

## 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, M. Policano, S. Rhodes, J. Stolz  
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  
Randy Kraft, WFMZ Online Reporter  
Jennifer Rodgers, Morning Call Reporter  
Jennifer Marangos, Emmaus.Patch.com Editor

### 2. Requests to Address the Board

Ms. Jennifer Taylor, 5047 Faith Circle, Wescosville read the attached letter describing her child's positive experience at Seven Generations Charter School.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Heid, Seconded by Rhodes  
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes for the March 12, 2012 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

### 4. SGA Report - Student Government Association, EHS Report

SGA Representatives Cristen French & Shiv Joshi reported on the following student and school activities at Emmaus HS:

- Mr. Emmaus Tournament was held and Senior Tyler Behnke was selected.
- Junior students took the March PSSA's.
- EHS Alumni Corey Jones (Class of 2007) was featured as an "Awesome Alumni". Corey has become a successful actor in film and television and felt the EHS Drama Department prepared him well.
- ✓ EHS/LCTI students Quaniesha Grant and Kaitlyn Bennicoff will be moving on to the District XI Skills USA Championship. Also, placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the competition were Benjamin Uhl and Brandy O'Brien.
- ✓ Eleven students qualified for the National Merit Finalists.
- ✓ National Intent Letters were signed by student athletes.
- ✓ Senior Ball will be held on April 28 at the Palace Center; the After Ball Activities will take place at EHS.
- ✓ Junior Prom will be held on May 5 at EHS.
- ✓ The 2012 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards were held. Nearly 100,000 students participate in this activity. EHS art teachers choose the students who submit their work on the regional level. The work is judged according to originality, technical skill and emergence of personal vision or voice. Congratulations to students who received Gold Keys, Silver Keys, and Honorable Mention.
- ✓ EHS had the most students participating in the PA PMEA District 10 Chorus Festival. There were 19 seniors selected; 16 juniors; 6 sophomores; and 1 freshman.
- ✓ History Day was held at EHS on January 6. Winners competed in the Regional Competition held on March 3.
- ✓ The following teachers were nominated for the Hallowed Hornet Award: Kathryn Washer, Physics and Integrated Science Teacher, and Jason Geist, Mathematics Teacher. Faculty and staff members nominate colleagues who they think contribute to a positive and successful school environment.

Mr. Ballard thanked them for their report.

### 5. Report of the Superintendent of Schools-Dr. Thomas L. Seidenberger

#### 1. District Update

Dr. Seidenberger reported that orchestra teacher Connie Arnold has commissioned an orchestra piece celebrating the life of Benjamin Albro, a student who was killed in a car accident. He was a member of the orchestra since the 4th grade and they have hired a composer who will interview students and capture the essence of the student. The piece will be performed at the 2013 EHS Graduation, the year he would have graduated. They are involved in fund raising and anyone interested should contact Dr. Seidenberger.

Ross Cooper, a teacher at Willow Lane School, has been invited by Google developers to attend a special session in London. Last year he was selected as an Apple Distinguished Educator.

Dr. Seidenberger mentioned a lawsuit that was filed by PSEA on behalf of special education students in the Chester Upland SD. This involves the special ed costs for Chester Upland that were received from the state compared to what was paid out by the district. Referring to East Penn, he noted that the district received \$7,800 from the state for special education students compared with the \$17,613 being paid out. East Penn is paying in excess of \$9,000 for special education. The Education Committee has heard from the Auditor General about the funding for cyber charter schools. He referred to a recent memo from the PA School Funding Campaign to the members of the PA General Assembly regarding the state budget. He concluded that there is a lot of concern state wide.

Dr. Seidenberger reported on the second Instructional Rounds day of observations at Emmaus HS. The next day is scheduled for some time in April at a middle school. It was another exceptional day of defining how problem solving is taking place in East Penn. He thanked Dr. Torma, Linda Pekarik, and Kristen Campbell for their leadership.

Middle school students participated in the Regional PJAS Science Fair on February 25. He thanked Mr. DiRado for providing the results that indicate: LMMS had 80 students participate with 50 first place winners; 27 second place winners, and 3 third place winners; and, Eyer MS had 61 students participate with 44 first place winners, 16 second place winners and 1 third place winner. There were 16 students from LMMS that received a special award and 16 students from Eyer MS. Dr. Seidenberger thanked the teachers and students for their efforts. The state competition will be held at Penn State on May 13-15.

Dr. Seidenberger reported that he had served on a panel with senior citizens at Northampton County Community College. Also on the panel was Attorney Bruce Davis a local radio announcer. There were about 75 participants and he received a very positive response. Dr. Seidenberger will be meeting with the District Senior Citizens Advisory Committee tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Davis was invited since he is a Lower Macungie resident. A meeting with local real estate agents is being scheduled for April.

Dr. Seidenberger called attention to the booklet that was compiled with all the activities in which students are involved in the community. The booklet will be distributed to libraries and other public venues.

## 2. Personnel

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

- Beth Alcaro, Administrative Assistant at Emmaus HS, effective March 20, 2012 (Exhibit 1)
- Deborah Janney, School Nurse at Willow Lane School, effective June 30, 2012 (Exhibit 2)
- Cathy Venusto, Tech Assistant, effective April 3, 2012 (Exhibit 3)
- Chad Werkheiser, Instructional Assistant at Emmaus HS, effective immediately (Exhibit 4)

### Compensated Professional Leave

Employee: Virginia Coleman, Art Teacher  
Emmaus HS  
Effective: 2012-13 School  
Purpose: Pursue Course Work at The Art Institute of  
Charleston, SC  
Reference: Board Policy 438.1-Compensated Professional Leaves

### General Leave of Absence – Board Policy 539, General Leave

Employee: Diane Kehm, Staff Assistant  
Shoemaker School  
Effective: March 26, 2012-March 25, 2013

### Income Protection

Employee: Shannon Fraser, French/Spanish Teacher  
Emmaus HS/Eyer MS  
Effective: March 9, 2012

### Leave as Per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Employee: Tammy Nassry, Special Education Teacher  
Emmaus HS  
Effective: March 30, 2012-May 11, 2012

### Health Room Assistant Appointment

Name/Address: Melanie Miller  
7283 Snowberry Court, Macungie 18062

Effective: February 28, 2012  
 Assignment: Lincoln School (Vacancy created by L. Waters resignation)  
 Salary: \$18.22/hr., 29 hrs./wk.

Additions to the 2011-12 List of Per Diem Substitutes

Meghan Dunton, Elementary  
 Joan Timalonis, Health Room Assistant  
 Sherri DeFrain, Elementary  
 Lucesita Rivera-Woolard, Instructional/Staff Assistant

Katelyn Christian, Elementary  
 Shannon Griffels, Art

Change in Assignments for School Psychologists

Employee	From	To
Lori Rose	Lincoln/Macungie	Jefferson/Lincoln
Mark Neth	Jefferson	Wescosville
Mary Kay Naunas	Shoemaker	Macungie/Shoemaker

Educational Conferences – Exhibit 5

That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the estimated expenses for the individuals attending the educational conferences listed on Exhibit 5.

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:  
 Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Rhodes, Stolz-----9

6. Facilities

1. Authorization for Engineering Services

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Rhodes  
 RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize Liberty Engineering, Inc., 7535 Windsor Drive, Suite B-203, Allentown to complete the following engineering services on the projects listed below:

Additional Storage	Not to Exceed \$5,000 plus reimbursable expenses (Exhibit 6)
District-Wide Sidewalk & Asphalt Paving Repair	Not to Exceed \$8,800 plus reimbursable expenses (Exhibit 7)

Note: Agreements have been reviewed by the solicitor.

Authorization for Engineering Services for Lincoln and Lower Macungie MS Window Replacements

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize Spillman Farmer, 1720 Spillman Drive, Bethlehem to provide architectural and engineering services for the project listed below and as described in Exhibits 9 and 10.

Lincoln Elementary School Window Replacements (Exhibit 9)	Not to exceed \$12,500 plus reimbursable expenses at cost
Lower Macungie MS Window Replacements (Exhibit 10)	Not to exceed \$5,000 plus reimbursable expenses at cost

Note: Agreements have been reviewed by the solicitor.

In answer to a question from Ms. Heid, Mr. Glancy said the additional storage buildings will be built on the side of Jefferson and in the back parking lot of the high school. Ms. Donches asked about the number of square feet for the buildings. Mr. Glancy said one will be 15 ft. x 15 ft. and the other will be 20 ft. x 20 ft., depending on the design process and the restriction of space.

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:  
 Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Rhodes, Stolz-----9

2. Authorization for Engineering Services for Emmaus HS Pool Dehumidification Unit Upgrades-Exhibit 8

Motion by Rhodes, Seconded by Stolz

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize Entech Engineering, Inc., 4 South Fourth Street, Reading, PA to provide documents for bidding and construction for repairs and upgrades of the pool dehumidification unit and other system conditions and reduce the concentration of chloramines that exist at the pool surface and as outlined in Exhibit 8.

Cost not to exceed \$22,650

Note: Agreements have been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mr. Earnshaw pointed out an editorial change in one of the dates on page 2 of the contract. Mr. Glancy said it was reviewed with the company and will be corrected. Mr. Bacher noted that the Schedule had the correct date of March 27. Ms. Heid asked about the cost coming out of the 2011-12 capital account and the 2012-13 capital projects. Mr. Glancy indicated that the capital projects would roll forth into the school year. Mr. Ballard noted these are proceeds from bond issues.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Rhodes, Stolz-----9

6. Legislative

C. Ballard

Mr. Ballard reported that there have been hearings on the budget but there is nothing definite. He noted that there are several bills of interest in the Senate, noting changes in the Right to Know provisions, changes in the superintendents' contract provisions, and special education funding formula changes. He said legislators should know of the discrepancies and the fact that taxpayers are subsidizing others schools, specifically cyber charter schools, and they do not have the same degree of control as in the public schools plus there is great difficulty in getting information. Mr. Earnshaw said one of the problems is the management companies that are hired by cyber charter schools.

The House has been quiet but there is a bill regarding economic furloughs. Mr. Ballard explained that the current School Code prohibits furloughing teachers for economic reasons. This would require a change by the Legislature. There are now two competing bills trying to address property tax relief. One bill has the county deciding a referendum on replacing sales tax and there would be an option by the school district to impose an Earned Income Tax or personal income tax to reduce property tax. The other bill attempts to raise the state sales tax from 6% to 7% with fewer exemptions and raising the state income tax. Also included would be the funds from gambling. By doing this, the state would be able to collect at least 8 million dollars of the 9 million dollars of the current property tax allocations by the state. Mr. Ballard noted that property tax would not be totally eliminated by this bill. It would allow taxes for the purpose of paying off bonds for construction. Mr. Earnshaw said he is always concerned about replacing property tax. Referring to 2009-10 Funding Sources produced by the Department of Education, he noted that East Penn appeared to be 462 out of 500 schools districts when looking at the average daily membership. There are only 38 districts that receive fewer dollars than East Penn. He questioned the logic of coming up with a funding formula. Mr. Stolz said the second bill discussed was introduced by Representative Cox.

7. Business Operations

Dr. Seidenberger distributed the 2012-13 Budget Book to the board members. The budget does include the allowable amount for exceptions. He cautioned that the numbers will change throughout the budget process. The revenues are more aggressive and optimistic this year. The appropriations have been adjusted by approximately 1 million dollars. The administration is looking at non-traditional areas such as benefit packages, including tuition reimbursement; however, the tuition reimbursement account has decreased because of the lower cost of online courses. They are also looking at some creative ways to look at special education expenditures. There have been very few retirements this year so the salary differentials will be minimal this year. He said for the 2013-14 school year they will be looking at transportation unless something is done with the Governor's block grant. They will be looking at Central Bucks and how they defunded transportation. Another area that may be reviewed is the student information package. In response to a question from Ms. Donches, Dr. Seidenberger said that eSchoolPlus and Pentamation have the elements of student information that must be kept on file. Mr. Ballard emphasized that this is the first look at the budget. Dr. Seidenberger said there have been 2 million dollars in cuts since the preliminary budget. Last year was the first time that the district spent less than the previous year. Mr. Bacher asked what assumptions had been made concerning state revenues. Dr. Seidenberger said that they adjusted downward but it is too early to say at this point. Mr. Ballard again pointed out that this is a preliminary look. He noted that this is similar to what has been compiled in the past few years. The budget analysis will take place at the April 23 Board Meeting. It was ascertained that student transportation is around 6.5 million dollars which includes both public and nonpublic schools. Dr. Seidenberger said unless there is movement on the block grant then they will have to look at how transportation is being funded. Mr. Bacher asked if nonpublic transportation would change if the district makes cuts to the public transportation. Mr. Ballard said if the district does not provide transportation for their own students we would not have to provide it for nonpublic schools, except in the area of special education students. Mr. Earnshaw pointed out that there are a lot of benefits (environmental as well as convenience) by having public transportation, adding that it is definitely something the district will have to go slowly on.

1. Approval of Bill List

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Rhodes

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 the checks and vouchers in the amounts indicated.

Mr. Stolz questioned the bill for the PSBA Insurance Trust for \$4,164.15. It was ascertained that this was the BUCs program that had been approved by the Board at a previous meeting (January 23, 2012).

This resolution was duly adopted by the following voice vote:  
Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Rhodes, Stolz-----9

2. Treasurer Report

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Heid  
RESOLVED, That the Treasurer's Report be approved.

EnerNOC Demand Response – E-Power Demand Response – Exhibit 11

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve Attachment B-1, EnerNOC Demand Response-E Power Demand Response program as described in Exhibit 11.

Fund Disbursements – Exhibit 12

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the disbarment of funds from GOB 33-2010-Series A as described in Exhibit 12.

Approval of the Response & Correction Action Plan – Auditor General –Exhibit 13

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board approve the response and corrective action plan to the Auditor Generals' Performance Audit Report for fiscal years ending June 30, 2007 and 2008 as submitted to Ms. Connie Derr on March 9, 2010.

This resolution was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:  
Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Rhodes, Stolz-----9

3. Other Items

Mr. Stolz said he had questions from parents about the recent articles dealing with pink slime in ground meat and asked if East Penn cafeterias used these products. Mr. Glancy said he would look into it. (Secretary's Note: Upon checking with the cafeteria staff, it was found that the East Penn School District did not use any beef products with Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) or "Pink Slime" in them this school year. Also, they will not order any beef products that include LFTB in any future year.)

Mr. Earnshaw announced that tomorrow at LCTI the Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Education and the Director of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education will be visiting the campuses of LCCC and LCTI. On Thursday at LCCC, there is a press conference as part of the signing of the Articulation Agreement with Bloomsburg, LCTI and LCCC to offer an Applied Science Technology Bachelor's Degree Program. A student can earn a Bachelor's Degree through Bloomsburg in a three year period without leaving the campus. It is the first of its kind in the state and will be extremely economical for the student.

Ms. Donches thanked Dr. Seidenberger and Mr. Glancy for accommodating her request for the 2011-12 budget. It was noted that Mrs. Surdoval produced the information. Ms. Donches said she was curious about certain items and appreciated having the detail. She felt she would be better able to ask questions. She also appreciated the transparency. Mr. Ballard reminded her that with 3,889 items the Board cannot afford a minute an item.

8. Announcements

Monday, March 26	7:00 p.m.-Executive Session (Real Estate & Litigation) 7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting
Week of March 26	Kindergarten Registration (See Web Site)
March 29, 30, 31	7:00 p.m.-Eyer Spring Musical, "Annie, Jr."
March 31	2:00 p.m.-Matinee
March 29, 30, 31	7:30 p.m.-LMMS Spring Musical "The Boys from Syracuse"
March 31	2:00 p.m.-Matinee
April 5, 6, 9	Spring Break
April 23	7:30 p.m. – Board Meeting

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion, at 8:35 p.m.

Cecilia R. Birdsell, Board Secretary