

# Southern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors Meeting

June 13, 2016

The first regular 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 (June 13, 2016) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Parsons, Dimmig, McLoughlin, Gehman, Gunkle, Lycett, Merkle,

Sisselberger, Smith

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Christman, Melber, Millman, Lewis, Knoll, Buchman, Takacs, Sinkler

(SLEA), Malinchak (MCall) and 4 other members of the community.

#### **OPENING PROCEDURES**

Mrs. Parsons led the Board and others attending the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOVED BY** McLoughlin and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Gunkle to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 meeting as distributed to all Board members.

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

**ABSENT: None** 

#### **VISITORS**

Mrs. Anita Desai spoke to the board regarding live streaming of board meetings and the new Superintendent search.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Dimmig to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** items as follows -

Approve the bills list dated June 13, 2016 showing paid bills in the amount of \$11,220.82 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$725,919.46 for a total amount of \$737,140.28 for the General Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$828,119.21 for the Construction Fund;

Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2016-2017 school year-

Carol Horvath

Elementary K-6;

Approve the appointment of <u>Douglas Roncolato</u>, Substitute Driver Training Instructor, an hourly rate of \$43.44 for the 2016-2017 school year;

Approve <u>unpaid leave</u> of <u>Erin (Bromfield) Everett</u>, Teacher, Southern Lehigh High School, October 3, 12, 17, 2016 and April 29, 2017;

Accept the resignations of the following staff-

<u>Amber Neetz</u>, Instructional Assistant, Southern Lehigh High School, effective end of business day June 10, 2016,

<u>Elizabeth Muller</u>, Instructional Assistant, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School, effective end of business day June 10, 2016.

<u>Jeanne Reilly</u>, Instructional Assistant, Southern Lehigh High School, effective end of business day June 10, 2016;

Approve the termination of <u>Anthony Haddad</u>, Instructional Assistant, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School, effective end of business day May 29, 2016. This position has been eliminated;

Approve the following (<u>returning</u>) <u>Seasonal Custodial employees</u>, for the period June 20, 2016 through August 12, 2016, an hourly rate of \$8.46 (\$7.43 per hour for ages 16-18\*\*)-

Claire Glendinning\*\*

Kristopher Rank\*\*

Cailyn Reinhard\*\*

Kendra Beltz

Ruth Berghold

William DeCasere

Hanna Docalovich

Hanna Dorsey

Joseph Funk

Charise Grube

Matthew Kee

Derek McDonald

Lori Michael

Daniel Perrelli

Hanna Salamon

Katrina Salamon

Jonathan Schroy

**Timothy Senters** 

Dylan Scheaffer

Robyn Somers

Lynn Yost;

Approve the following (<u>new</u>) <u>Seasonal Custodian employees</u>, for the period June 20, 2016 through August 12, 2016, an hourly rate of \$8.46 (\$7.43 per hour for ages 16-18\*\*)-

August Joachim\*\*

Minh-Thai Nguyen\*\*

Devon Wolfe;

Approve the appointment of <u>Nicole Castetter</u>, Reading Camp Nurse, for the period July 25, 2016 through July 29, 2016, an hourly rate of \$20.91;

Approve the following Subject Area Leaders for the 2016-2017 school year-

Jeffrey Hershey	HS Language Arts	\$3583	
Alison Bauer	MS Language Arts	\$1550.50**	
Heather Toto	MS Language Arts	\$1550.50**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3101			
Victoria Butz	Elem. Language Arts	\$1791.50**	
Pamela Kuntzman	Elem. Language Arts	\$1791.50**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3583			
Megan Dellegrotti	Phys. Ed/Health	\$1791.50**	
Dianna Riegel	Phys. Ed/Health	\$1791.50**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3583			
Ryan Haupt	HS Math	\$1791.50**	
Justina Viola	HS Math	\$1791.50**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3583			
Christopher Strobl	MS Math	\$3101	
Karen Ryan	Elem. Math	\$1791.50**	
Danielle Pompella	Elem. Math	\$1791.50**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3583			
Jeremy Deyton	HS Science (Budget)	\$500.00	
Adrienne Searfoss	HS Science	\$3583	
David Marchek	MS Science	\$2498	
David Kohler	Elem. Science	\$1550.50**	

