



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

April 27, 2009

The second monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:37 p.m. on the above date (April 27, 2009) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

**PRESENT:** Stelts, Auteri, Dimmig, Eddinger, Gunkle, Hayes, Quigley, Schubert  
**ABSENT:** Miracle  
**OTHERS:** Liberati, Christman, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Scherzberg, Engler, Takacs, Lewis, Jordan, Bergey, Covelle, Donahue, Mickley, Organski, Martin (Morning Call), and approximately 20 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** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members with one correction. Jan Weinberger will retire with 24 years of service to the District.

Approve minutes of 4/14/09 with one correction- J. Weinberger will retire with 24 years of service

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

### **VISITORS**

Drew Walkowicz and Sylvia Fowler spoke in favor of retaining German as a foreign language.

Cathy Kanzler spoke of a survey of parents of Spanish Immersion students that supported not reducing 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish Immersion contacts.

Natalie Holland of the World Language Parents Organization spoke in favor of world language.

Steve Annunziato pleaded to the Board to be prudent with a proposed tax increase and use some of the fund balance.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approve the bills list dated April 27, 2009 showing paid bills in the amount of \$74,347.05 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$818,960.37 for a total amount of \$893,307.42 for the General Fund, and paid bills in the amount of \$4,552.00 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$1,112,341.89 for a total amount of \$1,116,893.89 for the Construction Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$84,045.75 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund;

Approval of Bills

Approve the resignation of the following staff –

Colleen Pachence, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Support Teacher, Middle School, effective March 31, 2009;

Approve resignation- Pachence

Approve unpaid leave of the following staff -

Jennifer Powell, .5 ESL Teacher, Liberty Bell Elementary School, on May 15, 2009;

Approve unpaid leave- Powell

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

Approve substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year- Beck, Kirka, Martell, Nied

Scott Beck, Elementary  
Melanie Kirka, K-12 Spanish (*pending receipt of required documentation*)  
Shawn Martell, Social Studies (*pending receipt of required documentation*)  
Kristina Nied, English (*pending receipt of required documentation*);

Approve the following substitutes -

Approve substitutes- Krupa, Peay

Wendy Krupa, Substitute Cafeteria Worker, at an hourly rate of \$7.79  
Rita Peay, Substitute Cafeteria Worker, at an hourly rate of \$7.79;

Approve the following coach for the 2009-2010 school year (*the current stipend of \$7452 may change effective 9/1/09 dependent upon the collective bargaining process*) -

Approve coach for the 2009-2010 school year (stipend may change effective 9/1/09)-Beitler

Ian Beitler Wrestling.

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

### **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.

Mr. Covelle reported on the following –

- 4 teachers participated in the Classrooms for the Future Showcase held at CLIU on April 17
- 68 students were inducted into the National Honor Society on April 15
- PSSA Science testing will take place on April 28-29 for grade 11
- The Prom will be held on May 2 at DeSales University
- Light-Up Limeport event will take place on May 6 with a baseball game at 7:00 pm. The event will benefit David Ortwein through Lymphoma and Leukemia Society.

Dr. Donahue reported on the following –

- C.H.O.I.C.E.S. (Charting Horizons and Opportunities in Careers in Engineering and Science), aimed primarily at female students, was held April 3
- Final Middle School dance of the year was held on April 17 with about 250 students attending
- SLEVA (Southern Lehigh Educational Video Awards) ceremony was held on April 18
- World Language Day, featuring Cuban culture was held on April 24
- MS Spring Choral Concert will be held on May 5
- MS Broadway show *Alice in Wonderland* will be performed May 8-9 at 7:00 pm
- MS Orchestra Concert will be held on May 14
- NJHS Induction Ceremony will be held on May 18 at 7:30 pm with Mr. Liberati as guest speaker
- MS Spring Band Concert will be held on May 19.

Mrs. Mickley reported on the following –

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA Science Testing is taking place this week, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish Immersion is taking the Supera tests also this week
- Spanish Immersion sign-ups will be held this Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30 am
- Last week's elementary parent conferences were well attended

- Kindergarten registration was held last week at Liberty Bell. 163 students were registered with 15 students coming in from Early Intervention. Typically another 25+ students register between now and the first day of school
- Kindergarten Parent/Child visitation day will be next Tuesday, April 28 from 9:30-10:30 am at all three elementary schools
- A workshop for parents of in-coming kindergarten students will be held on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 pm at Lower Milford. 82 parents have signed-up
- Registration has begun for enrollment for Liberty Trails summer program, which will run June 28 through July 17.

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

*Southern Lehigh Speech and Debate Team* to attend the National Forensic League National Championship Tournament in Birmingham, Alabama, from June 13, 2009 to June 19, 2009.

Approve student trip- SL Speech & Debate Team- Birmingham, AL

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

**MOVED BY** Schubert and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve the following student trip -

Business, Computers and Information Technology Department, and Southern Lehigh Future Business Leaders of America to attend Business and Marketing Day at Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ on May 7, 2009.

Approve student trip- Business, Computers & Information Technology Department & SL Future Business Leaders of America- Jackson, NJ

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

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to approve the new Language Arts, Art and Social Studies textbooks for the 2009-2010 school year.

Approve new Language Arts, Art & Social Studies textbooks for the 2009-2010 school year

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

**MOVED BY** Schubert and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Hayes to approve the following revisions to the 2008-2009 School Calendar -

June 10, 11, 12, 2009 - Early dismissal days for Students (K-8) *which will allow staff to prepare for the move to the Intermediate School*

June 15, 2009 - Final Day for Students

June 16, 2009 - Final Day for Teachers (*who have completed Teacher Academy Days*)

Approve revisions to the 2008-2009 School Calendar

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

**BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

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

Approve Investment of Funds

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

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Schubert to approve the agreement between Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit and the District for network management. The term of the agreement is from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2014.

Approve agreement between CLIU and SLSLSD for network management

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

The Administration made a presentation and answered questions about the General Fund Budget for 2009-2010.

Mr. Liberati made a PowerPoint presentation on District Bold Initiatives K-12, an update of the March 7, 2009 Board seminar topic, "With an Eye to the Future-The Re-Creation of the Southern Lehigh School District". Highlights at all levels –

- Primary Schools – Self contained classrooms K-3
- Intermediate School – 8:50 am – 3:30 pm operating time
  - Flexibility with extended blocks of time - 90 minutes each
  - Teams with 2 teachers
  - Math acceleration
  - Reading & writing across content
  - Related arts
  - Create learning neighborhoods/communities
  - Teaming to enhance student learning
- Middle School – Extended class periods – 50 minutes core instruction by teams
  - Base camp (homeroom) absorbed into period 1
  - Moving High School courses to Middle School
  - Virtual languages pilot programs

Mr. Snell made a PowerPoint presentation on the budget outlining –

- Historical trends in local revenues
- District revenues – present & future
- 2008-2009 budget savings
- Measures to minimize future spending
- Tentative 2009-2010 tax increase

Mr. Guerriere presented charts showing historical revenue trends on –

- Real estate tax base growth
- Real estate collections compared to Lehigh County unemployment
- Realty transfer tax collections
- Earned income tax growth
- Interest income

Mr. Guerriere also presented the revenue chart from the 5-yr budget. The chart projects 2008-09 revenues to fall short of budget by approximately \$312,000. The chart also projects revenues for 2009-10 and beyond to 2013-14. On whole, revenue growth projections have been reduced from prior years due to current economic conditions that have affected the construction industry, banking, and unemployment rates.

Mrs. Scherzberg outlined the expected savings this year due to under expenditures in areas of salaries, employee benefits, Classrooms for the Future, and the elimination of Central Office modular unit. The total estimated savings for 2008-09 compared to budget is \$1.8 million. Budget cuts for 2009-10 and beyond include reduced debt service due to bond refunding savings, sharply reduced new staff for Intermediate School, proposed hiring freeze, reduced Principals' budgets for buildings, reduced annual allocations for contingency account and transfers to capital projects fund and GASB 45, and reduced rates of spending increases.

Mrs. Scherzberg also presented 3 scenarios for 2009-2010 millage increases with corresponding projections and effects of the scenarios on the 5-year budget. The 3 millage increase scenarios were 0.75, 0.95, and 1.20.

There was Board discussion on the budget and millage increase for 2009-2010.

**MOVED BY** Dimmig and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve a millage increase of 0.25 for the 2009-2010 proposed budget that will be presented to the Board for the first time at the May 11, 2009 Board meeting. The 2009-2010 proposed budget will be voted on at the May 11, 2009 Board meeting.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – Dimmig, Quigley**  
**“NO” – All but Dimmig and Quigley – Motion Defeated**  
**ABSENT: Miracle**

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Eddinger to approve a millage increase of 0.50 for the 2009-2010 proposed budget that will be presented to the Board for the first time at the May 11, 2009 Board meeting. The 2009-2010 proposed budget will be voted on at the May 11, 2009 Board meeting.

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – All but Hayes and Gunkle**  
**“NO” – Hayes, Gunkle – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Miracle**

Motion  
 Defeated to  
 approve a  
 millage  
 increase of  
 0.25 for the  
 2009-2010  
 proposed  
 budget that  
 will be  
 presented  
 to the Board  
 for the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 time at the  
 5/11/09  
 Board  
 Meeting

Approve a  
 millage  
 increase of  
 0.50 for the  
 2009-2010  
 proposed  
 budget that  
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 to the Board  
 for the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 time at the  
 5/11/09  
 Board  
 Meeting

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

**MOVED BY** Hayes and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Dimmig to award the Liberty Bell Roof Replacement to Alan Kunsman Roofing & Siding Inc., 203 Washington St., Freemansburg, PA 18017 in the amount of \$167,000. This includes membrane replacement of areas A, A1 and B at a cost of \$147,000 and alternate bid one, replacement of existing roofing system above library at \$20,000.

Award Liberty Bell Roof Replacement to Alan Kunsman Roofing & Siding Inc.

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

**ABSENT: Miracle**

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to award the Administration Building Roof Replacement to T.G.W. Corporation, P.O. Box 38, 50 Spruce Street, Pine Grove, PA 17963 in the amount of \$88,000.

Award the Administration Building Roof Replacement to T.G.W. Corporation

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

**ABSENT: Miracle**

**MOVED BY** Auteri and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Eddinger to approve permission to join with Saucon Valley School District in submitting a mandate waiver application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education seeking approval to contract with Compass Energy, an AGL Resources Company, for the purchase of natural gas. Attorney Bartholomew will prepare the mandate waiver application for submission. A blank application is enclosed.

Approve permission to join with SVSD in submitting a mandate waiver application to the PA Department of Education seeking approval to contract with Compass Energy for the purchase of natural gas

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

**ABSENT: Miracle**

**MOVED BY** Eddinger and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve the following change orders for the Intermediate School. The Facility Committee has reviewed and approved these change orders at their April 15, 2009 meeting.

Approve change orders for the Intermediate School

1. Change Order E-12 to Albarell Electric Inc. in the amount of \$2,087.00 to provide electric power for the multi-purpose room scoreboard.
2. Change Order G-12 to Penn Builders in the amount of \$6,939.00 to provide and install a multi-sport scoreboard in the multi-purpose room.
3. Change Order G-13 to Penn Builders in the amount of \$5,905.00 to provide modification of 61 television mounting brackets to accommodate a double gang electrical box.
4. Change Order G-14 to Penn Builders in the amount of \$302.00 to provide fire extinguishers in each of the elevator machine rooms.
5. Change Order G-15 to Penn Builders as a credit of \$3,166.00 for deleting library periodical shelving units.

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

**ABSENT: Miracle**

## **PERSONNEL**

**MOVED BY** Schubert and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the following transfer -

Maria Ramunni, Grade 5 Teacher, Hopewell Elementary, to Guidance Counselor, Middle School, effective May 5, 2009 to July 5, 2009, with no change in salary.

Approve transfer-Ramunni

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

**ABSENT: Miracle**

## **REPORTS**

### Superintendent's Report

Mr. Liberati asked the Board for pre-approval of a course program at Lehigh University for Mark Covelle.

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Eddinger to approve Mark Covelle to take EDL 420 Leading and Managing Curriculum and Instruction Program.

Approve M. Covelle to take EDL 420 Leading & Managing Curriculum & Instruction Program

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

Strategic Plan

Mrs. Christman presented an update on the strategic plan that showed the following accomplishments –

o **Academic Proficiency:**

- AP-11 -All 2009 PSSA exams will be completed by week's end.
- AP-3 & 8- The Curriculum Department has meetings underway with various teams of teachers to review / update curriculum due to Intermediate School and restructuring of District.
- AP-3 & 6- Meetings continue with Catasauqua School District and teachers to plan for summer school online

o **Improved Communications:**

- IC-1 -The electronic Newsletter with new artwork went live in April. Video on Demand and the Intermediate School site were also added.
- IC-1- The May newsletter should be completed and distributed electronically by May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Presentations on the Intermediate School were given to elementary school staff members April 21-23. The presentation for the MS is scheduled for April 28.
- IC-1- A web page on FAQ's on the Intermediate School and Virtual World Languages were created to address parent and staff questions regarding changes for 2009-10.
- IC-3-The first meeting of a new District Technology Council is scheduled for 4/29/09

o **Highly Qualified Teachers:**

- AP-3 & HQT-1 & 4 All HS Special Education teachers have been trained in System 44 software targeted for students struggling with reading.
- HTQ-1 & AP-6- Four HS teachers presented lessons they developed for the integration of technology at the CLIU CFF Day.
- HQT-1 & 5-The Director of Secondary Ed. and four teachers (k-12) attended the National Conference of Teachers of Mathematics April 22-24.
- HQT-5 & IC-4- Three administrators attended the BCIU Conference on Asian Studies.
- HTQ-1 & AP-3 & 6 -Elementary teachers were trained by Compass Learning on using software:
  - Math Toolkit- using virtual math manipulative materials
  - Creation of open ended writing prompts for differentiation

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Auteri to approve the second and final reading of Policy #916, *School Volunteers*.

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

**VISITORS**

Greg Holland asked about funding spent on alternative education for suspended students that is not required by law.

Susan Martin spoke in favor of not dropping German as a foreign language.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Gunkle to adjourn the meeting.

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" - Unanimous - Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Miracle**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

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