

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 7:40 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: C. Ballard, A. Earnshaw, F. Fuller, E. Gannon, M. Policano, S. Rhodes, T. Richwine, J. Stolz

Board Member Absent: R. Heid

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: Jennifer Rodgers, Morning Call Reporter
Glenn Nelson, East Penn Press Reporter
Jennifer Marangos, Editor, Emmaus.patch.com

2. Board Member Recognition

President Ballard presented Certificates and Awards of Recognition to Board Members Elaine Gannon and Terry Richwine for their 16 years of service on the East Penn Board of School Directors. President Ballard said the Board and administration appreciated their service and support over the last 16 years. They received a round of applause.

Ms. Gannon said it had been a pleasure and honor to serve on the Board. She developed many relationships over the years. Ms. Gannon reflected on the increase in enrollment, adding it was bittersweet to step down and she will miss many of the people. She noted that a lot of good people have gone on, including her own children, and she felt it was time to move on. She said she wished everyone well and was thankful for the opportunity to serve.

Mr. Richwine said he would like to reserve some of his comments until the end of the meeting. However, Mr. Richwine said he had not anticipated being on the Board for 16 years. He reflected on the first budget book that he received in 1995-96 and the number of good people who have retired. He said the only people who were still here were Dr. Denise Torma, Mrs. Surdoval, Solicitor Fisher, and, of course, Board Secretary Cecilia R. Birdsell, the Swiss Army Knife of the East Penn School District, who has been the cornerstone of the district for many years and served the Board, the superintendent and the district. He said Dr. Wells was one of the last people and he retired last year. The changes in personnel have been extensive. He said he would continue with his remarks at the end of the meeting.

3. Requests to Address the Board

Carlen Blackstone, Computer Science Teacher at Emmaus HS, announced the Computer Science Education Week from December 5-9, 2011. She has taught computer science at the high school since 1981. She provided statistics that indicated that 2018 there will be 1.4 million computer specialists jobs to be filled and only one-third will be graduating from U.S. universities to fill these positions. She said East Penn has a strong computer science curriculum but more students are graduating who know how to use technology but not necessarily develop technology. In order to raise awareness, a Computer Science Showcase is planned for Thursday, December 8, from 8:00-9:00 p.m. The Robotics Club will use the semicircular lobby area to demonstrate tasks that programmable robots can do. Computer science professionals who live in the community will be available to demonstrate or discuss projects they have worked on. They will celebrate Grace Hopper's Birthday which is December 9 and will remember the legacy of Steve Jobs. She invited the public to attend. She thanked the Board for its time.

4. Public Financial Management -

Mr. Scott Shearer, Managing Director of PFM, reviewed the highlights of the refunding analysis of Series A of 2006. Attached to the permanent minutes is a copy of this report. The call date for this issue is January 1, 2012. Legally, the district could not refinance this issue until now. He said that based on the current rates and a January 17, 2012 settlement the net savings are estimated to be approximately \$203,524. Two other bond issues, Series A of 2004 and Series of 2007 could be re-financed; however, the interest rates are too low to do so at this time. They may be back by December 12 for the bond sale but it depends on the market. If it is not where they want it to be, then the sale would be postponed until January.

Motion by Policano, Seconded by Earnshaw

RESOLVED,

That the East Penn Board of School Directors (the District) does hereby authorize the administration to work with Public Financial Management, as Financial Advisor and Rhoads & Sinon, LLP, as Bond Counsel, in conjunction with the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012, for the purpose of refunding the School District's General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2006 at a minimum net savings of \$200,000.

This resolution was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:
Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Gannon, Policano, Rhodes, Richwine, Stolz-----8
Absent: Heid-----1

Mr. Shearer thanked the outgoing board members, Ms. Gannon and Mr. Richwine, for their support and wished them well.

5. Emmaus HS SGA Report

Cristen French & Shiv Joshi reported on the following Emmaus HS activities:

-Homecoming week was a complete success. The football team won the game; Brian Auvil and Gabby Niciotis were crowned King and Queen.

-On October 6, the World Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held and welcomed new members. In order to be inducted the students had to have high grades and completed two full years in the language.

-On December 6, the Winter Choral Concert will be held in the EHS auditorium. Performing will be Fermata Nowhere, Choir, Women's Choir, and the Select Choir.

-Thirty-eight students were selected to perform in the PMEA District 10 Chorus.

-The Second Annual Blood Drive was held in November and there were 140 donors. All donations will benefit the American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

-The EHS Key Club donated many used books to the Cops 'n Kids Program. They sold over 200 labels and had a yard sale.

-The Academic Scrimmage Team beat Wilson and won in sudden death overtime. Devon Reinert is Captain and other members are Caleb Clever, Tim Su, Neeraj Tatikola and alternates Brit Gilbert and Asim Viqar.

-The fifth period lunch for Freshmen is a success. It allows Freshmen to make a smooth transition into the high school.

-The FBLA Club is hosting a fund raiser to send students to the state competition. They are selling \$1.00 raffle tickets and the winner of the raffle will get all the ingredients for a full Thanksgiving meal. The Regional Competition will be held on December 20.

Ms. Fuller said she was very happy to receive a copy of The Stinger, the EHS student newspaper.

6. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

1. District Update

Dr. Tony Moyer, Principal of Willow Lane Elementary School, introduced visiting Chinese principal, Li Ming, of Shijiazhuang Ning Yuan Primary School in Hebei Province, China. Parent Nancy Wu served as a translator for Principal Li. He said he had learned a lot to bring back to China to share with his teachers. He was glad to be here and had spent the whole day at Willow Lane. He said there are a lot of differences between American and Chinese Education Systems. The residents' philosophy and creativity are different. Dr. Moyer will be going to China in April. Principal Li felt that they can learn from each other and improve together. He said Chinese students and teachers like to learn from Americans, not only academically but culturally. President Ballard and Dr. Seidenberger presented President Li with a baseball cap and sweatshirt from Emmaus HS. They received a round of applause from the audience. Dr. Moyer thanked the Board and indicated that the teachers have spent a great deal of time teaching the students about China and it is hoped that a relationship with Principal Li's school can be established. He said it was a joy to see the students say "ni hao." Dr. Seidenberger said the dragon at the assembly was outstanding and it was an upbeat program.

In relation to the weather, Dr. Seidenberger said it has been a year unlike any before in terms of weather and extreme conditions. With the power outage, the district struggled with communications. He wanted to assure the Board and community that there are some things that will be done immediately to help with emergency situations. The district is in the process of updating the bus stops and creating an alternate emergency plan. This information will be mailed to parents and they will be asked to keep the plan posted in a prominent area. He reported that parents wanted to know why the alternate bus stops created were not on WFMZ. Dr. Seidenberger said WFMZ will not put that level of detail on the air. It was put in the Alert Now message. The parts for an upgrade to a generated communication systems had not been received in time for the unexpected snow storm. This would allow the district web site to operate on a minimal basis. Dr. Seidenberger pointed out that there are certain places in the district that could be impacted by any kind of heavy rain. If an emergency route is called, it will be for a full day - both morning pick up and afternoon delivery. One of the problems experienced was that as areas were cleaned up the buses followed their normal routes and this was confusing to parents.

Director of Operations Lynn Glancy said the district has had a contract with Clear Choice as our Demand Response Provider. Over the past two years, the district has received \$116,000 for being ready to reduce our electrical

peak demand when requested. It is time to renew the contract with Clear Choice or change to another Demand Response Provider. Clear Choice is estimating our payments for the next three years at up to \$177,000. An alternate to Clear Choice Energy would be EnerNoc, Inc. They are estimating that over the next three years we should receive up to \$233,669 for Demand Reduction. At no additional cost, they will also provide near-real time metering at ten of our school buildings and at the end of the three year contract the district would own the metering equipment. The installation of this metering equipment is worth \$50,000. This equipment and software will give us the ability to measure when we use the largest or peak amount of electrical energy and allow us to modify to save additional money by lowering the PPL bills. It was Mr. Glancy's recommendation to terminate the Clear Choice contract and enter into an agreement with EnerNOC, Inc. The estimated first year revenue for this agreement with EnerNOC would be \$61,672, which would offset part of the cost of electricity. Ms. Fuller asked if there were any other local districts using EnerNOC. Mr. Glancy responded that East Penn would be the first in Lehigh County using this company. Mr. Ballard asked if the solicitor had reviewed the Agreement and clause 3G. Solicitor Fisher said he had seen the Agreement. Mr. Ballard said that under clause 3G there was a clawback provision and proceeded to read the statement. Mr. Ballard had a problem with the idea of a clawback provision once the contract would be terminated. Mr. Fisher will review the agreement. This will come back to the Board at the December 12 meeting.

Mr. Glancy reviewed the Ref Pay recommendation that was tabled at the last Board Meeting. This system was developed by the Arbiter Sports System for NCAA. This software is serving 3,000 leagues and 270,000 officials. It is the largest software payment system in the country. This is a way to pay officials on line and thus reduce the costs of processing checks and mailing. The Athletic Department would continue to manage this process and would provide payment information to the Board for approval. In addition, Ref Pay will produce the IRS 1099 form for each official. The fall, winter, spring sports seasons costs the district about \$14,500/season. This amount would be deposited in a Ref Pay account at the beginning of each season. Weekly reports are available to monitor this system. Ref Pay has increased its fees once in the last three years and the Agreement can be cancelled at any time. Northern Lehigh, Northwestern Lehigh, and Whitehall Coplay School Districts are currently using Ref Pay and they are pleased with the system. Parkland and Allentown are considering using the system next fall. The Ref Pay Agreement will be on the December 12 Board Meeting. Mr. Earnshaw said the Agreement looked like a print out from their website and suggested that Mr. Glancy get an updated Agreement that includes the fee schedule.

Dr. Seidenberger reported that Terrific Teens, a new show by Channel 39, will be inviting our EHS Key Club for the taping of their first show for the Cops 'n Kids Program.

East Penn is receiving the Lehigh Valley Branch Sustainability Award for 2011 in recognition of our dedication and support of sustainable and environmentally responsible planning, design, construction and operations. This award is sponsored by the Delaware Valley Green Building Council. The ceremony will be held at the Steel Stacks on Wednesday evening.

Dr. Seidenberger will be looking at a company, Verified Residents.Com., that can do an audit to see if there are out-of-district students attending East Penn. The administration will be reviewing this concept at an approximate cost of \$16,000. Mr. Earnshaw questioned the company's claim that they can find at least 1% of the students who are not district residents. In East Penn's case that could be around 80 students. Dr. Seidenberger said he will be checking with other districts that have used this company.

Mr. Earnshaw commented positively on the international options that are being explored by Willow Lane. He relayed his personal work experience where he was interacting with visitors from a number of countries, adding that the reality of the business world today is that it is an international business. He felt the more students could be exposed to the different cultures the better off they will be in the future.

Dr. Seidenberger commented on the number of teachers who are attending the Indicator 13 workshops, noting that this is a state mandate.

Dr. Seidenberger said that Mrs. Surdoval will be giving an overview of the budget at the December 5 Reorganization Meeting since the timelines have been shortened. He then proceeded to review the attached list of current situations and fundamentals regarding the 2012-2013 budget.

Referring to the power outage, Dr. Seidenberger clarified for Mr. Ballard that two schools - Lower Macungie Middle School and Alburtis - did have power. Mr. Ballard asked about the natural gas powered generators that were in schools and why more schools did not have the emergency generators. Mr. Robert Ritter said all of the generators for the schools were on (both gas-fired and oil-fired). However, it is limited emergency power. The buildings were maintainable but school could not be held. Mr. Ballard asked how often they were tested. The generators are tested for a half hour, once a week.

Referring to the attached Budget Primer, Mr. Ballard pointed out that the vote for going to the index will have to be taken in December. The cutoff date based on the primary election date is January 5, 2012. The December 12 Board Meeting is where the Board will have to decide if the district is going to apply for exceptions. Mr. Ballard told board members that they will have to review the information that is received on December 5, and, again, emphasized that the December 12 Board Meeting is where action must be taken. Mr. Ballard said the cost of inflation is running at 3.4% and what the legislators will tell you is that the basic education subsidy has been increased. Currently, state payments to the district account for less than 20% of the district's revenue. He also commented that people in East Penn who think they will get funds from a voucher program are ill informed. The proposal on the table is for failing districts and that would not

include East Penn. The amount calculated is approximately \$2600 per year. It is higher in other districts based on their status.

2. Personnel

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

Resignations/Retirement

- Joelle Hower, Home & School Visitor, effective January 6, 2012 (Exhibit 1)
- Nancy Hoffman, Remedial Assistant, effective November 4, 2011 (Exhibit 2)
- Justin Schnalzer, Technology Assistant, effective November 2, 2011 (Exhibit 3)

Income Protection Leaves

| <u>Employee</u> | <u>Effective</u> |
|--|------------------|
| Linda Dunnette Special Education Teacher, Lincoln | November 4, 2011 |
| Dolores Evans German Teacher, Eyer/LMMS | November 8, 2011 |

Request for General Leave of Absence

Employee: Theresa Berthel
Staff Assistant, LMMS
Effective: November 7, 2011-June 30, 2012
Reference: Board Policy 539, General Leave

Leave as Per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Employee: Caitlin Shutte
Kindergarten Teacher, Macungie School
Effective: 12/5/11-11/13/12

Employee: Jennifer Carabello
Kindergarten Teacher, Shoemaker School
Effective: 11/28/11-1/2/12

Appointment of Full-Time Substitute Teachers

Name/Address: Lisa Wolff
1979 Goldenrod Drive, Macungie
Education Level: B. A. Degree (1983)
Undergraduate School: Lehigh University
Graduate School: DeSales University (Certification Credits)
Assignment: Grade 6 Teacher, LMMS
Opening created by T. Scisly leave
Effective: October 25, 2011 (retroactive)
Certification: Instructional I, Elementary
Experience: 9/08-6/2011, East Penn SD (Elementary FTS)
Salary: \$45,831 (Year 3, Col. B)

Name/Address: Jennifer Hanssen
4283 Elm Drive, Allentown 18103
Education Level: B. S. Degree (2010)
Undergraduate School: Kutztown University
Assignment: Gifted Education Teacher, Shoemaker, Alburdis, Jefferson Schools
(Opening created by M. Sell leave)
Effective: November 15, 2011
Certification: Instructional I, Elementary
Experience: 5/11-Present: East Penn SD (per diem sub)
5/2010-6/2010: Saucon Valley SD (per diem sub)
Salary: \$45,185 prorated (Year 1, Col. B)

Appointment of Instructional Assistant

Name/Address: Rebecca Murphy
130 Spruce Street, Emmaus
Assignment: Emmaus HS (Vacancy created by L. Conrad resignation)
Effective: October 11, 2011
Salary: \$12.99/hr., 29 hrs./wk.

Appointment of PT Food Service Assistant

Name/Address: Barbara Hoffman
267 Maple Court, Alburdis
Assignment: Eyer MS (Vacancy created by J. Miller resignation)
Effective: November 9, 2011
Salary: \$12.96/hr., 22.5 hrs./wk.

Co-Curricular Advisors

See Exhibit 4

Authorization of Attendance Officers

In accordance with Modifications 5.29, the East Penn Board of School Directors authorizes the following individuals to act in the capacity of attendance officers to write truancy citations:

| <u>Emmaus HS</u> | <u>Elementary Principals</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| David Piperato, Principal | Dr. Jacqueline Attinello, Lincoln |
| Janine Mathesz, Assistant Principal | Tara Desiderio, Wescosville |
| Mark Caccavo, Assistant Principal | Dr. Ron Renaldi, Alburdis |
| Zach Fuller, Assistant Principal | Cheryl Wetzel Scalzo, Jefferson |
| Sally Hanzlik, Assistant Principal | Anthony Moyer, Willow Lane |
| Andrea Edmonds, Assistant Principal | James Best, Macungie |
| | Lynn Brinckman, Shoemaker |
| <u>Lower Macungie MS</u> | <u>Eyer MS</u> |
| Suzanne Vincent, Principal | Dave Silfies, Principal |
| Greg Annoni, Assistant Principal | Michael Kelly, Assistant Principal |
| Rodd Luckenbill, Assistant Principal | |

Student Services

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Jennifer Curtis | Dr. Thomas Mirabella |
| Karen Fairclough | Linda Pekarik |
| Meredith Frantz | |

Additions to the 2011-2012 List of Per Diem Substitutes - See Exhibit 5

Educational Conferences - Exhibit 6

That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the estimated expenses for the individuals attending the educational conferences listed on Exhibit 6.

Mr. Earnshaw pointed out the number of teachers who are mandated to attend Indicator 13 training, noting that this is an unfunded mandate. The cost is approximately \$43/teacher; however, the district will have to hire per diem substitutes that will probably cost approximately \$15,000-\$20,000. He said legislators need to understand that many of the costs to taxpayers comes out of the regulations passed by the legislators.

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

Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Gannon, Policano, Rhodes, Richwine, Stolz-----8
Absent: Heid-----1

- Approval for the Submission to the Department of Education - Mid Point Review of the East Penn Strategic Plan

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Stolz
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors accept the report of the Strategic Planning Committee and approves the submitted revisions to the Strategic Plan; and,

Be it further

RESOLVED, That the Professional Education Report has been developed in accordance with the laws, regulations and guidelines for the development, implementation and evaluation of the Professional Education Report as designed in Chapter 4 of the Regulations of the PA State Board of Education.

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

Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Gannon, Policano, Rhodes, Richwine, Stolz-----8
Absent: Heid-----1

7. Other Educational Entities

-Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit T. Richwine

The next meeting of the IU Board of Directors will be November 19. Mr. Richwine will introduce Ms. Fuller as his replacement on the IU Board. He said he always tried to convey what services the IU provides.

-Lehigh Career & Technical Institute F. Fuller
T. Richwine
A. Earnshaw
R. Heid

Ms. Fuller thanked Mr. Richwine for his service on both the IU Board of Directors and the LCTI Joint Operating Committee. She indicated that there was a program on Collins Writing and Word Enrichment that helps students understand the vocabulary in their professional settings. Reporting excess revenues that will come back to districts in January, Ms. Fuller said East Penn will receive approximately \$13,140.83. East Penn will be owing \$313.45 for the Academic Center Fund excess revenues because of the level of students. Some funds have been retained for the Academic Center to offset the cost of tuition so East Penn currently has available \$83,528.42. The JOC will be holding a meeting for the interviews for the new Executive Director.

8. Legislative C. Ballard

Mr. Ballard announced that there are only 12 voting days before the end of the year. There are a number of major issues that are trying to be resolved. It is very possible to see a last minute sudden explosion of bills on a number of issues such as the Marcellus Shale Tax issue and vouchers. It is not clear what is happening to SB 1 in the House since there are House bills that have been sent to the Senate for concurrence that mirror some parts of SB 1. He urged board members to contact House members and let them know what the problems are with vouchers. It is the Senate's estimate that after year three of the vouchers that 80% of the money would go to students who are already enrolled in private and parochial schools. He concluded that it is creating a new entitlement program, giving taxpayers less control, and creating a bureaucracy and increasing government to take care of vouchers.

9. Business Operations

1. Approval of Bill List

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Gannon
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the attached bill list, including the addendum, and that the Treasurer be authorized to issue checks and vouchers in the amounts indicated.

Treasurer's Report

RESOLVED, That the Treasurer's Report be approved.

Disbursement of Funds - Exhibit 7

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the disbursement of funds from the 33-2010 Series A GOB and the Capital Reserve Fund as outlined on Exhibit 7.

Parent Transportation Contracts

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following Transportation Contracts:

Parent: Sharon & Richard Colson
1058 Hausman Road, Allentown

Effective: 10/3/11-6/15/12

Reimbursement: 8.3 miles to Eyer MS
2.5 miles to Willow Lane
\$.55/mile

Parent: Kathleen O'Gara
1151 Bulldog Drive, Allentown

Effective: 11/1/2011-6/15/2012

Reimbursement: 11.8 miles to LMMS & Alburdis
\$.55/mile

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

Aye: Ballard, Earnshaw, Fuller, Gannon, Policano, Rhodes, Richwine, Stolz-----8

Absent: Heid-----1

10. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Stolz

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of Schools Directors approve the minutes of the October 24, 2011 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

11. Comments by Outgoing Board Member

Mr. Richwine said a lot of what he is going to say has to do with what he felt the role of public education is in society today. He noted that in the 1996-97 school there was an enrollment of 6560 students and a building capacity of 5700. He said the district had to provide over 1200 spaces for just the students we had at that time. Most of the school buildings had not been worked on for 20 or 30 years. The building plan had to come up with over a 20% increase in taxes just to meet the needs at that time. We now have over 8000 students. He reflected that since he was on the Board the capacity increased by almost 50%. He said people have pointed out the debt but the district does not build, renovate, and expand ten school buildings without incurring debt. His first meeting where he was sworn in was in the Wescosville School before it was expanded.

Other changes that have affected how the district operates, includes the change in population. When he came on the Board low income students made up 3% of the student population and now that is 17%. He said low income students are harder and more difficult to educate because they are less prepared and they have less assistance outside of school. Traditionally, they do not do well on standardized tests. He said it is remarkable that the PSSA scores are as high as they are. He objected to using standardized testing to judge a school. Quoting from H. G. Wells, "Our challenge is not to educate children we used to have or want to have but educate the children who come to the schoolhouse door." A school district cannot pick and choose but must take them all. There has also been a tremendous increase in special education students. These are students that private and parochial schools do not have to take. The special ed costs have increased 370% in recent years; state funding has increased 40%. East Penn's net cost has increased by 9.5 million dollars. He said the district must provide these services by law and it is the right thing to do. He was criticizing how the program is funded or not funded. Another underfunded mandate would be charter schools. At one time the district did not pay anything because charter schools did not exist and now the district is paying 3 million dollars. He pointed out that these two items account for 20% of the millage. Those are costs over which there is no control.

The Board has been accused over the years of not being fiscally responsible. Since he joined the Board, East Penn has gone from the fourth highest millage in Lehigh County to the third lowest, despite all those extra students, extra buildings, and extra special education costs. The Center for American Progress studied all the school districts in Pennsylvania as well as other states, East Penn received the highest rating in the category of Basic Return on Investment of 39 districts in the state and the only one in Lehigh County to get the highest rating. When Moody's increased the bond rating, some of the comments were that the rating reflects the district's historically strong financial operations and conservative financial management practices. Those opinions of organizations not related to East Penn speak volumes about our fiscal responsibility.

The academic performance is as good as anyone in the East Penn area. For many years, East Penn has offered more AP courses than any other school. More East Penn students take AP tests and more students receive the highest grades. This year we had half of the National Merit Semi Finalists from Lehigh County and one-third from Lehigh-Northampton Counties. East Penn has been averaging almost ten students a year even though statistically we should only have three or four students. In a recent Morning Call article, citizens who moved to Lower Macungie Township said a lot of them moved there because of the reputation of the school district. He said that should say volumes for the quality of

an East Penn education. Mr. Richwine said that unfortunately public education is under attack. He cited the following reasons as factors: Money-people in corporations decided that you can make money in education by driving public education out of existence and privatizing education; Union Busting-to destroy the public education system you destroy the unions, leaving the students without a free and appropriate education; Re-segregation-by the haves and have nots. He said that would leave some students going to the Saks Fifth Avenue of schools and relegating most students to the Walmarts. Most of the people funding these movements never went to public schools. This goes across party lines. He talked about the international comparisons that are used to bash public schools. On the average U.S. schools finish in the middle of the pack. U. S. Schools with 10% poverty are equal to any country in the world, including Singapore that is rated at the top. He cited the comments made by the Minister of Education for Singapore who talked about the differences between American Schools and Singapore.

East Penn is lucky enough to be properly funded. Mr. Richwine said the schools that really need help are the urban ones. He read some comments from a Chinese educator now living in the United States, "by grading students success in government set standards in such limited subjects such as math, reading and science, the United States is willing to throw away one of its global advantages - an education that respects individual's talents and does not dictate what students learn or how teachers teach. Mr. Richwine felt this is what schools have been driven to by No Child Left Behind. The Chinese educator said, "what China wants is what America is eager to throw away."

Mr. Richwine concluded his remarks by saying, "As a school board member for the last 16 years, I have tried to do what is best to see that the education provided to the East Penn students is a high quality education with value and things other than how you did on a standardized test. It is a shame that we have to be driven by these tests." Mr. Richwine further stated that he believed that public education is part of what has made this country great. The ability of m people from modest or no means to get an education and get ahead and make something out of their lives is driven by the education that they can receive in the public sector. He believes that it is something worth saving and I hope that all board members here and in other districts keep that in mind. To throw away what we do well for reasons that have nothing to do with education is something that we have to fight against. He said he hoped that this Board's mission will continue to offer that kind of education.

12 Announcements

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|---------------------|---|
| Monday, November 14 | 6:45 p.m.-CLEAR Session (Confidentiality, Real Estate) 7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting |
| Week of November 14 | Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences - 1:30 p.m. Dismissal |
| November 17, 18, 19 | 7:30 p.m.-LMMS Fall Comedy "Tartuffe" LMMS Auditorium |
| Monday, November 28 | Weather Emergency Make Up Day - All schools and offices will be open. |
| Monday, December 5 | 7:30 p.m.-Board Reorganization Meeting, Board Room |
| Monday, December 12 | 7:30 p.m.-Regular Board Meeting, Board Room |

13. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion, at 9:30 p.m.

Cecilia R. Birdsell, Board Secretary