DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 22, 2008 Minutes

The Danville Area School Board held their meeting in the Senior High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, July 22, 2008.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Allan Schappert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL - Board Members

Mrs. Barbara Boyer, Mrs. Dawn Gill, Mrs. Jennifer Henning, Mr. Jamie Hosterman, Mrs. Kellie Krum, Dr. Paul Moser, Mr. Steve Schooley, and Mr. Allan Schappert were present.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Susan Bickford, Superintendent; Ms. Daphne Snook, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology; Mr. Richard Snodgrass, Business Administrative/Board Secretary; Mr. Craig Burger, Principal, High School; Mrs. Cynthia Hutchinson, Principal, Middle School; Mr. Ed Sanders, Assistant Principal, Middle School; Mrs. Molly Nied, Elementary Principal; Mr. John Bickhart, Elementary Principal; Mr. Daniel Rathfon, Elementary Principal; Mrs. Susan Blake, Director of Head Start; Mr. Rick Engle, Director of Maintenance; Mrs. Pam Burrows, Director of Food Services; Mrs. Ricki Boyle, Director of Student Support Services; Mr. James Garringer, Director of Network Administration; and Mrs. Marie Dryer, Office Manager; and approximately 30 members of the staff and public, and news media.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 10 and 24, 2008
Motion: (to approve the minutes of June 10 and 24, 2008 board meeting)
A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to approve the minutes.

The motion was seconded by Kellie Krum
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

I. BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCMENTS

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bickford announced there was an executive session at 6:00 pm to discuss personnel, labor relations and real estate.

Act 80-Day change
Motion: (to move Feb. 9, 2009 Act 80 day to October 14, 2008)
A motion was made by Dr. Moser to approve moving the Act 80 date.

The motion was seconded by Steve Schooley
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – Ms Megan Raup

Amber Woodruff, Billy Richendrfer, Jason Bird, Dylan Whitehall, Kate Bassett and Houston Bogart all spoke about their competition at the FFA Agriscience Fair. Also present was Mr. Mike Shultz, Advisor.
After telling about the experience and placements at FFA Agriscience Fair, they presented a request to attend the FFA National Convention in Indiana and also for $900 to help with costs for this trip.

FFA Out-of-State Trip (Indianapolis, IN week of Oct. 20 for National Convention)
Motion: (to approve the out-of-state trip for FFA) and $900.00
A motion was made by Dr. Jim Moser to approve the trip and $900.00

The motion was seconded by Dawn Gill
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – Ms Megan Raup

Dr. Bickford also announced the next teacher negotiation meeting will be held Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

III. BOARD AFFILIATION REPORTS

CSIU – Jennifer Henning – Nothing new to add
VO-Tech – Megan Raup – No meeting
EI Tax – Barbara Boyer – No Meeting
Head Start – Kellie Krum – No meeting
Legislative – Dawn Gill – Discussed new legislation on an alternative energy fund

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT - Tyler Rosini

Tyler Rosini had no report at this time.

A motion was made by Dr. Moser to move letter of appeal to follow public comment

The motion was seconded by Jennifer Henning
The motion was approved by voice vote

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ned Markle – questioned Kellie Krum about her comment about increasing taxes. He feels $200 is a big increase in taxes. He also thinks we are spending too much money on the renovation project.

Ed A'Zary expressed his opinion that the bussing issue is a non-issue,

Tom Miller, Mahoning Cooper parent feels the need for two kindergarten classes at Mahoning Cooper. Dr. Bickford spoke about the kindergarten situation – saying that it is being taken care of. We will have two kindergarten classes at Mahoning Cooper. Other parents from Mahoning Cooper thanked Dr. Bickford and the board for adding the second kindergarten class.

A parent was present to request that her son be allowed to begin kindergarten before reaching the required age. She stated her that her son missed the August 31 birth date by only a few days. The board took no action.

VI. CURRICULUM AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

PSSA Report – Daphne Snook

Ms Snook gave a presentation of the PSSA report for students in our district. She presented the report district wide and also per building.

Literacy Focus at Danville Middle School – Cynthia Hutchinson

Ms Hutchinson gave a report on the literacy focus at Danville Middle School for the 2008-2009 school year. She reported that the revised schedule would help students who are basic and below basic as well as those who are proficient and advanced in their skill levels to continue to grow. She stated that literacy is basic to all learning. Using 6th grade as an example. Focused literacy is to have two hours of literacy in a day. Some programs that are being used in the middle school are Reading Counts, Word Work including vocabulary, Read Naturally, Fast Forward and Wilson. New for 2008-2009 is a Peer tutoring program where 8th grade students will help 6th grade students.
After the presentation some board members expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the proposed program.

Motion: (to recess for 10 minutes)
A motion was made by Jennifer Henning to take a 10-minute recess

The motion was seconded by Barbara Boyer
The motion was approved on voice vote

Motion: (to bring meeting to order)
A motion was made by Jamie Hosterman to continue the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Steve Schooley
The motion was approved on voice vote

VII. SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

VIII. FINANCE

A. General Fund (Enclosure A)
B. Local Revenues (Enclosure B)
C. State Revenues (Enclosure C)
D. Cash Receipts (Enclosure D)
E. Investments (Enclosure E)
F. Bills for Payment June 5 – July 16, 2008 (Enclosure F)
G. Make all necessary year-end transfers and to pay remaining invoices for the 2007-2008 school year
H. Increase in meal Prices for 2008-2009 school year (Enclosure G)

Motion: (to approve A-H)
A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve the budget

The motion was seconded by Dawn Gill
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – Ms. Megan Raup

IX. PERSONNEL

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the employment of Sara Nogle, elementary technology teacher in the Danville Area School District, at a first year teacher salary ($34,402 under the contract that expired June 30, 2007 to be updated when the contract is settled), effective August 20, 2008. (Enclosure H)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the employment of Cassandra Weaver, head start education manager in the Danville Area School District, at a salary of $25,750, effective August 6, 2008. (Enclosure I)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the employment of Brenda Bartlett, middle school 8th grade science in the Danville Area School District, at a master level, step-4 teacher

salary ($42,368 under the contract that expired June 30, 2007 to be updated when the contract is settled), effective August 20, 2008. (Enclosure J)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the employment of Sarah Woodward, elementary reading specialist in the Danville Area School District, at a master level teacher salary ($42,368 under the contract that expired June 30, 2007 to be updated when the contract is settled), effective August 20, 2008. (Enclosure K)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the resignation of Timothy Morgan, High School Guidance Counselor, effective August 8, 2008. (Enclosure L)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to increase the daily rate for day to day substitute teachers to $90 per day for the first 20 days worked as a substitute teacher in the current school year and $100 per day for day 21 and beyond. The change is effective beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. (Enclosure M)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to increase the hourly rate for day-to-day substitute support personnel to the starting rate in effect for the classification. The change is effective beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. (Enclosure N)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the employment of Andrew Shively, middle school 7th grade social studies in the Danville Area School District, at a salary of ($39,738 under the contract that expired June 30, 2007 to be updated when the contract is settled), effective August 20, 2008. (Enclosure O)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a $.55 per hour increase in wage rate to the support personnel working in the district office, effective July 1, 2008.

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the employment of an elementary intervention specialist in the Danville Area School District, at a salary of $38,000. This is a 210-day position. (Enclosure Oa)

- The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval to hire a kindergarten teacher to staff an additional kindergarten classroom at Mahoning Cooper.

Motion: (To Approve Personnel)
A motion was made by Jennifer Henning to approve Personnel Items.

The motion was seconded by Jamie Hosterman
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 1 Abstain – Allan Schappert, 1 Absent – Ms Megan Raup

Motion: Approve Jesse Reibson as elementary intervention specialist.

A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve Jesse Reibson

The motion was seconded by Jamie Hosterman
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – Ms Megan Raup

X. SCHOOL PROPERTY & SUPPLIES

5-year copier lease for Danville Elementary and central administrative office
Motion: (To Approve lease costs)
A motion was made by Steve Schooley to approve the lease

The motion was seconded by Dr. Moser
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 1 Abstain – Mrs. Dawn Gill, 1 Absent – Ms. Megan Raup

Approve survey cost of $20,380 at Danville Elementary, Mahoning Cooper, and Riverside by Mid Penn Survey
Motion: (To Approve survey cost)
A motion was made by Dr. Moser to approve Personnel Items.

The motion was seconded by Jennifer Henninger
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 1 Abstain – Dr. Moser, 1 Present, 1 Absent – Ms Megan Raup

Elementary Building Project
Richard Snodgrass presented reviewed the current status of the elementary school project. The Board has approved moving ahead with the E02 option involving renovation of the three elementary schools but has not been specific about the scope of these renovations. The architects are essentially at a standstill awaiting that specific direction. In June, 2008 there was a meeting with the architects that included the architects, two board members and several administrators. At that meeting the principals were asked to meet and define educational needs for schools. That review was completed in early July and the information was given to the architects to update the space requirements based on the defined educational needs. That update resulted in a total of 175,797 square feet in the three buildings. That data was then provided to Reynolds Construction Management for an updated cost estimate. That update cost was estimated at $46,969,000.

Richard Snodgrass had prepared for the meeting schedules for each of the three buildings showing the detail of the square footages with comparisons of the current configurations, the E02 Ed Spec scenario that was developed in 2007, and the new principal review scenario that had been completed earlier this month. He stated that costs are largely driven by square footages and if we want to reduce the cost of this project the square footage will have to be reduced.

After discussion, it was decided to have a meeting with administrators and the committee of board members to discuss some changes to plans. That meeting was set for Wednesday, July 30 at 7 pm in the high school library. Board members on the committee are Kellie Krum, Barbara Boyer, Jamie Hosterman, and Jennifer Henning. Administrators on the committee are Molly Nied, John Bickhart, Daphne Snook, Ricki Boyer, Dick Snodgrass and Susan Bickford. It was agreed that they would have a report for the August 12 board meeting.

XI. POLICY & INSURANCE

Approve Aaron Trate as a tuition-paying student ($7,920.58)
Motion: (To Approve Trate)
A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve Aaron Trate.

The motion was seconded by Dawn Gill
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – Ms Megan Raup

XII. ATHLETICS

Pay to Participate – Ron Kanaskie and Craig Burger
Mr. Burger said we have about 20 clubs with 319 students and most clubs have dues. Mr. Kanaskie said we have 351 students participating in one sport, 168 students participating in two sports and 44 students participating in three sports.
Mr. Kanaskie gave a report on the pay to participate idea. He gave stats from other district regarding pay to participate. Not many schools require students to pay to participate. Mrs. Boyer asked Mr. Kanaskie what his feelings are about the pay to participate. Mr. Kanaskie said he doesn't think we should get involved in it. One reason is that we have great booster clubs that raise money for our teams and he feels that the booster clubs would potentially not provide the same level of support under a pay for participation system.

Fall Coaches Salaries
Motion: (To Approve coaches salaries)
A motion was made by Steve Schooley to approve fall coaches salaries

The motion was seconded by Jamie Hosterman
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 6 yes, 2 no – Mrs. Boyer and Mrs. Gill, 1 Absent – Ms Megan Raup

XII. TRANSPORTATION

A transportation report was given by Marie Dryer detailing many of the aspects of the District provided transportation system.

XIV. BOARD CONCERNS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Gill questioned why seniors had to have their senior pictures taken at Impressions. She said she had a parent ask her. Mr. Burger addressed that issue and said he would get the parent name from Ms. Gill and speak with them.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Cole spoke about the reconstruction project – asking if the operational costs and utilities are being considered.

Ed Avary said he doesn't understand why the board seemed shocked at the price of renovation project and now wants to make cuts.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:55 motion was made by Dawn Gill and seconded by Kellie Krum to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

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Richard B. Snodgrass
Board Secretary

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Bonnie A. Edmeads
Assistant Board Secretary