



Committee of the Whole Meeting October 13, 2014 Minutes

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Jonathan Dahl, Glenn Hartz, Paul Irvin, Rodney Jones, Melissa Readman, Thomas Wentzel and Glenn Yoder **NOTE:** *Mr. Jones and Mr. Dahl were joining the group by videocam.*

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

Members not in attendance were: Jennifer Zeiset and Heidi Zimmerman

1. Welcome and Call to Order

President Yoder opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence/Reflection - Pledge of Allegiance

President Yoder led in a silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens Comments

At this time we will invite public comment on any topic that is within the Board's jurisdiction.

Stewart Martin, Terre Hill

Mr. Martin said a prayer.

4. Approve Personnel Report

Mr. Wentzel made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Hartz. **The motion was approved (7-0; 2 absent)**

5. Property and Services

5.1 Approval of the Snow Removal Contracts with Usner Excavating for 2014-15

Usner Excavating is not increasing prices from last year and provides snow removal at all locations.

We solicited quotes from 3 other companies. 2 companies responded with higher prices and 1 did not respond.

Mr. Ramsey recommended to the Board the continuation of contracting Usner Excavating for the District's snow removal due to the great work that has been done in the past.

5.2 Capital Reserve Fund Transfer and Fund Balance Commitments as of June 30, 2014

Mr. Ramsey presented to the Board, the fund balance for the 2013-2014 fiscal year of \$2,638,536. He noted that the State Reimbursement (HS Project) and the Expenditure Savings are non-reoccurring amounts.

Mr. Ramsey recommended to the Board that the District disburse the remaining funds equally into both the Capital Reserve Fund and the General Fund. This will allow flexibility in acquiring necessary technology and educational software for the District with those funds. All board members agreed that this was the correct course of action. The approval of transferring remaining funds equally into the Capital Reserve Fund and the General Fund will be place on the consent agenda for October 20, 2014 board meeting.

5.3 Information Items

1. 2015-16 Budget Process

Mr. Ramsey informed the board that there would be a presentation of the preliminary budget at the January Committee Meeting with the Approval of the preliminary budget at the February Board Meeting. He also asked the Board as to whether Budget Meetings could be held on nights of the Committee of the Whole Meetings. All Board members agreed that because the Committee Meetings dates were already committed, that this would be satisfactory.

2. Transportation Contract Renewal

Mr. Ramsey advised the Board that the District's Transportation Contract with BrightBill Transportation would be up for renewal in 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Ramsey and Dr. Hollister both recommended that the District continue its contract with BrightBill Transportation as there were several services such as Bus GPS Tracking, Student Tracking and Routing Software that BrightBill is currently providing that could be included in the new contract. There was also

discussion of them partnering with the District on the expense of these additional services as well. They also noted that the District has created a very positive relationship with BrightBill. BrightBill currently knows the roads and homes of our parents.

After some discussion of transportation services provided in the county, several board members stated that it was the duty of the Board to be financially responsible and make sure that the District was receiving the best services for cost. They requested that a RFP (Request for Proposals) be prepared for additional bids for transportation contracts.

Mr. Ramsey indicated that he would work on the RFP which would include the new tracking services that BrightBill is providing.

6. Program

6.1 Approval of a new course in mathematics at the high school for the 2014-2015 school year - Algebra 2.0 This course combines Algebra I & Algebra II.

Dr. Larkin reminded the Board of the presentation by Mrs. Carol Kelsall at the last board meeting of the new Algebra course. This course is being put in place as one additional step to help improve the District scores on the Keystone exams.

6.2 Approval of Affidavits of Guardianship

6.3 Approve a Settlement Agreement for educational expenses for a student with special needs.

6.4 Information Items

1. **The Comprehensive Plan developed by the District will be presented to the Board at our October 20th Board Meeting. Final approval of the plan will take place at the November Board Meeting.**

Dr. Larkin informed the Board that the Comprehensive Plan would be presented to the Board at the October 20, 2014 Board Meeting. The plan would then be up for approval at the November Board Meeting to be held on November 17, 2014.

7. Management

7.1 Action Items

- a. **Approve Amy Shaffer as a non-stipendiary Volunteer Coach representing Garden Spot High School at all PIAA sanctioned swimming events.**

7.2 Information Items

a. Superintendent Focus Areas. Each year the Superintendent selects areas to designate extra attention and resources if needed. Those areas will be shared publically.

Dr. Hollister informed the Board of the proposed focus areas of the Superintendent for the 2014-2015 school year. This year the Superintendent will be concentrating on more specific and customizable professional development for faculty and staff, focusing on the expansion of alternative revenue development, exploring a more inclusion evaluation tool to evaluate the performance of the Superintendent similar to a Business 360 and developing a transition plan of key members should they leave their positions.

b. Update on Free and Reduce Lunch population.

Dr. Hollister advised the Board that the Free and Reduce population has increased to an average of 38.8%. This coincides with the data of the drop in median income within our local district.

c. Flexible Instructional Days (PDE Pilot)

Dr. Hollister reintroduced the Board to the application checklist for flexible instructional days being piloted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education due to the multiple days missed by schools this past year.

8. Announcements

Dr. Hollister informed the Board that Meredith Dahl of Cross Connections Ministries communicated to him that organization had served 160 lunches per day all throughout the summer to members of the Eastern Lancaster County community. Dr. Hollister acknowledged and thanked Cross Connections and their 90 volunteers for their services that they provided for the community and the District.

He also announced that on October 30, 2014 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. the Eastern Lancaster County School District would be hosting for the Chamber of Commerce a debate between Dave Zimmerman and Bryan Sanguinito, the candidates for the 99th House district.

Dr. Hollister indicated that an executive session would take place after the meeting to discuss, a land matter, legal matter, negotiations and a personnel matter.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Hartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. with a second by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved (7-0; 2 absent)**

Justin W. Johnson
School Board Secretary
October 13, 2014