



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

May 24, 2010

The second regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:41 p.m. on the above date (May 24, 2010) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Gunkle, Eddinger, Hayes, McLoughlin, Miracle, Mohr, Quigley, Stelts
ABSENT: Dimmig
OTHERS: Liberati, Christman, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Takacs, Lewis, Jordan, Bergey, Zuk, Donahue, McGinty, Mickley, Harakal, Peterson (The Morning Call), and approximately 6 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Eddinger and **2ND BY** Miracle to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members.

Minutes of
5/10/2010

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

VISITORS

CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** items as follows -

Approve the bills list dated May 24, 2010 showing paid bills in the amount of \$28,655.09 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$240,137.02 for a total amount of \$268,792.11 for the General Fund, and paid bills in the amount of \$19,540.35 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$5,958.00 for a total amount of 25,498.35 for the Construction Fund;

Approval of
Bills

Accept the retirement of the following staff -

Thomas Newhard, Grade 2 Teacher, Liberty Bell Elementary School, effective October 6, 2010. His last work day will be October 5, 2010. Mr. Newhard has been employed by Southern Lehigh School District since September 1, 1992;

Accept
retirement-
Newhard

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff -

Michele Berosh, Language Arts Teacher, Southern Lehigh Middle School, on June 1, 2 and 3, 2010 to attend to personal matters out of state;

Approve
unpaid
leave-
Berosh

Accept the resignation of the following staff -

Michele Berosh, Language Arts Teacher, Southern Lehigh Middle School, effective August 23, 2010;

Accept
resignation-
Berosh

Approve the following support staff -

Joseph Murray, Summer Computer Technician at \$13.39 per hour effective June 1, 2010. This hourly wage will increase to \$13.90 effective July 1, 2010 pending approval of the Wage and Benefit Policy for Technology Employees

Approve
support
staff-
Murray,
Schurkamp

Sarah Schurkamp, Summer Computer Technician at \$13.39 per hour effective June 1, 2010. This hourly wage will increase to \$13.90 effective July 1, 2010 pending approval of the Wage and Benefit Policy for Technology Employees;

Accept
resignation-
Hoke

Accept the resignation of the following staff -

Leslie Hoke, Secretary to the Athletic Director, Southern Lehigh High School, effective July 8, 2010;

Approve the following substitute for the 2009-2010 school year -

Deborah Zweifel, Substitute Secretary, at an hourly rate of \$13.12;

Approve the following internship -

Jeremy Schlosser, student at Endicott College, to complete a required, unpaid internship for the Sports Management Program with Donald Harakal, Athletic Director, from May 25, 2010 through August 20, 2010;

Approve the following staff for the Liberty Trail Program scheduled from June 28, 2010 through July 16, 2010 (*excluding July 5, 2010*) -

Kathleen Kale, Field Leader/Teacher Instructor, at a stipend of \$575.38 per week, plus an additional Field Leader stipend of \$809.65

Lisa Lowry, Field Leader/Teacher Instructor, at a stipend of \$575.38 per week, plus an additional Field Leader stipend of \$809.65

David Kohler, Teacher Instructor, at a stipend of \$575.38 per week

David LeBourgeois, Teacher Instructor, at a stipend of \$575.38 per week.

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

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

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

High School Report –

- 5/13 HS Theatre program received word that their production of "Curtains" has received 8 Freddy Award nominations:
 - 1.) Featured Dancer: Danielle Renner
 - 2.) Supporting Actress: Samantha Palumbo
 - 3.) Scenery
 - 4.) Choreography
 - 5.) Stage Crew
 - 6.) Production Number: In the Same Boat
 - 7.) Actor: Matt Moisey
 - 8.) Outstanding Musical
- 5/21 Juniors and some Seniors presented their graduation projects.
- 5/22 Held Prom at Bear Creek, a very nice and secure facility.
- 5/28 Half Day for student picnic and yearbook distribution.

Middle School Report –

- Latin America Culture Day: Thursday, May 13.
- Musical Concert: (Chorus & Instrumental) Tuesday, May, 18.
- Substance Awareness Assembly: (Grades 7 & 8) Wednesday, May 19.
- Academic Recognition Ceremony: Tuesday, May 25.
- Substance Awareness Meeting for Parents-Wednesday, May, 26.
- Edible Sculpture Contest Judging, Friday, May 28.
- Student Pep Rally, Friday, May 28.
- Field Day, Friday, June, 4.
- 8th grade Luau: Friday, June, 4, 5-8 pm.

Intermediate School Report –

- SLIS held its first field day this past Thursday, May 20. The day was a huge success thanks to the hard work of our staff and parent volunteers.
- The SLIS Choral concert was held on Tuesday, May 18.
- 5th and 6th grade students have been taking assessments for math placements and all students are preparing for the end of year assessments.
- 4th grade students will do some indoor star gazing this week as the STAR LAB arrives at SLIS for 2 days.
- 6th grade prepares for the Ellis Island trip this week and our last group of 4th grade students will be off to Harrisburg.

Elementary Schools –

- Compass Learning representatives will be at Liberty Bell on Thursday, May 27th to run a Math Camp for 3rd Grade students.

Field trips:

- Hopewell 1st grade took their field trip to see *Pinocchio* at the Ice House theatre in Bethlehem on May 13.
- Lower Milford’s kindergarten classes will visit the Marwell Dairy Farm on May 25.
- Liberty Bell’s first grade will visit the Lehigh Valley Zoo on May 26. Admission costs are paid through Lehigh County MORE funds.
- Lower Milford’s 1st grade will visit the Elmwood Zoo on May 26.
- Lower Milford’s 3rd grade will visit the Allentown Art Museum on May 26, also funded through MORE.
- Lower Milford’s 2nd grade will visit the Mock Turtle Marionette Theater in Bethlehem on June 2.

Community Events:

- Mr. Hafner and some of the Liberty Bell staff will be helping out with the Annual Coopersburg 5K on Saturday, May 29th, specifically the Kids Run.
- Lower Milford’s PTA will hold its Spring Festival on June 4.

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve the enclosed textbook recommendations for the 2010-2011 school year. Textbooks will be on display at the Administration Building for two weeks. Final adoption will be at the June 14, 2010 Board meeting.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve the 2010-2011 Mini-Grants.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve a settlement in the Christopher & Danielle Coccozza Tax Assessment Appeal (Lehigh County File No. 2009-C-6287) in the amount of \$600,000 which will affect their real estate taxes beginning January 1, 2010.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve the enclosed contract with Teach Me Tutoring for services in connection with the Alternative School program for the 2010-2011 year. There is no fee increase proposed.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve the reappointment of James A. Bartholomew as Solicitor for the 2010-2011 year pursuant to the enclosed letter.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – All but Quigley
“NO” - Quigley – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the reappointment of Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLP as Special Counsel for Labor Relations and Special Education matters for the 2010-2011 year pursuant to the enclosed communication.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve the reappointment of France, Anderson, Basile and Company, P.C. to perform the audits of the School District and EIT

Approve the reappointment of France, Anderson, Basile & Co., PC to perform the audits of the SLSD & EIT Office for the 2009-2010 fiscal year

Approve joining the Lehigh Valley Cyber Consortium, pending approval of contract by Mr. James Bartholomew

Approve the contract for iObservation, pending the approval of the contract by Mr. James Bartholomew

Office for the 2009-2010 fiscal year at the fee of \$19,975 and \$3,400, respectively. Additional work that is attributable to a Single Audit, if necessary, will be billed at the rate of \$85.00 per hour. These fees represent a combined total increase of just over 2% from the current level.

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

The Administration and Board received comments from the public on the Proposed General Fund Budget for 2010-2011 which was adopted at the May 10, 2010 Board meeting. Final adoption of the budget is scheduled for June 14, 2010.

Mr. Snell presented some additional information that will be incorporated into the proposed final budget when it is adopted on June 14, 2010.

There was Board discussion.

Visitor, Arlen Schantz, inquired about the difference in the current year budget compared to the proposed budget for 2010-2011.

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve joining the Lehigh Valley Cyber Consortium in order to provide a Southern Lehigh School District cyber option for Cyber Charter students living in the District, pending approval of contract by Mr. James Bartholomew.

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

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the contract for iObservation pending the approval of the contract by Mr. James Bartholomew.

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

SUPPORT SERVICES

PERSONNEL

REPORTS

Facilities Committee

Mr. Miracle reported on the May 20, 2010 committee meeting –

- Driveway paving @ Middle School: Borton Lawson is developing a spec package.
 - Intermediate School – remediation
Camp Meeting Road water runoff, heaving and water issues: Borton Lawson gave us a quote of \$7200.00 to investigate and determine the contractors that are at fault for these water-drainage issues. (URS gave us a price of \$5000.00 but failed to follow-up with a contract)
 - Tree line: There are many trees to be cleared; we will get an estimated cost of having an outside landscaping company do the work for cutting of the trees only. The briars will be left in place to deter students from "hanging out".
 - Air conditioning for data closet @ Intermediate School: Board approved work to be completed. Air conditioning will be installed in the summer.
 - Green House & Courtyard @ Middle School: Cost of \$1000.00 to bring the facility back to the condition that it was designed for. This will be one of our summer projects.
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- Intermediate School:
Lighting: Mr. Liberati noticed lights were on in a few classrooms at 8:30 pm during the weekend. The lights are regulated by motion sensors and most likely went on due to falling artwork. We will readjust the programming of the sensors so that the lights do not go on during the weekends.
Property line monuments: Upper Saucon Township still is holding an escrow amount that will not be released until concrete monuments are installed.

Installation is taking place now. When completed, we will get the escrow reimbursed in approximately 2 months.

PennDot – line of credit: They were holding ~\$72,000. All has been returned except for \$14,000 which they are holding in case problems arise.

- Middle School:
 - Chiller number 2 complete: Total cost came in at \$12,750.00. This repair is good for 5+ years. Replacement of the same equipment could cost anywhere between \$150,000 - \$200,000.
 - Metal shop: The space is not being used, possible uses in the future could include classroom technology opportunities or amphitheater desk arrangements. The design could also be incorporated in the curriculum of students enrolled in drafting/architectural classes.
- Central Office:
 - Water in basement – destroyed files: Discussion took place about renovation of building and costs involved, B. Stelts suggested a storage shed to transfer files, however the poor air quality from the damp basement remains an issue. We will contact Breslin’s office to determine the feasibility of an addition to an existing building and the PA Department of Education’s requirements.
- Liberty Bell:
 - Property discussion
- SLSD:
 - Chevron performance review: First 1 – 3 years, due to promises of energy savings that were not fulfilled, Chevron owed our district \$21,631.00. We contracted PMH Associates (engineering firm) to review Chevron’s audit and look over the initial contract and terms. PMH Associates has agreed that Chevron has met the terms of the agreement with respect to the energy accounting and savings guarantee and has offered a reasonable settlement of the savings short fall to date. Please note that the report from PMH Associates is attached.
 - Fields – brief discussion occurred having to do with the cost of the fields in this economy vs. prior years.
 - Cardio equipment rooms – Administration is looking at two rooms, one each in the Middle School and in the High School to accommodate commercial grade cardio equipment. During a curriculum review of physical education and health education it was determined that changes should be made including offering additional exercise opportunities for the students.
- SLSD:
 - Universal Marketing bankruptcy bond: Due to their bankruptcy, we received a refund of \$18,147 from their bond company.

Approve a second and final reading of policies #319.1, #419.1, #519.1

Approve first reading of policies #342, #442, #542, #906

Education Committee

Mr. Hayes reported on the May 24, 2010 committee meeting –

- Middle School and High School Handbooks will be presented to the committee for approval.
- Grade Point Average (GPA) and Class Ranking issues are unresolved and continue to be investigated.

Approve the Wage & Benefit Policies for Cafeteria Employees, Custodians, Maintenance & Cleaning Persons, and Technology Employees (policies effective 7/1/2010 – 6/30/2013

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Liberati reported that 2 District students that attend Lehigh Career & Technical Institute placed first in the Ford/AAA automobile competition. They will each receive a \$30,000 scholarship.

Strategic Plan Report

Mrs. Christman gave an update of the Strategic Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

OLD BUSINESS

MOVED BY McLoughlin and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve a second and final reading of the following policies -

- #319.1 Administrative Employees: Outside Activities and Intellectual Property
- #419.1 Professional Employees: Outside Activities and Intellectual Property

#519.1 Classified Employees: Outside Activities and Intellectual Property

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

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve a first reading of the following policies -

- #342 Administrative Employees: *Absences Due to Legal Obligations*
- #442 Professional Employees: *Absences Due to Legal Obligations*
- #542 Classified Employees: *Absences Due to Legal Obligations*
- #906 Community: *Public Complaints*

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

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** Miracle to approve the Wage and Benefit Policies of the following employee groups: Cafeteria Employees; Custodians, Maintenance and Cleaning Persons; and Technology Employees. These Wage and Benefit Policies will be effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013.

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

VISITORS

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary