
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF MARCH 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

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 Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Imhof to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2007; Regular Meeting and the February 19, 2007; Special Meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

EXPENDITURES:

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$770,110.92 for the month February and any necessary for March, along with month end reports, including 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 \$11,232.07 in interest in February investments. The total fiscal year-to-date earnings are \$113,885.91. Current interest rate: Star 5.16%, Huntington 5.17%, Charter One 5.17%.

APPROPRIATION MODIFICATIONS:

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve all appropriation modifications for March 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.

BUDGET COMMISSION UPDATE:

Mrs. Tramont presented the tax receipts estimated by County Auditor for fiscal year 2008 budget. There is a slight increase over the prior year due to new construction values added to tax abstract. The increase was added to the current Five-year Forecast, so it is appropriately updated. An updated forecast will be filed with the State at the appropriate time.

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RATE RESOLUTION:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to adopt rates and amounts as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. General Fund – inside 4.5; General Fund outside – 45.30; library 1.0; and permanent improvement 2.5.

Mr. Knapp stated that the voted millage is 45.30 however, the effective rate due to HB 920 is only 29 mills.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S CONTRACT:

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Imhof, to adopt the following resolution employing Treasurer, Merry Lou Tramont, jointly with Cardinal for the period beginning January 1, 2007 through July 31, 2009.

Whereas, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.222, two boards of education may jointly employ an individual to serve as Treasurer; and

Whereas, the Board is desirous of jointly employing Merry Lou Tramont as Treasurer with the Berkshire Local School District Board of Education;

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. The Board hereby employs Merry Lou Tramont as Treasurer of the Board of Education, jointly with the Cardinal Local School District Board of Education, for the period beginning January 1, 2007 through July 31, 2009, at an initial salary rate of \$65,000.
2. The Board further authorizes and directs the Board President to execute an agreement jointly with Cardinal Local Schools and Merry Lou Tramont employing Mrs. Tramont as Treasurer of both districts and fairly apportioning costs of the contract between the two districts and upon such other terms and conditions as are agreed upon by the parties.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

VOCATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Miller reported that Auburn Career Center will definitely be going on the ballot May 8th. We will split the cost of the special levy with Auburn. The plan for expansion and updates includes some very nice plans for the future.

Mr. Honkala asked how many years has it been since the levy was on the ballot? Mr. Miller was not sure but it has been a long time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Imhof reported on the CRA Housing Report. This group is required to meet once a year to verify that Great Lakes Cheese meets what they said they would do in order to receive the tax abatement. This has definitely been a win/win situation for Berkshire. GLC is the anchor to the industrial development at that site. The Tax Abatement results were very positive. Cumulative taxes paid \$4,067,405 to the school district. The number of pre project employees was 301 with an obligation to create 40 new jobs. In 2006 they reported 545 employees with a payroll of the new jobs created of \$11.6 million.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Knapp reviewed the "Redirecting Our Efforts" page presented at the meeting which discussed congratulations to our winter athletes for an outstanding season, achievement testing for 10th graders, tornado safety month, levy updates, snow day reminder, pancake breakfasts in the area, St. Patrick's day dance at the Legion Post and the constitutional amendment.

PRESENTATION BY BURTON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:

Principal Ducca introduced Mrs. Vincourt and some of her sixth grade science students to share a presentation of the flip books they put together to explain the steps needed for the scientific method. The first two students shared the seven steps of the scientific method, the next two students described these steps and what was involved with them, and the final student shared her experiment regarding pennies turning green. All of the students did a great job of presenting.

Mrs. Ducca next introduced Mrs. Maxwell and the group Roots and Shoots. This group was started two years ago by Mrs. Starr. The executive board of Roots and Shoots was introduced and each member gave a brief speech about the international group they are a part of, how the elections were held, and what the past activities were, the current activities and the plans for the future.

The final presentation was given by Mrs. Bixler and Mrs. Kriz. Mrs. Bixler gave a brief history of the Nationally Board Certified Teachers program. Mrs. Bixler was the first teacher in the District to be national certified through this program. Mrs. Starr was the second and now Mrs. Kriz has become the third. Mrs. Kriz gave a brief description of the process she had to go through to achieve her certification. We are very proud of these teachers who have put in much time and energy in this process.

PERSONNEL:

Certified:

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve substitute teachers on the County E.S.C. certified substitute list.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the license agreement with NEOLA, Inc. which includes a new electronic publishing service and policy development at a cost of \$2544.50.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve minor changes in the bus driver job description and evaluation form to reflect the change to Transportation Manager rather than Transportation Supervisor, effective immediately.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve hiring Burt Hill to do the planning services for the renovation of the high school restroom facilities at a cost of \$12,550. Costs to be paid from Permanent Improvement proceeds.

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Mr. Honkala specified that the restrooms are in the 1936 portion of the building. Plan is to design the new restrooms in 2007, bid the project and complete the project in 2008.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the attached list of fourth year projects by the Facilities Committee, all to be funded with Permanent Improvement money.

Mr. Honkala read the following press release:

The Berkshire Board of Education approved over \$250,000 of repair and upgrade projects for the 2007 calendar year. These moneys come from the Permanent Improvement Levy, first passed in 1989, and renewed every five years. This levy can only be used for repairs, construction and equipment upgrades and not personnel costs. This year's projects include:

At the High School:

- a. Drainage improvements to the back door area and the perimeter of the athletic fields to prevent ponding and turf damage.
- b. Design and engineering work in preparation for year five (2008) renovations to the 1936 building's restrooms for students.
- c. Paving repair and replacement in student lot areas.
- d. New fire alarm and security system to bring building up to current code.
- e. Replace steel steps in back of building.
- f. Repair and refinish wood floors in four classrooms in 1936 building.
- g. Install water conditioner on hot water tanks to inhibit corrosion.
- h. Miscellaneous repairs to windows, doors, door frames, including gym exit doors onto Main Street.
- i. New ceiling for gym lobby, hallway and library and new lighting fixtures.
- j. Install new mandated safety rails on large gym bleachers and ladder to crow's nest.

At the Burton Campus:

- a. Upgrade electrical service with new box (600 amps) and breakers.
- b. Set aside money for parking lot expansion once decision is made on Burton Elementary.
- c. Install drop ceiling and new lighting in kitchen area to comply with Board of Health request.
- d. Miscellaneous repairs to windows, doors, door frames, etc. and painting.
- e. Install air conditioning in computer lab and general office areas.

District:

Technology replacement at all buildings (50 computers).

The Board is grateful to the Berkshire taxpayers for providing this money annually to maintain and upgrade district facilities.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve list of chaperones for the band trip to Walt Disney World.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Old Business

Mr. Honkala mentioned that the conduct expectation form for the field trips was received by the board as requested at the last board meeting.

New Business

Mrs. Ducca stated that the kindergarten registration packets will be available on Friday. *Mr. Miller asked that the voter registration forms be included in the packets.*

Open Public Participation

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to adjourn the meeting.
Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at: 6:45 pm.

Mr. Tim Honkala, President

Mrs. Merry Lou Tramont, Treasurer

Next board meeting is April 2, 2007 at 6:00 pm at the High School Library/Cafeteria.