

MARCH 10, 2011

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on March 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  
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  
Chadd Yopp, Building & Grounds

Newspaper:

Beaver County Times Reporter  
Bill Utterback

Solicitor

Matt Hoffman, Esq.

Guests: High School Students observing meeting.

- Bills Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to approve the first check run for payment of bills for March 2011, in the amount of \$264,010.94. **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 Petcovic, to approve the February, 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 Petcovic, to approve the February 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 2/28/11</u>
Money Market, Huntington Bank	\$ 530,650.80
General Fund, Huntington Bank	\$ 987.74
Payroll, Huntington Bank	\$ 2,501.79
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 2,523,742.28
Premier Savings – Huntington	\$ 3,588,879.48
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 3,089.45
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 312,267.91
PDSLAF - Capital Improvement	\$ 667.33
Huntington – Capital Improvement	\$ 1,979.74
PSDLAF CD's Capital Improvement	\$ 3,578,000.00
PSDLAF CD General Fund	\$ 1,990,000.00
Student Activity Account	\$ 62,971.44
Huntington – Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 275,474.32
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 691,304.66

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Honors Band Five Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Members were selected for PMEA District 5 Jr. High School Honors Band. Students auditioned against other Middle School Students from various counties – Performance to be held on Friday, April 8, at Mars Area High School.

Correspondence The district is in receipt of a letter from the Beaver County Career & Technology Center indicating that nine High School Students acquired perfect attendance for a Sixty-day period beginning October 2, 2010 and ending January 12, 2011.

**Invitation:**

1. School Budget Summit hosted and coordinated by the BVIU, Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 P.M., Conference Room 107, RSVP to Sandy DiSante at [sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us](mailto:sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us) by Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>
2. Freedom Boys' Varsity Basketball Banquet, March 27, 2:00 P.M., Talerico's Bar and Grill-Ambridge (Awareness)
3. Freedom Area Varsity Swim Team 2011 Banquet, Saturday, April 2, 5:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M., Unionville United Methodist Church

**Other:**

1. Beaver County Times Article Dated February 23, 2011 – “Laptops Provide A 24/7 Tool for Learning” - Recognizing District's High School 1:1 Laptop Initiative
2. BVIU 2010 Annual Report

Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):

1. Freedom Varsity Girls' Basketball, Middle School Gym, 5/23 thru 5/27, Undergraduate Tournament
2. Freedom Area Jr. & Sr. High School Track and Field, Concession Stand, March thru May, Track Meets
3. Freedom Boys' Basketball, Middle School Gym, Saturdays, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, In-House Basketball Program
4. Skybacher Sports, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 3/10, Hangtime Basketball Closing K-2 Program
5. Skybacher Ministries, Middle School Gymnasium, 6/13 thru 6/17 and 7/11 thru 7/15, Basketball Day Camp
6. Conway PTA, Conway Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 4/15 and 4/16, Rummage Sale
7. Freedom Boys' Basketball, High School Gym, Mondays and Thursdays, 3/7 thru 6/6, Off-Season Basketball Program
8. Dianne's School of Dance, Middle School Auditorium and Classroom, 5/31 and 6/1, Dance Rehearsal and Recital
9. Senior Project, Football Field, 3/28, 3/30, 4/1, 4/6, Powder Puff Football Practices and Game (4/6)
10. Senior Project, High School Swimming Pool, 4/8, Pool Party to Raise Money for Autism Speaks
11. Senior Project, High School Cafeteria, 3/25, Dance for Middle School Students to Raise Money for the Leukemia Society
12. Regional Choice Initiative, High School Cafeteria, 5/4, Celebration Dinner

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

Traffic Speeds Dr. Ron Sofò, Superintendent, reported that Chief Leindecker was contacted regarding posting traffic speed signs on the High School/Middle School Campus. A report will be given at the April Board Meeting as to the outcome.

