

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, J. Stolz

Board Member Absent: M. Policano

Solicitor: Marc S. Fisher, 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 Editor

2. Requests to Address the Board

Susan Pfeil, 4949 Steeplechase Drive, Macungie and Director of Seven Generations Charter School, invited the Board to their lottery drawing on Thursday, March 1, for the six openings in the school. She said there were 120 parents vying for those slots. They are working through the questions submitted by Dr. Seidenberger for their charter renewal, adding that they are happy to be held accountable for what they believe in and what they say they do. They are looking forward to being on the agenda soon.

Garrett Rhoads, 5595 Wedge Lane, Allentown, PA cited a Commonwealth Foundation Study regarding the underfunding of state pensions. He concluded that since underfunded pension programs will be the focus in Harrisburg over the next four years, he recommended that defined pension programs be integrated into defined contribution pension programs going forward. He asked the Board to take some kind of stance on any legislation that comes forth in the next few years regarding converting some of these funds from defined to contribution programs.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Donches, Seconded by Earnshaw

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes for the February 13, 2012 meeting.

This resolution was unanimous approved by voice vote.

4. Student Government Association, EHS Report - Cristen French & Shiv Joshi (No report this month.)

5. 2012-13 Capital Projects

Mr. Lynn Glancy, Director of Operations, noted that the payment for the hot water heaters appears in the 2011-12 budget as a result of last meeting's discussion. Using the attached charts, Mr. Glancy indicated that the Capital Reserve Fund Balance to date is \$1,855,814. Mr. Ballard clarified that the Capital Reserve Fund has gone from a 5 million dollar balance in the late 1990s to 1.8 million dollars in February 2012. The Priority 1 items are the ones that are being considered for 2012-13 as summer work. These items include lighting upgrades, installing occupancy sensors, replacing wood windows, repairing pool roof-top unit, replacing steel windows, repairing skylights, masonry repairs, and repairing cap stones and roof flashings. These items are being considered

because of operational and safety reasons. Referring to the pool repair work, Mr. Glancy indicated the repairs deal with the air quality in the pool area. The occupancy sensors pay for themselves in two years with energy savings. Mrs. Donches asked if the skylights in LMMS had been replaced before. Mr. Earnshaw pointed out that they had not been touched since they were installed originally. Mr. Glancy mentioned that repairs for leaks have been made to them and they will need to be resealed. In answer to a question from Mr. Bacher, Mr. Glancy said they are currently getting the engineering specs together for the paving, pool roof top unit, and window repairs. These will be put out to bid so the district can get a better cost before the end of the school year for the summer work. The additional storage area is a safety concern because items are being stored in areas that could result in ongoing hazards (tripping; blocking exits). Ms. Heid commented on the future roof replacements noting that in 2014-15 just the EHS and Jefferson roof replacement would amount to over 2 million dollars. Mr. Glancy pointed out that \$929,659 is available from the bond issues. The total cost for all projects from Priority 1-8 is \$6,767,000. Mr. Earnshaw recapped the situation with leftover bond funds and extenuating circumstances. Mr. Glancy noted the 4 million dollar borrowing that allowed for the completion of Willow Lane and roofing projects.

Mr. Glancy said he is hoping to bring back three of the items plus the capital reserve by the next Board Meeting. The district would be spending \$658,000 out of the \$929,659. Mr. Earnshaw interjected that the district must take the lowest responsible bidder so the projects may come in below the estimated cost or state contract. Each one of these projects will come before the Board. There are some projects that only require materials and the maintenance crew will perform the work.

6. Report of the Superintendent of Schools - Dr. Thomas L. Seidenberger

1. District Update

Referring to the capital projects, Dr. Seidenberger said the money will come from bond issues and the capital reserve so there is no fiscal impact on the budget. He indicated that the bids for the boilers and roof projects came well under the estimates. The strategy for these projects is to emphasize safety and operational savings.

Dr. Seidenberger reported on the following items:

- ❖ The Pennsylvania Department of Education has approved the Mid-Point Review of the Strategic Plan conducted by the East Penn School District.
- ❖ A film crew from The Doctors was filming on the all weather track for an upcoming episode.
- ❖ Kindergarten enrollment begins March 26. He encouraged parents to register early since this is a pivotal part of the budget process. There are always late enrollments during the summer.
- ❖ Last Friday night the Lehigh Valley Conference Boys Basketball Championship at Freedom High School was a sellout. There was interesting banter but within the tenets of good sportsmanship.
- ❖ On Wednesday evening, the Boys Basketball Team will play Parkland.
- ❖ Dr. Seidenberger met with Representative Samuelson, a member of the Appropriations Committee, and he provided him with the same information on unfunded mandates. The IU will be releasing costs on cyber charter schools. He will be meeting with Representative Simmons as well as Senators Browne and Mensch.
- ❖ Dr. Seidenberger will be part of a panel discussion at Northampton Community College on March 21, along with Bruce Davis and Malcolm Gross, about tax issues. There are over 80 people registered for this discussion.
- ❖ Dr. Seidenberger will be sending out letters to each of the townships and municipalities asking them if they anticipate any developments or changes in the real estate atmosphere so we have the most accurate information. If they want a one-on-one meeting, Dr. Seidenberger will do that as well.
- ❖ Dr. Seidenberger distributed an analysis of the Governor's Budget as prepared by the Education Law Center. He thought there was a potential for law suits regarding inequalities. Dr. Seidenberger said there is concern because this is not a formula driven budget. It is based on a series of assumptions that had nothing to do with the formulas for education funding. He said there may be some issues with the new social security payments. He indicated that some of the information may be as much as two years old and does not include the lay-off numbers from last year in the current information. He talked about commingling of education, transportation, and social security. This is being used as a flat

base line for funding. The Governor's Budget is not clear. He said one of the concerns is special education funding and the lack of increases over a five year period. There is a SB that does address special education funding.

- ❖ There will be a Legislative Forum on Public Education on Thursday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Lehigh Carbon Community College. This is an attempt to have parent groups intensify lobbying on behalf of public education. The League of Women Voters will facilitate the forum. It will be a chance to interact with local legislators. The District PAC has been notified and invited to participate in this nonpartisan activity.
- ❖ He thanked the Emmaus Rotary Club for their donation of \$1,000 to Lincoln.
- ❖ The list of student activities in the community is on the web site.
- ❖ Dr. Seidenberger acknowledged the passing of EHS student Ben Albro. He noted that Ben's pastor sent a beautiful letter thanking the East Penn extended family for the wonderful performance of the EHS Chamber Orchestra and the wonderful way that the students showed respect and offered comfort to the family.

2. Personnel

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

Retirement/Resignations

Linda Lee Iezzi, Administrative Assistant to Assistant to the Superintendent, effective April 30, 2012 (Exhibit 1)

Anna Eisenhard, Staff Assistant at Jefferson School, effective February 23, 2012 (Exhibit 2)

Request for General Leave of Absence - Board Policy 539

Employee: Mary Visintainer, Instructional Assistant, Wescosville School
Effective: March 26, 2012-June 30, 2012

Health Room Assistant Appointment

Name/Address: Dana Brindjar
3430 McKeever Road, Macungie
Assignment: Health Room, Eyer MS/Jefferson School
Vacancy created by D. Granados resignation
Effective: February 28, 2012
Salary: \$18.22/hr., 29 hrs./wk.

Additions to the 2011-12 List of Per Diem Substitutes

Michelle Kelly, Health Room Assistant
Kathleen Platt, Instructional/Staff Assistant
Allison Fritchman, Special Education, Social Studies, Instructional/Staff Assistant
Katie Hummel, School Nurse

Co-Curricular Appointments

Kyle Grim	EHS Girls Soccer	Volunteer
Alexis Schultz,	EHS Boys & Girls Track	Volunteer
Matthew Laub	LMMS Boys Volleyball	Volunteer
John Wilson	EHS Boys La Crosse Assist. Coach	\$2881

Change in Assignment

Employee: Santiago Baraciarte
From: Instructional Assistant, Eyer MS

To: Instructional Assistant, Emmaus HS

Educational Conferences - Exhibit 3

That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the estimated expenses for the individuals attending the educational conferences listed on Exhibit 3.

Acceptance of Donation

RESOLVED, That, in accordance with Board Policy 702, Gifts, Grants, Funds, the East Penn Board of School Directors accept a \$1,000 check from the Emmaus Rotary Club for the new sound system in the Lincoln All Purpose Room.

