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Minutes of the
Board of School Directors
DERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hershey, PA 17033

August 6, 2007

OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call To Order

A work session of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District, was held on Monday, August 6, 2007, in the District Office Board Room. Mr. Charles Stover, board president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call

Directors Present: Mr. Christopher Barrett
Mrs. Beulah Chabal
Mrs. Sharon Cin
Dr. Donna Cronin
Mr. Brad Dorrance
Mr. John Gräb
Dr. William Parrish
Mr. Charles Stover

Directors Absent: Mr. Alan Malkoff (excused)

Superintendent: Dr. Linda Brewer

Secretary: Mr. Stephen Rineer

Solicitor: Mr. Brian Jackson

Press: Mr. David Hunt HERSHEY CHRONICLE
Mr. Daniel Victor PATRIOT-NEWS
Mr. Drew Weidman HUMMELSTOWN SUN
Mr. Jeff Werner HERSHEY CHRONICLE

Representatives of the Administrative Staff: Ms. Jackie Castleman, Ms. Lori Dixon, Mr. Edward Consalo, Mr. Sam Elias, Ms. Cindy Goldsworthy, Ms. Sue King, Mr. Joe McFarland, Mr. Mike Murphy, Mr. Troy Portser, Ms. Lisa Sviben Miller, and Mr. David Yarian.

Representatives of the Staff and Community: Ms. Penny Arnold, Mr. Mike Bangs, Mr. Tim Bean, Ms. Sarah Bousted, Mr. Robert Cherry, Ms. Sharina Cherry, Ms. Althea Cirillo, Mr. John Confer, Dr. Arthur Cronin, Ms. Alison Crouse, Mr. Dan Crouse, Mr. Ron Danner, Mr. Hank Donahue, Ms. Peggy Donahue, Ms. Heidi Eby, Ms. Pat English, Kade Erdman, Mr. Nate Erdman, Ms. Tammy Erdman, Mr. Frank Ferguson, Ms. Marilyn Ferguson, Mr. Ed Foley, Mr. John Goldman, Mr. Ron Grier, Mr. John Hanger, Mr. Chuck Harnden, Ms. Cindy Hertz, Mr. Rhett Hintze, Ms. Megan Hulse, Mr. Michael Hulse, Ms. Bunny Hottenstein, Mr. Stephen Kimatian, Ms. Page Kozak, Ms. Linda Lehrian, Ms. Deb Allison-Logan, Ms. Deb Malaro, Mr. Ray Manari, Mr. Rick McCann, Ms. Marietta Mierski, Mr. Ms. Carie Miller, Ms. Julie Neal, Ms. Pat Payonk, Ms. Monique Portser, Ms. Pam Reifinger, Mr. Glenn Rowe, Ms. Tami Scola, Mr. Jim Strine, Ms. Diane Sullivan, Mr. William Tafuto, Ms. Elayn TanBush, Ms. Judy Thomas, Mr. Andy Walleth, Mr. Richard Weaver, Mr. Ned Wehler, Mr. Mark Winter, Ms. Judy Woodring, and Mr. David Yingst.

1.03 Flag Salute

Mr. Dorrance led the meeting in the Salute to the American Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENT

2.01 Approval Of Minutes of the June 25, 2007 Meeting

Mr. Stover requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 25, 2007 meeting of the Derry Township Board of School Directors.

Moved by Mr. Barrett; seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

All Board members present signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS OF MEETING

3.01 Announcement Of Executive Session

Mr. Stover announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss matters of personnel. He noted that Mr. Malkoff had excused absences. Mr. Stover also noted that the board met in executive session on July 16, 2007 to discuss a personnel matter.

3.02 Recognition Of Citizens (Agenda Items)

No citizen comments on agenda items.

3.03 Standing Committee Reports

Mr. Barrett provide a report from the August 6, 2007 Human Resources Standing Committee meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 Unfinished Business

Mr. Stover read the attached statement on behalf of Mr. Barrett, Mrs. Chabal, Mrs. Cin, Mr. Dorrance, Mr. Gräb, Mr. Malkoff, and Dr. Parrish and himself concerning Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Dr. Cronin read a prepared response to the board's statement.

Dr. Cronin made a motion to allow public comment on the unfinished business; seconded by Dr. Parrish.

All Board members present signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment

Dr. A. Cronin addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Banks addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Tafuto addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Kimatian addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Ms. Neal addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Ms. Goodspeed addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Manari addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Hanger addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Harnden addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Ferguson addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Hulse addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Goldman addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Ms. Kozak addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. Winter addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Ms. Mierski addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team. She also read letters on behalf of Mr. Tom Long and Ms. Chris Bravacos.

Mr. Strine addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Ms. Hulse addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Ms. Boustred read a letter from her husband that addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Mr. May addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Ms. Arnold addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Ms. Scola addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Dr. Brewer addressed the board on a situation involving Dr. Cronin and the girls' lacrosse team.

Dr. Cronin addressed the board on the situation involving the girls' lacrosse team.

NEW BUSINESS

5.01 Anticipated Agenda Items for the August 20, 2007 Public Meeting

The administration announced that the following items would be on the agenda for the August 20, 2007 Public Board Meeting:

1. Presentation - Strategic Plan
2. Standing Committee Report
3. Approval of July 2007 Finance Report
4. Requests for Payment
5. Approval of The American Red Cross Statement of Agreement - Mass Care Facilities
6. Approval of Employee Assistance Program Agreement
7. Approval of Hershey Christian School Food Services Agreement
8. Approval of Physician of Record Contract
9. Requests for the Use of Facilities
10. Personnel
11. Announcement of Staff Development Conferences

5.02 Approval of Finance Report for June 2007

Approval of Finance Report for June 2007:

1. The Treasurer's Report for the month ending June 30, 2007 was summarized as follows:

General Fund Revenues	\$2,332,066
General Fund Expenditures	5,536,826
Balance of Cash Plus Investments	11,058,364

2. The listed schedule of investment transactions for the period beginning June 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007 had total interest earnings of \$44,096 comprised of the following:

General Fund	\$16,519
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eci Construction (General Contractor) Invoice No. 15		108,992.40
MBR Construction Services (HVAC Contractor) Application No. 14		115,851.00
Shannon A. Smith, Inc. (Electrical Contractor) Invoice No. 14		42,817.51
Shannon A. Smith, Inc. (Plumbing Contractor) Invoice No. 12	14,314.56	20,451.56
Invoice No. 13	6,137.00	
Stony Bridge Garden (Landscaping) Invoice No. 16268		119.97
Long Nursery (Landscaping) Invoice No. 103002247	458.00	724.50
Invoice No. 103002264	266.50	
In Gear, Inc. (Adaptive Gym Equipment) Invoice No. 885		46,348.96
Keener, Inc. Invoice No. 170	4,006.60	7,020.16
Invoice No. 171	2,490.81	
Invoice No. 240	522.75	

Mr. Stover requested a motion to approve the Requests for Payment – High School Building Project.

Moved by Dr. Parrish; seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett	-	Yes	Cronin	-	Yes	Malkoff	-	Absent
Chabal	-	Yes	Dorrance	-	Yes	Parrish	-	Yes
Cin	-	Yes	Gräb	-	Yes	Stover	-	Yes

8	Yes	1	Absent
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MOTION CARRIED

5.04 Approval of Athletic Training Coverage Contract

The Administration recommended that the Board approve and ratify the Athletic Training Agreement with Drayer Physical Therapy Institute, LLC. Under the Agreement, the

District will pay Drayer \$30,000 to provide a full-time certified athletic trainer for the High School and a part-time certified athletic trainer for the Middle School for the 2007-2008 school year.

Mr. Stover requested a motion to approve the Athletic Training Agreement with Drayer Physical Therapy Institute, LLC.

Moved by Dr. Parrish; seconded by Dr. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett	-	Yes	Cronin	-	Yes	Malkoff	-	Absent
Chabal	-	Yes	Dorrance	-	Yes	Parrish	-	Yes
Cin	-	Yes	Gräb	-	Yes	Stover	-	Yes

8 Yes 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.05 Approval of Physician Contract 2007-2008 School Year

The Administration recommended that the Board approve and ratify an Agreement with Penn State Orthopedics. Under the Agreement, the District will pay Penn State Orthopedics \$0 per game to serve as Team Physician for all varsity games and scrimmages. The Agreement will begin on July 1, 2007 and end on June 30, 2008. Mr. Barrett made a motion not to read the resolution as part of the meeting; seconded by Mr. Dorrance.

Mr. Stover requested a motion to approve the Physician Contract 2007-2008 School Year.

Moved by Mr. Dorrance; seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett	-	Yes	Cronin	-	Yes	Malkoff	-	Absent
Chabal	-	Yes	Dorrance	-	Yes	Parrish	-	Yes
Cin	-	Yes	Gräb	-	Yes	Stover	-	Yes

8 Yes 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.06 Approval of Special Education Agreement

The Administration recommended that the Board Approve the execution of an Agreement and Release involving the placement of a student with a private school for

the upcoming school year. This Agreement would resolve any potential disputes regarding the District's provision of a free appropriate public education to the student as well as any issues of special education placement. The Agreement and Release was drafted and approved by the District's Special Education Counsel.

Mr. Stover requested a motion to approve the agreement.

Moved by Mr. Dorrance; seconded by Dr. Parrish.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett	-	Yes	Cronin	-	Yes	Malkoff	-	Absent
Chabal	-	Yes	Dorrance	-	Yes	Parrish	-	Yes
Cin	-	Yes	Gräb	-	Yes	Stover	-	Yes

8 Yes 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.07 Approval of Bus Stops 2007-2008 School Year

The Administration recommended adopting bus stop locations for the 2007-2008 school year as attached:

The Administration also requested authorization to change bus stop locations for the following reasons: safety, efficiency, and also the transportation of new students.

Mr. Stover requested a motion to approve the bus stops for 2007-2008 school year.

Moved by Mr. Barrett; seconded by Mr. Dorrance.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett	-	Yes	Cronin	-	Yes	Malkoff	-	Absent
Chabal	-	Yes	Dorrance	-	Yes	Parrish	-	Yes
Cin	-	Yes	Gräb	-	Yes	Stover	-	Yes

8 Yes 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.08 Requests for the Use of Facilities

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

Group: Hershey Aquatic Club
Date/Time: August 29, 2007 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Requested Facility: Middle School LGI
Event: Awards Ceremony
Fee: None

Group: Township of Derry - Parks and Recreation
Date/Time: Saturdays, September 15 - October 20, 2007 - 8:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Requested Facility: Rubber Track near High School
Event: Hershey Track and Field Games - Fast Track Pilot Program
Fee: None

Group: Special Olympics PA - Area M
Date/Time: September 22, 2007 - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and September 23, 2007 - 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Requested Facility: Middle School Soccer Fields, Gym, Cafeteria and Kitchen, LGI, Auditorium, Football Practice Field
Event: Special Olympics Pennsylvania Area M Fall Sports Classic
Fee: Waiver requested

Group: Hershey Wrestling Boosters
Date/Time: Second Tuesday of Each Month, September 11, 2007 - May 13, 2008 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Requested Facility: High School Room 4
Event: Booster Club Meetings
Fee: None

Group: Disabled Veterans & Auxiliary - Chapter #48 Hershey
Date/Time: Second Tuesday of Each Month, September 11, 2007 - May 13, 2008 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Requested Facility: High School Library
Event: Meetings
Fee: None

Mr. Stover requested a motion to approve the requests.

Moved by Dr. Parrish; seconded by Dr. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett	-	Yes	Cronin	-	Yes	Malkoff	-	Absent
Chabal	-	Yes	Dorrance	-	Yes	Parrish	-	Yes
Cin	-	Yes	Gräb	-	Yes	Stover	-	Yes

8	Yes	1	Absent
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MOTION CARRIED

5.09 Personnel - Resignations

The Administration recommended the approval of the following resignations:

Professional:

Bergey, Leah

Spanish Long-term Substitute Teacher
High School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 06/29/07

DeStefano, Kristin

Grade 5 Teacher
Elementary School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/18/07

McDermott, Laura

English Teacher
Middle School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/10/07

Wetherhold, Theresa

Speech Therapist
Middle School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/23/07

Williams, Amy

Grade 5 Teacher
Elementary School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/23/07

Classified:

Evangelista, Stephen

Bus Driver
District-wide
Reason: Retirement
Effective: 06/07/07

Gallagher, Margaret

Teacher's Aide
Elementary School
Reason: Retirement
Effective: 07/11/07

Pantojas, Edgar

Custodian
High School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/05/07

Rupp, E. Rose

Head Cook
Middle School
Reason: Retirement
Effective: 07/18/07

Shields, Kenneth

Custodian
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/20/07

Stord, Timothy

Custodian
High School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/16/07

Thompson, Cindy

Library Aide
Middle School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/01/07

Limited Service Contracts:

Blum, Dale

Head Junior Varsity Softball Coach
Middle School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/30/07

Condran, Crystal

Assistant Junior Varsity Softball Coach

Middle School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/16/07

Driscoll, Mary
Assistant Varsity Field Hockey Coach
High School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 07/02/07

Hackman, Michael
Head Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach
High School
Reason: Personal
Effective: 06/27/07

Mr. Stover requested a motion to approve the personnel resignations.

Moved by Mrs. Chabal; seconded by Dr. Parrish.

All Board members present signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

5.10 Personnel - General

1. The Administration recommended the approval of the following appointments:

Professional:

Brown, Kimberly (replacing Patricia Etchberger)
English Teacher
High School
Long-term Substitute
Bachelors, Step 1
Salary: \$38,040
Effective: 08/20/07 through the end of the 2007-08 school year (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Clouser, Emma (replacing Laura McDermott)
English Teacher
Middle School
Temporary Professional
Bachelors, Step 1
Salary: \$38,040
Effective: 08/20/07 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)

Fulton, Jena (replacing Kristin DeStefano)
Grade 5 Teacher
Elementary School
Temporary Professional
Bachelors, Step 4
Salary: \$42,795
Effective: 08/20/07 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Hankey, Jason (for Jennifer Myer)
Spanish Teacher
High School
Long-term Substitute
Bachelors, Step 1
Salary: \$38,040
Effective: 08/20/07 through the end of the 2007-08 school year (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Hoover, Kati (for Susan McDonald)
Special Education Teacher
Middle School
Long-term Substitute
Bachelors, Step 1
Salary: \$38,040
Effective: 08/20/07 through the end of the 2007-08 school year

Smith, Elisa (replacing Kate Lind)
Sigh Language Interpreter
Middle School
Masters+10, Step 5
Salary: \$47,550
Effective: 08/20/07 (pending receipt of Act 151 and 114 clearances)

Willis, Casey * (replacing Amy Williams)
Grade 5 Teacher
Elementary School
Temporary Professional
Bachelors, Step 1
Salary: \$38,040
Effective: 08/20/07 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Witwer, Melody * (for Jennifer Roesch)
Special Education Teacher
High School
Long-term Substitute
Bachelors, Step 1
Salary: \$38,040 (pro-rated)
Effective: 08/20/07 through 04/01/08

Transfer of Professional Staff:

Brickley, Gail * (replacing Deborah Bemederfer)

From: Literacy Coach

To: Kindergarten Teacher

Effective: 08/23/07

Koons, Stephen * (replacing Rodney Dickinson)

From: Elementary Art Teacher

To: High School Art Teacher

Effective: 08/23/07

McCurdy, Barbara * (replacing Stephen Koons)

From: Part-time Middle School Art Teacher

To: Full-time Elementary Art Teacher

Masters+30, Step 2

Salary: \$45,965

Effective: 08/23/07

Smith, Jessica * (replacing Dana Weldon)

From: Grade 4 Long-term Substitute

To: Kindergarten Teacher

Early Childhood Center

Temporary Professional

Bachelors, Step 1

Salary: \$38,040

Effective: 08/23/07

Classified:

Althouse, Jeremy (replacing William Meiser)

HVAC Tech/Plumber

District-wide

Full-time 8 hours per day

Salary: \$21.22 per hour

Effective: Retroactive to 07/23/07 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Hileman, Tina * (replacing Angelo Cappuccio)

Bus Driver

District-wide

Part-time 5.0 hours per day

Salary: \$14.93 per hour

Effective: 08/09/07 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Mast, Deborah * (replacing Stephen Schulte)
Bus Driver
District-wide
Part-time 5.0 hours per day
Salary: \$14.93 per hour
Effective: 08/08/07 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Saylor, Melissa (replacing M. Jane Kinsey)
Building Secretary
High School
Full-time 7.5 hours per day
Salary: \$14.12 per hour
Effective: 08/20/07 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, 114 clearances)

Trump, George * (replacing Stephen Evangelista)
Bus Driver
District-wide
Part-time 5.0 hours per day
Salary: \$14.93 per hour
Effective: 08/07/07 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Transfer of Classified Staff:

Agee, Sandra *
From: Assistant Head Cook
High School
To: Head Cook (replacing E. Rose Rupp)
Middle School
Full-time 8 hours per day
Salary: \$16.51 per hour
Effective: 08/07/07

Dunham, Wanda *
From: General Food Service Worker
Elementary School
Part-time 4 hours per day
To: Custodian (replacing Edgar Pantojas)
Elementary School
Full-time 8 hours per day
Salary: \$14.14 per hour
Effective: 08/07/07

Limited Service Contracts:

Freeland, Stephan

Assistant Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach

High School

Level II, Group B, Step 22

Salary: \$4,094

Effective: 08/07/07 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, 114 clearances)

Gambelunghe, Randolph (replacing Michael Hackman)

Head Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach

High School

Level I, Group B, Step 18

Salary: \$5,263

Effective: 08/07/07 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

2. The Administration recommended the retroactive approval of the following individual for summer-fall employment:

Welch, Phillip

Technology Department Intern

District-wide

7 hours per day for 13 weeks

Salary: \$10.00 per hour

Effective: 07/23/07

3. The Administration recommended the retroactive approval of the following additions to the 2007 Summer School contracts:

Kathleen Blum: Pre-K Sessions, Salary: \$1,560

Christine Leonzo: Pre-1 Sessions, Salary: \$1,560

Yvonne Lessard: Pre-2 Sessions, Salary: \$1,560

4. The Administration recommended the approval of the following requests in accordance with District Policies 435 and 439:

Boyer, Suzanne *

Grade 4 Teacher

Elementary School

Paid/Unpaid Childbearing Leave

Effective: 10/29/07 through 12/07/07

Morin, Melanie *

Health & PE Teacher

Elementary School

Tricia Fisher

National Association of College Admissions Counselors

Austin, TX

September 26 - 30, 2007

Expenses: \$1,480.00

7.02 Board Member's Report

Mrs. Cin thanked the community for attending and encouraged more constituent attendance at meetings.

Dr. Cronin addressed the board on the situation involving the girls' lacrosse team.

Dr. Parrish encouraged constituents to take an active role in the district by attending BAT meetings, school board meetings, or standing committee meetings.

Mr. Barrett stated that the board is working in partnership with the district and community for the betterment of the school district.

7.03 Superintendent's Report

No report

7.04 Board President's Report

Mr. Stover thanked the citizens for attending and announced that the next meeting would be held on Monday, August 20, 2007 in the District Office Board Room at 7 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS (Non-Agenda Items)**8.01 Recognition of Citizens**

Ms. Hertz addressed the board on school district policy and accountability of its employees and school directors.

Ms. Eby addressed the board on the various opportunities constituents have to get involved with the district.

Ms. Hottenstein thanked the board and administration for the transparent approach to school district matters.

Ms. Hulse encouraged the board to continue working on educational issues of the district.

Ms. Crouse addressed board on constituent participation in school board meetings.

Ms. Sullivan addressed the board on drug and alcohol issues within the district.

Ms. Allison-Logan addressed the board on drug and alcohol issues within the district.

ADJOURNMENT

9.01 Adjournment

Mr. Stover asked for a motion for adjournment.

Moved by Mr. Dorrance; seconded by Mrs. Cin.

All Board members present signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. Rineer
Secretary to the Board
Approved at the August 20, 2007 meeting

Charles Stover
President of the Board

SR:trp

August 6, 2007

With the full support of each of the eight remaining Board members, this statement being read tonight, Monday, August 6, 2007, responds to school board member Dr. Donna Cronin's accusations publicly directed at the Derry Township School District.

The District--in particular the Board, the administration, and teachers--has silently endured Dr. Cronin's pattern of inappropriate conduct involving the lacrosse program. Unfortunately, through her public attacks against the School District and, recently, against District administrators, she has escalated the situation. Her public statements have, in our opinion, been untrue and misleading. It is now time to end our silence and to chronicle the District's good faith efforts to privately address and resolve Dr. Cronin's series of controversies over the past two years. Dr. Cronin and her current attorney were provided with advance copy of this statement this weekend and Dr. Cronin has the right to respond tonight if she so chooses.

Everything in this statement is substantiated and copies of relevant materials will be made available for public inspection.

Recent press reports have focused on allegations that Dr. Cronin, who as a member of the Derry Township School Board, prepared and gave strategic information to our team's opponent on how to defeat the Hershey High School Girls' Lacrosse Team in the Mid-Penn Championship Playoffs. There can be little disagreement that it would be inappropriate if a Board member engaged in such conduct. Therefore, we need not focus on that specific alleged conduct.

Dr. Cronin apparently objects to our reading of this statement and has hired legal counsel. Her counsel has urged us to refrain from exercising our rights as public officials to speak on this matter of public concern. Very recently, we each received a letter from Dr. Cronin's current attorney, which several of us perceived to contain a veiled threat to sue each one of us personally if this statement were read tonight. If Dr. Cronin follows through on that threat, we would respond accordingly.

In his letter, Dr. Cronin's current attorney requested that we not publicly release the contents of his letter to us. We will honor that request. We will, however, make copies of our statement available to the public because we have nothing to hide.

Each member of the School Board is bound by rules of law and codes of conduct. Because our conduct reflects upon the District as a whole, we are rightly held accountable for our individual and collective actions. We believe this applies to Dr. Cronin as well.

In 2005, Dr. Cronin, while under contract as the Hershey High School varsity girls' lacrosse coach, ran for election to the school board. After the May Primary, District administrators met numerous times with Dr. Cronin to discuss the impact of her probable election to the School Board on her position as varsity lacrosse coach. It was

the opinion of the District Solicitor that Dr. Cronin could not hold both positions simultaneously. Dr. Cronin said she did not agree, but did not articulate any legitimate reason for the District to ignore the advice of our Solicitor.

Nevertheless, the District agreed to consider the issue further. We received additional confirmations that the Pennsylvania School Code precluded Dr. Cronin from coaching once she was elected to the School Board.

- In July 2005, we received written opinions from the Chief Counsel of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania School Board Association's chief counsel and our District solicitor. All three agreed that if elected, Dr. Cronin would not be eligible to continue to serve as our District's varsity lacrosse coach.
- These findings were shared with Dr. Cronin during multiple, documented discussions throughout the summer and fall of 2005.
- Dr. Cronin disagreed with these legal findings. However, once again, she did not present any viable reason why these three legal opinions were incorrect.
- Instead, she began a vigorous, grass roots effort to have the varsity girls' lacrosse team members, parents and supporters force the School Board to retain her as the varsity lacrosse coach.
- The Board stood firm because what Dr. Cronin was demanding was illegal.

After Dr. Cronin was elected to the school board in November 2005, the District hired a highly qualified and experienced varsity girls' lacrosse head coach.

- Dr. Cronin then embarked on a campaign to be appointed as an assistant varsity lacrosse coach. She contacted Board members claiming she was more knowledgeable about lacrosse than any coach in Derry Township. The Board denied her request because of the long-standing policy that all District head coaches select their own assistant coaches.
- In February 2006, the varsity coach extended an olive branch and invited Dr. Cronin to meet and discuss a volunteer coaching position in the District's middle school program, which is a feeder to the varsity program. During that meeting, Dr. Cronin reportedly tried to use her influence as a School Board member to pressure the varsity coach into allowing Dr. Cronin to participate at the varsity level. Shortly after this meeting, the Pennsylvania State Education Association lodged a complaint with the District, claiming that Dr. Cronin had used her position as a School Board member "for the purpose of intimidating and threatening the security" of the varsity lacrosse coach. Because Dr. Cronin's actions put the District at risk of legal action, the Board again engaged its solicitor

and instructed Dr. Cronin she could have no unsupervised contact with the coach. That directive is still in force.

- In April 2007, the Board received a detailed letter from a District parent whose child had been coached, first by Dr. Cronin, and then by the current varsity lacrosse coach. While praising Dr. Cronin's ground breaking efforts in starting the Hershey girls' lacrosse program, the parent stated that Dr. Cronin now appeared to be conducting "a personal vendetta" against the varsity lacrosse coach. Several examples of this type of behavior were described in the letter.
- After speaking with Dr. Cronin, the remaining eight school board members delivered a letter to her on May 17, 2007. That letter requested that she disengage from lacrosse issues.
- On May 22, 2007, the Carlisle varsity girls' lacrosse coach sent an e-mail to both our District athletic director and varsity lacrosse coach. That e-mail stated that "a former Hershey coach" and "current Hershey High School Board member" had sought to provide the Carlisle lacrosse coach with strategic information on how to defeat Hershey at the Mid-Penn playoffs. Clearly these references to a former Hershey coach and a current Board member could only be construed as references to Dr. Cronin. This strategic information targeted specific Hershey student-athletes--in fact, the very same student-athletes who Dr. Cronin had been requesting to coach since 2005. The Carlisle coach wrote that this information was in a handwritten note given to her by one of her Carlisle players, who also plays on a club team coached by Dr. Cronin. The Carlisle coach's e-mail in several instances attributed this strategic information as coming from Dr. Cronin.
- Our District athletic director confirmed the authenticity of this e-mail with the Carlisle athletic director.
- Our varsity lacrosse coach confirmed the authenticity of this e-mail with the Carlisle lacrosse coach, who acknowledged that she had written it and that everything in it was true.
- Because the Carlisle e-mail concerned a sitting Board member, our District athletic director promptly and correctly contacted our District superintendent. The superintendent then promptly and correctly informed members of the Board, including Dr. Cronin.
- Dr. Cronin has denied she was the author of the handwritten note.
- In May 2007, the Pennsylvania State Education Association lodged a second complaint against Dr. Cronin.

- At the June 25, 2007, public School Board meeting, the President of the Hershey Education Association and a Hershey athletic coach, read separate statements expressing what they characterized as “unethical behavior” and “breach of trust.”

In June 2007, in a public reaction to the Carlisle e-mail, Dr. Cronin was quoted in local newspapers as saying she had been treated as an outcast and the District’s actions against her had been politically motivated. She claimed the “district administration is retaliating for her dissenting board votes by trying to ruin her reputation.”

Last week, Dr. Cronin issued a public press release to the newspapers (but not copied to the Board) addressing the Carlisle lacrosse e-mail. Dr. Cronin’s statement provided excerpts from letters allegedly written by the Carlisle coach and by an anonymous parent who claimed to be the author of the handwritten note. Dr. Cronin then referred all reporters’ questions to her current lawyer.

This Board is very concerned that Dr. Cronin’s onslaught of public statements may be misleading to our community.

Dr. Cronin claims she is being punished for her voting record and that she often votes against the majority on matters involving the school budget and other issues. She claims that her record has ruffled feathers in the administration. In truth, her claims are unfounded. Dr. Cronin rarely votes against the majority on any issue, including matters involving school budget.

- In fact, in the countless motions recorded since Dr. Cronin was elected in 2005, she voted “No” on only two financial issues.
- Recently, Dr. Cronin voted “Yes” on the 2007-2008 preliminary budget. We do not know how she would have voted on the 2007-2008 final budget presented publicly on June 25, 2007 because she was, in fact, not even present when this vote was taken.

The truth is that Dr. Cronin, like all members of this Board, has access to all committee reports, briefings, financial statements, and any other documentation needed to make informed decisions.

The truth is that since Dr. Cronin’s candidacy and election in 2005, she has established a long and documented history of inappropriate interference in the District’s girls’ lacrosse program. She may continue to deny that her conduct in regards to the Hershey girls’ lacrosse program was inappropriate, but her pattern of behavior speaks for itself.

In conclusion, we are unanimously reiterating, this time publicly, that Dr. Cronin is to have no involvement with the District’s girls’ lacrosse programs or its coaches.

We are publicly telling our administrators, athletic coaches, teachers, athletes and students that we have not sanctioned and will not sanction Dr. Cronin's inappropriate attempts to use her position as a School Board member to intimidate.

We fully support Dr. Brewer's diligent oversight of this District. We regret that her professional reputation has been unjustifiably attacked by Dr. Cronin and her attorney. Our message to Dr. Brewer, as well as to our administrators, teachers, coaches and staff, is that we will not allow anyone to inappropriately interfere with the proper performance of their jobs.

Now, having provided our first and, hopefully, final public statement on these issues, we hope and expect that Dr. Cronin will join us in focusing on the district's mission. We look forward to her joining us in doing the job for which we were all elected.

Chuck Stover, President
John Gräb, Vice President
Beulah Chabal, Treasurer
Chris Barrett

Sharon Cin
Brad Dorrance
Alan Malkoff
Bill Parrish

Who would have thought that lacrosse could generate so much excitement without even stepping on the field.

Even with these ridiculous allegations, the only conclusion that can be made is that I have a great passion for lacrosse and all of the players. The fact is that I resigned as the Hershey High School Girls' Lacrosse Coach before being sworn in as a School Board member, and I cut my ties with the School District's program at that time.

As a member of this board, I apologize to our community for the time, money, and resources that we have wasted. I apologize to the teachers and coaches who have voiced their concerns over false allegations. I am truly sorry that my personal volunteer efforts in the lacrosse arena – separate from the Derry Township School District -have come under such scrutiny. I have a very different account of the story that was just provided, and my description of events can also be substantiated with copies of relevant materials. It demeans the board and those who elected us, for us to engage in that kind of exchange.

But I will ask each of you to reflect deeply on this discussion. An accusation – an erroneous email about a sticky note – was promoted by district staff to local news media. The same staff and the representative for the teacher's union pronounced me guilty.

At my own expense, I had to go about the business of proving my innocence. And after I had proved my innocence, not one of you – or one of the district's staff this board must oversee – has so much as apologized for this sorry episode that has brought unnecessary publicity to our district. Instead, you have taken time in your statement to repeat the same accusations in the apparent hope that it helps establish a fictitious pattern. It is my profound hope that all of this absurdity ends tonight. Now, I will move on to more substantive issues.

When I ran for school board, it was to increase our district's responsiveness and transparency to our community. As a board member, I have raised important issues that have been brought to the board's attention from community members via our board e-mails. Overall, I am not satisfied with our board's record of addressing and resolving many of these important issues.

I am not comfortable with several things:

1. I have been accused of micromanaging when I bring up community concerns, and have been told that I raise too many issues. I believe that if any constituent has an issue, we need to address it.
2. I am concerned that some board members have expressed the need to rehabilitate me, implying that I should stop asking questions. I say, lets rehabilitate and support our students who are involved with or subject to bullying, drugs, and sexual harassment, because no subject should be taboo when it comes to our kids' welfare.
3. I have been accused of grandstanding when I cast a dissenting vote, as in the case of last year's budget and tax increase. I do not see the need for unanimous voting. Nine of us were elected to this board to bring nine perspectives; none of us should be discounted, ever.
4. I have been asked to refrain from ever bringing up an issue that is in any way related to girls' lacrosse. I will not censor myself to exclude athletics as part of my oversight responsibility as a board member, even though lacrosse is included within that domain, especially when I was appointed to the Student Services Committee because of my expertise with athletics.

In the spirit of the Sunshine Laws, I pledge to all of our constituents that I will continue to bring forth important and relevant “kids first” issues that have been brought to my or the entire board’s attention, and will do so during our public board meetings. This will make sure that we, as a board, are held accountable to our constituents.

In the spirit of true transparency, I pledge to support candid discussions during both board and sub-committee meetings regarding key issues that affect our students, including curriculum, special education, and safety.

In the spirit of Boardsmanship, I will continue to respect the opinions of all of my fellow board members, whether or not they agree with my own. I will also respect their voting history, but will always vote my conscience based on my own assessment of the facts.

In the spirit of Kids First, I will continue to work with teachers and coaches in the district to help support the efforts of all of our students, both as a board member, and as a volunteer parent. And with 6 kids already of school age and engaged in sports, I look forward to having you teach, coach, and mentor my own children.

And finally, I do acknowledge that there have been misunderstandings on both sides regarding this issue. And to address your requests: From this point forward, I will continue my disassociation with the Districts High School Girls’ Lacrosse team, as I have since my resignation 2 ½ years ago. I will not, however, disassociate from lacrosse that is separate from the School District. This includes both youth and HS teams, and includes Hershey players.

I thank you for your time, and I urge the board and superintendent to return to the jobs that we were elected or hired to do, and that is to provide the best education and learning environment for all of our students, and to be responsive to all of our constituents.

Thank you.

Donna Cronin