacs, Jordan, Knoll, Sinkler (SLEA), Grice (D/Huy Engineering), Clough KCBA Architects, Gibbons (Concord), Malinchak (Morning Call), Gombocz (WFMZ), and approximately 10 other members of the community.

OPENING PROCEDURES

Mrs. Parsons 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.

Mrs. Parsons confirmed with the Board Secretary that roll was taken. She announced the next order of business is to proceed with the Act 34 public hearing and turned the meeting over to Mrs. Gunkle for opening comments on behalf of Board President, Dr. McLoughlin.

ACT 34 PRESENTATION-PUBLIC HEARING-NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Gunkle served as moderator of the hearing and provided opening remarks. Remarks included guidelines for public comments regarding the planned construction of the New Elementary School at West Hopewell Road. The Board will take visitor comments into consideration. The Board may vote on the matter of the new school plan on February 9, 2015. Solicitor Ellis H. Katz confirmed the hearing duly constituted under Act 34.

Dr. Christman commented on the project history and need for construction and alternative considerations. Mr. Josh Grice, D'Huy Engineering, Inc. and Mr. James Clough, KCBA Architects presented the project description and estimated project costs. Mr. Christopher Gibbons, Concord Public Financial Advisors, Inc. presented information on the cost analysis and budget impact.

VISITORS

Mr. Barry Gehman asked if full day kindergarten a consideration for the new elementary school.

Mrs. Parsons thanked everyone for coming to the Public Hearing and announced that that the regular meeting would continue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Lycett to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2014 meeting as distributed to all Board members.

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

VISITORS

Mr. Daryl Brish and Mr. Bob Hart, Lehigh County Government Center, requested to address the Board regarding delinquent tax collections.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the bills to be paid as of January 12, 2014 showing bills paid in the amount of \$1,310,331.52 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$522,916.15 for a total amount of \$1,833,247.67 for the General Fund; and bills paid in the amount of \$6000.00 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$18,178.44 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund; and bills paid in the amount of \$11,665.96 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$263,232.58 for the Construction Fund;

Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2014-2015 school year-

Connie Mantz, Emergency 06

Approve the following student teacher placements-

Melissa Donaldson, Early Childhood Education, Cedar Crest College, with *Mrs. Carol Horvath*, Liberty Bell Elementary School, from January 21, 2015 through March 11, 2015.

Natalie Nilon, Early Childhood Education, Cedar Crest College, with *Mrs. Marla Moyer*, Liberty Bell Elementary School, from January 21, 2015 through March 11, 2015.

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff-

Tara Collins, Grade 1 Teacher, Liberty Bell Elementary School, June 5, 2015

Accept the resignation of the following staff-

Kate Schartel, English Teacher, Southern Lehigh High School, effective December 18, 2014

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff-

Jane Dunbar, Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, January 29, 30; February 2, 2015

Bridget Jurgens, Relief Nurse, February 27 through March 6, 2015

Judy Miller, Licensed Health Room Nurse, February 11, 12, 2015

Approve the following staff-

Rose Poskay, Instructional Assistant (29 hours per week), Southern Lehigh Middle School, an hourly rate of \$17.81, effective date to be determined. Ms. Poskay will fill the position due to the retirement of Patricia Hayes.

Accept the retirement of the following staff-

Mary Palmer, Head Custodian, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School, effective the end of business day March 5, 2015. Mrs. Palmer has been a district employee for 24 years.

Approve the following dance chaperone, \$47.81 per event, for the 2014-2015 school year:

Alison Bauer

Approve the following SAT advisors for the Winter/Spring Prep Course, an hourly rate of \$42.28, for the 2014-2015 school year-

Ronnette Mays

Heather Krey

Approve the following Summer Math Lab advisors, an hourly rate of \$42.28 for the 2014-2015 school year-

Joseph Breisch

Paul Malik

Erin Bromfield

Approve the following mentor, effective January, 2015 to January, 2016-

Michael Bjelobrk, mentor for *Mary Prudente*, Special Education Teacher, Southern Lehigh High School, a stipend of \$700

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2014-2015 school year-

Matthew Tannous, Basketball

Melvin Derby, Junior High Wrestling

Casey Cooperman, Baseball

Approve the following athletic event workers for the 2014-2015 school year-

Alexander David

Mark Evans

Approve the following coaches for the 2014-2015 school year-

Caitlyn Rockel Asst. Girls Basketball \$2684

Desiderio Gonzalez Head Boys Lacrosse \$6106

Accept the resignation of the following coach-

Terrence Nevill, Head Boys Varsity Soccer, effective January 7, 2015

Approve an unpaid externship with the Technology Department for the following Lincoln Technical Institute students who are completing a 90 hour requirement for completion of studies, beginning January 13, 2015-

Jarred Andrews

Connor Mackey

Maxwell Bingham

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: McLoughlin, Dimmig, Lindsay, Quigley

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

Ms. Lori Limpar, Principal, provided a video presentation of Hopewell Elementary School, showcasing technology, showing examples of their school-wide behavior management program, "Hopewell CARES" and ways Hopewell staff and students have been filling buckets this year.

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

Southern Lehigh High School Social Studies Department to participate in an educational trip to the South Pacific: New Zealand, Australia and Fiji, from July 15 through July 25, 2016. **(This student trip request tabled until the next Board meeting.)**

Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team to participate in the Harvard University Invitational Tournament, Boston, MA, from February 13 through February 16, 2015.

Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team to participate in the Falcon Invitational Tournament, Fairless Hills, PA, on January 30 and 31, 2015.

Southern Lehigh High School Swim Team to participate in the All American Swim Invitational, Wilkes Barre, PA, on January 16 and 17, 2015.

Southern Lehigh High School Competition Cheer Club Team to participate in the 2015 National Cheerleading Competition, Orlando, FL, from February 5 through February 9, 2015.

There was Board discussion and the motion was amended to table the *Southern Lehigh High School Social Studies Department* to participate in an educational trip to the South Pacific: New Zealand, Australia and Fiji, from July 15 through July 25, 2016.

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to amend the motion above and approve the following **student trip requests**:

Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team to participate in the Harvard University Invitational Tournament, Boston, MA, from February 13 through February 16, 2015.

Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team to participate in the Falcon Invitational Tournament, Fairless Hills, PA, on January 30 and 31, 2015.

Southern Lehigh High School Swim Team to participate in the All American Swim Invitational, Wilkes Barre, PA, on January 16 and 17, 2015.

Southern Lehigh High School Competition Cheer Club Team to participate in the 2015 National Cheerleading Competition, Orlando, FL, from February 5 through February 9, 2015.

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

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the **Liberty Trail program** be held from June 15, 2015 to July 2, 2015. The program will be held at Lower Milford Elementary School.

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

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the request for Brook Sawyer, Assistant Professor, College of Education, Lehigh University to conduct a one student survey for a continuation of a research study, Project RISE: Reading in Special Education.

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

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the request for High School student #011501 to complete the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with provisions of Policy #202.

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

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Hayes to approve the enclosed resolution to name Portnoff Law Associates, LTD., as the delinquent tax collector and approving collection procedures to adopt interest and schedule of attorney fees and charges to be added to the amount collected as part of unpaid real estate taxes for delinquent accounts, effective January 1, 2015.

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

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Merkle to approve the enclosed resolution directing Lehigh County Tax Claim Bureau not to collect delinquent Real Estate Taxes on behalf of the Southern Lehigh School District, effective January 1, 2015.

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

SUPPORT SERVICES

PERSONNEL

REPORTS

CLIU

Mrs. Parsons reported that the preliminary 2015-2016 budget passed, with no tax increase.

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute

Mr. Hayes reported the preliminary 2015-2016 budget passed.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

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

#217 Pupils: *Graduation*

#405 Professional Employees: *Employment of Substitute Professional Employees*

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

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Lycett to notify the District Superintendent, Dr. Leah M. Christman, of the Board's intent to retain her for a further term of three (3) years upon the scheduled expiration of her current contract on June 30, 2015.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

VISITORS

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Lycett to adjourn the meeting.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: McLoughlin, Dimmig, Lindsay, Quigley

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

ATTEST: *Diana S. Millman* Board Secretary