

## 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: C. H. Ballard, A. Earnshaw, F. Fuller, R. Heid, M. Policano, T. Richwine, J. Stolz  
Board Members Absent: E. Gannon, S. Rhodes, III  
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 Marangos, Emmaus.Patch.com Reporter  
Kelly Martin, Morning Call Reporter

### 2. Requests to Address the Board

John Donches, 559 Minor Street, Emmaus again suggested that the East Penn Board Meeting be web cast and requested that he be allowed to work with East Penn's IT Department. He said a cost of \$8,000 had been mentioned and asked if there was a report that he could see. He thanked the Board for their attention.

Travis Flexer, 1727 Pinewind Drive, Alburts requested that the district provide bus service from First Impressions Day Care in Macungie to the Alburts School. He claimed it was the only school that was not providing transportation and asked the Board to review their policy.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Policano, Seconded by Stolz  
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes of the July 11, 2011 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

### 4. Report of the Superintendent - Dr. Thomas L. Seidenberger

#### 1. District Update

Dr. Seidenberger reviewed the amount of scholarship money that was received by students in the Class of 2011. Over \$68,000 in local scholarship money was received; some of the graduates received an estimated \$5,000,000 in academic scholarships. The student/athletes received in excess of \$600,000 in scholarships.

In addition, the Emmaus HS AP scores were recently received. Emmaus HS offers 22 AP courses. There were 421 separate exams with 96 students scoring at least a 3; 140 students scoring at least a 4; and 144 students received a perfect score of 5. He said the high school students and teachers show their outstanding performance.

Dr. Seidenberger introduced Secondary Supervisor Dr. Linda Delvernois and Coordinator of Elementary Education Mrs. Susan Noack to give an overview of what is happening in math instruction.

Dr. Linda Delvernois, Supervisor of Secondary Education, noted that Pennsylvania is one of 45 states that have adopted the common core standards. On July 1, 2010, the Pennsylvania State Board of Education unanimously approved the Common Core Standards for English language arts and math with the expectation that these standards would be fully implemented statewide by July 1, 2013. These standards for K-12 were developed by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers and are based on the understanding that all elementary and secondary students should learn certain skills and information regardless of their address.

The English language arts standards encompass reading (literature, information text, and foundational skills), speaking, listening, writing, and language and can be integrated into the social studies and science curricula. The math standards are divided by grade level from kindergarten through Grade 8. For high school, the standards encompass the six areas of number and quantity, algebra, functions, modeling, geometry, and statistics and probability. In addition to the grade level standards, the common core also includes a section for "Standards for Mathematical Practice", which include the five practices of making sense of problems and persevering in solving them, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, making viable arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others, modeling with math, and using appropriate tools strategically.

In an effort to be proactive and to prepare our students not only for the transition to the full implementation of the Common Core Standards, but also to meet with success on the Keystone exams, we are addressing the math

sequencing beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. All Grade 7 students will take Pre-Algebra and classes will be heterogeneously grouped. Grade 8 will begin incorporating more Algebra concepts into the current Pre-Algebra B course. In 2012-2013, the Grade 7 students will then take Algebra 1A as eighth graders and the Grade 8 students will take Algebra 1B as freshmen. These freshmen students will participate in the Algebra Keystone Exam. Any middle level student taking Algebra I Honors will participate in the Algebra Keystone Exam during the year he/she takes the course. Parents will be receiving a letter noting the changes in sequence.

Ms. Stacey Meckes, Middle School Math Department Leader and a member of the State Level Committee, explained that the department had met last week. Every middle school math teacher will sign up for the ED classes and another session is scheduled for next week. As of the 2011-12 school year, all grade 7 students will be taking Pre-Algebra and classes will be heterogeneously grouped. All grade 8 students will start to incorporate more Algebra concepts into pre-Algebra B and teachers will be provided with summer ED for planning purposes. There will be a small group of accelerated students who will take Algebra I Honors. In 2012-13, Ms. Meckes noted that Pre-Algebra in Grade 8 will become Algebra 1A and Algebra I will be offered in Grade 8 as an Honors level course only. Summer Ed hours will be provided for planning and preparation. Students will take the Keystone Exams after they have finished Grade 9 math.

Ms. Laura Leiby, Emmaus HS Math Department Leader and a member of the State Level Committee, noted there is a nice collaborative relationship between the middle schools and the high school math teachers. Summer ED planning time has been planned to start discussions for preparing for the Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry Keystone Exams. For 2012-13, the Grade 9 students who failed Grade 8 Algebra 1A will repeat Algebra 1A. Students who passed Algebra 1A will progress into Algebra 1B and these students will participate in the Keystone Exams. The Algebra Seminar that is currently a double period will transition into Algebra 1A with a lab component.

Mr. Earnshaw asked if students who took Algebra I in Grade 8 are going to have to go back and take the Keystone Exam after the fact. Dr. Delvernois explained students only have to take the exam in the year that they have taken the course. Students who took Algebra I previously are exempt. Mr. Ballard questioned if PA has adopted any of the complete curriculum that has been put out for the common core standards. Dr. Delvernois said PA is currently working on the math and has not adopted the math. There are committees that are currently meeting but work has not been completed. He questioned if the courses were being created to teach to the test. Dr. Delvernois said that they want to be sure that all the concepts that students need will be included in the courses and they are not catering the courses to the Keystone Exams or the common cores but the district is bound by regulation and law to include the common core standards in the curriculum guide. She concluded that they are trying to be proactive and aligning everything. Mr. Ballard pointed out that the district just got finished re-aligning to new PA standards and now is being expected to align to newer standards. Dr. Delvernois concurred and Mr. Ballard pointed out that the district is not receiving any extra funds from the state. Dr. Seidenberger said it is one of the reasons that the district did not purchase new textbooks, adding these are some of the outside influences that affect what we do internally.

Dr. Seidenberger reported that East Penn has received the preliminary AYP results. The district and all schools have made AYP for attendance and participation rate. For the performance target, all schools made AYP with the exception of Macungie and Emmaus HS. In Macungie, there was an IEP subgroup for reading and Emmaus High School had an IEP subgroup for mathematics. This puts both schools in the Warning category. Last year, LMMS was in a Warning status and this year they have done fine. Alburtis made AYP in the Special Education category but they did not have enough students in the subgroup. The school must go through the process and will be labeled Making Progress. Dr. Seidenberger indicated that the Alburtis situation is exactly why there needs to be changes in the NCLB regulations.

Community Liaison Nicole Bloise is working on the Annual Report. He said the report will be due out some time in September. He indicated that the E-folios will be making their debut on September 6 on the web site. There are evening registration hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accommodate new registrations. On August 15, all of the sports teams and EHS activities will begin. Dr. Seidenberger announced that the District Staff Day is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, and will begin in the EHS auditorium. The New Staff Orientation Day is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30. These are district staff days but board members are welcome to attend. He related a story about how the EHS Key Club members have been working with the Mayor of Reading during the summer to provide books for disadvantaged students. They have also been working with Easton and the Allentown School District. In October, the students will also be going to the DaVinci Center to distribute books for a special science reading day. Bev Bradley who is in charge of the Cops 'n Kids programs complimented student advisors Mrs. Teles and Mrs. Wells and thanked Mr. Mark Warden who coordinated the delivery of the books.

Dr. Seidenberger mentioned the various maintenance projects that are taking place around the district. The staff is working with Booster Club to be sure the proper safety requirements are in place for the refreshment stand.

On Thursday, Dr. Rebecca Woodland from the University of Massachusetts will be conducting a workshop dealing with Instructional Rounds, specifically problem solving. She will be working with central office administrators and building administrators.

Dr. Seidenberger said this is the first year that there has been difficulty with filling all requests for out of boundary school changes. Some have been denied because class sizes are increasing and space must be left open for

students who will be living in a specific school's boundary. There are a few day care centers that do transport students to Albutis School. Elementary class sizes are running in the neighborhood of 28-29 students in Grade 1. A few years ago when we were re-districting the administration met with the providers and described the district can and cannot do. Dr. Seidenberger said that the administration will be meeting to develop guidelines. Open enrollment is available when there is space and when the transportation can be worked out. The district tries to do its best but we cannot artificially increase class sizes. Dr. Seidenberger indicated that the administration would be developing specific guidelines for open enrollment and would make a recommendation to the Board at a future date. Mr. Ballard asked if any of the board members objected to the Superintendent pursuing this project. There appeared to be no objection.

Dr. Seidenberger reported that in July East Penn had 7,886 students and as of August 1, there are 7,925 students. There are 39 more students 31 at the elementary level; 6 at the middle school level; and 2 at the high school level. In addition, there are some special education enrollments that are creating class sizes that are in excess of the mandated class size so an additional non-budgeted teacher will be needed. These students are enrolled in the autistic support classes. Mr. Earnshaw said that the state sets the standards for student to teacher ratios and that is why we are forced to higher an additional teacher. Dr. Seidenberger said that the various exceptionalities dictate the number of students in a class.

Last year Lower Macungie Township was not successful in going after a safe school grant that would have helped more students walking to Willow Lane. We are again working with the Township to develop safe walking strategies for Willow Lane.

Dr. Seidenberger talked about "green communications" and again emphasized that the district will not be sending out brochures for Adult Education. Previous attendees have been emailed and some brochures are in the local public libraries, doctors' offices, and senior housing locations. The District Calendar will also be handled electronically this year. Parents who do not have access to a computer will be provided hard copies. Dr. Seidenberger asked that this receive "full press court" as well as principals will be including these changes in their newsletters. The Common Core Math Letters will also be handled electronically. The bus cards are being mailed this year and health records. Mr. Earnshaw asked that notification be sent out when the report cards are available on line. Parents will be encouraged to sign up for the Home Access Center and the IT Department has scheduled two workshops for parents. Mr. Earnshaw complimented the staff for their work in this area and, as a parent, he found it very helpful.

The district will be receiving \$750,000 in Jobs money. When all funds have been received, the administration will do an analysis of what was received from the state both last year and this year.

The Fund Balance Policy is on the agenda for a second reading and is aligned to GASBE 54. Each district must pass this policy. The sources used for this policy are the local auditors, PDE, and PFM. The budget books is on line along with the final budget.

Ms. Fuller pointed out that she was pleased to see that the district was hiring art and music teachers in a day and age when those positions are being eliminated. East Penn is continuing to support the arts and music.

Referring to the advertising for the Adult Education courses, Mr. Ballard asked if any consideration was being given to putting posters in the libraries where there is electronic access. He also asked if there were hard copies of the budget books. Mrs. Bloise said printed brochures for Adult Education are in the libraries. The budget books are also in the libraries. Mr. Ballard talked about getting a commercial sponsor for the calendar. He said there are people who like to have the printed calendars. Dr. Seidenberger talked about perhaps looking at an Education Foundation and some other revenue sources. If there is something of interest, then he will bring it to the Board. Mr. Ballard cautioned that the PDE website may not match the new GASBE requirements and definitions of accounts.

## 2. Personnel

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

### Resignations

- Marc Dobbs, Guidance Counselor at LMMS, effective July 21, 2011 (Exhibit 1)
- Elizabeth Nosek, Staff Assistant at Eyer MS, effective August 9, 2011 (Exhibit 2)
- Maria Ovadia, Staff Assistant at LMMS, effective July 15, 2011 (Exhibit 3)
- Amy Garchinsky, Staff Assistant at Wescosville School, effective July 28, 2011 (Exhibit 4)
- Michelle Dunleavy, Health Room Assistant at Jefferson School, effective August 1, 2011 (Exhibit 5)

### Request for General Leave of Absence

Employee: Shaista Qazi

Instructional Assistant, Wescosville School  
 Effective: September 6, 2011-September 5, 2012  
 Reference: Board Policy 539, General Leave

Request for Leave as per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Employee	Assignment	Effective
Ellen Martin	Grade 1 Teacher, Wescosville	8/30/2011-6/15/12
April Snyder	Grade 1 Teacher, Shoemaker	8/30/2011-1/26/12

Temporary Professional Teacher Appointments

Name/Address: Allison Bramnick  
 510 Stevens Drive, King of Prussia 19406  
 Education Level: B. M. Degree (2011)  
 Undergraduate School: Susquehanna University  
 Certification: Instructional I, Music  
 Assignment: Elementary Music - Wescosville & Albutis Schools  
 Vacancy created by S. Smith retirement  
 Effective: August 30, 2011  
 Experience: None  
 Salary: \$45,185 (Year 1, Col. B)

Name/Address: Amy Dewalt  
 1154 Dewalt Drive, Easton 18040  
 Education Level: B. S. Degree (2007)  
 M. S. Degree (2010)  
 Undergraduate School: East Stroudsburg University  
 Graduate School: East Stroudsburg University  
 Certification: Instructional I, Speech & Language Impaired  
 Assignment: Speech Therapist  
 Vacancy created by J. Dieffenderfer resignation  
 Effective: August 30, 2011  
 Experience: 8/10-Present: Elizabethtown Area SD  
 Salary: \$53,898 (Year 2, Col. M)

Name/Address: Jennifer Wylie  
 5011 Cypress Street, Wescosville 18106  
 Education Level: B. S. Degree (2008)  
 Undergraduate School: Kutztown University  
 Certification: Instructional I, Art K-12  
 Assignment: Elementary Art - Wescosville & Albutis Schools  
 Vacancy created by V. Free retirement  
 Effective: August 30, 2011  
 Experience: None  
 Salary: \$45,185 (Year 1, Col. B)

Name/Address: Tara Lindsay  
 531 Barrington Court, Sellersville 18960  
 Education Level: B. S. Degree (2010)  
 Undergraduate School: East Stroudsburg University  
 Certification: Instructional I, Elementary, Special Education  
 Assignment: Kindergarten, Macungie & Shoemaker Schools  
 Vacancy created by S. Wernersbach resignation  
 Effective: August 30, 2011  
 Experience: 9/2010-6/2011: East Penn SD  
 Salary: \$45,508 (Year 2, Col. B)

Full-Time Substitute Teacher Appointments

Name/Address: David Abruzzi  
 293 West 30 Street, Northampton 18067  
 Education Level: B. S. Degree (2009)  
 Undergraduate School: Penn State University  
 Certification: Instructional I, Elementary  
 Assignment: Grade 1, Willow Lane School  
 Opening created by A. Hulmes General Leave  
 Effective: August 30, 2011  
 Experience: 9/2010-6/2011: East Penn SD

Salary: \$45,185 (Year 1, Col. B)

Name/Address: Tara Collier  
6382 Manzanita Drive, Macungie 18062

Education Level: B. S. Degree (1989)  
M. A. Degree (1994)

Undergraduate School: Kutztown University

Graduate School: Rider University

Certification: Instructional I, Elementary, Early Childhood, Reading Specialist

Assignment: Grade 2, Shoemaker School  
Opening created by A. Theis leave

Effective: August 30, 2011

Experience: 9/2010-6/2011: East Penn SD

Salary: \$45,185 (Year 1, Col. B)

Grade 2 Leader: Paula Fehlinger, replacing Nicole Swatsky

Schedule B Appointments

See Exhibit 6

2011-2012 Annual Building Positions

See Exhibit 7

Physicians for the 2011-12 School Year

See Exhibit 8

School Dentists for the 2011-12 School Year

See Exhibit 9

2011-2012 List of Per Diem Substitutes

See Exhibit 10

Fall 2011 Adult Education Instructors

See Exhibit 11

Educational Conferences - Exhibit 12

That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the estimated expenses for the individuals attending the educational conferences listed on Exhibit 12.

Resignations

-Michelle Tweardy, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Emmaus HS, effective August 2, 2011 (Exhibit 5A)

-Genoveva Cintron-Cortes, Instructional Assistant, effective August 31, 2011 (Exhibit 5B)

-Elizabeth Mastroianni, Food Services Department, effective August 1, 2011 (Exhibit 5C)

Appointment of Temporary Professional Employees

Name/Address: Jillian Ziegler  
33 North Main Street, Telford 18969

Education Level: B. S. Degree (2006)

Undergraduate School: Kutztown University

Certification: Instructional I, Elementary, Special Education,  
Mid-Level English

Assignment: Teaching/Learning Support, Special Education, LMMS  
(Vacancy created by K. Butler retirement and subsequent transfers)

Experience: 9/2010-6/2011: East Penn SD  
8/2008-2/2010: Osceola (FL) SD  
9/2007-6/2008: East Penn SD

Salary: \$45,831 (Year 3, Col. B)

Name/Address: Molly McLeod  
208 N. Seventh Street, Emmaus

Education Level: B. S. Degree (2008)

Undergraduate School: Wagner College

Graduate School: Kutztown University  
47 Graduate credits.

Certification: Instructional I, Library Science

Assignment: Librarian, Eyer MS  
(Vacancy created by K. Moore retirement)

Experience: None

Salary: \$45,185 (Year 1, Col. B)

  

Name/Address: Tara Wenner  
1815 Pelham Road, Bethlehem 18018

Education Level: B. A. Degree (1998)  
M. S. Degree (2000)  
M. E. Degree (2011)

Undergraduate School: Clemson University

Graduate School: Northwestern University  
Lehigh University

Certification: Instructional I, Elementary, Special Education

Assignment: Special Education Education/Learning Support, Emmaus HS  
(Vacancy created by S. Seveland resignation and subsequent transfers)

Experience: 2009-Present: Lehigh Valley Academy

Salary: \$53,575 (Year 1, Col. M)

  

Name/Address: Jennifer Najarian  
4201 Lakeside Drive, Coplay 18037

Education Level: B. A. Degree (2006)  
M. A. Degree (2006)  
M. E. Degree (2011)

Undergraduate School: Penn State University

Graduate Schools: Penn State University  
Cedar Crest College

Certification: Instructional I, English, Social Studies, Communications

Assignment: Communications Teacher, Eyer MS  
(Vacancy created by M. E. Coyle retirement and Subsequent transfers.)

Experience: None

Salary: \$53,575 (Year 1, Col. M)

  

Name/Address: Jamie Sanchez  
217 S. 11th Street, Quakertown 18951

Education Level: B. A. Degree (2011)

Undergraduate School: DeSales University

Certification: Instructional I, Elementary, English, Family & Consumer Science, Special Education, Social Studies, Mid-Level Mathematics

Assignment: Special Education/Learning Support, Emmaus HS (Vacancy created by A. Edmonds administrative assignment and subsequent transfers)

Experience: 5/2011-6/2011: East Penn SD  
3/2011-4/2011: Southern Lehigh SD

Salary: \$45,185 (Year 1, Col. B)

  

Name/Address: Stacy Schrettner  
1013 Third Street, North Catasauqua 18032

Education Level: B. S. Degree (2003)

Undergraduate School: West Chester University

Graduate School: East Stroudsburg University (24 credits)

Certification: Instructional II, Special Education

Assignment: Special Education Teacher/Autistic Support, Eyer MS (new position)

Experience: 8/2009-Present: Catasauqua Area SD  
9/2004-6/2009: Carbon Lehigh IU  
1/2004-6/2004: Carbon Lehigh IU

Salary: \$53,799 (Year 8, PC)

Name/Address: Blake Boyer  
338 Tupelo Court, Allentown 18104

Education Level: B. S. Degree (2003)  
M. E. Degree (2007)

Undergraduate School: DeSales University

Graduate School: Temple University

Certification: Instructional I, Secondary School Counselor

Assignment: Guidance Counselor, Lower Macungie MS  
Vacancy created by M. Dobbs resignation

Experience: 8/2007-Present: Allentown SD

Salary: \$54,827 (Year 5, Col. M)

Change in Assignment

Employee: Karen Shade, Administrative Assistant

From: Lower Macungie MS, Main Office

To: Eyer MS, Library

Informational: 2011-2012 Teacher Transfers - Exhibit 13

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:  
Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Richwine, Stolz-----7  
Absent: Gannon, Rhodes-----2

3. Supplementary Psychological Services Contract - 2011-12 (Exhibit 14)

Motion by Stolz, Seconded by Earnshaw  
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the contract with George Grim for a rate of \$70.00/hour, for a maximum of \$30,000 by June 12, 2012 as outlined in Exhibit 14.

Note: Mr. Grim will assist psychologists with evaluations to comply with compressed timeline. Contract has been reviewed by the solicitor.

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:  
Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Richwine, Stolz-----7  
Absent: Gannon, Rhodes-----2

4. Lower Macungie Middle School Improvement Plan

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Stolz  
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors certify that the School Improvement Plan for Lower Macungie Middle School has been reviewed by a Quality Review Team convened by the Superintendent and formally approved by the Board of School Directors, per guidelines required by the PA Department of Education; and, assures the Secretary of Education that the School Improvement Plan addresses all the required components prescribed by PDE: reflects sound educational practices; has local leadership at all levels to ensure successful implementation; has a high probability of improving student performance and educational practices; has met NCLB requirements for Title I schools with AYP status other than Warning; and,

THEREFORE, Recommend that the Secretary of Education and PDE grant formal approval of the school improvement plan for Lower Macungie MS for the 2011-12 school year.

Dr. Seidenberger thanked Mrs. Vincent and central office staff who worked on this document. Mr. Ballard said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said there would be waivers on a large number of these particular items that have not been resolved by Congress. The current law is not aligned with special education IDEA and NCLB regarding the progress of students with IEPs and it needs to be fixed. Mr. Stolz noted President Obama is considering modifying NCLB via an Executive Order and asked if this would alleviate some of the concerns. Dr. Seidenberger felt it would, adding that five states have been granted waivers and there is a lot of pressure in this area.

