



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

January 26, 2009

The second monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:36 p.m. on the above date (January 26, 2009) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Stelts, Auteri [arrived at 7:50 p.m.], Dimmig [left meeting at 8:35 p.m.], Eddinger, Gunkle, Miracle, Quigley, Rennie

ABSENT: Schubert

OTHERS: Liberati, Christman, Snell, Guerriere, Engler, Lewis, Jordan, Bergey, Covelle, Donahue, Mickley, Harakal, Impink, and approximately 10 other members of the community.

OPENING PROCEDURES

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Quigley and **2ND BY** Rennie to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members.

Minutes of
1/12/09

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Schubert, Auteri

VISITORS

Judy Zabrecky, Anna Dimou and Maureen Dougherty addressed the Board about a letter they had jointly written to the School Board regarding the High School Girls Varsity Basketball coach.

Mr. Liberati responded that the District is currently conducting an internal investigation, and since this is a personnel issue, no further information can be given out at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the bills list dated January 26, 2009 showing paid bills in the amount of \$47,978.52 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$880,243.32 for a total amount of \$928,221.84 for the General Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$1,222,344.42 for the Construction Fund;

Approval of
Bills

Approve the addendum to the bills list dated January 26, 2009 showing bills to be paid in the amount of \$27,829.89 for the General Fund;

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year -

<u>Sheila Nemeth</u> ,	Math 7-12
<u>Rebecca Schaeffer</u> ,	K-12 Music, Communication 7-12
<u>Kathleen Tkach</u> ,	Elementary;

Approve
substitute
teachers for
the 2008-2009
school year-
Nemeth,
Schaeffer,
Tkach

Approve the following student teacher placements -

Jodi Fowler, Language Arts, Cedar Crest College with *Michele Berosh*, Middle School from March 16, 2009 through May 6, 2009.

Karen Meynardi, Secondary Language Arts, Cedar Crest College with *Heather Toto*, Middle School from March 16, 2009 through May 6, 2009;

Approve
student
teacher
placements-
Fowler,
Meynardi

Accept resignation-Pagano

Accept the resignation of the following staff -

Quinn Pagano, 7-hour Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, effective January 23, 2009;

Approve substitute support staff for the 2008-2009 school year-Fenstermaker, Harris, Miller, Pagano, Tkach

Approve the following substitute support staff for the 2008-2009 school year -

Judy Fenstermaker, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.15.

Betty Jo Harris, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.15.

David Miller, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.15.

Quinn Pagano, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$14.74.

Kathy Tkach, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$14.74;

Approve support staff-Krick

Approve the following support staff -

Samantha Krick, 7-hour Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, at an hourly rate of \$14.74 effective January 27, 2009;

Approve returning volunteer coaches for the 2008-2009 school year-Bell, Matthews, Strowhouer, Risi

Approve the following returning volunteer coaches for the 2008-2009 school year -

Jeffrey Bell Girls' Lacrosse, MS

Jamie Matthews Girls' Lacrosse, MS/HS

Kelsey Strowhouer Girls' Lacrosse, MS/HS

Edward Risi Girls' Lacrosse, MS

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Schubert, Auteri

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

Mr. Covelle, Dr. Donahue, and Mrs. Mickley reported on student and staff activities at the High School, Middle School and the elementary schools.

Dr. Donahue reported on the following –

- Two 8th grade students placed in Regional Scholastic Art Awards, Julia Buonanno (Gold Key Award) and Emily Shultz (Silver Key Award). Both were recognized at a Symphony Hall ceremony and will have their art displayed at the Allentown Art Museum starting February 8.
- Middle School received a grant valued at \$1,000 from the National Endowment of the Humanities for teaching American History.
- The Middle School Read-On Fair was held at Barnes & Noble at the Promenade Shops on January 24, 2009. Featured were Jordan Sonnenblick and the Middle School's Thomas Strock, who had a book published. The Fair raised \$3,833, of which \$767 was raised for Read-On incentives.

Approve school trip-SL Speech & Debate Team-Boston, MA

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Rennie to approve the following school trip –

Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team to attend the Harvard University Invitational in Boston, Massachusetts, from February 13, 2009 through February 16, 2009.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Schubert, Auteri

Approve Independent Study Proposals-Newman, Zimmerman

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Rennie to approve the following Independent Study Proposals of the following students -

Anna Newman, Drama

Katie Zimmerman, Ceramics

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Schubert, Auteri

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

MOVED BY Rennie and **2ND BY** Miracle to approve the 2009-2010 Operational and Programs Services budget from Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit.

Approve the 2009-2010 Operational and Programs Services budget from CLIU

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Schubert, Auteri

[Mrs. Auteri arrived at 7:50 p.m.]

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Eddinger to approve the following changes to the compensation schedule that is currently in place for the elected tax collectors -

Approve changes to the compensation schedule for the elected tax collectors

1. Increase the rate paid per bill for the first 2000 parcels per municipality from \$2.00 to \$2.25 for 2010 and adjust by 3% annually for the following three years,
2. Increase the rate paid per bill for any parcels in excess of 2000 per municipality from \$1.40 to \$1.50 for 2010 and adjust by 3% annually for the following three years, and
3. Begin to compensate the tax collectors for each payment that is processed for those parcels that are paid on installment (versus considering the multiple payments to be "one bill")

Susan Gibbs, the Tax Collector for the Borough of Coopersburg since 1994, addressed the Board with questions about tax collector compensation. Mr. Snell responded to her questions. There was Board discussion.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Dimmig
"NO" - Dimmig – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Schubert

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Rennie to approve the Investment of Funds for the General Budget.

Approve the Investment of Funds for the General Budget

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

Co-Financial advisors, Chris Gibbons and Jamie Shelby, were present to propose a refunding of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003 and Series AA of 2004. Chris Gibbons said that they have been monitoring the market for the last year and there have been no refunding savings until now. He recommended acting now to refund these 2 series bonds for an estimated present value savings of \$219,704 (a 2.67% savings). There was Board discussion.

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Rennie to authorize a bond sale for the refunding of Series 2003 and Series AA of 2004 General Obligation Bonds that will be approved at a special Board meeting to be scheduled during the first week of February 2009 based upon a minimum savings of 2.5% and review of refunding costs by the Board.

Authorize a bond sale for the refunding of Series 2003 and Series AA of 2004 General Obligation Bonds that will be approved at a special Board meeting

VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Dimmig, Quigley, Eddinger
"NO" - Quigley – Motion Carried
ABSTAIN: Dimmig, Eddinger
ABSENT: Schubert

SUPPORT SERVICES**PERSONNEL****REPORTS**Facilities Committee

Mrs. Gunkle reported the following on the January 21, 2009 committee meeting –

- Fire alarm system was installed at Central Office
- Construction of the Intermediate School continues to be on schedule
- Design of the bleacher replacement in the stadium has commenced
- The water tank leak issue at Lower Milford Elementary School was resolved.

Education Committee

Mrs. Gunkle reported the following on the January 22, 2009 committee meeting –

- Plans for the Intermediate School were discussed and very good progress is being made. Mr. Liberati will release an initial announcement about the school in the next few weeks. A detailed roll out will be presented to staff and parents in the spring.
- Teachers attended professional development on January 19 including technology training and additional work on gold seal lessons.
- Data was reviewed for the first cohort to have 3rd through 11th grade PSSA data to discover further details about the students who dropped from advanced to proficient in mathematics over this timeframe.

[Mr. Dimmig left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.]

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Liberati prompted the Board to check out the sound-field classroom amplification system when they visit the elementary schools in early February. It is currently used in grades K-3, and will be installed in the Intermediate School. How it works: The teacher wears a wireless, infrared microphone. The teacher's voice is broadcast as infrared light to an infrared microphone receiver/amplifier that plays it through loudspeakers for the entire class to hear. The amplified teacher's voice overcomes background acoustics and mild hearing loss to make it easier for students to concentrate on what the teacher is saying. A handout from LightSPEED Technologies, Inc. listed the following benefits –

- The effects of high ambient noise levels are overcome
- 30% of children will hear their teacher significantly better
- Attention and on-task times improve
- Class interaction and participation increases
- Classroom stress is lowered
- Behavior problems are reduced
- Teacher absenteeism is reduced
- Academic test scores improve
- ESL children score higher
- Children with learning disabilities can benefit.

Mr. Liberati reported that from November 2008 to January 2009, movable equipment bid from School Specialties for the Intermediate School has decreased by \$100,000. So it was decided to put out for bid all movable equipment for the Intermediate School.

January is Board Recognition Month and Mr. Liberati recognized the Board and thanked them for their dedication. Board members received a gift from Mr. Liberati and cake was served to everyone.

OLD BUSINESS

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Rennie to approve the proposal from McDermott Communications to provide a monthly newsletter and other communication/public relations services for the District according to the attached fees for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.

There was Board discussion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY Rennie and **2ND BY** Auteri to approve first reading of the following policy -
#815.1 *Web Site Development*

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

Approve proposal from McDermott Communications to provide a monthly newsletter for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year

Approve first reading of Policy #815.1

VISITORS

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary