

EAST PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 27, 2015 BOARD MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Earnshaw called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: K. Bacher, C. Ballard, L. Donches, A. Earnshaw, F. Fuller, Z. Munson,
S. Rhodes III, W. Vinovskis

Absent: R. Heid

Present: Marc S. Fisher, Esq., Worth, Magee & Fisher, Solicitor
Debra Surdoval, Treasurer
Janine L. Allen, Board Secretary
Dr. Michael Schilder, Superintendent of Schools

2. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

John Donches, 559 Minor Street, Emmaus, PA – Mr. Donches provided his opinion of the SRO and commented on safety issues, reallocation of funds and the investigation of the dumping at Wescosville E.S.

Aneita Sutton, 7256 Lincoln Court, New Tripoli, PA 18066 – Ms. Sutton announced she will be relocating to Florida in June and thanked the district for her 11 years of service working under The Nutrition Group.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Rhodes, Seconded by Donches

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the amended minutes of the April 13, 2015 Board meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. 2015-16 Revised School Budget: Summary of Changes

- Dr. Michael Schilder, Superintendent, and Debra Surdoval, Business Manager, presented the 2015-16 Revised School Budget: Summary of Changes PowerPoint reviewing the following areas:

- Level 1 Budget Changes: Appropriations 4/13/15
- Level 1 Budget Changes: Revenues 4/13/15

- Level 1 Budget Changes: Key Points 4/13/15
 - Level 2 Budget Changes: Appropriations Anticipated for 5/11/15
 - Level 2 Budget Changes: Revenues Anticipated for 5/11/15
 - Level 2 Key Points: Anticipated for 5/11/15
 - Level 3 Budget Changes: Revenue
 - Continued Work
 - Challenges & Goals
- Following the presentation, the Board shared concerns, asked questions and offered recommendations.
- Summary of concerns noted by the Board:
- Building in structural deficits
 - Reducing budgetary reserve below the guideline of 5%
 - Increases of PSERS, charter schools and special education expenses
 - Ramifications of not passing a proposed budget in May or not passing a final budget in June
 - Tax increase being at 3.78%
 - SRO remaining in budget at \$100,000
- Summary of requests for Administration from the Board:
- Take a look at \$325,000 for TIF donation being used to lower tax increase and \$250,000 committed fund balance for pension relief (totaling \$575,000)
 - Show dollar increase in PSERS expenses from last year to this year and this year to next year
 - Provide estimate of revenue projections
 - Provide a list of impact of reductions
- Solicitor Marc Fisher confirmed the Board could consider reversing a previously approved motion to commit the \$250,000 fund balance for the future retirement contribution.
- President Earnshaw clarified money cannot be spent from the budgetary reserve. Need majority vote (2/3) to transfer from budgetary reserve into another account.
- Dr. Schilder indicated the steps that have already been taken to reduce the budget which included building principals being requested to reduce their building budgets by 10% and Central Office being requested to reduce their budgets by 5 and 10%. A budget freeze was also put in place in February with the exception of critical expenditures being approved.

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

a. Dr. Schilder reported on the following:

- Educator Effectiveness Rating Tool
- Letter authorized by Dr. Torma regarding Educator Effectiveness Rating Tool was sent to 80 state law makers and Department of Education officials. The district feels strongly that the tool PDE has provided is flawed. Dr. Torma has had conversations with Deputy Sec. of Education, Tom Volkman. The formula used results in most teachers being rated as “Proficient”. The tool does not sufficiently delineate between the four ratings, raising questions of accountability and fairness. The tool is currently anchored in law.

- Mr. Ballard suggested that the letter might be too complex for most legislators to comprehend and recommended shortening the letter with bullet points and an attached explanation.

➤ School, Student, Staff, and Board Recognition

- Approximately 440 German students from 20 high schools across Pennsylvania competed in five events. EHS came in 1st place overall and 2nd place in German Trivia.
- The EHS Academic Team won for a third consecutive year at the CLIU academic competition.
- The EHS Biology Olympics team took first place in the 33rd Annual Biology Competition held at Cedar Crest College.
- 43 students from EHS were among the thousands of middle-level and high-school participants in the regional Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) at Easton Area High School. EHS students earned twenty-eight first-place awards, fourteen second-place awards, and one third-place finish.
- Nine computer programming students competed in a computer programming competition at the University of Scranton. The three Emmaus teams took 2nd, 4th, and 6th place among 30 teams.
- The Emmaus HS Math team won 2nd place at the Bucknell University Math Contest, competing against 25 schools and 188 students.
- 29 EHS students attended the PA FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA. 10 students placed in the top 10 in their respective events.

6. PERSONNEL

Motion by Vinovskis, Seconded by Ballard

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

a. Retirement(s) (Exhibit #1)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Building</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Dorothy Grois | Staff Assistant | EHS | 6/11/15 |
| Deborah Zosky | Social Studies Teacher | EHS | 6/11/15 |

b. Early Retirement Incentive Program (Exhibit #2)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Building</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Marjilou Ackerman | Grade 1 Teacher | Lincoln ES | 6/11/15 |
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Building</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
| Joseph DiRado | Science Teacher | Eyer MS | 6/11/15 |
| Patricia Novobilski | Math Teacher | Eyer MS | 6/11/15 |
| Regina Oster | Art Teacher | EHS | 6/11/15 |

c. Resignation(s) (Exhibit #3)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Building</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Jodiann Hoffer | Staff Assistant | Lincoln ES | 4/10/15 |
| Barbara Hoffman | Food Service Assistant | Eyer MS | 5/29/15 |

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Building</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| AC Russell | Coach | EHS | 11/14/14 |
| Jennifer Wylie | Art Teacher | Alburtis/Wescosville ES | 6/11/15 |

d. Staff Assistant Appointment(s)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Assignment</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Heidi Trinkle | Willow Lane ES | \$14.22/hr. | 5/11/15 |
| | Resignation of Akila Shankar | 24.5 hrs./wk. | |

e. Co-Curricular Appointment(s) - Schedule B (Exhibit #4)

f. Additions to the 2014-15 List of Per Diem Substitutes (Exhibit #5)

- Reverend Vinovskis recognized the retirees who have touched the lives of their students and expressed his gratitude for Ms. Sutton for her work with the Nutrition Group.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 8

Absent: Heid – 1

7. BUSINESS OPERATIONS

a. Bid Opening Report (Exhibit #6)

General School and Computer Supplies

b. Bid Opening Report (Exhibit #7)

Roof Replacement on Selected Sections of Emmaus High School

c. Award Contract – Roof Replacement on Selected Sections of EHS

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors award the contract for “Roof Replacement on Selected Sections of Emmaus High School” for Area 13 only, contingent upon submittal and approval of all required bonds and certificates of insurance and the execution of a written contract, all to the satisfaction of the Solicitor to the low bidder identified below; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the bids for Area 12 be rejected.

C & D Waterproofing Corp.
 300 Papermill Road
 Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Amount of Bid: \$542,940.00

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 8

Absent: Heid – 1

d. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Motion by Donches, Seconded by Munson

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors accepts the funds in the amount of \$32,483.62 which was obtained from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General to establish a memorial scholarship fund in the name of Sergeant Ashly Lynn Moyer.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 8

Absent: Heid – 1

e. Approval of Bill List

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the attached bill list and that the Treasurer be authorized to issue checks and vouchers in the amounts indicated, as per Exhibit #8.

➤ Ms. Donches stated she will continue to vote no until process is changed.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 7

Nay: Donches - 1

Absent: Heid – 1

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Donches, that Items 7.f. and 7.g. be voted on together.

f. Budget Transfers - 2014-2015

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve budget transfers, as per Exhibit #9.

g. Treasurer's Report

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the Treasurer's Report for month ended March 31, 2015, as per Exhibit #10.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 8

Absent: Heid – 1

h. Contracts/Agreements

Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Donches, that the following items be voted on together.

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following agreement, as per Exhibit #11:

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Type of Agreement</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf | 2015 Extended School Year (ESY) | \$8,120 |

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following contract, as per Exhibit #12:

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Type of Contract</u> |
|-----------------|--|
| Nutrition, Inc. | Food Service Management Renewal Contract |

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following agreement, as per Exhibit #13:

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Type of Agreement</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------|---|---------------|
| CLIU #21 | CLIU Technology Pool Legal Services Consultation Agreement | \$600 - \$900 |

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

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Type of Contract</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| T. V. | Parent/Guardian Transportation Contract 12/1/14 through 3/25/15 (11.70 miles round trip – Jefferson ES & LMMS) | \$.575/mile |

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 8

Absent: Heid – 1

Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Donches

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following agreement, as per Exhibit #14:

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Type of Agreement</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| PPL Electric Utilities | Grant of Right-of-Way |

- Some Board members expressed their dissatisfaction of PPL removing and cutting down a line of mature trees along Sauerkraut Road two years ago changing the appearance and character of the community.
- Dr. Bacher indicated he will not be supportive of this agreement. He proposed striking the language that allows PPL at their discretion to “cut down any and all trees within twenty-five (25) feet each side of centerline of the electric/communication line and the right to trim any and all trees within twenty-five (25) feet each side of centerline of the electric/communication line and to remove brush along said lines”.
- Solicitor, Mr. Fisher, confirmed it would have to be an agreement with all parties. He clarified PPL will be relocating the existing 9 poles moving them 40 feet inward remaining on school district property. This property will ultimately be the Jaendl Land Development. Under the Jaendl agreement, the school district is obligated to cooperate and grant required utility easements. He does not feel the district is in the position to negotiate one way or the other.

- As a retiree of PPL, Mr. Ballard provided an explanation of PPL’s decisions advising that PPL is within its right to take down any trees that are within the easement. He indicated trying to send this agreement back with removing the language, will not be a wise choice.
- Dr. Bacher recommended a standard be placed in the agreement, using a judgment of what could be cut down for their right of ways

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

Aye: Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Rhodes -5

Nay: Bacher, Munson, Vinovskis - 3

Absent: Heid – 1

8. CURRICULUM

a. Educational Conferences

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the estimated expenses for the individual(s) attending educational conference(s), as per Exhibit #15.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 8

Absent: Heid – 1

9. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Take from the Table - Paperless Board Meetings

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Donches

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors take from the table the motion made by Munson, seconded by Heid, to discuss paperless Board meetings.

- President Earnshaw announced this motion is not subject to debate.

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

Aye: Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 7

Nay: Bacher - 1

Absent: Heid – 1

a. Paperless Board Meetings

Motion by Munson, Seconded by Donches

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors re-table the Paperless Board Meetings due to Ms. Heid’s absence requesting discussion to occur at a future date.

Motion defeated by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Bacher, Donches, Fuller, Munson - 4

Nay: Ballard, Earnshaw, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 4

Absent: Heid – 1

Item does not return to the table.

- Following the discussion on paperless meetings, it was the consensus of the Board to request the administration to present a report offering cost analysis, vendor research, wireless and laptop options, and distribution of paper copies vs. electronic and public copies.

10. POLICY

- a. Board Policy 707, Attachment 1 - Use of School Facilities, Rental Fees

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Rhodes

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve Board Policy 707, Attachment 1, Rental Fees for Use of School Facilities to be effective July 1, 2015, as per Exhibit #16.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis - 8

Absent: Heid – 1

11. LEGISLATIVE

- a. Mr. Ballard reported on the following:

- Senator Education Committee approved the new Secretary of Education
- House Committee on Finance postponed their vote on tax reform
- Independent fiscal office released analysis of governor's tax proposal proposing low income residence property tax to increase \$10 to \$15 with higher income residence property taxes being higher
- Proposing revenue department authorize to continue sending out money to districts at the same rate as previous year if budget not passed in time
- Hold harmless is biggest issue with regard to the Basic Education Funding. Need to determine how to increase money going into poor districts.
- Issues being debated regarding the budget include, tax increases, pension system, liquor stores, allocation of Special Education Funding, adding grandchildren to bereavement leave and other unfunded mandates, EITC issues and dual enrollment
- Senate Bill 643 would amend Sunshine Act giving public access to contract negotiations
- Senate Bill 645 would require proposed collective bargaining agreements to be available on employer's website for 48 hours prior to approval

- President Earnshaw added comment regarding the delay in sending out of tax bills indicating discount periods are codified by law. If the district waits too long, tax payers will not be able to take advantage of the installment payments.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Executive Session: | Monday, April 27, 2015 – 7:15 p.m. (personnel & real estate) |
| Next Board Meeting: | Monday, May 11, 2015 - 7:30 p.m. |

13. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, Motion to adjourn was made by Ballard,
Seconded by Bacher at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janine L. Allen
Board Secretary
East Penn School District