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:  
Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Richwine, Stolz-----7  
Absent: Gannon, Rhodes-----2

6. Policy

-Second Reading: Board Policy 620 - Fund Balance - Exhibit 15

This policy will be on the August 22 agenda for adoption. If there are any comments or suggestions, they should be forwarded to the Board Secretary so she can relay them to the appropriate administrator.

7. Business Operations

1. Bid Opening Reports - Concrete, Diesel Fuel, Fuel Oil; System Integration of the Facility Management and Control System (Exhibit 16)
2. Bill List Approval

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Stolz

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.

Contract Award -System Integration of the Facilities Management and Control System

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors award the contract for System Integration of the Facilities Management and Control System to Johnson Controls, Inc. for the following amounts:

Base bid amount	\$139,230.00
alternate #1	\$ 8,900.00
alternate #2	\$ 15,500.00
alternate #3	\$ 4,750.00
Total Contract Amount	\$168,380.00.

Non-Reimbursable Work Approval Application - Ramp Replacement; Loading Dock Addition; New Concrete Sidewalk

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the application to the Department of Education for approval of the following plans and specifications for the work described below:

Ramp Replacement, Loading Dock Additions, New Concrete Sidewalk for various school locations.

Note: Construction contracts will not be entered into prior to PDE approval.

Contract Awards for District-wide Concrete Work

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors award the contracts for contract work to the following bidders:

Ramp Replacement - Jefferson School

Zgura's Concrete Services, Inc. \$17,230.00

Loading Dock Addition - Lincoln School

Zgura's Concrete Services, Inc. \$17,700.00

Sidewalk Replacement and Minor Drainage Work - Albutis School

Zgura's Concrete Services, Inc. \$15,650.00

New Concrete Stairs and Sidewalk - Eyer MS

Zgura's Concrete Services, Inc. \$19,950.00

New Concrete Sidewalk and Minor Paving - Emmaus HS

Zgura's Concrete Services, Inc. \$46,900.00



Disbursement of Funds (Exhibit 17)

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the expenditure of funds from the 32-Capital Reserve Fund and 33-2010 Series A GOB as listed on Exhibit 17.

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

Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Richwine, Stolz-----7

Absent: Gannon, Rhodes-----2

8. Announcements

Mr. Ballard asked if there were any objections to him writing a letter of commendation to the pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit on their 50th Anniversary and their service to the community. There were no objections.

Mr. Richwine commented that there was a certain amount of information that has been ignored regarding the cyber charter schools. A board member in Annville-Cleona compared the cyber schools to state averages. He said the findings are interesting. There are 11 cyber charter schools and 7 of the 11 schools performed below the state averages in every subject area. In addition, not one of 11 of the cyber charter schools scored above the state average in math. The results were not particularly impressive of the 4 cyber charter schools that had some grades perform above the state average. Mr. Richwine said considering the push for more charter schools it is quite revealing how poorly they have done in state testing. He talked about the scandal in the state involving cheating on the PSSA's. There were 89 schools that have been flagged for investigation based on the high number of erasures and questionable gains on reading and math scores. Mr. Richwine cited the Chester Community Charter School as being one of the schools being investigated for suspicious erasures. In his commentary about the Chester Community Charter School, Mr. Richwine pointed out that the school is operated by the single largest contributor to Governor Corbett's campaign. Prior to the allegations, Governor Corbett visited the Chester Community Charter School run by Vahan H. Gureghian and praised it as the model that needs to be reported to all Pennsylvania. Mr. Gureghian played a significant role in Governor Corbett's Transition Team and was a member of the Education Committee. Mr. Richwine talked about plans to take over the Pottstown elementary schools and there have been closed door meetings with Senator Jeffrey Piccola, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, the management company, and Pottstown District leadership. Following this meeting, Senator Piccola introduced a bill that would make it easier for charter schools to take over a public school. The Chester Community Charter School refused to divulge financial information and tied up the requests in court. He concluded that these are the people who are taking advantage of this law. There is such a large turnover of teachers that they charge them \$2,000 for leaving before the end of the school year. The Basic Education subsidy money received from public school districts goes to the owners and administrators, not the teachers. Mr. Richwine said this is a story being ignored while the state keeps pushing charter schools and making it easier to siphon funds away from public education that has the brunt of education. Mr. Richwine concluded that there are people who see this as a way of making money with no regard for the students. Mr. Ballard added his comments about the selected tests that charter schools would administer so they could not be compared to public school tests.

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

Monday, August 22 7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned, upon motion, at 8:40 p.m.

Cecilia R. Birdsell, Board Secretary