



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

February 11, 2008

The first monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:34 p.m. on the above date (February 11, 2008) in the Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

**PRESENT:** Auteri, Dimmig, Gunkle, Miracle, Quigley, Rennie, Schubert, Stelts

**ABSENT:** Bromwell

**OTHERS:** Liberati, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Churm, Keister, Bergey, Siegfried, Turner, Lewis, Harakal, Covelle, Organski, Fulton (Morning Call), Popichak (Saucon News), and approximately 6 other members of the community.

### **OPENING PROCEDURES**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2008 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members.

Minutes of  
1/21/08

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

### **VISITORS**

David Novak questioned why postings of the Board minutes on the District website were 5 months behind. Administrators and Board members that had laptop computers with them found the Board minutes on the website, and they **were current**. It was suggested that the path (link) to the Board minutes be simplified.

Peter Schmidt, who was approved at the November 19, 2007 Board meeting to offer a SAT Prep program on a trial basis at the High School starting December 1, 2007, voiced concern over the lack of advance notice to students and parents. Since he had only 5 students that enrolled in the class, it was not feasible for the class to be offered at Southern Lehigh. Instead, the class is held at Emmaus High School. He said that 10 students would be necessary to justify offering the class at Southern Lehigh High School. He requested that the District allow future notification to ensure that enough students enroll to justify offering the class at Southern Lehigh. There was Board discussion.

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve giving advance notice in the High School newsletter and by email of a SAT Prep program offered by Peter Schmidt.

Approve  
giving  
advance  
notice for a  
SAT Prep  
program  
offered by  
Peter  
Schmidt

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Auteri**  
**"NO" – Auteri – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Bromwell**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approve the bills list dated February 11, 2008 showing paid bills in the amount of \$399,516.72 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$842,394.90 for a total of \$1,241,911.62 for the General Fund, and paid bills in the amount of \$37,009.06 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$464.90 for a total amount of \$37,473.96 for the Construction Fund;

Approval of  
Bills

Approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2008;

Approve  
Treasurer's  
Report

Approve student teacher placement-McDermott

Approve the following student teacher placement -

Karen McDermott, Elementary Education, DeSales University with *Kathy Kale*, Lower Milford Elementary School from March 10, 2008 through April 25, 2008;

Approve substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year-Allen, Bakun, Collins, Ritter, Schurkamp

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year -

Miranda Allen, Elementary

Rachel Bakun, Art K-12

Lisa Collins, Social Studies

Kyle Ritter, Health and Physical Education

Sarah Schurkamp, Elementary;

Approve salary step adjustment effective 2/1/08-Hower

Approve a salary step adjustment for the following staff, effective February 1, 2008 -

Marilyn Hower, Art, Hopewell Elementary School, Bachelor's +15 to Master's;

Accept resignation of staff-Vazquez

Accept the resignation of the following staff -

Yeliska Vazquez, Instructional Assistant, Middle School, effective February 8, 2008;

Approve unpaid leave-Neal, Neders, Price

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff -

William Neal, Instructional Assistant, Lower Milford Elementary School, partial days on March 12, March 18, March 25, March 31, April 2, April 10, April 15, April 17, April 23 and April 24, 2008.

Sharon Neders, Instructional Assistant, Liberty Bell Elementary School, on Thursday, March 13, 2008, Friday, March 14, 2008 and Friday, June 13, 2008.

Diane Price, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, High School, Friday, February 22, 2008 and Friday, March 14, 2008;

Approve support staff for the 2007-2008 school year-Ramspacher

Approve the following support staff for the 2007-2008 school year -

Lauren Ramspacher, 7 hour Instructional Assistant, Middle School, at an hourly rate of \$14.18, effective February 7, 2008. Ms. Ramspacher will fill the vacant position created by the resignation of Yeliska Vazquez;

Approve substitutes for the 2007-2008 school year-Schurkamp, Vazquez, Wolf, Wieder

Approve the following substitutes for the 2007-2008 school year -

Sarah Schurkamp, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$14.18.

Yeliska Vazquez, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$14.18.

Bonnie Wolf, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$14.18.

Lauren Wieder, Substitute Health Paraprofessional, at an hourly rate of \$12.16;

Accept retirement-Yons, Jr.

Accept the retirement of the following support staff -

Norman Yons, Jr., Custodian, High School, effective January 21, 2008. Mr. Yons was employed by the district for nearly 5 years;

Approve transfer of the volunteer coaches to coaches for the 2007-2008 school year-Browne, Sparango

Approve the transfer of the following volunteer coaches to coaches for the 2007-2008 school year -

David Browne                      Head Girls' Lacrosse                      \$4,087

Ashley Sparango                      Assistant Girls' Lacrosse                      \$2,550;

Approve coach for the 2007-2008 school year-Mihalik

Approve the following coach for the 2007-2008 school year -

Michael Mihalik                      Assistant Baseball                      \$3,342;

Approve volunteer coaches for the 2007-2008 school year-Stemple, Barndt, Scheetz

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2007-2008 school year -

Eric Stemple                      Boys' Lacrosse

Ronald Barndt                      Baseball

Jill Scheetz                      Girls' Lacrosse;

Accept resignation of B. Siesko as a CFF Core Content Technology Facilitator

Accept the resignation of Bradley Siesko as a Classroom for the Future (CFF) Core Content Technology Facilitator. (*This is no longer a shared position*);

Approve the appointment of the following mentors at a stipend not to exceed \$700 -

Mark Covelle as a mentor for *Jessica Pezolano-Gordon*

Raymond Hanks as a mentor for *Lorraine Frasch*

Jeffrey Hershey as a mentor for *Thomas Wilde*.

Approve  
mentors-  
Covelle,  
Hanks,  
Hershey

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

**CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Mrs. Siegfried, Mrs. Turner and Ms. Lewis reported on student and staff activities at the High School, Middle School and the elementary schools.

Mrs. Siegfried passed around a book entitled Debating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nuclear Issues that was donated to the High School from Lieutenant Colonel George Nagy, USAF. Mr. Nagy is a 1988 graduate of Southern Lehigh and son of Dot Nagy, secretary to the principal at Lower Milford Elementary School. Mr. Nagy wrote the chapter, "Nuclear Deterrence and the American Way of War", and signed the book "To Southern Lehigh High School, with thanks for the superior education that made this work possible". Mrs. Siegfried said the 11<sup>th</sup> graders are taking the PSSA writing tests this week, and the focus of the Act 80 day this Thursday will be Classrooms for the Future.

Mrs. Turner reported that 8<sup>th</sup> Grade PSSA writing tests are taking place this week, and a second parent night is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> where the topic will be At-Risk Behavior.

Mrs. Lewis also reported that PSSA writing tests for 5<sup>th</sup> graders was going on this week. She thanked the Board for attending Board Visitation Day at the elementary schools. She also said the District Spanish Immersion information night will be February 19<sup>th</sup> at Liberty Bell School.

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the following student trip -

*Southern Lehigh Future Business Leaders of America Qualifying Student Members and Advisor* to attend the State Leadership Conference and Competition, Hershey, PA from Sunday, March 30, 2008 to Wednesday, April 2, 2008.

Approve  
student trip-  
Southern  
Lehigh Future  
Business  
Leaders of  
America  
Qualifying  
Student  
Members and  
Advisor-  
Hershey, PA

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

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the following Independent Study Proposals -

Kaird Durocher, Ceramics

Aaron Kichline, Art

Felicia Nguyen, Ceramics, II

Gillian Reinartz, Clothing Concepts.

Approve  
Independent  
Study  
Proposals-  
Durocher,  
Kichline,  
Nguyen,  
Reinartz

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

**BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the Investment of Funds as attached.

Approve  
Investment of  
Funds

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

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to approve the exoneration of Deborah Herstine, Upper Saucon Tax Collector, for the collection of the 2007-2008 School District per capita taxes for the attached list of people for the reasons that are stated.

Approve  
exoneration of  
D. Herstine for  
the collection  
of the 2007-  
2008 per capita  
taxes

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

Accept the Performance Audit Report for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 fiscal years as issued by the PA Department of the Auditor General

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to accept the Performance Audit Report for the District for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 fiscal years, as issued by the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General.

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

Mr. Snell continued the borrowing discussion that was initiated when our financial advisors attended the January 7, 2008 Board Meeting. In order to proceed with a bond sale to generate funds to complete the Intermediate School, the Board will need to provide direction to the Administration regarding the size and structure of the bond issue.

Mr. Snell explained that as of now it looks like the District will need \$8.6 million to complete construction of the Intermediate School, and it is a good time to borrow because interest rates are low. He also explained the advantages of borrowing under \$10 million which is called bank qualified debt. Since interest rates are low, the District may also be in a position to save money by refinancing (refunding) an existing bond issue sometime in 2008. With an estimated refinancing cost of \$400,000, the District could borrow up to \$9.6 million to finish the Intermediate School and have approximately \$1.0 million remaining for other capital project needs. Mr. Liberati mentioned two areas where immediate capital funds will be required. They are the air conditioning at the Middle School and the bleachers in the stadium. Mr. Snell described the differences between wrap-around and level debt service, and the costs associated with both. There was lengthy Board discussion regarding the amount of money that should be borrowed, the structure of the borrowing (wrap-around vs. level debt), and the use of fund balance.

Authorize the borrowing of \$9.6 million through a bond sale utilizing wrap-around debt

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to authorize the borrowing of \$9.6 million through a bond sale utilizing wrap-around debt.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Quigley, Auteri, Dimmig**  
**"NO" – Quigley, Auteri, Dimmig – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Bromwell**

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Accept proposal for Professional Architectural Services to renovate a High School math classroom- George J. Donovan AIA & Associates

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to accept the proposal for Professional Architectural Services to renovate a High School math classroom into a multi-purpose physics/chemistry classroom from George J. Donovan AIA & Associates, 518 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018 in the amount of \$22,175. The anticipated project cost is expected to range between \$165,000 and \$200,000.

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

### **PERSONNEL**

Approve staff (pending required documentation)- Weiss

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the following staff (*pending receipt of required documentation*) -

Eric Weiss, Category D Extended Term Substitute, Music Teacher, Middle School, at Bachelor's, Step 1, an annual (pro-rated) salary of \$40,580 (\$212.46 per day), with an anticipated start date on February 26, 2008. Mr. Weiss will fill the position in the absence of Ms. Lindauer-Schneider.

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

Correct annual salary for J. Pezolano-Gordon

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to correct the salary of Jessica Pezolano-Gordon from Bachelor's, Step 2, an annual salary of \$41,232 per year to Bachelor's +30, Step 1, an annual (pro-rated) salary of \$42,970 based upon the receipt of additional documentation.

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

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the following administrator (*pending receipt of required documentation*) -

Joan Takacs, Director of Secondary Education, at an annual (pro-rated) salary of \$91,000, with a plan to accelerate this salary level by \$4,000 in addition to regular increases at the conclusion of two (2) years of satisfactory performance. Start date to be determined. Ms. Takacs will fill the position created by the resignation of Katherine Metrick.

Approve administrator (pending receipt of required documentation)- Takacs

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

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the termination of employment of a custodial employee due to inability to return to work.

Approve the termination of employment of a custodial employee

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

**REPORTS**

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute

Mr. Miracle reported the Joint Operating Committee met on January 23, 2008. There was unanimous approval of the addition to the Diesel/Medium and Heavy Truck Technology lab from all the other school districts. Mr. Miracle noted that he had attended the annual Vocational Industrial Clubs of America competition at Agricultural Hall in Allentown.

Education Committee

Mrs. Gunkle said the committee met on January 31, 2008. Discussions included communications on wellness, curriculum for math and reading, and a number of initiatives & best practices, and future of global marketplaces. A Global Leadership Conference will be held on February 26, 2008 at DeSales University.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Liberati asked for two Board volunteers for the District Strategic Plan Steering Committee. The Steering Committee kick-off meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2008. He also asked the Board for volunteers to be members of sub committees. The District's new Strategic Plan is due to PDE on September 30, 2008.

Facilities Report

Mr. Liberati reported that he had a meeting with Robert Breslin, Architect, last week to discuss a District feasibility study. He said that he has also contacted CLIU and other sources such as the Pennsylvania Economy League with regards to a demographic study of the School District.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Schubert and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to request the administration to assemble mid-term and final assessment data information similar to last year.

Request administration to assemble mid-term and final assessment data information similar to last year

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**VISITORS**

ADJOURNMENT

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

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