



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

August 28, 2013

A special meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:35 p.m. on the above date (August 28, 2013) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Dimmig, Gunkle, McLoughlin, Hayes, Lindsay, Lycett, Mohr, Stelts

ABSENT: Quigley

OTHERS: Christman, Lewis, Melber, Millman, Jordan, Takacs, Bergey, Davidson, Donahue, Mickley, Popichak (PATCH), Rizzo (Morning Call), Sarnowski (Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.) and approximately 94 other members of the community.

OPENING PROCEDURES

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

PRESENTATION

Mr. Todd Bergey, Director of Support Services, provided a presentation summarizing the findings of a Demographic Study and Life/Cost Analysis done to identify future needs of the Southern Lehigh School District elementary schools. Complete reports are available on the district's website under "Facilities Committee Agendas and Minutes".

Immediately following the presentation, Board members offered comments and questions.

VISITORS

Mr. Dimmig extended an opportunity for public comments with instructions for speakers to sign-in and limit their comments to 5 minutes.

Mr. Joseph Scull questioned the estimated cost and size of a new building and length of bus ride times.

Ms. Lori Downey, Grade 2 teacher, Lower Milford Elementary School, requested the Board to consider what is "good for children". The length of bus ride times is an issue and suggested that 50 minutes is too long. She is in favor of the small, "family" environment that Lower Milford offers to students and parents.

Ms. Michelle Barker spoke in support of small elementary schools and offered the comment that consolidation affects all families.

Mr. Michael Snovitch, Lower Milford Township Supervisor, reminded the Board that Lower Milford Elementary School is a designated Red Cross Shelter. He also assured

the Board that Lower Milford Township is committed to upholding ordinances with regard to the proposed quarry. He is also in favor of smaller size school.

Mrs. Melissa Greenawald, Kindergarten teacher, Lower Milford Elementary School, in favor of a small, nurturing environment that Lower Milford offers to students. She also suggested the Board consider other options.

Ms. Kristen Jellison is in favor of the small, "family" environment that Lower Milford offers. She is also concerned that 50 minute bus ride times are too long.

Ms. Michelle Burns spoke in support of the small, caring environment that Lower Milford offers and asked the Board to focus on the needs of the students. She also asked the Board to consider other options.

Mrs. Kathie Parsons asked the Board to consider other options to see if there is room for expansion at Lower Milford. She also suggested the Board consider a different time of the Facilities Committee meetings.

Mr. Robert Burns concerned that 50 minute bus rides are too long. He also suggested the Board consider fundraising efforts and energy curtailment.

Mr. Michael Schwartz suggested that the Board consider expansion of Lower Milford.

There was additional Board discussion.

Mr. Dimmig encouraged residents to attend School board meetings and reminded the public that all information regarding the Demographic and Life Cost Analysis are available on the district's website. The Board will consider all options and continue to discuss at upcoming Board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary