
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF MAY 8, 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. Koster, Mr. Honkala and Mr. Miller.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the agenda as submitted and the minutes of the April 7, 2008 Regular Meeting and the April 28, 2008 Special Meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

Michelle Stys, from the Auditor of State's Office, presented the **Making Your Tax Dollars Count Award** to Berkshire Local School District on behalf of Auditor of State Mary Taylor for excellence in financial reporting for the 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Ms. Taylor passed on her congratulations stating, "I commend the Berkshire Local School District for their commitment to fiscal accountability. Congratulations on your hard work and for being trustworthy stewards of taxpayer dollars."

This award had been presented to only 5% of the school districts in Ohio. The standard criteria to receive the award include a) The entity must complete and submit a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), b) There must be no findings or issues present in the audit report and c) There must be no other financial concerns involving the entity.

Geauga Safety Council awarded Berkshire Local School District the BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene Award for outstanding safety performance 100% Award. This certificate was awarded to each employer that goes the entire year without an employee injury or illness resulting in a day away from work. Lisa Shirkey and Jim Badanjek are our Safety Council Representatives.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Expenditures:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$780,671.12 for the month of April and any necessary for May, along with month end reports as available, including amended certificate. Total General Fund Certified Revenues \$10,619,796.47; Total All Other Funds Certified Revenues: \$1,627,409.76.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Interest Earned:

The Treasurer earned \$9,378.89 in interest for April investments. The total fiscal year-to-date earnings are \$156,429.90. Current interest rates: Star 2.28%, Huntington 4.90%, Charter One 2.13%.

Appropriation Modifications:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve all appropriation modifications for May as needed. Total General Fund Appropriations: \$10,610,266.90. Total All Other Funds Appropriations: \$1,728,350.71.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Transfer from General Fund:

Motion made by Mr. Koster, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the transfer from the General Fund (001) to the Self Insurance Fund (024) to cover current year costs in the amount of \$100,000.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

VOCATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Miller reported that they gave three administrators five year contracts to follow along the strategic plan in order to keep key people in place. Superintendent evaluation committee was formed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary Building Project Advisory Committee – Mr. Manfredi reported that the first meeting was a week ago to look at the costs of building a new building vs. renovations and additions. May 20, 2008 a group is going to Coventry School District to look at preformed units. Mr. Knapp, Mrs. Tramont and Mrs. Freidman met with the builders earlier and toured the facility. We will do what we can afford to do and will continue to look at all options. Intend to have regular monthly meetings. *Mr. Miller stated the key point is that Troy will remain open through 2009.* Mr. Manfredi stated that he has set a date to be out of Troy by August 2010.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (PRINCIPALS' UPDATES)

Mr. Knapp referred to his "Redirecting our Efforts" newsletter for May. It included information regarding grades 9-12 transportation request forms, the blood drive at the high school on April 10th in which about 40 students participated, and community support for the district in challenging times. Relay for Life is this weekend at Cardinal High School, come out and support our students and a great cause.

The two superintendent finalist, Steve Reedy and Doug DeLong, will be present at a community forum scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2008 at the Berkshire High School Library and Cafeteria starting at 7:00 p.m. The community and staff are invited to come and ask questions of the candidates.

PERSONNEL:

Certified:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve extended days for the 2008/2009 school year for the following employees:

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- Matt Marks, 15 days
- Mary Martin, 10 days
- Dan Itschner, 10 days
- Kathy Pinkava, 8 days
- Jackie Arnold, 4 days
- Amanda Burzanko, 15 days

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve maternity leave for Margaret Edwards, Spanish teacher, from August 27, 2008 through October 31, 2008.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, 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. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve hiring five certified staff members for the OGT Summer Camp positions of Coordinator, Math Teacher, Writing/Reading Teacher, Social Studies Teacher and Science Teacher.

Mr. Knapp stated that they receive a stipend of \$500 each and the coordinator receives \$600. Mrs. Timmons asked how long summer camp runs. Mr. Knapp said one week.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve expenses for out of state AP Calculus AB workshop for James Lester, June 21, 2008.

Mr. Manfredi asked where he was going. Mr. Lester replied Chicago. Mr. Knapp stated that Mr. Lester researched the best place to go. Mrs. Freidman stated this was the only workshop for beginning teachers and with this we would now have AP calculus and AP biology.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Classified:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve two year limited contracts (2008/2009-2009/2010) to the following employees: (Salary and Benefits per Negotiated Contract)

- Jennifer Ambrose, Secretary, Burton Elementary
- Ammie Evers, Secretary, Troy Elementary
- Paula Gardner, Secretary, Special Education
- Jackie Peters, Aide, Burton Elementary
- Kathy DiRosa, Van Driver

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Carol Miller, Van Driver, for a continuing contract, effective 2008/2009 school year.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve the Food Service Supervisor supplemental contract for 2008/2009 school year for Jennifer Harrison.

Mr. Knapp stated that when Jen took over for Mary, she remained on a cook's contract and was given a supplemental contract for supervision. Mr. Manfredi mentioned that Jen is working on getting real pizza back in the cafeteria.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to accept the resignation of David Devlin, custodian at Berkshire High School, effective immediately.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Koster, to accept the resignation of Courtney Bucholz, playground aide at Burton Elementary, effective June 10, 2008.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Motion made by Mr. Koster, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the membership in Ohio High School Athletic Association for the 2008-2009 school year.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve renewing the agreement with Lake/Geauga Educational Assistance Foundation (LEAF) for the 2008/2009 school year.

Mr. Manfredi asked what the cost associated with this was. Mr. Knapp replied it costs \$3,200 a year and they hold fundraisers which supply last dollar scholarships to high school students.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve the 2008/2009 Class Fees for Berkshire High School.

Mr. Manfredi stated that nothing really stuck out on the fees looks the same as this year. Mr. Reedy said they tried to keep things at the status quo.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the agreement with Northwest Ohio Computer Association for the purpose of data management at no cost to the District.

Mr. Miller asked what the description of their services was. Mr. Knapp said they are value added services through a State contract since it involves student information given to an outside source. We just need to approve these services.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve Chad Russell, Nurse, to dispense medication at sixth grade camp.

Mr. Manfredi asked who Chad was. Linda Stone replied that he is a BHS grad who is currently an EMT at Concord. He works with them at the camp.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the attached list of junior and senior students who have been selected to be sixth grade camp counselors.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the Hiram House Outdoor Education Agreement for the sixth grade camp from Tuesday, May 20, 2008 through Friday, May 23, 2008.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve extending the Troy lease at current terms and conditions for 2008/2009 school year.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the continuation of open enrollment for grades 7-12 for contiguous districts for 2008/2009 school year.

Mr. Knapp reported that we are about even, we have about 35 students going out and about 32 students coming in. Mr. Miller stated that our policy is that we would release students for sports. How do other districts handle this for students attending their schools? Mr. Knapp replied that we have only had this situation between parochial schools. They are talking in Columbus about changing this.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Neola Policies – First Reading – to be approved at the June meeting.

0141.2 0153	2440	3121	4121
4139	5136	5200	6152.016460
6520	8320	8330	8500
8531	8600.04		Delete Policy 3143

Old Business

Permanent Improvement Levy – Mr. Manfredi stated that we are looking to put a renewal levy on the November ballot. Part of this money will be used for repairs to the high school bathrooms. This money can be used for building improvements and not for buses and technology. Since this is the last year of the levy which stops being collected in 2009, it can be renewed any time between November 2008 and November 2009.

New Business

None.

Open Public Participation

Mr. Manfredi asked the public to please address the board when participating in this part of the meeting and comments should be limited.

Mark Rhoades – Sent an email to the board but did not receive any response back. He is a frustrated parent and taxpayer. He is asking that the board go into negotiations with the best interest of the students. We are taxed out and students only get 15% of the budget, they get the short-end of the stick. We pay real estate taxes, income taxes, school fees and pay-to-play fees. Need to consider pay freezes for the teachers and administrators. They need to pay more out of pocket for medical coverage. Insurance should be 80/20 like in most businesses. I pay a spousal surcharge of \$87. The board needs to look at this seriously.

Mr. Manfredi stated that the PI levy is a renewal levy not an additional levy, it would be the same money as you have been paying since 1998. There is no increase. Secondly we are in the midst of negotiations and both sides are working on things. We cannot comment more since there is a confidentiality clause.

Scott Weber – I echo what Mr. Rhoades says but will add something more. This time of negotiations should be where the teachers give more back to the district. We have good salaries here and giving them a raise in salaries and benefits is crazy. Kids have to pay for sports and we are giving raises. Taxpayers are getting tired of paying more and more. Projecting a deficit in five years means we cannot give money away. You have put a 3% increase out there for teachers and we cannot afford that. Prefab units are high quality and I commend you for looking in that direction.

Mrs. Tramont asked if she could make one clarification. The 3% in the forecast for personal services covers more items than teachers' salaries as was stated. There are other items included in that line item such as supplementals, substitutes, step increases and all other employees of the district. It is not just for teachers' salaries, to say so is inaccurate.

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Terry Macintee – This is Teachers’ Appreciation Week and I would like to thank all the teachers for all they do here at Berkshire. I am a single parent supporting my children and it is a different view on this side as it is on their side. I know they review things and work hard to address concerns on many levels. We need to contact our legislature to get them to work on funding our schools. Salaries go to teachers but they are educating our students. I think the Board is doing a great job.

Executive Session

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Miller, to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Motion made at: 6:50 P.M.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Time Entered into Executive Session: 6:55 P.M.

Time Exited Executive Session: 7:25 P.M.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at: 7:26 P.M.

Will include the first resolution for the renewal of the permanent improvement levy at the special meeting on May 12, 2008. Starting time 6:45 P.M.

Mr. John Manfredi, President

Mrs. Merry Lou Tramont, Treasurer