
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2007, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR SESSION
HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

* The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every public meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation. These rules are available at each Board meeting. Anyone desiring to speak is asked to make this request in advance. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer. Comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; not to Board members individually. Board Bylaw 0169.1

CALL TO ORDER



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Honkala, aye Mr. Manfredi, aye Mrs. Timmons, aye
Mr. Imhof, aye Mr. Miller, aye

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Imhof to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2007; Work Session and the January 10, 2007; Organizational/Regular Meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer gave each Board member a summary report along with the normal detail report as received in the past. Asked the Board which reports they prefer. Will receive the summary reports only from now on. Any additional detail will be received upon request.

EXPENDITURES:

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$769,562.59 for the month January and any necessary for February, along with month end reports, including the amended certificate. Total General Fund Certified Revenues: \$10,460,091.34; Total All Other Funds Certified Revenues: \$2,086,383.63.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

INTEREST EARNED:

The Treasurer earned \$14,888.29 in interest on January investments. The total fiscal year-to-date earnings are \$102,653.84. Current interest rates: Star 5.16%, Huntington 5.20%, Charter One 5.17%. *Mrs. Tramont stated that most of the School District's investments are in Huntington in order to take advantage of the higher interest rate.*

APPROPRIATION MODIFICATIONS:

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve all appropriation modifications for January as needed. Total General Fund Appropriations: \$10,316,931.07; Total All Other Funds Appropriations: \$1,688,488.20.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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PETTY CASH INCREASE:

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve an increase of the Treasurer's Office Petty Cash to \$50.00 *We are currently spending more money on certified letters and until the postage machine lease is finalized we need additional funds.*

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

LEVY FOR MAY BALLOT:

Mr. Honkala read the STATEMENT OF THE BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT INCOME TAX ISSUE:

The Berkshire Board of Education has taken the recommendation of its Superintendent, Leadership Team and Treasurer to place an issue on the May 2007 special election ballot to replace its current ¾% school district income tax paid on the taxpayers adjusted gross income with a 1% income tax on earned income only. Only income recorded on the W-2 or 1099 will be taxed. Social security, pensions, investment income or other types not on the W-2 or 1099 are excluded from the 1%. This issue requires only one vote. If it is approved, the earned income tax becomes effective January 1, 2008 and the other tax is no longer collected. The current tax remains in effect for tax year 2007. If the issue is not approved, the current ¾% remains in effect. The new tax will raise approximately an additional \$380,000 per year when it is at full collection in 2009. As was the case in the fall campaign, this additional revenue maintains but does not expand our current programs. If it is approved, many of our citizens living only on social security and pensions will see a significant tax break or perhaps total elimination of their tax if they have no W-2 or 1099 income beginning in April 2009 when 2008 income is filed. This option became available in December of 2006 when the legislature approved it. It was not available to us last fall. We promised we would go for the conversion as soon as it was legal and that time has now arrived. We must realize that based on initial response to the proposed school funding amendment and the financial outlook for the state provided by Governor Strickland that no immediate increase in state funding is imminent. Our community must rally around the schools, stabilize its day to day operations and continue to provide the excellent education its students deserve. We, as a Board, promise to continue managing our resources wisely so that the excellent value taxpayers receive is maintained. Many more details of this tax will be included in the upcoming campaign.

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Miller, to authorize the Treasurer to take all necessary steps to allow the District to place before the voters a continuing 1% earned income tax for operational expenses. Issue to be placed on the Special Election ballot in May of 2007.

Roll Call: Mrs. Timmons, aye Mr. Manfredi, aye Mr. Honkala, aye
Mr. Miller, aye Mr. Imhof, aye

PRESENTATION OF FY2006 CAFR AND PLAQUE FOR FY2005:

Mrs. Tramont stated that the FY 2006 CAFR is completed and the bound copies will be presented at the next meeting to the Board. Due to a problem with the binding company they were not available for tonight.

The School District received a plaque for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the CAFR completed by Mrs. Kirby for the FY2005. This is the 6th time the School District has received the award. Mrs. Kirby has done an outstanding job of financial reporting for the School District.

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VOCATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Miller reported that Auburn Career Center will put a .58 mill levy on May 8th. We will split the cost of the special levy with Auburn. The Master Plan is for the next 20 years which will cover the update of current buildings, addition of new facilities, traffic study and correction, and more.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Committee held its meeting on February 6th at 6:30 pm at the Board Office. Working on the needs of the District and a schedule of when the work will be completed.

Levy Committee met last week to get organized. Next meeting is February 12, 2007 at 6:00 pm at the High School Library. Basic Game Plan is to use the Boosters and other groups to hold small meetings and bring a personal touch to the campaign. Will ask the Board members to attend some of these meetings.

Boosters Meetings have been moved to the second Monday of the month due to the change of the Board Meetings to the first Monday to better accommodate Mrs. Tramont going between board meetings.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(Principals' Reports, Buildings and Grounds Projects, Technology Update)

Presentation by: Burton Elementary Students – Due to snow day this presentation was cancelled.

Mrs. Ducca, BE Principal, wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the great job that Mary Jo Paul just completed as a long-term substitute.

Mr. Knapp reviewed the "Redirecting Our Efforts" page presented at the meeting which discussed the calendar adoption for the 2007-08 school year on the agenda for the meeting; the school district levy which is an earned income tax as opposed to the adjusted income tax currently being collected; snow days and the possibility of make up days; an update of the website and current usage; and his schedule of talks for the upcoming week.

PERSONNEL:

Certified:

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve supplemental coaching contracts for spring of 2007, contingent upon sufficient numbers of students signing up and paying participation fees.

- Mark Smithberger, Head Baseball Coach
- Dave List, Head Softball Coach
- Kelly Mathews, Assistant Softball Coach
- Rich Guthrie, Assistant Softball Coach
- Brent Nenadal, Head Boys' Track Coach
- Michelle Peters, Assistant Track Coach
- Beth Duricky, Jr. High Track Coach

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve level change on the Salary Schedule with proper certification for Gina Kriz, from Level III - BA+150 to MA.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Imhof, to approve child care leave for 2007/2008 School Year for Meg Slowey, Special Education Tutor at Troy Elementary.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Classified

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve supplemental coaching contracts for spring, 2007, contingent upon sufficient number of students signing up and paying participation fees.

- Jack Menosky, Assistant Baseball Coach
- Joseph Granito, Assistant Baseball Coach
- Julie Cole, Head Girls' Track Coach
- Aimee Green, Assistant Track Coach
- Evan Shalek, Jr. High Track Coach

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the following educational assistants for the balance of the 06-07 school year:

- Mary Ellen Warren, one on one special education assistant
- Stephanie Butler, playground assistant, Burton Campus

Mr. Knapp stated that Ms. Butler replaces an employee who resigned.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Imhof, to approve the following people for the duties as described in the *Administering Medication – Board of Education Policy* (#5331[c]) which requires that the Board of Education assign to specific employees the responsibility of storage and administration of medication following in-service by, and under the supervision of, the school nurse.

- Matt Marks, for Washington D.C. trip and the Florida Band Trip
- Jim Lester for the New York City trip

Mr. Miller stated that in the past, the Board received a list of the disciplines applicable to the trip and the consequences if those rules are not followed. Would like to request the same prior to these three trips.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Timmons and seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the School District Calendars as presented and listed below:

- Modify 2006-2007 calendar to reverse the order of make-up days, if needed.
- Approve 2007-2008 school district calendar.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Tramont reminded the Board about the *Special Meeting scheduled for February 19, 2007 at 6:00 pm* at the High School Cafeteria to discuss the levy and consider passing the second resolution to submit the levy to the voters. We must have the approved resolution and Tax Commissioner certification to the Board of Elections by February 22, 2007 in order for it to be on the May ballot.

Mr. Imhof asked Mr. Reedy if there was something he could do to quiet the pop machine if we are holding the meetings in the cafeteria. They make it very hard to hear in this room. *Mr. Reedy will take care of it.*

OPEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Reedy wanted to publicly thank Carolyn Squires for all her help with the new sign, including the landscaping.

Mr. Miller stated that there has been a lot of positive responses to the sign.

Kelly Timmons asked if we have shown that the sign was paid for by donations.

Mr. Reedy said that it was run on the sign and mentioned many times.

Mrs. Timmons asked if we could put something like "Donated by Friends of Berkshire Schools" on the sign.

It has been suggested that a sign/banner be added to the sign to state that permanently. May even add that to the panel being looked into to protect the electrical part of the back of the sign.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at: 6:33 pm.

Mr. Tim Honkala, President

Mrs. Merry Lou Tramont, Treasurer