

APRIL 14, 2011

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on April 14, 2011, in the Middle School Library. President Kathleen Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., E.S.T following a Finance Committee meeting.

Board Members Present:

Lorraine Rocco
Scott Challis
Bobbie Jo Elmer
Barbara Heyman
Harry Gilarno
Gregory Lehocky
Mary Ann Petcovic
Kathleen Schlegel
Michael Tibolet

Board Members Absent:

School Staff Present:

Ron Sofo, Superintendent
Noriene Plate, Business Manager
Robert Staub, High School Principal
Darlene Corris, High School Assistant Principal
Robert Gallagher, Middle School Principal
Richard Edder, Big Knob Elementary Principal
Debra Baycura, Conway Elementary Principal
Chadd Yopp, Building & Grounds
Margie Anderson, School Nurse
Matt Scala, Technology

Solicitor

Matt Hoffman, Esq.

Guests: High School Students observing meeting; Carolyn & Lauren Dubovi; Maria & Stephanie Stewart, New Sewickley Township (NST)

PRESENTATION

- Nicaragua Margie Anderson, School Nurse, gave a side presentation on her Humanitarian trip to Nicaragua on January 24 – January 28, 2011. The presentation was titled “A Lesson of Hope”.
- Bills Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to approve the first check run for payment of bills for April 2011, in the amount of \$409,945.89. **Copy of the bills is in each Board Member’s packet and copy attached to the minutes in the minute book.**
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Petcovic, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas
- Cafeteria Report Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to approve the March 2011 Cafeteria Report. **Copy of the report is in each Board Member’s packet and copy attached to the minutes in the minute book.**
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Petcovic, Rocco, Challis, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 9 Yeas.
- Treasurer’s Report Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to approve the March 2011 Treasurer’s report. **Copy of the Treasurers’ report is in each Board Member’s packet and copy attached to minutes in the minute book.**

	<u>March 31, 2011</u>
Money Market, Huntington Bank	\$ 428,870.15
General Fund, Huntington Bank	\$ 8,429.86
Payroll, Huntington Bank	\$ 17,718.23
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 2,523,860.59
Premier Savings – Huntington	\$ 3,139,140.04
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 3,089.50
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 294,249.14
PDSLAF - Capital Improvement	\$ 61,907.97

Huntington – Capital Improvement	\$ 1,979.83
CD's Capital Improvement	\$ 2,789,000.00
PSDLAF CD General Fund	\$ 1,990,000.00
Student Activity Account	\$ 61,841.43
Huntington – Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 275,521.12
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 691,337.07
PSDLAF CD – Capital Projects	\$ 3,524,000.00

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes -- Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Code of Conduct Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to reaffirm Pennsylvania School Boards Association's Standards and Code of Conduct for Effective School Governance (Handout)

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

Parades Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve the following requests:

- Boroughs of Conway and Freedom for District participation in the May 2011 Memorial Day Parade
- Big Knob Grange Fair for District participation in the Annual Big Knob Grange Fair Parade on Tuesday, August 30, 6:00 P.M.

Invitation:

Freedom RCI Celebration Dinner, Wednesday, May 4, 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M., Freedom High School Cafeteria, RSVP to Sandy DiSante @ sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us by April 18 (Handout)

Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):

1. Freedom Quarterback Club, Middle School Cafeteria, Wednesdays, 3/16 thru 6/1, Meetings
2. Freedom High School Baseball Boosters, High School Cafeteria, 3/24 and 4/21, Meetings
3. Freedom High School Varsity Swimming, High School Swimming Pool, 4/12 thru 4/14, Swim and Stroke Clinic
4. Intramural Basketball, High School Gymnasium, Every Tuesday and Thursday Mornings, 3/15 thru 6/9
5. Freedom Girls' Basketball Team (Grades 7-11), High School Gym, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (April thru July) and Middle School Gym, Saturdays (April and May), Conditioning Workouts
6. Freedom Wrestling, High School Cafeteria, 5/1, Banquet
7. Big Knob and Conway Elementary PTA, Football Stadium, 5/7 (Rain Date 5/14), Elementary Olympics
8. Freedom Aqua Club, High School Swimming Pool, 4/11 thru 5/27, Swim Practices
9. Pine Run Volunteer Fire Department, High School Parking Lot, Saturdays, 5/28 and 6/4, Pump Operations Fire Training
10. Senior Project, Track and Field, 4/21, Auction Balouzia
11. Guy's Service – FNSA – Softball, Big Knob Elementary Blacktop/Grass Area, Sundays and Tuesdays in April If Needed, Softball Practices
12. Freedom Girls' Basketball, Middle School Gym, 6/27 thru 6/30, Summer Basketball Camp (Proposed 4 Day Summer Work Week)

PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Swim Team Members of the Varsity Swim team and their parents expressed concern over the possible closing of the swimming pool. In addition, parents commented on the budget process. Comments included:

- Stephanie Stewart, & Lauren Dubovi, NST– Presented examples of ways to raise money to keep the pool open to include: swim lessons, birthday parties, contacting Marcellus Shale, Lifeguard Classes, Water Aerobics, etc.

- Carolyn Dubovi, & Maria Stewart, NST – Requested more communication on budget meetings. Ms. Dubovi also requested a list of potential items to be cut from the 2011/2012 school budget.

ENCLOSURES:

- A. BVIU Budget Summit Summary (Superintendent's Report – Item A.)
- B. Data for Review (Legislation – Item A.):
 - E-Mail received from School Nurse Margie Anderson on Mandated Waiver for Certified School Nurses
 - PSBA Elimination of Act 1 Exceptions
 - Articles:
 1. Senator Proposes Rescue Plan for State's Struggling Schools
 2. State's Education Chief Insists Students Come First
- C. Final Draft of District 2011-2012 School Calendar (Education – Item D.)
- D. In/Out Migration Report as of March 2011 – 1,572 (+6 from September 2010)
- E. Average Daily Membership for Freedom Area School District – 120 Day Report
- F. Free and Reduced Lunch Report as of March 31, 2011 – District at 40.94%
- G. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of April 12, 2011 - Current Projected Cost for 2010-2011 School Year \$319,351.57; 36 Cyber/Charter Students, 4 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 40
- H. BVIU Financial Data Tables:
 - State Budget vs. Real Estate Increases as of March 23, 2011
 - 2008-2009 Aid Ratios
 - 2008-2009 Revenue by Source
 - 2008-2009 Act 511 Taxes
- I. BVIU School Board Notes for March 23, 2011 Meeting
- J. Beaver County Times/Post-Gazette Articles (*Available Upon Request*):
 - Cyber Students Try Brick and Mortar
 - Cut Education; Cut Growth – School reforms have just kicked in to train tomorrow's workforce

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Sofo reported on the following:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Shared Services | Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, reviewed developments concerning exploring Growth/Sharing Services' Strategies to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BVIU Budget Summit Summary (Enclosure) • Letter received from Ambridge Area School District regarding possible merger • Potential partnership with Charter School Provider - Kathleen Schlegel, Board President, provided an overview of the meeting |
| Membership | Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve an invitation for Dr. Sofo to serve as a Member of the Domestic Schools Advisory Committee of the Middle States Association Commission on Secondary Schools, first meeting September 30, 2011, Philadelphia-PA (All Expenses Paid by the Commission) |
| Roll Call Vote | Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas. |
| Release Time | Motion by Tibolet, seconded by Gilarno, to approve release time, According to Contract, for Superintendent to attend Pennsylvania Education Policy Forum, Topic: School District Mandate Relief Legislation, Thursday, April 21, 8:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M., Holiday Inn Select-Oakland |
| Roll Call Vote | Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas. |

Note in Minutes:

- Payment to the Superintendent's Forum of Western Pennsylvania will not be made for the 2011-2012 School Year due to budgetary constraints

- Receipt of White Paper from the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Entitled "Educational Efficiency in Pennsylvania" (Handout)

LEGISLATION:

Informational:

Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, reviewed the following data:

- E-Mail received from School Nurse Margie Anderson on Mandated Waiver for Certified School Nurses
- PSBA Elimination of Act 1 Exceptions
- Articles:
 1. Victory Academies: A Plan We Can All Be For (State Senator Hughes)
 2. State's Education Chief Insists Students Come First

Note in Minutes:

- Meeting with Senator Vogel on Senate Bill 1, Thursday, April 14, 10:00 A.M., BVIU
- Meeting with Representative Christiana to discuss mandates, House Bill 855 and Position Statement Against Senate Bill 1 and Need for Appropriate Mandate Waiver Relief, April 15, 10:00 A.M., BVIU
- Receipt of Letter from State Representative Jim Marshall Stating "He Would Not Support Senate Bill 1 as Written" (Handout)

FINANCE:

Budget Transfer The following budget transfer will be held until after the Education Committee Meeting:

From: District Hardware/Software	-	\$ 50,000
Instructional Supply Reserve	-	\$ 25,000
Academic Support Reserve	-	\$ 25,000
To: Instructional Equipment	-	\$100,000

(Transfer reserves and reallocate funds made available for new phone system to purchase student laptops for the High School One-to-One Laptop Program)

Maintenance

Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve annual accounting software maintenance agreement with ProSoft Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$8,472 for 2011-2012 (Increase of \$180) (Signature required) (Administrative Report)

Roll Call Vote

Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

BCC&TC

Following discussion, the Board agreed to retain the original vote not to approve the 2011-2012 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget - \$3,956,004.77 (Increase of \$63,901.68?) – Review letter received from Beaver County Career & Technology Center dated April 12, 2011 (Handout)

Tax Claim

Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to confirm the distribution of monies collected by the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau from the repository for unsold properties.

Roll Call Vote

Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

Pay Freeze

The Board reviewed the e-mail received from John Rosa, FAEA President, concerning a possible Teacher Pay Freeze. Following discussion the Board is presenting to the FAEA a one-year no condition pay freeze for all district employees to include administration. The pay freeze is a result of the Governor's budget cuts affecting school district subsidies. Dr. Sofo, Superintendent will discuss the pay freeze with FAEA President Rosa.

Retirement Incentive

Motion by Heyman, seconded by Tibolet, to not consider an additional early retirement incentive over and beyond current contract.

Roll Call Vote

Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

Note in Minutes:

- Finance Committee Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 6:00 P.M., in Middle School Library (Prior to Board Meeting)
- NOTICE: May is Month to Elect Board Treasurer for Next Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2011
- Office of the Budget, Bureau of Audits, has received the District's Single Audit Report for Year Ending June 30, 2010, noting that a preliminary review indicates no findings related to Federal awards passed through Commonwealth Funding Agencies
- Beaver County School Health Insurance Consortium Report for February 2011

EDUCATION:

Released Time Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve released time according to Act 48:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Other:
 - a. Confirm: Rita Kaplin, High School Guidance Counselor, RCI Meeting, April 13, BVIU, Cost Mileage
 - b. Early Learning Academy, April 29, South Side Elementary School, Cost \$5 Registration Fee, Substitute, Mileage:
 - i. Erica Davids, Big Knob Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
 - ii. Amy DeChellis, Big Knob Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
 - c. Rita Kaplin, High School Guidance Counselor, Project 720 Credential Consortium Meeting, April 20, Cedarbrook Golf Club-Belle Vernon, Cost Mileage
 - d. Kim Smith, Title I Coordinator, Meeting With Non-Public Schools, May 6, BVIU, Cost Mileage

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

Retirement Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to accept the retirement of Robert Gallagher, Middle School Principal, Effective June 30, 2011.

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

Substitute Teacher Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Erin O'Brien as Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher (Clearances on File).

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

School Calendar Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve District School Calendar for 2011-2012 (Administrative Report)

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

Grant Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve \$700 Educator in the Workplace Grant from Beaver County Job Training for up to three Teachers to participate (Summer 2011).

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

Summer Academy Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve the 2011 Beaver County Summer Academy – Cost \$500. Program will be reviewed for next school year.

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

- Math Faculty** Discussion with High School math faculty and principals regarding meeting held on Monday, March 28 will be discussed at the May 10, 2011, 6:00 PM Education Committee Meeting-Focus on Student Learning/Achievement in Grades 8-12.
- Informational** Modifications to District Dual Enrollment Program for 2011-2012 – RCI can fund one course per student for the School Year (Administrative Report) (Handout)
- Presentation** Middle School Principal Gallagher and Board President Schlegel, provided an overview of the amount and type of information available to parents concerning student academic progress thru a secure Internet connection to the District's Modular Management System (MMS) of Student Information (Administrative Presentation)
- Field Trip Request** Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve High School Science Club Field trip to Laurel Caverns Spelunking, Saturday, May 21, 2011 (Combining Science and Adventure) – No Cost to District
- Roll Call Vote** Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.

Special Presentation/Award:

Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, presented the "first ever" Kades-Margolis Educational Leadership Award to Robert Gallagher, Principal, Middle School. The District nominated Mr. Gallagher for being an outstanding 21st century educational leader. Among Mr. Gallagher's credits are:

- A 36 year career in public education, includes twenty-four years of teaching assignments in fifth and second grades, as well as fifth and seventh grade reading.
- The District's first Middle School Instructional Support Teacher-Coordinator;
- High School Assistant Principal in 1999;
- In 2003, Principal, Conway Elementary School (grades K-4);
- Principal of the Freedom Area Intermediate Elementary Middle School since 2005.

Mr. Gallagher plans to retire at the end of the 2010-11 school year. Mr. Gallagher was awarded \$1,000 as the recipient of the award.

Congratulations Mr. Gallagher! The District extends their respect and admiration to you for all that you have accomplished.

Note in Minutes:

- Visit to Propel Charter School in Montour is Scheduled for Monday, May 9, 9:00 A.M., to Observe Response to Intervention and Instruction Program
- Freedom Area New Cohort Graduation Rate at 93.53%

OPERATIONS:

- Bus Runs** Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Tibolet., to approve reduction of bus fleet by two Buses and consolidate runs for 2011-2012 School Year.
- Roll Call Vote** Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- 4 Day Work Week** Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve summer four day work week pending approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Educational Support Professional Association (Solicitor's Report) (Signatures Required)
- Roll Call Vote** Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Pole Buildings** Bids for the Pole Buildings will be reviewed at the May Board Meeting.
- Building & Grounds** Chadd Yopp, Buildings and Grounds Director provided the following monthly report:
- High School – Pool repair will occur between May 28 – June 10. Bubble on side of pool. Broken pvc pipes possibly 2-3places under liner. Basketball scoreboard ordered and will be installed the week of June 20th.

- Stadium/Fields/Grounds – Fiber line to press box – waiting on connection from fiber to network

EXTRA CURRICULAR:

- Cheerleader Sponsorship Motion by Challis, seconded by Tibolet, to approve adjustment of Varsity Football Cheerleader Sponsorship from Single Sponsor to Co-Sponsors (Administrative Report)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Petcovic, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas
- Cheerleader Co-sponsorship Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve the following Varsity Football Cheerleader Co-Sponsors according to contract:
1. Bonnie Adams, Salary \$525 (Clearances on File)
 2. Nicole Ward, Salary \$525 (Pending Receipt of Act 151 Clearance)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Petcovic, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas
- Resignation Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Tibolet, to accept the resignation of Jolene Mesing as Middle School Girls' Basketball Coach.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Petcovic, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas
- Swim Program The feasibility of retaining the 2011 Summer Swim Program in light of State Budget cuts will be held for Committee discussion.
- School Spirit Board Member Greg Lehocky said there was nothing new to report on the School Spirit Committee.
- AD Monthly Report Robert Gallagher, Middle School Principal and interim AD reported on the following:
- Spring sports – Rescheduling due to the inclement weather we have been experiencing.
 - Football Cheerleading – Tryouts are occurring
 - Coaches – will be meeting with the new Athletic Director and coaches regarding the athletic budget
 - Golf Coach – Currently on hold due to state budget cuts
 - CPR training – High School Coaches will receive CPR training
 - Middle School 7th Grade Basketball Coach – Vacancy at this time
 - Weight Lifting – Off to a great start
- PT- Athletic Director Part-Time Athletic Director discussion will be held for Executive Session

POLICY

Note in Minutes:

- A. Request Policy Committee Meeting to Review Various Policies Related to the Following Sections:
 1. Board Procedures
 2. Programs
 3. Pupils
 4. Employees
 5. Use of Facilities/Liability Insurance

MEET & DISCUSS

- Personnel Matters Executive Session
- Student Discipline Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Executive Session Motion by Tibolet, seconded by Challis, for the Board to go into executive session at 9:20 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss the following:
- ❖ Personnel Matter (Meet & Discuss #A)
 - ❖ Student Discipline (Meet & discuss #B)
 - ❖ Part Time Athletic Director (Extra-Curricular #G)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Gilarno, Tibolet, Challis and Elmer. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Adjourn Executive Motion by Challis, seconded by Gilarno, to adjourn executive session at 10:45 p.m., E.S.T.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Gilarno, Heyman, Challis, and Rocco. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Part-Time AD Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Tibolet, to approve John Rosa as part-time Athletic Director – One-year contract, pending negotiation of final salary (\$18,000), subject to MOU with the Association and mutually acceptable contract by both John Rosa and the Freedom Area School District. Six-month probation in the position.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Gilarno. No votes – Rocco, Petcovic, Heyman. Motion carried – 6 Yeas
- Adjourn Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Tibolet, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. – 9 Yeas. Adjourned at 10:48 p.m., E.S.T.


 Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary