

**NO: IX**  
**Minutes of the**  
**Board of School Directors**  
**DERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Hershey, PA 17033**

**December 7, 2009**

**Re-Organization Meeting**

**OPENING ITEMS**

**1.01 Call to Order**

A re-organization meeting of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District was held on Monday, December 7, 2009, in the District Office Board Room. Mr. Brian Jackson, Solicitor, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**1.02 Administration of Oath of Office - New School Board Members**

Brian Jackson: The first point of business at these meetings is to read into the record the Certification of Election results. We are still actually waiting on the hard copies of the Certificates of Election, but through some fancy footwork we can still read in what we will receive as the Certificates of Election once they are issued and received by the . . . we have just received hot off the press the Certificates of Election. They read as follows:

Dauphin County Board of Elections, Harrisburg,  
Pennsylvania Certificates of Election - November  
2009.

We the undersigned members of the County Board of  
Elections of said County hereby certify that after  
tabulating the votes cast at the municipal election held  
on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2009 in said County, it  
appears that the following:

Donna Cronin  
Christopher Morelli  
John Gräb, and  
Mary Beth Hagan

were duly elected to the Office of School Director for  
the School District of Derry Township in the County  
aforesaid.

Signed and executed by our three Commissioners  
and attested to by the Director of Elections.

Congratulations to our 4 Board members.

And with that, if District Justice Pelino would administer the oath of office to Donna Cronin, John Gräb, Mary Elizabeth Hagan and Christopher Morelli. If you would all come to the center please.

District Justice Pelino: If you would all just raise your right hand and repeat the oath after me if you would please? Would you state your full names just as they are on the certificates of election?

[Each candidate states their full name.]

District Justice Pelino: I do solemnly swear and affirm that I will support obey and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that I will discharge the duties of my office as School Director with fidelity.

[Each candidate repeats oath].

District Justice Pelino: We didn't practice this, you are all duly sworn. Thank you.

Dr. Brewer: Judge Pelino? For your kind help tonight, we have a token of our appreciation.

District Justice Pelino: Thank you.

Brian Jackson: And with that now for the first time, Mr. Rineer, if you would call our new roll:

### **1.03 Roll Call**

**Directors Present:**

Mrs. Beulah Chabal  
Dr. Donna Cronin  
Dr. Henry Donahue  
Dr. Mary Beth Hagan  
Mr. Christopher Morelli  
Dr. William Parrish  
Mr. John Gräb  
Mrs. Ellen Sheffey  
Mr. Charles Stover

<b>Superintendent:</b>	Dr. Linda Brewer	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mr. Stephen Rineer	
<b>Solicitor:</b>	Mr. Brian Jackson	
<b>Student Representative:</b>	Not Present	
<b>Press:</b>	Mr. Drew J. Weidman Ms. Monica von Dobeneck	THE SUN PATRIOT NEWS

**Representatives of the Administrative Staff:** Mr. Dan Tredinnick, Mr. David Yarian, Ms. Sue King, and Mr. Ed Consalo.

**Representatives of the Staff and Community:** Bruce E. Bechtel, Judith Woodring, Linda V. Lehrian, Arthur Cronin, Mark Shrift, Megan Hulse, Julie Neal, Zachary Zeiber, Chuck Johnson, Richard W. Gamble.

#### **1.04 Flag Salute**

Brian Jackson: Thank you. And now if we may have a volunteer to lead us in the flag salute?

Mr. Stover led those gathered in the Salute to the American Flag.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### **2.01 Election of Temporary President**

Brian Jackson: The first order of business in these meetings is to determine the position of Temporary President. The Temporary President has a very short shelf life, shorter than mine, and he or she will conduct the initial portion of this meeting in accordance with Section 4.402, and 4.404 of the School Code. Under the School Code the Temporary President must be one of our holdover members of the Board. I have no idea why, but that is the requirement, so at this point, I will accept nominations for the position of Temporary President. I should also note, just as a clarification, I know we are usually trained for seconds of motions tonight. For our elections, there is no need for seconds, simply a nomination which presumably is accepted by the recipient is fine, and with that, I will accept nominations for the position of Temporary President.

Dr. Parrish: I will name Mr. Stover.

Brian Jackson: Okay. Chuck Stover has been nominated for the position of Temporary President. Are there any other nominations? Any discussion? Okay, hearing no further nominations, the nominations for the position of Temporary President are closed and Mr. Rineer if you would do the roll call vote.

A nomination was made by Dr. Parrish that Mr. Stover be elected as temporary president.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Hagan – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Morelli – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

Brian Jackson: With that, I will abandon my seat for you. The gavel is yours.

## **2.02 Election President**

Mr. Stover: I will accept nominations for the position of President for the ensuing year.

Mrs. Sheffey: I would like to nominate Dr. Parrish.

Mr. Stover: Mrs. Sheffey moves that Dr. Parrish be nominated for the position of President for the ensuing year. Yes, Mr. Morelli.

Mr. Morelli: I would like to nominate John Gräb.

Mr. Stover: Mr. Morelli nominates Mr. Gräb for the position of President for the ensuing year. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, nominations are closed. Mr. Rineer, under Roberts Rules, each Board Member shall state the specific nominee for whom he or she is voting.

Dr. Cronin: Is there a chance for discussion beforehand?

Mr. Stover: Sure, we can have discussion.

Dr. Cronin: I just wasn't sure.

Mr. Morelli: Thank you. Just a brief comment on John's qualifications and experience. He's a career educator as everyone knows. He retired in 2007 from the Milton Hershey School after 40 years of teaching service. He's been a member of this Board for 12 years. He's held the position of Board Vice President. He's currently Chairman of General Services Committee. He's also

Chairman of the Building Oversight Committee and a member of the Finance Committee. Along with that, he's also a Board delegate to the Dauphin County Technical School. With this deep educational experience and long record of achievement on the Board, I also feel he'll continue Board continuity as well as interject a positive change by bringing a healthy new perspective to the Executive Board. He has a reputation of fairness and respect of all points of view which will be important for establishing community confidence on future Board decisions. It is important that this position requires a person with the time to attend meetings, work daily with the administration and continue our quest for transparency by having frequent communications with all community stakeholders, especially the Township Board of Supervisors, important community neighbors such as the Library, and other community/District organizations. John's strength, experience, integrity, and commitment to put the time required of the Board President will help him lead us to achieve all of our goals together. Thank you.

Dr. Cronin: I don't have anything prepared, but when I think of John Gräb, I think of retired 30 plus years as an educator and I can't help but think to myself that pretty much says it all in my mind. He's retired, which means he has the time to be able to commit to what we need right now, which is a really close communication with all of our stakeholders. Educator. He's devoted his entire life to education and he knows the ins and outs of it and also has the experience of being on the Board two separate times – first 8 years and then most recently for 4 years. He was in education for more than 30 years which shows a commitment to his profession and an ability to commit to something. I would be honored to have John lead this Board at this time. Thank you.

Mr. Stover: Any further discussion? Just as a reminder, this will be a roll call vote, so we will not be saying yes or no, we will be stating the name – either Dr. Parrish or Mr. Gräb will be how we vote. Mr. Rineer, roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Dr. Parrish	Gräb – Mr. Gräb	Parrish – Dr. Parrish
Cronin – Mr. Gräb	Hagan – Mr. Gräb	Sheffey – Dr. Parrish
Donahue – Dr. Parrish	Morelli – Mr. Gräb	Stover – Dr. Parrish

Dr. Parrish: 5, Mr. Gräb: 4

Mr. Stover: Congratulations, Dr. Parrish.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you.

### **2.03 Election of Vice-President**

Mr. Stover: Moving on, I will accept nominations for the position of Vice President for the ensuing year.

Mrs. Chabal: I would like to nominate Dr. Donahue.

Mr. Stover: Mrs. Chabal moves that Dr. Donahue be nominated for the position of Vice President for the ensuing year. Mr. Gräb?

Mr. Gräb: Thank you Mr. President. I would like to nominate Dr. Donna Cronin for Vice President.

Mr. Stover: Mr. Gräb moves that Dr. Cronin be nominated for position of Vice President for the ensuing year. Are there any further nominations? Seeing none, the nominations are closed. Is there any discussion?

Mr. Gräb: Thank you, Mr. President. I've often been asked why someone wants to run for School Board because it's a thankless job with which I have a tendency to disagree. I'm also approached at times, either publicly or privately, and told the only people we hear at public Board meetings are the vocal minority, and again with that, I disagree. One concept I will agree with is the fact that we as a Board need to listen to the voice of the silent majority. Back in the spring of the year, there were nine outstanding candidates who ran for the School Board, 5 of which made it to the General Election in the fall. In the General Election, 4 candidates were elected to the School Board. I think it is in the best interest, since there was a mandate from the electorate to have at least one of those who are members that were reelected represented on the Executive Council as a voice of the people, that's why I nominated Dr. Cronin. I think she has an outstanding working relationship with the Township Supervisors. She has an ear to what is happening in the community and I think she would make an outstanding Vice President. Thank you.

Mr. Stover: Further discussion? Dr. Cronin.

Dr. Cronin: Sure. I prepared a comment, so I might as well share it with everybody. My first exposure to the Derry Township School Board was several years ago and many of you were around at the time, some of you weren't. I found myself, and several other parents, asking for an answer regarding teachers and class size. As you will know, I have a lot of professional experience with Boards and decision making, so I know how often you don't get the answer that you want. What disturbed me at that time, as well as many in the community, is that we just couldn't seem to get any straight answer, so much so that I was motivated to start a writing campaign in October of that year for School Board. While I didn't win, I did finish ahead of a candidate who was on the ballot and then there was no turning back for many parents and children in the community who wanted much much more from their school Board. When I ran successfully in 2005 and again this year, my message has always stayed the same. Citizens are entitled to all the facts and our schools will only improve through a truly open process with the Community. My message was the same when I asked by

friends Ellen Sheffey and Hank Donahue to consider serving on the Board when they ran in 2007, because these issues are too important to ignore and that goes for all of us, whether we decide to run or not. Now, we need to need to take a big step forward together to bring community confidence to our decisions and greatness to our schools. This year's election proved that these are top of mind issues in our community and that is why I accept this nomination to serve on Executive Council as Vice President. I pledge the extensive time and commitment that we all know is necessary to make sure that we continually align our partnerships with the Township Supervisors, the Planning Commission, the Library Board, and our taxpayers. I pledge to devote much much more time to the academic improvements that we know our necessary to move our children to the top of the Pennsylvania class. Thank you.

Mr. Stover: Any further discussion?

Dr. Hagan: I certainly would like to echo what Mr. Gräb and Dr. Cronin have said as far as support for Donna as Vice President. Donna is a true representative of the community and the stakeholders in the true sense of the word. I also believe that she has the dedication and the passion to succeed in a role as Vice President here.

Mr. Stover: Anyone else? Again, Mr. Rineer, under Roberts Rules each Board member should state the specific nominee for whom he or she is voting – either Dr. Donahue or Dr. Cronin. Mr. Rineer, roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Dr. Donahue	Gräb – Dr. Cronin	Parrish – Dr. Donahue
Cronin – Dr. Cronin	Hagan – Dr. Cronin	Sheffey – Dr. Donahue
Donahue – Dr. Donahue	Morelli – Dr. Cronin	Stover – Dr. Donahue

Dr. Donahue: 5, Dr. Cronin: 4

Mr. Stover: With that, I'll turn the meeting over to our new President, Dr. Parrish.

## **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

### **4.01 Board President's Remarks**

Dr. Parrish: Thank you very much and thank you to the members of the Board. I think that as we move forward in the coming years, there certainly will be many challenges and there will be challenges that none of us even anticipate at this point. It happens every year. I think it's important that as we move forward and realize that nobody's more important than the other on this Board. Each of us have one vote. Each of us bring one vote to any issue and I hope that as we are faced with different issues through the year that each of us will look at each issue

individually and no matter where you fall, you move on to the next issue and approach it in a very logical fashion independent of others.

John Gräß's a good friend somebody I have a great deal of respect for. John does a great job for us and I look forward to continue to work with him and Donna. As those of you who come to Board meetings know though that the blue collar part of this job is the committee work. As we move forward, the tradition of the Board has been and the policy of the Board has been that the President appoint committees. We'll deviate a little bit from that in the coming months. The administration asked us all last month to provide interest and committee structures to them by the end of, I think, by the first of January. As we look on these committee structures, we certainly will probably make some changes and I've asked Ellen and Hank, not presumptively, but if indeed we were reelected, to please sit and participate in that, so I really don't care to be the person making committee appointments. It will be made by the three of us together.

I hope each of you will look at your own strengths and what you think you really can bring strongly to the Board as an individual and that's exactly at how we'll look at your requests.

Also, as we move into February, as you know, with the exception of the Personnel committee, we have community members on all of our committees. I hope that, especially those of you who come often to our Board meetings and consistently contribute will give some strong thought to applying for one of those community positions. I know that we've had some people here quite often that bring some great comments and it's nice that you're here on Monday evenings, but I think your comments would be very helpful and your input would be very helpful on those committees as well. So, please give that some serious thought. It is time consuming at times, but it does not have to be overwhelming.

With that, I think it's time that we move to entertain a motion to close the special meeting?

Dr. Brewer: We need to authorize the signature changes.

Mr. Rineer: We skipped Other Business as well.

## **2.04 Authorization of Signature Change for Newly Elected President**

Dr. Parrish: Alright, let's do the signature changes first. May I have a motion that the Derry Township District School Board of Directors approve the revision of the signature authorization on file with designated depositories to include the signature of its newly elected President?



Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Dr. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Hagan – Yes

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **3.01 Other Business**

Dr. Parrish: Is there any other business anyone would like to discuss?

Mrs. Chabal: I would just like to take make a comment. I have had the pleasure obviously of serving as President this last year and one of the things that I think is very important for us as we move forward to recall that our Board has been and still is a very close knit working Board. I have been on the Board now almost 6 years and in that 6 year time, a vast majority of our public votes over the issues of what we deal with on a monthly basis have been 9-0. On occasion, we will have an 8-1 and on even a rare occasion 7-2. So, I think that it's important for us to understand. I know our Board members certainly understand that, but from a public perspective to know that this Board is a congenial Board and we enjoy working with one another. I think that part of the wonderful process that we are all open to in an election cycle is the ability to raise our preferences for our elected officials that are now on the Board. I want to congratulate our newly elected officials on this Board and also congratulate those who were presented as nominees. I think that's a very important part of the process and I just wanted to bring back to the public the most important part is that this Board operates in a very congenial and unified fashion throughout the year and has for at least the last 6 years that I've been on there, so congratulations to all of you. Thank you.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you Beulah. I think we'd be remiss if we didn't take the time to thank you for your service in the last year. Certainly serving on this Board is time consuming, but serving as President of this Board is triply so. When I served in this capacity four years ago, I think that the most striking thing about it all was after I finished I term realizing how many phone calls I didn't have and how quiet the house was and how many times I didn't talk to Lin Brewer every day. When you're in the midst of it, you don't realize that it's as time consuming as it truly is. I think Beulah, you'll find in the next month that you have a little more free time than you've had in the last 12.

Any other new business or any other comments? If not, I'll take a motion for adjournment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **6.01 Adjournment**

Dr. Parrish announced the next Board meeting would immediately follow the re-organization meeting.

Mrs. Chabal moved to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Stover and, approved by unanimous voice vote by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stephen E. Rineer  
Secretary to the Board  
Approved at the January 11, 2010 meeting

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Dr. William Parrish  
President of the Board

LDM