



Southern Lehigh School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

March 7, 2009

The Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh held their Annual Board Seminar beginning 8:16 a.m. on the above date (March 7, 2009) in the Southern Lehigh Middle School, Center Valley, PA.

PRESENT: Stelts, Auteri, Dimmig, Eddinger, Gunkle, Miracle, Schubert

ABSENT: Quigley

OTHERS: Liberati, Christman, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Engler, Lewis, Takacs, Jordan, Bergey, Siegfried, Zuk, Donahue, Davidson, Limpar, Hafner, Mickley, Farris, Organski, and approximately 11 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.

BOARD SEMINAR TOPIC

Mr. Liberati kicked off the Board Seminar With an Eye to the Future.... The Re-Creation of Southern Lehigh School District, a PowerPoint presentation explaining the bold initiatives K-12.

Mrs. Lewis spoke about how the three elementary schools will function after 4th & 5th grades leave for the opening of the new Intermediate School in September 2009. She explained how the elementary schools will have self contained classrooms K-3 with no changes to the core subjects, and intervention services without disruption to core subjects. New will be writing skills/study skills class grades 1-3 taught by reading specialist and instructional support teacher.

Mrs. Christman explained the Intermediate School Task Force recommendations, which included –

- Modified schedule for grades 4-6
- Flexibility with extended blocks of time
- Teams with 2 or 3 teachers – grades 4 & 5
- Content specific teams of 4 or 5 – grades 6
- Teachers in 4/5 teach math/science or lang. arts/social studies
- Spanish Immersion through grade 6
- Create learning neighborhoods/communities
- Establish an environment to support the developmental and diverse needs of students and emphasize relationships between students and teachers.

Mrs. Farris presented the following schedule design recommendations for the Intermediate School –

- 90 minute core instruction: math, lang. arts, science/social studies – allows focus and flexibility
- Related arts – traditional and future focused
- “Enrichment and Focus” promotes music program and differentiated support
- Full Spanish immersion experience through grade 6
- Math acceleration in grade 6.

Mr. Bergey reported on transportation benchmarks for the Intermediate School. The proposed school day will be 8:50 AM to 3:30 PM, with buses arriving at 8:45 AM.

Mrs. Takacs reported on the 7-8 Building Task Force recommendations that included retaining –

- The Middle School philosophy
- Teaming approach – collaboration
- Introductory/exploratory in related arts
- Students activities

- Band/chorus/theatre productions
- Visual arts

And renovating –

- Schedule to allow more instructional time
- Foreign language/related arts
- Investigate virtual learning
- Reinforce MS philosophy
- Time for tutoring support
- Technology courses moved from HS to MS

Dr. Donahue presented the Middle School schedule design highlights –

- 50 minute core instruction by teams
- 6 day cycle
- Homeroom absorbed into period 1
- Activity period – 2 out of 6 days
- Related arts teacher – 6 period day (5 at MS; 1 at IS)
- Advanced Spanish for Spanish Immersion
- Math acceleration retained
- Year-long Spanish I – 8th (moved from 9th)
- Applications of Technologies – 8th (moved from 9th)

Mrs. Siegfried talked about what is new at the High School –

- Applications of Technologies to MS – remains also at HS for 09-10 then phased out
- Spanish I to MS – continue to offer at HS
- New courses for 09-10 – AP Psychology, Electronic Music, Piano I, Theatre I (updated from Drama course), Dual Enrollment for College Algebra and Public Speaking
- Investigation for math courses – Honors Alg. II & Pre-Calc.

Mrs. Christman reported on the items in progress/research for curriculum development/revisions –

- 21st Century skills
- Virtual critical language – Chinese
- World language/Spanish Immersion
- Need to develop curriculum for additional areas.

Mr. Liberati explained staffing movement and new staff needed –

- 4 elementary teachers move to IS – Art, Music, Librarian, PE
- Technology Education teacher from MS to IS
- PE/Health teacher from MS to IS
- Related Arts teacher at MS to teach 1 period at IS each day
- Guidance Counselor from MS to IS
- Psychologist from elementary school to IS
- Learning Support moves from elementary & MS to IS
- 7 new teachers District-wide.

The Board took a brief recess, and the meeting reconvened 10 minutes later.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Gunkle and **2ND BY** Miracle to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members.

VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Unanimous – Motion Carried
ABSENT: Quigley

VISITORS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the bills list dated March 7, 2009 showing paid bills in the amount of \$1,858,696.62 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$214,515.41 for a total amount of

\$2,073,212.03 for the General Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$104,541.66 for the Construction Fund;

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff -

Oksana Tittensor, Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, on Tuesday, April 14, 2009;

Approve unpaid leave-Tittensor

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

Beverly Marant Track and Field, Middle School

Robert McGinty Track and Field, Middle School

Joseph Newman Assistant Girls' Soccer, High School.

Approve volunteer coaches for the 2008-2009 school year-Marant, McGinty, Newman

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

CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve the following Independent Study Proposal -

Alyssa Gulyas, *Ceramics*.

Approve Independent Study Proposal-Gulyas

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

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

Qualifying *Southern Lehigh Technology Student Association* students and advisor to attend the Technology Student Association State Conference at Champion, PA from Wednesday, April 15, 2009 to Saturday, April 18, 2009.

Approve school trip for qualifying SL Technology Student Association students & advisor-Champion, PA

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

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve the expulsion of Student #977400.

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

Approve expulsion of Student #977400

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Gunkle to approve to participate in the 2009-2010 Lehigh Valley Cooperative Purchasing Council Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Bid. Bidding to take place in March, 2009 for the contract period of May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

Approve to participate in the 2009-2010 Lehigh Valley Cooperative Purchasing Council Gasoline & Diesel Fuel Bid

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

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Liberati made note of the new District newsletter, called *The Laconian* that was in the Board packet. He said Laconian is a language spoken in Italy where Spartans came from. The Laconian, which was written by Joe McDermott, will be printed by Lehigh Career & Technical Institute, and subsequently mailed to the residents of the District. Mr. McDermott will electronically produce the newsletter monthly, with selective issues being printed for distribution to the community. The Board agreed that Mr. McDermott's name should appear on future issues of newsletter. It was suggested that a story about the District's recent bond rating upgrade by Moody's should be submitted to the Morning Call.

Facilities Report

Mr. Liberati reported that bidders had presented desks and chairs for inspection that will be used in the Intermediate School. Awarding of bids for movable equipment for the Intermediate School will occur at the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Approve appointment of William Hayes to the School Board to fill unexpired term of Mrs. Jody Rennie

MOVED BY Miracle and **2ND BY** Dimmig to approve the appointment of William Hayes to the School Board to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Jody Rennie until December 7, 2009. Mrs. Rennie had resigned effective February 20, 2009.

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

VISITORS

Mrs. Siegfried announced the Inter District Experience in Art '09 at the Allentown Art Museum presented by the art students of Palisades & Southern Lehigh High Schools from March 3-20, 2009, with an opening reception 1-3 PM on March 8.

Mr. Miracle commented on the wonderful Board visitation to the Middle School and High School this past week. He suggested that Board visitations in the future be more than once a year.

The Board took a brief recess at 9:56 a.m.

The Board met in executive session at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:04 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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MOVED BY Schubert and **2ND BY** Eddinger to adjourn the meeting.

VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried
ABSENT: Quigley

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

ATTEST: _____ Board Secretary