

Steelton, Pennsylvania  
April 14, 2014

The Steelton-Highspire School Board met on the above date for the purpose of planning and developing the agenda for the regular meeting of April 24, 2014 with the following members present: President, Ms. Mary Carricato; Vice President, Ms. Rachel Slade; Mr. Barry L. Baumgardner; Mr. Derek E. Lewis; Ms. Sarah F. Metallo; Mr. Samuel Petrovich; Mr. John Salov; and Mr. Robert Spizzirri. Mrs. Rosemary Tonkin was absent. Also present were Dr. Ellen Castagneto, Superintendent; Mrs. Susan Helms, Director of Accounting/ Assistant School Board Secretary; Mr. Vincent Champion, Esq., School Solicitor; Mr. Travis Waters, High School Principal; Ms. Lisa Crum, Elementary Principal; and Mrs. Annie M. Long, Board Secretary. Attached is a copy of a list of names of the members of the public who were present.

Ms. Carricato called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting opened with the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag".

Ms. Carricato announced that there was an Executive Session after the last Board Meeting to discuss personnel.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (Action Items)**

There was no public comment.

#### **PRESENTATION**

#### **Benecon and Highmark**

Mrs. Helms introduced Mr. Chad R. Houck and Mr. Douglas Callenbergh from Highmark Blue Shield, and Ms. Cathy Cook from Benecon. Mr. Houck and Mr. Callenberger gave a brief presentation on the benefits of switching from Health America to Highmark Blue Shield. Ms. Cook went over what the overall savings to the district would be. She stated that we could save \$77,300.00 by switching from Health America to Highmark Blue Shield.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **CURRICULUM REPORT**

Ms. Slade made a motion to approve the Steelton-Highspire Elementary School and High School Improvement Plan. Second by Mr. Petrovich. Ms. Carricato stated that she feels the Board did not have enough time to look over the Improvement Plan. She doesn't want to vote on something that they really hadn't had time to go over. Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to table the vote on the School Improvement Plan until the Legislative Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. Second by Mr. Baumgardner. All members present voted aye on roll call.  
(8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **Federal Medical Assistance Reimbursement Resolution**

Ms. Slade made a motion to adopt the attached Resolution Opposing Restricting Federal Medical Assistance Reimbursement. Second by Mr. Spizzirri. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

### **Taxes**

Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to accept a Repository Bid on Highspire Borough parcel #30-025-22-001-00001. The address is 699 Eshelman Street. The property was offered at a Judicial Sale and a single \$500.00 Repository Bid was offered. Second by Ms. Slade. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

### **Basketball Coach Position**

Ms. Slade made a motion to open the Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach position. Second by Mr. Petrovich. Seven members voted aye on roll call. Mr. Derek Lewis voted no. (7 ayes, 1 nay, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

### **Retirement**

Ms. Slade made a motion to approve the retirement of Jerome Miller as a Facilities I worker effective May 30, 2014. Second by Mr. Petrovich. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to approve the retirement of Patricia A. Birdsall, Elementary School Teacher effective at the end of this contracted school year, June 30, 2014. Second by Ms. Slade. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

### **PBIS Substitute List**

Ms. Slade made a motion to approve Monica Beasley as a substitute PBIS for the District. All members present voted aye.

Personnel Report Cont.

### **F.M.L.A.**

Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to approve a revision to the request for F.M.L.A. Childrearing Leave from Malari Kane, High School Learning Support teacher for August 18, 2014 through January 4, 2014. Mrs. Kane will be using 26.5 sick days followed by the FMLA. Ms. Kane expects to return to work on Monday, January 5, 2015. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

### **Community/District Volunteer**

Ms. Slade made a motion to approve Todd Spencer Lawson as a school district volunteer pending receipt of all his clearances. Second by Mr. Spizzirri. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

### **Appointment**

Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to appoint Malonda Bowman as a part time custodian effective April 14, 2014. Ms. Bowman will work 19.5 hours a week at \$8.00 an hour. Ms. Bowman is currently employed here as a Para educator. Second by Ms. Slade. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

### **Termination of Employment**

Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to approve the termination of Kania Jackson from her position as a Ninth Grade English Teacher effective April 30, 2014. Mr. Lewis asked why we were terminating Ms. Jackson April 30<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Castagneto stated it is a personnel issue. An executive session was called at 7:18 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 7:25 P.M. A call for the vote was requested. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES REPORT**

**Fundraisers**

Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to approve the following fundraisers. Second by Mr. Petrovich. All members present voted aye.

| <u>Club/Group</u>     | <u>Date</u>        | <u>Type of Funding</u>       |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 4/7/14-4/14/14     | Joe Corbi's Family Favorites |
| Art Club              | End of school year | Shirts                       |
| Football              | 4/15/14            | T-Shirts                     |
|                       | 5/25/14            | Water & Sports Drink         |

**Approved Field Trips**

The following approved field trips were presented. (No Action Required)

| <b>Trip Date</b>        | <b>Building</b> | <b>Group</b>                      | <b>Destination</b>                        | <b>Advisor</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| <b>April</b><br>4/16/14 | Elementary      | K-4 Emotional<br>Support Students | Strawberry Square &<br>State Capital, Hbg | Cindee Trapp   |

**Overnight stay in Philadelphia**

Ms. Slade made a motion to approve a request from Peter Boyajian and Brian Slade to take 5 student track members to Philadelphia 4/24-4/26 to participate in the Penn Relays at Franklin Field at the University of Pennsylvania. The cost of the trip will not exceed \$700.00. The cost will include transportation, meals, and lodging.

A discussion took place. Mr. Petrovich asked how are they getting there and Mr. Spizzirri asked how are they paying for it. Dr. Castagneto stated that the Track team has \$250.00 in their activities account the rest would be taken out of the student Athletic Fund account. Ms. Carricato asked why the Track team didn't fundraise to cover the cost. Mr. Boyajian informed the board that they do not need a sub either. He is not going, Mr. Slade is going. Ms. Slade said she would donate \$100.00 to the Track team to help with the costs. Mr. Salov said he would donate also.

Ms. Slade made a motion to amend the motion to say we approve the request for the track team to participate in the Penn Relays and that it will be financed by the track team. Second by Mr. Spizzirri. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Conference Request**

Ms. Slade made a motion to approve the following conference request. Second by Mr. Petrovich. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Conference</u></b>   | <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Cost</u></b> |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Pharoah Vaughn     | Promoting Adolescent Health<br>Center for Disease Control - PATTAN | 5/28/14            | -0-                |
| Brian Slade        | Penn Relays Philadelphia   | 4/25/14            | -0-                |

### **Contract Continuation**

Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to approve the continuation of the contract between Steelton-Highspire School District and Edmentum at a cost not to exceed \$33,000.00 per year - the computer courses that assist in the education of the following programs/student needs: returning cyber students gr. 7-12, credit recovery courses for over aged students, alternative education program, cyber academy, summer school and offering of AP courses and electives that we do not have the staff to offer. The contract renewal is for 5 years, and paid for out of the Title I funds. Second by Ms. Slade. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

### **Student Expulsion**

Mr. Spizzirri made a motion to approve the Waiver of Expulsion Hearing dated April 1, 2014, for student number #13140091. A copy is on file in the Administration Office. Second by Mr. Petrovich. All members present voted aye on roll call. (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

## **REVIEW OF BOARD REPORTS**

### **Curriculum Report**

A grant from PDE along with 2014-2015 Summer School and Extended School Year programs will be brought forward at the April 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting. Ms. Slade asked

Curriculum Report Cont.

where the funds will go for summer school, and is this for next school year. Dr. Castagneto stated that this is for this summer's program which runs June thru August 2014. The fees for Summer School will go into the General Fund budget.

Mr. Baumgardner stated he does not feel we charge enough for Summer School. Mr. Spizzirri said he doesn't think a lot of families can afford to pay more. Mr. Petrovich stated that parent involvement is not where it should be in this district. The only thing that will get them involved is if you hit them in their pockets. If the kids don't do the work, skip school, and just don't care, then they should have to pay. Mr. Lewis asked if summer school is still paid for out of a grant. Dr. Castagneto stated that it comes out of Title I.

**Financial Report**

The financial reports for the month of March for the General Fund, Cafeteria Fund, Athletic Fund, Student Activities Fund, and Real Estate and Personal Taxes will be brought forward for approval at the April 24, 2014 Legislative Meeting.

**Personnel Report**

Ms. Slade made a motion to move the Termination of Employment Item from revue to an Action Item tonight. Second by Mr. Spizzirri. All members present voted aye on roll call (8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent)

**Superintendent's Report**

Conference requests along with an MOU for the Dauphin County Consortium Online Learning Co-op, and an acceptance of a donation will be brought forward at the Legislative Meeting on April 24, 2014

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Athletic Association**

Mr. Salov stated that there was a mix-up in the schedule for the baseball game today against Newport. Newport had a different date, scheduled so they didn't show up. We had to pay the referees anyway. Mr. Salov stated that there was a great turnout for weight lifting.

**PSBA Representative**

There was nothing to be reported.

**HACC**

There was nothing to be reported

**Joint Local Government Association**

Mr. Baumgardner stated that the next meeting will be April 30, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. here in our Board Room.

**Strategic Planning**

There was nothing to be reported

**Buildings and Grounds**

There was nothing to be reported.

**Discipline Committee**

Ms. Slade stated that they have a meeting on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget Committee**

There was nothing to be reported.

Mr. Baumgardner shared an article out of the Patriot News Paper written by Tim Potts regarding the pension problem.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Slade. Second by Mr. Salov.  
All members voted aye.

*Annie M. Long*

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Annie M. Long  
Board Secretary