DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 27, 2008

The Danville Area School Board held their meeting in the Senior High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Allan Schappert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL - Board Members

Mrs. Dawn Gill, Mrs. Jennifer Henning, Mr. Jamie Hosterman, Mrs. Kellie Krum, Dr. Paul Moser (via conference call) Mrs. Megan Raup, Mr. Steve Schooley, Mr. Allan Schappert were present.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Susan Bickford, Superintendent; Mrs. Daphne Snook, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology; Mr. Richard Snodgrass, Business Manager; Mr. Craig Burger, Principal, High School; Mr. Charles Smargiassi, Assistant Principal, High School; Ms. Cynthia Hutchinson, Principal, Middle School; Ms. Abbey Walshaw-Wertz, Assistant Principal, Middle School; Mr. Daniel Rathfon, Principal, Liberty-Valley Elementary; Mr. David Becker, Principal, Mahoning Cooper and Riverside Elementary; Mrs. Ricki Boyle, Director of Student Support Services; Mr. James Garringer, Director of Network Administration; Mrs. Marie Dryer, Office Manager; Mr. John Bickhart, interim principal Danville Elementary and approximately 30 members of the staff and public, and news media.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

RECOGNITION

Retirees

Craig Burger, high school principal, honored Alice Buehner, Steve Smith, Mike McDevitt and Pershing Markle, all high school teachers. Mrs. Buehner taught for 31 ½ years, Mr. Smith for 36 years, Mr. McDevitt for 34 years, and Mr. Markle for 14 years.

Cynthia Hutchinson, middle school principal, honored Julie Woll, an aide, at the middle school. Julie was an aide for 15 years and volunteered for several years before being hired as an aide at the middle school.

Mr. John Bickhart honored two teachers - Lois Baylor, 5th grade teacher at Danville Elementary, who taught for 33 years and Deb Noll, elementary music teacher who taught for 35 1/2 years.

David Becker, interim Riverside Principal, recognized Patti Wolf who worked for 17 years as an aide at Riverside Elementary.

Mr. John Bickhart honored Joan Smedley, an aide at Mahoning Cooper Elementary. Joan has been an aide at Mahoning Cooper for 32 years and prior to being hired as an aide she volunteered at Mahoning Cooper for 8 years.

Dr. Susan Bickford recognized our student school board representatives – Kyle Miller and Joe Cabral.

National Spanish Exam

John Keller, high school Spanish teacher, spoke about the National Spanish Exam. Danville has participated in the National Spanish Exam for 31 years. Over 90,000 students nation wide participate in this exam. Danville had 80 students participate this year. We had 55 students finish in the awards categories.

Newsweek article on Challenge Index

Craig Burger talked about the Newsweek article on Challenge Index. Danville was placed on the 2008 list of “America’s Top High School”. We are 19 out of 501 in the state of Pennsylvania. We had a total of 135 students take the test in 2007, with a total of 217 tests take. Sixty-two students scored a 5 in these tests.

Announcements

Valediction will be held June 5 at 7 pm
Commencement will be held June 6 at 7 pm

Motion: **(Dr. Moser to be permitted to participate and vote as a member of the school board via conference call)**
A motion was made by Steve Schooley.
The motion was seconded by Jennifer Henning
The motion was approved on a voice vote

Motion: **(to move under finance item A to next item on agenda)**
A motion was made by Steve Schooley.
The motion was seconded by Megan Raup
The motion was approved on a voice vote

Amending Bond Purchase agreement
The bond agreement was to close in June 2008 and we want to extend it out into September 9, 2008. Tom Smida , finance and bond counsel, spoke about the extension. The bond purchase agreement change will cost nothing. The swap agreement will increase. The current rate was 4.449%, this extension will add .05% to that rate and the new rate will be 4.499%

Motion: **(to approved the amendment of District's July 24, 2007 Bond Purchase Agreement to change the closing date from June 1, 2008 to September 9, 1008)**

A motion was made by Dr. Moser to approve the amendment

The motion was seconded by Kellie Krum
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 9 yes 0 no

Motion: **(5minute recess)**
A motion was made by Steve Schooley

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

Steve Schooley made the motion to resume and Jamie Hosterman 2nd the motion.
The meeting resumed at 8:00 pm.

Motion: **(to proceed with student rep report, public comment and personal)**
A motion was made by Jennifer Henning

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

II. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Kyle Miller and Joe Cabral made the following announcements

- Prom was May 17, 2008. The theme was "All That Jazz". Everyone had a nice time
- Forensics – NCFL Nationals were May 22-26 in Appleton, Wisconsin
- Forensics – NFL Nationals at June 14-21 in Las Vegas, Nevada
- Yearbooks will be released on May 28, 2008
- Journalism – The Last issue of the school paper was May 23
- National Honor Society – 47 Seniors
- Class of 2008 – Baccalaureate – June 1; Rehearsal – June 5; Valediction – June 5; Commencement – June 6
- Band – The band marched in the Memorial Day Parade
- Spectrum – will be having "It's OK to be Different Day" on May 29
- PLANET – Locker Clean Out May 27-29
- Hand-out – Class of 2008 Statistics

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kim Schooley spoke about the cost of different options. He gave the board members a handout with costs he proposed for the cost over the life of the obligation

III. School Property and Supplies

Continuation of the discussion of the elementary building options and consideration of the formal adoption of one single option.

Kellie Krum made the Motion: (**Move to rescind the prior authorization to consolidate elementary schools according to the feasibility study option E-03 and to authorize renovation and expansion of Mahoning Cooper, Danville Elementary and Riverside elementary schools consistent with feasibility student option E-02.)**

A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve
The motion was seconded by Barb Boyer

There was lengthy discussion regarding the building project. Everyone on the school board had opportunity to express his or her feelings on this project. Mr. Snodgrass spoke about needing an approximate 2mil tax increase to refurbish all three elementary buildings. This would represent approximately $200 to the average taxpayer.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 5 yes, 4 no – Dr. Paul Moser, Megan Raup, Steve Shoooley and Allan Schappert.

IV. BOARD AFFILIATION REPORTS AND BOARD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Jennifer Henning – CSIU Board Report
  - Very welcoming – loosing their deputy director

- Megan Raup – Vo-Tech Board Report
  - Steve Schooley and Megan Raup both attended the meeting
  - Act 93 discussion
  - Graduation on June 11 at BU
  - Strategic plan

- Barbara Boyer – EI Tax Board
  - Just pay regular monthly bills

- Kellie Krum – Head Start Policy Council Report
  - Budget
  - Flat funding for 5 years
  - Need books and toys

- Dawn Gill – Legislative Report
  - House and senate recessed until June 2

V. SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mr. William Freeman shared with the board that the 2008 School Challenge Grant he applied for has been approved. This grant is to purchase equipment for Mountain Biking for Life program. The grant is in the amount of $8,000.

Mr. Freeman also asked to create a Danville Fitness and Outdoor club at the high school. Bill would be the advisor along with faculty assistants, at no salary for the initial year of 2008-2009, with review as to student participation and activities that are fitness related.

Motion: **(to accept the Highmark Healthy 5 School Challenge grant - $8,000 and to create a Danville Fitness and Outdoor Club)**
A motion was made by Megan Raup to accept the grant.

The motion was seconded by Steve Schooley
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 9 yes 0 no

VI. Curriculum / Management Reports

Gifted Program – Ricki Boyle gave a very informative talk about our gifted program in the Danville Area School District. A handout was given to the school board.

Jennifer Henning left the meeting at 9:50.

VII. Finance

Mr. Snodgrass spoke about the Danville Head Start's philosophies and objectives. He also spoke about Danville Hear Start's funding application for program fiscal year September 2, 1008 through August 31, 2009)

Motion: **(to approved the Danville Head Start's philosophies and objectives and to approved the Danville Head Start's funding application for program fiscal year September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009)**

A motion was made by Megan Raup to approve the Head Start's philosophies and objectives and the funding application.

The motion was seconded by Kellie Krum
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – Jennifer Henning

X. Personnel

Motion: **(Approving personnel changes)**
A motion was made by Dr. Moser to approve Personnel Agenda Items A-J

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

XI. Policy & Insurance

Motion: **(Approving 2008-2009 School Calendar)**
A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve the 2008-2009 school calendar

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

XII. Athletics

XIII. Transportation

Motion: **(Approving transportation amendments)**
A motion was made by Steve Schooley to approve transportation Items A and B

The motion was seconded by Dawn Gill
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent Jennifer Henning

XIV. Board Items for Next Meeting Agenda

Next board meeting agenda will include the 2008-2009 budget.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Krum stressed that she has a lot of anger with the board's vote regarding the building project. Not happy about raising taxes. She expressed that she was very embarrassed to sit and listen to the board talk about emotional issues. This is not an emotional decision it is a business decision. Five of the board members did not make a fiscally responsible business decision.

Mr. Randy May feels the board's vote on the building project was a bad business decision. Mr. May said there is no 'I' in team work, he doesn't see any team work on this board. Mr. May is very disappointed in this board.

Mr. Michael Benjamin – very unhappy and disappointed in process not at the level it should have been. Not the way to do the business – not concerned about the overall inpact only the small schools in the communities. Bad outcome for spending tax money irresponsibly.

Greg Cole – set back by decision – shocked by it. Huge financial implication to the school district and community professional disregarded and five board members are clueless as to what they are costing the community

Mr. Jim Gulliver – He is concerned that people moving into the area will not only want to know about our schools but also about our taxes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:15 p.m. a motion was made by Dr. Paul Moser and seconded by Steve Schooley 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