

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: K. Bacher, C. Ballard, L. Donches, A. Earnshaw, F. Fuller, R. Heid, M. Policano, S. Rhodes, J. Stolz

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 Marangos, Editor, Emmaus.Patch.com
Peter McConnell, Reporter, East Penn Press
Katrina Wehr, Reporter, Morning Call
Randy Kraft, Online Reporter, WFMZ.com

2. Requests to Address the Board

Paula Wittman and Jeff Lotte, 560 Broad Street, Emmaus expressed concern about two books on the Ninth and Tenth Grade EHS Summer Reading List. Ms. Wittman addressing the Board felt that the books were not age appropriate for the students and expressed dismay about the content, claiming it was pornography. Ms. Wittman cited selected excerpts from The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test and Prep. She wanted answers by the next board meeting dealing with who has the responsibility for these books; who approved the list; and is someone going to review the list and remove "pornographic" material like this. Mr. Lotte distributed copies of the selected excerpts to board members and audience members.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Bacher, Seconded by Donches
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the minutes for the August 27, 2012 meeting.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote.

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

1. District Update

In response to the citizen input, Dr. Seidenberger reported that there is a process for parents to follow if they feel there are objectionable materials being used. He indicated that he could show them how to access the information after the board meeting. (The couple left before the end of the meeting.)

Dr. Seidenberger reviewed the following items:

-Enrollment: Elementary - +51; Middle - +30; High School – 39; Overall Increase of 42 students

- PSBA recently released their annual report on staffing levels. The results for 2010-2011 are as follows:

Pupil Range	Pupils per Faculty	Pupils per Management
4,340 or More	13.7	187.6
EP	15.15	217
All Districts	13.2	157.4
Aid Ratio	Pupils per Faculty	Pupils per Management
.4168 or less	12.9	155.2
EP*	15.15	217
All Districts	13.2	157.4
Community Type	Pupils per Faculty	Pupils per Management
Suburban	13.4	165.5
EP	15.15	217
All Districts	13.2	157.4

Dr. Seidenberger felt this information illustrated that the district is not over staffed.

-Scott Didra was awarded the Philadelphia University Educator Centennial Award on August 16. He was nominated by four students from Emmaus HS who were incoming freshmen.

-Ross Cooper, Grade 4 Teacher at Willow Lane, received the Jacobs Educator Award from Indiana University.

-Kelly Weaver, teacher at Lower Macungie MS, was selected to be on billboards recognizing that she is a prominent graduate of Reading HS.

-Dr. Denise Torma, who is a graduate of Moravian College, was featured as a prominent graduate in the Morning Call.

Dr. Seidenberger cited a Morning Call article where Bethlehem Superintendent Joe Roy explained the EITC grants from a superintendent's perspective.

Dr. Seidenberger indicated that Mr. Jeremy Fogel and Mr. John Kingsley will be attending the September 24 Board Meeting to discuss the TIF Program. Any additional information regarding this presentation will be forwarded to the Board.

2. Personnel

Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Rhodes

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

Resignations

-Carolyn Shook, Food Services Department at Lincoln School, effective August 22, 2012 (Exhibit 1)

Requests for General Leaves, Board Policy 539, General Leave

Employee: Randi Haberbosch
Remedial Assistant
Effective: 9/5/12-9/5/13

Employee: Eleanor Fosburg
Instructional Assistant, Jefferson School
Effective: 10/1/12-10/1/13

Appointment of Instructional/Staff Assistants

<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Leslie Keim 140 Hamilton Avenue Bethlehem 18017	Emmaus HS Instructional Assistant Vacancy created by L. Keim resign.	\$13.38/hr., 29 hrs./wk.
Nancy Lahovski 685 Pine Street Emmaus	Emmaus HS Staff Assistant Vacancy created by C. White resign. & subsequent transfers	\$13.38/hr., 20 hrs./wk.
Akila Shankar 7069 Tuscany Drive Macungie	Willow Lane Staff Assistant Vacancy created by R. Sottolano resign.	\$13.38/hr., 28.5 hrs./wk.
Denise Fruhwirth 169 Pine Street Emmaus	Emmaus HS Staff Assistant Vacancy created by L. Fainor resign.	\$13.38/hr., 29 hrs./wk.
June Rodriguez-Ashmar 2246 Chablis Drive Macungie	Willow Lane Instructional Assistant Vacancy created by V. McCowan resign.	\$13.38/hr., 21.5 hrs./wk.

Effective: September 11, 2012

Food Services Department Appointments

Louise Fegley 299 Hunterforge Road Macungie 18062	PTFSA/Eyer MS	\$13.61/hr., 4.5 hrs./day
Phyllis Schwartz 6063 Timberknoll Drive Macungie	PTFSA/LMMS	\$13.61/hr., 3.75 hrs./day

Effective: September 11, 2012

Co-Curricular Advisors

See Exhibit 2

Emmaus HS Evening Security - \$14.50/hr.

Cheryl LaBar	Michele Yesenofski	Olimpia Pellegrino
Lisa Kammerer	Gail Wetherhold	Laura Groh

Additions to the 2012-13 List of Per Diem Substitutes

See Exhibit 3

Change of Assignment-Food Services Department

<u>Employee</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Linda Boyle Willow Lane assignment is unchanged.	Alburtis, 1 hr.	Wescosville, 1 hr.
Patricia Deysher	Eyer MS, 4.5 hrs.	Eyer MS, 3 hrs.

2012-13 Salary Correction

Mark Warden	\$77,780	\$72,871
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Educational Conferences – Exhibit 4

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

Resignation

-Laura Leiby, Interim Coordinator of Secondary Curriculum, effective September 12, 2012 (Exhibit 1A)

Appointment of Assistant Principal, Emmaus HS

Name/Address:	Laura Witman 4569 Bellmans Church Road, Mohrsville 19541
Education Level:	B. S. Degree (1996) M. Ed. Degree (2004)
Undergraduate School:	Kutztown University
Graduate School:	Alvernia University
Certification:	Administrative I, Principal, K-12 Instructional II, English
Effective	To be Determined
Experience:	10/11-Present: Twin Valley SD 8/9-10/11: Twin Valley SD (Gifted Specialist) 8/2006-8/2009: Hamburg Area SD 1/2006-8/2006: Twin Valley SD (Teacher) 8/97-6/2000: Tulpehocken SD
Salary:	\$83,000 (Act 93 Agreement Benefits)

2012-2013 Technology Department Salaries-Effective July 1, 2012

Deb Diefenderfer, Tech Assistant	\$31,726
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Josh Williams, Tech Specialist \$30,555

Remedial Assistant Appointment/Staff Assistant Appointment

<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Serena Rowland 7067 Corning Road, Zionsville	Remedial Assistant Willow Lane (ABG Grant-New Position)	\$12.75/hr., 29 hrs./wk.
Donna Waterman 321 North Third Street, Emmaus	Staff Assistant Emmaus HS Vacancy created by D. Johnson	\$13.38hr., 23 hrs./wk.

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

Ms. Witman was introduced as the new Assistant Principal at Emmaus High School.

5. Business Operations

1. Bill List Approval

Motion by Earnshaw, Seconded by Heid
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.

Ms. Donches questioned the following checks and asked for an explanation. Business Manager Debra Surdoval responded to the questions.

-Buzz Burger Inc. (\$15,675) – Wood Carpeting (Mulch) for seven elementary playgrounds as required by state and federal safety regulations. It was bid through the Cooperative Purchasing Bid through Bucks County IU.

-Plastics Center (\$2,356.44) – Supplies for Lower Macungie MS. Mrs. Surdoval suggested that Ms. Donches submit her questions before the board meeting since there are a number of items covered on the bill list. (Secretary’s Note: This bill was for 18 sheets of 4 x 8 acrylic cut to 2 x 4 for LMMS Tech. Ed. Classes.)

-VWR Receivable Funding (\$1299.20) – Sgt. Welch science supplies for Emmaus HS.

President Ballard reiterated Mrs. Surdoval’s suggestion that Ms. Donches call in her questions so the staff can be prepared with the details.

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

2. Parent/Guardian Transportation Contract

Motion by Fuller, Seconded by Stolz
RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors approve the following Parent/Guardian Transportation Contract:

Parent/Guardian: Lisa Hummel
149 Robin Hill Road, Lenhartsville, PA
Effective: August 27, 2012-June 10, 2013
Reimbursement: \$.555/mile-38.8 miles/day

Disbursement of Funds – Exhibit 5

RESOLVED, That the East Penn Board of School Directors authorize the disbursement of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund and 33-2010 Series A GOB as listed on Exhibit 5.

These resolutions were duly adopted by the following roll call vote:
Aye: Bacher, Ballard, Donches, Earnshaw, Fuller, Heid, Policano, Rhodes, Stolz-----9

6. Announcements

Ms. Donches distributed a handout of how she felt documents should be prepared and proposed the following motion:

Motion by Donches, Seconded by Stolz

RESOLVED, That all documents prepared for the East Penn Board of School Directors include identifying information, including but not limited to the date created, the office in which it was created, the page numbers, and reference for supportive data.

President Ballard ruled that it was an improper motion citing the fact that it was substantial, citing her own past statements about transparency and that the public should have an opportunity to comment on it and they have not had any notice. This motion should be placed on the agenda under Unfinished Business. He said she should submit the resolution to Miss Birdsell so it could be on the next agenda.

Mr. Stolz proposed the following motion:

Motion by Stolz, Seconded by Donches

RESOLVED, That the Superintendent's Update to the Board be placed on the web site.

President Ballard ruled it was an improper motion. It will be on the next agenda for discussion. Mr. Ballard pointed out that some of the information is pre-decisional. Mr. Stolz said if something had to be redacted he did not see any problem with that.

Ms. Donches then suggested that the full Budget Code and the PA Chart of Accounts be included on the check summary. Mr. Ballard asked how it was different from the previous motion. Ms. Donches said the previous motion was to identify each page of every document in case it gets separated. She felt it was traceable accountability. The check summary goes with the checks. He told her to submit the suggestion to Miss Birdsell.

Mr. Stolz then discussed the two books that were criticized under citizen input. Dr. Seidenberger indicated that staff members from the English Department meet, look at books from a variety of sources such as books that have won awards, and then they make recommendations. He pointed out that five years ago there was a challenge on one of the books. He said the parents have to go through the complaint process. These are optional books, not required books. Mr. Stolz commented on the content of the books and suggested that a motion be put on the next agenda to remove both of the books from the reading list. Mr. Ballard and Dr. Seidenberger both pointed out to Mr. Stolz that there is a process already in place. Mr. Stolz said he understood there was a process but, as a board member, he felt it was his moral duty that something like this should not be on the optional reading list for 13 to 15 year olds. Mr. Ballard said that motion could be put on the next agenda but cautioned that it was going down the route of banning books. In answer to a question from Ms. Donches, Mr. Ballard said that the Board is responsible for approving the curriculum but that does not mean every item. Whenever there are curriculum revisions in subjects, they are brought before the Board such as mathematics, etc. it depends on the cycle. Ms. Fuller said that the book is optional reading and there are paragraphs about the content of the book. Parents do get a heads up and she felt precautions had been taken regarding mature reading. She felt there was a very sophisticated student body and the mechanism is in place to review the books. It is no more alarming than what students encounter in their lives. Mr. Earnshaw explained that the curriculum does not specifically list the curriculum or which books to read.

Monday, September 10 7:00 p.m.-Executive Session (Personnel; Negotiations)
7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting

Monday, September 24 7:30 p.m.-Board Meeting

7. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion, at 8:10 p.m.

Cecilia R. Birdsell, Board Secretary