



Southern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors Meeting

September 23, 2013

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 (September 23, 2013) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Dimmig, Gunkle, Hayes, McLoughlin, Lindsay, Lycett, Mohr, Quigley, Stelts

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Christman, Lewis, Melber, Millman, Kennedy, Buchman, Takacs, Bergey, Covelle, Davidson, Farris, Limpar, Mickley, Sinkler (SLEA), Long (SLEA), Popichak (PATCH), Rizzo (Morning Call) and approximately 53 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.

VISITORS

Mr. Dimmig thanked those in the audience for attending and asked that all comments related to the discussion of the closing of an elementary school follow the presentation and any Board discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting and August 28, 2013 as distributed to all Board members.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the bills list as of September 23, 2013 showing bills paid in the amount of \$438,383.11 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$341,100.30 for a total amount of \$779,483.41 for the General Fund and bills to be paid in the amount of \$77,972.00 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund;

Approve the Treasurer's Report and Investment Report for the month of August, 2013;

Approve the following increment request, effective September 1, 2013-

Erin Bromfield, Bachelors +15 to Masters

Anthony Italiani, Bachelors +30 to Masters Equivalency

Shannon Mauro, Bachelors to Bachelors +15

Katie Quartuch, Masters to Masters +15

Thomas Seidenberger, Bachelors +15 to Masters

Kathleen Wechtler, Masters to Masters +15;

Approve the following Substitute Teachers for the 2013-14 school year-

Carol Bodner Elementary Ed

Dorothy Goda** Music

Taryn Kulp** Elementary Ed, Middle Level Math, Math 7-12

James Harper PK-12 (Emergency)

Heather Jacobson Elementary Ed;

***Pending receipt of required documentation.*

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff-

Rita Peay, Cafeteria Worker, Southern Lehigh Middle School, for October 24 through 28, 2013;

Approve the following Substitute Staff for the 2013-14 school year-

Barbara Smith-Schafer, Substitute Instructional Assistant, an hourly rate of \$15.31

Carol Bodner, Substitute Instructional Assistant, an hourly rate of \$15.31

Alisa Farrell, Substitute Instructional Assistant, an hourly rate of \$15.31

Alisa Farrell, Substitute Secretary, an hourly rate of \$14.96;

Approve the following PSAT Proctors at an hourly rate of \$40.09**-

Jana Brown

Joseph Castagna

Stephanie Donald

Maureen Elliott

Joseph Helinski

Lynne Kelly

Wayne Langsdorf

Allison McPeck

Bonnie Organski

Anne Sikorski-Schneider

Marlo Spritzer

Justina Viola

***This is the homebound rate for the 2012-13 school year and the 2013-14 rate will be determined after the 2013-14 school year begins.*

Approve the following Title I teachers and instructional assistant in order to conduct Title I parent workshops in the evening throughout the 2013-14 school year. Payment will be made through Title I funds.

Colleen West-Slotter, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School Teacher, an hourly rate of \$40.09**

Eric Miller, Southern Lehigh Middle School Teacher, an hourly rate of \$40.09**

Karen Blum, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School, Instructional Assistant, an hourly rate of \$17.46

***This is the homebound rate for the 2012-13 school year and the 2013-14 rate will be determined after the 2013-14 school year begins.*

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

Mr. Covelle, Mr. Davidson, Mrs. Farris and Ms. Limpar reported on student and staff activities at the High School, Middle School, Intermediate School and the elementary schools.

High School report –

- Working on setting up Keystone remediation in the block using Spartan Period
- Continued positive feedback about the new schedule – the Spartan Period has completed a full cycle and is an exciting addition to the school day.
- 9/16 - Back to School night for parents to meet the teachers, review syllabi, course expectations

Middle School report –

- 9/17 - MS Open House – well attended and the results of our online survey will be reviewed for ways to improve the evening
- 9/25, 27 - Putt U trip
- CDT Assessments will be administered in Math, Reading, Writing, and Science in November.
- Mid-Autumn Festival – celebrated by students in Chinese and FCS classes.
- 10/1 – PTG meeting
- 10/16 - Picture retakes

Intermediate School report –

- 9/10 - Open House and Picture Day
- The nurse's office has begun annual required health screening of students
- The Spartan store is open for business (part of the school wide positive behavior program)
- 6th grade field trips to Hawk Mountain are in the process of being finalized
- 10/11 - 5th grade class will participate in a "Think Energy" assembly
- 10/14 - Teachers will be involved in Common Core training during in-service

Elementary schools –

- Successful Open Houses occurred in all K-3 buildings within the last 2 weeks- 9/12- Liberty Bell, 9/18-Hopewel, 9/19-Lower Milford
- All K-3 buildings completed the beginning of the year DIBELS assessments and benchmark assessments and will be holding grade level data team meetings to identify the targeted instruction and intervention groups.
- 9/28 - The 2nd Annual Liberati Mini-Golf Classic is scheduled at 10:00 A.M at Putt U. Walk-ups are invited to play!
- Liberty Bell's Water Project has finally come to fruition! The funds raised in the spring of 2012 helped build a brand new water source in Nyeaba, South Sudan. This village of 500 now has their own fresh water source! Before the help from the Water Project, the nearest clean water source was more than seven miles away.
- Rob Wetmore kicked off the Hopewell Cares school wide positive behavior management program by sharing his message to our students about self-discipline, stranger danger, and bullying.
- 9/30 – Hopewell Puppet Show, "A Small Act of Kindness" about friendship, bullying, respect and kindness.

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the following student trip request- *Southern Lehigh High School World Language Department* to participate in an educational tour of France from April 14 through April 22, 2014 with students in French III, IV and V.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

There was Board discussion.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** McLoughlin to approve the corporate resolution for authorized representatives for QNB Bank.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

SUPPORT SERVICES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the contracted transportation agreements with Norman's Bus Service, Inc. 1239 Water Street, East Greenville, PA 18041 for the 2013-14 school year with no cost increase from the previous school year. The contracted carriers support Brandywine Lehigh Transportation with vans and small buses for non-public, charter schools and specialized transportation requests.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the Energy-Efficient Related Facilities Improvements per the Terms of Act 39 of 2010 to CM3 Building Solutions, Inc., 185 Commerce Drive, Fort Washington, PA 19034. The total contract amount of \$1,844,157 addresses emergency efficient upgrades at various buildings and replacement of the Middle School chillers.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

PERSONNEL

MOVED BY McLoughlin and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve the following certificated staff (*pending receipt of required documentation*)-

Colin Campbell, Long-Term Substitute Chemistry/Physics Teacher, Southern Lehigh High School, at Bachelors, Step 14, an annual salary of \$45,570** (pro-rated), with an anticipated start date of October 2, 2013. Mr. Campbell is expected to fill an incumbent's position due to leave of absence.

***This is the 2012-2013 school year salary.*

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

REPORTS

Facilities Committee

Dr. Stelts reported the committee met on September 18th and discussed the following -

- Issues with flooding due to pumps and drains at the Middle School have been rectified
- Generator issues at Hopewell
- Summer 2014 projects identified including: roof (LM), asphalt (MS), Water run-off issues (JPLIS)

Budget Committee

Dr. McLoughlin reported that the Budget & Finance Committee is meeting on October 10, 2013 to discuss budget planning for the 2014-2015 school year.

Education Committee

Mrs. Mohr reported that the committee met today and discussed PDE changes.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Christman reported the following-

- Congratulations to the High School students for the incredible display of flags placed along Preston Lane in honor of the lives lost on 9/11.
- Congratulations to Mr. Melber for being named a finalist in the 1st annual Lehigh Valley Business Chief Financial Officer of the Year Award
- Liberty Bell is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Joseph P. Liberati Mini-Golf Tournament on 9/28.
- The entire Superintendent's Report is available on the district's website.

Strategic Plan/Middle States Report

Mrs. Lewis reported the following-

- The entire report is available on the district's website.

OLD BUSINESS

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

- #117 Programs: *Homebound Instruction*
- #222 Pupils: *Tobacco*
- #323 Administrative Employees: *Tobacco*
- #423 Professional Employees: *Tobacco*
- #523 Classified Employees: *Tobacco*

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve a second and final reading of the following new policy-

- #200* Pupils: Enrollment of Students

**Policy No. 200 is replacing Policy 201 Pupils: Admission of Students and Policy 202 Pupils: Eligibility of Resident and Nonresident Students.*

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

NEW BUSINESS

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

- #218.1 Pupils: Possession of Weapons
- # 218.2 Pupils: Terroristic Threats/Acts
- # 218.4 Pupils: Interviews with Students
- # 805 Operations: Emergency Preparedness

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

There was Board discussion.

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the continuation of the district's practice of allowing all residents, all District employees, and all Emergency Services Personnel that serve the Southern Lehigh Community to use the Fitness Center free of charge, subject to any other eligibility and enrollment rules and policies of the District for the 2013-14 school year.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

Presentation by Administration on Elementary Buildings

Mrs. Christman, Superintendent, Mr. Todd Bergey, Director of Support Services and Mr. Jeremy Melber, Director of Business Services provided a presentation in follow-up to the findings of the Demographic Study and Life/Cost Analysis of Lower Milford and Hopewell Elementary Schools as discussed at the school board meeting on September 9, 2013.

Ms. Danielle Hoffer, AIA, REFP, LEED GA, Vice-President, Gilbert Architects, Inc. provided a presentation on the feasibility of additions to Liberty Bell and Lower Milford Elementary Schools.

Both presentations will be available on the District website.

(Dr. McLoughlin left the meeting at 9:00 and returned at 9:02)

(Mr. Dimmig left the meeting at 9:01 and returned at 9:03)

(Dr. McLoughlin left the meeting at 9:03 and returned at 9:10)

There was Board discussion after the presentation, including a timeline for further discussion of additional options suggested by Mr. Quigley.

(Dr. Stelts left the meeting at 10:09 and returned at 10:15)

(Mr. Lycett left the meeting at 10:12 and returned at 10:16)

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** McLoughlin to schedule a special Board hearing.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: None

VISITORS

Following the presentation the following community members addressed the Board-

- Ms. Michelle Barker presented a petition requesting that the Board "refrain from making any definitive decisions as a result of the ten year demographic and life cost analysis study that was presented to the public on August 28, 2013, which will set into motion the process by which construction projects begin." The petition signed by approximately 356 residents and non-residents also requests "further review and consideration of all educational, fiscal, and emotional concerns, as well as, a more deliberate effort to seek and present other options to the public prior to establishing a path forward for the process of addressing the needs of our elementary buildings."

- Mr. David Wheeler presented the Board with two more options for Board consideration.
- Ms. Tricia Kutt concerned about the timeline of actual construction.
- Mr. Michael Snovitch commented on emergency response times to Lower Milford Elementary School.
- Mr. Joseph Scull asked the Board to keep three elementary schools.
- Mr. Brian Merkle suggested consideration of a different configuration of grades K-6.
- Mrs. Melissa Greenawald asked the Board to consider rebuilding Hopewell Elementary and then do another demographic study.
- Mr. Ken Bogle requested that the Gilbert Architects, Inc. presentation be made available on the District website. Mr. Bogle also requested that all three elementary schools remain open.
- Mrs. Kathleen Parsons offered complements on the Gilbert Architects, Inc. presentation.
- Ms. Melissa Rizzuto requested that no reconfiguration be done to Lower Milford and to be cautious of the estimated vs. final construction costs.
- Mr. Darin Jellison asked for clarification of costs included in the Gilbert Architects, Inc. presentation.
- Mr. L. Skibicki discussed response time of emergency personnel in Lower Milford Township.

Mr. Dimmig thanked everyone for attending and community members who offered remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried

ABSENT: None

The meeting was adjourned at 11 p.m.

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary