

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on February 10, 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  
Bobbie Jo Elmer  
Barbara Heyman  
Harry Gilarno  
Gregory Lehocky  
Mary Ann Petcovic  
Kathleen Schlegel

**Board Members Absent:**

Michael Tibolet  
Scott Challis

**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  
Debra Baycura, Conway Elementary Principal  
Richard Edder, Big Knob Elementary  
Chadd Yopp, Building & Grounds

**Newspaper:**

Beaver County Times Reporter  
Bill Utterback

**Solicitor**

Matt Hoffman, Esq.

Guests: High School Students: Taylor McCoy, Jenna Moore, & Sarah Chaflet; Michael Szatkiewicz, Freedom; Rod Hill, Conway

Bills                      Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve the first check run for payment of bills for February 2011, in the amount of \$348,029.60. **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 – Petcovic, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Gilarno.  
Motion carried – 7 Yeas

Cafeteria Report        Motion by Heyman, seconded by Gilarno, to approve the January, 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 – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.

Treasurer's Report     Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to approve the January 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>Balance 1/31/11</u>
Money Market, Huntington Bank	\$ 545,367.31
General Fund, Huntington Bank	\$ 12,782.85
Payroll, Huntington Bank	\$ 3,009.29
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 2,523,572.25
Premier Savings – Huntington	\$ 3,532,439.80
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 3,089.40
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 318,393.04
PDSLAF - Capital Improvement	\$ 667.33
Huntington – Capital Improvement	\$ 1,979.67
PSDLAF CD's Capital Improvement	\$ 3,578,000.00
PSDLAF CD General Fund	\$ 1,990,000.00
Student Activity Account	\$ 59,490.52
Huntington – Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 275,420.75
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 691,258.09

Roll Call Vote            Yea Votes – Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno.  
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

- Correspondence      The District is in receipt of thank you letter from the National Breast Cancer Foundation for the generous donation of \$1,942 (Alana Hill Senior Project)
- Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve sending a thank you note to Alana Hill for the work she did on her senior project and raising \$1,942 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation.
- Roll Call Vote        Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Invitations:
1. Presentation of "Schools on the Move" Grant Award by KDKA, Thursday, March 3, 10:30 A.M., Middle School Auditorium
  2. Shippingport's Centennial Celebration, Monday, March 14, 5:00 P.M., Shippingport Borough Offices, RSVP to Sandy DiSante by February 11 at [sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us](mailto:sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us)

### Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):

1. Freedom Band Boosters, High School Cafeteria, 2/3, Hoagie Fundraiser Pick-Up
2. Freedom High School Softball, High School Gym, 2/19, Fast Pitch Softball Clinic
3. Varsity Football Cheerleaders, High School Cafeteria, 3/21 thru 3/24, Cheerleading Tryouts
4. Freedom Lil' Bulldogs Women's Auxiliary, Middle School Gym, 3/28 thru 4/1, Cheerleading Tryouts
5. Pine Run Fire Department, High School Lower Parking Lot, 5/9 (Rain Date 5/10), "Prom Promise" Mock Car Crash (Senior Project)
6. Freedom Football and Track, High School Gym, 3/31, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, Speed Training
7. Freedom/New Sewickley Baseball, Middle School Gym, 3/14 thru 3/17, Tryouts
8. Big Knob PTA, Multi-Purpose Room, 4/8, Candy Fundraiser Pick-Up
9. New Sewickley Township Police Department, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 5/21, Bicycle Rodeo
10. F.A.S.T. Soccer, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, Mondays, 2/14 thru 4/4, Soccer Practice
11. F.A.S.T. Soccer, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, Wednesdays, 2/16 thru 4/13, Soccer Practice
12. Freedom Varsity Soccer Team, High School Gym/Weight Room, 2/15, 2/17, 2/22, 2/24, 3/1, 3/3, 3/7, 3/10, 3/14, 3/17, 3/23, 3/28, Soccer Practice
13. Big Red Marching Band, High School Cafeteria, 4/7, Anderson Candy Sale

### Note in Minutes:

- Receipt of New School Immunization Regulations that will take effect on August 1, 2011 (Administrative Report)
- January 27, 2011 Edition of FHS Press (Student Newspaper)

## PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

- Bus Stop Concern    Mrs. Ashley Rettig, Conway, was not in attendance at the February Board meeting to express her concern regarding a Conway bus stop.
- Athletics Concern    Mr. Rod Hill, Conway, expressed his disappointment and embarrassment by the conduct of Freedom's players, coaches and fans at a recent J V basketball game.
- District Signage      Mr. Mike Szatkiewicz, Freedom, commended the Board for appropriate placement of various signage throughout District campus but questioned the lack of placement of 15 MPH signs on campus roadways. Mr. Szatkiewicz was advised that mileage signage is a Freedom Borough and New Sewickley Township matter needing the passage of an ordinance to change mileage. The District does not have the authority to erect such signage or set speed limits but the Municipalities can. Dr. Sofo commented that the campus needs to be patrolled by local police.

**ENCLOSURES:**

- A. In/Out Migration Report as of January 2011 – 1,565 (-4 from September 2010)
- B. Free and Reduced Lunch Report as of February 10, 2011 – District at 40.17%
- C. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of February 8, 2011 - Current Projected Cost for 2010-2011 School Year \$322,983.20; 37 Cyber/Charter Students, 4 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 41
- D. Pennsylvania School Facts & Figures 2010 – Prepared by PSBA Research Staff
- E. BVIU School Board Notes for January 26, 2011 Meeting
- F. Beaver County Times Articles:
  - 1. Christiana to Propose Open-Enrollment Legislation
  - 2. Culture Shock – Education at all levels is only as good as the society it serves

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Sofo reported on the following:

- Contribution Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve a \$500 contribution towards a \$2,500 fee (Regional Choice Initiative will pay \$2,000) for the services of Mutiu Fagbayi, of Performance Fact Inc., to work with Freedom Area School District Teachers on the District's eye on the goal Continuous Improvement Plan – May 13, 2011.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- "Celebrate Success" Dr. Sofo, Superintendent reported on "Celebrate Success" related to the District's overall improvement in academic achievement from 2003 thru 2010 made possible in part by the positive impact of targeted increases in state funding over the same time period (Handout)

**LEGISLATION:**

- Senate Bill 1 Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, reported on Senate Bill 1 - Taxpayer Paid Private School Vouchers (George Wallace Poster, League of Women Voters, NAACP Flier and "Questions Legislators Should Be Asking" Handouts)

**Note in Minutes:**

State Representative Jim Christiana has requested a meeting with the Beaver County Superintendents to discuss his proposed legislation of "Open Enrollment", Thursday, February 10, 11:00 A.M., BVIU

**FINANCE:**

- Preliminary Budget Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve the 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$19,119,466 (\$1,122,326 Budget Deficit)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Fuel Consortium Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve participation in the 2011-2012 Western Pennsylvania Gasoline/Diesel Fuel Consortium thru AIU3.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Project Requests Motion by Heyman, seconded by Rocco, to approve revised project request reports (General Fund and Capital Projects Fund) (Reviewed at Operations Committee Meeting on February 8, 2011)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.

Note in Minutes:

- District in receipt of letter from Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management indicating District's Single Audit for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009 is approved as being Substantially in Compliance with OMB Circular A-133 and other Relevant Federal and Commonwealth Policy
- Beaver County School Health Insurance Consortium Report for December 2010

Note: Board Member Mary Ann Petcovic left the Board meeting at 7:42 pm.

EDUCATION:

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Special Education:
  - a. Brittany Keefer, Elementary and Middle School Speech Therapist, Pennsylvania Speech–Language Hearing Association 2011 Convention, April 7 thru April 9, Sheraton Station Square-Pittsburgh, Cost \$300 Registration Fee Plus Mileage
2. Other:
  - a. Sara Heiman, Middle School Librarian, Beaver County School District Librarians' Meetings, February 17 and April 28, BVIU, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage
  - b. Susie Suleski, Middle School Counselor, 2011 PSSA Conference, February 22, PaTTAN-Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:

1. Gifted:
  - a. Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted Coordinator, Forensics Competition, March 11, Penn State-Beaver, Cost \$3 Per Student Registration Fee Plus Transportation

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 6 Yeas.

FMLA Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve FMLA, According to Policy, for Angela Post, Middle School Math Teacher, Effective April 15, 2011 thru June 9, 2011.

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 6 Yeas.

Homebound Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve Homebound Instruction, According to Policy, for High School Student.

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 6 Yeas.

Web Page Design Motion by Heyman, seconded by Gilarno, to approve change in Web Page Design Program status from a state approved career and technical education program to one that is locally operated (Administrative Report)

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 6 Yeas.

Note: Board Member Mary Ann Petcovic, returned to the meeting at 7:50 PM

Driver's Ed Darlene Corris, Assistant High School Principal, provided a follow-up report on the High School Driver's Education Program saying currently driver's education is strictly the teaching of driver's theory. Testing will begin Fall 2011.

Parent Complaint Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, updated the Board on the recently received Cyber Charter School Parent complaint of harassment regarding the District's request for student attendance records. Dr. Sofo explained that by school code, the District is to treat

Charter/Cyber school attendance as it would if the student was coming to the home school and enforce mandatory attendance.

The District will need to respond to the complaint by completing necessary paperwork prior to receiving the parent's original complaint letter sent to the federal Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights". Anticipated response to the District is June 2011.

- Gift Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Lehocky, to approve acceptance of \$1,000 Gift from Alumnus C.J. Arbes, Esquire, FAHS Class of 1961, to fund two \$500 Scholarships to Graduating Seniors Per Memorandum of Understanding, as well as a \$200 Gift for the High School Library to subscribe to the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post for the remainder of this School Term and if possible, next school year (Signature Required) (Administrative Report)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Field Trip Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Lehocky, to approve High School Summer Field Trip to Costa Rica (Administrative Report).
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Revised Graduation Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve revised High School Graduation Requirements. **Copy attached to the minutes in the minute book.**
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Application President Kathy Schlegel will work with Dr. Sofu to survey School Board Members for interest in viewing the Modular Management Student Home School Communication Application using real student data (With prior parental permission)

Note in Minutes:

Tri-Annual Federal Programs Audit scheduled for March 7 and March 8, 2011

OPERATIONS:

- Software Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to approve agreement with Frontline Placement Technologies, Inc. for Automated Educational Substitute Operating Placement Service Software (AESOP), Cost one-time set-up and training fee of \$1,750 with an annual fee of \$3,492.50 (Guaranteed for three years) (Signature Required) (Administrative Report)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- License Agreement Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to approve renewal terms of the Wide Area Network License Agreement with Sunesys, LLC in accordance with Sections 6.2 and 5.6 of the current agreement (Estimated 85% reduction in cost)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Bus Drivers Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to approve the following Rhodes Transit Bus/Van Drivers (Clearances and Permits on File):
1. Angel Torris
  2. Thadd Yohe
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Architect Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to authorize District to begin process of

selecting new Architect by advertising in regional newspapers and other appropriate outlets.

- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- “Right Size”      Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to authorize administration to develop multiple options to “Right Size” School District based upon declining student enrollment and reduction in state subsidies including, but not limited to, reorganizing facilities from four to three buildings for instructional use.
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- FMLA      Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to approve FMLA for Sarah Reuther, Big Knob Elementary Custodian, effective approximately January 13, 2011 thru February 17, 2011.
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Bus Stop      Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to approve a bus stop at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Freedom.
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Building & Grounds      Chad Yopp, Director, FIT Optimize Solutions, provided the following Buildings and Grounds report:
- a. Middle School – Preventative maintenance & repairs of uni-vents
  - b. Big Knob Elementary – Sinks and faucets ordered, cost \$3,050. Will begin installation February 21<sup>st</sup>
  - c. Conway elementary – Preventative maintenance and repairs of uni-vents

Note in Minutes:

- Food Service Department of Education audit scheduled for February 8 thru February 11, 2011 and Department of Agriculture Audit Scheduled for February 15, 2011
- Food Facility Inspection Reports (Dated February 4, 2011) by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for Freedom Area High School and Middle School, Status  
– In Compliance
- Request from BVIU to place three administrators on Freedom Area School District’s Electronic Telephone Notification System for School Delays/Closings

**EXTRA CURRICULAR:**

- Resignation      Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Rocco, to accept the resignation of Brittany Morrow as Head Varsity Volleyball Coach.
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Assistant Coaches      Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Rocco, to approve the following as Assistant Coaches for Boys’ Varsity Baseball:
1. Tim Lentz, First Assistant – Salary \$1,950 (Pending Receipt of Updated Clearances)
  2. Chris Glass, Second Assistant - \$1,700 (Clearances on File)
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Release Time      Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Rocco, to approve release time, According to Policy, for Athletic Trainer Vince Sinovic to attend session on Heads Up Schools: It’s Not Just a Concussion, March 10, BVIU, Cost \$25 Registration Fee Plus Mileage.

- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Decennial Report Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Heyman, to approve filing (Every 10 Years) of Decennial Report (Entity's continued existence or use of certain marks) with the Pennsylvania Department of State Corporation Bureau, Cost \$70 (Signature and Notary Required).
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- Assistant AD Position Motion by Lehocky,, seconded by Heyman, to approve closing of Assistant Athletic Director position as part of District Administrative Reorganization.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.
- AD Report Bob Gallagher, Acting Athletic Director, reported on the following:
- Athletic Director Progress Report – 32 Applications received, narrowed to 12. Of the 12, three withdrew, nine were interviewed. Second round of interviews will occur with four of the candidates focused on budgeting, software capability, etc. Three of the finalists will be interviewed by the Board.
  - Youth Night had a good turnout, parents were positive
  - Swimming – Two matches were remaining, two individuals qualified for WPIAL's. Coach to begin promoting the program in the Middle School
  - Volleyball Coach – Resignation received, position will be posted
  - Baseball/Softball - Both sports active
  - Spring Physicals – Began February 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Fall Sports 2011/12 – Coaches needed for: Football Cheerleading, Golf and Volleyball
  - Portable toilets – Need to be ordered
- Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Gilarno, to order placement of portable toilets for softball and Baseball fields.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Gilarno, and Schlegel.  
Motion carried - 7 Yeas.

### POLICY

#### Note in Minutes:

- Request Policy Committee meeting to review various policies related to the Following Section:
  1. Board Procedures
  2. Programs
  3. Pupils
  4. Employees

### MEET & DISCUSS

Personnel Matters Executive Session

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, for the Board to go into executive session at 8:45 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss the following:

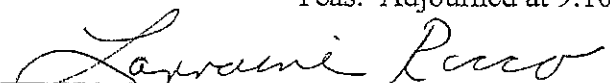
- ❖ Personnel Matter (Meet & Discuss #A)

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Gilarno, and Elmer.  
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

Adjourn Executive Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to adjourn executive session at 9:10 p.m., E.S.T.

Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Gilarno, Heyman, Challis, and Rocco. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

Adjourn              Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. – 7 Yeas. Adjourned at 9:10 p.m., E.S.T.

  
Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary