



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

May 19, 2008

The second monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:31 p.m. on the above date (May 19, 2008) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

**PRESENT:** Stelts, Dimmig, Eddinger, Gunkle, Miracle, Quigley [left meeting at 10:37 p.m.), Rennie, Schubert

**ABSENT:** Auteri

**OTHERS:** Liberati, Snell, Guerriere, Bartholomew, Kennedy, Churm, Christman, Takacs, Keister, Bergey, Scherzberg, Zuk, Turner, Lewis, Organski, Martin (Morning Call), and approximately 70 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** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2008 meeting as copied and distributed to all Board members with one correction. Mr. Dimmig said that he voted **not** to approve the hiring of Scot Engler as Director of Special Education.

Minutes of  
5/5/08 with  
one  
correction

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

**ABSENT: Auteri**

### **VISITORS**

Pat Dierking, Tia Dimou, Kristen Arnold and Nancy Weiss all spoke in support of Mr. Brian Neefe, girls' softball coach, in reaction to an ongoing investigation by the Administration.

Ray Majczan asked Mr. Liberati when a decision would be made on the investigation. Mr. Liberati told him that the investigation is still ongoing and that he would let him know when it is complete.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approved paid bills in the amount of \$31,840.27 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$737,160.97 for a total amount of \$769,001.24 for the General Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$1,643,330.12 for the Construction Fund, and bills to be paid in the amount of \$892.21 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund;

Approval of  
Bills

Approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of April, 2008;

Approve  
Treasurer's  
Report

Appoint Robert Guerriere as Earned Income Tax (EIT) Officer for the 2008-2009 school year;

Appoint EIT  
Officer-  
Guerriere

Approve the enclosed resolution which deals with the designation of depositories and the investment of District funds for the 2008-2009 school year;

Approve  
designation  
of  
depositories  
and the  
investment  
of District  
funds

Accept the nomination of William Miracle to continue as Board Treasurer. The School Code requires that the Board Treasurer be elected annually in the month of May to serve a one-year term beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. In the past, the Board has always asked the Treasurer who was elected the previous December to accept this nomination in May;

Accept  
nomination  
for W.  
Miracle to  
continue as  
Board  
Treasurer

Approve current level of bonding coverage for the Board Treasurer, Board Secretary & EIT Officer

Approve maintaining the current level of bonding coverage for the Board Treasurer, Board Secretary and Earned Income Tax Officer, currently set at \$50,000, for the 2008-2009 year due to the individuals' extremely low amount of contact with cash instruments;

Approve renewing the District's existing student accident & athletic insurance-Mid Penn Insurance Assoc.

Approve renewing the District's existing student accident and athletic insurance for 2008-2009 through Mid Penn Insurance Associates of Shamokin Dam, PA with ACE American Insurance Company providing the policies as summarized below and in the enclosure -

*Interscholastic Sports, Intramurals, and Club Sports* - \$6,918.00 per year, paid by District (a premium increase of 5%)

*Voluntary Student Accident Coverage, School Time Only* - \$30.00 per year

*Voluntary Student Accident Coverage, 24-Hour Coverage* - \$116.00 per year;

Approve childrearing leave-Wlodek Evans

Approve a childrearing leave from May 6, 2008 through the end of the current school year and a second childrearing leave for the entire 2008-2009 school year -

Jennifer Wlodek Evans, Social Studies Teacher, Southern Lehigh High School;

Approve unpaid leave-Alhadeff

Approve unpaid leave for the following staff -

Janice Alhadeff, Instructional Assistant, Lower Milford, on Monday, June 16, 2008;

Accept resignation-Dusome

Accept the resignation of the following staff -

Ella Dusome, Instructional Assistant, Hopewell Elementary School, effective June 16, 2008;

Accept resignation-Taylor

Accept the resignation of the following coach -

James Taylor, Assistant Cross Country, effective May 7, 2008;

Approve summer technology staff-Helinski, Savicki (pending documentation)

Approve the following summer technology staff at an hourly rate of \$12.40 through June 30, 2008; increasing to \$12.88 per hour effective July 1, 2008 -

Joseph Helinski, anticipated start date of June 17, 2008

Matthew Savicki, anticipated start date of May 19, 2008 (*pending receipt of required documentation*);

Approve changes to the mentoring appointments on 5/5/08-Beaupre, Ramunni

Approve the following changes to the mentoring appointments on May 5, 2008 at a stipend not to exceed \$700 -

Thomas Beaupre served as a mentor for *Joseph Morrison* from March 17, 2008 through April 20, 2008 and Troy Ruch effective April 21, 2008.

Maria Ramunni as mentor for *Russell Tucker*;

Approve annual renewal of agreement between SLSD and Pottsgrove SD for the purpose of the Radiological Emergency Response Plan

Approve the annual renewal of the agreement beginning on July 1, 2008 between the Southern Lehigh School District and Pottsgrove School District for the purpose of the Radiological Emergency Response Plan for incidents at the Limerick Generating Station.

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

**CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES**

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

Mr. Zuk reported that Jeff Yalden, award winning youth speaker, will be presenting to the middle school and high school students on May 21, 2008. He will also be presenting to the community that evening in the Middle School Auditorium. Mr. Yalden's appearance is funded by the Southern Lehigh Education Foundation. Mr. Zuk also reported that Sean Gruber and Robert Blackburn, two high school students that participate in the LCTI Automotive Technology Lab, will receive various scholarships for their outstanding performances in various competitions.

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to approve the enclosed request from Lauren Meyers to attend Northampton Community College to pursue a degree in the Dental Hygiene program.

Approval to attend NCC-Meyers

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

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the following student teams travel requests –

Approval for SL Varsity Cheerleading Squad to attend camp-Beach Lake, PA

*Southern Lehigh Varsity Cheerleading Squad* to attend Pine Forest Cheerleading Camp, Beach Lake, PA, from Wednesday, June 18, 2008 to Saturday, June 21, 2008.

*Southern Lehigh Field Hockey Team* to attend Old Dominion University Field Hockey Camp, Norfolk, VA, from Tuesday, July 22, 2008 to Friday, July 25, 2008.

Approval for SL Field Hockey Team to attend camp-Norfolk, VA

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Stelts – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Auteri**  
**ABSTAIN: Stelts**

**BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Schubert to appoint James A. Bartholomew of the firm Scoblionko, Scoblionko, Muir, Bartholomew and Melman as the District Solicitor for the 2008-2009 school year pursuant to the attached letter.

Appoint James Bartholomew as District Solicitor for the 2008-2009 school year

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – All but Quigley and Dimmig**  
**"NO" – Quigley, Dimmig – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Auteri**

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to appoint the firm of Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams, LLP as special counsel for labor and special education matters for the 2008-2009 school year at the rates specified in the attached correspondence.

Appoint Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLP as special counsel for the 2008-2009 school year

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

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to approve the appointment of France, Anderson and Basile to perform the 2007-2008 audit of the Southern Lehigh School District and Southern Lehigh Earned Income Tax Office in accordance with the current three-year engagement.

Approve appointment of France, Anderson & Basile to perform the 2007-2008 audit of the SLSD & EIT Office in accordance with the current 3-year engagement

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

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to approve the District's following response and corrective action plan corresponding to the only finding in the most recent State Audit that the District did not have current memorandums of understanding (MOU's) on file with each of the local municipal police departments - "The Board of Education and the Administration of the Southern Lehigh School District commit to a periodic update and/or renewal of the existing memorandums of understanding with the three municipal police departments, such update/renewal to occur biannually".

Approve the District's response and corrective action plan corresponding to the most recent State Audit that the District did not have current MOU's on file with each of the local municipal police departments

The Board acknowledged receipt of a recent letter from the Director of the Bureau of Audits, Office of the Budget, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania stating that a preliminary review of the District's local audit report for the 2006-2007 school year disclosed no findings related to federal program or grant awards.

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to approve the refund of 2007-2008 school property taxes to Robert C. & Linda A. Wilson pursuant to correspondence from Lehigh County Assessment Office.

Approve refund of 2007-2008 school property taxes-Wilson

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

Exonerate  
Lehigh County  
Tax Bureau  
from collecting  
the delinquent  
2005-2006 and  
2006-2007  
school real  
estate taxes on  
2 parcels on  
Balsam Road

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Rennie to exonerate Lehigh County Tax Claim Bureau from collecting the delinquent 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school real estate taxes on two parcels on Balsam Road that were deleted and added to two other parcels pursuant to correspondence from Lehigh County Office of Fiscal Affairs.

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

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **PERSONNEL**

Approve staff  
for the 2008-  
2009 school  
year-Lehtinen,  
Dapsis  
(pending  
receipt of  
documentation)

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Miracle to approve the following staff for the 2008-2009 school year –

Janna Lehtinen, Psychologist, Lower Milford Elementary School, at M+45, Step 2, an annual salary of \$54,394. Ms. Lehtinen will fill the position created by the resignation of Keri Haas.

Meredith Dapsis, Science Teacher, High School, at B, Step 1, an annual salary of \$41,456 (*pending receipt of required documentation*). This is a new position.