Nicholas Weaver	Elem. Science	\$1550.50**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3101			
Thomas Beaupre	HS Social Studies	\$3101	
Anita Benedix	MS Social Studies	\$2498	
Tricia Anderson	Elem. Social Studies	\$1550.50**	
Angela Fulmer	Elem. Social Studies	\$1550.50**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3101			
Caryn Bronfenbrenner	Sp. Education 9-12	\$3184	
Kate Wechtler	Sp. Education K-6	\$2389	
Matthew Wehr	Music K-12	\$3583	
Tara Walter	Family & Consumer Science	\$3101	
Merrilyn Pysher	Health Services	\$2654	
Corry Robbins	Library Science	\$2498	
Stephanie Donald	Art	\$1194.33**	
Marilyn Hower	Art	\$1194.33**	
Lynn Yocum	Art	\$1194.33**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3583			
Robert Gaugler	Technology Education	\$3583	
Bonnie Organski	Bus, Comp & Info. Tech	\$1791.50**	
JoAnn Peralta	Bus, Comp & Info. Tech	\$1791.50**	
**shared position and total stipend of \$3583			
Joan Imms-Geiser	World Language	\$3583;	

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2016-2017 school year-

<u>Devon Hagy</u> Field Hockey

Devon Wolfe Marching Band;

Approve the following <u>substitute volleyball coaches</u>, an hourly rate of \$43.44 for the 2015-2016 school year-

Megan Dellegrotti

Matthew Hummel

Approve the following <u>athletic worker</u> for the 2015-2016 school year-Nicole Fiscella.

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

Dr. Christman, provided a slideshow of Hopewell Elementary School and Lower Milford staff preparing for the move to the new building.

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Lycett to approve the enclosed 2016-2017 **District Mini Grants** for a total amount of \$15,508.20.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Lycett to approve the agreement with Southern Lehigh School District and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 for the **OverDrive School Download Library** for a period of 3 years beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2019.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Lycett to approve the **CLIU #21 Facilities Plan Committee Report** and School Board Resolution for the 2016-2017 school year.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Lycett to approve the agreement to participate in **eLearn 21** between the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit and the Southern Lehigh School District for a web based online learning system. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Smith to approve the following **student trip request**-

Southern Lehigh High School French language classes to participate in an educational trip to France and Switzerland, April 5, 2018 through April 14, 2018.

#### **BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

The Administration presented the PDE-2028, **Final 2016-2017 General Fund Budget** for adoption tonight as presented and approved at the May 9, 2015 Board meeting.

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** McLoughlin to adopt the following **2016-2017 Budget Resolution**-

That this Board of School Directors hereby officially adopts the School District of Southern Lehigh **2016-2017 Fiscal School Year Budget**, commencing with July 1, 2016 and ending with June 30, 2017, as recommended. A copy of PDE-2028, Final General Fund Budget, Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 that was proposed and adopted at an official meeting of the Board of School Directors held Monday, May 9, 2016 is included in the Board packet.

ROLL CALL VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried ABSENT: None

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** McLoughlin to approve the **Levying Millage Resolution**-

WHEREAS, the estimated Receipts from Local Sources of \$47,531,621 as set forth in the School District of Southern Lehigh Fiscal School Year Budget for the year 2016-2017 officially adopted this 13th day of June, 2016, includes a tax on the assessed valuation of real estate.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the millage on the assessed valuation of real estate located within the confines of Southern Lehigh School District (based upon 100% of the appraised valuation in compliance with Lehigh County Board of Commissioners) as required in the officially adopted **2016-2017 Fiscal School Year Budget**, be set at 15.62 mills on the dollar (\$1.562 per each \$100 of assessed valuation) to provide an estimated income of \$39,035,473 for the fiscal year commencing with July 1, 2016, and ending with June 30, 2017.

ROLL CALL VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried ABSENT: None

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** McLoughlin to approve the **Act 511 Taxes Resolution**-

**WHEREAS**, 15.62 mills on the assessed valuation of real estate will not provide sufficient revenue to meet the budgetary requirements of the 2016-2017 fiscal school year.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,** that this Board of School Directors hereby reenacts the enabling resolution providing for the levying and assessing of a 1% tax upon the transfer of real property, or of any interest therein, situated within the School District of Southern Lehigh, under the authority of Act 511 of 1965, known as "The Local Tax Enabling Act", with said tax to provide an estimated income of \$700.000; and.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Board of School Directors hereby re-enacts the enabling resolution providing for the levy of 1% tax on the earned income of residents of the School District of Southern Lehigh levied under the authority of Act 511 of 1965, known as "The Local Tax Enabling Act", with said tax to provide an estimated income of \$4,800,000; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Board of School Directors hereby re-enacts the enabling resolution providing for the levy of a Local Services Tax in the amount of Five (\$5.00) Dollars on individuals engaged in any occupation, trade or profession within the corporate limits of the School District under the authority of Act 511 of 1965, P.L. 1257, as amended, known as "The Local Tax Enabling Act," with said tax to provide an estimated income of \$54,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried ABSENT: None

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** McLoughlin to approve the attached **Homestead/Farmstead Resolution**-

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of School Directors of Southern Lehigh School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2016, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows-

# 1. Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.

The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2016-

- a. **Gambling tax funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. §6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$618,485.34.
- b. Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds. PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. §6926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$44,916.04.
- c. <u>Aggregate amount available.</u> Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$663,401.38.

- 2. Homestead/farmstead numbers. Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. §8584(i), and Act 1.
- 53 P.S. §6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:
- a. <u>Homestead property number.</u> The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 5957.
- b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 47.
- c. <u>Homestead/farmstead combined number.</u> Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is <u>6,004</u>.
- 3. Real estate tax reduction calculation. The School Board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(c) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$663,401.38 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 6,004 (before considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead and farmstead exclusion amount), the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$110.49.

Based on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board, considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead exclusion and the farmstead exclusion amount, an additional aggregate amount of \$2,207.79 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 5,967 homesteads and farmsteads, resulting in an additional real estate tax reduction amount available for each homestead and farmstead of \$0.37. Adding this additional amount to the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$110.49, the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$110.86.

- 4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$107.32 by the School District real estate tax rate of 15.62 mills (.01562), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$7,097.00 and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$7,097.00.
- 5. Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization July 1 tax bills. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the

lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$7,097.00. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$7,097.00. For purposes of this Resolution, "approved homestead" and "approved farmstead" shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. §6926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills

Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization -- interim real estate tax bills. No homestead or farmstead exclusion will apply to any interim tax bill except an interim tax bill applicable to a property that includes an approved homestead or approved farmstead listed in the report received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, but not included in the tax assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill for the property. In most cases, the assessment of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads will be reflected in July 1 tax bills. However, in any case when there is an approved homestead or an approved farmstead that is not included in the assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill, and when an interim real estate tax notice is issued later based on an interim assessment including the approved homestead or approved farmstead, the interim tax notice shall reflect a homestead or farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction calculated under paragraph 5, except that the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be prorated in the same manner as the real estate tax is pro-rated. Assuming the interim tax notice reflects taxation as of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will apply. In the extraordinary case where the new interim tax assessment is effective after July 1, the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro-rated in the same manner as the real estate tax reflected in the interim tax bill is pro-rated.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** McLoughlin to approve the **Fund Balance Designations** for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

**MOVED BY** Gehman and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Gunkle to approve the District's **student accident and athletic insurance for 2016-2017** through Weiss-Schantz Agency Inc., of Hellertown, PA as summarized below. The policy is administered by AG Administrators, Inc., of Valley Forge, PA and underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company.

- Interscholastic Sports, Intramurals, and Club Sports-Annual premium of \$19,750, paid by the School District, represents a 0% increase from the prior year.
- 2. Voluntary Student Accident Coverage, School Time Only-\$28/year, paid by parents, no change from last year.
- 3. Voluntary Student Accident Coverage, 24-Hour Coverage-\$124/year, paid by parents, no change from last year.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gehman to approve **school property tax refunds** for the following:

Elizabeth Moerder	\$264.20
William & Phylis Onthrop	\$ 24.31
Harry & Joan Scarpa	\$140.91
Lorena & Rita Rudolpa	\$1945.84
Jesse & Van Nguyen	\$693.96
Jeri Smith c/o Jeri Bellini	\$315.12
Donald & Phyllis Harrington	\$73.80
Raymond Zook	\$78.42
Sarah Hartman	\$140.64
Charles & Ann Maiocco	\$156.00
Kevin Bear	\$150.63
Stephen & Debra Good	\$548.73
Matthew & Lisa Alison	\$ 26.40
CJD Group LLC	\$1052.88
Sherri Ann Beck	\$162.96
Gregory & Michelle Wetzel	\$338.14
Jerry Eisenhart	\$205.20
Paul Hershey	\$394.26
Derek & Jamie Gottschall	\$151.38
Kenneth Baringer	\$624.84
Thomas Williams	\$112.20
Kusko Family LTD Partnership	\$1207.32
Melvin & Pamela Harris	\$59.22
Gail Guerrero	\$66.12
Michael & Kelly Rocchi	\$420.75
Kevin & Lisa Lexo	\$82.00
Gordon Petridis	\$1709.34

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

#### SUPPORT SERVICES

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Merkle to approve the following **allowance adjustments for construction** of the New Hopewell Elementary School project. These unanticipated costs and credits were included in the contractor's base contract and will not result in an increase or decrease of the contractor's bid amounts-

- Lobar, Inc., General Contractor Credit adjustment for deletion of images totaling \$2251.00
- 2. DeWalt Plumbing, Inc. Plumbing Contractor Adjustment for mixing valves totaling \$12,443.76

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

#### **PERSONNEL**

MOVED BY Gunkle and 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Smith to accept the retirement of the following staff-

<u>Carol Horvath</u>, Kindergarten Teacher, Liberty Bell Elementary School, effective end of business day on the last teacher day of the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Horvath has been a district staff member for 23 years.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Merkle to approve the change of retirement date of <u>Douglas Roncolato</u>, Health and Physical Education Teacher, Southern Lehigh High School, from June 30, 2016 (approved at the May 23, 2016 board meeting) to an effective date of end of business day on June 10, 2016.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Smith to increase the part-time (.9) status of <u>Jessica Dimmig</u>, Librarian, Liberty Bell Elementary School, to full-time status, an annual salary of \$69,440.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Parsons, McLoughlin, Gehman, Gunkle, Lycett, Merkle,

Sisselberger, Smith – Motion Carried ABSTAIN: Dimmig

ABSENT: None

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** McLoughlin to accept the <u>retirements</u> of the following staff-

Rebekah latarola, Secretary, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School, effective end of business day May 31, 2016. Mrs. latarola was a district employee for 21 years.

<u>Janice Kovacs</u>, Instructional Assistant, Southern Lehigh Middle School, effective end of business day June 3, 2016. Mrs. Kovacs was a district employee for 15 years.

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

#### REPORTS

# Policvy Committee

Mr. Lycett reported the committee met prior to this meeting and discussed the several policies.

# Private Funding Facilities Committee

Mr. Lycett reported that this Board committee will be dissolved once the fundraising campaign is underway.

# Superintendent's Report

Dr. Christman reported presented a slideshow with highlights of the Southern Lehigh High School students and advisors during their visit to the Tangshan Oriental International School (June 9 through 12, 2016.)

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>nd</sup> **BY** Smith to approve a second and final reading of the following <u>new policy</u>-

#626 Finances: Federal Fiscal Compliance

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2**<sup>nd</sup> **BY** Smith to approve a second and final reading of the following <u>revised policies</u>-

#200.1 Pupils: Admission of Students to Spanish Immersion Program

#215 Pupils: Promotion/Retention

#312 Administrative Employees: Evaluation of Administrative Employees

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Dimmig and **2<sup>nd</sup> BY** Lycett to approve location changes for board meeting dates approved at the April 25, 2016 board meeting.

This motion was tabled until the next board meeting (June 27, 2016).

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **VISITORS**

Mrs. Mary Ann Nord, Coopersburg resident, spoke to the Board to consider a program to offset property taxes for senior citizens who volunteer within the district.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Parsons announced the need for an Executive Session and that the board would not reconvene.

**MOVED BY** Smith and **2<sup>nd</sup> BY** McLoughlin to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST: <u>Diana O. Millman</u>, Board Secretary