

**Souderton Area School District**  
760 Lower Road  
Souderton, PA 18964

A regularly scheduled public meeting of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors was held Thursday, October 16, 2008 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Bernard S. Currie, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	William J. Brong Bernard S. Currie Scott C. Jelinski Thomas A. Kwiatkowski	Mark D. Leer R. Bud Miller Victor M. Verbeke
ABSENT:	Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner	Eric R. MacDougall
SOLICITOR:	Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, R. Bradley Clemens, Joseph Deady, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Lisa Gurgick, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, David Thayres, representatives from *The Reporter*, *The Souderton Independent*, *The Intelligencer*, *Radio Station WNPV*, and the public.

COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Finance Committee  
R. Bud Miller, Chair

Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Index Calculation

As per Special Session Act 1 of 2006, the Pennsylvania Department of Education calculated the index for each school district in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Miller stated that the index calculation is determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Souderton's District Adjusted Index is set at 4.1% for the 2009-2010 school year. Any tax increase over 4.1% will require a referendum on the May 19, 2009 primary ballot.

Pennsylvania Department of Education's 2009-2010 Budget Timeline

Special Session Act 1 of 2006 also requires that PDE publish an annual timeline for the preparation of the school district's budget.

Mrs. Bray reviewed the timeline for events relating to the 2009-2010 budget process. She stated that the process was moved up by a month due to the spring primary election. May 31, 2009 is the deadline for school districts to adopt their 2009-2010 proposed final budget and June 30, 2009 is the deadline to adopt the 2009-2010 final budget. She also spoke about the homestead exclusion and how home owners

COMMITTEE WORKSHOP (CONTINUED)

Finance Committee (Continued)

Pennsylvania Department of Education's 2009-2010 Budget Timeline (Continued)

will be eligible to apply for a reduction in real estate taxes. If the home owner is approved, they would see a reduction in their property taxes, which this year was approximately \$196.

Mr. Miller asked Mrs. Bray for an explanation of Homestead exclusions.

Mrs. Bray indicated that exclusions offset any portion of the assessed value. The reduction resulting in lower real estate taxes depends on the number of people who apply for the Homestead Act and are approved. The deadline to apply for 2009 is March 1<sup>st</sup>. If a resident was approved for 2008, they are approved again for 2009-2010.

Mr. Jelinski inquired about the every three year statement in the law.

Mrs. Bray explained that the school district is required to send out a mass mailing to each home owner every three years.

Mr. Miller asked Mrs. Bray to give a brief report on the security of the district's funds.

Mrs. Bray indicated that the PA School Code is very restrictive on the type of investment a school district can make. She explained that the district's funds are invested in different types of pools, with an outside financial organization helping the district determine secure banks and pools in which to invest.

Education-Personnel Committee

Mark D. Leer, Chair

Program Evaluation Results—Advanced Placement Achievement 2008

As an informational item, Mr. Silva reviewed the progress made on last year's program evaluation of the Souderton Area High School's *Advanced Placement* program. Specifically, he reviewed scores/outcomes on the latest round of *Advanced Placement* examinations.

Mr. Leer spoke about the need to develop a plan to evaluate *Advanced Placement* courses and the program for now and in the future.

Mr. Silva presented a report on how the program evaluation must provide a specific answer to the question, "How do we know if the program or operating system is being successful or meeting its stated purpose?" He spoke about the 4 T's needed for successful program evaluation: training, time, trust and technology. Another area of the report focused on why *Advanced Placement* is the area for program evaluation. Mr. Silva explained the *AP* evaluation process and questions that need to be answered regarding *AP* courses, involvement of potentially-qualified students, and benchmarks and/or goals for high school student participation and involvement.

COMMITTEE WORKSHOP (CONTINUED)

Education-Personnel Committee (Continued)

Program Evaluation Results—Advanced Placement Achievement 2008 (Continued)

The evaluation process will include determining if Souderton provides an adequate number of *AP* courses and involve all of the potentially-qualified students. Mr. Silva explained what plans and goals have been executed this year to begin the evaluation process, the benchmarks established, and immediate steps that need to be taken for *AP* success. Data on the participation in *AP* exams over the last eight years was shared, as well as average scores over the same time period and equity and excellence results.

Looking ahead to 2009, Mr. Silva shared the goals of the evaluation process: (1) increase the number of *AP* exams taken; (2) maintain/increase the average *AP* score; (3) increase the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade EEI score; (4) increase the 12<sup>th</sup> grade EEI score; and (5) increase career EEI scores.

Another area that was explained by Mr. Silva was how students are identified. He talked about how PSSA data is being used to recruit high performing freshmen into *AP* courses during their sophomore year.

Mr. Leer thanked Mr. Silva for the presentation and the way the evaluation was prepared.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked for more information on how students are identified.

Mr. Silva stated that a letter is sent to the parents, with the high school administrators following up, as well as feedback and data from guidance counselors, department coordinators, and teachers.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked if parents responded with any feedback.

Mr. Brong talked about how his son was selected and motivated to take *AP* courses.

Mr. Miller asked when students select their honors courses/*AP* courses, and how they determine which courses to take.

Curriculum Council Goals for 2008-2009

As an informational item, Mr. Silva reviewed the annual goals of the Curriculum Council as discussed at the October 6, 2008 Curriculum Council meeting.

Mr. Leer explained the makeup of the personnel on the Curriculum Council and how the council operates.

Mr. Silva spoke about the Board's expectations to improve student achievement and how each of the goals were determined by the Curriculum Council members. He talked about the Council working to incorporate the following goals: (1) The Education-Personnel Committee's request to follow a policy governance model of establishing student achievement goals, and regularly reporting upon student outcomes/progress toward those goals. (2) The need for student achievement goals to guide school

COMMITTEE WORKSHOP (CONTINUED)

Education-Personnel Committee (Continued)

Curriculum Council Goals for 2008-2009 (Continued)

improvement planning and program evaluation, and align district goals more tightly to school goals. (3) The organization is on the verge of unprecedented change (new building, new grade structure). (4) The organization is coping with the consequences of the on-going contract negotiations.

Learning Criteria, Stretch Learning, Student Engagement, and Personal Skill Development will be the four domains used to address the first goal. He spoke about Goal #2 and how to prepare the 6-12 curricula and programs for the reorganization of the secondary grade structure, and how to execute the Middle Level Transition Plan and Project 4 Plan. Goal #3 will include the development of a seven-year curriculum revision process and cycle to develop/manage and the curriculum in the new secondary grade structure starting in 2009-2010.

Mr. Leer asked for an explanation of curriculum mapping.

Mr. Silva explained the concept and what is required for each course. The traditional way would be to bring each course to the Curriculum Council for discussion and then recommend approval by the School Board. Curriculum mapping would eliminate the need to review every course that is offered.

Mr. Leer indicated that he supported the recommendation for curriculum mapping.

Mr. Silva indicated that he will give another report to the Board at mid-year.

Mr. Currie thanked Mr. Silva for the presentation and indicated that this is a great start for the long-term goals.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Hugh Donnelly, from Franconia Township, asked Mr. Silva why vertical teaming was on hold and if it had something to do with the teacher strike.

Mr. Silva explained that the process started last spring and summer, but when the negotiations impasse occurred and there were no in-service or workshop days to work on the plan, the function was put on hold.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

An Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters and real estate transactions. The session lasted approximately 30 minutes.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

Appointment of Treasurer to Fill Vacancy

Recommendation to appoint Joseph Deady as School Board Treasurer to complete the unexpired term of Grace Eves who resigned as Treasurer as of July 28, 2008. Joseph Deady's term will commence on October 20, 2008 and expire on June 30, 2009.

Dr. Amuso stated that Grace Eves left the district in July, leaving the Board Treasurer position open. The recommendation is to appoint Joseph Deady as treasurer.

Mrs. Bray briefly spoke about Mr. Deady's background and welcomed him to the district.

There was a motion by Mr. Miller and a second from Mr. Jelinski to approve the appointment of Joseph Deady as Board Treasurer. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board appoint Joseph Deady as Board Treasurer to complete the unexpired term of Grace Eves. The term will commence on October 20, 2008 and expire on June 30, 2009.

Mr. Currie congratulated Mr. Deady and welcomed him to the position and the school district.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA

Dr. Amuso presented the consent/action items along with the items on the addendum for approval. He asked Board members to remove any items from the agenda if more discussion was needed.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, and a second by Mr. Verbeke to approve the items listed on the consent/action agenda and the items listed on the addendum. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve all items listed on the consent/action agenda and the items listed on the addendum:

Recommendation to approve Minutes of the September 25, 2008 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Ratify/Approve Conference/Workshop Requests

<b>DR. DAVE RAMAGE</b>	Instructional Coaching: Montgomery County Intermediate
Coordinator of Technology	Unit Professional Learning Series
Staff Development Coach	Norristown, PA
	August 19, 20, 2008 (Tuesday, Wednesday) - Ratify
	November 7, 2008 (Friday) - Approve
	Estimated Costs: \$484.67
	Substitute Costs: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Estimated Costs: \$484.67

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Ratify/Approve Conference/Workshop Requests (Continued)

**DR. BEVERLY HANRAHAN** Keystone State Reading Association Annual Conference  
CARS, Franconia Elem. King of Prussia, PA  
**DR. PATRICIA MATHUES** October 20, 21, 2008 (Monday, Tuesday)  
CARS, Oak Ridge Elem. Estimated Costs: \$741.80 (Combined)  
Substitute Costs: 0.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$741.80 (Combined)

**BRENDA KRUPP** A Predictable Framework for Genre Study in the Writing  
Professional Development Coach Workshop - Webinar  
October 21, 2008 (Tuesday)  
Estimated Costs: \$ 79.00  
Substitute Costs: 0.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$ 79.00

**JOSEPH HAY** Classrooms for the Future Conference: Best Practices  
Mathematics, Senior High School Malvern, PA  
**DR. DAVE RAMAGE** October 30, 2008 (Thursday)  
Paid with Project 720 funds Estimated Expenses: \$244.03 (Combined)  
Substitute Expenses: 103.00 (Hay only)  
Total Estimated Expenses: \$347.03 (Combined)

**DAN STOVER** Health and Physical Education Common In-Service Day  
Health & Physical Education Perkasio, PA  
West Broad Street Elem. November 4, 2008 (Tuesday)  
Estimated Costs: \$ 60.11  
Substitute Costs: 103.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$163.11

**ERIC STOVER** Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association Conference  
Music, West Broad Street Elem. Blue Bell, PA  
November 4, 2008 (Tuesday)  
Estimated Costs: \$ 32.61  
Substitute Costs: 103.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$135.61

**DR. DALE BURKHARD** Learning Styles & Social Patterns of the Neomillennial  
Principal, Indian Valley M. S. Learner  
**JEFFREY PAMMER** Norristown, PA  
Principal, Indian Crest Jr. High November 12, 2008 (Wednesday)  
Estimated Costs: \$270.00 (Combined)  
Substitute Costs: 0.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$270.00 (Combined)

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Ratify/Approve Conference/Workshop Requests (Continued)

**DR. DAVE RAMAGE** Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Professional Learning Series  
Coordinator of Technology Norristown, PA  
Staff Development Coach November 12, 2008 (Wednesday)  
Estimated Costs: \$154.89  
Substitute Costs: 0.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$154.89

**COLLEEN WEGIMONT** 2008 Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Conference  
Physical Education Pittsburgh, PA  
Oak Ridge Elem. November 19, 20, 21, 2008 (Wed., Thurs., Fri.)  
Estimated Costs: \$ 0.00  
Substitute Costs: 309.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$309.00

**BONNIE BARNES** Holocaust Education: Making History Accessible  
German, Indian Crest Jr. High King of Prussia, PA  
December 5, 2008 (Friday)  
Estimated Costs: \$ 0.00  
Substitute Costs: 103.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$103.00

**BRENDA KRUPP** National Staff Development Council Annual Conference  
Professional Development Coach Washington, D.C.  
December 8, 9, 2008 (Monday, Tuesday)  
Estimated Costs: \$1,098.36  
Substitute Costs: 0.00  
Total Estimated Costs: \$1,098.36

PERSONNEL – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Recommendation for Employment

<b>WILLIAM HAZEL</b>	District Hardware/Software Support Specialist
Replacement for	<b>ACT 93</b>
David Thayres (transfer)	Beginning: November 3, 2008
<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Montgomery Co. Community College (AGS) 1993	2005-Present-Vertex, Inc.-Senior Desktop Support Analyst
McNeese State Univ., Louisiana (120+ credits) 1996	1997-March 2005- Employed by or Contracted Services for Various Companies –
(MSCE Training) 1998	CN Technologies, Lockheed Martin Corp.,

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendation for Employment (Continued)

**WILLIAM HAZEL**

Replacement for  
David Thayres (transfer)

District Hardware/Software Support Specialist

**ACT 93**

Beginning: November 3, 2008

Experience

IBM Global Services, Honeywell, Compaq  
Computer Corp., The Hartford Group, & R.I.  
Williams & Assoc. - As Technical Support  
Analyst

Recommended Salary - \$54,958 (pro-rated)

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation to Accept Resignations

**EMILY LEVINE**

Long-Term Substitute, Fifth Grade, West Broad St. Elem.  
Effective: October 8, 2008

**KATHRYN RAMSPACHER**

District Speech/Language Clinician  
Effective: On or Before December 8, 2008

Recommendation for Employment

**SUSAN WRIGHT**

Replacement for  
Emily Levine (resigned)

Fifth Grade, West Broad St. Elem.

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**

Effective: Mid-October 2008 through the end  
of the 2008-2009 school year

Education

Indiana Univ. of PA (BS) 2004

Experience

2007-08-Souderton Area S.D.-West Broad Str.  
Title I Teaching Asst. & Extended Day  
Kindergarten Teacher

2005-2007-Central Bucks S.D.-Bridge Valley  
Elem.-Basic Skills Asst. & Long-Term  
Substitute-Third Grade

Nov. 2004-June 2005-Crossroads Country Day  
School-Kindergarten Teacher

Recommended Salary - \$37,323 (pro-rated) – B(1)♦

♦ 2007-2008 Salary Guide-Salary to be adjusted pending approval of a new Professional Collective Bargaining Agreement.

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation to Accept Resignations

**PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM**

Cafeteria/Playground Aide, West Broad St. Elem.  
Effective: October 1, 2008



CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Accept Resignations (Continued)

**SHAWN FOOKS** Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Franconia Elem.  
Effective: September 15, 2008

**ROBERT GASKILL** Special Education Aide, High School  
Effective: September 23, 2008

**KELLY KRIEBEL** Title I Teaching Asst., West Broad St. Elem.  
Effective: September 15, 2008

**JUSTIN ZIEGLER** Special Education Aide-Autistic Support,  
High School  
Effective: October 17, 2008

Recommendations for Employment

**MICHELLE BRECKER** Substitute Cafe/Playground Aide, West Broad St.  
Beginning: October 13, 2008  
Wage: \$9.37 per hour  
Hours: As needed

**LORI CONNELL** Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Salford Hills Elem.  
Replacement for Shelley Barndt (transfer)  
Beginning: October 13, 2008  
Wage: \$9.37 per hour  
Hours: 1.5 per day

**JENNIFER DITZLER** Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Oak Ridge Elem.  
Replacement for Tim Wilson (transfer)  
Beginning: October 13, 2008  
Wage: \$9.37 per hour  
Hours: 2 per day

**CHRISTINE HURST** Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Franconia Elem.  
Replacement for Shawn Fooks (resigned)  
Beginning: October 13, 2008  
Wage: \$9.37 per hour  
Hours: 1.5 per day

**STEPHEN KALINGER** Study Hall Aide, High School  
Replacement for Cynthia Steyer (transfer)  
Beginning: October 6, 2008  
Wage: \$9.57 per hour  
Hours: 7 per day

**THERESA MIORELLI** Clerical Asst., Nurse's Office, Indian Valley  
Replacement for Elizabeth Kulp (resigned)  
Beginning: October 6, 2008  
Wage: \$9.57 per hour  
Hours: 10-12 per week

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendations for Employment (Continued)

**MARYBETH MYERS** Cafeteria/Playground Aide, West Broad St. Elem.  
Replacement for Beginning: October 13, 2008  
Trish Cunningham (resigned) Wage: \$9.37 per hour  
Hours: 1.5 per day

**JANICE PREVAIL** Title I Teaching Asst., West Broad St. Elem.  
Replacement for Beginning: October 6, 2008  
Kelly Kriebel (resigned) Wage: \$12.77 per hour  
Hours: 6 per day

**SUZANNE SHOENFELD** Cafeteria/Playground Aide, West Broad St. Elem.  
Replacement for Beginning: October 9, 2008  
Nanci Troxel (transfer) Wage: \$9.37 per hour  
Hours: 1.5 per day

**KARLENE SMITH** Special Education Aide, Modified Learning  
Replacement for Support, High School  
Robert Gaskill (resigned) Beginning: October 20, 2008  
Wage: \$9.57 per hour  
Hours: 6.5 per day

Additions to 2008-2009 Substitute Teacher List

<b>DANIELLE BELDHAM</b>	<b>LAURA BONNER</b>	<b>DOROTHY DALTON</b>
<b>DEREK COYLE</b>	<b>JENNIFER DiLAPI</b>	<b>COURTNEY GEHRET</b>
<b>JENNA GOTTLIEB</b>	<b>MARY HUGHES</b>	<b>KATI MADRAK</b>
<b>ALEXIS MARCHUK</b>	<b>LAUREN O'BRIEN</b>	<b>PATRICIA SCHANELY</b>
<b>KIMBERLY SIEBERT</b>	<b>PEGGY TALBOT</b>	

Supplemental Contracts 2008-2009

<b>J. WILLIAM CODDINGTON</b>	Weight Room Supervisor (HS)- 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	\$1,000.00
<b>BRENDA GODSHALL</b>	Safety Patrol Advisor (EMC)	520.00
<b>JAYNE DRESSLER</b>	Audio/Visual (EMC)	390.00
<b>BARBARA HEWLETT</b>	Audio/Visual (LS)	405.00
<b>PATRICIA MATHUES</b>	Head Teacher (OR)	1,215.00
<b>KAREN FRAZIER</b>	Science Fair Advisor-Secondary	875.00
<b>DANIEL BARBER</b>	Coordinator – Guidance 6-12	1,500.00

Change in Mentor Supplemental Contract 2008-2009 School Year

**KAREN FIORILLO** Mentor for Cheryl Boyda – Indian Valley M. S.  
Change in supplemental contract from \$600.00 to \$300.00

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Request for Out-of-State Field Trip

Souderton Area High School and Indian Crest Junior High School Gifted Students

When/Where: October 24, 2008 (Friday) -- Hammonton, NJ

Purpose of the Trip: Participate in United Nations Day activities. Students are given the opportunity to hear speakers and discuss global issues related to human rights with other students.

Number of Students: 18

Number of Chaperones: 2

Requesting Teachers: Cheryle Radcliff and Joe Gunn

Trip financed by the students.

Recommendation to Approve Agreement with Bucks County Intermediate Unit for Contracted Costs for Maintaining Student Placement 2008-2009. **EXHIBIT A**

First Reading of Anti-Bullying Policy

This is the First Reading of the revised Bullying Policy. The recommendation is to move the Anti-Bullying Policy to the October 30, 2008 Board meeting for a Second Reading.

Recommendation to Approve Contracted Services for 2008-2009 School Year

<b>RHEANNA BENSON</b>	Cheerleading Coach (IC)	\$2,372.00
<b>LORI MAXWELL</b>	Director – Spring Musical (HS)	2,470.00

Changes to Community Education Staff and Salaries

<b>GLEN SZAKAL</b>	Volleyball Supervisor (IC) Monday	Increase to \$500.00
<b>GLEN SZAKAL</b>	Volleyball Supervisor (IC) Thursday	Increase to \$500.00
<b>DEAN SHOLLENBERGER</b>	Basketball (Wednesday)	\$20.00 per hour 6 additional hours

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation to approve Agreement of Sale with Metro Development Company for the current high school properties for the total sum of \$11,000,000.

Dr. Amuso reviewed the process of hiring Binswanger, the commercial real estate broker, and the efforts of the Board over the past year to sell the property. Metro Development Company has attended every Souderton Borough zoning meeting in an effort to understand the property development. He said that Metro Development is a reputable, financially sound organization that has the right local experience and understands the needs of both Souderton Borough and Hilltown Township.

There was a motion by Mr. Verbeke and a second from Mr. Brong to approve the Agreement of Sale.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification of possible extensions to a future settlement date and when Metro would take possession of the property.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to approve Agreement of Sale with Metro Development Company for the current high school properties for the total sum of \$11,000,000. (Continued)

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the Agreement of Sale with Metro Development Company for the current high school properties for the total sum of \$11,000,000.

**EXHIBIT B**

Dr. Amuso thanked everyone who worked on this project and acknowledged William Benner, Esq. and Jack Schneider, representing Metro Development Company, stating that he was looking forward to a successful relationship with Metro Development Company.

Mr. Currie added that the buyers and sellers have done an outstanding job. He thanked all the parties involved and congratulated the gentlemen representing Metro.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The next meeting of the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Administrative Conference Room at the Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA. The public is invited to attend.

On Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 7:45 PM a meeting of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will take place in Conference Rooms B3/B4, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA. The public is invited to attend.

The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2008 beginning at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA. The public is invited to attend.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

No report from the solicitor.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Currie and the members of the Board's negotiating team for their professionalism during this time of negotiations.

Mr. Brong announced that a meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM to discuss the boundary areas for the middle level transition. The meeting will be held in the Board room.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Strom, from Harleysville, stated that he had recently learned that taxpayer dollars are being used to collect union dues from the teachers and asked why the district was involved in the process.

Tracy Cole, from Franconia Township, thanked Mr. Brong for announcing the special meeting for the boundary lines. Mrs. Cole asked the Board to provide a timetable on how the boundary lines will be determined and what criteria will be used to make the recommendation.

Mr. Currie indicated that the Operations Committee members will discuss the information and data and make a recommendation to the Board, as is standard procedure.

Jill Basile, from Lower Salford Township, asked the Board to remove the collection of union dues from the teacher's contract and stated that the district should not be used as a collection agency.

Jim Sheridan, from Franconia Township, talked about the environment at the schools and questioned if clubs, organizations, and academic help would be available for students at the high school.

Dr. Amuso responded that some teachers have decided not to fulfill their supplemental contracts. The administration is looking for and finding other individuals in the community to supervise the clubs and organizations. Dr. Amuso will investigate the academic help question.

Hugh Donnelly, from Franconia Township, asked about the status of the contract talks.

Mr. Currie stated that that the district and teacher's union are in the non-binding arbitration period. The two final best offers have been forwarded to the arbitration panel. The panel will examine the final best offers, seek testimony from each side, gather the data, and make their non-binding recommendation. There is no timeline at this time. A recommendation will be produced by the panel, and then each side will vote on the panel's recommendation.

Charyl Wellener, of Souderton, spoke about the collection of union dues by the district office. She also questioned teacher conference requests.

Dr. Amuso responded that the administration identifies conferences that offer professional development and encourages teachers to attend, get the information, and share the information with other teachers.

James Drummond, from Harleysville, commented on the administration collecting union dues, and how non-union members pay dues but cannot vote or have a voice.

Logan Sutherland, from Upper Salford and a senior at the high school, shared his disappointed in how the school year is progressing. He spoke about not being able to put student activities on his college resume.

Mike Cahill, from Lower Salford Township, spoke about negotiations and the teacher's contract from a teacher's perspective.

Terry Leichner, from Schwenksville, asked why the Career Pathway program was on hold.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Ernie Rosato, from Upper Salford, thanked the Board for their efforts in selling the high school. He questioned the recent administrator salary increases and asked about the bond status for the new high school.

Mrs. Bray stated that she and financial consultants continue to monitor the debt and the market.

Mr. Rosato also spoke about the collection of union dues and real estate taxes. He encouraged the community to write to the legislators and demand a change in the state real estate tax law.

Mr. Currie stated that the sale price of the current high school is \$11,000,000. The funds won't be realized until possibly September 2009 or later, and those funds will be used to first pay down the debt of the current high school and then used for construction purposes. There are restrictions on the use of the funds received.

Mr. Currie mentioned that the collection of union dues was in the final best offer that was sent to the arbitration panel and could not be changed at this time. The issue could be addressed in future contracts.

Mr. Rosato asked if the district could approve a resolution to bypass Act 69.

Mr. Donnelly asked if changes can be made to the arbitrator's recommendation.

Mr. Currie explained that each side must vote on the arbitrator's recommendation. If both sides vote the recommendation down, then the process starts over again. The Board is focused on reaching a settlement.

Mr. Currie announced that there would be an executive session following the meeting to discuss negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Miller, with a second by Mr. Jelinski to adjourn the meeting. On a vote of 7 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray  
Board Secretary