



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

February 27, 2012

The second regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:40 p.m. on the above date (February 27, 2012) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: McLoughlin, Gunkle, Hayes, Lindsay, Mohr, Quigley, Stelts

ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

OTHERS: Christman, Melber, Lewis, Millman, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Takacs, Bergey, Knoll, Miller, Jordan, Covelle, Davidson, Farris, Limpar, Rich (Patch.com), Rizzo (Morning Call), Petty (Express Times), and approximately 24 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting as distributed to all Board members.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried

ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

VISITORS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the bills to be paid in the amount of \$54,312.07 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$399,820.73 for a total amount of \$454,132.80 for the General Fund and bills to be paid in the amount of \$346.85 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund as of February 27, 2012;

Accept the resignation of the following staff -

Beverly Pizsel, 3 hour Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, effective March 2, 2012

Katherine Burke, 6 hour Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, effective February 27, 2012;

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

Katherine Burke, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.31;

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

Samantha Lavin Girls' Lacrosse

Brian McLaughlin Track and Field

Nelda Rivera Quinn Middle School Spring Track

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

Meghan McGinty Assistant Girls' Lacrosse \$1,681.50**

***This represents 50% of the stipend to be shared with a coach to be named;*

Approve Louis Skrapits, Math Teacher, Southern Lehigh High School, to chaperone Southern Lehigh High School students at Muhlenberg College's 34th Annual High School Mathematics Contest on Saturday, February 25, 2012, at the hourly rate of \$38.82, not to exceed six hours.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

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

High School report –

- Four students attended the 34th annual high school math contest at Muhlenberg College on Saturday, Feb 25, and came in 2nd place
- "Cats" performances start this week – tickets are nearly sold out
- Senior Citizen "Dinner and a Show" is on Wednesday, 2/29
- PSSA preparations are underway, Math and English departments will be running PSSA Boot Camp the week of March 5th with testing the week of March 12th
- Several Spartan Athletic teams have progressed into District-level competition for winter sports
- 3/1 Board visitation in the morning

Middle School report –

Academic

- Congratulations to Mrs. Beitler and instrumental students for putting on a wonderful Spring Instrumental Concert on 2/23
- Mid-Term Progress Reports- March 2 on Sapphire
- 3/1 – Academic Showcase – "Empty Bowls"
- 3/13-16 – Reading / Math PSSA administration

Events

- 3/10 – PTG Meeting
- 3/16 – School Dance

Intermediate School report –

- Intermediate School students were treated to a Laser Light Show assembly on 2/16. Individual classrooms celebrated Valentine's Day and President's Day with appropriate activities and festivities.
- The Spanish Immersion classes celebrated "Carnival" or Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday on 2/21 with traditional Latin American foods.
- The Spartan Service Corps is in the planning stages for their next fundraising event, which at the moment is to benefit the local food bank.
- Intermediate School faculty and staff have begun necessary preparations to administer the PSSA, which will begin on 3/12.

Elementary schools –

- 2/21– Hopewell staff were presented with strategies for dealing with students who have Oppositional Defiant tendencies and received strategies how to de-escalate these tense moments in the classroom setting and deal with these students positively.
- 2/28- @ 6:30 P.M.-Spanish Immersion Informational Night for parents of current kindergarten students-Liberty Bell Elementary Library
- 3/2- Liberty Bell is kicking off their school-wide spring reading program this Friday afternoon. An Olympic theme was chosen due to the upcoming summer Olympics. An opening ceremony is planned as each class represents an Olympic village. Mrs. Christman will be the "honorary" torch holder as she "lights" the ceremonial pit.
- 3/2– Hopewell Elementary will be celebrating Read Across America Day with a "Wear your college attire" school spirit day. SLSD HS seniors have been invited to the assembly and will read "Oh the Places You'll Go" to the students and share their future college plans.
- 3/6- School Board visits all three elementary schools.
- 3/7- Spanish Immersion Open House- 9:30 A.M.-10:30 A.M.- Parents of current kindergarten students may come in and observe the 1st Grade Spanish Immersion classroom during this time.
- 3/9- 3rd Grade's Annual Spring Play led by Mr. Phil Markley-This year's play is titled Munchkin Mediation and is a spin-off from the Wizard of OZ.

Technology Update –

Mr. Jordan, Director of Elementary Education and Instructional Technology, provided an update from this year's PETE & C Conference. Highlights included a "1000 Awesome Things" blog, Digital Storytelling, incorporation of QR Codes in the classroom, apps for iPads, and student collaboration utilizing Edmodo. A fall Tech Fair is planned for professional development.

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Lindsay to approve the following student trip request-
Southern Lehigh High School Speech and Debate Team to attend a state championship at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA on March 23, 2012 and March 24, 2012.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

MOVED BY Quigley and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve the 3-year Sapphire Assessment Tracker Implementation and Training Proposal for school years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015.

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

MOVED BY Quigley and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the creation of a Boys' Volleyball Club Team at Southern Lehigh High School and will be financially self-supporting.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve the proposed Operating, Capital, Debt Service, and Academic Center Budgets for Lehigh Career & Technical Institute for 2012-2013.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve the audit report for fiscal year 2010-2011 as prepared by the firm of France, Anderson, Basile, and Company, P.C.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

Mr. Chris Gibbons of Concord Public Finance discussed the possible refinancing of General Obligation Bonds, Series AA of 2002. Tax law allows for a settlement on the refinance of the 2002 Bonds ninety days before the call date of September 1, 2012. There will be further discussion and the District could enact a refinancing resolution mid-April.

SUPPORT SERVICES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve the Novation Agreement relating to the service provider for operation and maintenance of the Lower Milford waste water treatment facility. Applied Water Management, Inc., holder of the original contract dated July 2, 2007, sold its assets to M&B Environmental, Inc., December 31, 2011. M&B Environmental, Inc., 744 Harleysville Pike, Harleysville, PA 19438 will fulfill the terms of the original agreement.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve/award the student transportation contract for a five-year period commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2017 to Brandywine Transportation, Inc., 595 State Street, Mertztown, PA 19539. Award is recommended based on the attached proposal with a daily per bus cost, field and sport trips at hourly rates, the fleet to remain 3 years or newer and routing and customer services being performed as part of the contract.

VOICE VOTE: **“YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

PERSONNEL

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve Erik Malmberg to the newly created position of Coordinator of Network and Information Services, which will be part of the Independent School Employees Group, at an annual salary of \$90,000.00 effective July 1, 2012, pending receipt of required documentation.

VOICE VOTE: **“YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried**
ABSTAIN: Lindsay
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

REPORTS

Facilities Committee

Dr. Stelts reported the following:

- Middle School chillers failed and need to be replaced.
- Renaming of Intermediate School – “Joseph P. Liberati” will be added to the existing Intermediate School signage utilizing matching letters at a total cost of \$1885, including installation.

Budget & Finance Committee

Mrs. Gunkle reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 29, 2012 and an updated report is expected for the next Board meeting.

Education Committee

Mr. Hayes reported the following from today’s committee meeting:

- The High School Scheduling Committee presented the proposed changes to the High School schedule and possible implementation next year.

Superintendent’s Report

Mrs. Christman reported the following:

- State Audit report was received and indicates one deficiency regarding documentation of all drivers. This has been corrected and a process implemented. Also reminded to change passwords more frequently.
- Auditor General’s safe schools assessment received. Various recommendations were offered and are under review, have been corrected or will be corrected including expansion of drills and practices. Several items involved procedures that are followed but have not yet been added as part of the written manuals.

- Received notification that we are a semi-finalist for a TCLP grant through the US Department of State for an Arabic teacher for next year.
- Eddy Tang, International Programs representative for Hebei Provincial Education Department, China will visit the High School on March 12, 2012 to help set up a Chinese “sister high school”. Mr. Tang will also talk to any of our teachers who would like to take part in a 23 day summer camp run by the Provincial Education Department.

Strategic Plan/Middle States Report

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

OLD BUSINESS

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve Destinee Deely as the District’s representative to the Southern Lehigh Public Library for a 3-year term, July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY Mohr and **2ND BY** Stelts to nominate William Miracle as the candidate for an at-large term on the Board of Trustees of Lehigh Carbon Community College expiring on June 30, 2012. The new term of office will be from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2018.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve the Release and Settlement Agreement, as discussed in the Executive Session prior to the meeting, in connection with Lehigh County Court Civil Action No. 2011-2812, and authorization for the President of the Board to execute the Agreement on behalf of the School District.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

MOVED BY Stelts and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve the settlement of the Tax Assessment Appeal filed by Joey M & Mary K. Selman with respect to their residence at 2696 Flint Hill Road in Upper Saucon Township.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Stelts to approve a first reading of the following revised policy-

#916 Community: *School Volunteers*

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

COMMUNICATIONS

VISITORS

Dr. Eric Wilson addressed the Board regarding the desire of several booster clubs to begin the process of fundraising for a turf field. The Board reiterated that no tax dollars could be obligated for the project.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: Dimmig, Lycett

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary

PENDING APPROVAL