



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

May 23, 2011

The second regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 5:35 p.m. on the above date (May 23, 2011) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

**PRESENT:** Eddinger, Dimmig, Gunkle, Hayes, McLoughlin, Miracle, Mohr, Quigley (arrived at 5:46 p.m.), Stelts

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS:** Christman, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Takacs, Lewis, Engler, Bergey, Jordan, Scherzberg, Covelle, Davidson, Farris, Mickley, Organski, Rizzo (The Morning Call), Rich (Patch.com), Wilson (Southern Lehigh Tribune) and approximately 45 other members of the community.

### OPENING PROCEDURES

Mr. Eddinger 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** Hayes to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2011 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members.

Minutes of  
5/9/2011

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

### VISITORS

Michael Flack apprised the Board of 3 concussions that his daughter, Odessa, had received at school due to reckless behavior of other students. One of his recommendations was for the District to implement a policy of zero tolerance with respect to reckless behavior that harms other students. Mr. Eddinger said that the Board did not have any knowledge of the concussions and would investigate the matter and get back to him.

Denise Walkowicz commented about the budget.

[Mr. Quigley arrived at the meeting at 5:46 p.m.]

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the bills list dated May 23, 2011 showing paid bills in the amount of \$20,162.44 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$783,519.41 for a total amount of \$803,681.85 for the General Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$1,288.50 for the Construction Fund;

Approval of  
Bills

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

Approve  
Treasurer's  
Report and  
Investment  
Report

Approve FMLA leave of the following staff –

Brooke Ruch, Special Education Teacher, Liberty Bell Elementary School, beginning May 5, 2011 through June 21, 2011;

Approve  
FMLA leave-  
Ruch

Accept the resignation of the following staff -

Rebekah Dech, Special Education Teacher, Southern Lehigh Intermediate School, effective at the end of the day on August 3, 2011;

Accept  
resignation-  
Dech

Approve substitute teachers for the 2010-2011 school year- Kline, Simons

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2010-2011 school year -

Leanora Kline, Elementary and Special Education

Abigail Simons, Secondary Math;

Approve unpaid leave-Treacy

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff -

Margaret Treacy, Part-time Instructional Assistant, Lower Milford Elementary School, on May 24, 2011;

Accept retirement- DeGroot

Accept the retirement of the following support staff -

Elizabeth DeGroot, Library Secretary, Southern Lehigh High School, effective August 26, 2011. Mrs. DeGroot has been an employee of the District for 30 years;

Approve FMLA leave-Piszel

Approve FMLA leave of the following staff -

Beverly Piszel, Instructional Assistant, Liberty Bell Elementary School, from June 7, 2011 through June 17, 2011;

Approve substitute support staff- Posbergh

Approve the following substitute support staff –

Lynn Posbergh, Supplemental Nurse, at an hourly rate of \$18.00;

Approve returning district staff for seasonal employment- Bell, Freske, Godown, Grove, Hassick, Kennedy, McCarthy, Michael, Privitera, Russek

Approve the following returning district staff for seasonal employment from June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012, at an hourly rate of \$9.18 -

Nathaniel Bell

Kamille Freske

Robert Godown

Jeffrey Grove

Ryan Hassick

Stephen Kennedy

Stephen McCarthy

Andrew Michael

Joseph Privitera

Alyssa Russek;

Approve existing district staff for seasonal employment- Bachman, Berghold, Kovacs, Leferovich, McCue, Michael, Rhoads, Werley, Yost, Zweifel

Approve the following existing district staff for seasonal employment from June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012, at an hourly rate of \$9.18 -

Margie Bachman

Ruth Berghold

Janice Kovacs

Sharon Leferovich

Victoria McCue

Lori Michael

David Rhoads

Robert Werley

Lynn Yost

Mark Zweifel;

Approve new staff for seasonal employment (pending required documentation)- Ayala-Perez, Decker, Keller, McCarthy, Beamer, Neders

Approve the following new staff for seasonal employment from June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012 (*pending receipt of required documentation*) -

Desiree Ayala-Perez, at an hourly rate of \$8.10

Matthew Decker, at an hourly rate of \$8.10

Timothy Keller, at an hourly rate of \$8.10

Christopher McCarthy, at an hourly rate of \$8.10

Christopher Beamer, at an hourly rate of \$9.18

Jared Neders, at an hourly rate of \$9.18

Jeffrey Smillie, at an hourly rate of \$9.18

Troy Repyneck, at an hourly rate of \$9.18

Chelsea Rivenbark, at an hourly rate of \$9.18.

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

Cont. Approve  
 new staff for  
 seasonal  
 employment  
 (pending  
 required  
 documentation)-  
 Smillie,  
 Repyneck,  
 Rivenbark

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

Mr. Covelle, Mr. Davidson, Mrs. Farris and Mrs. Mickley reported on student and staff activities at the High School, Middle School, Intermediate School, and the elementary schools.

#### High School report –

- One student had a second place finish at the Chinese Language Regional Competition
- The High School team finished first in scholastic scrimmage
- The end-of-year High School picnic will be this Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Middle School report –

Final Exams -

- 6/6- Language Arts
- 6/8- Reading / World Language
- 6/10- Science
- 6/14- Math
- 6/15- Social Studies

NJHS Induction Ceremony - May 26<sup>th</sup>

Events -

- 5/20 Alex's Lemonade Stand – Virtual Conference
- 6/1 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Dorney Park Trip
- 6/3 – Field Day
- 6/3 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Luau

Parent Workshops- Center for Humanistic Change -

- 5/26 – Raising Resilient Youth
- 6/7 – Transitioning to Middle School

#### Intermediate School report –

- SLIS held spring Vocal Choral Concert on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ben Becker did an exceptional job preparing students for their performance.
- On Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Miss Vera Marston led our instrumental music students in their spring performance. Both shows were terrific.

#### Elementary schools –

- Field trip updates:  
Hopewell PTA sponsored a recent 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip to Lehigh Valley Hospital. Liberty Bell's Kindergarten trip to Flint Hill Farm has been rescheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup> due to the recent rains this past week. Lower Milford's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes will visit Burnside Plantation on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Elementary Play Days are planned for Liberty Bell (May 25<sup>th</sup>), Hopewell (May 26<sup>th</sup>) and Lower Milford (June 6<sup>th</sup>).
- Liberty Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Spring Performances by Mrs. Yale's classes are Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Lower Milford's 1<sup>st</sup> grade performance is on May 27<sup>th</sup> and its Kindergarten performance is on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Elementary schools are in the process of administering school wide DIBELS testing in reading and math.
- On Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, staff members from each elementary building served as representatives as they learned more about the new Sapphire system coming in for 2011-2012.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> are rescheduled School Board Visitation Days for the elementary schools and the Intermediate School.

Approve SLHS  
FBLA student trip-  
Orlando, FL

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

*Southern Lehigh High School Future Business Leaders of America* qualifying student members and advisor to attend the *National Leadership Conference and Competition*, Orlando, FL from June 26, 2011 through July 2, 2011.

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

Approve K-5  
textbook  
recommendations  
for the 2011-2012  
school year

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve the enclosed K-5 textbook recommendations for the 2011-2012 school year. Textbooks will be on display at the Administration Building for two weeks. Final adoption will be at the June 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

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

Approve changes  
to the Middle  
School Student  
Handbook for  
2011-12

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve the changes to the Middle School Student Handbook for 2011-12.

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

Approve changes  
to the High School  
Student Handbook  
for 2011-12

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve the changes to the High School Student Handbook for 2011-12.

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

Approve the  
expulsion of  
Student #12110  
for the balance of  
the 2010-2011  
school year

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve the expulsion of Student #12110 for the balance of the 2010-2011 school year in accordance with the written adjudication, including the conditions set forth in the adjudication for the student's return to the regular classroom.

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

Approve  
Professor Joy  
Hirokawa of  
Moravian College  
to video record a  
SLIS instrumental  
music ensemble  
rehearsal

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve Professor Joy Hirokawa of Moravian College to video record a Southern Lehigh Intermediate School instrumental music ensemble rehearsal for use in her doctoral study, *Evaluating Music Teachers: A Comparison of Evaluation by Observers with Varied Levels of Musical and Observational Training*.

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

### **BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

Approve Quitclaim  
Deed to Walter  
and June L.  
Romanchuk,  
current owners of  
the former Yodder  
school

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve that the President of the Board of Directors execute and deliver and that the Secretary attest a Quitclaim Deed transferring whatever interests which the School District may have in a 0.264 acre rear parcel of ground adjacent to the former Yodder school located at 7376 Passer Road, Upper Saucon Township, to Walter and June L. Romanchuk, husband and wife, current owners of the former Yodder school.

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

Approve C.  
Gunkle to  
continue as Board  
Treasurer until  
December, 2011

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Hayes to approve Mrs. Corinne Gunkle who was elected School Board Treasurer in December, 2010, to continue to serve as School Board Treasurer until the next election of board officers in December, 2011. The School Code requires the election of a Treasurer each May for the year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Historically, the Board has asked the sitting Treasurer to continue to serve as School Board Treasurer.

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

[Mr. Quigley left the meeting room at 6:08 p.m.]

**MOVED BY Miracle and 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Gunkle** to approve Robert Guerriere as Board Secretary and Kristen Lewis as Assistant Board Secretary for the period beginning July 1, 2011. This appointment is required to be done in May 2011 (and every four years thereafter.)

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

**MOVED BY Miracle and 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Gunkle** to approve the continuation of bonding of the Board Treasurer, Board Secretary, and Assistant Board Secretary at the current level of \$50,000.

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

[Mr. Quigley returned to the meeting room at 6:10 p.m.]

**MOVED BY Mohr and 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Gunkle** to approve reappointment of Attorney James Bartholomew (Fitzpatrick, Lentz and Bubba, P.C.) as school solicitor and the firm of Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLP as special counsel for labor relations and special education matters for the 2011-2012 school year.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Quigley – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: None**  
**ABSTAIN: Quigley**

**MOVED BY Mohr and 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Miracle** to approve PlanCon Part J-Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the Intermediate School Project.

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

**MOVED BY Miracle and 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Gunkle** to approve PDE-2028, Proposed General Fund Budget for 2011-2012, as presented with a .25 mill increase in the millage.

There was Board discussion, and Miracle and Gunkle **amended** their motion to approve PDE-2028, Proposed General Fund Budget for 2011-2012, as presented with a .50 increase in the millage.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Miracle, Mohr**  
**"NO" – All but Miracle and Mohr – Motion Defeated**  
**ABSENT: None**

**MOVED BY Quigley and 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Stelts** to approve PDE-2028, Proposed General Fund Budget for 2011-2012, as presented with no increase in the millage rate.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Quigley**  
**"NO" – All but Quigley – Motion Defeated**  
**ABSENT: None**

**MOVED BY McLoughlin and 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Quigley** to approve PDE-2028, Proposed General Fund Budget for 2011-2012, as presented with a .25 mill increase in the millage.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – McLoughlin, Hayes, Gunkle, Mohr, Stelts**  
**"NO" – Quigley, Dimmig, Eddinger, Miracle – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: None**

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**PERSONNEL**

**REPORTS**

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute

Mr. Miracle reported that the Joint Operating Committee will meet Wednesday for awards night.

Approve R. Guerriere as Board Secretary & K. Lewis as Assistant Board Secretary effective July 1, 2011

Approve bonding of the Board Treasurer, Board Secretary & Assistant Board Secretary at the current level (\$50,000)

Approve the reappointment of Attorney James Bartholomew as School Solicitor and the firm of Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLP as Special Counsel for Labor Relations and Special Education matters for the 2011-2012 school year

Approve PlanCon Part J-Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the IS Project

*Motion to Approve PDE-2028, Proposed General Fund Budget for 2011-2012 with a .25 mill increase in the millage, and Amended to a .50 increase in the millage*

*Motion Defeated- Amended motion to approve PDE-2028, Proposed General Fund Budget for 2011-2012 with a .50 increase in the millage*

*Motion Defeated- Approve PDE-2028, Proposed General Fund Budget for 2011-2012 with no increase in the millage rate*

Approve PDE-2028, Proposed General Fund Budget for 2011-2012 with a .25 mill increase in the millage

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Christman handed out copies of a regional position paper titled "Rationale to Course Correct the Funding for Charter and Cyber Charter Schools" that was developed by the school districts of Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Pike Counties. The paper included charts of PSSA data for public schools and charter schools that clearly illustrated that the majority of charter and cyber charter schools are not performing as well as school districts included in the report.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve  
obsolete policy  
be rescinded-  
Policy #339

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve the following obsolete policy be rescinded -

Policy #339 Administrative Employees: Leaves

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

Approve a first  
reading on  
revisions to  
existing Policies-  
#210, #310, #314

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve a first reading on revisions to the following existing policies:

Policy #210 Pupils: Use of Medications

Policy #310 Administrative Employees: Resignation

Policy #314 Administrative Employees: Physical Examinations

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

Approve first  
reading of Policy  
#620

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve a first reading of the following policy:

Policy #620 Finances: Fund Balance

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Dimmig**  
**"NO" - Dimmig – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: None**

*Motion Defeated-*  
To task  
Administration to  
find 1 non-  
classroom  
teacher  
reduction and  
another \$250,000  
in other non-  
teacher cost  
reductions

**MOVED BY** Dimmig and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** McLoughlin to task the Administration to find 1 non-classroom teacher reduction and another \$250,000 in other non-teacher cost reductions.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Quigley, McLoughlin, Dimmig**  
**"NO" – Eddinger, Gunkle, Hayes, Miracle, Mohr, Stelts – Motion Defeated**  
**ABSENT: None**

VISITORS

Don Vought encouraged the Board to not raise taxes.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:16 p.m.

The Board met in executive session at 7:21 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

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

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: None**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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