



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

November 5, 2008

A special meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:03 p.m. on the above date (November 5, 2008) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Stelts, Auteri, Dimmig, Eddinger, Gunkle, Miracle, Rennie [left meeting at 8:46 p.m.], Schubert

ABSENT: Quigley

OTHERS: Liberati, Christman, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kerr (Saucon News), and approximately 4 other members of the community.

The purpose of the meeting was a 2-hour informational session on Sunshine law issues, and the new Right-To-Know law presented by Attorney Michael Levin, and to consider any other school business that may come before it.

OPENING PROCEDURES

Dr. Stelts led the Board and others attending the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

VISITORS

PRESENTATION

Attorney Michael Levin, PSBA General Counsel, conducted a 2-hour informative session on the Sunshine Act, and the new Right-to-Know Law that included handouts and a Powerpoint presentation. He explained the definition of a meeting and gave examples of meetings that are and meetings that are not subject to the Sunshine Act. He also explained the specific exceptions to permit closed meetings (executive sessions) that are allowed by the Sunshine Act and cited various examples. There was much Board discussion with Attorney Levin during the presentation. Attorney Levin provided opinions to the Board in response to questions about specific topics that the Board had discussed in executive sessions in the past. He also explained the role of the Board solicitor in enforcing the Sunshine Act. Most of the evening's discussions were about the Sunshine Act.

Informative
session on
the
Sunshine
Act and the
new Right-
to-Know
Law

Attorney Levin spoke briefly about the new Right-to-Know Law that becomes effective on January 1, 2009. In the handout entitled *A School Law Primer for New and Veteran School Directors* prepared by the Levin Legal Group, P.C. for the Southern Lehigh School District, it states that beginning January 1, 2009, public school entities will be required to comply with the new Right-to-Know Law, and steps should be taken now by school entities to ensure compliance when the law takes effect. A brief overview in the primer states that the new Right-to-Know Law was greatly expanding the types of records that are subject to public inspection. The structure of the new law is such that it arguably starts with the proposition that all records of a public school entity are "public". However, there is a lengthy list of records that are exempted from public disclosure. The long list of exemptions will have to be evaluated whenever a request for a record is received. The new law contains three principal changes: (1) an expanded definition of what is a public record subject to mandatory disclosure; (2) new requirements for the appointment and responsibilities of an "Open-records Officer"; and (3) new rules governing what can be charged to recoup the costs of complying with a records request.

VISITORS

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried

ABSENT: Quigley, Rennie

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary