



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

January 11, 2010

The first regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:45 p.m. on the above date (January 11, 2010) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Gunkle, Dimmig, Eddinger, McLoughlin, Miracle, Mohr, Quigley (arrived at 7:56 p.m.)

ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts

OTHERS: Christman, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Takacs, Lewis, Scherzberg, Bergey, Covelle, Davidson, McGinty, Mickley, Organski, Martin (Morning Call), and approximately 4 other members of the community.

OPENING PROCEDURES

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Dimmig to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members.

Minutes of
12/7/09

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts, Quigley

VISITORS

See *Curriculum/Student and Staff Activities*

CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** items as follows -

Approve the bills list dated January 11, 2010 showing paid bills in the amount of \$1,224,115.41 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$42,560.73 for a total amount of \$1,266,676.14 for the General Fund, and bills paid in the amount of \$49,504.36 for the Construction Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$13,491.60 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund;

Approval of
Bills

Approve the addendum to the bills list dated January 11, 2010 showing bills to be paid in the amount of \$217,932.97 for the General Fund, bills to be paid in the amount of \$137.73 for the Construction Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$225.00 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund;

Approve the Treasurer's Report and the Investment Report for the months of November and December 2009;

Approve
Treasurer's
Report &
Investment
Report

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year -

Ryan Gottschall, Social Studies

Joseph Harvey, Music

Jason Kilmer, Elementary

Deborah Magnotta, Elementary and Reading Specialist

Mark Richardson, Elementary

Jessica Swartz, Elementary and Spanish;

Approve
substitute
teachers for
the 2009-
2010 school
year-
Gottschall,
Harvey,
Kilmer,
Magnotta,
Richardson,
Swartz

- Approve student teacher placement (pending documentation)- Borghesani
- Approve the following student teacher placement (*pending completion of required documentation*) -
David Borghesani, Music Education, Lehigh University, with *Benjamin Becker*, Southern Lehigh Intermediate School from January 19, 2010 to March 5, 2010;
- Approve intermittent FMLA Leave-Fairclough
- Approve intermittent FMLA Leave for Karen Fairclough, Special Education Facilitator, from December 14, 2009 not to exceed 12 weeks in duration;
- Approve substitute support staff for the 2009-2010 school year- Betances, Conroy K., McGuire, Stough, Kilmer, Magnotta, Pagano
- Approve the following substitute support staff for the 2009-2010 school year -
Elsa Betances, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.63
Kelly Conroy, Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Monitor, at an hourly rate of \$9.45
Kristen McGuire, Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Monitor, at an hourly rate of \$9.45
Tracy Stough, Substitute Secretary, at an hourly rate of \$13.12
Kelly Conroy, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.31
Jason Kilmer, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.31
Deborah Magnotta, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.31
Quinn Pagano, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.31;
- Approve Unpaid Leave-Gehris
- Approve Unpaid Leave of the following staff -
Ellen Gehris, Cafeteria Worker, Southern Lehigh Middle School, on April 26 through April 30, 2010 and May 3 through May 7, 2010;
- Approve intermittent FMLA Leave-O'Donnell
- Approve intermittent FMLA Leave for Jamie O'Donnell, Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, starting date to be determined not to exceed 12 weeks in duration;
- Approve support staff-McGuire, Murray
- Approve the following support staff -
Kristen McGuire, Instructional Assistant (3-1/4 hour/day), Hopewell Elementary School, at an hourly rate of \$15.31, effective January 12, 2010. This is a new position.
Matthew Murray, Multimedia Technician, at an annual salary of \$37,000 (*pro-rated*), effective January 12, 2010. This is a new position;
- Approve transfer from Acting Food Services Director to full time custodian- Werkheiser
- Approve the transfer of Debra Werkheiser from Acting Food Services Director to full time custodian, Southern Lehigh Middle School, at an hourly rate of \$16.97, effective January 4, 2010;
- Accept resignation-Fanger
- Accept the resignation of Carl Fanger, Varsity Football Assistant Coach, effective December 15, 2009;
- Approve volunteer swim coach for the 2009-2010 school year-Glemser
- Approve the following volunteer swim coach for the 2009-2010 school year -
Christine Glemser.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts, Quigley

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

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

Mr. Covelle reported on the following –

- Chorus performed at IS, MS, HS right before the winter break – they received a lot of thanks and positive feedback
- Financial Aid night was held on 1/6/10 – highest attendance ever, representative from Cedar Crest College presented and answered parent questions
- Course selection starts this week at the HS
- Midterm exams start on 1/22/10 – for more info see the HS website

Mr. Davidson reported on the following –

- Academic
 - Mid-Terms begin January 13 and run through Jan 25.
 - Jan 13 Reading
 - Jan 15 Language Arts
 - Jan 19 Social Studies
 - Jan 21 Science
 - Jan 25 Math
- Events
 - Track and Field sign-ups Jan 14th 6-8.

Mr. McGinty reported on the following –

Students involved with the band, orchestra and chorus at the intermediate school put on an excellent winter concert before a standing room only audience. Mr. Becker and Ms. Marston should be very proud of the performance as should the parents and students involved in the music program as SLIS. The High School orchestra and chorus also put on a wonderful performance for our students before our holiday break. Students have been preparing for and taking mid year assessments, and will begin our next round of DIBELS this coming week.

Mrs. Mickley reported on the following –

- Our Discipline Team is going to the IU on Jan. 12th for our next training as Liberty Bell moves toward a School Wide Positive Behavior System for next school year.
- Mid-year assessments currently going on with data to be analyzed later in the month
- Grades...teachers are currently wrapping up the 2nd quarter and compiling their grades and report cards in the next couple of weeks.

[Mr. Quigley arrived at 7:56 p.m.]

Visitor –

Dr. Robert Laski addressed the Board stating that his daughter will miss the kindergarten admission date as a 5-year old by 3 days. He wants his daughter to start kindergarten in the fall. He cited examples of Lehigh Valley school districts' policies that vary as far as a cut-off dates and exceptions to the established cut-off dates that are acceptable.

Mrs. Christman explained that the District's cut-off date policy for kindergarten admission was just changed to September 1, at the recommendation of the PA Department of Education (PDE). PDE recommended a state-wide standard cut-off date of September 1, which according to PDE is currently used by 80% of all school districts.

There was Board discussion

MOVED BY Eddinger and **2ND BY** Dimmig to have the Administration re-examine the admission cutoff date of September 1 and make a recommendation to the policy committee.

Administration re-examine admission cutoff date of 9/1 and make a recommendation to the policy committee

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

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve the following student trip requests -

Southern Lehigh Boys' and Girls' Swim Teams to participate in the All-American Swimming Invitational in Wilkes Barre, PA on January 15 and 16, 2010.

Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team to attend the Barkley Forum Tournament at Emory University in Atlanta, GA on January 28, 2010 through February 1, 2010.

Approve student trip requests-SL Boys' & Girls' Swim Teams, Wilkes Barre, PA & SL Speech & Debate Team, Atlanta, GA

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

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Approve replacing the Local Tax Appeals Board with a Hearing Officer

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Dimmig to approve replacing the Local Tax Appeals Board with a Hearing Officer who would be the School District's Business Manager. Attorney Bartholomew gave an explanation of the reasoning for the change.

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

Approve a mandate waiver application that would permit the District to increase the threshold for formal bids and the threshold for solicitation of quotations

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Quigley to approve a mandate waiver application that would permit the District to increase the threshold for formal bids from \$10,000 (School Code) to \$20,000 and increase the threshold for solicitation of quotations from \$4,000 (School Code) to \$6,000. Mr. Snell gave an explanation of the reasoning for the application.

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

SUPPORT SERVICES**PERSONNEL**

Approve salary increase- Liberati

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve the following salary increase -

Joseph P. Liberati, Superintendent, an annual salary of \$139,060, effective July 1, 2009.

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

REPORTSLehigh Career & Technical Institute

Mr. Miracle reported –

- There was a reorganization meeting on December 10, 2009 and Mr. Eddinger is now Treasurer.
- The 2010-2011 budget is being worked on.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Christman reported on the following –

- The Board was invited to a Southern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce meeting at 7:30 a.m. on January 13, 2010 at the Intermediate School.
- Mr. Jordan invited the Board to attend a Technology Fair at the Middle School on February 4, 2010 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Twenty (20) different technologies will be showcased.
- Liberty Trails summer environment awareness program is scheduled this year for June 28 to July 16, 2010 at Lower Milford Elementary School.
- Recommended submitting a Memorandum Of Understanding (M.O.U.) to the state for federal Title 1 funding called "Race to the Top". The M.O.U. submission is due on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. The District could receive from \$100,000 to \$150,000, to spend over 4 years.

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** McLoughlin to authorize the District to submit a signed Memorandum Of Understanding to PA Department of Education for "Race to the Top" funds.

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

Authorize the District to submit a signed MOU to the PA Department of Education for "Race to the Top" funds

Mrs. Christman proposed seeking a "live" Chinese teacher through the Guest Scholar Program for Mandarin Language Teachers, a collaborative program with Berks County Intermediate Unit, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Confucius Institute, PA Department of Education and Wuhan University in China. Schools in western Pennsylvania have been successfully participating in these types of programs for several years. Berks County IU was awarded the distinguished FLAP grant last year and has created an "Asian Studies Collaborative" to encourage the study of Chinese- language and culture- as we continue as a nation, to expand business ventures between our countries. By

securing a guest teacher, current level tuition costs for Chinese will be reduced and the expansion to the High School could occur with no additional cost to the District.

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Mohr to approve seeking a “live” Chinese teacher for the District through the Guest Scholar Program.

Approve seeking a “live” Chinese teacher for the District through the Guest Scholar Program

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts

Facility Report

Mr. Bergey reported that upcoming summer projects are being looked at.

OLD BUSINESS

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** McLoughlin to approve a second and final reading of the following policy -

Approve 2nd and final reading of Policy #121

#121 Programs: *Field Trips*

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts

NEW BUSINESS

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

Approve 1st reading of Policies #116 and #404

#116 Programs: *Tutorial Instruction*

#404 Professional Employees: *Recruitment, Selection and Approval of Professional Employees*

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** McLoughlin to approve a first reading of the following policies as amended -

Approve 1st reading of Policies #303.2, #403.2 and #503.2 as amended

#303.2 Administrative Employees: *Nepotism*

#403.2 Professional Employees: *Nepotism*

#503.2 Classified Employees: *Nepotism*

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts

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

Approve 1st reading of Policies #319.1, #419.1, 519.1, #319.2, #419.2, #519.2 and #705

#319.1 Administrative Employees: *Outside Activities – as amended*

#419.1 Professional Employees: *Outside Activities – as amended*

#519.1 Classified Employees: *Outside Activities – as amended*

#319.2 Administrative Employees: *Intellectual Property*

#419.2 Professional Employees: *Intellectual Property*

#519.2 Classified Employees: *Intellectual Property*

#705 Property: *Safety*

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts

2010-2011 District Budget Discussion

Mr. Dimmig gave opening comments and timelines for the 2010-2011 budget process.

Mr. Snell gave a budget discussion explanation with the intent of obtaining Board consensus on philosophy and direction to be used in preparing the 2010-2011 preliminary general fund budget that will be put on the February 8, 2010 Board meeting agenda for approval. His presentation included the Act 1 Timeline, The PSERS Crisis,

Budget Basics, Explanation of Framework for Budget Scenarios, and Review and Discussion of Sample Scenarios.

There was Board discussion on various assumptions used in the sample scenarios. The majority of the Board agreed on the following direction for preparing the **2010-2011 preliminary budget** –

- Use the scenario where the employer’s PSERS rate is 20% in year 5 (2014-2015)
- Use the scenario where there is no additional staff
- Use 1.75 as the millage increase for 2010-2011

Assessment Appeals Discussion

There was Board discussion as to whether Attorney Bartholomew should represent the District at the Court level on assessment appeals, and if so, on which appeals should he be representing the District.

Approve Attorney Bartholomew to represent the District on the eight assessment appeals

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve Attorney Bartholomew to represent the District on the following assessment appeals –

- Saucon Creek Assisted Living LP
- Saucon Creek Senior Living LP
- Spira Millenium LLC
- Lutron Electronics Co Inc
- LCIDA C-O Lutron Electronics Co Inc
- ALDI Inc
- Saucon Valley Lifestyle Center LP
- Saucon Creek Golf LP

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – All but Quigley and Dimmig
“NO” – Quigley, Dimmig – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts

VISITORS

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Quigley and **2ND BY** Miracle to adjourn the meeting.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: Hayes, Stelts

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 p.m.

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary

