



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

January 8, 2007

The first monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:43 p.m. on the above date (January 8, 2007) in the Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA .

PRESENT: Miracle, Auteri, Bromwell, Corso, Eddinger, Quigley, Rennie, Schubert,  
ABSENT: Stelts  
OTHERS: Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Churm, Keister, Metrick,  
Altieri, Bergey, Donahue, Turner, Lewis, Harakal, Hughes (Morning Call),  
Popichak (Saucon News), and 2 other members of the community.

### OPENING PROCEDURES

Mr. Miracle led the Board and others attending the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2006 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members with one correction. The correction is Mr. Quigley had abstained from voting on approving the minutes of the November 28, 2006 meeting.

Minutes of  
12/4/06

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

### VISITORS

### CONSENT AGENDA

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** items as follows:

Approve the bills list dated January 8, 2007 showing paid bills in the amount of \$555,197.21 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$536,611.69 for a total of \$1,091,808.90 for the General Fund, and paid bills in the amount of \$23,836.68 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$23,836.68 for a total of \$54,561.12 for the Construction Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$999.52 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund;

Approval of  
Bills

Approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of November, 2006;

Approve  
Treasurer's  
Report

Approve the following student teacher placements –

Deanna Hamman, Elementary Education, Cedar Crest College with *Heather Freed*, Hopewell Elementary School from March 14, 2007 through May 4, 2007.

Approve  
student  
teacher  
placements-  
Hamman,  
Searfass,  
Unger

Chad Searfass, Elementary Education, DeSales University with *Maria Ramunni*, Hopewell Elementary School from January 16, 2007 through March 2, 2007.

Lynn Unger, Elementary Education, Cedar Crest College with *Rebecca DeLong*, Hopewell Elementary School from March 14, 2007 through May 4, 2007;

Approve the following substitute teacher –

Marla Moyer, Elementary;

Approve  
substitute  
teacher-Moyer

Approve childrearing leave for Keri Haas, Psychologist, Lower Milford Elementary School, from December 8, 2006 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

Approve  
childrearing  
leave-Haas

Approve unpaid leave of absence for the following staff –

Approve  
unpaid LOA-  
Annunziato

Lisa Annunziato, Part-time Cafeteria worker, Hopewell Elementary School, on Friday, January 26, 2007, Tuesday, February 20, 2007 and Wednesday, February 21, 2007;

Approve FMLA leave for the following staff –

Barbara Reifinger, Part-time Cafeteria worker, Middle School, beginning Thursday, December 28, 2006;

Accept the resignation of the following staff –

Catherine Flanley, Instructional Assistant, Southern Lehigh High School, effective December 22, 2006.

Alejandra Nestler, Instructional Assistant, Liberty Bell Elementary School, effective January 2, 2007;

Approve the following support staff –

Robert Werley, Instructional Assistant, Liberty Bell Elementary School, at an hourly rate of \$13.65, effective January 9, 2007. Mr. Werley will fill the position created with the resignation of Alejandra Nestler.

Marla Moyer, Instructional Assistant (Class Size Reduction, 4<sup>th</sup> grade), Liberty Bell Elementary School, at an hourly rate of \$13.65, effective January 9, 2007. This is a new position created by the increased class size.

Kenneth Becker, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$11.70, effective January 8, 2007.

Erik Billig, Carpenter/Maintenance Technician, at an hourly rate of \$19.79, effective January 9, 2007. Mr. Billig will fill the position created by the retirement of John Conneen.

Jason Boden, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$11.70, effective January 9, 2007.

Joan Decker, Full-time Temporary Custodian, High School, at an hourly rate of \$15.13 effective December 18, 2006. Ms. Decker will fill the position created by the long-term disability of John Keyser.

Marilyn Frank, 3-hour Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Middle School, at an hourly rate of \$10.74, effective December 18, 2006. Ms. Frank will fill the position created with the promotion of Linda Romeo.

Lindsay Miller, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$11.70, effective December 22, 2006.

Michael DeSieno, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$11.70, effective January 9, 2007;

Approve the transfer of the following support staff –

Susan Covey, 4 ¼ hour Part-time Cafeteria worker to Assistant Kitchen Manager, High School, at an hourly rate of \$12.43, effective January 3, 2007;

Accept the resignation of the following staff –

Erin Mullen, Broadway Musical Director, High School, for the 2006-2007 school year.

Michelle Klinedinst, Business/Computers Subject Leader 9-12, effective January 24, 2007;

Approve the following extra-compensatory positions –

Matthew Wehr, Broadway Musical Director, High School, for the 2006-2007 school year, at a stipend of \$2,588.

Jennifer Zander, Business/Computers Subject Leader 9-12, effective January 24, 2007 at a stipend of \$858, for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year;

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2006-2007 school year -

<u>John Bolesta</u>	Swimming/Diving, High School
<u>Kenneth Wied</u>	Football, High School
<u>Shanon Wilson</u>	Diving, High School;

Approve volunteer coaches for 2006-2007 school year- Bolesta, Wied, Wilson

Approve Thomas Beaupre as a mentor for Amanda Dimivitz. (Mr. Beaupre was the mentor for *Dezzarae Bossert*, who resigned effective November 13, 2006.);

Approve T. Beaupre as mentor for A. Dimivitz

Rescind the August 28, 2006 appointment of Mercedes Rios, Indoor Colorguard Advisor, for the 2006-2007 school year due to inadequate student interest.

Rescind appointment of M. Rios, Indoor Colorguard Advisor

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Donahue, Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Lewis reported on student and staff activities at the High School, Middle School and the elementary schools respectively.

Dr. Donahue reported that Saucon Valley School District would be using our TRIAD Program starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester after a trial use in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Corso to approve Independent Study for the following student –

Approve Independent Study for student- Mellinger

Jordan Mellinger, *Ceramics*, which involves further knowledge of ceramic technique for the seriously interested student.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**MOVED BY** Corso and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the request from the *Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team* to attend the Barkley Forum Tournament at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia from Thursday, January 25, 2007 through Monday, January 29, 2007.

Approve SL Speech & Debate Team to attend tournament in Atlanta, GA

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the request from the parent of student #10087 to complete the 2006-2007 school year at Southern Lehigh High School. This request and recommendation follows District Policy #202.

Approve request for student #10087 to complete the 2006-2007 school year at SLHS

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to approve the contract with Bayada Nurses, Inc. to provide nursing services for a student with special needs.

Approve contract with Bayada Nurses, Inc. to provide nursing services for a student with special needs

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**MOVED BY** Corso and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to approve the agreement with Allegheny Intermediate Unit in regards to the Inclusive Practices Mini-Grant.

Approve agreement with Allegheny Intermediate Unit in regards to the Inclusive Practices Mini-Grant

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve the enclosed Investment of Funds for the General Fund and Construction Account.

Approve enclosed Investment of Funds for the General Fund & Construction Account

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**MOVED BY** Schubert and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to deny the request of Mr. Charles J. Rizzo for abatement of penalty charges in connection with the payment of real estate taxes during the penalty period.

Deny request of C. Rizzo for abatement of penalty charges in connection with the payment of real estate taxes

Approve proposed agreements with Concord Public Finance & Ferris Baker Watts for financial advisory services

Award the plow truck bid to Bob Weaver Chevrolet Company

Approve Change Order #1 to Nimaris Construction L.P.

Administration approved payment #12 of Chevron Energy Solutions

Approve the salary increase of J. Liberati effective 7/1/06

Approve Director of Technology- Christman

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Corso**  
**"NO" – Corso – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to approve the proposed agreements with Concord Public Finance and Ferris Baker Watts (formerly Arthurs Lestrangle) for financial advisory services in connection with the recent refunding of a portion of the 2002 Series A General Obligation Bonds.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to award the plow truck bid in the amount of \$28,602 to Bob Weaver Chevrolet Company, 22<sup>nd</sup> and Market Streets, Pottsville, PA 17901, for a 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD ¾- ton Duramax Diesel.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve Change Order #1 to Nimaris Construction L.P. in the amount of \$3,434.93 for extra 4" block for additional depth to existing footing not shown on existing wall at Liberty Bell School Addition Project.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

The Administration has approved payment #12 of Chevron Energy Solutions Company and release of \$21,729 from Citi Capital North America, Inc. This payment application also includes a 55% reduction in the retainage of work completed and stored to date.

### **PERSONNEL**

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to approve the salary of Joseph Liberati, Superintendent, in the amount of \$125,747 for 2006-2007, effective July 1, 2006. Mr. Quigley requested that at the next meeting, Mr. Liberati talk about Southern Lehigh School District successes attained during his tenure as Superintendent.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve Leah Christman, Director of Technology, at an annual (pro-rated) salary of \$90,000. Ms. Christman will fill the open position created with the resignation of Marti Mamrak. Mr. Eddinger praised Mr. Twardowski and Mr. Kennedy for their dedication and the amount of work involved with filling this position.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

### **REPORTS**

#### Lehigh Career & Technical Institute

Mr. Miracle said the general budget was approved with a 3.4% increase, but it did not include the Academic Center.

#### Budget & Finance Committee

Mr. Snell presented a six-page handout for preliminary discussion of the 2007-2008 budget. He explained that because of Act 1, we were forced to begin the 2007-08 budget process a couple of months earlier than in the past. In light of that, the current projections are very preliminary and very much subject to refinement and revision. Included in the handout was a chart that attempted to illustrate a range of millage patterns for the next five years, based on three distinct scenarios for next year – a tax freeze, a tax increase at the level permitted by the Act 1 index (1.39 mills), and a maximum tax increase permitted by Act 1 without going to referendum. The final scenario assumed that the District would seek all available exceptions under Act 1 and

levy that millage in addition to the 1.39 mills permitted by the index. By seeking partial use of the exceptions, a fourth scenario showed a millage increase somewhere between the 1.39 mills permitted by the index and the maximum millage permitted without going to referendum.

A poll of the Board by the Budget & Finance Committee indicated that the majority favored either a 1.39 mill increase or somewhere between 1.39 mills and the maximum millage permitted without going to referendum. Items for discussion and decision at upcoming Budget & Finance Committee meetings included – laptop computers for all teachers and students, Technology budget, and Strategic Plan.

Attorney Bartholomew reviewed with the Board the Act 1 Budget and Homestead/Farmstead Timelines schedule that was part of the handout. The timeline had the adoption of the preliminary budget scheduled for the February 12 Board meeting, and the public hearing and adoption of resolution on referendum question on EIT/PIT and homestead/farmstead exclusion scheduled for the February 26 Board meeting.

Mrs. Rennie asked if the Board would desire to have a separate Board meeting for the public hearing on the referendum question. A poll of the Board indicated that they would not prefer a separate Board meeting for the public hearing, but would like extensive public notice for the public hearing and adoption of resolution question for the February 26 Board meeting.

Facilities Report

Mr. Miracle announced that the Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors at the December 2006 meeting approved the preliminary and final subdivision plan for the Grade 4-6 School.

Attorney Bartholomew said that one condition of the approval was that the School District agreed to partially fund traffic improvement. He said that he drafted an agreement, sent it to Upper Saucon Township, and is awaiting a reply.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the proposed Board Meeting dates for September, 2007 through December, 2007.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

Approve proposed Board Meeting dates for 9/2007 through 12/2007

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to accept the Independent Auditors’ report for the Southern Lehigh School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

Accept the Independent Auditors’ report for the SLSD for the fiscal year ending 6/30/06

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to request a 3-year proposal from France, Anderson, Basile and Company, P.C., Certified Public Accountants for auditing services. The current 3-year agreement has expired.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

Request a 3-year proposal from France, Anderson, Basile & Co., P.C.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Corso to approve a partnership with Lower Milford Township, allowing the township to utilize Lower Milford Elementary School as a temporary shelter in the event of an emergency.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

Approve partnership with Lower Milford Twp. to utilize Lower Milford Elementary School as a temporary shelter in the event of an emergency

DJOURNMENT

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**VISITORS’ COMMENTS**

The Board took a brief recess at 9:43 p.m.

The Board met in Executive Session at 9:46 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:05 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to adjourn the meeting.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Stelts**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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