DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 13, 2008 Minutes

The Danville Area School Board held their meeting in the Senior High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, May 13, 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. Barbara Boyer, Mrs. Jennifer Henning, Mr. Jamie Hosterman, Mrs. Kellie Krum, Dr. Paul Moser, Mr. Steve Schooley, 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; Mr. Charles Smargiassi, Assistant Principal, High School; Mrs. Cynthia Hutchinson, Principal, Middle School; Ms. Abbey Walshaw-Wertz, Assistant Principal, Middle School; Mr. Daniel Rathfon, Principal, Liberty-Valley Elementary; Mr. David Becker, Acting Principal, Mahoning Cooper and Riverside Elementary; Mrs. Susan Blake, Director of Head Start; Mr. Rick Engle, Director of Maintenance; Mrs. Ricki Boyle, Director of Student Support Services; Mr. James Garringer, Director of Network Administration; Mrs. Marie Dryer, Office Manager; Mr. John Bickhart, DES; Mr. Timothy Bowers, school solicitor, and approximately 30 members of the staff and public, and news media.

Approval of Minutes of April 1, 8, 22 and 29, 2008.

Motion: (To approve minutes of the April 1, 8, 22, and 29,2008 School Board meetings)
A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve the minutes of the April 1, 8, 22, and 29, 2008 meetings.
The motion was seconded by Barbara Boyer.
The motion was approved by voice vote.

RECOGNITION

Mrs. Cynthia Hutchinson and Ms Cheryl Cooper recognized Ms Julie Woll an aide at Danville Middle School, for her many years of service. Julie was a volunteer for a number of years before she was hired for an aide. Julie works with Fast ForWard

Program. One of her passions is reading and she helped students with reading. Both Mrs. Hutchinson and Ms Cooper spoke highly of Julie. They each shared how good she was with the students and how dedicated she was to the district. Ms Cooper read a letter from Mr. Steven Kiefer about Julie. Cheryl also read a poem “Make a Difference”. Julie was then presented a framed copy of the poem. Julie thanked the district for the opportunities to learn about different programs, which lead her to better serve each student.

Cinco de Mayo - Cathy Petruncio and Daniel Redell a middle school student spoke about Cinco de Mayo. The also showed the tape of there performance at WBRE. It was a great opportunity for the middle school students.

I. BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCMENTS

II. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Bickford reviewed the enrollment report and announced there was an executive meeting at 6pm to discuss personnel, labor relations and real estate.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Joe Cabral made the following announcements

- French Club had a Relay for Life team and raised $2000
- Class of 2008 received their caps, gowns and announcements for graduation
- High School Prom is May 17 at 7 pm at Boro Hall. The promenade will begin at 5:30 on Mill Street.
- Forensics will be competing May 22-26 in Wisconsin.

Joe also introduced Tyler Rosini who will be the school board student representative for next year. Tyler told the board he was happy to be the next student representative. He also said he is a soccer play, a member of the forensics team and a SGA member. Tyler also is a Boy Scout and will be working on his Eagle award this year.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Kessler

- Joan said she wrote a letter to the borough council asking to obtain Iron Street from the boro to add on to DES. She also spoke to council members about possibly getting Cedar Street from the boro.
- She is shared concern about the students at Riverside and Mahoning Cooper during refurbishing – if this is the plan we go with.

George Wagner

- Mr. Wagner said he has opinion but is not giving it.
- Do not limit ourselves to sites – Mahoning Cooper, Riverside, Danville Elementary schools.
- Not to be shy about using eminent domain as a tool to use to acquire a better site. Take time to make the proper decision.

Jim Gulliver said he feels consolidation is best for the students.

Gregg Cole

- What are the clear goals and objectives of this building project? Total cost – not visible?
- What is planned for Middle school and high school projects?
- Questions need to be answered thoroughly and given to the public.
- Decision needs to be factual based not emotional based. Should not be hasty at making the decision.
- We need clear communication to tax payer.

Dr. Edward A'Zary feels information should be posted on the web site. Numbers need to be shared. Dr. A'Zary feels we need to look at educational process.

V. CURRICULUM AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Gregory Gregory, Tech Ed Teacher, at Danville High School talked about the new lathe machine he got last year for his class. With this lathe they can turn plastic, medal – brass and aluminum, and cut threads. The machine is being used for CAM class, and introductory to tech systems. He and Mr. Petrus want to expand the use of this machine to engineering students next year. They have approximately 50 students using the machine at this time and would like to increase to about 80 students.

VI. SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

VII. FINANCE

Motion: (Approve Financial Reports and Bills for Payment)
A motion was made by Steve Schooley to approve Finance Items A. through F.

A. General Fund – Revenues and Expenditures Summary

B. Local Revenues – Actual vs. Budget

C. State Revenues – Actual vs. Budget

D. Cash Receipts

E. Investments

F. Bills for Payment – April 3, 2008 through, May 7, 2008

The motion was seconded by Dr. Paul Moser.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 2 Absent – Mrs. Dawn Gill and Mrs. Megan Raup.

VIII. PERSONNEL

Motion: (To Approve Personnel changes and additions)
A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve Personnel Items A through G.

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the resignation of Julie Stetler, High School caferteria employee, effective April 18, 2008. (Enclosure H)

B. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the resignation of Julie Woll, Middle School aide, effective June 6, 2008. (Enclosure I)

C. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the resignation of Cathie Mathias, Drama Club Advisor and Drama Director for the Fall Production, effective the end of 2007-2008 school year. (Enclosure J)

D. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the status change of Eric Brouse from part-time to full-time custodian at the high school at an hourly rate of $10.20, effective April 28, 2008. (Enclosure K)

E. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the resignation of Denise May, Teacher at Head Start, effective Friday May 2, 2008. (Enclosure L)

F. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval to hire Molly Decoteau as Guidance Career Assistant at the high school at an hourly rate of $13.00, effective May 14, 2008. (Enclosure M)

G. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the 2007-2008 Substitute List (Teachers, Teacher Para-Professionals, Custodians, Cafeteria Workers, Secretaries, etc.). (Enclosure N)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jamie Hosterman.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 2 Absent – Mrs. Dawn Gill and Mrs. Megan Raup.

Kellie Krum asked for a ten-minute break and was seconded by Jennifer Henning.

A motion was made by Steve Schooley to approve a ten-minute break

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

IX. SCHOOL PROPERTY & SUPPLIES

Elementary building project decision

Steve School

- said we all need to look over all the facts and be fiscally responsible
- Mahoning Cooper and Riverside are in very poor shape; Danville Elementary is fair condition
- The projected should be looked at an overall costs – consolidated school will save district money
- If we refurbish elementary buildings what are we doing for with the students during the project?
- Middle School would need the following work – air conditioning – stairwells – elevators – revamping heating system
- High School – need more classrooms, cafeteria, and band room
- When making a decision we must think about the district overall. Do it right the first time. Must look at years ahead.

Jennifer Henning

- Asked about the results of the study to look at future population
- The board said it showed flat growth

Kellie KRUM

- Said nothing has been done at Mahoning Cooper and Riverside schools for a long time.
- One suggestion was to renovate Middle School, Danville Elementary and High School but have new construction at Riverside and Mahoning Cooper – Why?

Steve School

- Said new construction for Mahoning Cooper and Riverside would be cheaper.

Allan Schappert
- Asked Mr. Snodgrass at what point would taxes need to be increased. Mr. Snodgrass said anything beyond 30 million dollars

Mr. Snodgrass
- Hand out with updated numbers
- Architects and construction differences between options – at this point in the project numbers are only estimates one thing operational savings – class sizes, how many teachers. Look at various options – duplication of square footage. Keep all options open – neighborhood schools will be more costly in the end.

Dr. Jim Moser
- Questioned figures – advantage of operational efficiencies.
- The numbers do not reflect operational efficiencies.

Allan Schappert
- question – relative cost between renovation and construction? Renovation 50 – 80 percent less of new construction but life expectancy of building is not as high.
- Mr. Snodgrass explained his handouts.

Dr. Jim Moser
- Asked Mr. Snodgrass if we have any figures for Middle School and High School at this time.
- Mr. Snodgrass said that we do not. No – only figures Mr. Snodgrass has thought.

Allan Schappert reminded everyone the figures we are looking at tonight are still only estimates.

Mr. Snodgrass
- Use handout use as a tool –
- If we are not going to improve our education for our children then why do this
- Visit neighboring school districts to see how their buildings are.

Steve Schooley
- Communicate with commissioners to see if property is still available just for info to think about.

X. POLICY & INSURANCE

A. The Board take action on the recommendation to grant the second reading of revised Policy #227, Controlled Substances. (Enclosure O)

Motion: (To approve Policy 227)

After discussion the motion was made by Barbara Boyer to postpone the motion.

A motion to postpone was made by Dr. Moser

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

XI. ATHLETICS

XII. TRANSPORTATION

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of Superintendent to approve revised transportation contracts for Amity Leasing, Wayne Myers and Wayne Myers, Jr.

Motion: (To approve revised transportation contracts for Amity Leasing, Wayne Myers and Wayne Myers, Jr.)

Barbara Boyer asked why we need to revise transportation.
Marie dryer said we have three new students to transport -
One to Williamsport, one to Berwick and add on to the work activity center.
Barbara then asked what the cost is. Marie did not have the exact figures with her but said the figure is based on state formula and we get reimbursement on state formula.

A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to table this.

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

XIII. BOARD CONCERNS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Would like to have an overview of what is in place now in our gifted program

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Wagner

- Asked if the board is going to make contact regarding land and also check on the streets by Danville Elementary. Dr. Bickford said she would do that.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 p.m. a motion was made by Steve Schooley and seconded by Barbara Boyer to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was approved by voice vote.

_____
Richard B. Snodgrass
Board Secretary

_____
Bonnie A. Edmeads
Assistant Board Secretary