

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call or Order; Pledge of Allegiance

President Ann Thompson called the meeting of the East Penn Board of School Directors to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: C. H. Ballard, A. Earnshaw, F. Fuller, E. Gannon, S. Kowalchuk, T. Richwine,
M. Robert, V. Thomas, A. Thompson

Solicitor: Marc S. Fisher, Esq., Worth, Magee & Fisher

Board Secretary: Cecilia R. Birdsell

Board Treasurer: Gary Reigal

Substitute Superintendent of Schools: Dr. George A. Ziolkowski

Press Present: Miss Suarez, The Morning Call Reporter
Loretta Fenstermacher, The East Penn Press

2. Requests to Address the Board -None

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thomas, Seconded by Robert

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes for the January 8, 2007 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

4. SGA Report – Katie Smolinski

Miss Smolinski reported on the Snow Ball Dance that will be held on February 10 from 7-11 p.m. They are also working on a Valentine's Day date auction. They are also looking at a Rock For Your Rights evening that has not been scheduled.

5. Report of the Substitute Superintendent of Schools – Dr. George A. Ziolkowski

1. Personnel

Motion by Thomas, Seconded by Ballard

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following personnel items:

Resignation

Kathleen Prindible, Administrative Assistant at Lower Macungie Elementary School, effective January 26, 2007 (Exhibit 1)

Leaves as per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Employee: Claire Sebastian
Grade 5 Teacher, Macungie
Effective: February 9, 2007

Employee: Megan Mang
Librarian, Shoemaker School
Effective: February 5, 2007

Employee: Chanin Deegan
IST Teacher, Macungie School
Effective: January 8-August 28, 2007 (amended)

Full-Time Substitute Teacher Appointment

Name/Address: Shannon Wernersbach
6757 Stone Croft Circle , Macungie
Education Level: B. A. Degree (1991)
M. A. Degree (1997)
Undergraduate School: Dickinson College
Graduate School: Cabrini College
Assignment: IST, Macungie School
Opening created by C. Deegan leave.
Effective: January 23, 2007
Certification: Instructional II, Elementary
Experience: 1997-2003: Perkiomen Valley SD
Salary: \$40,100 (Step A, Year 1, Col. B)

Teacher Aide Appointment

Name/Address: Tami Fenstermaker
1034 Pennsylvania Avenue, Emmaus
Effective: January 23, 2007
Assignment: EHS, Study Hall
Vacancy created by A. Niland's resignation
Salary: \$11.12/hr., 31 hrs./wk.

Food Services Department Appointment

Name/Address: Karen Haldeman
7451 Catalpa Drive, Macungie 18062
Assignment: PTFSA-Wescosville
Effective: January 23, 2007
Salary: \$10.66/hr., 15 hrs./wk.

Additions to the 2006-07 List of Per Diem Substitutes

Karen Purtell, Teacher Aide
Deborah McConnell, Teacher Aide
Bonnie Kirka, Teacher Aide
Maria Neumeyer, Teacher Aide
Melissa Miller, Teacher Aide
Kathleen Coyle, Elementary
Kimberly Wanninger, Elementary
Allison McNabb, Registered Nurse
Stephanie Beck, Health/PE
Daniel Butterweck, Elementary/Special Education
Briana Fluke, Elementary/Early Childhood
Nicole Vito, Elementary
Kelly Zimpfer, Elementary
Jason Gordon, Art
William Swan, Chemistry

Educational Conferences

That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the expenses for the individuals attending the educational conferences listed on Exhibit 2.

Administrative Reports – See Exhibit Section

These resolutions were unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Gannon, Kowalchuk, Richwine, Robert, Thomas,
Thompson-----9

Motion by Thomas, Seconded by Robert
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following Co-Curricular Advisors:

Co-Curricular Advisors – Ever Spring Musical

Mark Domyan	Director,	\$2122.00
Justin Brehm	Musical Director	\$1698.00
Steve Braglio	Accompanist	\$1061.00
William Weiant	50% Director-Tech Set	\$ 530.50
Dave Willett	50% Director-Tech Set	\$ 530.50
Faith Andrews	Costumes	\$ 500.00

This resolution was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Gannon, Kowalchuk, Richwine, Robert, Thomas,
Thompson-----8
Abstain: Fuller-----1

Ms. Fuller indicated that she is related to Faith Andrews. A copy of her Conflict of Interest Abstention Memorandum is attached to the minutes

6. Education

-Student Achievement/Assessment Presentation – Elementary Schools

Mr. Greg Nolan, Assistant Superintendent for Supervision and Academic Planning, introduced Ms. Jan Hoffman, Supervisor of Elementary Education, who described the Differentiating Instruction by Assessment Anchor document that was developed and shared at the October 9 In-service Day. This document is used in all classrooms and by ESL, IST, and special education teachers. She explained how the document is used to indicate major assessment anchors and then looks into the specifics for each student. This instrument is used throughout the year with principals working with teachers.

The following elementary principals reviewed the results of the PSSA scores for their individual schools, the related goals that were set, and the objectives. All principals described the Professional Learning Communities that have been established, parent involvement, and the collaborative work among the staff members. This information is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

- Alburty School – Donna Cortez, Principal
- Jefferson School – Dr. Ron Renaldi, Principal
- Lincoln School – Kristen Campbell, Principal
- Macungie School – James Best, Principal
- Shoemaker School – Lynn Brinckman, Principal
- Wescosville School – Tony Moyer, Principal

Mr. Nolan thanked the principals and Special Education Supervisor Linda Pekarik for meeting with the staff to develop the strategies. He emphasized that the process for the standards, curriculum, and assessment should be taking place even without the PSSA tests. He said he was pleased with the work that has been done during the first semester. Mr. Earnshaw asked about the amount of staff involvement needed for the Differentiating Instruction by Assessment Anchor forms. Ms. Hoffman indicated that there could be over 100 items. Dr. Renaldi, Principal of Jefferson School, talked about the process used from a building level perspective. Mr. Earnshaw said that he was in favor of the concept but questioned the amount of work being expected of the teachers and principals. Mr. Nolan said the scope and sequence of the curriculum has a natural base with the standards. Since it is the first year, they will have to analyze what is and is not working and then refine the process. Mr. Earnshaw questioned why the Grade 3 students were performing at a higher level of proficiency than the Grade 5 students. Mr. Nolan said that at Grade 3 there is a limited amount of information and it is still early in the development of the test. The Grade 5 students are better indicators since there is more information for Grade 5 and the rigor is greater. He also noted that the proficiency rate is adjusted. Mr. Nolan pointed out that the students overall are scoring at or above the proficiency level.

In answer to a question from Mr. Earnshaw, Ms. Cortez indicated that the Study Island is a program being used during center time. It is also being supported and used by parents at home. Mr. Earnshaw questioned the amount of time being spent on the test for a few students who may not be scoring well. Ms. Cortez further explained flexible grouping that allows for more targeted work with some students so other students are able to progress. Mr. Earnshaw asked Dr. Renaldi about teaching to the test. Dr. Renaldi responded that they look at academic skills and do not teach to the test. He emphasized looking at the

eligible content and things students need to know. Mr. Earnshaw asked about the probes mentioned for Lincoln. Ms. Tricia Gutman, Substitute Principal, responded that the concept has caught on with the teachers and the students who are having difficulty with reading are now involved in this process on a monthly basis. The IST teacher is doing strategic monitoring. This concept is being piloted at Lincoln this year. Mr. Best, Principal of Macungie School, explained how teachers use time at the beginning of the day to use the tools for PSSA preparation and once a month there is a morning meeting. The teachers are looking at differentiated instruction and the needs and strengths of the students based on those meetings. Mr. Earnshaw questioned the wording of maintaining or exceeding the goals by 3%. Mrs. Brinckman said that at Shoemaker students did very well (98% in math) and they want to be sure they maintain the high proficiency and do not want to slip back. There are some special education goals that need to be increased so 3% is the goal. Mr. Earnshaw said he would like to see in the report what grades are being maintained. Mr. Earnshaw asked if there were any students at the elementary level in disaggregated sub groups. It was ascertained that there were not enough at any school to be considered a group.

Ms. Fuller said it would be beneficial to know the state targets. Mr. Nolan explained how the schools are exceeding the state levels. It was pointed out that the targets are being exceeded by 40-50 points. Ms. Fuller asked for a definition of a reading fluency probe. Ms. Hoffman said it means taking a paragraph and the number of words in a paragraph and seeing how many words a student can read correctly with fluency. The probe includes accuracy but it does include a comprehension check. A T-Chart is listing what the problem may be and then how it would be solved. It is a way of organizing thoughts. It was also mentioned that parents are engaged in the process in different ways based on the building. Mr. Moyer pointed out that there are PDE websites that parents can access and there are information sheets that outline what they can do to help. Ms. Fuller asked what kind of communication there is between grades 5 and 6. Mr. Nolan and Ms. Hoffman explained that they meet with the middle school staff and the information from elementary is passed on to the middle school and then the middle school information is passed on to the high school. Also eSchoolPlus provides tracking information. Mr. Nolan concluded that the format is just monitoring the interaction that takes place between the teachers and students each day.

Mr. Ballard asked how many students are encompassed in the percentages. Mr. Nolan said there were 12 new students in Grade 4 at Macungie School that illustrate the impact this can have on scores. Mr. Ballard suggested some ways that the variability could be tracked. He asked why the goals are not shooting for specific targets that are not based on the previous year and he also was concerned about the longitudinal data. He felt the district should be tracking every student and group by class for 12 years to provide better individualized information. Mr. Ballard also expressed concern about the goals and measuring and allocating resources to better address the problem areas. He felt the district needs to concentrate on answering this question, "Why should I as a member of the public or representative of the public be pleased with the results?" He suggested that the presentation also cover the many good things the district is doing and why we should be pleased with the performance.

Ms. Kowalchuk observed that the students are achieving better in math than in reading and asked how this was being addressed. Mr. Nolan said he will provide a list of strategies about what is being done in reading and math. Mr. Richwine suggested that the reading and math levels of proficiency may be different. Mr. Nolan clarified that the proficiency score for reading is 54 and for math is 45. Mr. Richwine asked if there are any mismatches in curriculum. Mr. Nolan was not aware of any mismatches but he was aware of some timing issues. A chapter in math may be taught after March and after the PSSA test has been given but the concept may be on the test. Ms. Hoffman explained how they are looking at the curriculum to try to address these issues. Mr. Richwine said one of the discussions had to do with teaching things that need to be taught and matching it up to the standards, noting East Penn is still well ahead. However, as we get closer to the expected 100% proficiency, we might be pushing in the direction of teaching to the test. Ms. Fuller said East Penn is a district that values education and we are operating under the expectation of 100% proficiency. The day may come that the reputation of the district hinges on the performance of 40 special education students and it is an unfair label. She would not want to put either the students or the teachers in that position. She suggested that now is the time to put amendments into NCLB to make it more realistic. Mrs. Thompson said she had a sense from the Board that there is a real concern about teaching to the test. She also commented on the longitudinal data issue as well. Ms. Hoffman indicated that with the PVAS system that the state is initiating it will allow for individual tracking. Mrs. Thompson felt that the district should be celebrating its successes. She felt it might be helpful to not only report the proficient but also the advanced and include the actual number of students in these categories. The Board needs to see the big picture not only the minutia all the time.

In closing, Dr. Ziolkowski thanked the Board for its questions as well as the time taken to review this information. He assured the Board that it is good, sound educational practices and the state has

pushed districts into being more accountable. Some of the things brought up, including the PVAS will provide a good map for an individual student's progress. He felt the presentations were very good and he is very proud of the group. More important, the Board is coming together with some of the ideas to make this picture.

7. Facilities

1. Macungie Campus Road Way Improvements – Exhibit 3

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Robert
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the submission of PDE Form 3074A for Macungie Campus Road Way Improvements as a non-reimbursable project.

Approval of Alburtis Zoning Decision and the Resolution Granting Conditional Preliminary Approval to the Land Development Plan (Exhibits 4 & 5)

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the attached Alburtis Zoning Decision and the Resolution granting conditional preliminary/final plan approval to the land development plan application of East Penn School District for 222 West Third Street, and approving the waiver requests in connection with that plan as outlined in Exhibits 4 and 5.

Change Orders - /Alburtis School & Emmaus HS

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following change orders:

Alburtis Elementary School

Lyons Construction Services, Inc.
5237 East Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg

GC-4 Contract sum will be decreased by this change order in the amount of (\$376,133.05)

Attachment A: In accordance with AIA A201-1987 General Conditions of the Contract, Page 7, Section 2.4 "Owners Right to Carry Out the Work." For owner to carryout and complete work unfinished, incomplete, damaged or faulty to originally have been performed by Lyons Construction Services, Inc. General Contractor for the East Penn School District/Alburtis Elementary School.

Emmaus High School – Building L

Lyons Construction Services, Inc.
5237 East Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg

GC-3 Contract sum will be decreased by this change order in the amount of (\$57,069.50)

Attachment A: In accordance with AIA A201-1987 General Conditions of the Contract, Page 7, Section 2.4 "Owners Right to Carry Out the Work." For owner to carryout and complete work unfinished, incomplete, damaged or faulty to originally have been performed by Lyons Construction Services, Inc. General Contractor for the East Penn School District/Emmaus HS –Building L.

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:
Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Gannon, Kowalchuk, Richwine, Robert, Thomas,

4. Archaeological Investigation – Sauerkraut Lane Site

Motion by Robert, Seconded by Thomas

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., Allentown, PA to perform the Phase I Archaeological Investigation for the Sauerkraut Lane Site at a cost not to exceed \$10,787.

Note: The above work will be coordinated by Liberty Engineering, Allentown, PA.

Ms. Gannon questioned how this will affect the time line for the elementary schools. Mr. Carl explained the field needs to be plowed before it freezes to begin Phase I. The results will be available in 30 days and then we will know if we have to move to Phase II. Ms. Gannon asked if there were any issues at the Wescosville site. Mr. Carl replied that there were no such issues. Ms. Gannon indicated she would be voting against the motion because of the switch from Wescosville. Mr. Ballard indicated he would vote affirmatively because he did not want to impede the progress. He said he was holding the staff responsible for completing the school on time. Ms. Kowalchuk commented on the time line after receiving the Phase I results. Mr. Richwine asked if anything had been found at any of the sites that would lead the district to believe there is something. Mr. Carl said artifacts have been found along the creek. Mr. Robert explained that they are looking for evidence of villages that would be closer to the creek. Ms. Fuller said that while the archaeological study is going on the civil engineer can continue. It will not stop the planning process.

This resolution was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Kowalchuk, Richwine, Robert , Thomas, Thompson----8

Nay: Gannon-----1

8. Business Operations

1. Approval of Bill List

Motion by, Seconded by

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the attached bill list, including the addenda, and that the Treasurer be authorized to issue checks and vouchers in the amounts indicated.

Treasurer’s Report

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Budget Transfers – Exhibit 6

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the budget transfers as listed on Exhibit 6.

Special Funding Disbursements – Exhibit 8

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the payment of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund and the PLGIT Series AA of 2004 as outlined on Exhibit 8.

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Gannon, Kowalchuk, Richwine, Robert, Thomas,

Thompson-----9

2. Approval of Tax Index Resolution for 2007-08 Budget – Exhibit 7

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Robert

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the Resolution regarding the Tax Index established by the Department of Education as outlined in Exhibit 7.

Solicitor Marc Fisher amended the resolution that is reflected in Exhibit 7. Mr. Ballard explained the resolution is in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 and states that the district will not increase taxes above the 3.4% index that was established in August. In response to a question from Mr. Robert, Mr. Reigal indicated that the maximum millage increase is 1.36 mills or 3.4% over the current millage.

This resolution was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:
Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Gannon, Kowalchuk, Richwine, Robert, Thomas, Thompson-----9

9. Board Sharing

Mr. Ballard reported that he will be presenting information to Representative Dent regarding the disconnect between IDEA and NCLB as part of the Federal Relations Network in Washington. East Penn School District has been selected as a growing district by PSBA and Mr. Ballard will be presenting testimony to the Task Force on School Cost Reduction at the PSBA Legislative Leadership Conference on February 26 in Hershey. Representatives from Dallastown and East Stroudsburg will also be testifying. Governor Rendell was speaking today at Lehigh regarding the new state health care program. The State Board of Education conducted its first hearings on Chapters 14 and 16. The federal government is requiring that the state be in compliance with new special ed and gifted ed regulations by June 30, 2007. The State Board must have the revisions in place by that time.

Ms. Fuller reported on the Joint Meeting of the East Penn and Western Salisbury Business Council and thanked Dr. Ziolkowski for his presentation along with Dr. Donohue, Superintendent of Parkland School District. They spoke on the challenges of educating students in districts that are grown. It was well received by the 65 members who were present.

Ms. Fuller noted that Dr. Corradetti was in attendance this evening and welcomed him. She commented on the Winter Band Concert and the support of the public for the activity. Former EHS Principal Liz Drake also attended the band concert. She also noted that Dr. Corradetti shared his time between the concert and a basketball game.

Mr. Richwine acknowledged the report from Activities Director Dennis Ramella that indicates the clubs and athletic teams available in Emmaus High School as well as the number of students participating and the cost. He asked that the information be included in the budget book.

Ms. Kowalchuk commented on the principals' reports and called attention to the number of community service projects involving the students. She commended the principals and faculties for their leadership.

Mrs. Thompson also commented on the Administrative Reports and noted the significance of the EHS Guidance Department being selected as one of the top scoring sites in the area of guidance in the United States. This is based on the 2006 High Schools That Work Assessment that was completed by Emmaus HS seniors last year.

In response to a request by Mrs. Thompson, Ms. Kowalchuk agreed to attend the January 25 PSBA Seminar on Act 1 and the Community.

10. Announcements

Monday, January 22	7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting, Board Room
January 24 & 25	Mid Term Exams
January 25, 26, 27	District Orchestra
Friday, February 2	6:00 p.m.-Pasta Pi-Jazz Spaghetti Dinner, EHS Cafeteria
February 9	Kindergarten, Elementary & Secondary Report Cards
February 10	2:00 p.m. - Lehigh County Chorus Festival, Southern Lehigh HS
February 12	7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting, Board Room

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion, at 9:40 p.m.

Cecilia R. Birdsell, Board Secretary