



Board of Directors Meeting February 24, 2014 Minutes

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Jonathan Dahl, Glenn Hartz, Paul Irvin, Melissa Readman, Thomas Wentzel, Glenn Yoder, Jennifer Zeiset and Heidi Zimmerman

Non-Voting Members in attendance were: Robert Hollister, Nadine Larkin, Marion L. Martin and Keith Ramsey

Members not in attendance were: Rodney Jones

Staff/Public in attendance were: Employees, parents, students and citizens were also in attendance along with a member of the press.

1. Call to Order

President Yoder called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Moment of Silence/Reflection - Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Nadine Larkin led in a silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Agenda Modification/Approval of Agenda

Requests by board members to remove an item for separate consideration

Mr. Ramsey made note there was an addendum to the personnel report that included a mid-term substitute English teacher for the middle school. Mr. Wentzel made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (8-0; 1 absent-Jones)**

4. Student of the Month Presentation

High School Principal, Mr. Sanger, introduced the January *Students of the Month*. They are being honored for the character trait - Hardworking. He announced they truly are hardworking as they are going into the fields of neurobiology and premed.

Kirsten Corneilson was in attendance with her father, Mr. Eric Corneilson, New Holland.

Andrew Malandra was accompanied by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent and Denise Malandra, Narvon.

Dr. Hollister also expressed his gratitude for their hard work and leadership. He reminded them of their great potential and the obligation they have to continue the hard work for our district and community.

5. Citizens' Comments

At this time we invited public comment on any topic that is within the Board's jurisdiction. Please also note that the public is invited to attend our Committee Meetings where much of the discussion and deliberation of agenda topics is conducted. (Committee Meetings are held in the Community Hall at the Garden Spot Complex at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month.)

Aaron Hoffman New Holland

Mr. Hoffman thanked the board for a job well done and said a prayer.

Bonita Stone, New Holland

Mrs. Stone gave an update on recent developments to continue forming a school-sanctioned swim team for the school year 2016-17. Recently, she met with Mr. Reitnour to discuss the budget and as more information unfolds, she will update the board. She also mentioned a discussion of partnering with Pequea Valley School District.

6. Special Presentation - ELANCOline & K-12 Virtual Programs by Mr. Patrick Winters

Mr. Winters presented a very comprehensive report to the board and those in attendance on our ELANCOline and K-12 Virtual Programs.

It is people, he said, not the program that is making this successful.

Some of the areas he highlighted were:

- Current Status of the Program: Enrollment numbers: Elementary-8; Middle School-10; High School-31; Total - 49 Students
- Student Profiles
- Secondary Virtual Program Options
- Next Steps for the Program: Expansion of online education for gifted students; Goal for returning cyber-charter students in 2014-15 is 30; Development of in-house curriculum; and Online teacher-driven model at the elementary level like secondary
- Vignettes were shared from visiting districts; from students returning from a cyber-charter school and from a skeptical teacher....at first

Mr. Winters thanked his team and especially Elaine Martin and Nick Olson whose day-to-day efforts are critical to the success of this venture. And again he reiterated, it is the people, not the programs!

Dr. Hollister acknowledged and thanked Mr. Winters for his passion and work on this growing and challenging program.

The board members also affirmed Mr. Winters and the administration for the path we are going with the online and virtual programs.

7. Consent Agenda

Items listed under the *Consent Agenda* section of our Board Meeting Agenda are considered to be routine and are acted on by the Board in one motion. There is no Board discussion of these items individually prior to the Board vote unless a member of the Board requests that a specific item be removed from the Consent Agenda. Requests to remove an item from the Consent Agenda will be accepted at agenda section 3. Agenda Modification/Approval of Agenda. (Requests to remove an item for separate consideration). Items Removed from the Consent Agenda will be moved to agenda section "Action Items."

Mr. Hartz made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second by Mr. Irvin. **The Consent Agenda was approved. (8-0; 1 absent - Jones)**

7.1 Approval of Minutes

7.2 Treasurer's Report

7.3 Bills Paid

7.4 Cafeteria Fund Treasurer's Report

7.5 Investments

7.6 Student Activity Account

7.7 Personnel Report

7.8 Approve Budgetary Transfers

7.9 Approve Change Order(s) for the Brecknock Project that were signed by the Chief of Finance and Operations

7.10 Approve Amendment #6 to the Eastern Lancaster County School District Employee Benefit Plan and to Authorize the Chief of Finance & Operations to sign

7.11 Approve the District Calendar for the 2014-2015 School Year

7.12 Approve Board Meeting Calendar for the 2014-2015 School Year

8. Action Items

8.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda for Separate Consideration - None

9. Reports

9.1 Lancaster County Tax Collection Bureau

There was no meeting this month.

9.2 Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13

Mr. Irvin reported the Lancaster Lebanon IU-13 met February 12th.

The following items were approved at that meeting:

- \$7.9 million in disbursements
- 4 Business Service Contracts; 3 Early Childhood Contracts; 3 Instructional Services Contracts; 3 Technology Contracts and 5 Human Resources Contracts
- Human Resources reported 7 resignations; 1 termination; 11 retirements; 28 change of position/status/salary and 3 leave of absences.

Mr. Irvin passed out the brochure *Helping Districts Help Students* and encouraged the board members to read them.

Board Members were also given a worksheet to help them understand the budget for the upcoming vote when the budget is presented next month. The school districts will be voting on two pieces - the Core Program which is expected to have a 1% increase and the Instructional Media Services piece which is expected to have a 3.6% decrease.

9.3 Lancaster CTC

Mrs. Readman reported the Joint Operating Committee of the Lancaster Career & Technical Center had not met so she has no report.

9.4 Legislative

Mr. Wentzel reported the Governor's budget was presented February 4th.

He noted the State has a very optimistic view on the revenue side and Mr. Wentzel said he would rather they take a conservative view as we do in this district.

Mr. Wentzel highlighted a different approach to pension reform suggested by Rep. Glenn Grell (Cumberland – R) that would suggest borrowing \$9 billion in two installments. New employees would be invested in a 401K and current employees would also have changes. The State budget is pushing for just new employees to have changes to the pension plan. Mr. Wentzel said since 2008, all of us had to make changes and his personal opinion is that employees everywhere should have to make some changes.

It was noted the Governor did not make any mention of property tax reform. Mr. Wentzel feels down the road it is imperative we make changes for school funding and have a two-step approach.

He did note that 40% of the budget goes to education and asked Mr. Ramsey to share. Mr. Ramsey spoke affirming the governor's proposal to reduce pension. In the basic education budget, Elanco should be receiving \$100,000 extra and our special education funding will be increased \$10,000.

Dr. Hollister then explained more about the \$357,000 grant we will be receiving. \$101,000 is already in the budget, but the district could see an additional \$257,000. Due to having a high score on our school profile, ELANCO would be allowed maximum flexibility with the funding on the extra portion for next year.

Mr. Wentzel continued his report saying if there is anything Harrisburg does this year, it MUST be pension reform. If not, the problem continues to escalate. The parties must learn to work together or we will be in big trouble.

On another note, Dave Zimmerman won the endorsement for the 99th district State House Race and Ryan Aument was endorsed for the 36th district State Senate race. Current Representative Gordon Denlinger has not decided what he will be doing.

10. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hollister congratulated Mr. Wentzel for running in the Representative race for the 99th district. It is always important that more than one candidate run to keep everyone sharp.

He also made mention that he too, supports Representative Grell on the pension reform and he agrees it needs to be done.

Dr. Hollister went on to explain the snow make-up days and how it works. There are many ideas and rumors floating around and it is necessary to get the facts correct and proper information to the media. The State requires 180 days AND a certain amount of hours in the school year. It is not one or the other. Kindergarten - 450 hours; Elementary - 900 hours and Secondary - 990 hours. We are not allowed to open school on Saturdays for ordinary instruction. The code does allow for graduation practice on a Saturday and may be counted as a day.

Our district is in the process of applying for one Act 80 day that we had around the Thanksgiving Day holiday. This year we had no early dismissal weather related days which would have counted for a day. In a declared State of Emergency weather, schools still need to make up those days. School days may be made up until June 30th.

Questions continue to be asked about online learning days when school is closed for weather related problems. At this time, PDE is not set up for these programs and not all students have connection to the web. Dr. Hollister believes that day will be coming.

As of today, our final school day is schedule for June 11th. Dr. Hollister concluded his report by saying spring sports have begun practicing, so there is hope!

11. Announcements

- Reminder of the upcoming Legislative Breakfast in March. You should have all been contacted by Mr. Johnson to confirm your attendance.
- Mr. Yoder commended Mr. Wentzel and thanked him for running as a candidate in the 99th district and being an advocate for education.
- Mr. Wentzel wanted to thank everyone for their support and encouragement through this process. It has been a great encouragement to him and his wife, Linda.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Wentzel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM with a second by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (8-0; 1 absent - Jones)**

Marion L. Martin
School Board Secretary
February 24, 2014