
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

* 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

REGULAR MEETING CALL TO ORDER



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Manfredi, Mrs. Timmons, Mr. Miller, Mr. Koster and Mr. Honkala.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the agenda as submitted.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2008 Board Retreat and the February 4, 2008 Regular Meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Expenditures:

Motion made by Mr. Honkala seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$747,291.72 for the month of February and any necessary for March, along with month end reports, including amended certificate. Total General Fund Certified Revenues: \$10,559,606.47; Total All Other Funds Certified Revenues: \$1,673,512.76.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Interest Earned:

The treasurer earned \$10,971.40 in interest for February investments. The total fiscal year-to-date earnings are \$135,110.27. Current interest rate: Star 3.31%, Huntington 5.10%, Charter One 2.93%.

Appropriation Modifications:

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve all appropriation modifications for March as needed. Total General Fund Appropriations: \$10,584,425. Total All Other Funds Appropriations: \$1,611,576.71.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

*MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

*REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY*

Resolution Accepting Tax Rates:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the following resolution as required by the Tax Budget Commission.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

WHEREAS, this Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing on July 1st, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Commission of Geauga County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within the ten mill limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the Berkshire Local School District, Geauga County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, that there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said School District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

SCHEDULE A				
SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION, AND COUNTY AUDITORS ESTIMATED TAX RATES				
FUND	Amount to be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate to be Levied	
			Inside 10 Mill Limit	Outside 10 Mill Limit
General Fund	4,273,550.00	1,027,996.00	4.50	45.30
Library Fund	188,203.00	0.00		1.00
Permanent Improvement	277,582.00	0.00		2.50
TOTAL	4,739,335.00	1,027,996.00	4.50	48.80

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

*MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

*REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY*

SCHEDULE B LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES		
GENERAL FUND	Maximum Rate Authorized to Be Levied	County Auditor's Estimate of Yield of Levy (Schedule A, Col 1)
26.10 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 1976 and Prior not to exceed - Continuing - years.	26.10	2,197,716.00
5.0 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 11-08-1997 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	5.00	421,018.00
4.70 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 08-02-1983 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	4.70	535,769.00
4.50 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 11-05-1985 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	4.50	512,970.00
5.0 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 05-03-1988 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	5.00	606,076.00
TOTAL General Fund outside 10 mill Limitation	45.30	4,273,549.00

SCHEDULE B LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES		
NON-GENERAL FUND	Maximum Rate Authorized to Be Levied	County Auditor's Estimate of Yield of Levy (Schedule A, Col 1)
2.50 Permanent Improvement Fund levy authorized by voters on 11-04-2003 not to exceed - five - years.	2.50	277,582.00
1.0 Burton Library Fund levy authorized by voters on 11-07-2000 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	1.00	188,203.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Officer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Mr. Knapp stated that the permanent levy is up for renewal in the fall and he encourages the board to get it on the ballot for replacement. This levy is for maintenance and upkeep of the current buildings. It is currently collected at 1.2 mills although it is a 2.5 mill levy.

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

Motion carried.

VOCATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Miller reported that the meeting was postponed to Wednesday due to elections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Commission will be meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2008. The major project coming up is the high school restrooms to begin after school is out.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (PRINCIPALS' UPDATES)

Steve Reedy introduced Beth Duricky who is the 7th and 8th grade science teacher. Mrs. Duricky has received a donation of \$1,000 towards technology for her classroom. Mrs. Duricky did a presentation on the interactive technology purchased for her class by having the board and the audience participate in a game of "Are you smarter than an 8th grader?" Each person had a hand held answer device and can be scored on their knowledge of the various subjects. A report can be printed to show the progress or areas of concern for each student in the classroom. It was a lot of fun participating in the demonstration.

Mr. Knapp presented the board with the basic school calendar for the 2008-09 school year. We have given up the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to get an additional day in January. Will have two weeks at Christmas time and come back the same time as all other districts.

PERSONNEL:

Certified:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the supplemental coaching contracts for spring of 2008, contingent upon sufficient numbers of students signing up and paying participation fees.

- Dave List, Varsity Softball Coach
- Rich Guthrie, JV Softball Coach
- Monica Reedy, Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach
- Michelle Peters, Assistant Varsity Track Coach-Girls
- Brent Nenadal, Varsity Track Coach-Boys
- Aimee Green, Assistant Varsity Track Coach-Boys
- Beth Duricky, Jr. High Coach-Girls

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the County ESC Certified Substitute List.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve ten extended days for Amanda Burzanko for the position of Athletic Director for the 2007/2008 school year.

Mr. Koster asked if Mandy is on a contract as a teacher. Mr. Knapp replied that she is and has a supplemental for the athletic director.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Classified:

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve the supplemental for Ashley Garaja as choreographer for the Spring Musical, 2008. (Pending completion of all county and district requirements).

Mr. Manfredi asked if Ashley is here in the district. Mr. Knapp said no, but she has been a volunteer with the badgerettes. Mr. Miller stated that we need to make sure the proper paperwork is received and should do so before they are put on the agenda.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the following supplemental coaching contracts for spring of 2008, contingent upon sufficient numbers of students signing up and paying participation fees. (Pending completion of all county and district requirements).

- Jack Menosky, Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach
- Bob Himmelein, JV Baseball Coach
- Kenny Balmat, Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach
- Chuck Hix, Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach
- Bill Poole, Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach
- Julie Cole, Varsity Track Coach-Girls
- Evan Shalek, Jr. High Track Coach-Boys

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS:

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve Dustin James Evans and Rex Ryan Hosmer as graduates of the Class of 2007 since they have now met the requirements to receive their diplomas.

Mr. Manfredi asked if the students plan on attending a board meeting to receive their diplomas. Mr. Reedy said at this time they are not interested in attending a meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Knapp requested that the motion to approve the 2008 Chinese Guest Teacher Program be withdrawn.

He referred the board to Dr. Ruth Friedman to explain the change in plans. Dr. Friedman explained that she will be withdrawing our application for a Chinese teacher due to changes in the program where the costs would be must greater than first anticipated. She suggested that we could hire our own teacher from the students currently at college or share the position with another area district. A recent email has changed the directives since the teachers usually are expected to send money home to their families, it puts a hardship on them to pay for their expenses while here in America. Therefore, the host district is expected to pay for food, transportation and incidentals, provide a car, get the teacher a driver's license, pick up the teacher in August, acclimate the teacher to our culture, include them on field trips, etc. We currently do not have a host family. *Mr. Miller asked what the cost of the program was.* Dr. Friedman stated that originally she expected it to cost \$2,000 for insurance and another \$3,000 from the district for other costs. Now with the additional requirements it would cost around \$10,000 - \$12,000. The teachers also could only work 20 hours a week. *Mr. Manfredi suggested that all facts and figures be put together and given to the board first if we decide to do this next year. This will give us a better understanding of the costs involved before we get too far in the process.* Dr. Friedman said we could ask other districts who currently have guest teachers what their costs are associated with this program. *Mr. Reedy said there are at least two other districts nearby who are participating in this program.*

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the 2007/2008 contract between the Geauga County Board of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities (GCBMRDD) and the Berkshire School District.

Mr. Knapp stated that this is a contract where they pay us about \$136,000 towards our services in taking in the students previously serviced by Metzenbaum. Mr. Manfredi asked if we know how many kids we will have next year, will it be the same number as this year. *Mrs. Symsek said we are not sure at this time. This is the additional money they get from the state and due to cross-enrolling our students we can get the additional funding from them.*

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the calendar for the 2008-09 school year as presented.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to accept the bid from Whitehouse Construction in the amount of \$111,600 for the renovation of four student restrooms at Berkshire High School in the summer of 2008. All work shall be performed according to the specifications outlined in the bid documents which were opened on February 28, 2008 by the Treasurer of the Board.

Sean Thompson from Burt Hill was present to answer any questions.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Mr. Manfredi asked where this company was from. Mr. Thompson said Bedford Heights. They have worked with them and Town Center Construction before on projects. He would suggest getting the contract set now to give to them so they can start the process to be ready for June start. Mr. Manfredi asked if the project covered the 1st and 2nd floor men's and ladies' room. Mr. Miller asked what the scope of the project was. Mr. Thompson stated that they would be basically doing a complete gut of the men's and ladies' restrooms, replacing the toilets, stalls, piping and making them ADA compliant. Mr. Koster asked if Whitehouse is a general contractor and if they would be subcontracting for workers and who they would use. Mr. Thompson said he is not sure who they would use but he could find out. The last project they worked with this company, they completed in time and in budget. Mr. Manfredi asked if they had included for any overruns. Mr. Thompson said we built in \$5,000 for possible overruns. Mr. Miller asked if Sean would be handling the project and he responded yes. Mr. Knapp stated that Mr. Reedy changed the summer custodian hours so the contractors have twelve hours a day to work on the project. Mr. Koster stated that both he and Roger have worked with this company. Mr. Manfredi asked if we wanted to form a committee of a few board members, staff members and maybe a few others, to keep us moving in a forward direction on our current and planned projects. He is not sure how big the committee should be. Mr. Thompson replied they usually have two board members, superintendent, principals of the building and even the maintenance supervisor on them. About 7-8 people total. Some of those folks can be on an as needed basis. Mr. Manfredi said he is just suggesting this so we keep moving along to complete our projects.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Open Public Participation

Scott Weber – Regarding the 50% A policy. A recent article mentioned that Berkshire has this policy and it has no place here. He would like to see the board actually abolish the policy. A student sits in the class, does not participate and still can go to the office and get a 50% grade. This is not acceptable; you should get what you earn. *Mr. Reedy stated that lots of research says you have to give someone the opportunity to succeed. There are situations that put kids in need of a liferaft. They can still get a 0 on tests and they are accountable for their midterms. This is for the kids in a particularly difficult situation who is able to do the work but due to this situation has fallen behind. We are in it for the kids and this lets them know we have not given up on them. We have a very small percentage of kids this would affect. We have a committee of department heads that review the situations and have established parameters to be considered before this policy is enacted.* Mr. Koster asked how long this policy has been in effect here at Berkshire. *Mr. Reedy said over seven years now. Mr. Manfredi suggested that we let the community know there was a committee which got together to review and implement this policy, let them know what parameters were set and who was involved in the process. Mr. Reedy stated that this is not about the athletes. These kids need help. If some of these kids get behind one quarter they are done for the year. We need to be in it for those kids.*

Scott Webber – Asked if there would be negotiations this spring. *Mr. Knapp said yes. Mr. Webber stated that the community would like to see higher deductibles and much higher premium paid by the teachers. As a taxpayer he is tired of us paying for the teacher's family to be covered under our insurance. It should be 50% of the premium for the teachers and 100% for their families. This costs us a lot of money; it has to be 10-20% of our budget. If the teachers do not like it they can go somewhere else. People are really not into the new building, people can't afford to pay-to-participate for athletics. People can put on a referendum and vote down the income tax. You need to be honest about the costs of the district.*

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

*MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

*REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY*

Linda Stone – Teacher at BHS – She supports the 50% grade policy. We have a student that has had a truly bad spell of serious health issues in her family. She has had to help take care of her family and if we did not have this policy she would not have made it. She is a good student in a tough situation.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at: 7:05 p.m.

Mr. John Manfredi, President

Mrs. Merry Lou Tramont, Treasurer