
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2014 6:00 P.M.
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BERKSHIRE 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



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call: Mr. Koster, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Miller, Mr. Honkala-present
Mr. Manfredi- arrived at 6:10 pm

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), we hereby move that the Board adjourn to executive session for the purpose of personnel matters

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Roll Call: Four Ayes, One absent
Motion Carried.

The Board entered into executive session at 6:04 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 7:01 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve the current agenda and the minutes from March 10, 2014, regular board meeting and the Special Board work session from March 18, 2014.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Expenditures and Interest Earned:

Let the records reflect that – The Treasurer has submitted a statement to the board and to the Superintendent showing the revenues and receipts from whatever sources derived, the various appropriations made by the board, the expenditures and disbursements therefrom, the purposes thereof, and the balances remaining in each fund. The financial statements for the period ending **March, 2014** submitted subject to audit and include: Financial Summary, Appropriations and Revenue Summary, Check Register Recap, and Bank Reconciliation per *ORC 3313.29*.

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Ohio Schools Council Cooperative Bus Purchase

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala to participate in the 2014/2015 Ohio Schools Council Cooperative School Bus Purchased Program and authorizes the Ohio Schools Council to advertise and receive bids on behalf of the Berkshire Board of Education as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of one (1) 72 passenger conventional school bus chassis and body, one (1) 47 passenger lift school bus chassis and body. The Board agrees to pay \$325.00 to the Ohio Schools Council for participation in the 2014/2015 cooperative bus purchase.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Advance Return

Motion made by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve a \$100,000 advance return from the Permanent Improvement Fund to the General Fund.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Vocational Report

Mr. Miller updated Board regarding the new HVAC building and program at Auburn Career Center. He stated that during spring break, all equipment would be moved and the classes will be up and running when students return from spring break.

Committee Reports

Mr. DeLong reported the facilities commission is meeting on April 8th to approve the permanent improvements that will be done for the 2014/2015 school year. He also mentioned that the Family Civic Engagement program is continuing after 3 years.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Personnel:

Certified:

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Brown to accept the following resolution:

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WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received notice of the intended retirement of Steven Reedy, effective June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, in his notice of retirement Steven Reedy expressed an interest in returning to the District in the same position as the Principal that he currently holds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation/retirement of Steven Reedy effective June 30, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education directs the Treasurer, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3307.353, to issue a Public Notice stating that Steven Reedy, currently employed with the District as the Principal, will be retired and is seeking employment with the District in such position following retirement, and as such the Board of Education, in accordance with state law, will hold a public meeting on the issue of Steven Reedy being employed with the District at 6:00 p.m. on June 9, 2014, at 14259 Claridon Troy Road, Burton, Ohio 44021. Said Public Notice should appear at least once in the "Legal Notices" section of a newspaper of general circulation in the District and be included in any general notice of the Board of Education meeting at which the hearing is going to be held.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is hereby found and determined that all formal action of this Board concerning and/or relating to the adoption of this Resolution was taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Brown, to approve the following resignations:

- Cheri Goggin, effective immediately
- Melinda Rice, effective June 11, 2014

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Koster, to approve one year Limited Contracts for the 2014-2015 school year for the following certified staff:

- Michelle Bagaglia
- Brittany Bakalar
- Kerrie Bocci

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- Hannah Bomback
- Jamie Bower
- Heidi Domhoff
- Tim Florjancic
- Karen Fortier
- Melissa Furst.
- Brent Gardner (Retire/Rehire)
- Megan Guthrie
- Richard Guthrie
- Kelsey Kimmel
- Karen Kirby
- Shannon Moore
- Kayla O'Brien
- Meghan Proegler-Paul
- Kelly Porcello
- Joan Prots
- Tracy Rea
- Marla Whitney
- Thad Youngen

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve a Continuing Contract to the following employees, effective beginning the 2014-2015 school year: (All requirements have been completed.)

- Nancy Harris
- Lynn Hunter
- Mary Jo Paul

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Koster, to approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2013/2014 school year:

- Thad Youngen Jr. High Track Coach
- Kelsey Kimmel Jr. High Track Coach

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Brown, to approve extended days to the following employees:

- Jackie Arnold 4 Days
- Michelle Bagaglia 10 Days
- Brittany Bakalar 10 Days
- Kathy Pinkava 8 Days
- Meghan Proegler-Paul 15 Days

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Classified:

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2013/2014 school year:

- Brendan Curtain Head Boys' Track Coach-65%
- Gregory Dornback Assistant Track Coach
- John Dingman Jr. High Track Coach
- John Sokol Spring Musical Accompaniment

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Business:

Motion made by Mr. Koster, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve an Agreement for admission/tuition for the Mentor Cardinal Autism Resource and Education School for one student between the Berkshire Board of Education and the Mentor Exempted Village School Board of Education.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Koster, to continue additional Psychologist Services with Valorie Mendelson for the 2014-2015 school year. The rate will be \$35.00 and no less than 15 days and not to exceed 40 days. This is a flat rate with no other incurred costs, such as retirement and/or benefits.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Brown, to approve the Berkshire Jr./Sr. High School Course Fees for the 2014/2015 school year.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Mr. Manfredi asked Mrs. McCaffrey if these fees included the 10% reeducation, as the fees were reduces for the 13/14 school year. She informed him that these were the costs for the workbooks to cover the class needs. Mrs. McCaffrey will get the reduced fees to the Board at the meeting in May.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the 2014 Senior graduating class.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Mr. Manfredi asked Mr. Reedy (high school principal) how many students would be graduating and if all on the list were going to actually graduate this year. Mr. Reedy stated that there were 86 students on the list and he hopes they will all graduate. He also added graduation is on May 4, 2014

Old Business

Mr. DeLong informed the board about career day that was held at Kent State Geauga. It was a success as the students from Berkshire, Ledgesmont and Newbury received jump drives which contained resumes and other job interviewing documents on it. Students took the time to create and modify their own resumes and learned how they can present themselves to potential employers once they graduate. Overall, 150 students attended and 24 local employers.

New Business

None

Open Public Participation

Mark Rhodes-Burton asked Mr. Honkala, Mr. Miller and Mrs. Brown if they were in favor of the consolidation between Berkshire and Newbury. Mr. Miller stated that he was in favor of investigating the possibility. He wants to see if the numbers make sense. At this time, the Berkshire Board does not have all the numbers. Mr. Honkala answered by saying that the decision has to be right for Berkshire. He stated that he feels Berkshire has the best teachers and staff and does not want to lose any of them. He confirmed that this issue would not be on the ballot in November. He wants to look at the other options the Berkshire School District may have. Mrs. Brown mentioned that she was a visual learner. She asked anyone in the audience who was raised in Berkshire, graduated from Berkshire and has children in the Berkshire district to please stand up. She then asked everyone to remain standing if they were against the consolidation. Since she was elected as board member, she said she would continue to

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listen to the residents to make a decision. Mr. Rhodes said he would like this consolidation to be on a permanent hold and expressed his feelings that Mr. Manfredi and Mr. Koster should step down and president and vice president because of their poor leadership in this situation.

Holly Lynn asked if there was any way the Educational Service Center could help with the consolidation. Mr. Miller responded by saying that there is not much help from anyone regarding this, even the state.

Shelly McDermot a Berkshire graduate and resident wanted to make sure that this consolidation issue was not going to be on the ballot in November. Mr. Manfredi answered by saying he sent an email to the State Board of Education and followed up with a phone call stating that the Berkshire Board asked for all actions to be delayed. He confirmed it will not be on the ballot in November as we do not have all the numbers. Mrs. McDermot thanked the board and stated residents were against the consolidation because there was no information was given out.

Don Hornak a Berkshire resident stated that the consolidation is more than just a financial situation. It also has to be for academic reasons as well. He thanked the board for listening to the residents and responding by stopping the process. He wants the board to explore other option. He also stated that it does not matter how the board members vote or feel individually about the consolidation because they are standing up for something. Mr. Hornak also mentioned that he would be interested in helping the board look at other possible ideas.

Sue Miller a Troy resident stated that this consolidation issue has not been communicated well at all. The residents have heard rumors and misleading information. She suggested the district publishes a news letter like in years past. Mr. Manfredi asked her for her help with a news letter and she accepted.

Denny Austrander has a 7th grader and is concerned about the rotating substitute teachers in the Algebra class. The students have to keep re-learning topics because there has been no consistency. Mr. DeLong stated that they are working on getting a permanent substitute. Mrs. Austrander wants the students to have access to tutoring or additional help as 30% of the students have C's in the class. Mr. DeLong was going to look into the grades the students are receiving.

Rick Briggs, a Troy resident, asked the board what financial information they are still waiting on. Mr. Manfredi answered by saying the treasurer needs both budgets to create a budget for the new school district. The district has hired a private firm to gather some numbers and information but what the state needs is much more. Mr. Briggs mentioned from the meeting on Friday, Sarah Fowler said that Berkshire residents would not have a tax increase. So he questioned if she can say that why does the school not have enough information. Mrs. McCaffrey answered by saying that she does not know how anyone could have said that because the forecasts are not complete and there would have to be an increase to the Berkshire resident and an added income tax to the Newbury residents

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Cindy Haycox Wellman asked what the meeting on April 21st at Newbury is pertaining to. Mr. Manfredi stated that meeting did not involve the Berkshire school district in any way. An audience member said it was a meeting regarding the Newbury levy.

Jim Rider from Claridon mentioned that he hopes the board has learned a lesson from this. He wants them to get straight before getting the voters all upset.

Cindy Haycox Wellman asked about how much money has been spent on legal fees and why because of the free legal hotline that is provided through the Prosecutor's office. Mr. Manfredi answered by saying that the free hotline is only as good as the topic and the knowledge on consolidation is very limited. Mrs. McCaffrey mentioned that she is writing a "Straight A" grant which will aid in the communication. Mrs. McCaffrey stated that the financial study from the private firm cost \$2500 and Mr. DeLong stated the district has spent about \$7,000 in legal services so far.

Jim Rider asked when the financial report would be available to the taxpayers. Mrs. McCaffrey said the report is done but it is not very user friendly. Once May is over and we know more about the situation with Newbury regarding their levy, Mrs. McCaffrey can get a better idea regarding the state funding and will have better numbers. Mrs. McCaffrey stated she does not want to send out a report that she does not feel good about.

Heather McClelland, a Berkshire resident, is worried that if Berkshire consolidated with Newbury, the new district will have a hard time passing levies if needed in 10 years because the Newbury residents will not vote to pass a levy.

Joel Miller asked the board what is the end goal as far as facilities, sports, teachers, etc. Mr. Manfredi answered by saying the board is looking outside the box, as they always have. The board is trying to find other ways to fund a new K-12 building as it would cost about 30 million.

Denny Austrander asked the attendees to register their Red Target cards as 1% cash back is returned to the school. As she mentioned previously, her and her husband are published writers. Mr. Manfredi asked her if she would be interested in helping the board write some grants. Mrs. Austrander said she would be more than happy to help.

Jim Timmons, community member and past board member, thanked the board for all their work and for trying to look ahead before the district really financially needs it.

Mr. Koster thanked Mrs. McCaffrey for all her hard work that she has put into this. He mentioned that the work that Berkshire has done so far is leading the way as far as consolidation as this has not been done for so long and there are no directions to follow. He noted the board is looking for our ways to help the district.

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Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Mr. John Manfredi President

Mrs. Beth McCaffrey Recorder of Proceedings