**ENCLOSURES:**

- A. Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children Policy Position on School Choice, February 2011(Legislation - Item B.)
- B. In/Out Migration Report as of February 2011 – 1,570 (+4 from September 2010)
- C. Free and Reduced Lunch Report as of March 3, 2011 – District at 40.79%
- D. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of March 7, 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

- E. BVIU School Board Notes for February 23, 2011 Meeting
- F. Beaver County Times Article (Available Upon Request):
  - 1. Back in Time – The U.S. is Reverting to Pre-Great Depression Economy and Society

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Sofo reported on the following:

- Release Time Motion by Rocco, seconded by Heyman, to approve release Time, according to policy, for Superintendent to attend special education regional meeting, Wednesday, March 16, 3:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., ACHIEVA-Pittsburgh
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Updates Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, discussed the following:
  - A. Provided highlights (Available to the Public) of the District's Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS) (Handout)
  - B. Determined the Board's interest in exploring potential "Growth Strategies" for the School District as Part of "Right-Sizing" Process

### LEGISLATION:

- Senate Bill 1 Dr. Ron Sofo, Superintendent, reviewed the following:
  - PSBA/FASD Co-Sponsored Senate Bill Brochure (Handout)
  - Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children Policy position on School Choice, February 2011

### FINANCE:

- Budget Transfers Motion by Heyman, seconded by Tibolet, to approve the following budget transfer:
 

From: High School Textbooks	-	\$2,000
High School Supplies	-	\$1,000
To: High School Classroom Furniture	-	\$3,000
(To Cover Cost of New Storage Cabinets for Chemicals)		
- 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–Thursday, March 10, 6:30 p.m., Middle School Library
- Receipt of official notification from PDE (Dated February 17, 2011) indicating the District's proposed tax rate increase is greater than the District's 2011-2012 Index of 1.9% - District must either seek a referendum exception from PDE or the Court of Common Pleas reduce proposed taxes so that all rates are at or below the index or submit a referendum question to the electorate for approval of tax rates above the index
- Beaver County School Health Insurance Consortium Report for January 2011
- Beaver County School Health Care Consortium Advisory Council Meeting minutes of February 21, 2011

### EDUCATION:

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

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Special Education:
  - a. Brittany Keefer, Elementary and Middle School Speech Therapist, AAC Strategies & Considerations for students with Severe Speech Disorders: A Part of the Solution, May 12, PaTTAN-Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage
2. Other:
  - a. Rita Kaplin, High School Counselor, Perfect Attendance Breakfast, March 23, Beaver County Career and Technology Center, Cost Mileage

- b. Supervisor Appreciation Luncheon (Networking and Updates to Counselor Preparation Programs), April 18, Slippery Rock University, Cost Mileage:
- i. Randy Perkins, Middle School Counselor
  - ii. Rita Kaplin, High School Counselor

- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Unpaid Days      Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve request from Kim Smith, Title I Coordinator, for three unpaid days – March 30 thru April 1, 2011 - according to policy No. 439.
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Research Project      Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve University of Pittsburgh instructional research project to develop research skills and inquiry-based educational materials for use in High School biology classes and laboratories (High School Biology Teacher Brandi Burger).
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Medical Leave      Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve medical leave, according to policy, for Sue Mancini, Middle School Learning Support Teacher, effective March 28, 2011 thru June 9, 2011.
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Long-Term Sub      Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Lauren Sieger as long-term substitute teacher for Sue Mancini effective March 28, 2011 thru June 9, 2011 - Rate \$95 Per Day (Clearances on File).
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Medical Leave      Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve medical leave for Jennifer Newman, Middle School Music Teacher, effective approximately April 18, 2011 thru June 9, 2011.
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Long-Term Sub      Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Tammy James as a long-term Substitute Teacher for Jennifer Newman effective approximately April 18, 2011 thru June 9, 2011 – Rate \$95 Per Day (Clearances on File)
- Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Day-to-Day Sub      Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Kristen Steele 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.
- Draft Calendar      Dr. Sofu, Superintendent, reviewed the Draft 2011-2012 School Calendar for tentative Adoption and Staff Input (Administrative Report) (Handout)
- 4 Yrs Old Program      Rich Edder, Big Knob Principal, provided a summary of his and Debbie Baycura, Conway Elementary Principal's research for a four-year-old kindergarten program to be implemented in the District at some point in the future. (Handout)  
**Copy attached to the minutes in the minute book.**

OPERATIONS:

- Release Time Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve release time, according to policy, for Technology Director Matt Scala to attend a program on the Microsoft Licensing Program, March 23, Allegheny IU-Homestead.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Specifications Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve the specifications for the Freedom Area School District Pole Buildings' Project.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- CPU's Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve disposal of Computer CPU's (See Folder).
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Police Coverage Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Tibolet, to approve proposal for Police Coverage of School Activities (2011-2016).
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Facilities Policy Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, reviewed the Board's "Use of Facilities" Policy requiring outside groups to provide proof of Liability Insurance. It was reported that an error was made by not requesting insurance from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball program since there is liability to the District.
- In addition, the board referred this item to the policy committee to determine if we need to change our policy of requiring liability insurance for community sports programs, which use our facilities and are the feeder system for the junior high athletic teams.
- Architect Ad Following review of a draft advertisement for a new District Architect, the following motion was made:
- Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Tibolet, to approve the advertisement and RFP for a new district Architect.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Monthly Report Chad Yopp, Buildings and Grounds Director, provided the following monthly report:
- Swimming Pool – Broken PVC pipes possibly 2-3 places under the liner. Waiting until senior project in April is completed.
  - Hand rails for the stadium have been ordered
  - Big Knob Elementary – Roof work will be completed, weather permitting, with in-house staff; sinks and faucets have been ordered and will be installed beginning March 11, 2011; fixed recert pump and 35 feet of black wll piping
  - Conway Elementary –Preventive maintenance and repairs of uni-vents – two classrooms and five hallways completed; nine classrooms remaining

Note in Minutes:

- ◆ Food Facility Inspection report (Dated February 10, 2011) by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for Big Knob Elementary, Status – In Compliance
- ◆ District considering appropriateness of becoming a sponsor/site for Beaver County Summer Food Student Feeding Program
- ◆ District to remove hazardous chemicals at High School (Science Curricula) as recommended by State Wide Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines for Public Buildings

**EXTRA CURRICULAR:**

- Coach Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Tibolet, to approve Kathy Ames for the following positions: (Pending Receipt of Act 114 and 151 Clearances):  
 1. Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach, Salary \$1,450 (2011-2012 School Year)  
 2. Assistant Jr. High Volleyball Coach, Salary \$950 (2010-2011 School Year)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Interviews Finalists for the Athletic Director Position will be interviewed by the Board on March 31, 2011 starting at 7:00 pm.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- AD Monthly Report Bob Gallagher, Acting Athletic Director, provided the following monthly report:  
 ➤ Spring season began with 45 girls signing up for Middle School Volleyball  
 ➤ 28 players for Baseball – JV games being set up  
 ➤ softball – 20 players  
 ➤ Track- 60-75 students participating  
 ➤ Coaches for spring sports had a meeting where player rules were reviewed as well as the Coaches Code of Conduct.
- School Spirit Greg Lehocky, Board Member and Chair of the School Spirit Committee, said there was nothing new to report at this time.

**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 9:00 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, Tibolet, Challis, and Elmer. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Adjourn Executive Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to adjourn executive session at 9:12 p.m., E.S.T.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Gilarno, Heyman, Challis, and Rocco. Motion carried – 9 Yeas.
- Adjourn Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Tibolet, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. – 9 Yeas. Adjourned at 9:12 p.m., E.S.T.

  
 Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary