

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., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: K. Bacher, C. Ballard, L. Donches, A. Earnshaw, F. Fuller
R. Heid, Z. Munson, S. Rhodes, III, 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
Randy Kraft, On Line Reporter for WFMZ

2. Staff Recognition:

Susan Bauer, a teacher at Eyer MS, was recognized for being selected as the recipient of the Presidential Award of Excellence for Science & Mathematics. Mr. Earnshaw, Dr. Seidenberger, and Mr. Kelly, Principal of Eyer MS, presented her with an East Penn Award. Dr. Seidenberger noted that Ms. Bauer had received citations from Senator Robert Casey, Senator Pat Toomey, and Representative Charles Dent. Ms. Nancy Wilt, Administrative Assistant to Senator Lisa Boscola, read a Proclamation from Senator Boscola. Ms. Wilt is also a former student at Eyer MS. Ms. Bauer shared her experience in Washington, D. C. and her meeting with President Obama and many other dignitaries and fellow teachers. She will be participating in a NOA expedition research team. Ms. Bauer received a round of applause from the audience. Mr. Earnshaw commented on his children's experience as being very positive when they were in Ms. Bauer's classroom.

3. Requests to Address the Board

Mr. Randy Williams, Area General Manager for First Student and a resident of the East Penn School District (4171 Newport Drive, Emmaus), read the attached letter regarding the resolution to engage STA as the bus transporter for East Penn.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Donches
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes for the March 10, 2014 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

5. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools-Exhibit 1

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Rhodes
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve a contract for employment with Dr. J. Michael Schilder.

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

Dr. Schilder was present and shook hands with board members and officers. Dr. Schilder said he was impressed with the level of enthusiasm expressed by everyone he came in contact with, adding that East Penn is a great system and that he is looking at maintaining the quality and improving where needed. He thanked the Board and indicated he was looking forward to working with them. Mr. Earnshaw said the process was extensive and at times grueling and looked forward to Dr. Schilder's leadership. Mr. Earnshaw added that he did not want to discount the leadership that Dr. Seidenberger has given the district.

6. Lehigh Carbon Community College Budget

Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Rhodes
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the 2014-15 Operating, Debt Service, and Capital Budgets for Lehigh Carbon Community College.

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

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

1. District Update

Dr. Seidenberger reported that LMMS student Kayla Kisthardt was a winner in the Lehigh Valley BPW bookmark contest. The Emmaus High School Art Department has a record breaking three Silver and one Gold National Medalist in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2014. The winners are Heather Koehler, National Gold; Shannon McGowan, Mara Ruzicka-Butz, and Nick Capri, National Silver Winners. The national celebration is at Carnegie Hall on June 6, 2014. The National Gold Medalist winner's work will be on display at Parsons the New School for Design's art gallery. He noted that the Head Start contract had been changed to reflect the questions that were raised. Dr. Seidenberger explained the law requiring restraints in a bus carrying these students. School Districts received a survey from Acting Secretary of Education Carolyn Dumesque regarding an extension for the Keystone Exams. We have forwarded that we would be extending the Keystone Exam date by one week. A response is expected in the near future. This district has not received a reply regarding our request for exceptions. There was a letter received asking for additional information. Dr. Seidenberger said he continues to work on the budget every day and they are spending time on reviewing revenues. He felt the district was in a much better position since there are several warehouses being built. He spoke about the increase in special education costs. They are looking at retirement differentials and tuition reimbursement rates. The medical benefits account has dropped by approximately 1%. The budget book will be distributed before the next Board Meeting.

2. Personnel

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

Resignation

-Santiago Baraciarte, Instructional Assistant at Emmaus HS, effective 3/21/14 (Exhibit 2)

Approval of General Leaves of Absence – Board Policy 539

Employee: Audrey Stevens
Tech Ed Teacher, LMMS
Effective: 7/1/14-6/30/15

Employee: Michele Sovia
Remedial Assistant
Effective: 3/17/14-3/16/15

Income Protection

Employee: Jamie Horn
Grade 3 Teacher, Alburts School
Effective: April 10, 2014

Leave as Per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Employee: Erin Dry
Music Teacher, Willow Lane School
Effective: 4/ 10-5/21/14

Administrative Assistant Appointment & Health Room Assistant Appointment

Name/Address: Nancy Roberts
478 Chestnut Circle W., Alburts 18011
Assignment: Administrative Assistant, Jefferson School
Vacancy created by A. Miller retirement
Effective: March 25, 2014
Salary: \$25,400, 35 hrs./wk.

Name/Address: Jenna Chromiak
3468 Franklin Street, Slatington 18080
Effective: March 25, 2014
Assignment: Shoemaker School
Vacancy created by resignation.
Salary: \$19.60/hr., 29 hrs./wk.

Co-Curricular Appointment

Ryan Harrington EHS Drama, Spring Assistant Director \$1,448

Additions to the 2013-14 List of Per Diem Substitutes

See Exhibit 3

Change in Employment Status – Effective March 17, 2014

<u>Employee</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Robert Haberstump	EHS 3 rd Shift, Night Foreman	EHS 2 nd Shift, Tues-Sat. Custodian
Jonathan Peters	EHS 2 nd Shift, Tues-Sat Custodian	LMMS 2 nd Shift Custodian

Educational Conferences – Exhibit 4

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

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

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

3. Approval of Head Start Collaborative Agreement – Exhibit 5

Motion by Rhodes, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the Head Start Collaborative Agreement as outlined in Exhibit 5.

Note: Agreement has been reviewed by solicitor.

At this time we do not know how many students would require transportation, if any. In answer to a question from Rev. Vinovskis, Dr. Seidenberger clarified that the employees are not East Penn employees. The maximum number of students would be 20. Dr. Seidenberger concluded that we hope to develop a positive relationship.

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

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

7. Presentation – Student Services

Dr. Linda Pekarik, Director of Special Education, reviewed the Special Education Comprehensive Plan that is on the district web site until April 7. This plan must be developed every three years. Dr. Pekarik explained the private school placements and the least restrictive environment facilities for students who need autistic support, deaf and hard of hearing instruction, and emotional support. East Penn support services include 145 paraprofessionals at all three levels, 6 school psychologists, 3 special education supervisors, and 1 special education director. East Penn also employs 1 home & school visitor, 21 guidance counselors, 9 school nurses, and 18 health room assistants. We do contract out for occupational therapy, physical therapy, and orientation and mobility. Dr. Pekarik noted that there are also psychological and other services that are provided by outside agencies when needed. The district uses the Child Find System to locate, identify and evaluate children. There are numerous public awareness activities that are used to notify residents about procedures for evaluation of children for special education services. The criteria for identifying students includes an IQ and achievement discrepancy model and RtII (Response to Instruction and Intervention) SLD in reading. East Penn was the first district in Lehigh County to submit an application. This year there are 85 students that they will be evaluating for school age programs for the 2014-15 school year. Dr. Pekarik noted that the numbers keep increasing and some classes are capped at 8 students. Behavior support relating to special education services and programs are supported by Board Policy 249. Referring to personnel development, paraprofessionals need a required 20 hours of training in CPI, CPR/First Aid/AED. Next year there will also be a parent training online course on the district web site. Again, East Penn is the first in Lehigh County to present this aspect in our special education program. As part of the Plan Requirements, the school district must affirm that funds received through participation in ACCESS will be used to enhance or expand the current level of services or programs provided to students with disabilities. The Special Education Plan must be received by the Bureau of Special Education by May 1, 2014.

Eyer MS teacher Krystal Scheller and Parent Robin Urenko presented a series of slides on what takes place in a classroom setting from taking care of their furry friends to washing and putting away dishes. Mrs. Jennifer Pammer, a parent with 2 children with special needs and a third child in Kindergarten, shared her experiences in East Penn. She felt that the difference was a well-trained staff. It was noted that teachers communicate with parents every day and students tell teachers about their weekends by filling out a Weekend Report.

A complete copy of this presentation is attached to the permanent minutes of this meeting.

