



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

February 26, 2007

The second monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:38 p.m. on the above date (February 26, 2007) in the Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

**PRESENT:** Miracle, Auteri, Bromwell (left meeting at 11:32 p.m.), Corso (left meeting at 11:35 p.m.), Eddinger, Quigley, Rennie, Schubert, Stelts

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS:** Liberati, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Churm, Christman, Metrick, Bergey, Zuk, Lewis, Donahue, Zelenak, Scherzberg, Roam, Lee, Gallagher (Gallagher Reporting & Video LLC), Madsen (Morning Call), Popichak (Saucon News), and approximately 90 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** Corso and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2007 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members.

Minutes of  
2/12/07

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

### **VISITORS**

Matt Daniel encouraged the Board to approve an experienced Lacrosse volunteer coach even though he was not on the agenda. The Board responded that the required paperwork for the coach had to be completed before he could be approved, and hopefully the coach could be on the agenda for approval at the March 12, 2007 Board meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approve the bills list dated February 26, 2007 showing paid bills in the amount of \$653.63 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$1,730,764.68 for a total of \$1,731,418.31 for the General Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$78,462.26 for the Construction Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$48,048.80 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund;

Approval of  
Bills

Approve the addendum to the bills list dated February 26, 2007 showing bills to be paid in the amount of \$23,764.49 for the General Fund;

Approve the following substitute teacher -

Melissa Pavlinsky, Elementary;

Approve  
substitute  
teacher-  
Pavlinsky

Accept the retirement of the following staff -

John Conneen, Maintenance Supervisor, Support Services, effective March 2, 2007. Mr. Conneen has been employed by Southern Lehigh School District for 21 years;

Accept  
retirement-  
Conneen

Approve unpaid leave of absence for the following staff -

Approve  
unpaid LOA-  
Eldridge

Approve

Dana Eldridge, Instructional Assistant, High School, Monday, March 12, 2007 to Friday, March 16, 2007;

Approve the following support staff -

David Sears, Substitute Custodian at an hourly rate of \$11.70 (*pending receipt of required paperwork*).

Kenneth Becker, Full-time Temporary Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$15.13, effective February 27, 2007. Mr. Becker will fill the position created with the long-term disability of incumbent Custodian.

Patricia Day, Substitute Health Paraprofessional, at an hourly rate of \$11.70 (*pending receipt of required paperwork*);

Approve the following volunteer coach (*pending receipt of required paperwork*) for the 2006-2007 school year -

Kenneth Schultz Track and Field.

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

### **CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES**

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

Dr. Donahue announced that Saucon Valley School District has become a partner with Southern Lehigh in the Triad program, Teach Me Tutoring, and a contract with Saucon Valley is being prepared.

Mrs. Lewis reported that PSSA writing assessments at the elementary schools are finished, and on March 12, 2007, reading and math PSSA assessments will commence.

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the request for the following school trip –

Southern Lehigh High School Lacrosse Team to participate in the Dan Nolan Memorial Tournament, Williamsburg, VA from Thursday, April 26, 2007 through Saturday, April 28, 2007.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Bromwell**  
**"NO" – Bromwell – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: None**

### **BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve the 2007-2008 proposed Lehigh Carbon Community College budget.

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

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve the 2007-2008 proposed Lehigh Career & Technical Institute budget.

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

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve the 2007-2008 proposed Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit budget.

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

The Board conducted a public hearing as required by Act 1 of Special Session 2005-2006. Following opening comments by Mr. Miracle, Attorney James Bartholomew and Mr. James Snell, Director of Business and Personnel Services, made a presentation about Act 1 and answered questions from the Board members and visitors. Following the

public hearing, the Board passed a resolution that authorized the submission of a referendum question to Bureau of Elections for placement on the ballot for the May primary election. Mr. James Gallagher, a Court Stenographer, recorded the public hearing.

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Corso to accept the recommendation of the Local Tax Study Commission to "increase the earned income tax (EIT) by the minimum required amount - currently estimated at 0.8%; and to submit the following referendum question to the electors of the School District at the May 15, 2007 primary election:

"DO YOU FAVOR IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL 0.8% EARNED INCOME TAX? THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE INCREASED RATE WILL BE USED TO REDUCE TAXES ON QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY BY AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$509 DURING THE FIRST YEAR AND \$849 DURING SUBSEQUENT YEARS. THE CURRENT EARNED INCOME TAX RATE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS 0.5%;

and to submit a non-legal interpretive statement accompanying the referendum question to the Lehigh County Bureau of Elections.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Schubert, Bromwell, Eddinger**  
**"NO" - Schubert, Bromwell, Eddinger – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: None**

The Board took a brief recess at 10:16 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:24 p.m.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve PlanCon F (application for reimbursement from the Pennsylvania Department of Education) for the Intermediate School.

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

**PERSONNEL**

**REPORTS**

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Liberati directed the Board to his January 29, 2007 Superintendent's Update that included a proposal for a Self Esteem Group for the middle school students sponsored by the Girl Scouts of the Great Valley Council. Southern Lehigh guidance counselors would co-facilitate the groups along with counselors from the Girl Scout Council. Kathy Metrick reviewed the materials and had included a lesson plan with the proposal. Mr. Liberati felt that this program would benefit a target population in the middle school.

Board discussion followed.

**MOVED BY** Schubert and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to approve the proposal from the Girl Scouts of the Great Valley Council for Self Esteem group sessions in the Middle School.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Auteri**  
**"NO" - Auteri – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: None**

Facilities Report

Mr. Miracle reported that the Building Committee had a meeting on February 21, 2007. Bob Breslin indicated that the PlanCon Part F construction documents were being reviewed by Upper Saucon Township's engineering firm, the Pidcock Company. Construction of the Intermediate School is estimated to begin in June 2007.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Initiate Graphing Calculators with Option 1, for classes listed

Motion Defeated- To approve MS students to participate in a research study, "How Middle School Students Perceive Those with Learning Disabilities"

Approve first reading of new policy #207, Confidential Communications of Students

Approve first reading of new policy #212, Reporting Student Progress

Approve first reading of new policy #216, Student Records

Approve first reading of revised policy #217, Graduation Requirements

There was Board discussion on Graphing Calculators. At the January 22, 2007 Board meeting, implementation of Option 2 was approved for classes listed.

**MOVED BY** Stelts and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Schubert to initiate graphing calculators with Option 1, the recommendation of the math department, for classes listed.

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

**MOVED BY** Schubert and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Bromwell to approve Middle School students to participate in a research study, "How Middle School Students Perceive Those with Learning Disabilities."

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Schubert, Miracle, Corso**  
**"NO" – All but Schubert, Miracle, Corso – Motion Defeated**  
**ABSENT: None**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

2007-2008 Southern Lehigh School District Calendar discussion was tabled.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the first reading of new policy #207, *Confidential Communications of Students*. The second and final reading will be at the March 12, 2007 Board meeting.

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

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the first reading of new policy #212, *Reporting Student Progress*. The second and final reading will be at the March 12, 2007 Board meeting.

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

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the first reading of new policy #216, *Student Records*. The second and final reading will be at the March 12, 2007 Board meeting.

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

**MOVED BY** Bromwell and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Stelts to approve the first reading of revised policy #217, *Graduation Requirements*. The second and final reading will be at the March 12, 2007 Board meeting.

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **VISITORS' COMMENTS**

Nick Antich stated that since 1998, the CPI has increased 23.6% while the school district millage has increased 83% during the same period. He did not see the need for any millage increase for 2007-2008. The Board explained how the District's 5-Year Budget tool is used in determining not only the millage rate needed for the upcoming year, but also for the following four years. Using the 5-year forecast lessens the impact of very large increases in mills 2 to 3 years from now when the new Intermediate School comes on line.

Arland Schantz asked how the Board would communicate Act 1 information to the public. The Board suggested that Act 1 information be posted on the School District website.

The Board took a brief recess at 11:30 p.m.

[Ms. Bromwell left the meeting at 11:32 p.m.]

The Board met in executive session at 11:33 p.m.

[Mrs. Corso left the meeting at 11:35 p.m.]

The meeting reconvened at 11:55 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Bromwell, Corso**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

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