



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

January 23, 2012

The second regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:32 p.m. on the above date (January 23, 2012) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: McLoughlin, Dimmig, Gunkle, Hayes, Lindsay, Lycett, Mohr, Quigley,
ABSENT: Stelts
OTHERS: Christman, Melber, Lewis, Millman, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Takacs, Knoll, Jordan, Covelle, Davidson, McGinty, Hafner, Rich (Patch.com), Rizzo (Morning Call), Petty (Express Times), Organski, Ryan, Beltzner, Hallman, Becker and approximately 6 other members of the community.

OPENING PROCEDURES

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

January is PSBA School Board Recognition Month and Mrs. Christman recognized the Board and thanked them for their dedication. Books will be placed in each of the libraries in honor of Board members. Board members received certificates, lapel pins and cupcakes were served to everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Mohr to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting as distributed to all Board members.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Stelts

VISITORS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the bills to be paid in the amount of \$21,865.16 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$655,589.70 for a total amount of \$677,454.86 for the General Fund and bills to be paid in the amount of \$149,954.90 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund as of January 23, 2012;

Approve the Treasurer's Report and Investment Report for the month of December, 2011;

Approve the following student teacher placements (*pending receipt of required documentation*)-

Kimberly Hillegass, Elementary and Special Education, DeSales University, with *Melissa Greenawald*, Lower Milford Elementary School, from March 13, 2012 through April 27, 2012;

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2011-2012 school year-

Danielle Coccozza Elementary Education

Elaine Davis Music K-12;

Approve a salary step adjustment for the following staff, effective February 1, 2012-

Katie Quartuch, Social Studies Teacher, Southern Lehigh High School, Bachelor's +30 to Master's;

Approve the following substitute support staff for the 2011-2012 school year-

Elaine Davis, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.31

Helen Lavin, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.31

Heather Lippincott, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.31

Heather Lippincott, Substitute Secretary, at an hourly rate of \$14.14;

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff-

Wendy Krupa, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Hopewell Elementary School, for ½ day on February 8 and a full day on February 9, 2012;

Accept the resignation of the following staff-

Diane Vardaro, 3 ¼ hour Cafeteria Worker, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School, effective January 9, 2012;

Approve the following coaches for the 2011-2012 school year-

Erica Schlamp MS Girls' Assistant Basketball \$2,464 (prorated);

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2011-2012 school year-

Lori Michelle Schumaker Winter Track and Spring Track

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: Stelts

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

Mr. Covelle, Mr. Davidson, Mr. McGinty and Mr. Hafner reported on student and staff activities at the High School, Middle School, Intermediate School and the elementary schools.

High School report –

- The HS Scheduling Committee met to discuss and narrow down schools to visit. Currently planning to visit Salisbury on 1/27/12. A visit to Nazareth is also planned.

- On 1/16/12 we developed several technology programs for our half day LCTI students to participate in since LCTI was closed and students were in attendance at SL for the day. The 10th grade LCTI students worked on their graduation project.
- Held a Winter Pep Rally on 1/20/12, hosted by the Spartan Spirit Club.
- The 2012-2013 Program of Studies book was sent to print on 12/23/11 and currently the counselors are meeting with students to begin the course selection process.
- Held a HS Parent Advisory meeting on 1/6/12.
- The Student Advisory Council met on 1/20/12.
- On 1/25/12 we will be meeting with the 8th grade parents to discuss the HS Course Selection process for which website postings and ConnectEd messages were made.
- HS Pops Concert Scheduled for 2/2/12 in the Cafeteria.
- Winter Charity Dance originally scheduled for Saturday, 1/21/12 was cancelled due to inclement weather but will be rescheduled.

