

EAST PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

**BOARD MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Earnshaw called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Press Present: Peter McConnell, East Penn Press  
Precious Petty, The Express Times – L.V. Live  
Dan Sullivan, The Morning Call  
Randy Kraft, 69 News

**2. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Giovanni Landi, 869 Frank Drive, Emmaus, PA 18049 – He expressed his concern regarding the burial and removal of the construction debris on district property behind Wescosville Elementary and the way it is being handled.

Chris Donatelli, 1695 Beech Lane, Macungie, PA 18062 – He shared his concern regarding the burial and removal of construction debris on district property behind Wescosville Elementary.

Tara Ohl, 8448 Walbert Lane, Alburtis, PA 18011 – She requested assistance from the Board regarding a busing issue explaining the steps she has taken in an effort to obtain a safe bus stop. She expressed her concern of the safety issues regarding the bus stop her children are to be using.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** by Bacher, Seconded by Ballard  
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

**4. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Dr. Michael Schilder**

a. District Update

Transportation:

Dr. Schilder reported progress is being made and summarized the following outstanding issues:

- Late pick up at EHS due to Seven Generations early dismissal on Wednesdays
- STA not making return telephone calls in a timely fashion
- Late buses at Shoemaker ES for dismissal
- Driver shortages
- Parent complaints regarding drivers dropping off K & 1<sup>st</sup> graders without parent/guardian at stop
- Delays in confirmations for athletic and building field trips
- Slow in addressing e-mails, no specific personnel assigned to deal with e-mail concerns

He also stated that personnel changes within STA have been made and an upcoming meeting is scheduled with STA management to review proposed solutions, which may include additional buses.

Dr. Schilder advised Mrs. Ohl that he and Dr. Mirabella will personally visit the street that STA has declared unsafe.

Recognition

- Wescosville Elementary School has been selected for the 2014 Best of Allentown Awards for Elementary Schools.
- Dr. Denise Torma, Assistant Superintendent, has been invited to present the district’s E-Folio system at the National School Boards Association's 75th Annual Conference, in Nashville, Tennessee, March 21-23, 2015.
- Michele James, Elementary Coordinator of C&I, and Erin Murphy, Technology Integration Resource Teacher, have been asked to present at the Lehigh Mobile Learning and Teaching Summit on October 18, 2014.
- Scott Didra, EHS Industrial Arts teacher, has been selected as the Pennsylvania Technology and Engineering High School Teacher of the Year. Scott will be recognized at both the state level in Camp Hill and at the national level in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Didra has also been selected to receive the Innovative Educator Award on behalf of the Department of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology at Millersville University.
- Board member, Francee Fuller has received the 2014 Athena Award for the East Penn Chamber of Commerce. A dinner in her honor has been scheduled for October 28th.

**5. PERSONNEL**

**Motion** by Ballard, Seconded by Rhodes

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

a. Resignation(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jackie LaPierre	Food Service	EHS	9/13/14
Alan Dolan	Instructional Assistant	Wescosville ES	9/12/14

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Katie Roberts	Health/PE Full-time Sub.	LMMS	TBD

b. General Leave of Absence(s) – Board Policy 539, General Leave

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kristina Wall	Teacher, Grade 3	Willow Lane ES	10/14/14 – 4/27/15

c. Leave of Absence(s) as Per Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kelly Mussleman	Teacher, Biology	EHS	10/20/14 – 12/1/14

d. Income Protection Leave(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Date</u>
Amanda Lawler	Personnel Confidential Assistant	Administration	10/7/14 – 10/13/14

e. Instructional/Staff Assistant Appointment(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Amy Boneberger Effective: 9/23/14	Remedial Assistant New position – Title I funding	\$14.25/hr. 29hrs./wk.
Michelle Taylor Effective: 9/23/14	Remedial Assistant New position – Title I funding	\$14.25/hr. 29hrs./wk.
Elizabeth Chadwell Effective: 9/23/14	Remedial Assistant New position – Title I funding	\$14.25/hr. 29hrs./wk.
Hanna Arnold Effective: 9/23/14	Remedial Assistant Resignation of K. Yessen	\$14.25/hr. 29hrs./wk.
Kathy Miller Effective: 9/23/14	Remedial Assistant New position – Title I funding	\$14.25/hr. 29hrs./wk.
Tracy Weaver Effective: 9/23/14	Staff Assistant – Wescosville ES Retirement of D. Kehs	\$14.22/hr. 12.5hrs./wk.
Amy Jo Glynn Effective: 9/23/14	Staff Assistant – Wescosville ES Transfer of E. Lynn to New Position	\$14.22/hr. 12.5hrs./wk.
Sandra Velez Effective: 9/23/14	Staff Assistant – EHS New Position	\$14.22/hr. 20hrs./wk.
Elizabeth Park Effective: 9/23/14	Staff Assistant – Alburtis ES Resignation of R. Flynn	\$14.22/hr. 12.5hrs./wk.
Rosanne Kocher Effective: 9/23/14	Instructional Assistant – LMMS Resignation of A. Moxey	\$14.22/hr. 29hrs./wk.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Donna Archer	Instructional Assistant – EMS	\$14.22/hr.
Effective: 9/23/14	Resignation of L. Fritzing and subsequent transfers	29hrs./wk.

f. Support Staff Transfer(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Ruth Pepe	Staff Assistant – Lincoln ES	Remedial Assistant
Effective: 9/23/14	10hrs./wk.	29hrs./wk. New Position – Title I Funding
Laura Wieder	Instruction Assistant – Shoemaker ES	Remedial Assistant
Effective: 9/23/14	29hrs./wk.	29hrs./wk. Resignation of S. Seremula

g. Co-Curricular Appointment(s)

2014-15 Schedule B (Exhibit #1)

h. 2014-15 List of Per Diem Substitutes - additions (Exhibit #2)

i. 2014-15 New Teacher Induction Mentor - addition

Name  
Debra Barthold

In response to Ms. Donches’ question regarding the Title I funded new positions, Dr. Schilder commented that if Title I funding decreased, the position(s) could either be eliminated or included in the budget. This would need to be part of the budget developmental process.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis-----9

## 6. BUSINESS OPERATIONS

a. Approval of Bill List (Exhibit #3)

**Motion** by Munson, Seconded by Rhodes

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.

Ms. Donches stated that since there is not enough information provided she will be abstaining. Expressing her concern as to what other things have been hidden in the descriptions of items on the bill list over the years, she provided examples of why the Board should have more information. On two particular payments relating to the burying of waste at Wescosville ES, a description was given as rental equipment for Best Line Equipment and supplies for Scheuermann Excavating. If the descriptions were described as bucket trucks, triaxle and fill, perhaps the Board would have inquired about the work being done at Wescosville. She continues to feel detailed information would prevent Board members from approving checks that are used for illegal acts, explaining the Board has fiduciary responsibility for the expenses

and there is not enough information to make decisions. Dr. Munson stated that continuing to ask the staff to produce detailed codes in an attempt to prevent illegal activity would require extra staff time. Dr. Bacher requested that during discussions Board members not refer to “illegal” activity by the District since nothing has been determined to be illegal. President Earnshaw clarified nothing has been brought forward regarding the removal of construction debris from WES that would justify the characterization of illegal acts. He recommended using the words potentially or allegedly illegal as opposed to the word illegal.

President Earnshaw commented on Ms. Donches’ ongoing requests over the past several years and her continuous need to abstain. Dr. Bacher pointed out a greater amount of time would be spent by the staff if this detailed list was requested of the staff each board meeting. He questioned if it is worth the added staff time and expense of the tax payers and does not feel this investigative work produced suspicious data to warrant these requests to continue and does not feel it is justified. Ms. Donches read a statement from the Department of Environmental Protection which stated it is unlawful to dispose of any waste at a facility or site that does not have a permit to accept such waste. To avoid this from happening in the future, she recommended looking into a system that would generate a report in seconds giving us the detailed check information needed, suggesting a journal is what she is possibly looking for.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis-----8  
 Abstain: Donches-----1

**Motion** by Bacher, Seconded by Vinovskis

Resolved, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve items 6. b. and c. below:

b. Disbursement of Funds

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the expenditure of funds from the 33-2010 GOB Series A, as per Exhibit #4.

c. Contracts

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following contract(s), as per Exhibit #5:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type of Agreement</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21	2014-2015 Title I Services at St. Ann School	\$37,254.75

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis-----9

**7. CURRICULUM**

a. Educational Conferences

**Motion** by Rhodes, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approves the estimated expenses for the individual(s) attending educational conference(s), as per Exhibit #6.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis-----9

## 8. LEGISLATIVE – C. Ballard

Mr. Ballard reported on current legislative activity providing the following key points:

- House approved cigarette tax of \$2/pack for Philadelphia school system who can receive \$45 million from that tax
- Senate Bill 76 being reviewed by the Senate Finance Committee and is totally silent on how funds will be distributed, State will be distributing on an unknown formula
- Urged public to contact senators asking how they can approve something that their own fiscal office says cannot cover bills
- Property tax elimination should do job of funding education at same time it is reducing property tax expenditures
- Proposed bill allowing teachers in our schools to carry a gun
- Truancy violations
- Parkland hosted the School Basic Education Funding Commission where people testified regarding the economic situation, hearings to continue over the next several months
- Legislation not tackling pensions or property tax reduction
- Currently 80% of the funds that the District expends come from local tax payers
- Putting all monetary policy on the State sending back the money that they may have received from tax payers

Ms. Donches defined hold harmless as never getting less than what you already get. The State is to provide funding for education and there is a concern of raising taxes. Mr. Ballard clarified that the IFO (Independent Fiscal Report) has put out their numbers, some claiming the wrong inflation number was used for property taxes with no escalation factor, therefore not covering inflation. Dr. Bacher stated there is a large shift from corporations to citizens since corporations pay property taxes but don't necessarily pay sales tax. Money would be coming from residents rather than corporations increasing the burden on the citizens of the commonwealth.

President Earnshaw offered the following statistics regarding per pupil funding:

- State funding average was \$4,900 per pupil for the 10-11 school year
- Per pupil funding ranges from a low of \$1,818 in district in Derry Township, Dolphin County to a high of \$13,700 in Duquesne City (taken over by the State)
- Farrell Area SD, Mercer County received \$10,550 per pupil
- East Penn received \$2,613 per pupil

Reverend Vinovskis reported on the subcommittee hearing held at Parkland HS providing the following information:

- 501 districts with various populations and demographics such as urban districts, Bethlehem & Allentown, suburban district, Parkland, and rural districts, Northwestern and Northern Lehigh
- Urban school districts are very densely populated with low property values
- Challenge in education is the fact that there is no correlation with the amount of money you spend vs. the outcome
- East Penn is a spoiler for a lot of districts, having the highest outcome
- Some districts spend more, having a lower outcome of students

- Huge issue is for the state to come up with a formula to meet equitable needs of each school district that fairly provides resources to educate all students
- Urged everyone to go on the website to gain an understanding of the complexity of these issues

Dr. Bacher clarified that the hold harmless only applies to the current state funding. There is a potential huge gap for East Penn if the state only pays us the hold harmless which is approximately \$2,600 per student.

Following the discussion on the legislative report, Ms. Donches continued to express her concerns regarding the Wescosville remediation issue. She asked the solicitor if it is unlawful to dispose of waste at a facility or site without a permit. She offered to provide a copy of a letter she received from DEP to Marc Fisher. Ms. Donches is in favor of having the remediation done, but after the proper investigation is completed in an effort to identify people involved.

During the discussion on Ms. Donches' proposal to pursue an investigation, she asked the Board what would be the proper steps to convince them to proceed. Several Board members expressed their dissatisfaction of this issue being brought up repeatedly, agreeing to allow the proper authorities handle the remediation which is in accordance with DEP and EPA regulations and guidelines, and requested the continuous need to ask for an investigation be halted. Ms. Fuller provided her thoughts stating she trusts the proper authorities would be notified and the Board would act accordingly. She pointed out that people who were responsible for burying the waste last year are no longer in the District and current administration acted appropriately when it was brought to their attention. Ms. Donches contended that even though the people involved are no longer in the district it does not mean they can't be contacted for an investigation. Dr. Schilder advised the Board he was assured by the DEP, EPA and the asbestos management firm that there is no harm to children or any person in the area whether the material stays in the ground or is removed. He confirmed the EPA will be on site and that both the EPA and DEP indicated the District is handling this situation appropriately. Dr. Schilder stated he has no interest in conducting an investigation unless the Board directs him to do so. As far as he is concerned, this issue has been properly handled, and is therefore now a non-issue.

Ms. Donches requested the Board to direct the Administration to request an investigation. Dr. Bacher agreed Administration would cooperate should the authorities feel there is a need to investigate but does not think this warrants the expense of an investigation nor does he think the Board has the authority to request the EPA and DEP to investigate. Mr. Fisher confirmed the district cannot give directive to the DEP and EPA. President Earnshaw clarified that asbestos is only hazardous when it is friable and it has been determined by our consultant that it is not friable. Ms. Donches noted that when asbestos is broken up, fibers are released therefore becoming hazardous. Mr. Ballard commented it is his understanding that the DEP declined to investigate, but will have a representative present during the removal process. Reverend Vinovskis reaffirmed that Dr. Schilder acted appropriately and the Board acted on this at a public meeting. With regard to a crime being committed, he stated if local police or DEP feel there was a crime committed, they will direct their resources at the perpetrators. President Earnshaw clarified that he was speaking of civil lawsuit, not criminal in reference to the cost of a law suit possibly exceeding the cost of remediation. Discussion on this matter was closed.

In response to Ms. Donches' question regarding the treasurer's report, President Earnshaw confirmed that the last treasurer's report was received on June 9<sup>th</sup> and reminded the Board a final treasurer's report will be submitted after the audit has been completed and adjustments for the

final accruals have been done. Ms. Surdoval confirmed May's report had been submitted and the June report will be provided at the next board meeting.

## 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS


President Earnshaw announced there was no Executive Session.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, October 13, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

## 10. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, Motion to adjourn was made by Fuller, Seconded by Bacher at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Board Secretary

East Penn School District