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

## **REPORTS**

### **Facilities Committee**

Mr. Miracle spoke about the recent tour taken by most Board members of the Intermediate School construction site.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Liberati reported on the following:

- Two additional chaperones are needed for the approved student trip to Spain on March 31 to April 8, 2009 because of the large number of students. There will be no cost to the District except for substitute teachers that will replace two teachers that are going on the trip.
- Fifty-nine students participated in the District-sponsored SAT preparatory course taught by Mr. Haupt at a cost of approximately \$1,300. Mrs. Takacs will meet with Kathy Miller of Kaplan and Peter Schmidt of Prepare to determine the future use of SAT preparatory courses offered at the High School. She will also survey the students that have used the SAT preparatory programs.
- Goal No. 3 – To refine and evaluate mid-year and year-end student performance for the District. Results from the last 3 years' assessments will be shared with the Board by June 6, 2008.
- Mathematics emphasis across the District which included 4 Sight Testing, graphing calculator in-service and usage in the Middle School and the High School, the Middle School SLAM program, and the High School Summer Math Lab. The goal is to place students in the proper math class with the help of the Data Warehouse. Also, what would a full-time summer program look like for remediation and acceleration?

Mr. Liberati recommended that the Summer Math Lab for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders entering High School, and the Math Lab for 9<sup>th</sup> graders, in lieu of study hall, be given a .5 credit as an elective towards graduation to encourage student participation.

**MOVED BY** Rennie and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Eddinger to approve the addition of a .5 elective credit towards graduation requirement for the successful completion of the Math Lab program.

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

Approve the  
addition of a .5  
elective credit  
for the  
successful  
completion of  
the Math Lab  
program

Mr. Snell advised the Board of the May 31, 2008 deadline to "opt-out" of accepting gaming money for Homestead/Farmstead exclusions. If a Board were to opt-out of accepting gaming money, then there would not be any tax relief for approved homesteads and farmsteads, and a referendum question would be placed on the November ballot asking voters if gaming money should be accepted to fund

Homestead/Farmstead exclusions. No Board action is required to accept the gaming money. The Board took no action. Mr. Snell explained that the District will receive approximately \$640,000 in gaming money and Sterling Tax credit that will equate to about a \$114 school property tax reduction for every approved homestead and farmstead.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Upper Saucon Township Manager, Tom Beil and Engineer, Dennis Harmon provided a PowerPoint on a conceptual site plan for proposed playing fields on Curly Horse open space and Hopewell School properties. An Upper Saucon Township comprehensive recreation study identified a need for additional playing fields, and the Township Park and Recreation Commission recommended additional playing fields. The Township has identified a need to locate additional playing fields in the part of the Township west of Route 309. The Township is proposing to build three athletic fields on the Curly Horse open space and Hopewell School properties. A multi-purpose soccer, softball and little league field would be built on Curly Horse open space along with a tot lot and a walking path. A baseball field and a multi-purpose soccer/lacrosse field would be built behind Hopewell Elementary School on District property. The Township is proposing to construct an access road off the school driveway to a new parking lot near the tot lot on Curly Horse open space. In exchange for the easement, the Township is proposing to construct the two playing fields on District property at no cost to the District. The District would own the two fields and have control over their use.

There was board discussion and the general consensus was that additional parking would be required at Hopewell School to accommodate the expected community use of the two new fields on District property. Mr. Beil indicated that he would recommend to the Township Board of Supervisors that the Township expand the school parking lot. Several Board members said that the proposal looked like a “win-win” situation for the District, the Township and the community.

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Schubert to enter into a discussion with Upper Saucon Township on the proposed playing fields on Curly Horse open space and Hopewell School properties.

Enter into a discussion with UST on the proposed playing fields on Curly Horse open space & Hopewell School properties

**VOICE VOTE: “YES” – All but Eddinger**  
**“NO” - Eddinger – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Auteri**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Miracle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve the proposed Board Meeting dates for September, 2008 through August, 2009 with the following changes:

- April 6, 2009 meeting changed to Tuesday, April 14, 2009
- April 20, 2009 meeting changed to Monday, April 27, 2009
- May 4, 2009 meeting changed to Monday, May 11, 2009
- May 18, 2009 meeting changed to Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

Approve the proposed Board Meeting dates for September, 2008 through August, 2009 with the changes noted to the left

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

**VISITORS**

Stan Sroka gave an update on artificial turf. The booster clubs are collecting information for the Board on artificial turf for the stadium, including player safety issues of an artificial surface. The Board will be advised on the cost and maintenance of an artificial surface. He said all booster clubs are involved in this project.

Pat Dierking questioned the wisdom of spending money for an artificial surface for just one field (the stadium) when the same money could be used to construct multiple playing fields.

The Board took a brief recess at 10:05 p.m.

The Board met in Executive Session at 10:09 p.m.

[Mr. Quigley left the meeting at 10:37 p.m.]

The meeting reconvened at 10:43 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY** Rennie and 2<sup>ND</sup> **BY** Schubert to adjourn the meeting.

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

**ABSENT: Auteri, Quigley**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

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