DANVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 22, 2010 Minutes

The Danville Area School Board held their meeting in the Senior High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, June 22, 2010.

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 Bickhart, Mr. Gregg Campbell, Mrs. Dawn Gill, Mr. Jamie Hosterman, Mr. Christopher Outt, Mr. Martin Walzer, Mr. Steve Schooley, and Mr. Allan Schappert were present. Mr. David Weader was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. David Price, Interim Superintendent; Mr. Richard Snodgrass, Business Administrator, Board Secretary; Mrs. Dawn Brookhart, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology; Mrs. Ricki Boyle, Director of Student Support Services; Mr. Craig Burger, Principal, High School; Mrs. Jennifer Gurski, Assistant Principal, High School; Mr. Charles Smargiassi, Middle School Principal; Mr. Edward Sanders, Middle School Assistant Principal; Mr. Chris Johns, Primary Assistant Principal; Mr. John Bickhart, Primary Principal; Mrs. Susan Blake, Director of Head State; Mrs. Pam Burrows, Director of Food Services; Mr. Rick Engle, Director of Maintenance; Mr. Jeff Ryan, Director of Network Administration; Mrs. Marie Dryer, Director of Transportation; and approximately six members of the staff and public, and news media.

I. BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

Barbara Boyer thanked our 13 high school football players who joined in the walk-a-thon in Selinsgrove for the student who was injured in a vehicle accident on prom night. She said several people from Selinsgrove told her how wonderful the boys were.

Allan Schappert introduced David Price, our interim superintendent.

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There was an Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel, and labor relations.

Interim Superintendent Goals
Mr. Price spoke about his goals – mainly about the financial status of the district. The details of the finances will be given to the board at the first August board meeting. Secondly, he spoke about student accountability. We need to be there for all students not just the best ones. Keystone exit exams will soon be mandatory for students to graduate. Principals will be reading and doing research on what works and what doesn't work. Mr. Price gave the board two books to read regarding being a successful board member. More focus on standards and instruction for teachers. Website needs to be improved. Mr. Price said he is going to put a lot of pressure on the principals to carry through with building concerns.
David showed a presentation on characteristics of high achieving schools. He spoke about the book *District Leadership That Works*. He made several quotes from this book.

David Price spoke about the progress of the new athletic fields. He spoke about the sod and watering of that sod. Watering is a big issue. After the district accepts the fields the district will be responsible for watering the fields. The football field should be ready by mid August, but the other fields will not be ready until mid to late October. Soccer will be using two of the soccer fields at the complex on Market Street and the Field Hockey will play at F. Q. Hartman Stadium this fall.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

No Student report

Craig Burger announced he gave the board members a copy of an article from Newsweek regarding AP test scores.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Decoteau - spoke about the partner with the district to use the fields at the Hess Complex and thanked the district for the partnership.

V. ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

A. Update on progress of athletic fields

The progress of the athletics fields was talked about by Mr. Price earlier in the meeting.

VI. CURRICULUM AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

A. Update on Latin – Dawn Brookhart
Dawn gave an update on Latin. In terms of application we received 4 teachers who hold out of state certificates and spoke with them regarding obtaining a PA state certificate. We received one applicant who said he

has a PA certificate, but have not received a copy of his certificate. Currently the numbers for Latin classes this fall are: Latin 1 - 53, Latin 2 - 16, and Latin 3 – 4. We have enough classes for a part-time position. Another option would be to partner with Berwick School District in a distance learning program. Dawn would like to form a committee to review world languages in our district. If any board member or community member would like to be on this committee they are to contact Dawn.

VII. SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

VIII. SCHOOL PROPERTY & SUPPLIES

A. Discussion on construction issues

Jim Paschke and Rick Witt

Practice field is on schedule and should be ready for play by August 15. The power poles are in place and preparation is being done for installing the sod. The sod should be installed late June or early July. The sod is a three seed mixture, and a plan is in place for the watering of the field. Currently the sod is currently under review by Penn State Ag Department. The contractor is responsible for paying for water to water the field.

Regarding the fly ash issue on the other athletic fields they are raising the grade of the field and changing the water lines so they do not need to touch the fly ash. The contractor will be responsible for the additional $5,000 cost to the architect to draw new plans for the water line placement.

Allan asked if we are still on schedule and budget. Jim assured the board we are on schedule.

Steve asked about the entry into the high school, he wanted to know if the intersection is completed. Jim said the width is final. Mr. Price we have an issue with being able to see to exit out new lane onto State Hospital Drive. The cemetery fence needs to be moved back for better vision.

IX. FINANCE

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the preliminary 2010-2011 Danville Area School District Budget.

B. Review of debt service.

C. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve breakfast and lunch prices for the 2010-2011 school year. (Enclosure C)

Dick Snodgrass spoke about the budget. He said we need to keep in mind we are negotiating for a new teacher contract this year. We need to also keep in mind PSERS. The tax increase is 3.6% for Montour County and a 10% decrease in Northumberland County. He also spoke about stimulus monies.
David Price asked about the state gambling monies and Dick said we get about the same as last year.
Allan asked about debt service and bond issue and wanted to know if we are going to convert it any time soon. Dick said he feels it will be next spring. David Price said they will be meeting with the financial advisor sometime next week.

Motion: (To approve Finance Item A)
A motion was made by Steve Schooley to approve Finance – Item A
The motion was seconded by Christopher Outt
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – David Weader

Pam Burrows gave a brief synopsis regarding the increase in breakfast and lunch costs. Greg Campbell asked if other districts adopted a wellness plan as Danville did. Pam said not to the extent that Danville did. David Price asked how the health program is impacting the cost of running the cafeteria program. Pam said there has been about a 24% increase in cost since we started the health program.
David said this is another example of how the state mandates are affecting the finances in school district. Steve asked if the number of meals served has declined. Pam said over the last five years the numbers have stayed about the same.

Rick Engle said to also keep in mind the cost for repairing equipment in the cafeterias. David Price said we should look at a capital fund for repairs.

Motion: (To approve Finance Item C)
A motion was made by Barbara Bickhart to approve Finance – Item C
The motion was seconded by Martin Walzer
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – David Weader

X. PERSONNEL

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of leave of absence for Sarah North, a learning support teacher at Danville Elementary school, using 29 sick days, 3 personal days and the remaining days as Family Medical Leave from approximately September 6, 2010 to October 25, 2010. (Enclosure D)

B. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Kate McCarthy, as assistant high school field hockey coach, effective immediately. (Enclosure E)

C. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Brenda Bartlett, eighth grade science teacher, effective the end of the 2009-2010 contract year. (Enclosure F)

D. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Ricki Boyle, as Director of Student Support Services for the Danville Area School District, effective August 7, 2010. (Enclosure G)

E. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to approval of tenure for the following teachers who have completed three years of satisfactory teaching in the Danville Area School District.

- Daniel Beyer
- Emily Foresman
- Sarah North
- Elena Krick
- Jennifer Mohr
- Julie Petrin
- Jessica Adams
- Bryan Walter
- Donna Wood

Motion: (To approve Personnel Item A- C)
A motion was made by Dawn Gill to approve Personnel – Item A-C
The motion was seconded by Greg Campbell
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – David Weader

Motion: (To approve Personnel Item D)
A motion was made by Steve Schooley to approve Personnel – Item D
The motion was seconded by Martin Walzer

Barbara Bickhart said she feels the board should meet with Ricki Boyle and try and get her to stay in the district, therefore making a motion to table Item D until after talking with Ricki.
Dawn Gill seconded the motion.

Allan asked Ricki how she felt about the situation. Ricki said she made her decision and she is leaving the district.

Barbara Bickhart regretfully with drew her motion and Dawn agreed.

Before moving forward with the vote, Jen Gurski and Dawn Brookhart both thanked Ricki for her wonderful service to the district. Dawn said she is by far superior over other Directors of Student Support Services in the area.

The board voted on the original motion to accept the resignation.
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 6 yes, 1 no, 1 Abstained – Barbara Bickhart, and 1 Absent – David Weader

Motion: (To approve Personnel Item E)
A motion was made by Dawn Gill to approve Personnel – Item E
The motion was seconded by Martin Walzer
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – David Weader

XI. POLICY & INSURANCE

A. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant approval of the first reading of Policy 210, Use of Medications. (Enclosure H)

B. The Board will take action on the recommendation of the Superintendent to award the proposal for Insurance. (Enclosure I)

Allan asked about the guidelines on the second page. Ricki told the board they matcher the requirements.

Motion: (To approve Policy & Insurance Item A)
A motion was made by Dawn Gill to approve Policy & Insurance– Item A
The motion was seconded by Christopher Outt
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – David Weader

Dick spoke briefly on the insurance quotes. Dick said not a lot of insurance companies who will cover school districts. He said the insurance company we work with currently has been great to work with.

After a brief discussion regarding the insurance the board made a motion.

Motion: (To award Item B under Policy and Insurance to Yoder Insurance)
A motion was made by Steve Schooley to award Yoder Insurance
The motion was seconded by Martin Walzer
The motion was approved on a roll call vote 8 yes, 0 no, 1 Absent – David Weader

XII. TRANSPORTATION

XIV. BOARD CONCERNS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

David Price told the board he handled two grievances this week and said both parties were told they could come before the board if they wanted to. Mr. Price said he was just giving the board a heads-up on this matter.

Allan Schappert reminded everyone we only have one board meeting in July. It is July 20.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 pm motion was made by Dawn Gill 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