Middle School report –

Academic

- 1/24 – Middle School Spelling Bee
- 1/25 – 2nd marking period grades due
- 8th grade parent night at the High School - 7:00 PM
- 1/27 - report cards mailed home
- March 12-23 - 7th and 8th grade Reading and Math PSSA
- April 16-20 - 8th grade Writing PSSA
- April 23-27 - 8th grade Science PSSA

Events

- 1/26 – PEAK – snow tubing trip
- 1/23 – Chinese New Year celebration
- 2/10 – school dance

Intermediate School report –

- The IS held its annual Spelling and Geography Bees on Wednesday, 1/18 and Friday, 1/20. The winner of the spelling bee was a 6th grade student who will move on to the regional competition at NACC. The winning word for the spelling bee was “incredulously”.
- The Geography Bee required “overtime” as there were still 8 Finalists with ten minutes left before dismissal on Friday.
- DARE graduation for 5th grade is set for Tuesday, 1/24.

Elementary schools –

- All three elementary buildings have completed their mid-year DIBELS reading and math assessments. We are meeting with grade level teams to review Tier II and Tier III intervention groups and are adding or discontinuing service to those students where appropriate.
- The afternoon of Friday, 1/27, will be for grade level teams to review the data regarding their goal for the first half of the year as well as create an action plan for their goal for the 2nd half of the year.
- K-3 teachers piloting the new science materials will meet on Wednesday, January 25th, to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the program and assessments. This group will also work on pacing as well as implementation.
- Lower Milford will be having an assembly on 1/30 titled “Bully-Proof Your Life.”
- Liberty Bell will be holding its 2nd Quarter Pride of Liberty Bell Celebration the A.M. of 1/27 to support its school-wide positive behavior system.
- Both Liberty Bell and Lower Milford will be holding their annual “Jump Rope for Heart” event during the week of February 6th through the 10th. This is an annual event during American Heart Month coordinated by Health and Physical Education teacher Gretchen Hoff. The event has several purposes including: making fitness important and fun, raising awareness of heart disease/stroke, and supporting the American Heart Association.
- *Liberty Bell Supports You* just wrapped a week-long Penny War where they raised over \$1200. In the past the group has target more global projects such as the earthquake in Haiti or the tsunami in Japan, but this time the money is going to support a program in the Allentown School District called, “Start Your Day Right.” The goal of this program is to help students and their families kick off the school day right by providing pre-class breakfast, academic, and fitness activities.
- Finally, Liberty Bell has already had the top daily scorer in the state of Pennsylvania 14 times for the web-based program Kid Biz. Kid Biz is a web-based individualized reading and writing instruction through new non-fiction articles daily.

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Lindsay to approve the following student trip requests-

Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team to attend the Pennsbury High School “Falcon” Invitational Tournament, Fairless Hills, PA on February 3, 2012 and February 4, 2012;

Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team to attend the Harvard University Invitational Tournament, Boston, MA from February 17, 2012 through February 20, 2012;

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: Stelts

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve the following student trip request-

Southern Lehigh High School Key Club to attend the Pennsylvania Key Club District/Leadership Convention, State College, PA from March 16, 2012 through March 18, 2012;

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Stelts

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Mohr to approve the request for High School student #123255 to complete the 2011-2012 school year in accordance with provisions of Policy #202.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Stelts

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

SUPPORT SERVICES

PERSONNEL

REPORTS

Budget & Finance Committee

Mrs. Gunkle reports the outlined goals of the January 16th meeting were to:

- Review and possibly establish the overall cut/tax/fund spending goals for the 5 year budget- adding the 5th year which has not been done yet.
- Review and summarize changes since last budget review– identifying additional cuts that have occurred since approval of the 2011-12 budget.
- Discussion of approach to budget cycle this year in order to set cut/tax/fund spend targets for 5 year budget, prioritize possible cuts and to determine the 2012-13 budget using cuts/taxes/fund spending.
- The committee will revisit targets at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8th at 6:15 PM in the Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Christman reported the following:

- Today is Chinese New Year- Year of the Dragon! Eddy Tang, Education Advisor for Overseas Projects for Hebei Provincial Education Department is planning to visit our schools for a couple of days at the end of February/ beginning of March to establish a partnership/ sister school with a high school in China.

- BCIU invited SLSD to participate in a trip to Washington DC on 1.24.12 (6am-9pm) to visit Middle Eastern Embassies. We hope to partner with BCIU for Arabic in the future. Four teachers (including our Egyptian teacher) and three high schools students will participate. The visit includes the following:
 - Begin at the Egyptian Cultural and Educational Bureau. The Bureau runs under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Egypt in harmony with the Embassy of Egypt in the United States, and organizes and participates in a variety of cultural events and activities in the States and plays a major role in many educational activities. (Embassy of Egypt is closed for elections.)
 - Progress to the Embassy of Iraq, where the Iraqi Ambassador to the United States will be speaking. Receive slide presentations, refreshments, and a talk given by a Georgetown University director and well-known Iraqi media individual.
 - Next, go to the monument of Khalil Gibran - famous Lebanese poet, philosopher, and artist. Then make a visit to the Islamic Center.
 - End with a visit to the Saudi Arabia Embassy, to witness exhibitions, presentations, and talks. The group will also be hosted for an authentic dinner.
- A draft 2012-13 calendar was presented for review and will be brought for approval at the next meeting.
- We are meeting with PSU Lehigh Valley's Chancellor, Continuing Education Director, and Director of Academic Affairs on Feb. 16 to discuss enhancing our academic partnerships.
- Recommendation for the Middle School to participate in Project Success through the Center for Humanistic Change in Lehigh Valley at no cost to the district. This research-based program would provide mentors to at-risk students. Mentors are all professional with masters-level training in counseling, social work or education. Parent permission is required for participation.

Education Committee

Mr. Hayes reported the following from the January 23, 2012 committee meeting:

- Middle School/High School Scheduling changes will occur for the 2013-2014 school year and the Middle School is looking at some changes in the Related Arts schedule for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Field trip funding discussed with plan for standardization for all grade levels.

Facilities Committee

Mrs. Knoll reported a Request for Proposal for Transportation was advertised, seven proposals were received, further evaluation of four of the proposals and award of proposal anticipated by end of February.

Strategic Plan/Middle States Report

Mrs. Lewis distributed the Strategic Plan/Middle State Report to Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Christman reports meeting with Southern Lehigh Public Library representatives to discuss the appointment of School Board Representative to the Southern Lehigh Public Library. Names of interested parties will be brought forward for Board consideration.

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve a second and final reading on revisions to the following existing policies-

- #226 Pupils: *Searches*
- #336 Administrative Employees: *Unpaid Leave*
- #436 Professional Employees: *Unpaid Leave*
- #536 Classified Employees: *Unpaid Leave*
- #907 Community: *School Visitors*

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: Stelts

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve a second and final reading to the following policies-

- #123.1 Programs: *Management of Athletes with Concussion/Return to Play*
- #227.1 Pupils: *Search of Student Lockers and Vehicles in Student Parking Lots and Use of Animals of Animals to Search*

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: Stelts

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Dimmig to approve a first reading of the following policies-

- #250 Pupils: *Student Recruitment*
- #316 Administrative Employees: *Notification of Arrest or Conviction*
- #416 Professional Employees: *Notification of Arrest or Conviction*
- #516 Classified Employees: *Notification of Arrest or Conviction*

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: Stelts

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Lycett to approve the addition of a Middle School Spring Musical Director position at a \$900 stipend for the 2011-2012 school year.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: Stelts

Ms. Bonnie Organski, *Southern Lehigh Education Association* President and Dr. Thomas McLoughlin, Southern Lehigh School District Board President signed the newly ratified Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2016.

Mr. Dimmig offered to research information on a senior citizen mentor program with the purpose of providing senior citizens with an opportunity to earn tax rebates.

COMMUNICATIONS

A thank you note was received from the Liberati family and read by Dr. McLoughlin.

VISITORS

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Dimmig to adjourn the meeting.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried

ABSENT: Stelts

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

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary

PENDING APPROVAL