



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

April 21, 2008

The second monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:28 p.m. on the above date (April 21, 2008) in the Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

**PRESENT:** Stelts, Auteri, Eddinger, Gunkle, Miracle, Quigley, Rennie, Schubert  
**ABSENT:** Dimmig  
**OTHERS:** Liberati, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Churm, Christman, Takacs, Keister, Bergey, Scherzberg, Zuk, Turner, Farris, Covelle, Organski, and approximately 13 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.

Dr. Stelts administered the oath of office to Mr. Michael Eddinger, who had been appointed at the April 7, 2008 Board meeting, to replace Ms. Jennifer Bromwell who had resigned. Mr. Eddinger took his seat on the Board.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2008 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members.

Minutes of  
4/7/08

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

### **VISITORS**

Mike Twardowski from Odyssey of the Mind introduced the Middle School team that recently won first place at the Odyssey of the Mind state competition in Altoona. The team presented their first place trophy to Mrs. Turner. The team thanked the Board for their support and asked for continued support to attend the world competition at the University of Maryland in May. Mr. Twardowski explained that the Odyssey of the Mind teams covered their own expenses to attend the state competition, but needed \$3,003.00 for room and board to attend the world competition at the University of Maryland.

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to approve \$3,003.00 for the Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team to attend the world competition at the University of Maryland in May.

Approve  
\$3,003.00  
for the MS  
Odyssey of  
the Mind  
team to  
attend the  
world  
competition  
at the  
University  
of Maryland

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approved paid bills in the amount of \$34,426.23 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$246,991.98 for a total amount of \$281,418.21 for the General Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$315,660.01 for the Construction Fund:

Approval of  
Bills

Approved the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2008;

Approve  
Treasurer's  
Report

Approve a FMLA leave from June 2, 2008 through June 16, 2008 -

Kenneth Jordan, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Hopewell Elementary;

Approve  
FMLA leave-  
Jordan

Approve  
substitute  
teacher-Bauer

Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2007-2008 school year -

Kelly Bauer, Elementary;

Approve  
unpaid leave  
of absence-  
Brown

Approve unpaid leave of absence for the following staff -

Jana Brown, Instructional Assistant, High School, from Wednesday, June 11, 2008 through Monday, June 16, 2008;

Accept  
retirement-  
Tabor

Accept the retirement of the following staff –

Felicia Tabor, Instructional Assistant, Middle School, effective June 16, 2008;

Accept  
resignation-  
Collins

Accept the resignation of the following staff -

Lisa Collins, Instructional Assistant, High School, effective April 11, 2008 -

Approve  
substitutes-  
Bauer,  
Zamichieli,  
Khawaja

Approve the following substitutes -

Kelly Bauer, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$14.18.

Jane Zamichieli, Substitute Instructional Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$14.18.

Humera Khawaja, Substitute Secretary, at an hourly rate of \$12.16;

Accept  
retirement-  
Christie-  
Churm

Accept the retirement of the following Administrator -

Morag Christie-Churm, Director of Special Education, effective July 7, 2008. Mrs. Christie-Churm has been employed by Southern Lehigh School District for 7 years.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Dimmig**

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

Mr. Zuk, Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Farris reported on student and staff activities at the High School, Middle School and the elementary schools.

Mr. Zuk announced that the National Honor Society induction will take place Wednesday night and invited the Board to attend. He also said that High School teacher Justina Viola has returned from her second tour of duty in Iraq.

Mrs. Turner reported that three Middle School teams competed in the state Odyssey of the Mind competition in Altoona, with one team finishing first. That team will attend the world Odyssey of the Mind competition in May.

Approve  
revised 2008-  
2009 MS  
Student  
Handbook

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the revised 2008-2009 Middle School Student Handbook incorporating suggestions made by the Board.

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

Approve  
revised 2008-  
2009 HS  
Student  
Handbook

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to approve the revised 2008-2009 High School Student Handbook incorporating suggestions made by the Board.

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

Approve 2  
student trips-  
SL Future  
Business  
Leaders of  
America -  
Jackson, NJ;  
SL World  
Language  
Department -  
Germany,  
Austria and  
Switzerland

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the following student trips -

1. *Southern Lehigh Future Business Leaders of America* to attend Business and Marketing/Multicultural Day at Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ on May 1, 2008.

2. *Southern Lehigh World Language Department* to participate in an educational tour of Germany, Austria and Switzerland with students of German II, III and IV from March 31 through April 8, 2009.

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

Final approval  
of the new  
World  
Language  
textbooks

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle for final approval of the new World Language textbooks for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

**BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the Investment of Funds as attached.

Approve Investment of Funds

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

The School Board’s representative to the Southern Lehigh Public Library, Mr. Allen Cassaday, provided a brief update and answered questions about the Library. Mr. Cassaday said adequate funding to maintain services, facility, and collection as well as attract and retain qualified employees has proved challenging for the library’s Board of Directors over the last year. The library only received a minimal increase in state funding of \$400, Coopersburg Borough decreased their funding by \$5000, Lower Milford Township increased their funding by a modest 5%, and Upper Saucon Township continued to provide adequate funding. The library’s greatest challenge has been to attract and retain qualified staff that resulted in the cancellation of story time sessions and other children’s programs. Summer programming has also been scaled back.

The library Board of Directors is working diligently for the future of the library. In June, work will begin on an updated strategic plan that will address meeting the needs of local residents with respect to library services over the next several years. A significant part of the plan will include strategies for securing adequate funding to address the issues of staffing, collection growth, adult and children’s programming, facility maintenance, technology, and general library service. Mr. Cassaday asked the Board if they would consider increasing the District’s current funding level to \$60,000 for fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10, a funding increase of \$6,000 per year.

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Schubert to approve increasing the contribution to Southern Lehigh Library by \$6,000 for a total contribution of \$60,000 for both 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years.

Approve increased contribution to SL Library for both the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 years- total contribution \$60,000 per year

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – All but Quigley**  
**“NO” – Quigley – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Dimmig**

The Administration and the Budget & Finance Committee made a presentation and answered questions about the proposed General Fund Budget for 2008-2009. Mr. Snell presented the Budget Committee PowerPoint slides that highlighted historical revenue and expense trends, and the expected revenues and expenditures for 2008-09 and beyond based on the 5-year budget. The 2008-09 General Fund budget presented to the Board contained a tax increase of 1.87 mills. Also presented were various tax increase/expenditure 5-year budget scenarios and a list of potential reductions in new staff & technology funding for Board discussion.

There was Board discussion on the different scenarios.

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the preliminary General Fund Budget for 2008-2009 of \$50,522,121 with a millage of 43.95, an increase of 1.35 mills. The proposed millage increase of 1.87 mills was reduced to 1.35 mills with the understanding that the Superintendent would cut some new staff positions, eliminate additional Technology funding and balance the budget with a reduction in the fund balance.

Approve preliminary General Fund Budget for 2008-2009 with a millage of 43.95, an increase of 1.35 mills.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – All but Quigley**  
**“NO” – Quigley – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Dimmig**

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the Administration to begin active recruitment and advertisement for employees to fill the new positions that are part of the preliminary budget. All candidates that are selected for recommendation to the Board will be brought to the Board.

Approve Administration to begin active recruitment and advertisement for new positions that are part of the preliminary budget

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**PERSONNEL**

**REPORTS**

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Liberati presented a proposal for SAT Preparatory Course prepared by Mr. Zuk. The objective is to improve SAT scores by implementing relevant programs and improving student preparation. The High School is proposing the creation of SAT Final Review Sessions totaling 6 hours in length covered in 2 days, 3 hours each night from 5 – 8 p.m. (April 29 & May 1). The SAT test is on May 3. The course is designed to decrease test anxiety and familiarize students with test directions, types of questions, and test-taking strategies. The teacher will work to increase student’s confidence and help students develop skills and a positive attitude to become better test takers. Mr. Haupt will teach the SAT Preparatory Course. Mr. Haupt has had previous experience teaching SAT Prep classes and even created SAT practice questions that teachers used within their classes. The course will be free to District students and Mr. Haupt will be paid the contracted homebound rate amounting to approximately less than \$400.

Approve SAT Preparatory Course

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the SAT Preparatory Course as outlined in the attachment.

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

Mr. Liberati introduced and welcomed Mrs. Joan Takacs, the District’s new Director of Secondary Education.

Mr. Liberati also recognized Mrs. Morag Christie-Churm who is retiring as Director of Special Education at the end of the school year after 7 years of outstanding service to the District and especially to our students.

Facilities Report

Mr. Miracle said that the transition from Rizzetto Construction to Penn Builders as the General Contractor for the Intermediate School construction project has been seamless. He is in the process of coordinating a Board walk-thru of the Intermediate School construction site soon.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading of Policy #815

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the second and final reading of Policy #815, Acceptable Use of the Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communication and Information Systems.

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

**VISITORS**

ADJOURNMENT

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to adjourn the meeting.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Dimmig**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

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