

Order of Business

1. Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance

President Alan Earnshaw called the regular meeting of the East Penn Board of School Directors to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room located in the Administration Building, 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, Z. Munson, S. Rhoads,
W. Vinovskis

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: Peter McConnell, East Penn Press Reporter
Margie Peterson, Morning Call Reporter

2. Requests to Address the Board

John Donches, 559 Minor Street, Emmaus again reiterated his displeasure with the Hamilton Crossings project. He commented on an article in the newspaper that the project would be built without the TIF funding and what he referred to as County Executive Tom Muller's "side deals." Again, he said that the Lehigh County Commissioners by majority vote did not approve the TIF. He felt the 14 million dollars could be better used for education funding and concluded that the 7 million dollars that it would cost the district to grant the TIF was just "pay off" money. He concluded that it was not the role of the Board to say what businesses will exist and the Board should not be allowed to vote on it. He said it was a private concern not a government concern. He claimed the Board voted on the TIF without even knowing all the facts and figures about it.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Vinovskis, Seconded by Munson

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes for the February 24, 2014 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

4. Review Transportation RFP's – Mr. Lynn Glancy, Director of Operations

Dr. Seidenberger said Requests for Proposals were sought in the fall and provided information to the Board regarding the bidders. He said this would give the Board time to look at the information and get back to him with questions. Mr. Glancy asked that the questions be sent to him directly and he will answer the questions and send it back to the Board. They are intending to have it on the next Board agenda. It was noted that there were only three proposals from all the companies involved.

5. Report of the Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Thomas L. Seidenberger

1. District Update

Dr. Seidenberger reported that the Rifle Team finished third in the state. He shared that John Cramsey the new owner of the Shimerville Recreation Center will be allowing the team to use his facilities. The students are very welcome and there will be banners and league titles announcing their achievements. There will be a banner stating the range is "The proud home of the Emmaus Hornets Rifle Team."

The current enrollment is holding steady at 7,976. This week the annual Kindergarten registration is taking place. Referring to cyber/charter school rates, Dr. Seidenberger noted that they receive \$9,134 for a regular ed student; \$18,801.39 for a special education student. This is costing the district 3.6 million dollars this year. The district is currently running a deficit of \$213,000. He thanked board members for sending information about what other districts are doing and East Penn will be developing information that indicates how well the district is performing over the cyber/charters schools. A student going through the EHS cyber program receives an Emmaus HS diploma and takes part in extracurricular activities such as the proms and graduation. The Emmaus HS scored 92.5 while a charter school performed in the low 30s. Ms. Donches asked if the district gets a separate School Performance Profile for our cyber high school. Dr. Seidenberger responded that there is not a separate profile but they reviewed their scores and they are performing beyond what we expected. The students had great success in the program. If they leave, the feedback is that it is too hard.

Dr. Seidenberger talked about a press release by the various education associations urging the Legislature to adopt a consistent funding formula. He noted that PASBO sent a letter regarding ACCESS funds not being forthcoming. Hopefully, superintendents will send the information outlining the amount not being reimbursed and the districts will not be receiving these funds for another cycle.

Dr. Seidenberger said Governor Corbett and President Obama have been talking about early childhood education. East Penn's demographics have been changing and there are more families eligible for free and reduced lunches particularly in the Lincoln and Jefferson attendance areas. We were approached by Head Start of the Lehigh Valley to see if we would be willing to house a program for 3 or 4 year

olds in the district. There is some space available at Jefferson for 20 students to attend 4.5 hrs./day. East Penn would provide a small bus for transportation. Dr. Seidenberger noted that the buses must have some type of restraints (seat belts). It would cost \$15,000-\$18,000 to transport. There would be a certified teacher and all expenses would be paid by Head Start. The Agreement has been forwarded to Solicitor Fisher to review. Dr. Seidenberger felt it was a tremendous opportunity for the district.

He reported that the SAT will be changing in 2016 and distributed a copy of a side by side comparison.

Referring to the company that is supposed to be providing ACCESS funds, Mr. Ballard said the company is blaming school districts not understanding the new rules. Dr. Seidenberger responded that everything in the district is documented and the staff is following the guidelines. Dr. Mirabella concurred that there were no rejected claims.

2. Personnel

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Vinovskis

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

Retirements/Resignations

-Martha Teed, Family Consumer Science Teacher, at LMMS, effective June 17, 2014 (Exhibit 1)

-Melissa King, Staff Assistant at Emmaus HS, effective March 11, 2014 (Exhibit 2)

-Phyllis Hersh, Food Service Coordinator at Emmaus HS, effective July 1, 2014 (Exhibit 3)

Requests for General Leaves of Absence – Board Policy 539

Employee	Effective
Pam McCarthy, Staff Assist., Willow Lane	3/3/14-3/2/15
Ardith Yorgey, Instruct. Assist., Jefferson	2/23/14-2/22/15

Income Protection Leave

Sharon Shankweiler Effective: March 25, 2014
Grade 6 Teacher, LMMS

Leave as Per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Kristin Bruckner Grade 1, Macungie School Extension to June 30, 2014

Instructional Assistant Appointments

Name/Address	Assignment	Salary
Meghan Rau 1167 Wabasso Avenue Danielsville 18038	Instruct. Assist., Albutis School New Position	\$13.97/hr., up to 29 hrs./wk.
Alana Lynch 4881 S. Hedgerow Drive Allentown 18103	Instruct. Assist., Albutis School New Position	\$13.97/hr., 25 hrs./wk.

Effective: March 11, 2014

Additions to the 2013-14 List of Per Diem Substitutes

Monica Henrich, Food Service

Change in Assignments

Employee	From	To
Cindy Bogert	Lincoln IA/SA, 29 hrs./wk.	Lincoln IA, 29hr./wk.

Custodians – Effective March 10, 2014

Scott Schoenly	2 nd Shift Cust., Shoemaker	LMMS Maintenance B 12-8:30
Charles Zellner	LMMS Day Café	Shoemaker, 2 nd Shift
Andrew Marsteller	LMMS 2 nd Shift	Shoemaker, 2 nd Shift
Danny Bachert	Maintenance B, 12-8:30 p.m.	LMMS Day Café
	LMMS	
Richard Bernecker	EHS 2 nd Shift, Tues-Sat.	EHS 2 nd Shift

Co-Curricular Advisors

See Exhibit 4

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.

Resignation

-Robert Ritter, Facilities Manager, effective March 7, 2014 (Exhibit 3A)

Temporary Professional Employee Appointment

Name/Address:	Pam Reichert 2512 Bethlehem Fields Way Bethlehem 18015
Education Level:	B. S. N. Degree (2010)
Undergraduate School:	Gwynned Mercy College
Graduate School:	Alvernia University Certified School Nurse Credits
Effective:	To be determined
Certification:	Educational Specialist I
Assignment:	School Nurse, Wescosville School Vacancy created by J. Harrington resignation
Experience:	10/12-Present: Lower Merion SD 3/11-10/12-Boyertown Area SD 5/2008-1/2012: Lehigh Valley Hospital & Health Network
Salary:	\$47,344, Year 1, Col. B

Appointment of Interim Facilities Manager

Name/Address:	Robert Kovalchick 3030! Woodlane Avenue Orefield 18069
Assignment:	Interim Facilities Manager Vacancy created by R. Ritter resignation
Effective:	March 11, 2014
Salary:	\$43.00/hr., up to 40 hrs./wk.

Change of Assignment

Employee	From	To
Christine White	Administrative Assistant Emmaus HS, Principal's Office	Confidential Assistant Personnel Department Vacancy created by C. Firth retirement
Effective:	March 24, 2014	
Salary:	\$30,000/year	

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

- 3. 2014-15 East Penn School District Calendar – Exhibit 6

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Donches

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the 2014-15 East Penn School District Calendar.

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

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

4. Approval of Contract with the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit (Exhibit 7)

Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Heid

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the attached contract with NEIU, 1200 Line Street, Archibald, PA for provision of special education programs and services as specified therein are hereby approved for the 2014-15 school year and thereafter until expiration in accordance with the terms thereof.

Solicitor Fisher indicated a change in Paragraph 26, Item f.

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

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

5. Gift in Accordance with Board Policy 702 – Exhibit 8

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Heid

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors accept the attached list of equipment and accessories for media equipment from Mr. Scott Stoneback, The Media People, Inc., in accordance with Board Policy 702, Gifts, Grants, Funds.

Ms. Fuller indicated that she was abstaining and had completed the Conflict of Interest Abstention Form since her husband is Scott Stoneback. She provided background on how Mr. Stoneback has worked with students and Teacher Scott Didra on video productions over the years and felt the equipment would be useful at the high school. Mr. Ballard noted that the value amount for the equipment was Mr. Stoneback's quotes. Mr. Earnshaw thanked Mr. Stoneback for his generosity.

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

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

Abstention: Fuller-----1

6. Other Educational Entities

-Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – F. Fuller

1. 2014-15 General Operating Budget

Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Donches

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the 2014-15 General Operating Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Ms. Fuller indicated that the total operating budget is \$823,241 which is the same as the previous year. There have been alterations within the funding and East Penn's portion increased \$394, based on market value aid ratio paid 2013-14 with the average daily membership.

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

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

-Lehigh Career & Technical Institute – R. Heid, A. Earnshaw, F. Fuller, S. Rhodes

1. 2014-15 General Fund Budget & Academic Center Budget

Motion by Heid, Seconded by Rhodes

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors hereby authorize the expenditures of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute for the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$24,298,100 and for the Academic Center Budget in the amount of \$1,454,800 for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Ms. Donches said she was supportive of LCTI but was concerned that under new equipment/replacement of equipment that there was a reduction because of the increase in PSERS payments. She felt that this was an illustration of why people should be fighting hard for pension reform. She also commented on the 10% increase in the insurance premium. Ms. Heid reported that there is a projected 245 students

from East Penn and that Allentown, Parkland, and East Penn are the three top sending districts. Mr. Earnshaw noted that the LCTI budget was recommended by the Joint Operating Committee to the districts for action and in order to approve the budget it must be adopted by a majority of the sending districts and explained the process. He acknowledged that it was a difficult budget session and the commitment of the staff was to keep it within the index. He explained how the capital and operating budget is derived from the five year average of students and the assessed value of property. There was additional cutting to the budget to make it less difficult for the Allentown School District to absorb the costs. Ms. Heid said the school is doing a lot to conserve electricity. She noted Emmaus won an award for their video, "What's so Great About Manufacturing." The videos are on the web site. The videos were produced by the students at various manufacturers.

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

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

-Lehigh Carbon Community College

1. Nomination of Candidate At-Large Seat on the Board of Trustees

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors nominate Terry Richwine, 1463 Country Club Road, Wescosville as a candidate for an At-Large Seat on the Board of Trustees of Lehigh Carbon Community College from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2020.

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

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

Nay: Donches-----1

7. Legislative – C. Ballard

Mr. Ballard indicated that budget discussions are taking place but there is no information. The basic education subsidy is being flat funded. There are tax relief bills that are bottled up in committees but nothing is forthcoming. He noted SB 76 that is proposing property tax elimination within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. No one has been able to certify that the taxes proposed will equal what can be collected in property tax. HB 1013 is a new bill regarding home education specifying that they want to remove the requirements that home education programs document their progress to the local superintendent. There would be an independent evaluator that could not be a member of or agent of PDE or the school district. It would have to be someone who is neutral. He said that bill will be considered on March 17. Mr. Ballard urged the board members to contact local legislators since this is a bad bill. Ms. Donches asked what was the impetus for this bill and Mr. Ballard responded it is being put together by a Berks County legislator and he had no idea why.

1. Resolution for New Funding Formula for Basic Education – PSBA

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Munson

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's more than 1.8 million public school students deserve the highest quality education; and,

WHEREAS, the state's contribution in funding public education as a percentage of basic instructional expenses has declined from over 50% during the mid 1970's, to less than 35% today; and, on average, other states contribute 44% of total education funding; and Pennsylvania ranks 47th among the 50 states in the amount of state subsidies allocated to support elementary and secondary education, and ranks 8th in reliance on local taxes; and,

WHEREAS, as the state's share of K-12 education funding decreases while the number of state and federal mandates for public schools steadily increases each year, additional burden is placed on local taxpayers to make up the difference to ensure that our students' education is not jeopardized; and,

WHEREAS, in recent years, basic education funding has been distributed without the benefit of a funding formula, with the lack of a reliable, fair and transparent funding formula resulting in great disparities in how state education funds are distributed to school districts; and,

WHEREAS, these inequities effectively harm the ability of school districts to adequately and fairly provide the resources for the different needs of their students, especially those in poverty, those with disabilities, English language learners and other students; and,

WHEREAS, the East Penn School District supports the development of a system of public school financing that addresses the needs of school districts and students, and establishes a school funding formula that is equitable, adequate, comprehensive and consistent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the East Penn School District urges the General Assembly to reinvest its interest in the support of public schools by taking legislative action to establish a formula that is predictable and addresses adequacy and equity for all school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the East Penn School District will encourage others, including parents, students and district taxpayers, to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly to convey the importance of establishing a fair and equitable public school funding formula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the East Penn School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Donches said she was in favor of the resolution but she did want to reiterate her concerns about the actual law that allows for reimbursement for expenses for the 11 people on the Commission. Mr. Earnshaw pointed out that the resolution does not address those details. She continued with her analysis of the bill and then presented an amendment to the motion to include support for SB 76 to get rid of property taxes. Mr. Earnshaw asked her to confine her remarks to the resolution on the table since there was nothing in the resolution about property tax elimination or any specific bill and the Board was not debating the legislation. She asked if Mr. Ballard would agree to a friendly amendment to support SB 76. Her motion for the amendment failed because of the lack of a second.

Dr. Munson said he was shocked about the absence of a reliable formula to support public education. Rev. Vinovskis affirmed the intent of the original motion, adding that people need to do more than urge or encourage legislators to do something about working toward this formula. Ms. Donches added that she would join him on it. Mr. Earnshaw provided some background about the evolution of the funding formula since the 1970s.

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

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

2. Paycheck Protection Resolution – Submitted by Lynn Donches

Motion by Donches, Seconded by

WHEREAS, public sector employee unions engage in and spend money on political and partisan activity, including direct campaign contributions to candidates for local, state and national office, get out the vote efforts, issue advocacy, contributions to third-party political and partisan organizations, endorsements of candidates, as well as fundraising for campaign contributions to union political action committees (PAC), and,

WHEREAS, public sector employee unions—and only public sector employee unions—are permitted to collectively bargain to use taxpayer-funded payroll services to automatically deduct union fees, dues and campaign contributions from employees' paychecks, and,

WHEREAS, taxpayer resources are spent when union fees, dues and campaign contributions are automatically withheld from employees' paychecks, bundled together, and remitted to public sector employee unions, and,

WHEREAS, the automatic deduction of union dues violates the accountability between an organization and its members by eliminating the ability of members to withhold dues, and,

WHEREAS, it is not an undue burden on public sector employee unions to collect their own union fees, dues and campaign contributions directly from members without taxpayer subsidies, and,

WHEREAS, this Board of Directors believes it is a conflict of interest for school board members to permit the use public resources to collect any monies that are used for political or partisan purposes, and,

WHEREAS, eliminating the use of public resources for political and partisan purposes, without exception, promotes a consistent position of government neutrality by giving favor for no one, and,

WHEREAS, ending the taxpayer-funded collection, bundling and remittance of union fees, dues and campaign contributions will not otherwise alter or hinder the relationship between public employees and their unions or the abilities and rights of unions to participate in political and partisan activities, and,

WHEREAS, House Bill 1507 and Senate Bill 1034 support Public Workers Paycheck Protection,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the East Penn School District in Emmaus, Pennsylvania encourages the Governor and General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to

support House Bill 1507 and SB 1034 or any other legislation to prohibit the collection of public sector employee union fees, membership dues and campaign contributions by government as a matter for collective bargaining with public sector employee unions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be posted on the school district's website and submitted to the elected state senators and representatives of the school district in the General Assembly, to the Governor of Pennsylvania, and to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Penn School District held on this 10th day of March, 2014.

This resolution failed for lack of a second.

8. Business Operations

1. Bill List Approval

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Bacher

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

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

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

Abstention: Donches-----1

2. Disbursement of Funds – Exhibit 9

Motion by, Seconded by

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the payment of funds from the 32-Capital Reserve Funds and the 33-2010 Series A GOB as outlined in Exhibit 9.

Facility Rental Request

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors grant permission for the Kaplan Test Prep to rent a classroom in Emmaus High School on March 15, 17, 24, 29, 31; April 7, 12,14, 26, 28, 2014 for SAT preparation classes. This is a Group V organization and will be charged the following rental fee: \$18.00 per hour, rental fee.

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

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

9. Announcements

-Monday, March 10

6:30 p.m.-Executive Session (Personnel, Litigation, Legal Matters)

7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting

-March 19-22

EHS Drama Department – “Beauty and the Beast” – EHS Auditorium

Tickets are still available for the Wed., March 19, and Thurs., March 20, performances. Mr. Earnshaw encouraged the community to attend these productions since they are outstanding.

-March 24

7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting

Dr. Seidenberger noted that the Board would be honoring Sue Bauer for her Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics. There will be a presentation on Student Services by Dr. Linda Pekarik and Dr. Thomas Mirabella.

10. 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