

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance

President Ann Thompson called the regular meeting of the East Penn Board of School Directors to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room located at 800 Pine Street, Emmaus, PA , followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Treasurer: Gary Reigal

Board Secretary: Cecilia R. Birdsell

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Thomas L. Seidenberger

Press Present: Kevin Ameran, Morning Call Reporter
Loretta Fenstermacher, East Penn Press Reporter

2. Student Recognition:

-National Merit Semi-Finalists – Emmaus HS

- Allyson Baer
- Bridget Donegan
- Irene Ho
- Caroline Hsu
- Michael Knerr
- Joseph Maurer
- Anna Schall
- Scott Strobel
- Michael Ward
- Cathy Wu

-National Merit Commended Students – Emmaus HS

- Aaron Cheung
- Allison Hoff
- Sarah Lee
- Mitchell Zachary
- Jake Moore
- Sneha Narasimhan
- Gopal Nataraj
- Megan Nixon
- William Smolinski
- Kristina Southwell
- Jonathan Tao
- Megan Weitner
- Matthew Wilson
- Allison Yau
- Erin Zaneski

Students who were present each received a Certificate of Achievement from Board President Ann Thompson and Dr. Thomas Seidenberger, Superintendent of Schools. Emmaus High School Principal Dave Piperato explained the background for the PSATs and what an outstanding achievement this is for both the students and parents. The students received a round of applause from the audience.

-Kristina Alford-National Achievement Scholarship Program

Miss Alford is one of the 3,000 outstanding National Achievement Scholarship participants being referred to U.S. colleges and universities. These students scored in the top 5% or more than 140,000 Black Americans who requested consideration in the 2008 National Achievement Program when they took the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This is the first Emmaus High School student to receive this honor. Miss Alford received a Certificate of Achievement and a round of applause from the audience.

3. Requests to Address the Board

Mrs. Julie Bisko, 6881 Sunflower Lane, Macungie spoke about the growth in the school district and urged the Board to consider plans for a new high school prior to the projected 2012. She has lived in the district for four years and overall is pleased with the district.

Mrs. Marianne Miller, Chestnut Street, Emmaus criticized the district regarding her son's IEP and academic progress in the district.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gannon, Seconded by Robert
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes for the September 24, 2007 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

5. Report of the Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Thomas L. Seidenberger

1. Personnel

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Gannon
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following personnel items:

Retirement

-James Tosh, Custodian at LMMS, effective October 12, 2007 (Exhibit 1)

General Leave of Absence

Employee: Mary Beth Backer, Remedial Assistant
Effective: September 2007-January 2008
Reference: Board Policy 539, General Leave

Leave as Per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Employee: Anne Finnegan
Grade 2, Shoemaker School
Effective: October 22, 2007

Temporary Professional Employee Appointment

Name/Address: Brett Snellman
6096 William Penn Court, Easton 18045
Education Level: B. S. Degree (2001)
M. Ed. Degree (2005)
Undergraduate: Kutztown University
Graduate School: Lehigh University
Assignment: Special Education, Emmaus HS
Vacancy created by resignation of Jessica Ortiz Eichert
Effective: To be Determined
Certification: Instructional I, Special Education
Experience: 8/05-6/07: Bethlehem School District
Salary: \$49,628 (Step C, Year 3, Col. M)

Appointment of Teacher Aide

Name/Address: Jessica Malewicz
219 North Fifth Street, Emmaus 18049
Assignment: Cafeteria/Playground, Wescosville School
Vacancy created by L. Jones transfer
Effective: October 9, 2007
Salary: \$11.55/hr., 14 hrs./wk.

Teacher Aide Transfer

<u>Employee</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lori Peluso	EHS, 16 hrs./wk.	EHS, 30 hrs./wk.

Co-Curricular Advisors – Eyer MS

Donna Root	Band Front	\$541.00
Sue Carraher	Builder's Club	\$1299.00, Club D
	Intramural Basketball	\$27.00/session, 8 sessions

Carrie England	Band Director	\$3031.00
	Ski Club, Co-Advisor	\$270.50, Club B
Justin Brehm	Choral Director	\$2165.00
Joe DiRado	Interactive CD Yearbook	\$1028.00, Club C
	PJAS Advisor	\$271.00, Club A
Julie Hummell	Mathcounts	\$541.00, Club B
Heidi Rauch	PJAS Advisor	\$271.00, Club A
	NJHS, Co-Advisor	\$514.00, Club C
Mike Hubbs	PJAS Advisor	\$271.00, Club A
	Yearbook	\$1299.00, Club D
Tracie O'Connor	PJAS Advisor	\$271.00, Club A
	NJHS, Co-Advisor	\$514.00, Club C
Brent Haley	Ski & Snowboard Club	\$270.50, Club B
	Co-Website Maintenance	\$433.00
Lisa Fisher	History Club	\$271.00, Club A
	SGA, Co-Advisor	\$649.50, Club D
Steve Braglio	Co-Website Maintenance	\$433.00
Kelsey Torpey	SGA, Co-Advisor	\$649.50, Club D
Alene Kraus	Jr. Kid-to-Kid	\$1299, Club D
Susan Highet	Art Club, LMMS	\$30.11/session, 4 sessions

Additions to the 2007-08 List of Per Diem Substitutes

Cynthia Buchter, Elementary Christopher Rector, Mathematics

Temporary Professional Employee Appointment

Name/Address: Sarah Pomerhn
332 Main Street, Emmaus

Education Level: B. S. Degree (2002)
M. Ed. Degree

Undergraduate: Valley Forge Christina College

Graduate School: Cedar Crest College

Assignment: Grade 6, Lower Macungie MS
Vacancy created by transfer of S. Noack to Assistant
Principal

Effective: October 15, 2007

Certification: Instructional I, Elementary

Experience: 10/06-Present: Allentown SD

Salary: \$48,846 (Step A, Year 1, Col. M)

Educational Conferences – Exhibit 2

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

District Testing Program – Exhibit 3

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the Testing Program to be administered throughout the district during the 2007-08 school year as listed on Exhibit 3.

Mrs. Thompson pointed out that height and weight were listed on this year's battery of tests. Ms. Gannon asked what tests comprise the Educational Testing Battery.

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:
Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Flanders, Fuller, Gannon, Kowalchuk, Richwine, Robert, Thompson-----9

6. Facilities

1. Albutis Elementary School

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Gannon
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve Change Order #1 with A. P. Houser, Inc. for the installation of two 24 x 24 access doors in the soffit at the main entrance at a cost of \$1,775.00.

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

2. Eyer Middle School

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Robert

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

Rizzetto Construction Management, Inc. – GC #9

<u>Adds:</u>	Cafeteria Acoustical Wall/Ceiling Panels	\$2,864.00
	Install 40" wide Electrical Room Door	\$1,096.00
	Install 26 Surface Mounted Soap Dispensers	\$1,081.00
	Install 6" Tile Base in lieu of 4" in toilet rooms	\$1,540.00
	Excavate & BackFill for UGI Gas Service	\$3,400.00
<u>Deducts:</u>	Cleaning Credit	(1,578.00)
	Delete lower rail chain link fence	(1,512.00)
	Total	\$6,891.00

Wind Gap Electric, Inc. – EC #2

<u>Adds:</u>	Underground PU11 boxes and R/C conduit	\$3,668.00
	Revisions	
	Library Computer and Circulation Desk revisions	\$8,224.00
	Install two SL-7 Step Lights at Loading Dock	\$ 694.00
	Install two Type D fixtures at A-214/A-215	\$ 590.00
	Install Data/Power at Teachers Area's C	\$2,477.00
<u>Deduct:</u>	Install 3 SL-7 instead of SL-8 fixtures	(144.00)
	Total	\$15,509.00

EC #3

Install miscellaneous motor, lighting, receptacles and security Items per Snyder-Hoffman Review Letter – 3/2/07 \$18,338.00

EC #4

Additional code required work during final inspection in phases 1 & 2 1 & 2 Summer 07 \$ 7,796.00

EC #5

Deduct: Miscellaneous unit cost dollars in contract (\$23,600.00)

Eyer Middle School Project – Substantial Completion

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve substantial completion for Phases 1A, 1C, 1D, and 2 for the following contracts:

Rizzetto Construction Management, Inc., General Construction
 Worth & Company, Inc., HVAC Construction
 Dual-Temp Company, Inc., Plumbing Construction
 Wind Gap Electric, Inc., Electrical Contract

Mr. Earnshaw commented on the positive improvements to the Eyer MS that he saw at the Meet the Teachers night. He talked about the huge windows and large commons area, concluding that the building is a tremendous asset to the district. In answer to a question asked by Mr. Richwine, Dr. Seidenberger said there are plans to have a tour for the Board.

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

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

7. Legislative

Charles H. Ballard

Mr. Ballard announced that PSBA is starting a new program called The Power of One with Pride and Promise being the theme. At the recent conference, the Legislative Policy Council overwhelming approved a change in the Legislative Platform to now put forth a proposal to change the Pension System for future public school employees. The

change would be from a defined benefits plan to a hybrid plan where there is a smaller defined benefits plan and a defined contribution plan. The Governor's Office is now pushing for a state-wide health care plan. This will be HB 1841 and it is uncertain about what is included. This would create a 12-member Health Care Trust Board with representatives from the various educational associations and the Commonwealth. Mr. Ballard explained that the Board would have to make decisions by a qualified majority vote (2 representatives from an entity would have to be in agreement). He reviewed the process that has to take place before a final plan could be implemented. This could replace all the healthcare plans that are currently in place as contracts are negotiated. The last time this concept was introduced it was estimated that this would not reduce costs for East Penn and could realistically cost more than what is currently paid.

Mr. Ballard reported that the Costing Out Study and the School Cost Reduction Report will be released sometime between October 23 and November 14. He felt the results could be interesting.

Mr. Ballard indicated that there are still property tax reform bills being introduced. Most recently was one from Senator Rhoads that would eliminate property tax but would raise the state income tax and sales tax. Under consideration are bills that would change the state bid limits, open records law, audio taping on school buses, cell phones and eating on buses by drivers, truancy, and Karen Beyer's bill regarding charter schools. Mr. Ballard said HB 36 would require establishing a first responder building mapping system for buildings of State agencies and political subdivisions; and providing for the powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. There there are issues involving epi pens, opening buildings for fire inspection, and OSHA inspections for public employers. There is a proposal for county-wide EIT collection. There are also bills looking at impact fees and requirements to notify school districts whenever developments are being planned. Mr. Ballard concluded that it is a very active legislative season.

The State Board has approved a variety of changes in certification as well as revisions to Chapter 14 regulations for special education and Chapter 16 regulations for gifted students. There are also seven new certificates that would change the scope of the grade levels being taught. The State Board is revising Chapter 4 to remove the current option for school districts to use either the PSSA or a local assessment to determine student proficiency as a graduation requirement.

8. Business Operations

1. Approval of the Bill List

Motion by Robert, Seconded by Earnshaw

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.

Record of Investments – Exhibit 4

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the investments listed on Exhibit 4.

Approval for Facility Rental

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors grant permission for the Patricia Bostick Dance Center, 5925 Tilghman Street, Allentown to use the Lower Macungie MS auditorium and classrooms for a dance rehearsal and recital on May 21, June 11, June 13, and June 14, 2008. This is a Group V organization and will be charged the following rental/rehearsal fees:

Auditorium (Daily Rental)	\$370.00
Auditorium (Daily Rental/Rehearsal)	\$315.00
Dressing Rooms	\$649.00
Custodial Fee	\$35.70/hr.
Security	\$10.00/hr.
Equipment/Technicians	\$35.70/hr.

Authorizing to Proceed with Financing

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the administration to work with Public Financial Management, as Financial Advisor, and Rhoads & Sinon LLP, as Bond Counsel, and proceed with issuance of \$10 million dollars in debt in accordance with the plan presented in April 2007. These funds will be used for the proposed Willow Lane Elementary School.

Special Disbursements – Exhibit 5

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the payment of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund and 2007 EGA Issue as presented on Exhibit 5.

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

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

9. Board Sharing

Dr. Seidenberger said the administrators are still collating the data for the number of volunteers who will receive all three clearances. There is still one school to be visited. They are also trying to ascertain if PDE is not processing fingerprinting for volunteers. This will be part of the agenda for the IU Superintendents' Advisory Council. Mr. Reigal and Mrs. Daniel are working on a cost report. Mr. Ballard suggested a fact sheet indicating what are the requirements, what is mandatory, and what are the costs. He asked if there could be an alternative screening process. Mr. Flanders concurred, adding that the information should list the various levels. Mr. Richwine noted that IU 20 is no longer doing fingerprinting, adding there is also an issue about people having to give their social security numbers.

Mr. Earnshaw commented favorably on the football game and the interaction between the high school band members and the middle school band members.

Mr. Earnshaw asked when there would be discussion about the owners' representative, noting that if something different is going to be done then the discussion needs to take place. Dr. Seidenberger indicated he would be ready the first meeting in November.

Mr. Richwine, commenting on the new certifications for specific grade levels, said that this will give the district less flexibility on assigning teachers. He felt there would be shortages, particularly in the Grades 4-8 levels.

Ms. Fuller announced that the East Penn Business Council will be sponsoring a reception to welcome Dr. Seidenberger to the community on Tuesday, October 9, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the EHS Cafeteria.

Ms. Fuller said LCTI received national recognition in a Beloit newspaper describing the positives of a technical education. Mrs. Thompson commented on the wonderful dedication ceremony at LCTI, adding that Ms. Fuller, Vice Chairman of the JOC, did an outstanding job with her remarks.

10. Announcements

Monday, October 8 7:00 p.m.-CLEAR Session (Real Estate, Confidential Matters)
7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting, Board Room

Friday, October 12 Pep Rally/Homecoming Football Game/Senior Breakfast-Emmaus HS

Monday, October 22 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 8:15 p.m.

Cecilia R. Birdsell
Board Secretary