DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 13, 2005

The Danville Area School Board held their first regular monthly meeting in the Senior High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, December 13, 2005.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Randy Keister followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL - Board Members

Mrs. Carol Bisordi, Mrs. Helen Hause; Mr. Randy Keister, Mrs. Kellie Krum; Mr. Filiberto Martinez, Dr. Paul Moser; Mrs. Megan Raup; Mr. Allan Schappert and Mr. Steven Schooley were present.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Steven Keifer, Superintendent; Mr. Richard Snodgrass, Business Administrator; Mrs. Gwen Belding, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Ricki Boyle, Director of Student Support Services; Mr. Craig Burger, Principal, High School; Mr. Kevin Duckworth, Principal, Middle School; Mr. David Robinholt, Assistant Principal, Middle School; Mr. Daniel Rathfon, Principal, Liberty-Valley Elementary; Mr. Scott Zimmerman, Principal, Riverside and Mahoning-Cooper Elementary; Mrs. Molly Nied, Principal, Danville Elementary; Mrs. Daphne Snook, Director of Technology; Mr. James Garringer; Director of Network Administration; Mr. Rick Engle, Director of Maintenance; Mrs. Susan Blake, Head Start Director; Mrs. Marie Dryer; Office Manager; Timothy Bowers, Esq., Solicitor; Mrs. Elaine Gosciminski, Assistant Board Secretary; staff, and news media.

MINUTES

Motion:

A. A motion was made by Steven Schooley to grant approval of the minutes of November 8, 2005.

Mr. Allan Schappert seconded the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -- Steven P. Keifer

A. The Enrollment Report was presented showing an enrollment of 2,640 compared to 2,730 at this time last year. A copy is made an official part of the minutes.

B. Mr. Keifer recognized Helen Hause for 12 years of service as a School Board Director. She was presented a certificate adding her to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association "Honor Roll of School Board Service". Mr. Keifer commended her for giving 12 years of her life to the most important type of community service -- our children.

C. Mr. Keifer recognized the Danville Community Foundation for its Innovate Projects Grant, which provided the district with $2,000. The primary goal is to grant a teacher an opportunity to put exciting and often long cherished ideas into practice. Teachers will be asked to send in proposals. A committee of foundation board members, school board members, and the superintendent will make selections.

D. Mr. Keifer reported district administrators will meet with the Danville Borough Council on December 14th to discuss traffic control at the Middle School. They will ask the Borough if Fire Police could help out and allow the district to use the sewer plant entrance. Also, the district is going to re-route traffic on the Middle School property.

E. Mr. Keifer reminded board members of the annual Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Counties Fall Legislative meeting to be held Wednesday, January 4, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the Danville High School Library.

Motion:

F. A motion was made by Paul Moser to cancel the December 20, 2005, school board meeting.

Carol Bisordi seconded the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote.

G. Mr. Keifer held an orientation for all new board members. A list of information they received is made a part of the minutes.

H. Mr. Keifer presented communication response guidelines requiring the district's professional staff to respond to phone messages and emails from parents within 36 hours during the work week. There may be instances when this may not be possible when employees are ill or away from the work place for approved absences. In such cases a reasonable timeline for responding to parental contacts is expected. These guidelines will be posted on the district website, faculty handbooks, and announced annually.

I. All six schools in the Danville school district recently received biannual Keystone Achievement Awards. Gwen Belding reported out of 3,000 statewide school buildings, about 2,000 receive the awards. However, she said only around 51 percent have received the award twice. Liberty-Valley, Riverside, and Mahoning-Cooper Elementary schools in addition to the High School were all awarded their second such honor this year.

J. Mr. Keifer announced the district is currently looking for 10 to 15 community members to join its Strategic Planning Process Committee, a group of administrators, board members, and community members. This committee will will set "philosophical and far reaching" objectives for the school over the next six years. The first meeting will be held on January 17, 2006. Board Members Carol Bisordi, Allan Schappert, Steven Schooley, and Helen Hause volunteered to be on the Committee. Michael Nailor is going to be the Facilitator.

K. Mr. Schooley reported the reorganization meeting held at the Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech was very successful. The tour was extremely informative for new board members and seasoned board members were very impressed to see how much technology has grown at the school. An open invitation was extended to board members to tour the school while in session.

L. An Executive Session was held starting at 5:30 p.m. to discuss Educational Support Personnel Association contract negotiations.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

A. Caitlin Kinsey reported on team standings in sports and forensics, upcoming holiday events, community activities students are involved in. Students are completing a survey on the meal changes in the cafeteria and the results will be given to Pam Burrows.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Mary Wilt voiced her concern on what she called an "illegal" school board election because of the flyers placed at 13 of the county's 15 polling places urging voters not to reelect incumbent Molly Chapman.

AMEND AGENDA

Motion:

A motion was made by Helen Hause to amend the agenda to move Curriculum and Management Report C after the Public Comment section of the agenda.

Steven Schooley seconded the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote.

CURRICULUM AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

A. Jennifer Quinn, Computer Teacher at all the elementary schools, and eight of her assistants from Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 demonstrated elementary technology techniques using computers and the Smart Board.

B. Principals reported on upcoming activities in their buildings.

C. Craig Burger presented a proposal for a curriculum change to Career Academies at the Danville High School. Presently, the current Career Prep and College Prep breakdown of the high school students has caused some problems. Last year, a committee of both Danville High School and Penn College of Technology faculty was formed to review the present division into two curriculum tracks. The decision was made to investigate a Pathways or Academies approach to high school curriculum. Over the past year, members of the committee made four visits to other districts that use either a Pathway or Academies approach. The new curriculum would start with freshmen, allowing that class to move through four years of high school following an academy approach to education. Next year's sophomores through seniors would continue with the existing program.

Board members heard from five High School Seniors that disagreed with the change. They presented statistics from the Department of Education that showed there was no significant change in the graduation rate of students taking regular high school curriculum and those under the Career Academes. They also voiced the concern that students may be limited in what electives they could take and may get trapped in a career path they later decide they don't want. Mr. Burger was adamant the program would not change the core curriculum and would not leave a student locked into a course they couldn't get out of.

Motion:

A motion was made by Allan Schappert to implement the 'Career Academies' curriculum change at the High School for the 2006-2007 school year.

Kellie Krum seconded the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-Yes; 0-No; 0-Absent.

A copy is made an official part of the minutes.

AMEND AGENDA

Motion:

A motion was made by Filiberto Martinez to amend the agenda to move IX. School Property & Supplies B. to this point in the agenda.

A. Rick Engle discussed installing air conditioning in five classrooms of the west wing of the third floor at Danville Elementary. By just installing air conditioning in the five main classrooms the project can be done in house with an estimated cost of $20,000 for materials. The air conditioning would be done by late Spring of 2006.

Motion:

A motion was made by Steven Schooley to install air conditioning in five classrooms on the third floor not to exceed $25,000 for equipment cost.

Helen Hause seconded the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-Yes; 0-No; 0-Absent.

CURRICULUM AND MANAGEMENT REPORT (con't)

D. Ricki Boyle gave an overview of some of the obligations contained in the *Gaskin v. Pennsylvania* settlement agreement. The Bureau of Special Education is committed to providing on-site technical assistance and professional development for the purpose of ensuring that local school districts and other local education agencies have the knowledge and capacity to fulfill these obligations.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A. James Garringer reported the Geisinger System Services is donating 50 computers to the school district. The computers, most likely 933 MHz with 128MB to 256MB of RAM, will replace Mac computers. The first computers to be replaced will be teacher workstations and the shared use lab at the Middle School.

B. Daphne Snook reported Bucknell University donated 50 wireless access points. They are looking into where to place them.

C. Richard Snodgrass announced the district has approximately 50 used computers which they are making available for sale to district residents. The computers are six or eight years old at $20.00 a piece. Priority will be given to households of students and/or households that currently do not have a computer. Applications need to be returned by December 15, 2005.

FINANCE

Motion:

A. A motion was made by Steven Schooley to grant approval of agenda Finance Reports A through F:

- Financial Reports Summary
- Treasurer's Report
- Cash Status Report
- Temporary Investments -- General Fund
- Bills for Payment – November 3, 2005, through December 7, 2005 at $2,933,188.82
- 2006-2007 Budget Timeline

Paul Moser seconded the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-Yes; 0-No; 0-Absent.

Copies of Finance Reports are made an official part of the minutes.

PERSONNEL

Motion:

A. A motion was made by Carol Bisordi to grant the approval of agenda Personnel items A through K:

- Accepted the retirement of Kim Livziey Lutz as Head Cook at the Danville High School effective December 2, 2005

- Accepted the resignation of Mary Alessi, Certified School Nurse effective December 6, 2005

- Accepted the resignation of Naomi Campbell, part-time Cafeteria Worker, effective October 6, 2005

- Granted the approval of the employment of William Hubicki as a part-time Cafeteria Worker at the High School, at a rate of $7.51/hour, effective December 5, 2005

- Granted the approval of the employment of Michelle Bickhart as an Aide at Liberty-Valley Elementary, at a rate of $7.51/hour, with a starting date to be determined

- Granted the approval of Tiffany Reidinger's request for Uncompensated Leave beginning approximately January 13, 2006, through March 1, 2006

- Granted the approval of the employment of Deann Kinsey as an Elementary School Nurse at a salary of $38,197, MS+15, Year 1, Step 1, effective December 20, 2005

- Granted the approval of the employment of Rita Marquette as a Mentor for Deann Kinsey at a salary of $634

- Granted the approval of the employment of tutors for the after school tutoring program at a rate of $20/hour. Funds are provided through the Educational Assistance Program Grant.

- Granted the approval of additions to the Substitute List (Teachers, Teacher Aides, Custodians, Cafeteria Workers, Secretaries, etc.)

- Granted the transfer of Judy McCormick from Assistant Food Service Director to a 12-month Secretary at the Middle School, at a rate of $11.25/hour, with an effective date to be determined

Paul Moser seconded the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-Yes; 0-No; 0-Absent.

Copies of letters are made an official part of the minutes.

SCHOOL PROPERTY & SUPPLIES

Motion:

A. A motion was made by Allan Schappert to accept the bid of $478.00 from Fairchild Brothers, Inc., P.O. Box 198, Winfield, PA, for the Model ACC Forklift.

Carol Bisordi seconded the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-Yes; 0-No 0-Absent.

A copy of the bid sheet is made an official part of the minutes.

POLICY & INSURANCE

Motion:

A. A motion was made by Steven Schooley to grant the approval of the first reading of revisions to Family Medical Leave policies #335, #425, and #535 to omit use of sick leave for a family member in each policy and to define the twelve-month period in Policy #335 to a rolling twelve-month period.

Allan Schappert seconded the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-Yes; 0-No; 0-Absent.

TRANSPORTATION

Motion:

A. A motion was made by Carol Bisordi to grant approval of the following Bus and Van Drivers:

- Mary Ann Mensch, 119 Myers Road, Danville, PA, with Joe & Jans
- Tammy Jo McHenry, 220 Reinaker Road, Danville, PA, with Amity Leasing
- Dean Foust, 3410 Old Berwick Road, Bloomsburg, PA, for Head Start with Fishing Creek Transportation
- Tonya Dickinson, 83 Blue Springs Terrace, Danville, PA, as a Van Driver for Joe & Jans

Kellie Krum seconded the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 9-Yes; 0-No; 0-Absent.

PUBLIC COMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

ADJOURN

Motion:

A motion was made by Allan Schappert to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 P.M.

Filiberto Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote.

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Richard B. Snodgrass
Board Secretary

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Elaine M. Gosciminski
Assistant Board Secretary