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

November 24, 2008

OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District was held on Monday, November 24, 2008, in the District Office Board Room. Mr. Charles Stover, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call

Directors Present:	Mr. Christopher Barrett Dr. Donna Cronin Dr. Henry Donahue Mr. John Gräb Mr. Alan Malkoff Mrs. Ellen Sheffey Mr. Charles Stover	
Excused:	Mrs. Beulah Chabal Dr. William Parrish	
Superintendent:	Dr. Linda Brewer	
Secretary:	Mr. Stephen Rineer	
Solicitor:	Mr. Brian Jackson	
Student Representative:	Not Present	
Press:	Mr. Dave Hunt Mr. Josh Etterman Mr. Daniel Victor	HERSHEY CHRONICLE HUMMELSTOWN SUN PATRIOT-NEWS

Representatives of the Administrative Staff: Mr. Dan Tredinnick, Mr. Sam Elias, Mr. Ed Consalo, Dr. Bernie Kepler.

Representatives of the Staff and Community: Bunny Hottenstein, R. B. Gump May, Mark Shrift, Paul Hertzler, Jaime Batchelor, Rebekah Hostetler, Tami Scola, Nicole Onorato, Shannon Dile, Leandra Fuller, Thomas Long, Christine Long, Ross Santangelo, Scott Cambpell, Jeff Rosensteel, Megan Hulse.

1.03 Flag Salute

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.01 Approval of November 10, 2008 School Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett and seconded by Mr. Malkoff to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2008 Board meeting. All Board members present signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

3.01 Announcement of Executive Session

Mr. Stover announced the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss matters related to personnel. All Board members were present except Mrs. Chabal and Dr. Parrish who were excused.

3.02 Recognition of Citizens (Agenda Items)

Before opening the floor to citizens, Mr. Stover clarified that a number of people were in attendance to discuss the fields. There will be a presentation from the architects on the fields, but it is not an agenda item that will be voted on. Mr. Stover stated that it would be appropriate to listen to the presentation and, at the end of the meeting, there would be another opportunity to address the Board.

No citizens addressed the Board on agenda items.

3.03 Standing Committee Report

Joint Finance Standing Committee/General Services: Mr. Barrett reported that the Finance and General Services Committees met to discuss two agenda items.

The first item was a discussion of the practice playing fields. Since Hayes Large will be giving a presentation, Mr. Barrett deferred any discussion on that topic.

The second item was a review of the 2009-2010 capital improvement/maintenance budget. There were some adjustments to the capital budget based on the information Hayes Large will be presenting. Mr. Barrett deferred additional comment until after the presentation.

In every meeting, the Finance Committee makes some announcements and analysis available concerning the current state of finances within the District. Mr. Barrett thanked Mr. Rineer for his presentation of projections that were dated November 13, 2008. It was also noted that the current treasury reports reflected October 2008 numbers. Fortunately, the forecast is that the District is doing fairly well tracking revenues. The District will be above budget target based on the forecast. On the expenditure side, the projection is that the District is still doing fairly well at this point. There is still some time left in the fiscal year, but the numbers look good.

Our goal is not to have a tax increase in the upcoming year. We strive to do that every year, but this is particularly important because of the economic troubles. We are aware that people are struggling. It is possible that the State will increase taxes within the next year and it is uncertain what the county and township will do, so we are striving very hard not to have a taxable event in the next upcoming fiscal year.

In an effort to accomplish this, the Committee has directed a hiring freeze be put into place at this point. We are also reviewing our benefit expenses very closely and evaluating all programs. Everything is on the table for evaluation moving forward. There will be no sacred cows, so we'll be looking at every program. It is important to note that we are in a good financial position now because of prudent management with past budgets. We are fortunate to have some reserves in our capital and expense areas, because when times were better, we reserved dollars and conserved revenue overages. Looking back into our fiscal past, there were certain times when the District was paying for capital items out of the operating budget versus having a capital plan. Now we have a capital plan and when there were revenue overages, they were reserved for times such as this. Dr. Brewer, Mr. Rineer, and their staff were commended for a job well done.

Mr. Barrett also commented on the 4.2 million dollars in capital. He noted that he has been approached with the question "Why can't the 4.2 million dollars be put towards operations instead of a field project?" That is not possible, because it is a capital expenditure derived from financing. The dollars are absolutely there and there will be no debt or tax consequences related to it. Remembering back to the addition on the high school, one of our charges was that there would not be a tax increase or impact and there was not.

In January, the Committee will be recommending the inflation index be voted on and approved. That does not mean that we will need to exercise it, but we will have the capability to do so in the event the financial situation deteriorates any further.

In conclusion, Mr. Barrett thanked several Board members, along with the administration, for their hard work. Additionally, to the Citizen Advisors who have come to the meetings and have been helpful in keeping the Committee on balance so that things are reviewed critically. Mr. Barrett thanked Mr. Rineer for providing the forecasts so the Committee can review all areas more closely.

Mr. Barrett opened for questions or clarifications to his report. Mr. Gräb commented that he did an outstanding job.

3.04 Presentation - Hayes Large Architects

Dr. Brewer: I would like to provide some context and I have some hand outs.

The challenges that we have been facing with the track and the JV football field are that they are in serious disrepair. About a half million dollars is needed to fix it. Another challenge that we face is that we have 11 practice playing fields on the District campus and they are over-utilized due to the continuous demand from the District and the community. We have a solution that our architects are going to discuss with you tonight, which is the construction of two multipurpose athletic fields on the existing track, JV football field, and the existing soccer field. You'll see in this handout a litany of pros for this approach and I won't read them all to you, but I think it would suffice to say that this is a long term solution. This is a solution that will provide all our field needs for the next 20 plus years and it will negate the need to spend the $500,000 just to fix one field. We also will be able to decrease the capital budget by $70,000 for field sprinklers, recrowning of football fields and so on. There are many benefits, including competitive edge and being able to start using the fields early in season in March. I would invite you to take a look at those pros.

There certainly are cons. The basic con is that this is not cheap and there will be a disruption to spring sports. We are working on alternative fields. We know that turf fields are not maintenance free and are aware that the carpet will need to be replaced over time. Additionally, there has to be special handling of waste.

The chronology actually starts in January 2006 with the timing of construction in the High School. While we were moving dirt around, it seemed like a logical time to get an idea about what the fields might cost. Then what happened was, just two months later, we reached an understanding with HERCO for a use of their stadium. Now that has been a very generous, must appreciated gesture from HERCO, but I want to point out that of the fall sports, of which we have 9, the solution with the stadium is for football, all but one home game. We can use the stadium for boys' soccer in the fall, maybe 4 to 5 home games out of the 12; girls' field hockey, maybe 4 to 5 home games out of the 12,

so it is not a solution for all of our fall sports. Then in the spring, we can use the stadium for girls' soccer, maybe 4 to 6 games out of 10 and boys' lacrosse, 6 to 7 games. Remember, we share the stadium with Lower Dauphin and it's impossible that, even though HERCO has been generous, that we can have all the use for all the venues that we need.

During the 2006-2007 school year, we had a wait-and-see attitude. We were looking for alternative revenues to fund the fields and we were waiting to see how the impact of the Memorandum of Understanding with HERCO would help us. What we discovered was that it was helpful, but didn't solve our problems. In January of 2008, there were opportunities to refinance some of the bonds. From January to March, we began to look at a couple of the capital plans that we were going to fund out of our cash, such as the Trane project which is underway (that is the dehumidification project in the elementary school). A quarter of a million dollars would be put in per year until it was paid off using cash. However, one of the things you have to balance when you're looking at cash is, what is the price of money?

There was a seminal event that happened for us back in 2004. Our credit rating was upgraded from a AA3 to a AA2. There are very few school districts in the Commonwealth that enjoy that kind of a credit rating. When that happens, you can enjoy a much more favorable interest rate if the conditions are right and that's what happened to us. From March to April, we looked at not only the refinancing the old bonds at a lower interest rate, but also looking at new monies for the Trane project. We also reviewed what would happen to our debt service if we put in the money for the fields. We did sell those bonds and we were able to get an interest rate of 3.49% for 15 years. In fact, our debt service this year is less than it would have been if we had not refinanced and that includes the new money. We got a very good rate and the debt service will stay $200,000 less than was projected for next year and it will continue to go down after that. The bottom line is that there were no additional tax implications and no increase in debt service due to the restructuring and to the new monies. Yes, we will have to pay the money for a longer period of time, but 15 years is a pretty ambitious accelerated rate to pay it back.

Next, we came to think about the decision points regarding the field that was under disrepair and in January 2006, we looked at a proposal and we started to seek alternative revenue sources that had not yet materialized. In March 2006, the Memorandum of Understanding came out and we developed a wait-and-see attitude as to how this was going to affect us. Throughout the 2006-2007 school year, we began to see the stadium as an asset but not solving all our problems and from January to March 2008, we had refinancing opportunities that made it absolutely positive to go ahead with fixing the field and bringing in two turf fields to solve our problems for the next 20 years. With that, the Board agreed to do Requests for Proposals for architects and in June we settled on Hayes Large and Hayes Large has been developing their plans since then and tonight they are going to present those plans to you.

Thank you Dr. Brewer. My name is Mark Shrift. I'm with Hayes Large Architects. With me tonight is Jim Thompson, he's a partner in our firm and Paul Hertzler is a senior project manager. Paul and I have teamed up on numerous athletic facility projects, probably one of the most notable being John Harris High School and Severance Field a couple years ago.

The two project areas that are being discussed are the track and the field and the field currently being used as a soccer field in between the JV baseball field and the JV soccer field. They are the two areas we are looking at in terms of making improvements. The improvements being planned for that area are two synthetic turf multipurpose fields.

The drawing of the track and field area of the improvements being planned include an 8 lane running track and multipurpose synthetic turf field lines capable of supporting football, soccer, and field hockey. There will be lighting provided on this field and we're also looking at a toilet building/concession that could be constructed and actually could serve multiple locations of fields, including the field within the track, the track itself, and the middle school fields.

In addition to what I've already mentioned, we're looking at a new score board and sound system. We're looking at fencing around the running track for crowd control and some new walk ways in and around the new track and field and of course storm water management.

The second new multipurpose field is the existing soccer field. Again, multipurpose synthetic turf capable of supporting soccer and lines for field hockey. In addition, both of these fields are capable of supporting boys and girls' lacrosse, as well as physical education activities on a daily basis.

Again, some of the additional items we're looking at for the second field are a new scoreboard, portable grandstands with a 300 seat capacity, new fencing to protect that investment, and storm water management.

The following items are some alternate bids that will help the District to build cost flexibility into the project: the restroom facility, the field lighting for the second synthetic turf field, the areas behind the end zones, and the D zones. We're also going to take an alternate bid for synthetic turf for those areas and increasing the seating capacity at the larger multipurpose field. The scoreboards are going to be alternate bids, we think we may ultimately be able to find some monies through donors to pay for that. The sound system and the scorer's table for the soccer facility will also be considered for alternate bids.

We are hopeful right now that the way the economy is and the way some of the building construction industry has slowed that the excavators are going to be very hungry and very competitive with their pricing. Because of that, we're not really sure where the prices will come in. We can estimate, but those alternate bids will give us the ultimate

flexibility when the bids come in and we have to make a decision. We're looking at three prime contracts right now: general construction, electrical construction, and a combined plumbing/mechanical construction contract.

Currently, we're in the process of wrapping up our design development plans. We anticipate bidding the project in March, starting construction in April, as soon as weather permits, and having the fields ready to be occupied by the beginning of the fall 2010 sports season.

With that in mind, we wish to congratulate the District on a wonderful field hockey season and with that, I'll answer any questions you may have.

Dr. Donahue: The last point you made about competitive bids, what does Pennsylvania law allow for in trying to maintain the business locally. If a company from Erie makes the lowest bid, do we have to hire them or can we look at local companies preferentially.

Mark Shrift: You must hire the lowest qualified bid, which means that basically, no, we do not have the control to select local contractors to bid. Although, we will certainly invite as many local contractors as we can and we would hope that because they are local they will be extremely competitive.

Dr. Donahue: There are no rules about having to keep it within the Commonwealth?

Mark Shrift: No.

Dr. Donahue**:** Thank you.

Dr. Donahue: Dr. Parrish asked me to read a statement since he could not be here:

> Overuse of our playing fields has been a topic of discussion for the school District for several years. It has become increasingly evident that the current playing fields cannot support the level of use that they have been subjected to in the recent past. In addition, the high school track and field facilities are in need of replacement because of deteriorating conditions. This Board moved forward with plans to replace two grass fields with artificial surfaces and replace the track facility earlier this year. By restructuring existing debt and obtaining bond funding at a very low rate of 3.49%, the financial impact on the operating budget is minimal. We all recognize the changes that have occurred in the economy over the past two months, however, the field and track conditions will only continue to deteriorate.
>
> I believe that it is important that we continue to move forward with this project because it is in the best long term interest of the District.
>
> Thank you,

Bill Parrish.

Mr. Gräb: I just wanted to add that it's not that the rest of the Board doesn't have questions, but Mrs. Sheffey, Mr. Barrett, myself, and Mr. Malkoff sat in a presentation earlier this afternoon and we grilled these gentlemen rather toughly, I thought, with questions at that time and we just don't have additional questions now.

Dr. Cronin: The slide indicates that there is 300 person capacity in the grand stands for the multipurpose field. I assume that's also for the track or would it go back and forth or could it do both at the same time?

Mark Shrift: The grand stands are what we refer to as transportable and can be moved from event area to event area.

Dr. Cronin: So it would be possible to have them both going simultaneously? Great. My other question was, what is the maintenance on a turf field?

Mark Shrift: Despite some public opinion, the fields are not maintenance free. There is absolutely maintenance that has to occur on those fields. Generally speaking, the maintenance includes sweeping the field, keeping debris off, for example, at the end of an event, tape balls are very common to be seen laying on the fields after they unwrap their hands, etc. Maintenance would include cleaning the debris and redistributing the infield mix as required. Additionally, a couple times a year, you might have to do what loosen the top 2 inches of infield mix to make it safer, more resilient. That is the general broad term maintenance of a field.

Certainly, there are things such as having to walk it occasionally and inspect for seam failures where the carpet is attached. Generally speaking, that's it. We are not going to put permanent lines on these fields for boys and girls lacrosse. If we play boys and girls lacrosse, those lines will be painted. That is also part of the maintenance. All the other event lines, soccer, football, field hockey are in the turf system, so you don't have to maintain the field or prep it from one event to the next. Painting will also become part of your maintenance regimen, if in fact you choose to play lacrosse on this field.

Dr. Cronin: Is that once a season or is that a washable paint that wears off after one time use?

Mark Shrift: Good question. There are multiple paints out there now made for synthetic turfs. There are scrubbable paints, removable paints, and more permanent paints. The problem with some of the more permanent paints which we might see over at Hershey Park is that we can still see the Big 33 logo. They have tried to scrub it off, but it's in there. We would recommend a latex removable paint much like you use on your grass fields.

Dr. Cronin: It doesn't come off until you actually get out there and take it off?

Mark Shrift: You have to scrub it off, however, it will layer. To say that you can only paint once a season is probably not true. You probably need to come in during the season periodically, see the high intensity use areas, and maybe just get away with touch up. You may not have to repaint the whole field, rather just touch it up as necessary.

Dr. Cronin: Is that pretty standard? Maxing out a three sets of lines?

Mark Shrift: I would say on 98% of the fields we've constructed, we have maximized at three events. The soccer is the widest and largest event. Within that is the field hockey and within that is the football. We share and combine lines as well. We can combine field hockey lines with coach's boxes on the football field and share mid field lines, and the back of end zone lines for limits of soccer. We try to combine our lines as much as we can to eliminate any confusion.

Dr. Cronin: Those were my main questions. Thank you.

Mr. Malkoff: Tell us a little bit about the estimated use for life of the field?

Mark Shrift: Again, it varies, but the standard manufacturer's warranty is 8 years. The oldest field, the first field installed in the United States was in the Pittsburgh area and that field lasted 8 seasons. There is no reason for us not to expect to get a good 8 to 10 years out of a system before we have to replace carpet. The standard warranty in the industry is for 8 years for the playing surface.

Dr. Donahue: I had one other question. Do high schools or school districts that have these fields have any different security arrangements? Are they more apt to be broken into or abused in any matter?

Mark Shrift: I can't say that I've seen any facts or statistics related to that. I do know that we usually put fencing up to protect the investment and what can come in and out of the entrance areas.

Dr. Donahue: That's included in this design?

Mark Shrift: Correct. We don't want bicycles, or in some parts of the state, we have to deal with four wheelers in the winter. We're trying to protect our investment and I think one of the things we're talking about doing here is, as a District, we're going to provide conduit to the light poles that will allow you to put security cameras up to monitor these facilities as well.

Dr. Cronin: As a follow up, what is the estimated maintenance cost for two fields in this design for all those upkeeps that you mentioned?

Mark Shrift: I'll refer to your Director of Facilities on that. Because of the maintenance, these systems are again relatively new. Maintenance is different for everybody.

Dr. Brewer: Mark I thought that we discussed that our estimate was that these fields would be about 20% less to maintain than grass fields.

Mark Shrift: We have estimated 20 to 25% less and it's not a dollar figure, but if you take your yearly budget to maintain the grass fields, it's about 25% of that.

Mr. Consalo: we're not really looking at the cost wise as much as the usage. Usage is the big advantage of a synthetic turf, because comparing that against natural turf, you're looking at 2 ½ to 3 fields difference. If it takes you 3 fields of natural turf for the usage that you would use for a synthetic turf, there's where your advantage comes from more than the maintenance. You do save some time on the maintenance because you don't have to water the field as much. It depends on who you talk to, some people say 20% – 25%, some people say more. I don't think it would be more than that to be honest with you.

Mr. Barrett: I think there's so much really good information here, we've been so immersed in it for such a long period of time. If I could suggest that the document containing the chronology and timeline be put online including some summary points or the full document so the public could read it? I think the key thing that really came up for me was the usage that Mr. Consalo talked about. There is a big difference between the grass fields that we currently have and the increased usage of this investment moving forward. Along with everything else, the public needs to see all that information, but I think that document was very well prepared and even summarizing it would help if someone doesn't have the time to read through it.

Dr. Brewer: Maybe what we could do is start with the decision points. I would like to point out that the Board does not need to take a vote tonight. You have already voted the money. You have already voted the architect. Your next vote will be to accept bids and that will be around March or so.

Mr. Gräb: Your diagram on the slide presentation says this will be finished between April and August 2009 and you said 2010.

Mark Shrift: I'm sorry. It's 2009.

Mr. Gräb: I just wanted to clarify that point.

Dr. Cronin: I have another comment. Consistent with what Mr. Barrett said, I think it might be important. I think it was raised at either last meeting or in the paper about the Middle School and the needs for academic space. We might want to also include something in there as to what the projected needs for that are and the timeline. We want to make sure that we are clear in our priority that academic space would be important to fund whenever it was felt to be needed. I'm not sure when the bubble is coming to Middle School. I know we had a presentation on the Middle School, but I think people might be asking that question so I think we need to put information out

there as to what the plan are for Middle School improvements. Found money is great to use it in this capacity. I know the fields are overused, although hats off to you Mr. Consalo because some of the fields are amazingly well preserved. One example is the Middle School field hockey field. That is the nicest field I've ever walked on, so hats off to you for making the fields that we do have look so beautiful and functional. I think the Middle School space that was recently presented is an important piece of information that we also have to have out there so that people aren't asking where our priority is.

Dr. Brewer: Just to clarify, we update enrollment projections every year and what we're looking at right now for the Middle School is for 2010. If you'll remember, we have sought Requests for Proposals from architects because right now we do not know what we're talking about in monies and that will help us plan. By the time we get to 2010 and 2011 we will up to about 900 students in the Middle School and right now we are arguably at capacity at about 840 students. However, what we're doing is using every nook and cranny and we think that it is reasonable, just as we did in the High School to tolerate some pain and we made room in our debt service. That seems the thing to do and also the bond that we purchased for this field has to be used in 3 years, so we've got to use it and that was very inexpensive money to use.

Mr. Stover: I'd just like to comment on that a little bit as well being on the General Services Committee. We looked at the Middle School very closely, and I think right now with the economic situation being the way it is, if there is ever a time to question our numbers as far as projections for capacity, it's right now and the High School was a great example. It was very easy to see stresses: we had 9 teachers on carts, we had a lunch area, it was very difficult. We're managing the lunch area and we have no teachers on carts. I certainly agree that this is not the time to jump into a Middle School building project, and that's not going to be what we're doing. I think it needs to be stressed that we're getting the architects' ideas to get an idea on cost and also to see if there's anything that we can do in the short term ourselves that can alleviate some of the stress.

I don't really have any questions for you Mark, but I just would like to comment that there are some other moving parts to the turf fields. For 3 or 4 years there has been a problem in the area of not being able to provide restroom facilities for a host of the sporting events. It caused a problem with building integrity, because after school, parents, children, and athletes are reentering the school. From a security standpoint, it causes a problem. We've wanted to put up restrooms in that area for some time, but we've put it off because we didn't want to build and then have to tear it down when eventually we would be changing the facility. That is the same thing that we're facing right now. We can fix the track. It would be the same size that it is now. It will cost us a half million dollars. We could put up the restrooms for $200,000 to $250,000 dollars. That's $750,000 that would likely be torn down when eventually we have to solve the field problem. We have no solution for the field problem and I've seen the musical chairs that Mr. Elias has had to play in getting our kids practice time and we don't get practice time at the stadium. We'd have to go to other venues, so I fully support the

field project and think that because of the ability to not cause a tax consequence and getting the money cheap at this time that this is the right thing to do.

Mr. Stover: Any further questions for Mr. Shrift?

Dr. Cronin: I have one other comment, when you brought up the track safety, we had talked, I think a year ago about the Middle School track. I think that the solution was that there was no way to fix that? The middle school track next to the Elementary School, Mr. Consalo?

Mr. Consalo: The cinder track?

Dr. Cronin: The cinder track, yes. Has that ever been on the table as to maybe repairing that area? Is that something that we could solve because I know that was a safety issue as well? Would that be an option?

Mr. Consalo: It is a separate track used for practice. It's not feasible to put the money into that to make a new track for what we use it for. The only time it's really used is for JV. There are some high schools that still use cinder track. It's not that cinder tracks are not safe. We have very little access on that and once in a while the elementary uses it for PE. Otherwise, it's not really used that much to put the money into it.

Dr. Cronin: Does the Middle School use that for track meets?

Mr. Consalo: No, they do not.

Mr. Stover: Anything else? Thank you very much Mark.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 Unfinished Business

None.

NEW BUSINESS

5.01 Approval of Finance Report for October 2008

1.	The Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2008 was summarized as follows:	
	• General Fund Revenues	$3,454,995

	• General Fund Expenditures	4,166,768
	• Balance of Cash Plus Investments	29,476,010
2.	The listed schedule of investment transactions for the period beginning October 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008 had total interest earnings of $79,453 comprised of the following:	
	• General Fund	$1,317
	• Money Market	43,316
	• Certificates of Deposit	34,814
	• PA School District Liquid Asset Fund	0
	• PA Local Government Investment Trust	6
	The average interest rate for October 2008 was 3.10%	
3.	The October 2008 expenditures for the paid bills for all funds totaled $2,769,405 excluding net payroll, retirement contributions, and debt service.	
4.	The November 2008 expenditures for the unpaid bills for all funds totaled $856,224.	
5.	The estimated expenditures of the General Fund for the month of November 2008 were in the following amounts:	
	• Operating Expenses	$1,100,000
	• Utilities	146,000
	• Net Payroll (3 pays)	1,185,000
	• Employer Provided Insurance	340,900
	• Payroll Deductions	595,000

	• Employer Payroll Taxes (FICA/RET)	136,000
	• Debt Service	732,175
	Total Estimated Expenditures	$4,235,075

Mr. Barrett moved the Board approve the Finance Report and was seconded by Dr. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.02 Budget Transfers

Section 687 (d) of the Public School Code provides: The Board of School Directors shall have the power to authorize the transfer of any unencumbered balance, or any portion thereof, from one class of expenditures or item, to another, but such action shall be taken only during the last nine (9) months of the Fiscal Year."

The Administration recommended the Board authorize the November 2008 budget transfers.

Mr. Rineer noted that he began in November stating that budget transfers are done throughout the year. The District does not do any transfers in the first three months, so the Board will be hearing this every month for the next 9 months. There are no extraordinary budget transfers other than the routine transfers from one functional area to another.

Mr. Malkoff moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Dr. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.03 Approval of the Re-Assignment of Fund Balance Designation – I

The Board of School Directors of the Derry Township School District hereby **eliminates** the $3,300,000 General Fund Balance designation for Capital Improvements which was established by board action on March 27, 2007. Through operation of district policy 625, the $3,300,000 designation is transferred to the Capital Projects Reserve Fund. The elimination of this designation shall be retroactive to June 30, 2008, the end of the fiscal year of the immediate prior year.

Mr. Barrett moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mrs. Sheffey.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.04 Approval of Re-assignment in Fund Balance Designation – II

The Board of School Directors of the Derry Township School District hereby **eliminates** the $1,000,000 General Fund Balance designation for Other Post Employment Benefits which was established by board action on March 27, 2007, and in its place establishes a $1,000,000 General Fund Balance designation for Retirement Rate Stabilization. This change shall be retroactive to June 30, 2008, the end of the fiscal year of the immediate prior year.

Mr. Barrett moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Malkoff.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.05 Requests for Payment - Construction Projects

The Administration recommended the approval of the following invoices as reviewed and approved by Mr. Consalo:

	Elementary School HVAC Improvements:	
1.	Trane, Inc. (HVAC Contractor) Application No. 07	$45,000.00
2.	Trane, Inc. (HVAC Contractor) Invoice No. 81232764	3,980.00
	High School Additions and Renovations:	
3.	Derry Township School District General Fund in Repayment of: M&T Bank (Bond Issue Paying Agent)	85,940.00

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

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.06 Approval of GASB45 Valuation Services

The Administration recommended the acceptance of an agreement with the Pennsylvania Trust to perform consulting services for actuarial services as required by Government Accounting Standards Board Pronouncement Number 45. Actuarial services for the valuation of Other Post Employment Benefits as required by GASB 45 will be performed under contract by Conrad Siegel Actuaries at a cost not to exceed $6,000.00.

Mr. Malkoff moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Barrett.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.07 Approval of 2009 Township of Derry Tax Collection Association Budget

The Administration recommended the approval of the Township of Derry Tax Collection Association Budget for 2009. The proposed budget totals $481,660 and represents a 1.8% decrease over the current budget of $490,685. The school district's contribution toward this budget will be $231,000.

Mr. Malkoff moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Barrett.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.08 New Course Proposal - Advanced Placement Human Geography

The Administration recommended the approval of a new Hershey High School course offering entitled, Advanced Placement Human Geography. The course offering was reviewed at the October 2008 meeting and approved at the November 2008 meeting of the District Curriculum Council. The cost for this recommendation will be implemented into the 2009-2010 school year.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.09 Approval of Textbooks

The Administration recommended the approval of the following textbooks for the use in the 2009-2010 school year.

High School:	

Curricular Area:	Business
Subject/Course:	Consumer Economics/Money Management
Title:	Consumer Education and Economics
Publisher:	Glencoe
Author:	Ross E. Lowe, Charles A. Malouf, Annette R. Jacobson
Copyright:	2008
Curricular Area:	Business
Subject/Course:	Consumer Economics/Money Management
Title:	Security First Bank
Publisher:	Wadsworth Cengage Learning
Author:	Patsy Hall Sargent and Mary Faye Ward
Copyright:	2007
Curricular Area:	Business
Subject/Course:	Accounting III
Title:	Entrepreneurships - Ideas in Action
Publisher:	South-Western, Cengage
Author:	Cynthia L. Greene
Copyright:	2008

Dr. Cronin moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Malkoff.

Mr. Barrett asked whether any of the textbooks were for new classes, because he thought the money management was a new course. Dr. Goldsworthy replied that there were no new courses and the money management is an addition to the Power & Money course that was there. It's a tweaking of that course.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.10 Request for the Use of School Facilities

The Administration recommended the approval of the Request for the Use of Facilities:

Group:	Deer Run of Hershey Homeowner's Association
Date/Time:	February 17, 2009 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
	May 19, 2009 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Requested Facility:	Middle School LGI
Event:	Deer Run Board of Directors Public Meetings
Fee:	None

Mr. Malkoff moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mrs. Sheffey.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.11 Personnel – General

1.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following appointments:
	Classified:
	Hoch, Tyler Co-Op Student for Buildings and Grounds Department District-wide Part-time Salary: $8.75 per hour Effective: 12/01/08 (pending receipt of Act 151 clearance)
	Rapp, Robin Substitute Bus Driver District-wide Salary: $13.60 per hour Effective: 11/25/08 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)

	Rugalla, Christine Substitute General Food Service Worker District-wide Salary: $8.67 per hour Effective: 12/02/08 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)
	Transfer of Classified Staff:
	Bressi, Suzanne * From: Elementary Secretary Elementary School To: Elementary Secretary Early Childhood Center Effective: 11/17/08
	Limited Service Contracts:
	McGrady, Scott * Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach High School Level II, Group C, Step 16 Salary: $3,139 Effective: 03/02/09
2.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following request in accordance with District Policies 435 and 439:
	Willis, Casey Grade 5 Teacher Elementary School Paid/Unpaid Childbearing/rearing Leave Effective: On or about 03/13/09 for a period of 8 weeks
3.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following addition to the 2008-2009 **Substitute Teacher List**:
	Homick, Carol B.S. in Secondary English from Millersville University
4.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following additions to the 2008-2009 **Guest Teacher List**: **Bashore, Deanna** **Conway, Marguerite** **Lane, Christine**
	**** This individual is currently an employee and/or volunteer. Clearances are on file.***

Dr. Cronin moved the Board approve the personnel recommendations and was seconded by Mr. Barrett.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes	Donahue – Yes	Parrish – Absent
Chabal – Absent	Gräb – Yes	Sheffey – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Malkoff – Yes	Stover - Yes

7 Yes, 2 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATES REPORTS

6.01 Dauphin County Technical School Report

Mr. Gräb reported on three items of interest. The Dauphin County Technical School audit performed by Trout, Ebersole & Groff was presented at the last meeting. It was an unqualified report, which was good to hear. There were no mistakes or anything of note.

The Joint Operating Committee passed a couple of personnel issues and approved budget transfers. The School was required by Lower Paxton Township to install chain link fencing and privacy gates at the oil tank and gas meter. Since required by the Township, the request was approved. It was also suggested that security fencing be installed for specific technology areas. Since that was not required, it was decided that bids be put out to save some costs. There were also approvals for requests for facilities.

The reorganization of the Technical School Joint Operating Committee Board will take place on December 10, 2008. All members of the Derry Township School Board are invited. If you are able to attend a meal will be provided. Please let Mrs. Rarig know at the Technical School.

Dr. Brewer asked if the Technical School was required to reorganize within the first week of December.

Mr. Gräb replied that they are required to reorganize after the other school districts. The date of December 10 is the second Wednesday of the month and the Technical School will have to reorganize because by that time all other schools districts should have done so. Derry Township is reorganizing on December 2, some school districts may schedule reorganization for the December 5. The Technical School postpones reorganization until December 10 and all 54 members from the six participating school boards are invited to participate.

6.02 Derry Township Tax Collection Association Report

Mr. Malkoff reported that the Tax Collection Association met on November 13, 2008. There were two major items discussed: 1) the review of the annual budget which was approved a couple months ago, and 2) the external auditors provided the Board with an audit report that was an unqualified opinion.

6.03 Harrisburg Area Community College Report

Dr. Donahue reported that the delegate body of HACC met November 19, 2008 to discuss the amended sponsorship agreement. This is the agreement between the school districts in Dauphin County and HACC as to how much support of the college will be for each budgeted year. There will be a vote on this issue in the coming weeks and months and the Board will be considering how to vote on this amendment.

6.04 Capital Area Intermediate Unit Report

Mrs. Sheffey reported that the Intermediate Unit met on November 20, 2008. The main topic discussed was the reorganization of the business office. Over the past five years, there has been more than double the amount of revenue, mainly because of some State projects such as Classrooms of the Future grants that the IU manages. As a result, a reallocation of positions is being proposed in addition to one accounting position. This will be financed through the revenues received from the State for managing Classrooms of the Future grants and other grants, so it will not be an increase to the Districts.

SPECIAL REPORTS

7.01 Announcement of Staff Development Conference

Michelle Kisner, Allison Ometz
American Kodaly Educators National Conference
Washington D.C.
March 12-14, 2009
Expenses: $616.00 (each)

7.02 Student Representatives' Report

Ms. Collier and Mr. Rogers are in Ecuador and are excused.

7.03 School and Community Information Report

Mr. Treddinick reported that Mr. Rogers is one of the November Students of the month.

Mr. Rogers is the High School Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board. He is also student producer for Hershey High School productions and is on the track and field team. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society. He recently received the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award. He intends to attend college where he will study bioengineering.

The second student of the month is Claire Folts, who is very active in musical programs at the High School. She has been a member of the Envoche Women's Choir, Cantable, symphonic orchestra, and pit orchestra. She has appeared in many of our High School plays and has received the Orchestra Achievement Excellence Award. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and the French Honor Society. She intends to study music education.

7.04 Board Members' Report

Mrs. Sheffey: The Policy Committee met last week and realized that a vacant Assistant to the Superintendent position put the Committee a little behind. There were a number of issues, mainly dealing with technology. It should not come as a surprise that technology is an issue that needs to be worked on quickly. Cyber bullying is another issue that the Committee will need to develop a policy, in addition to acceptable use of cell phones and other electronic devises. The new open records legislation will require a change in one of the policies, so the Board was put on notice that within the next six months, policies will be put forward for review.

7.05 Superintendent's Report

No report.

7.06 Board President's Report

No report.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS (Non-agenda Items)

8.01 Recognition of Citizens (Non-agenda Items)

Bunny Hottenstein: I want to enlist the media a little bit here, because I think it can't be said enough. I'm going to speak about the fields and turf field development. The next to last bulletin on the page called Playing and Practice Fields says that the bond must be used for a capital project. It cannot be used for general fund expenditures.

It seems that in the community there are pretty much two groups of people. Those who have children in the District who are very much for this project and those who do not. Particularly those senior citizens, whose 401K's and pension and profit sharing plans have been tanking recently and they're very concerned because they don't understand how it's possible to spend a large amount of money on fields and not put it into the so called educational side of our District.

I think it's important to note that where this money comes from for capital projects is, we consider it "found money". We are not allowed, as a District, to spend more than one penny over our budget in any given year. That means that we have to budget very conservatively – under budgeting revenues and over budgeting expenditures. This means at the end of the year, thanks to our brilliant Financial Manager, Mr. Rineer, and he is a wizard, we generally do end up with a surplus. However, this money cannot be counted on to be there the year after that surplus or the year after that and we cannot put that money into operating expenses which are an ongoing annual commitment. We can't put it in the teachers' salaries because that makes that commitment to salaries and benefits annually and we can't guarantee we'll have the money after that next year to pay for that. Senior citizens who are not computer literate and can't go online to see this information on their screen on the District's website really need your help as a media to convey this to them and help them understand why we need to spend this money only on capital projects and not on operational annual expenditures.

Jeff Rosensteel: As a Hershey High School coach that is affected by the addition of turf fields, I'd like to make a statement for the record.

With their vastly improved durability and playability, the new generation of synthetic turf fields is not only being built all over the country, but right here in high schools in the mid state. In our District alone, we have played on turf at Governor Mifflin, Hempfield, Penn Manor, Conestoga Valley, Lancaster Mennanite, and in mid Pennsylvania that includes Central Dauphin, Susquehanna, Mechanicsburg, and Milton Hershey.

The obvious benefits of a turf field are multi-faceted. It offers an unmatched performance, safety, and consistency that natural grass fields cannot. The initial installation costs are high. The long term financial savings and field maintenance are higher as maintenance efforts are infrequent and inexpensive. An artificial turf field virtually eliminates the need to mow, line, reseed, resod, water, aerate, and utilize pesticides for weed control. Undoubtedly, several times throughout its existence, the use of the school's grass fields far exceeded the number of games recommended for maintaining good field conditions. In the past, the combination of inclement weather and continued field use has destroyed its stability and mainstay. These conditions in which unplayable fields are still utilized leads to an increase in athletic injuries given the inconsistency and instability of the field surface. Turf fields eliminate these concerns. A turf field also gives increased playability ranging from play through all seasons and weather conditions to increased use by numerous sports teams and availability for other

purposes such as PE class or various events. A turf field can offer usability through numerous conditions without having to worry about wear and tear or field playability.

Aside from all of the aesthetic and functional advantages, a turf field at Hershey High School will give the Trojans a true home field unlike the Hershey Park stadium which forces us to share that title of home field with Lower Dauphin only when scheduling permits. Further with a field in close proximity to the school, we could greatly increase spectator turnout to include more of the student body as opposed to the predominately parent crowd that comprises the fan base at stadium games. On average, over the past two years, a total of 1,240 students have participated in athletics each year combining our Middle School and High School sports.

Please consider this carefully and realize that a turf field is not just a luxury item, a turf field is a surface which promotes the physical activity of the entire student body at Hershey High School, as well as potentially branching out to children in both the Middle School and Elementary School. The positive impact of the field installation is both comprehensive and long term. As the athletic department budget is limited, I'm looking to the Board for support in this much needed endeavor.

Tammy Scola: I am the Head Field Hockey Lacrosse Coach and this is Nicole Onorato, Captain of our field hockey team. Before I talk about the turf fields, I'd just like to thank Dr. Brewer for all your support for us through our State playoff run and I'd also like to really let the Board know how wonderful our District is. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Elias, we want to thank them especially, because they did everything they could to make this special for our girls and it was just absolutely fabulous. The Middle School Principal, the Elementary Principals, everyone was involved to make Friday, the day before our state final, a special day.

The highlights: the pep rally at the High School was wonderful. Going through the Middle School at lunch, seeing the kids all interact and shake hands and clap and cheer was just unbelievable. Then, truly the highlight for me and most of the girls was going through the elementary school. They lined all the kids out there along the hall, outside their classrooms, and they had signs and cheers and chants when we came through and it was just fabulous. We got so many letters and good lucks and it was amazing, even on Monday. We are teaching sportsmanship and my little kids in gym class, they were disappointed by the loss, and one kid said to me, "Don't worry about it. You got there." They had all the right things to say. We are doing a great job teaching them that way too. But I just wanted to let everyone know and especially Mr. Elias. Thank you again, it was just absolutely fabulous.

Regarding the turf field, for field hockey, it's a little bit different in terms of skills. Playing on turf and grass, it's two different games. We agree that everything that Jeff said, but this is a little different for us. In the past, most of the high schools played on grass. We have a really nice grass field and what we would do to get our skills better, we would just practice longer and harder. We would go to the infield of the baseball fields and use the dirt so that they could learn their skills. Now what has happened is many

schools have gone to turf. For playoffs, for districts and states, the only game that we play on grass is a playing game, the rest of the games are all played on turf, so teams are developing skills quicker because on the turf, the ball moves fast, on the grass it doesn't. Especially if the grass isn't maintained, it's a little bit harder. In the summer, we have a youth camp and sometimes, when we have the little kids and the grass is hard, it's really hard for them to move the ball. As a result, everyone is going to turf because, at the collegiate level, all the teams play on turf. However, strategies are totally different. In the back, when you move the ball back and across and up and around – on turf, it all moves. On grass, it hits a bad bump and all the sudden an attacker has it and a goal is scored.

If you look through how teams have gotten better through the District in the last few years, if you look at Central Dauphin and you look at the team that we played in the state finals, they were teams that usually got knocked out the first round of districts. Both those schools have turf field and have had turf field now for three years. The level of play has disseminated because they are practicing on that turf every day. Kids don't get as frustrated. Kids are learning to practice more. They liked it better and the skill level is getting higher. Warwick would be another example where they play on grass. Warwick has been a power in the state forever. This is the first year they didn't make the state tournament. They're saying it's because they're playing on grass. There is a huge difference in terms of the skills in field hockey. Since 1995, we've had over 40 girls go on to play collegiate hockey at the Division 1 level and they have been extremely successful. Hockey is extremely important to Hershey and important to our girls. We've been very successful and we feel that for us to continue to be successful it's extremely important that we get a turf field so that we can continue to develop our level of play and our skill so that we can continue to be competitive.

Now the reason I have Nicky here is because Nicky was doing her senior project on turf fields. I'm going to have her give you just a bit of information and if you have any questions, you can ask us and we'll gladly fill you in about the field hockey end of having the turf field.

Nicky Onorato: I play hockey and soccer and both sports mean a lot and I wanted to study turf fields because playing on both turf and grass fields is completely different. There are major advantages to having turf fields. Playing on grass, first of all, has caused me many injuries. I've had to miss games because I couldn't participate, not because I got hit by somebody or got knocked out, it was because I took a wrong step on uneven grass and tweaked my ankle. Coach Rosensteel can vouch many times. It's not fun and it's unfortunate when you have half of your team out because of the field and also due to weather conditions. Our field hockey field looks good, but nobody would think that when it rains, it gets really bad and you can't even run. You get stuck in the mud, try to get up, and you just fall back down. With respect to college, yes I'm looking to play a sport in college and most of it's on turf. I would say just about every school is on turf. Playing on grass and then going to turf is completely different. You know exactly what's going to happen on turf, while on grass, it's all over the place. As an athlete, I realize just how many benefits there really are to having turf and it really

helps you. It's much easier, but it's hard when you're going back and you have to practice on your grass field because LD has the stadium. It's helped our team being able to have the stadium, but it would be much nicer to go every day and have turf fields to practice on.

Dr. Donahue: I have my opinion on this, but I would like yours. Do you think the outcome of the state finals would have been any different had you practiced all year and we leveled the playing field literally. Would the outcome have been any different?

Ms. Onorato: I'll just say, we're not going to make excuses, but it definitely would have helped. We could have been practicing all year round on turf.

Dr. Donahue: I think it would have made a huge difference.

Coach Scola: A team like Penn Manor, they had been there the year before and had experience, etc. As soon as they got their turf field, they have been on that turf field all year long and even in the spring when it's the off season, they can still go on that turf when it's cold and use it, because the grass fields are all wet and bumpy and they haven't been cut. Yes, it definitely makes a difference.

Dr. Donahue: I think your team had an outstanding season and I congratulate you.

Coach Scola: Thank you.

Mr. Barrett: I just had a quick comment. My son is 9 so he came home when you visited and he was just ecstatic. That's all he talked about. He said, "I got to touch their hands." He actually said that. That was like the best thing, so thank you.

Coach Scola: Thank you.

Mr. Stover: Well, thank you both for coming out tonight. Nicky, good luck on your career and Coach Scola, I already know the mantra or the strategy. Penn Manor lost last year and this year they want it, so next year we're gonna get back there and we're gonna win it. Let's give them a round of applause.

Bob May: Turf fields are good for football and it really would help us a great deal. One thing I wanted to say was 17 to 19 years ago, I don't know how many people were living in Hershey at the time, but we do have an excellent resource here. I'm assuming we're going to build the fields. Dr. Hassen went through three companies to put the track in and it took about a year and a half. It was a mess. Finally, she said raised the bar and got a German group to do the work. After they got done at Hershey, they went out to Los Angeles and put it in the coliseum for the Olympics. But before that, we had two sloppy outfits and it was a mess. It was unfortunate. I would just charge the people that, as you're looking at that, you have a resource. Sometimes it's good to see where people messed up in the past and you don't do it again. Doc Hassen is at St. Joan and

she could tell you that, but you would know to make sure if you get a low bid, you don't get shanghaied.

ADJOURNMENT

9.01 Adjournment

Mr. Stover announced the Reorganization and Public Meeting would be on Monday, December 2, 2008 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room.

Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn, with a second by Dr. Cronin and, approved by unanimous voice vote by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stephen E. Rineer
Secretary to the Board
Approved at the January 12, 2009 meeting

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Beulah Chabal
President of the Board

LDM