Approval of Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit Contract (Exhibit 4)

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the attached contract with Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit for provision of special education programs and services as specified therein for the 2012-2013 school year and thereafter until expiration in accordance with the terms of the contract.

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

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

Absent: Policano-----1

7. Facilities

1. Approval of PlanCon K - General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012 (Exhibit 5)

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Stolz

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve PlanCon K, General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012, for submission to the PA Department of Education.

In answer to a question raised by Mrs. Donches about bidding services, Solicitor Fisher indicated that the services of Public Financial Management and Rhodes & Sinon are considered professional services and are not bid.

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

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

Absent: Policano-----1

8. Legislative

C. Ballard

Mr. Ballard talked about the Lehigh County Assessment letters that were received by Lehigh County property owners. He suggested that people go online and look up their properties to see how this assessment will affect them. He indicated that 55% of the properties will pay less taxes; 45% of properties will pay more. The new property value will not be effective until 2013. Mr. Ballard strongly emphasized that this reassessment does not have anything to do with the East Penn School District. There is an informal review process that a resident can sign up for by mail or online. Mr. Ballard shared his own assessment information, noting that his taxes will be increasing. He said there are several sites that list properties and gives you what the comparable values are in your area. He noted that Business Manager Debbie Surdoval has been listed as the contact for East Penn. He reminded senior citizens to look into the East Penn Tax Rebate Program. The forms can be obtained from the Tax Collectors, municipal offices, representatives' offices, or the Business Office. (Note: Forms are also available at the public libraries.) There are approximately 280 senior citizens who took advantage of the program last year. Ms. Fuller noted that the forms are on the East Penn web site. Mr. Earnshaw suggested a prepared statement should be put on the web site.

Mr. Stolz brought up the fact that Speaker Sam Smith had until Friday to make the determination about a special election for the 134th State Legislative District seat. This action has left five seats unrepresented and there might be a need for a special election. He suggested calling Speaker Sam Smith's office and voicing displeasure about his handling of this situation and his leadership. A special election will also cost taxpayers more money as well.

9. Business Operations

1. Approval of Bill List

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Donches

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.

Treasurer's Report

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the Treasurer's Report.

Facility Rental Request - Group V

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors grant permission for College Planning Center, 1301 Glasgow Street, Pottstown to rent Café 2 at Emmaus HS for a college planning seminar. This is a Group V organization and will be charged the following fees:

\$45.00/hr., rental fee

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Rhodes,

Stolz-----8

Absent: Policano-----1

Mr. Ballard acknowledged Joseph Ludrof, Jr., 2100 Alexander Drive, Macungie who had raised his hand during the meeting to ask a question. Mr. Ballard explained the meeting protocol and Mr. Ludrof subsequently completed a Request to Address the Board Form. His request was to have a copy of the information regarding the capital projects and he was given the copy of the information.

Mr. Stolz wanted to know if the Board should have accepted Mrs. Donches' reimbursement for her PSBA seminar, adding that he and the taxpayers thanked her. Mr. Ballard said there was a discussion about the policy since it is unclear and that is why there was a motion for accepting a gift. Mr. Stolz suggested the following motion regarding the Neighborhood Improvement Zone in Allentown:

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors express its displeasure with our representatives in the legislature in Harrisburg who sponsored and supported the legislation using East Penn taxpayer dollars for the Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone.

Mr. Ballard said there are claims being made that the funds will not be used and be there "in case" and, at best, it will take 9 months to get the funds. The district will not be able to count on it for the 2012-13 budget. Dr. Seidenberger said further information was received this afternoon but he needs to talk with Mr. Glancy and Mrs. Surdoval. He added that the Townships and Boroughs are leading this charge. One of the questions is whether Berkheimer or Keystone can give an estimate. Mr. Stolz and Mrs. Donches noted that other municipalities (Lower Macungie Township) have taken similar action. Mr. Ballard said it would be on the March 12 agenda under Legislative so the rest of the board has a chance to look at it.

10. Announcements

Monday, February 27

**6:45 p.m.-Executive Session (Personnel, Real Estate,
Confidential, Litigation)**

Friday, March 9

7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting

Sunday, March 11

ED Day, School Closed for Students

March 12-16

**Daylight Savings Time - Turn Clocks Ahead 1 hour
PSSA Reading & Math Exams**

11. Adjourn

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

Cecilia R. Birdsell, Board Secretary