

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance

President Charles H. Ballard 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: K. Bacher, C. Ballard, L. Donches, A. Earnshaw, F. Fuller, R. Heid, S. Rhodes, III, J. Stolz
Board Member Absent: M. Policano
Solicitor: Marc S. Fisher, Esq., Worth, Magee, & Fisher
Treasurer: Lynn Glancy
Board Secretary: Cecilia R. Birdsell
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Thomas L. Seidenberger

Press Present: Loretta Fenstermacher, East Penn Press Reporter
Jennifer Rodgers, Morning Call Reporter
Jennifer Marangos, Emmaus.Patch.com Reporter

2. Requests to Address the Board

Jennifer Taylor, Wescosville, and the parent of a child attending Seven Generations Charter School, read the attached letter.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Fuller
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

4. Local Audit Report - Mr. Bill Gorman, Gorman & Associates

1. Acceptance of Local Audit

Motion by Rhodes, Seconded by Fuller
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors accept the district's local audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011 as prepared by the firm of Gorman & Associates, P.C.

Auditor Bill Gorman explained the purpose of the audit was to look over the financial reporting and to see if the district is in compliance with state and federal regulations and generally accepted accounting principles and standards. He does not audit the operational or governance aspects of the school district. In addition, he is required to report to the Board any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in those controls and any major compliance issues in association with the School Board. Following the audit, Mr. Gorman said he was pleased to report that the district was in complete compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and there were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in those controls. The year before he reported there were two significant deficiencies that have been corrected by management so there are none to report. The district is in compliance with the school laws of Pennsylvania and municipal laws associated with the district. The district is also in full compliance with federal programs and there are no deficiencies associated with the controls for those programs. He commended the administration from a financial reporting standpoint, from the compliance of the laws and regulations that they are providing the guidance and reporting as under the law and accounting principles for government bodies.

He called attention to the change in accounting principles that affected all governments. Due to this change there may be variances with the 2009-2010 audit. Mr. Gorman explained that the categories of fund balance were changed and also changed the definitions of governmental funds as well as the types. Prior years would show under the Special Revenue column there would be two funds - Athletic which is now consolidated and the General Operating column. The Capital Reserve Fund was the other fund and is now classified as a Capital Projects Fund. Mr. Gorman explained the five categories of fund balance - Nonspendable; Restricted; Committed; Assigned; and Unassigned. (Note: These funds are defined in Board Policy 629, Fund Balance (attached for reference). Mr. Gorman explained each of these categories and provided examples for each category. Mrs. Donches questioned the difference in Debt Service from the audit report to the recent bond refinancing. Mr. Gorman pointed out that the Audit Report is for the year ending June 30, 2011 and would not include the January 2012 bond information. The report does cover any re-issuances up to November 2011. She said during the campaign she was told that the debt service was not close to 15 million dollars and it looks like it was. She questioned if there was a 1.6 million dollar savings. Mr. Gorman said he had not seen the official statement from the bond issue and that would come under next year's audit. He further noted that in the statement there is a page of all the district's outstanding debt at the time the official statement was issued. If there were any bond payments in 2011 up to when the bond was implemented then that would be taken into consideration on the schedules that show the debt. Upon review of what Mrs. Donches was asking, Mr. Gorman said what she was looking at is the total

debt (principal and interest of the new issue) and the 15 million dollars is the amount that would have been generated and paid for in the 2011-12 year. Mr. Bacher said one of the discrepancies was the district's total payments and responsibilities and that was the difference and some is paid for by the state.

Mr. Earnshaw thanked Mr. Gorman for his professionalism and thorough job on the audit. Mr. Gorman said the auditor makes the determination of what is tested and what is not. The profession says that the auditor could test on 60% of the revenue and 60% of expenditures to be within the professional standards. In the General Fund, he tests between 80%-85% of expenditures; in the revenue area, he tests around 90%, and, in the Capital Project/Capital Reserve Fund, he tests 100% because of the bond money and the district's obligations to the bond holders. He concluded that East Penn was in good shape from a financial reporting standpoint. Mr. Ballard talked about the material defect being in the process rather than significant amounts of money missing. Mr. Gorman talked about internal controls to insure that fraud and errors are prevented. A material deficiency in the controls could create fraud and misrepresent the financial statements. A significant deficiency is a step down from a material deficiency and will not cause a material misstatement; however, it is important enough to bring to the attention of the governing body. He informed Mr. Ballard that they did not find any kind of fraud or money being taken by an administrator or clerk. He would have notified the Board at the time it was discovered. He talked about the small funds/items that are not under central management. There are no slush funds.

This resolution was duly adopted by the following:

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Rhodes, Stolz-----8

Absent: Policano-----1

5. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

1. District Update

Referring to Agenda Item 8.4 (Expending Funds from the Capital Reserve Account), Mr. Glancy reported on two hot water heater failures at Shoemaker and Eyer Middle School. The replacement cost for these two hot water heaters is \$20,200 and will be paid with Capital Reserve Fund money. In a separate handout, Mr. Glancy indicated that the \$20,200 has been included in the 2012-13 Capital Reserve Fund Projection and the Fund History has also been updated. The projected amount for paving is also included in the projection. He encouraged the Board to support the resolution. The heaters need to be replaced so hot water can be provided for kitchen production and other sanitary needs. His plan is to give the Board a total update at the February 27 meeting. Mr. Earnshaw asked why the water heater replacement was in the 2012-13 budget. Mr. Glancy will move the funds to the current year. Mrs. Donches asked if this was the kind of thing that needed to go out to bid. Mr. Glancy said the maintenance staff will be completing the removal and installation. The water heaters are coming to the district through the state contract process. Mrs. Donches asked how old the Eyer water heater was and Mr. Glancy responded that it was 12-13 years old. These are high efficiency water heaters (possibly 95%). Ms. Fuller asked Mr. Glancy to explain the bidding process. He said normally a project cost of \$10,000 or more would be advertised and bid specifications would be required and then the bid awarded. If a district goes through the state contract process, the state has already gone through the steps and the vendors who want to participate have taken a part in the process.

Dr. Seidenberger reported on the following activities by students and staff:

- ✓ Elementary Chamber Orchestra performed at the Emmaus Snow Blast
- ✓ Former Emmaus HS student Dane DeHaan has a leading role in the film, Chronicles, currently playing at the Rave Theater. He is also in three yet-to-be released movies.
- ✓ Community Liaison Nicole Bloise has been investigating how districts have set up Foundations and acquired 501C status. She has contacted Parkland, Nazareth, and Wilson-West Lawn. The Board would have to direct the administration to pursue it. The Foundation would be independent of the Board and perhaps the Superintendent and another board member could be ex officio without voting rights. An attorney would be needed to draft the Articles of Incorporation. He said it may be something to look at to provide alternative funding. He said a purpose would have to be established and a goal. Several years ago, Dr. Seidenberger met with the Executive Director of the Mid Atlantic Foundation Group when the district was looking at funding for the all weather track. He has also received an email from a former student, Jay Iannini, who is now living in MA and is chairperson of their foundation and would be willing to help.
- ✓ The Emmaus High School National Intention Signings involved 16 students who have been awarded 1.2 million dollars in scholarships. Some of the institutions represented are Duke, Northwestern, and University of Richmond. Three of the students are academic All Americans; Four are members of the National Honor Society. Dr. Seidenberger called attention to the fact that these young people are students before they are athletes.
- ✓ All 11 of the Merit Semi Finalists have moved on to be finalists.
- ✓ Eyer MS and LMMS participated in the MathCounts competition. LMMS placed 7th out of 30 participating districts; Eyer placed 2nd. Katie Xue, placed third and will move on to the state level and Sameer Lai placed eighth. Eyer Middle School, is coached by Julie Hummell; Paul Duarte coaches the LMMS team.
- ✓ The district is requesting that parents who are involved in science, technology, or engineering fields volunteer to serve on the district's STEM Advisory Committee. We have 16 individuals who have contacted the district.
- ✓ Kevin Campbell from Barry Isett & Associates is helping the district complete a Green Ribbon School Application.
- ✓ Referring to the 2012-13 calendar, it was noted that November 6, 2012 will be a county wide Act 80 day.
- ✓ The Emmaus HS Future Business Leaders Association has 11 students moving on to the state finals.

- ✓ There were 4 EHS/LCTI students who competed in the Skills USA competition. The winners were: Quaniesha Grant, Commercial Baking; Benjamin Uhl, Electronics Technology; Brandy O'Brien, Nurse Assisting; and Kaitlyn Bennicoff, Food & Beverage Service.
- ✓ Three Emmaus HS teachers have been selected by The College Board for scoring AP Tests: Steve Kutz, Spanish; Todd Burkhardt, Mathematics; and Beth Stoudt, AP Calculus.
- ✓ Attached is a list of students from each building who are contributing to community partnerships. This information will also be on the web site.

In conclusion, Dr. Seidenberger said that he is proud of what the students and staff are doing in the community and it should be known that they do give back to the community.

Dr. Seidenberger talked about the Governor's budget, noting the change in funding from separate accounts to the new designation, Student Achievement Education Block Grant that is currently \$14,423,807. In addition, special education funding is level; there is no ABG Grant; and no reimbursement for charter schools. The Business Office staff has been trying to decipher what the district will be getting and how it compares to last year. He distributed two spread sheets - one from the Democratic Party and one from the Republican Party. Every professional association in the state will be conducting webinars and training sessions. Referring to the level special education funding, he talked about the increase in students, noting that the funding has not increased in five years. At some point, there needs to be a hard look at how special education is funded. Referring to mandates, Dr. Seidenberger cited the Right to Know Law, school bus idling, Keystone Exams, Tax Study Commissions, Act 32, transportation for private charter schools, required standard budget forms, body mass index, wellness policies, Workplace Safety Committees, and so forth. Dr. Seidenberger then discussed the legislated mandated programs that are underfunded by the state and the federal government. Using the attached chart, he noted that the lost revenue for charter school reimbursement is \$915,258; Special education lost revenue is \$1,520,100 if reimbursed at 40% instead of 16.7%; English Language Learners lost revenue if wholly reimbursed is \$545,434. There is no reimbursement for the gifted program that has a net cost of \$513,804. The Act 32 Countywide EIT Collection costs \$25,297. The total lost revenue to East Penn is \$4,753,721 and the estimated amount that the index and estimated exceptions generates is \$2,411,330. If that money was received from the state and federal government, there would be no tax increase. He felt these numbers must be shared with elected officials.

2. Personnel

Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Stolz

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

Resignations

- Lora Walters, Health Room Assistant, effective January 27, 2012 (Exhibit 1)
- Christine White, Emmaus High School Staff Assistant, effective February 14, 2012 (Exhibit 2)

Requests for General Leaves of Absence - Board Policy 539, General Leave

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Carole Limar, Staff Assistant Willow Lane School	1/31/12-1/30/13
Stephanie Fisher Remedial Assistant, Lincoln School	2/2/12-2/1/13

Leaves as per Collective Bargaining Agreement

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Monica Baumer Speech Teacher, Macungie School	3/7/12-4/17/12
Tanya Scisly Grade 6, LMMS	Leave extension to 6/30/12

Income Protection Leave

Employee: Sheryl Knauss, Custodian
Effective: February 21, 2012

Appointment of Full Time Substitute Teachers

Name/Address: Erin Piazza
8540 Oak Hollow Lane, Macungie
Education Level: B. S. Degree (2010)

Undergraduate School: East Stroudsburg University
 Certification: Instructional I, Elementary K-6
 Assignment: Grade 2 Teacher, Alburdis School
 Opening created by K. Bergman leave.
 Effective: February 14, 2012
 Experience: 9/2011-Present: East Penn SD (Per Diem Substitute)
 Salary: \$45,185 (Year 1, Col. B)

Name/Address: Virginia Duncan
 26 Lower Way Road, Easton 18045
 Education Level: B. S. Degree (1975)
 M. S. Degree (2008)
 M. S. Degree (2011)
 Undergraduate School: Hampton University
 Graduate School: Gwynedd Mercy College
 Certification: Instructional I, Business-Computer, Info Tech, Special
 Education
 Assignment: Computer & Business Applications Teacher, LMMS
 Opening created by M. Aquila leave
 Effective: February 1, 2012
 Experience: 12/2006-6/2010: Easton Area SD
 Salary: \$45,185 (Year 1, Col. B, pro-rated)

Appointment of Administrative Assistant

Name/Address: Christine White
 5859 Snowy Orchid Lane, Allentown 18104
 Assignment: Administrative Assistant, Emmaus HS
 (Vacancy created by transfer of D. Diefenderfer &
 B. Phillips)
 Effective: February 14, 2012
 Salary: \$24,900, 35 hours/week

Appointment of Instructional/Staff Assistants

Name/Address	Assignment	Salary
Suzanne Ferrel 1472 Butternut Lane, Macungie	Instructional Assistant Shoemaker School Vacancy created by A. Popule's resignation	\$12.99/hr., 22 hrs./wk.
Effective: February 14, 2012		
Laura Groh 6378 Carmel Drive, Macungie	Staff Assistant/SS Monitor Emmaus HS Vacancy created by M. Pun resignation	\$12.99/hr., 29 hrs./wk.
Effective: February 14, 2010		

Change in Employment Status

Employee	From	To
Blake Boyer Guidance Counselor, LMMS	Temporary Professional	Professional Employee
Berta Rondon	PTFSA, Jefferson	Addition of 1 hr./day
Carlene Brumbach	PTFSA, Macungie	Addition of 1 hr./day
Anita Wibble	PTFSA, Jefferson	PTFSA, Macungie Addition of 1 hr./day
Ron Wetzel	Night Foreman, Wescosville	2nd shift Custodian, Alburdis School
Pauline Blankenbiller	Night Foreman, EHS	2nd Shift Custodian, EHS
Allan Bennicoff	2nd Shift Custodian LMMS	Night Foreman Wescosville School

Co-Curricular Advisor

Kathi Swanson

Photography Club

\$293, Club A

Additions to the 2012-2013 List of Per Diem Substitutes

Taylor Angel, Special Education/Elementary
Angela Wambaugh, Elementary, Special Education
Linda Duffy, School Nurse
Karl Eisenhart, Elementary
Jane Jones, Elementary
Phil Godshall, Health & PE
Kristin Marks, Elementary
Mary Reid, Elementary
Jennifer Scott, Elementary/Special Education
Merissa Frye, IA, SA
Austin Medernach, IA, SA
Nadine Johnson, Business
Kristyn Ryan, Special Education/Business
Destinee Logan, Social Studies

Spring 2012 Community Education Instructors - See Exhibit 3

Educational Conferences - Exhibit 4

That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the estimated expenses for the individuals attending the educational conferences as listed on Exhibit 4.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Rhodes, Stolz-----8
Absent: Policano-----1

3. 2012-2013 School Calendar - Exhibit 5

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Fuller

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the 2012-2013 Calendar as presented in Exhibit 5.

Dr. Seidenberger indicated that he had received no negative comments since it was mentioned in the last meeting for action this evening. Mr. Stolz said he had an opportunity to talk with parents who brought it up and said they had planned vacations and thought it should be next year. He did not have any personal preference but because the parents he represented brought it up, he would be voting against the calendar. Mr. Earnshaw said it was a challenging issue because it changes long standing practice. He felt ending the year a little earlier would be more productive. This will also give the district more time to prepare students for mandated testing and having an extra week is a good thing. He felt the positive outweighed the negatives, citing the antiquated agrarian system. He thought the year-round concept with the same amount of days but stretched out so there would be more time for holiday/vacation periods and there would not be the big lapse in the summer. It may affect summer employment for students earning tuition money. It is not a discussion that East Penn can have on its own. Mrs. Donches concurred with the year round concept and asked if this would affect third day enrollments. Dr. Seidenberger said it is a count of students who are on the rolls. Adjustments are made a few weeks later. Dr. Seidenberger said for parents who have plans there are accommodations that can be made. Mr. Ballard said parents can apply for educational vacations in the middle of the school year. He felt giving six months notice would be sufficient.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Rhodes-----7
Nay: Stolz-----1
Absent: Policano-----1

6. Other Educational Entities

-Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit

F. Fuller

Ms. Fuller said the Board met on January 16 and there was spirited discussion about meeting on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There was consensus that the day is for community service and serving on a Board illustrates that concept. CLIU is working with the Capital IU to prepare an eLearning 21 Virtual Learning program so that small districts in the IU can start their own cyber learning school and afford their students the option so they can benefit from the cost saving. Dr. Seidenberger is interested in the teacher training component and shifting away from VLN and he will be working with Parkland, Whitehall, and Southern Lehigh and be working with the IU to see if these programs can be merged and have a county-wide program. East Penn has approximately 30 students enrolled in the cyber high school option. Also, the IU is helping to develop teacher evaluation tools that are being required by the state.

Ms. Fuller shared the following information regarding the number of students in East Penn who are being served by the IU - 64 who are major assignments (deaf or hearing impaired, emotional support, enhanced autism, learning support, life skills, and multiple disabilities) and 239 who are receiving related services that include occupational and physical therapy.

-Lehigh Career & Technical Institute

R. Heid
A. Earnshaw
F. Fuller
S. Rhodes, III

Ms. Heid reported on the 2012-2013 LCTI Proposed General Fund and Academic Center Budgets that were approved by the Joint Operating Committee. LCTI will be staying within the 1.7% index. She noted that enrollment decreased slightly which means costs have increased - the fewer the students the more it costs. She said the five-year average is approximately 255 students from East Penn. East Penn's proportionate share is 9.38% of the budget. There are major factors that determine the budget - the five year rolling average; the cost per pupil; and the percent share of the Capital Debt Service. The total member district share with Debt Service for East Penn is \$2,137,708.48. The Academic Center has increased enrollment by 50% in a five year period. East Penn's share of the Academic Center calculation is \$9,961 with our overall budget of \$1,374,290. The next meeting of the JOC is February 22. She hoped the Board would recognize the quality education that students are receiving at LCTI and support this budget.

7. Legislative

C. Ballard

Mr. Ballard reported that he had attended the NSBA Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D. C. last week. He said he spent a day and a half in meetings getting briefed on what is happening in the federal budget with the focus being on the re-authorization of ESEA or otherwise known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is somewhat stalled in Congress. There was supposed to be a new draft bill out this week from the House Education Committee and a lot of states are requesting waivers. He said many of them have been pushing to get NCLB reconciled with IDEA so that if a district is meeting a student's IEP then it should be considered Adequate Yearly Progress. Two representatives from Parkland and Mr. Ballard met with Representative Dent's aides who formulate the policy. Other members of the state delegation had a meeting some of Senator Toomey's staff. There was no movement since Senator Toomey is a staunch supporter of vouchers and is not interested in many of the issues brought to the office by the delegates.

Referring to Governor Corbett's budget, Mr. Ballard said people do not understand what is happening. He explained how the state has combined four separate accounts (basic education subsidy, pupil transportation, nonpublic and charter school public transportation and School Employees' Social Security) and they are now under the Student Achievement Education Block Grant. It will be difficult to separate the accounts to hide that they are cutting back on educational expenses. Mr. Ballard discussed the way that the information is being presented at both the Republican and Democratic level. He said it is not an exercise being done to give the districts flexibility. There are no payments for charter schools and local taxpayers are picking up the expense. He encouraged board members to talk to the legislators. He concluded that it was another "smoke & mirrors game." He said the costs are going up and the district is mandated to do the programs. He felt it was a political ploy. He said the primary election is still up in the air because the Supreme Court did not approve the redistricting plan and said it was unconstitutional. This has created confusion on who will be running since the Court said to use the old system. He concluded that PA was "a very confused state." We do not know yet what the final state budget will be. Mr. Stolz pointed out that every precinct except one in the district is without representation. He said Republicans are slowly but surely caving because they know they will have to deal with the present situation. Mr. Bacher noted that New Jersey's application for a waiver of No Child Left Behind has been accepted and asked if Pennsylvania had applied for anything. Dr. Seidenberger said his understanding was that Secretary Tomalis had applied for a freeze on the current AYP levels. States are aligned with the President's call for teacher and principal evaluation. The Congress has not approved an extension of ESEA. He said people understand that special education should not have been included in the provisions of NCLB.

8. Business Operations

1. Bill List Approval

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Stolz

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

Transportation Contracts

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following Parent/Guardian Transportation Contracts:

Parent:	Lisa Druckenmiller 1617 Seidersville Road, Bethlehem
Effective:	January 23, 2012-June 14, 2012
Reimbursement:	\$.555/mile - Lower Macungie MS; Jefferson 37.8 miles/day

Parent: Althea Robinson
 15080 Kutztown Road, Kutztown
 Effective: December 1, 2011-June 14, 2012
 Reimbursement: \$.555/mile - Lower Macungie MS, Willow Lane
 12.5 miles/day

Disbursement of Funds - Exhibit 6

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the expenditures from the 32-Capital Reserve Fund and the 33-2010 Series A GOB as listed on Exhibit 6.

Expending Funds from Capital Reserve Fund

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the expenditure of \$20,200 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of non-condensing water heaters for Shoemaker Elementary School and Eyer Middle School.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Rhodes, Stolz-----8
 Absent: Policano-----1

9. Announcements

Ms. Fuller said she had three opportunities during the last month to see the value of an East Penn education. She commented on Dane DeHaan, who was a student at Emmaus HS, and recalled his roles in Footloose and The Whiz. She said it was quite remarkable to see him on the big screen at the Rave Theater and see how far he has come. In January, she saw Keith Jarrett play a solo performance at Carnegie Hall. He had four encores and five standing ovations. She spoke about the music teacher that mentored him, Earl Peters. Mr. Jarrett was a member of the EHS Class of 1962. Ms. Fuller talked about the experience of being invited to a STEM Assembly at Wescosville School. She said it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of Grade 2 students and the parents, as well as other students being praised, helped, and congratulated. It was an uplifting experience to see a real sense of family and community in action. She said what happened in Wescosville was not unique to Wescosville because it happens throughout the district all the time.

Mrs. Donches concurred with Ms. Fuller about the Wescosville program and she attended the LCTI SkillsUSA competition. She wanted to give a brief report on the PSBA New Board Member Orientation. She said it highlighted the role of the Board which is to set the goal, state the expectation and clarify the responsibility. The administration acts to accomplish the goal and carry out the activity. She said a lot of time was spent on meetings, agendas, Executive Session, Sunshine Law, Parliamentary Procedure, Act 1 budget timeline, sources of revenue, ideas for reducing spending, and only a little time was spent on the functions and the objects which is what she was really interested in. She said several board members did have a detailed budget in hand and that was encouraging. She thanked Dr. Seidenberger for his work. She commented that she had an email from someone who was looking forward to a more detailed budget. There was an overview on legal aspects with students and employees given by one of the attorneys. She said there was a session on No Child Left behind, AYP, and the PSSAs. She said during the Q & A session the question was asked whether the employees of PSBA pay into PSERS. Upon confirmation that this was true, she became disillusioned with the stance and policies of PSBA because in essence our taxpayers pay their taxes to the school district, the school district uses the money to belong to PSBA, and then PSBA pays into PSERS so she was questioning if there was any incentive to reform the pension problem which "is the biggest elephant in the room." She said she was glad that she went and took a lot away from the opportunity. She enjoyed meeting the school directors from other districts and comparing notes with them. She will continue to attend sessions by PSBA as another option and another point of view to listen to. Mrs. Donches announced that she will pay for any sessions that she attends and she was refunding the tax money that was used for her to go to the session. Mr. Ballard pointed out that with the Value Pass a lot of the upcoming sessions are already paid. She suggested that she go on the website and download their pension reform paper and find out they proposed a wide spread revamping of the system. PSBA employees were put on that pension plan so PSBA would not have to fund their own pension plan. The Legislature allowed them to enroll their employees in the state plan. The committee was formed by school board members and the staff of PSBA simply carries out those directives. She said she did read it and felt it should have gone further.

Mr. Earnshaw talked about a family he knew in cyber charter school in another district. He told them about VLN but they felt the courses were too difficult. While he realized it was anecdotal, this was a family who opted for a cyber charter school because it was easier than an education by a bona fide school district. Referring to the comments earlier about a student struggling with special needs, Mr. Earnshaw called attention to Project Connect for pre-school children who may have special needs.

Monday, February 13	7:00 p.m.-Executive Session (Legal, Personnel, and Real Estate)
	7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting
February 16	11:00 a.m.-Dismissal for Middle Schools
	11:00 a.m.-Dismissal for Emmaus High School
February 17 & 20	Presidents' Holiday - All schools and offices are closed.
February 27	7:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Board Room

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion, at 9:25 p.m.

Cecilia R. Birdsell, Board Secretary