Dr. Thomas Mirabella, Director of Student Services, reviewed the areas that fall under his supervision. This year (2013-14) East Penn has 30 students who qualify as homeless; last year (2012-13) East Penn had 22 students classified as homeless. To be classified as homeless, it means a student who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate night time residence, under a series of conditions such as sharing housing of other persons due to loss of housing, living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, etc. Homeless student must be provided services comparable to those offered to other students including, transportation, vocational-technical programs, ELL, and school nutrition programs. Referring to medical access students, Dr. Mirabella reported that in 2014 there are 283 eligible students and in 2013 there were 163 eligible students. Dr. Mirabella reviewed the nursing services that are provided through personal insurance plans and students who receive full day nursing services. Also highlighted were the alternative placements for regular education students Dr. Mirabella is also responsible for the Safe Schools Steering Committees that consist of representatives from the Central Office Administrators, elementary and secondary principals, Emmaus Police Department, the East Penn Education Association, the teaching staff, school nurse, and a school psychologist. The coordination of the severe weather drill, the yearly safe schools state reporting, the maintenance of the Crisis Assistance Guides, and updating and maintaining the Memorandum of Understanding with local police agencies all fall under Dr. Mirabella's aegis. Other areas that were highlighted were homebound instruction, the Student Assistance Program, Guidance, Child Abuse Recognition, 504 Service Plans, 1302, 1305, and 1306 students, and migrant students.

A complete copy of this presentation is attached to the permanent minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Fuller thanked the administrators for the presentation, adding that she was astounded by the number of homeless students in a district that is thought to be so wealthy. She clarified that there are over 1,127 special education students in a population of 8,000 students. In response to the question if this included the gifted program, Dr. Pekarik indicated that it did not. She explained that every 6 years, each school district must develop and implement a gifted education plan. The gifted education plan must be made available for public inspection and comment for 28 days, and then it can be approved by the school entity's governing board. Our gifted education plan is due on September 30, 2014. Mr. Ballard said every year he hears from taxpayers that there are too many administrators and what struck him with the presentation was the level of complexity of the programs that are administered by staff and the effort that is needed to comply with federal and state mandates. Mr. Ballard concluded that every one of these administrators earn their pay and he thanked them for their service. Dr. Munson thanked them for the presentation. Dr. Pekarik responded to his question about why evaluative criteria is more advantageous than previous criteria. Rev. Vinovskis thanked them for the presentation. He said every budget is a statement of values and that he was grateful that the School Board values those students who have those needs. He asked who provides the equipment for a student in an outside program. Dr. Pekarik responded that the district is responsible for the children no matter where they are placed. Dr. Munson suggested that the Special Education Comprehensive Plan be kept on the web site indefinitely. Dr. Pekarik indicated that there is a comment section in the plan that must be closed after 28 days. However, the plan could be kept on the web site without the comment section. Dr. Munson asked Dr. Mirabella how many students are serviced in the SAP Program. Dr. Mirabella indicated that it runs in the range of 100-200 students in middle school and the high school.

8. Policy

-First Reading: Board Policy 618: Special Purpose Funds (Exhibit 6)

9. Business Operations

1. Bill List Approval

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the attached 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
 Abstain: Donches-----1

2. Treasurer's Report

Motion by Donches, Seconded by Vinovskis

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

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

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

3. Transportation Contract

Motion by Ballard, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors accept the proposal of STA of Pennsylvania, Inc. to provide transportation services from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019 contingent upon the execution of a contract and other appropriate documentation satisfactory to the Solicitor.

In response to Ms. Donches, Solicitor Fisher clarified that the Board was accepting the proposal as recommended by the administration; however, it is conditional upon the contract being prepared and signed by both parties. The actual contract will not come back to the Board. She then questioned having the contract for a shorter period than five years, perhaps for two years. Mr. Glancy explained that the bidders could take issue with a shortened time and the price would go up substantially. The quote is based on a five year contract. Mr. Earnshaw said the Board cannot unilaterally change the RFP.

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

Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Munson, Rhodes, Vinovskis-----8
Nay: Donches-----1

10. Announcements

-Thursday, March 13 Executive Session (Personnel)

-Monday, March 24 6:45 p.m.-Executive Session (Real Estate; Legal);

Following the Board Meeting there will be an Executive Session (Personnel).

7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting

Board members commented on the outstanding production of Beauty and the Beast that was presented by the Emmaus HS Drama Department. The performances by the students, the sets, and the costuming were tremendous.

Ms. Donches commented positively about the Fitness Club competition that she attended. In response to a question about the capital projects for next year, Dr. Seidenberger indicated that it would be part of the budget presentation.

-April 3, 4, 5 7:00 p.m.-Shrek the Musical, LMMS Auditorium

April 5 2:00 p.m.-Matinee

April 28 7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting

11. Adjourn

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

Cecilia R. Birdsell, Board Secretary