



# Southern Lehigh School District

## Board of School Directors Meeting

February 23, 2015

The second regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Southern Lehigh was held at 7:40 p.m. on the above date (February 23, 2015) at Southern Lehigh High School, Center Valley, PA.

**PRESENT:** McLoughlin, Parsons, Gunkle, Dimmig, Hayes, Lycett, Merkle, Quigley  
**ABSENT:** Lindsay  
**OTHERS:** Melber, Millman, Lewis, Kennedy, Bergey, Takacs, Buchman, Sinkler (SLEA), Gross, Quartuch, Imms-Geiser, Malik, 12 other members of the community.

### **OPENING PROCEDURES**

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

The Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting as distributed to all Board members.

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

### **VISITORS**

Peter Thomas spoke to the board regarding the policy on the agenda for first reading

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approve the bills list as of February 9, 2015 showing bills paid in the amount of \$24,809.04 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$617,477.64 for a total amount of \$642,286.68 for the General Fund; and bills to be paid in the amount of \$36.56 for the Capital Reserve Sinking Fund;

Approve the following substitute staff for the 2014-2015 school year-

Maria Ault, Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Monitor, an hourly rate of \$10.10

Gregory Scott Luzader, Substitute Custodian, an hourly rate of \$14.70

Jennifer Johnson, Substitute Instructional Assistant, an hourly rate of \$15.62

Stephanie Farro Jeitner, Substitute Instructional Assistant, an hourly rate of \$15.62

Jennifer Hennessy, Substitute Instructional Assistant, an hourly rate of \$15.62

Approve the following Homework Club Teachers, an hourly rate of \$42.28 for the 2014-2015 school year-

Julie Czerechowski

Lisa Dex

Bethene Graf

Rebecca Hamm

Alison Kaplan

Sherry Lesavoy

Lisa Lowry

Lorenna Placencia

Karen Ryan

Sandra Santiago

Kathleen Wechtler

Approve Tara Walter, Instructor, for the Chinese Language Camp from June 22 through 26, 2015, an hourly rate of \$42.28.

Approve the following coach for the 2014-2015 school year-

Kathryn Cassese Asst. Girls Lacrosse \$1282\*\*

*\*\*35% of the total stipend to be shared with Samantha Lavin*

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2014-2015 school year-

Herb Clarke Boys Lacrosse

Stephen Siderias Track & Field

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

**CURRICULUM/STUDENT AND STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Mrs. Kristen Lewis, Principal, Lower Milford Elementary School provided an update on Lower Milford including, their School wide Positive Behavior program, 100 book reading challenge, and their work connecting with students in other school district across the country and the world.

**BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Parsons to approve the General Fund and Academic Center Budgets for Lehigh Career and Technical Institute for 2015-2016.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Parsons to approve **the Treasurer’s Report and Investment Report for the month of November, 2014.**

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

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Todd Bergey, Director of Support Services presented plans for the proposed Lot Line Adjustment in cooperation with Upper Saucon Township. The Adjustment provides Upper Saucon Township and Southern Lehigh School District optimum use of properties for development of the New Elementary School and proposed Curly Horse Park. The final Resolution will be voted on at the March 9, 2015 School Board meeting.

The board discussed the fields, solar panels and hard surface play area.

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Quigley to approve that the Board of School Directors hereby acknowledges that they have reviewed the Design Development drawings for the New Elementary School on W. Hopewell Road, and as required by the school code, complied with the Act 34 requirements for new construction. The board conducted the Act 34 hearing on January 12, 2015 and has considered any comments received at the hearing and within the 30 day comment period. The board authorizes the project design team to proceed with preparation of the construction and bidding documents and to solicit public bids for the board’s consideration.

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

**REPORTS**

Education Committee

Mr. Hayes reported that there will be a STEM camp for grades 4 – 9 this summer, the high school is looking at a way to recognize the band for specific achievements in the way that a varsity letter is earned by an athlete, Electronic report cards will begin in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for grade 4 through 12, Lower Milford was nominated for the National Blue Ribbon School Award and will begin the application process and the intermediate school is piloting a homework club after school.

Please see minutes as posted on the website.

LCTI

They met to discuss the budget.

Facilities

Final design of the new elementary school was discussed, there have been problems with the coils at the high school, which has caused heating problems, Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School continues to have spalling of their bricks.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Parsons to approve a first reading of the following revised policy-

#200.1 Pupils: *Admission of Students to Spanish Immersion Program*

**VOICE VOTE: "YES" – McLoughlin, Gunkle, Lycett, Hayes, Parsons**  
**"NO" Dimmig, Merkle, Quigley – Motion Carried**  
**ABSENT: Lindsay**

**Board members, Dimmig, Hayes, Quigley, Lycett and Gunkle held discussion and made comments regarding their opinions on the policy.**

**Mr. Dimmig requested that the following email dated February 19, 2015 be included in the minutes:**

"From: Jeffrey Dimmig  
 Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 12:31 PM  
 To: 'Leah Christman'; tmmjrmd  
 Cc: William Lycett; Kathleen Parsons; Corinne Gunkle; John Quigley; Bill Hayes; James Lindsay; Brian Merkle  
 Subject: RE: First Reading of Enrollment Policy

Board Members:

My compromise proposal Monday night addresses the two major concerns/sticking points voiced last Monday (1) the need for whole families to guaranteed a spot and (2) the creation of two classes of applicants (14 arbitrary spots preserved for existing families, so called "family preference), the latter, I cannot in good faith support and I think is likely to result in litigation.

I would recommend the lottery as established by the proposed policy, only create a "family lottery" - if you "win" a lottery spot, you win a "family lottery spot" which means every kid in that family is in, period. This eliminates the arbitrary 14 spot "family preference" issue.

The only way I could support such a policy, however, and the only way this would pass legal muster is that we start fresh. No one is "grandfathered in" which is what the current proposed policy essentially does. In other words, this summer we hold a lottery where all interested families who have fulfilled the prerequisites set out in the policy all have the same chance/opportunity to get a "family lottery spot." Once we fill these family spots for next year, we require families who have a "family lottery spot" to notify SLSD of incoming children in the early spring of each subsequent year. This will allow us to determine the number of open family spots that will be "lotteried" off to new families each subsequent year. Once a family wins a spot they are in, unless their child does not complete a year of instruction or they move out of the district in which case they lose their family lottery status.

This addresses the issue (which I don't agree with) but that SI parents and a number of board members express is important (that an entire family be guaranteed a spot). Since I have never

been in the program, I'll defer to their expertise. This desire for siblings/families to be guaranteed a spot for all kids in a family is preserved under the compromise policy. It is made fair, however, by starting fresh. Every family going forward has the same chance of getting a family lottery spot if we start new. People coming into the district will have the same chance as current families. Every family going forward has the same chance as any other family whether this summer or into future years. Families applying in any year will all be "similarly situated" for legal purposes. The two-tier system with 14 arbitrary spots which is legally suspect is eliminated. No one is "grandfathered" in. The system is fair because every family from the very beginning was chosen in an open lottery with no preferences. As long as the genesis of the system was started with a completely open and fair lottery, no family into the future can claim they were discriminated against or not given the same chance as any other family.

I could support the current proposed policy with this compromise language. I would even support a more robust prerequisite regime (as long as it is done in a way that provides equal opportunity to single parent families to ensure families applying are serious and committed). It makes the family preference fair by giving all SLSD families the same opportunity, while addressing the concern that the program works best when entire families are immersed in the program.

I believe working together we can come up with a policy that addresses the many good faith concerns held by all members. I am certainly open to additional suggestions on how to improve this proposed "family lottery."

Tom: Just to clarify, I informed a number of SI parents that I would support a "second" first reading of the policy committee's recommendation. While I intend to introduce the language above, I support your decision to hold a vote on the current proposed "unamended" language at Monday's meeting.

Diana: Since I have discussed a pending issue before the board at length in an email, I would ask that you print my portion of this email out and include in the minutes of Monday's meeting, where it is my intent to raise these same issues, but out of an abundance of caution, inclusion in the minutes will address any transparency concerns.

R/ J Dimmig"

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Parsons to approve the following revised policy: (XI, A)  
#916 Community: School Volunteers

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Parsons to approve rescinding the following policy: (XI, B)

#317.1 Administrative Employees: Dismissal

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Dimmig to approve of donated scorers tables from Service Electric Cable TV & Communications with portable signage for advertising with an estimated value of \$8600 is attached.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Lycett to approve of the proposed 2015-2016 School District Calendar.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Parsons to approve Act 80 Days for November 16-20, 2015 for elementary school conferences, November 17 through 20, 2015 for middle school conferences, November 19 for high school conferences; October 9 and 12, 2015 and March 11, 2016 for teacher in-service; early dismissal on February 11, 2016 (or February 12, 2016 if needed as a make-up day) and May 27, 2016 for teacher in-service and half-day early dismissal for students on the last day of school.

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

**MOVED BY** Gunkle and **2<sup>ND</sup> BY** Parsons to approve the attached resolution to identify Official Local School District holidays in accordance with PDE Basic Education Circular (BEC).

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**VISITORS**

None

**MOVED BY** Quigley and **2<sup>nd</sup> BY** Lycett to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**ATTEST:** *Diana S. Millman* Board Secretary