FASD
Ferndale Area
School District

FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Meeting
Board Room
October 15, 2008 Minutes

I.	The October 15, 2008 Board Meeting of the Ferndale Area School Board was held in the Board Room of the Elementary School, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The Meeting was called to order by Mr. Banks at 6:05 p.m.
II.	Pledge of Allegiance
	Notice was given that the Meeting of the Ferndale Area School Board conducted in the Board Room will be tape recorded and entry constitutes consent to the taping of any individual who comments.
III.	Roll Call: Present: Ridley Banks, Sandra Chobany, Gary Eisenhuth, James Ford, Edward Jones, Barbara Penna, and Robert Vamos. Absent: Greg Blue and Richard Lucas - late.
	Student Board Representatives: Bradley Brosig. Absent: Ashley Smith.
	Others in attendance were Carole Kakabar, Steven Brown, John Kowal, Jennifer Reiter, Justin Zahorchak, Administrators; Attorney James Walsh, Solicitor; Lori Byer, Susan Layton, Stephanie Mino, Teachers; Belinda Penrod: Aide; Catherine Bennett, Kristen Emery, Jessica Hagans, Cameron Jacobsen, William Maris, Katie McMullen, Breanne Miller, Jesse Petty, Students; Patricia Craig, Recording Secretary.
IV.	Hearing of Citizens/Ferndale Area Education Association
V.	Committees Agenda
BD-11-10/08	Mrs. Penna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve the October 15, 2008 Board Meeting Consent Agenda items. Record vote for the motion: Banks, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Blue and Lucas. The motion carried.
BD-12-10/08	Approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2008 Board Meeting, as presented.
IBD-12-10/08	Received a bereavement thank you from the family of James Virgin. (Judy Virgin's father-in-law)

BG-06-10/08 Approve the request of the Ferndale Wrestling Team to use the Elementary Gymnasium for elementary wrestling practice beginning November 3, 2008 through March 20, 2009 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 6:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. Use of facilities is pending receipt of insurance, receipt of completed use of facilities form, receipt of clearances, and providing that no conflicts occur with District programs.

BG-07-10/08 Approve the request of the March of Dimes to use the following areas of the Ferndale Area Elementary School for a March for Babies event on Sunday, April 26, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.:

-- Cafeteria
-- Kitchen, refrigerator
-- Library
-- Restrooms
-- Tables and chairs

Use of facilities is pending receipt of insurance, receipt of completed use of facilities form, receipt of clearances, and providing that no conflicts occur with District programs.

BG-08-10/08 Approve the request of the Ferndale 7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Travel Team to use the Elementary Gymnasium, Locker Rooms, and Restrooms for basketball practice on October 28, 30, 2008; November 4, 6, 11, 13, 2008; January 6, 13, 20, 27; 2009; February 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 2009; March 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 2009 from 2:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Use of facilities is pending receipt of insurance, receipt of completed use of facilities form, receipt of clearances, and providing that no conflicts occur with District programs.

F-07-10/08 Approve the September Treasurer's Report, as presented.

F-08-10/08 Approve the General Fund and Hot Lunch Bills, as presented.

IF-09-10/08 Received Audit Reports from Ed Cernic, Jr., Cambria County Controller for the following Tax Collectors:

Beverly Held	Dale Borough
Anita Smith	Ferndale Borough
Sandra Natta	Middle Taylor

All audits concluded that the controlling processes within the Tax Collector's Office are adequately designed and operating effectively.

IF-10-10/08 A Sheriff's Sale of Real Estate is scheduled for December 12, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.:

Owners	Address	Judgement Amount
Joshua D. Winter Wendi D. Winter	377 Lunen Street	$32,989.62

IF-11-10/08 Receipts and disbursements.

P-32-10/08 Approve Nancy Higgins and Karen Rizzo to the substitute support staff list.

P-33-10/08 Approve Melissa Ferg and Megan Blair to the substitute teachers' list.

P-34-10/08 Approve the resignation of Maxine Cullen, Art Teacher and Elementary Yearbook Editor, effective November 21, 2008 or the start date of her replacement.

P-35-10/08 Approve the resignation of Jessica Buday, Learning Support Teacher, effective October 7, 2008.

P-36-10/08 Approve the resignation of Robert Freiwald, Cleaner, effective September 29, 2008.

P-37-10/08 Approve the following mentors for the 2008-2009 school year, at a stipend of $654.00:

-- Daniel Endler as a mentor for Ronald Lasko, Social Studies Teacher;

-- Frank McCleester as a mentor for (upon hiring of this position), K-12 Art Teacher;

-- Kathleen Wojnarowski will transfer from Jessica Buday to the new Learning Support Teacher.

P-38-10/08 Approve the following extra pay for extra duty position:

-- Lori Byer and Rachelle Hrabosky as Elementary Yearbook Co-Editors.

P-39-10/08 Grant tenure to Mindie Cunningham. Mrs. Cunningham has completed three years of satisfactory service, the Induction Program, and has earned the status of permanent employment within the Ferndale Area School District on a regular basis.

P-40-10/08 Approve a Family Medical Leave for Joella Bobak, Teacher's Aide, beginning September 8, 2008 and ending December 2, 2008.

ST-17-10/08 Approve Dennis Glessner, Thomas Callihan, Gary Eisenhuth, Sean Glenn, Brian Riffle, Barry Walters, Jack Murphy, Charles Erisman, Douglas Lohr as Volunteer Hockey Coaches for the 2008-09 season.

1. Board

BD-13-10/08 Mr. Ford made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Chobany, to approve the following Resolution. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has approved a proposal to revise the current high school graduation requirements under the Chapter 4 regulations to require students to pass a series of standardized high stakes Graduation Competency Assessments in order to get a diploma; and

WHEREAS, these new requirements and exams will be the same for all students, whether they are taking college prep or vocational courses, are English language learners or participating in individualized programs, and all students effectively will be required to take the same courses in order to pass this new battery of state tests; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4 currently allows districts to use either the PSSA or rigorous local assessments for their students to demonstrate proficiency of the state academic standards; and it is misleading and incorrect to make the assumption that because students demonstrate their achievements on local assessments rather than the PSSA that there is a disconnect between proficiency and graduation; and

WHEREAS, although the GCA proposal permits schools to use a local assessment option, it establishes numerous limitations, including the elimination of the ability to use various assessment strategies now available to local entities and requires local tests to be closely modeled to the GCAs; and

WHEREAS, decades of research shows many reasons why standardized pencil and paper test scores should never be the determining factor in making major decisions about students, and that a diploma should be granted based on the coursework, tests and quizzes, presentations, projects and papers throughout the student's career; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has not prepared a cost analysis or fiscal note, even though this will create a large financial impact on state and local budgets, and the State Board's own costing-out study did not include the costs for this new system and found that the state already is $4.4 billion short in helping school districts prepare students to meet the academic standards by 2014; and

WHEREAS, the proposal requires school districts to absorb many new costs related to revising curriculum, professional development, test development and validation, test preparation and administration, remediation and other costs. Given the state's funding shortfall and the Act 1 limitations on tax increases, school districts have limited ability to fund these potential new costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of school directors of the Ferndale Area School District opposes the State Board of Education's proposal to enact Graduation Competency Assessments and any other regulation or legislation that usurps the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned a high school diploma. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, state legislators including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

BD-14-10/08

Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vamos, to approve the extension of the Agreement between the Ferndale Area School District and the Ferndale Area Education Association September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2009 for the period from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010, with the compensation for 2009-2010 to be at the same increases applicable in 2008-2009, to wit, an annual increase in salary of $2,000 per annum for teaching, and a 5% increase per annum for the Extra Pay for Extra Duty positions, and a starting teacher's salary of $27,500, with all other terms and conditions to remain the same. Record vote for the motion: Banks, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Blue and Lucas. The motion carried.

IBD-13-10/08 Gary Eisenhuth, Board Member, addressed the Board regarding Junior Jackets (Pee Wee Football) clearances.

Mr. Blue arrived at 6:29 p.m.

IBD-14-10/08 A Board Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2008 in the Ferndale Area Board Room from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board went into an Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. for personnel. The Executive Session ended at 7:25 p.m.

2. Personnel

P-39-10/08 Mrs. Penna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to employ Michelle Sendek as a K-12 Art Teacher, at a prorated salary of $26,000, effective October 16, 2008. Record vote for the motion: Banks, Blue, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Lucas. The motion carried.

P-40-10/08 Mr. Ford made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blue to employ David Fornwalt as a Grade 7-12 Learning Support Teacher, at a prorated salary of $35,000, effective October 16 2008. Record vote for the motion: Banks, Blue, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Lucas. The motion carried.

P-41-10/08 Mr. Vamos made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Penna, to employ Kenneth Williams as a Cleaner, at a stipend of $7.15 per hour, effective October 16, 2008. Record vote for the motion: Banks, Blue, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Lucas. The motion carried.

P-42-10/08 Mr. Blue made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Penna, to approve Special Education Para-educator training. Record vote for the motion: Banks, Blue, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Lucas. The motion carried.

Student Board Representatives Report.

IBD-15-10/08 District Highlights - Carole Kakabar
High School Highlights - Steven Brown, Jennifer Reiter
Elementary Highlights - Justin Zahorchak

Mr. Lucas arrived at 7:40 p.m.

IBD-16-10/08 Highlights of the Joint Operating Committee - Barbara Penna

3.	Buildings and Grounds
	None.
4.	Cafeteria
	None.
5.	Education
IE-13-10/08	The High School will be receiving a flip video camera from NewsHour and PBS as part of a "Video Your Vote" project taking place in the government classes with Mr. Jones and Mrs. Soohy.
IE-14-10/08	Bomb threat review.
6.	Finance
F-09-10/08	Mr. Blue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eisenhuth, to approve Kades-Margolis as the District's 403 (B) Tax Shelter Annuity Provider. Record vote for the motion: Banks, Blue, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Lucas, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.
IF-12-10/08	Received notification from the Department of Education that the 2009-2010 Act 1 base index for allowable property tax increases is 4.1%. The adjusted index for Ferndale Area School District is 6.4%. Ferndale Area School District current tax millage is 59.5 which allows a maximum tax increase of 3.8 mills for 2009-2010 to comply with the requirements of Act 1 of 2006.
7.	Student Activities
	Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eisenhuth, to approve ST-18-10/08, ST-19-10/08, ST-20-10/08, ST-21-10/08, and ST-22-10/08. Record vote for the motion: Banks, Blue, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Lucas, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.
ST-18-10/08	Approve the K4 students' field trip to Westmont Fire Hall on October 15, 2008. No cost.

ST-19-10/08	Approve the French students' field trip to Chez Gerard French Restaurant in Hopwood on October 17, 2008, at an approximate cost of $370.00. Paid by District.
ST-20-10/08	Approve the Scholastic Scrimmage Team field trip to Penn State Outreach Building in State College for a scholastic scrimmage competition. Cost: transportation: $395.00. Substitute: $80.00. Total Cost: $475.00. Paid by District.
ST-21-10/08	Approve the Grade 8 Civics students field trip to Cambria County Courthouse and Prison on December 9, and December 11, 2008. Cost: Transportation for each day: $200.00. Two substitutes for two days: $320.00. Total Cost: $720.00. Paid by District.
ST-22-10/08	Approve Lonnie Bush as an Assistant Junior High Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2008-09 season, at a salary of $2,691, based on a 12-week season, pending clearances.
8.	Workshops/Conferences
	Mr. Eisenhuth made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Penna, to approve the following workshops/conferences:
W-10-10/08	Jennifer Reiter; Robert Boyle; Laryssa Bremer, Loraine Dobson, Daniel Endler; Valerie Kasper; Frank McCleester; Kimberly Reighard, Judith Virgin, Ronald Wilson; *Cambria County SAP Network Day 2008* at Saint Francis University on October 23, 2008. Cost: Registration for each: $25.00. Shared Travel: $100.00. Substitute for six: $480.00. Total Cost: $830.00. (Drug-Free)
W-11-10/08	Jennifer Reiter; Mindie Cunningham; Lesley Miller, Kathleen Wojnarowski; New Learning Support Teacher; *Indicator 13 Cohort* in Richland on October 21, 2008 and November 25, 2008. Cost: Meals: $100.00. Shared Travel: $50.00. Substitute for three for two days: $480.00. Total Cost: $630.00. (District & Title IIA)
W-12-10/08	Carole Kakabar; Ridley Banks; *Successful Superintendent Evaluations* in Altoona on November 6, 2008. Cost: Registration for each: $89.00. Travel: $46.46. Total Cost: $135.46. (District)
	Record vote for the motion: Blue, Chobany, Eisenhuth, Ford, Jones, Lucas, Penna, and Vamos. Against the motion: None. Abstained: Banks. Absent: None. The motion carried.
	The Board went into an Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. for personnel. The Executive Session ended at 9:23 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Eisenhuth made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Penna, to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. All were in favor.