

JANUARY 13, 2011

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on January 13, 2011, in the Middle School Library. President Kathleen Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., E.S.T following a Finance Committee meeting.

Board Members Present:

Lorraine Rocco
Scott Challis
Bobbie Jo Elmer
Barbara Heyman
Harry Gilarno (Arrived 7:35 pm)
Gregory Lehocky
Kathleen Schlegel

Board Members Absent:

Michael Tibolet
Mary Ann Petcovic

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

Solicitor

Matt Hoffman, Esq.

Guests: N/A

Bills Motion by Heyman, seconded by Lehocky, to approve the first check run for payment of bills for January 2011, in the amount of \$423,019.39. **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 – Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas

Cafeteria Report Motion by Rocco, seconded by Heyman, to approve the December, 2010 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 – Rocco, Heyman, Elmer, Lehocky, Challis, and Schlegel. Motion carried - 6 Yeas.

Treasurer's Report Motion by Rocco, seconded by Challis, to approve the November and December 2010 Treasurer's reports. **Copy of the Treasurers' report is in each Board Member's packet and copy attached to minutes in the minute book.**

	<u>Balance 11/30/10</u>
Money Market, Huntington Bank	\$ 882,746.12
General Fund, Huntington Bank	\$ 11,797.22
Payroll, Huntington Bank	\$ 3,151.66
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 2,523,062.55
Premier Savings – Huntington	\$ 4,327,592.29
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 3,089.29
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 337,615.59
PDSLAF - Capital Improvement	\$ 667.24
Huntington – Capital Improvement	\$ 1,979.50
PSDLAF CD's Capital Improvement	\$ 3,578,000.00
PSDLAF CD General Fund	\$ 2,000,000.00
Student Activity Account	\$ 59,136.95
Huntington – Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 275,202.05
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 691,118.47

	<u>Balance 12/31/10</u>
Money Market, Huntington Bank	\$ 1,779,848.67
General Fund, Huntington Bank	\$ 10,675.55
Payroll, Huntington Bank	\$ 2,892.25

PA Treasury Invest	\$ 2,523,349.39
Premier Savings – Huntington	\$ 3,277,027.12
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 3,089.35
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 336,543.48
PDSLAF - Capital Improvement	\$ 667.33
Huntington – Capital Improvement	\$ 1,979.58
PSDLAF CD's Capital Improvement	\$ 3,578,000.00
PSDLAF CD General Fund	\$ 1,990,000.00
Student Activity Account	\$ 63,309.30
Huntington – Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 275,315.52
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 691,197.04

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Recognition PSBA has designated January 2011, as School Director Recognition Month. Each Board Member was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for (in part) serving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834 and for discharging their responsibilities to public education in a manner with has placed public education in the forefront of our education system. (Handout).

Correspondence The District is in receipt of a letter from the Freedom Area Educational Foundation Board of Directors requesting permission to display plaque(s) of the Hall of Fame Honorees, as well as seeking Board input and suggestions for placement of the Plaque(s). (Administrative Report)

Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to approve the Freedom Area Educational Foundation Board of Directors request to display plaque(s) of the Hall of Fame Honorees outside of the High School main office.

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

Invitations:

1. 2010 Freedom Lil' Bulldogs Football Banquet, Saturday, January 29, 4:30 P.M., The Fez, RSVP to Steve Slowinski at (724) 417-2153 by January 23
2. 2010 Freedom Area Varsity Football Banquet, Sunday, January 30, 5:30 P.M., Javy's, RSVP to Cheryl Fiscus at (724) 544-8671 or E-Mail at freedomfootballmothers@gmail.com by January 20.

Other: Motion by Challis, seconded by Lehocky to approve the following:

- Use of the Nixle System by Conway Borough for both emergency and advisory, as well as general community notifications, and;
- Approve make-up snow day of February 18th for January 12th.

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

Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):

1. Freedom Aqua Club, High School Pool, 12/28 thru 12/30, Swim Practice
2. Freedom Aqua Club, High School Weight Room/Fitness Center, Tuesday and Thursday, 1/3 thru 4/1, Training
3. Freedom Aqua Club, High School Pool, 1/3 thru 4/1, Swim Practice
4. High School Math League, High School Cafeteria, 12/13 and 3/7, Math League Competition
5. High School Baseball Team, High School Gym and Weight Room, December 2010 thru March 7, 2011, Conditioning
6. Freedom Area Educational Foundation, Middle School Library Conference Room, Second Monday of Each Month, 1/10 thru 12/12, Board Meeting
7. Conway PTA, Conway Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, Tuesdays, 2/22 thru 4/12, Talent Show Practice

ENCLOSURES:

- A. Highlights of New Omnibus School Code Bill of November 2010 (Legislation – Item A.)
- B. Memo From Senators Jeffrey E. Piccola and Anthony H. Williams Concerning the Opportunity Scholarship Act (Public Funds for Private School Education) (Legislation – Item B.)
- C. In/Out Migration Report as of December 2010 – 1,563 (-1 from November 2010)
- D. Free and Reduced Lunch Report as of January 3, 2011 – District at 39.0805%
- E. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of January 10, 2011 - Current Projected Cost for 2010-2011 School Year \$311,741.69; 35 Cyber/Charter Students, 4 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 39
- F. Articles:
 - 1. Feeling Our Pain – It's Time for State Lawmakers to Make Sacrifices, Too
 - 2. U.S. Department of Defense Takes a Dim View of Cyberschool Diplomas
 - 3. Where will Corbett find \$4B? – Education and Welfare
 - 4. PSBA Legislative Update on Pension Reform

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Sofo reported on the following:

- Progress of 21st Century Promise Initiative grant proposal writing with Ambridge, Ellwood City and Aliquippa School Districts and the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit.

LEGISLATION:

Highlights

Dr. Sofo, Superintendent provided an overview of the following:

- New Omnibus School Code Bill of November 2010 (Enclosure)
- Memo from Senators Jeffrey E. Piccola and Anthony H. Williams concerning the Opportunity Scholarship Act (Public Funds For Private School Education) (Enclosure)

FINANCE:

- 2011-12 Budget Following review of the proposed 2011-12 budget the following motion was made: Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, approve advertising the 2011-12 budget and apply for a referendum exception to increase real estate taxes above the index.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- Tax Claim bureau Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to confirm distribution of monies collected by the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau from the December 6, 2010, Judicial Sale – Net to District \$1,383.94
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.

Note in Minutes:

- Receipt of State Audit Report from Auditor General – District complied in all significant respects with Applicable State Laws, Regulations, Contracts, Grant Requirements and Administrative Procedures for the Periods of August 28, 2008 thru May 20, 2010, as well as compliance specific to state subsidies and reimbursements for School Years ended June 30, 2008 and 2007 (Handout)
- Beaver County School Health Insurance Consortium report for November 2010

EDUCATION:

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- 1. **Special Education:**

- a. Erin Carnevale, Conway Elementary Learning Support Teacher, Essential Readings on Struggling Learners, February 24, BVIU, Cost \$50 Registration Fee, Substitute, Mileage
2. Other:
 - a. Pete Kappas, Middle School 8th Grade Teacher, Financial Fitness for Life, April 15, Butler County Community College, Cost \$15 Registration Fee, Substitute, Mileage

- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- Substitute Teacher Motion by Heyman, seconded by Rocco, to approve Matt Weiss as Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher (Clearances on File).
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- Long Term Sub Motion by Heyman, seconded by Rocco, to approve Cheryl Ricketts as long-term substitute teacher for Fran Rich, High School/Middle School Family/Consumer Science Teacher (Medical Leave).
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- Release Time Motion by Heyman, seconded by Rocco, to approve release time, according to policy, for High School Marketing Teacher Beth Majors and 14 High School Students to attend State DECA Conference in Hershey, PA, February 23 thru February 25, total cost \$4,656.94 (Registration fee \$840, Housing \$3,046.94, Transportation \$770 (Administrative Report).
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- Note: Board Member Harry Gilarno arrived at 7:35 PM.
- Driver's Ed Darlene Corris, High School Assistant Principal, provided a follow-up report on the current operation of the District Sponsored Driver's Education Program. Additional information has been requested for the February meeting.
- Complaint Dr. Sofu, Superintendent, reported that the District in receipt of complaint filed with the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, concerning appropriate educational program services provided a current Cyber Charter Student. Dr. Sofu stated that appropriate services were provided the student and once additional information is obtained the Board will be advised.

OPERATIONS:

- Buildings & Grounds Chad Yopp, Director, Buildings & Grounds, provided the following monthly report:
- Stadium – Obtained quote for installing hand rails at the stadium
- Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve installation of Aluminum railing at the football stadium in the middle aisle. Low quote provided by DYSI, Inc, cost not to exceed \$5,000.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Middle School – Preventive maintenance
 - Big Knob – Repaired roof top duct and damper system; replaced copper pipe for domestic hot water; sinks and faucets installed
 - Conway Elementary – Installed mag lock controls at front door, preventive maintenance

Note in Minutes:

- Operations Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, at 6:30 P.M., to discuss draft facilities assessment report and debriefing of meeting with New Sewickley Township Municipal Water Authority engineer concerning bringing public water to Big Knob Elementary, as well as proposed changes for selected bus routes for the 2011-2012 school year
- Resolved New Sewickley Township Municipal Water Authority inquiry concerning water usage at Bulldog Stadium, Cost \$326.43
- Received notification from State of potential situation occurring in Pennsylvania involving Student Lunch Account Balances
- Receipt of letter from New Sewickley Township Chief of Police Ronald Leindecker concerning proposal to revise current fee schedule for Police Coverage at Home Football Games and other school events beginning the 2011-2012 School Year

Note: Board Member Scott Challis left the Board meeting at 8:05 PM

EXTRA CURRICULAR:

- Jr. High Weight Lifting Program Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Gilarno, to approve request from Head Varsity Football Coach Frank Hernandez to initiate a Junior High Weightlifting Program for All Sports from January 2011 thru End of School Year (Administrative Report) Cost: Up to \$1,000.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, and Heyman. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- Photography Club Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to approve the following:
 - To re-establish the High School Photography Club, according to contract, and ;
 - To establish High School Science Club, According to Contract.
(Administrative Report). No cost for Sponsorship per agreement with Association.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, and Heyman. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- Resignation Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Heyman, to accept the resignation of Dan Lopic as Assistant Wrestling Coach.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, and Heyman. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- AD Interview Criteria Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, reviewed the Draft screening criteria for first round Athletic Director interviews for Board Input (Handout)
- School Spirit Greg Lehocky, Board Member, reported on several upcoming events that will be held to include the “Dog-for-Dogs” event before the Wrestling Match on Jan 19th and Boys Basketball on Jan 21st.
- AD Monthly Report Bob Gallagher, Acting Athletic Director, gave the following monthly report:
 - Reviewed with Director, Building & Grounds, available storage space in both the Middle School and High School. It was determined that space was available in the Middle School but it needed to be organized. A lock will be placed on the Trainers Room both for storage and security. The following motion was made:

Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve building necessary storage in the Trainers Room per Acting Athletic Director’s specifications.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, and Heyman. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
 - Coaches Code of Conduct reviewed; as well as Football game jerseys discussed
 - Trainer Vince Sinovic has returned from recent surgery
 - Cathy Baker is assisting with writing an “Athletic handbook”

- Athletic Director's Job Description developed; two applicants for the Baseball Coach position will be interviewed.

Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve purchasing rubber coating pads for the floor in the batting cage in the gym. Cost not to exceed \$500.00.

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

Personnel Matters Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, for the Board to go into executive session at 8:50 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss the following:

- ❖ Personnel Matter (Extra-curricular #H)

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

Note: Board Member Scott Challis, returned to the meeting at 8:55 PM

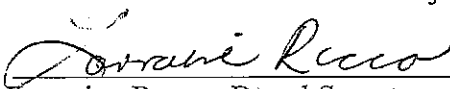
Adjourn Executive Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Heyman, to adjourn executive session at 9:40 p.m., E.S.T.

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

Golf Coach Motion by Rocco, seconded by Challis, to advertise for a District Golf Coach both through internal posting and external classified newspaper advertisement.

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

Adjourn Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. – 7 Yeas. Adjourned at 9:41 p.m., E.S.T.


Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary