DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 24, 2009 Minutes

The Danville Area School Board held their meeting in the Senior High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

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. Dawn Gill, Mrs. Jennifer Henning, Mr. Jamie Hosterman, Mrs. Kellie Krum, Ms Megan Raup, and Mr. Allan Schappert were present. Dr. Jim Moser and Mr. Steven Schooley were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Susan Bickford, Superintendent; Ms. Daphne Snook, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology; Mr. Richard Snodgrass, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; Mr. Craig Burger, Principal, High School; Mr. Charles Smargiassi, Assistant Principal, High School; Mrs. Cynthia Hutchinson, Principal, Middle School; Mr. Edward Sanders, Assistant Principal, Middle School; Mrs. Molly Nied, Elementary Principal; Mr. John Bickhart, Elementary Principal; Mr. Daniel Rathfon, Elementary Principal; Mrs. Susan Blake, Head Start Director; Mr. Rick Engle, Director of Maintenance; Mr. Jeffrey Ryan, Director of Network Administration; Mrs. Marie Dryer, Office Manager; and approximately 100 members of the staff and public, and news media.

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Mike Fleming and Mrs. Deb Burger along with several students talked about the progress of their website www.ironmen247.com. After visiting Columbia University in November the students were inspired to discuss the jointure of DTV News and Journalism to create and maintain a website. After talking with both Mr. Fleming and Mrs. Burger the two groups joined forces and became ironmen 247. The website was up and running in December of 2008. The students did a walk through threw the website and also showed demos of several movie clips they have made.

I. BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Executive Session - personnel and labor relations

Dr. Bickford gave an update on Middle School Education Specification Review held February 17, 2009. Middle School teachers and administrators met with the architects for the entire to go over educational specifications for the renovation project.

Mrs. Hutchinson said she received the summary from the architects today for review.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Tyler Rosini gave a brief overview of events at the high school.
This week is National FFA week. The boy's basketball team plays Shikellamy in District playoffs tomorrow evening at Shamokin. The Key Club, FBLA and French Club are joining forces to hold a Bowl-a-thon this Thursday afternoon to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The high school counselors held a parent meeting tonight to discuss Financial Aide.
This Thursday is Parent-Teacher Conference in the afternoon. Friday is a casual dress day across the district to benefit the American Heart Association sponsored by the Key Club. Saturday the high school Forensics team will be competing in district, which will be held in Bloomsburg. PSSA teaching for reading and math will be held in the high school March 17, 18 and 19.
The senior class trip is March 12 and 13. They are going to Florida.
Andrew Hunt will be joining Tyler to attend meetings. Andrew will be next year's student representative to the board.

Mr. Schappert said we would move the football coach update and the elementary alternative update to be next on the agenda.

Susan Bickford stated the first round interviews for football coach would be held this Friday. They are hoping to do the second round interviews the following week with our goal for a recommendation to the board at the March 10, 2009 board meeting.

Dan Rathfon, John Bickhart, and Molly Nied presented an overview of the alternatives for the elementary proposal.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

<u>Public comments concerning the elementary alternatives:</u>

One parent asked how will the alternatives address already existing problems at some of the elementary buildings. Another concern by this parent was security at the DES playground.

David Connuck a Mahoning Cooper parent of two children – 2nd and 4th grade is concerned that his children would have to ride buses with no seatbelts. He said to fix the problem permanently not for five years.

A Riverside parent said that the children in the lower half of Riverside are now walkers. They would need to have bussing for all those children.

A Liberty Valley parent is concerned that their children will be split to two different buildings – 2 at Liberty Valley and 1 at a primary center.

Phil Amarante felt the licensing costs were minimal. Please consider town traffic and concerned that we would have more latch key kids.

Chris Huron a Liberty Valley parent said we need to map out a clear district goal.

Heather Williams expressed that she feel alternative 3 will disrupt all children in grades K through 5 in the district.

Dave Betts said we need a plan and make a decision. You will never please everyone.

Liz Swartz a Liberty Valley parent said we need to think about children. We need a plan.

Anthony Conmy a Liberty Valley parent expressed the need for a plan.

Janette Haas a Riverside parent asked where we stand with opening the elementary school consolidation discussion

Public is in favor of opening the elementary project and consolidating.

A Mahoning Cooper parent said we need to consider consolidation of three buildings. He requests the board to come together and make a long-term decision.

Phil Amarante feels another public meeting should be held before the board votes on the elementary alternatives.

Mary Holdern a Liberty Valley parent feels the board needs to work together and put aside their personal agendas. After five years of discussing consolidation there is still no plan for the elementary children.

Gina Reibsome a Mahoning Cooper parent, feels the parents in the district are not interested in options with savings they are interested in our children. The Community wants a stable solution and decision. Taxes will go up no matter what. She said we ask the board to make a permanent decision not a temporary one.

Dan Feldman, father of five children in district, feels the board is working hard but not making any progress. He feels we need to become a real district with a real campus. We need to keep up-to-date with other districts in the area.

A Riverside parent asked if parents would have a choice as to where children will go. She understands we have open enrollment now, and wants to know if it will still be available. Dr. Bickford said we are not sure at this time.

Christy Payton a Mahoning Cooper parent asked if the information on elementary alternatives could be posted to the website. She feels the board needs to try and work together on this matter. Asked to consider open enrollment to adjust large classes.

Public comments concerning the hiring of a football coach:

Dan Feldman suggests that we allow our students to be well rounded – education-ally and athletically. When making a decision to hire the next football coach not to underestimate how important it is to give students a fantastic experience both on the field and off

Brian Raup, a former Danville player under Coach Carm DeFrancisco, feels Coach Carm needs to be strongly considered.

Chris Trate, parent of football player, thanked administration for making a decision to hire a football coach soon. He feels Carm stands above all the rest. He should be highly considered for this position no matter what politics say.

Jake Reedy, played football for Carm, asked who does the hiring.

Mr. Schappert said the board does not hire anyone except the Superintendent. There is an interview team who interviews and makes the recommendation to the board.

Jake Reedy then asked how many applied and what is the hiring timeline.
At that time Dr. Bickford said we had 17 applied, and 1 withdrew. Our timeline for hiring the football coach is to have a recommendation to the board on the March 10 board agenda.
Jake said he is not just a football coach he is someone who mentors a lot of stu-dents.

Joe Mahoney, a middle school physical education teacher said a lot of folks are here to support Coach Carm. Some of the football players that met with Carm recently were impressed that he took time to talk with them.

Motion: (To take a 10-minute recess)
A motion was made by Megan Raup to take a to-minute recess.

The motion was seconded by Dawn Koons.
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

The meeting reconvened at 9:25 PM.

Public comments concerning the hiring of a football coach:

Richard Hahn, a former Danville High School football player, played for Coach Carm. He said he was great. He later coached with Carm for one year in Shamokin.

Several Danville High School football players asked who is on the interview team. Dr. Bickford told them Mr. Burger, Mr. Smargiassi, Mr. Bickhart, Mr. Snodgrass, Mr. Brandt, Mr. Johns, Mr. Kanaskie and herself.
The students were concerned with the fact that they heard Mr. Kanaskie and Mr. DeFransico don't get along, so would that be taken into consideration.

Public comments concerning the elementary alternatives:

Gary Bodine a parent of a kindergarten student suggested we consider other ways to communicate to parents.

Jim Gulliver said there is a board meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. If you attend the meetings you know what is going on.

V. CURRICULUM AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

A. Alternative Education – Charles Smargiassi, Craig Burger and William Freeman

Mr. Smargiassi, Mr. Burger and Mr. Freeman spoke about the progress of the alternative education program. They spoke about what alternative education is and how students are referred. They also talked about the improvements and success of the program. The bottom line is that Alternative Education kids need to know that adults in this building care about them.

VI. SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

VII. FINANCE

Discussion on the Elementary Program Alternatives

Jennifer Henning asked – what we now spend on transportation and what percentage of transportation is reimbursable?

Mr. Snodgrass said we spend around 1.5 million dollars on transportation and our reimbursement is based on allowable transportation expenses and is around 50%

Mr. Schappert asked Marie if she could figure out the transportation by the end of March?

Marie said she felt she could but it a very time consuming job, which is done manually.

Dawn Gill asked if it would be unrealistic to go with option 1 and have aides in classrooms with large class size.

Molly Nied said that would not be a good idea.

Kellie Krum asked if we need to increase busses do our contractors have busses. The response to this is it is harder to find bus drivers that the buses to run. One solution to that would be the staggering start times.

Kellie Krum said if option 3 is the best plan ever why didn't we not do this sooner. Several years ago the idea was taken off the table.

Megan Raup said it was disregarded because they wanted a consolidated school.

VIII. PERSONNEL

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the unpaid leave from March 27 through April 3, 2009 for Sherry Cooper, an aide Danville High School. (Enclosure A)

B. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grand approval of the family medical leave in accordance with Policy #435 for Renee Barnes from approximately April 1, 2009, using accumulated sick and personal days through to May 12. From May 13

through the end of the 2008-2009 school year will be uncompensated leave in accordance with Board Policy #439. (Enclosure B)

C. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant Mark Barnes approval of 11 days off work from Tuesday, March 31 to and including Friday April 17 - five personal days and six sick days. (Enclosure C)

D. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the employment of Matthew Allen, as a day-to day substitute for Melissa Boonie from approximately March 20, 2009 through the end of the 2008-2009 school year. (Enclosure D)

E. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the employment of Courtney Hugo, as a day-to day substitute for Matthew Bloom from March 9, 2009 through the end of the 2008-2009 school year. (Enclosure E)

F. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the contract for Sue LaBar Yohey for services as a certified school psychologist. (Enclosure F)

G. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the employment of the 2008-2009-substitute list (Teachers, Teacher Aides, Custodians, Cafeteria Workers, Secretaries, etc.) (Enclosure G)

Motion: (To Approve Personnel A-G)
A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve Personnel.

The motion was seconded by Barbara Boyer
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 7 yes, 0 no, 2 Absent – Dr. Jim Moser and Steve Schooley.

IX. SCHOOL PROPERTY & SUPPLIES

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the proposal for the survey at Danville Middle School. (Enclosure H)

Motion: (To Approve School Property and Supplies - Item A)
A motion was made by Kellie Krum to approve Item A.

The motion was seconded by Jennifer Henning

The motion was approved on a roll call vote 6 yes, 1 no, 2 Absent – Dr. Jim Moser and Steve Schooley.

X. POLICY & INSURANCE

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the first reading of the 2009-2010 District Calendar. (Enclosure I)

Motion: (To Approve Policy and Insurance - Item A)
A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to approve Item A.

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

XI. ATHLETICS

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the Spring Coaches and Salaries. (Enclosure J)

Motion: (To Approve Athletics A)
A motion was made by Jennifer Henning to approve Athletics Item A

The motion was seconded by Kellie Krum
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 7 yes, 0 no, 2 Absent – Dr. Moser and Steve Schooley

B. Update on Football coach hiring process
This item was moved to beginning of meeting.

XII. TRANSPORTATION

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant the approval of the following bus driver and substitute bus drivers for Head Start

New Driver – Fishing Creek Transportation
Gerald Derr, 85 Derrs Road, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Substitute Drivers – Fishing Creek Transportation
Frederick J Bennett, III, 3031 Woodsedge Drive, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Melissa J Bennett, 3031 Woodsedge Drive, Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Christine Marie Hess, 2477 State Route 487, Orangeville PA 17859
Sarah Elizabeth Hess, 130 Kindt Road, Bloomsburg PA 17815
Bonnie Lou Karc , 48 Deer Path Drive, Berwick, PA 18603
Terry Kremmerer, 118 Terrace Drive, Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Amanda K Lehman, 204 Bridge Road, Nescopeck PA 18635
Timothy S Lehman, 204 Bridge Road, Nescopeck, PA 18635
Scott A Smith, 68 Lamoreaux Road, Bloomsburg PA 17815

Motion: (To Approve Bus drivers)
A motion was made by Jamie Hosterman to approve Bus drivers

The motion was seconded by Barbara Boyer
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

XIII. BOARD CONCERNS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Kellie Krum asked about the cost of building a 5th grade wing at middle school.

Mr. Snodgrass said the architects are ready to go over plans for the middle school. A March 4 meeting at 6:00 pm with the architects was set-up.

Barbara Boyer asked that Cynthia Hutchinson have a presentation at the next board meeting on block scheduling at the middle school. She also wants an updated regarding recycling at the middle school.

Dawn Gill asked that a private survey of middle school teachers on block scheduling. Cynthia said she is doing a survey of the middle school teachers in an interview manner.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

A Mahoning Cooper parent shared two negatives she has with the elementary alternatives – one being transitions and the other being PTA involvements.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:10 pm motion was made by Kellie Krum and seconded by Barbara Boyer 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