

SOUTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Boyanowski Administration Building
241 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA 16912

MINUTES: BOARD OF EDUCATION—September 13, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Education of the Southern Tioga School District was called to order by Board President Barbara Shull, with the following members also present: Ivan Erway, Frank Kollar, Terry Osborne, Roxanne Landis, Stuart Crossen, and Gloria Schwab.

Also present were Mr. Kalata, Mrs. Crowell, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Drabick, Mr. Rotella, Mr. Jaquish, Mr. David, Dr. Lindner, Mrs. Sick, and interested citizens.

Ms. Shull announced Teachers of the Year from 2009/2010 and presented each with a certificate:
Elementary Teacher of the Year: Jeannie Herres, Blossburg Elementary School
Secondary Teacher of the Year: Sally Flack, Mansfield High School

The **Minutes** of the Special Meeting held on August 5, 2010, were read by the Board. On motion of Mr. Osborne and second of Mrs. Schwab the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the minutes as read.

The **Minutes** of the meeting held on August 9, 2010, were read by the Board. On motion of Mrs. Landis and second of Mr. Erway the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the minutes as presented.

Mrs. Perry reviewed the **Treasurer's Report**. On motion of Mrs. Schwab and second of Mr. Osborne the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. **(EXHIBIT)**

The Board studied the **Bill List for the General Fund**. Ms. Shull inquired about the Blendedschools bill. Mr. Kalata explained how the program is utilized, mainly for students needing an alternative program offering. On motion of Mr. Kollar and second of Mr. Crossen the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the bill list as presented. **(EXHIBIT)**

The Board studied the **Bill List for the Capital Project Fund**. On motion of Mrs. Landis and second of Mr. Osborne the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the bill list as presented. **(EXHIBIT)**

Mrs. Perry reviewed the **Food Service Report**. She reported on opening school activities in the Food Service Department. Participation information will be available next month. On motion of Mr. Crossen and second of Mr. Kollar the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the report as presented. **(EXHIBIT)**

The following correspondence items were read by the Board:

- A letter from Che Regina, Dean of Students, Mansfield High School, and Assistant Football Coach, North Penn High School, informing the Board of his resignation, effective August 16, 2010.
- A letter from Melody Kitchen, Paraprofessional for a Student with Special Needs, Warren L. Miller Elementary School, informing the Board of her resignation, effective August 18, 2010.
- A letter from Joseph Kalata, Superintendent, informing the Board of his retirement, effective June 30, 2011.

Ms. Shull commented on Mr. Kalata's notice of retirement, stating that the administration will be working on the Superintendent Search process this week. She noted, "I can't say we will find a replacement as good as Mr. Kalata, but we hope we get a good superintendent."

On motion of Mrs. Schwab and second of Mr. Crossen the Board voted 7 to 0 to accept the correspondence as presented.

On motion of Mrs. Landis and second of Mr. Crossen the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the **Building Use Permits** as presented. **(EXHIBIT)**

On motion of Mrs. Schwab and second of Mr. Erway the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the **Field Trip and Conference Requests** as presented. **(EXHIBIT)**

Administrative Report

Mr. Kalata reported that the Superintendent Search will begin tomorrow. He commented on many initiatives he plans to accomplish during his last year.

Citizen Recognition

John Hummel, Covington Township resident, commented, "Of the 15 years I have lived here, only 2 years of which I had no tax increase." He expressed concerns about future tax increases and future operating expenses, questioning whether the Board should approve the bond issue. He stated, "It is highly probable that the only persons in this school district that have received pay increases are the faculty of this school district in the past few years. As a retiree on a fixed income, I will not receive an increase this year or next year." He also encouraged the Board to table the motion and reconsider the issue.

Andy Ritter, Mansfield resident, commented on a disconnect between the citizens and the school board. He said, "We want a good educational system, but it's not what makes a good education. I urge some fiscal conservatism in this vote." He encouraged that the issue be tabled and further reviewed, saying, "Let's keep in mind the taxpayers are paying the bill."

Amanda Capone, Mansfield resident and Mansfield High School Guidance Counselor, informed the Board of a male student playing on the girls' volleyball team and expressed concern about the students' safety. Ms. Capone said the Board could regulate this and restrict the player to the back court. Mr. Kalata responded that he will be reviewing this matter and will discuss it with the Administrative Student Activities Committee.

Laurie Tompkins, Ward Township resident and retired teacher, commented on Jeannie Herres being named Teacher of the Year and thanked her for being a teacher.

Action Items

The Administration made the following Personnel recommendations:

Adding the position of Sign Language Interpreter at Warren L. Miller Elementary School effective September 14, 2010, and setting the rate of pay at \$16.25/hour.

Employing Kirsti Snyder as Sign Language Interpreter at Warren L. Miller Elementary School, effective September 4, 2010. Ms. Snyder will be employed at the rate of \$16.25/hour plus benefits as defined by the CWA Paraprofessionals Agreement.

Employing Nathan Strange as Pre-Arranged Short-Term Substitute Alternative Education Teacher, Laurel Youth Services/North Penn High School, retroactively to August 17, 2010, until Laurel Youth Services closes, anticipated October 1, 2010. Mr. Strange will be employed at a daily rate of \$120.00 as defined by the Substitute Professional Employees Conditions of Employment.

Employing Amanda Davis as Special Education Teacher for Blendedschools for the 2010/2011 school year to work with one student in the amount of \$2,000 and to provide in-home education services to the same student up to 5 hours per week at the rate of \$37.87/hour.

Recalling Nancy Nance, Paraprofessional for Learning Support, to the position of Paraprofessional for a Student with Special Needs at Mansfield High School retroactively to August 20, 2010.

Employing Dawn Clark as Pre-Arranged Short-Term Substitute Guidance Secretary at Liberty High School retroactively to August 20, 2010, for approximately six weeks. Ms. Clark will be employed at the rate of \$8.00/hour as defined by the Classified Employees Conditions of Employment.

Employing Roxanne Chamberlain as part-time cafeteria employee at Warren L. Miller Elementary School, retroactively to August 30, 2010. Ms. Chamberlain will be employed at an hourly rate of \$7.25 plus benefits as defined by the Conditions of Employment for Hourly Employees.

Employing Anjanette Wheeler as part-time cafeteria employee at Liberty High School, retroactively to September 8, 2010. Ms. Wheeler will be employed at an hourly rate of \$7.25 plus benefits as defined by the Conditions of Employment for Hourly Employees.

Additions for the 2010/2011 Day to Day Substitute Employees' List. **(EXHIBIT)**

Revision to the Literacy Paraprofessional job description.

Employing Amy Wilson as Computer Support Paraprofessional, Mansfield High School, effective September 20, 2010, pending receipt of current clearances. Ms. Wilson will be employed at \$10.14/hour plus benefits as defined by the CWA Paraprofessional Agreement.

On motion of Mr. Kollar and second of Mrs. Schwab the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Personnel recommendations.

The Administration made the following Student Activities recommendations:

Entering into supplemental contracts with the following persons for the 2010/2011 school year:

**contingent upon receipt of clearances*

• Rose O'Connors, Jr. High Volleyball Coach, Liberty High School*	\$1,675
• Matthew Reigle, Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, Liberty High School*	\$2,330
• Richard Cole, Golf Coach, Mansfield High School	\$2,520
• Chandra Weigle, Girls Tennis Coach, Mansfield High School	\$2,520
• Jessica Darrow, Assistant Volleyball Coach, Mansfield High School	\$2,330
• James Bogaczyk, II, Assistant Football Coach, North Penn High School	\$3,276
• Sarah Brion, Co-Student Council Advisor, North Penn High School	\$1,017
• Caitlin Tierney, Co-Student Council Advisor, North Penn High School	\$1,017
• Jon Ruth, Football Pep Band Advisor, North Penn High School	\$3,050
• Whitnie Weaver, Co-Yearbook Advisor, North Penn High School	\$1,007.33
• Samantha Yonker, Co-Yearbook Advisor, North Penn High School	\$1,007.33
• Laurel Smith, Co-Yearbook Advisor, North Penn High School	\$1,007.33
• Caryl Snyder, FBLA Advisor, North Penn High School	\$1,020
• Whitnie Weaver, Freshman Class Advisor, North Penn High School	\$1,020
• Julie Betts, Odyssey of the Mind Advisor, Blossburg Elementary School	\$1,020
• Brianne Coolidge, Student Council Advisor, Blossburg Elementary School	\$541
• Lisa Williams, Student Council Advisor, Liberty Elementary School	\$541
• Terry Morgan, Head Teacher, Liberty Elementary School	\$5,326

On motion of Mrs. Landis and second of Mr. Osborne the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Student Activities recommendations.

The Administration made the following Budget recommendations:

Amending the motion at the June 14, 2010, board meeting, granting permission to the Administration to make any and all necessary budgetary transfers and transfers between funds for the 2010/2011 school year, in accordance with the PA Public School Code and PDE regulations, to reflect the 2009/2010 school year. On motion of Mr. Crossen and second of Mr. Kollar the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the recommendation.

Authorizing the Finance Team composed of Robert W. Baird & Co., Rhoads & Sinon, School District Solicitor and Administration to proceed with preparation of proper documentation to obtain a bond rating and bond insurance for the anticipated issuance of \$19,465,000 to fund the renovation and reconstruction of North Penn High School and renovation of Blossburg Elementary School.

Mr. Erway asked, "Is this approval of the bond?" Ms. Shull responded, "Yes, this is approving the bond." Mrs. Perry reviewed an updated bond financing report. The PDE reimbursement rate is 36.2%. Based on current figures, the district would have to raise taxes 1.362 mills for the project. Ms. Shull acknowledged the citizen comments stating that they are valid points. She had discussed with Mr. Kalata the results if we do not approve the financing. Mr. Kalata expects fees would be due to the architect, bond counsel and financial advisor. Mrs. Schwab reported fielding a lot of comments from the community regarding cutting programs in the future, should we be going into this financing. Mr. Kalata reviewed some of the prior scenarios discussed. If we are going to pursue any other options, we recommend that the District hire a consultant to fully research the options. If we put this on hold, we will have a roofing project to address at North Penn High School. Operational costs with the status of the current state budget is a concern. The Board has worked very hard at this and it is a hard decision.

Mr. Kalata highlighted the current financing rate as a historic low, and stated, "In my personal review of the elementary and high school, it needs to be addressed. We have worked with the architect to reduce his fee and reduced the cost of the project as much as possible to keep the taxes down. Ms. Shull reviewed the PlanCon options and renovations if the project was revised and future needs required additional building construction. Mr. Kalata informed the board that Mr. Bear, financial advisor, will present at the October 4th work session if the financing documentation is ready.

On motion of Mr. Kollar and second of Mr. Osborne the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the recommendation.

The Administration made the following Long Range Planning Recommendations:

Accepting a \$5,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for both Liberty and Blossburg Elementary Schools. The monies will be used to purchase new books to update the library collections.

Accepting Federal and State grants totaling \$3,380,504 to support District staffing and educational programs in the 2010/2011 school year. **(EXHIBIT)**

Providing a student from each of the following schools with homebound instruction beginning August 23, 2010:

- North Penn High School – 5 hours/week for 8 weeks
- North Penn High School – 5 hours/week for up to 3 months
- Liberty High School – 5 hours/week for up to 3 months

First Reading of Board Policies – Section 700 – Property **(EXHIBIT)**

#701	Facilities Planning	Revisions
#702	Gifts, Grants, Donations	Revisions
#703	Sanitary Management	New
#704	Maintenance	Revisions
#705	Safety	Revisions
#706	Property Records	Revisions
#707	Use of School Facilities	Revisions
#708	Lending of Equipment and Books	Revisions
#709	Building Security	Revisions
#710	Use of Facilities by Staff	New
#716	Integrated Pest Management	Revisions

Continuing to provide a Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program to district students in the 2010/2011 school year through the services of Libby Occhino, Volunteer Teen Parent Advocate.

Mr. Kalata referenced the first reading of the property section policies. Any recommended changes may be sent to Mr. Kalata and will be included with the second reading in October. He also thanked Mrs. Occhino for volunteering her services to continue the Teen Parenting Program.

On motion of Mr. Osborne and second of Mrs. Schwab the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Long Range Planning Recommendations.

The Administration made the following Buildings and Grounds recommendations:

An addendum to the User Agreement with Laurel Youth Services for classroom and gymnasium space for the 2010/2011 school year, providing a termination clause.

A request from Toddler University to place a storage shed and other small student equipment at the Blossburg Elementary School.

A resolution requesting a variance from the PA Department of Education regarding 24 P.S. 7-733 "School Construction Reimbursement Criteria" so that the proposed construction project will be reimbursable. **(EXHIBIT)**

On motion of Mrs. Schwab and second of Mr. Kollar the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Buildings and Grounds Recommendations.

The Administration made the following additional Personnel Recommendations:

Entering into supplemental contracts with the following persons as Cyber Teachers for the Blendedschools.net program during the 2010/2011 school year in the amount of \$1000 each:

- Rob Kathcart, Social Studies Teacher
- Marcia Bartlett, English Teacher
- Marcia Bartlett, Math Teacher
- Brian Litzelman, Physical Education Teacher – *contract includes up to 5 students if needed*
- Eric Broughton, Science Teacher
- Joe Eglesia, English Teacher

On motion of Mrs. Landis and second of Mr. Crossen the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Personnel recommendations.

The Administration made the following additional Student Activities Recommendation:

Entering into a supplemental contract with Tracy Gregory as Boys Tennis Coach, Liberty High School, for the 2010/2011 school year in the amount of \$2,520.

On motion of Mr. Osborne and second of Mr. Crossen the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the recommendation.

Board President Barbara Shull made the following announcements:

Board Work Session(s)

- Monday, October 4, 2010, at 6:30 PM
North Penn High School Library
- Monday, November 1, 2010, at 6:30 PM
North Penn High School Library

Next Board Meeting(s)

- Monday, October 11, 2010, at 6:30 PM
Mansfield High School Library
- Monday, November 8, 2010, 6:30 PM
North Penn High School Auditorium

Ms. Shull also announced a Special Board Meeting on October 4, 2010, if bond paperwork is ready.

On motion of Mr. Osborne and second of Mrs. Schwab the Board voted 7 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.

Approved as read October 11, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted

Penny L. Crowell, Board Secretary