

MAY 12, 2011

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on May 12, 2011, in the Middle School Library. President Kathleen Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., E.S.T.

**Board Members Present:**

Lorraine Rocco  
Scott Challis  
Bobbie Jo Elmer  
Barbara Heyman  
Mary Ann Petcovic  
Kathleen Schlegel  
Michael Tibolet (Arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

**Board Members Absent:**

Gregory Lehocky  
Harry Gilamo

**School Staff Present:**

Ron Sofo, Superintendent (Absent)  
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

**Solicitor**

Matt Hoffman, Esq.

Guests: High School Students - Zac Wilson, Sarah Choflet, Amanda Hryckowian; Rob & Tammy James, Leigh Niedergall, Russ Kosis, Carol-Lynn Dubovi; all from New Sewickley Township (NST)

- Bills** Motion by Rocco, seconded by Challis, to approve the first check run for payment of bills for May 2011, in the amount of \$277,638.20. **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, Petcovic, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 6 Yeas
- Cafeteria Report** Motion by Rocco, seconded by Heyman, to approve the April 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, Challis, Heyman, Elmer, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.
- Treasurer's Report** Motion by Rocco, seconded by Challis, to approve the April 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>April 30, 2011</u>
Money Market, Huntington Bank	\$ 105,528.27
General Fund, Huntington Bank	\$ 4,217.24
Payroll, Huntington Bank	\$ 1,245.02
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 2,523,990.98
Premier Savings – Huntington	\$ 3,456,362.18
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 3,089.55
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 299,852.60
PDSLAF - Capital Improvement	\$ 61,907.97
Huntington – Capital Improvement	\$ 1,979.91
CD's Capital Improvement	\$ 2,789,000.00
PSDLAF CD General Fund	\$ 1,990,000.00
Student Activity Account	\$ 65,291.39
Huntington – Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 275,566.41
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 691,372.79
PSDLAF CD – Capital Projects	\$ 3,524,000.00

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

Note: Board Member Mike Tibolet arrived at the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Executive Session Motion by Rocco, seconded by Challis, for the Board to go into executive session at 7:05 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss the following:

❖ Student Matter (Public/Community Relations #B)

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

Adjourn Executive Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, to adjourn executive session at 7:10 p.m., E.S.T.

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

### COMMUNICATIONS:

Donation A \$500 donation from the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools earned by Bob Gallagher, Middle School Principal, as an Educational Leadership Award Winner – was given to the District to be used for the 2011-2012 Middle School DARE Graduation Program

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Visit State Representative Jim Christiana will visit Big Knob Elementary School, First Grade on Thursday, May 26 (Administrative Report)

National Contest Michael Schwoegl, Freedom Area High School Student, was one of 400 State Finalists in the Doodle 4 Google National Contest (Handout)

Theatre Awards Henry Mancini Musical Theatre Awards:  
District Performance of "Footloose" Earned Top Honors, was nominated for 11 of 13 Possible Awards for: (Handout)

1. Outstanding Male Actor in a Leading Role
2. Outstanding Male in a Supporting Role
3. Outstanding Female in a Supporting Role
4. Noteworthy Individual Performer (2)
5. Noteworthy Performance by a Group
6. Outstanding Dance Performance
7. Outstanding Sets and Scenery
8. Outstanding Orchestra
9. Outstanding Technical Achievement
10. Outstanding Vocal Ensemble
11. Outstanding Over-All Production

#### Invitations:

1. Freedom Area School District Eye on the Goal in-service, Friday, May 13, 8:30 A.M., Middle School Student Center
2. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Graduation Ceremonies of the Beaver County Career & Technology Center, Friday, May 20, 12:30 P.M., Community College of Beaver County "Golden Dome"
3. New Horizon Class of 2011 Graduation Ceremony, Friday, May 27, 1:00 P.M., New Horizon School (No Freedom Area Graduates)
4. Circle of Scholars Dinner, Wednesday, June 8, 6:30 P.M., Franzee-Javy's, Ambridge
5. Freedom Area High School Class of 2011 Graduation Ceremony, Thursday, June 9, 7:00 P.M.

#### Other:

June 2011 Board Meetings – June 2, June 16 and June 29

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

1. Freedom Quarterback Club, High School Cafeteria and Gym, 5/21, Fundraiser for Football Program
2. Freedom Quarterback Club, Football Field, 6/13 and 6/14, Youth Camp Fundraiser
3. Freedom Football, Football Field, 5/20, Jr. High Mini Camp
4. Freedom Football, Football Field, 5/23 thru 5/26 and 5/31 thru 6/3, High School

## Mini Camp

5. Freedom Boys' Soccer Boosters, Middle School Gym, 9/16, School Dance
6. Unionville American Legion Baseball, High School Baseball Field, Beginning Week of 5/16 thru Mid July (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays), Legion Games
7. Freedom/New Sewickley Baseball, High School Baseball Field, beginning week of 5/16 thru Mid July (Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays), Colt League Games
8. Freedom Fast Pitch Softball, High School Softball Field, 5/17 thru 6/29, Summer League Softball
9. Freedom Quarterback Club, High School/Middle School Gym and Outdoor Basketball Courts, 5/21, 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (Fundraiser for Football Program)
10. Freedom Quarterback Club, High School Auditorium, 6/1, Presentation on Nutrition (Sports) and Injury Rehabilitation
11. Freedom Lil' Bulldogs, Big Knob Elementary, 7/25 thru 10/9, Monday thru Friday, Practices
12. Freedom Lil' Bulldogs, Football Field and Lights, 8/11, Pep Rally
13. Freedom Lil' Bulldogs, Football Field, 8/13 (Rain Date of 8/14), Pictures
14. Freedom Lil' Bulldogs, Football Field, 8/20, 8/27, 10/2, 10/8, Home Football Games

Note in Minutes:

PSBA Membership Dues remain unchanged for 2011-2012

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

## Soccer

Leigh Niedergall, President of Freedom Boy's Soccer Booster and Ross Kosis discussed available storage space on campus and requested consideration of a Concussion Clinic offered by UPMC be available for District students to conduct a base line test in the event one of the athletes would have a concussion. Approximate cost is \$2.00 per student. The test is administered through a computer and the Athletic Director or Trainer could administer the 20-minute test. Mr. Kosis offered to help whomever is assigned the testing and suggested the Boosters could possibly raise the money.

Note in Minutes:

District Parent Rick Thewes expressed concerned that the District phone-messaging system was used to send what he believed to be a political message concerning Senate Bill 1 (Taxpayer Funded Private School Tuition Vouchers)

**ENCLOSURES:**

- A. Response to District's invitation to discuss potential partnerships to reduce costs and maintain education program quality (Superintendent's Report - Item A.)
- B. Letter dated April 21, 2011 from State Senate Democratic Leadership concerning targeted budget solutions to support public education (Legislation - Item B.)
- C. Proposed Final 2011-2012 Budget (Finance - Item A.)
- D. Summary of PERC Teacher Job Fair (203 Applications) (Education - Item H.)
- E. Information on breakfast and lunch price increases (Operations - Item A.)
- F. Band Director's 2011-2012 recommended band activities (Extra-Curricular-Item E.)
- G. In/Out Migration Report as of April 2011 – 1,575 (+9 from September 2010)
- H. Free and Reduced Lunch Report as of May 3, 2011 – District at 41.01%
- I. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of May 10, 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
- J. Beaver County Births/Deaths Preliminary Information for January 1 thru December 31, 2009 (Received from BVIU): FASD – Total Births 105, Total Deaths 101
- K. Beaver County Times/Post-Gazette Articles (*Available Upon Request*):
  1. If You Rebuild It – Freedom Repairs Damaged Field, Beats Carlynton
  2. Freedom Area Makes Pitch to Merge Services
  3. Empty Promises – Tuition Vouchers Will Cost a Lot and Accomplish Little

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Noriene Plate, Business Manager, reported on the following in Superintendent Sofo's

absence:

- A. Response to District's invitation to discuss potential partnerships to reduce cost and maintain education program quality (Enclosure)
- B. Progress Report on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Promise Initiative (Handout)

### LEGISLATION:

Report Noriene Plate, Business Manager reviewed the following:

- Status of Senate Bill 1 (Taxpayer Private School Vouchers) (Handouts)
- Letter dated April 21, 2011 from State Senate Democratic Leadership concerning Targeted Budget Solutions to support public education (Administrative Report)

Board Report Barbara Heyman, Board Member, attended the April 2011 Pennsylvania School Board Association Legislative Conference meeting and provided the **enclosed** report.

#### Note in Minutes:

- Town Hall Meeting with State Representative Jim Marshall, Thursday, May 12, 7:00 P.M., Freedom Fire Department's Social Hall
- Auditor General Jack Wagner has accepted an invitation to address Beaver County Leadership, Monday, June 13, BVIU, 10:00 A.M., Topic: Responsible Use of State Funds to Educate Career and College Ready Public School Graduates

### FINANCE:

Budget Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, to approve Proposed Final 2011-2012 Budget (Administrative Report) (Handout)

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Petcovic, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, and Schlegel. No Vote – Heyman. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.  
 Comment from Board Member Heyman: Because the majority of the Board did not take the recommendation of the Administrative Staff not to hire Mr. Rosa as the athletic director at a salary higher than what we budgeted for, I vote no on the budget. With all the cuts we had to make educationally I cannot in good conscience vote to approve the budget. I am not against Mr. Rosa I am against the salary.

Fund transfer Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to approve transfer of \$600,000 in General Fund, Fund Balance to Capital Projects Fund Balance for needs outlined in Spreadsheet (Administrative Report) (Handout)

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

Resolution Motion by Heyman, seconded by Tibolet, to approve Resolution allocating fund balance between committed, assign and unassigned funds as required by GASB 54 –to include PSERS. (Administrative Report) (Signatures Required) (Handout)

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

Board Treasurer Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to re-elect and approve Bobbie Jo Elmer, as Board Treasurer (One Year Term) According to Section 404 of the School Code (Non-Paid Position)

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

Budget Transfer Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to approve the following budget transfer:

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)

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

Note in Minutes:

- Beaver County School Health Insurance Consortium Report for March 2011
- Beaver County School Health Care Consortium Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of April 18, 201
- Return of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes for:

	<u>2011</u>		
	<u>CONWAY</u>	<u>FREEDOM</u>	<u>NEW SEWICKLEY</u>
FACE	\$56,210.80	\$53,483.08	\$211,385.40
PENALTY	<u>5,681.84</u>	<u>5,371.55</u>	<u>21,288.03</u>
TOTAL	\$61,892.64	\$58,854.63	\$232,673.43
	<u>2010</u>		
TOTAL	\$62,558.73	\$61,279.88	\$236,130.93
CHANGE	(\$ 666.09)	(\$ 2,425.25)	(\$ 3,457.50)

EDUCATION:

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Other:
  - a. Pam Tesla, Elementary Literacy Coach, Building Background Knowledge to Deepen Comprehension Across the Content Areas, May 23, PaTTAN-Pittsburgh (No Cost to District)

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

Curriculum Planning Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve 11 Teachers (Third and Fourth Grade, Big Knob and Conway Elementary Schools) to work on reading curriculum mapping project June 2011 for three days, Cost not to exceed \$2,510 (2010-2011 Budget) (Administrative Report)

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

Counselor Requests Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve the following annual requests from:

1. High School Principal for Counselor Chris Bennett to work six (6) additional days and six (6) special project days for Summer Work (Budgeted) (Administrative Report)
2. Middle School Principal for Counselors Susie Suleski and Randy Perkins to work six (6) additional days each for Summer Work (Budgeted) (Administrative Report)
3. Middle School Principal for Counselor Randy Perkins to work six (6) additional special project days on 24 PIMS Templates due to be submitted during the Summer Collection (Budgeted) (Administrative Report)

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

Agreement Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve the following renewal agreement:

- AOT, Inc. for the 2011-2012 School Year at a rate of \$62 Per OTR/L Hour, \$52 Per COTA/L hour, plus \$.50 per hour surcharge for travel within the District (No Increase from Previous Year)
- MRS Physical Therapy for the 2011-2012 School Year at a rate of \$55 per patient care and \$50 per hour non-patient care, including IEP meetings and documentation (No Increase from Previous Year)

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

- 2011 Graduates Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve list of June 2011 Graduates (See Folder) **Enclosure.**
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Conference Report Scott Challis, Board Member reported on the April 2011 National School Board Association Conference that he attended.
- Informational Highlights of Pittsburgh Business Times' 2011 Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools were provided in a handout.
- Research Project Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to give permission to participate in a Research Project, According to District Policy, with the University of Indiana (Bloomington, Indiana) to Evaluate Computer Assisted Learning Methods in Chemistry Classes (No Cost to District) (Administrative Report). Mr. Saludis to participate, no commitment by the district.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

Note in Minutes:

- Summary of PERC Teacher Job Fair (203 Applications)
- District scheduled week of November 14, 2011 for 2011-2012 Special Education Audit
- Education Committee Meeting, Tuesday, May 10, 6:00 P.M., Middle School Library

**OPERATIONS:**

- Cafeteria Increase Motion by Elmer, seconded by Tibolet, to approve price increase for 2011-2012 School Breakfast and Lunch meals by \$.10 (All Breakfasts \$1.10, Elementary Lunch \$2.00, Middle School/High School Lunch \$2.15) (Administrative Report) (Enclosure)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Medic Rescue Motion by Tibolet, seconded by Challis, to approve Agreement with Medic Rescue Ambulance Service from July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012 – Cost \$3,000 (No Increase from Previous Year) (Signatures Required)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Text Books Motion by Tibolet, seconded by Challis, to approve request to dispose of district wide unused textbooks and/or library books for 2011-2012 School Year.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Old Desks Motion by Tibolet, seconded by Challis, to approve request to dismantle 60 old high school desks and sell frames for scrap metal (Administrative Report)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- FIT solutions FIT Optimized Solutions Agreement (Executive Session)

Note in Minutes:

- Facilities Walk-Thru with Architectural Firms Scheduled for Friday, May 13, 2011

EXTRA CURRICULAR:

- Athletic Insurance Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, to approve 2011-2012 Athletic Insurance Coverage through A.G. Administrators with Blackwood Financial Planning, Inc. as Broker, Annual Premium \$13,250 (No Increase from Previous Year)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Hockey Agreement Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, to approve Co-Operative Hockey Agreements with Ambridge Hockey Association and Quigley Catholic High School (Signatures Required)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Swim Program Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, in light of State Budget cuts the 2011 Summer Swim Program will not be approved. (Administrative Report).
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Headsets Request from Head Football Coach Frank Hernandez for New Communications Headsets will be referred to the Athletic Director. (Administrative Report)
- Band Activities Band Director's 2011-2012 Recommended Band Activities report will be discussed in an upcoming Finance Committee Meeting. (Administrative Report)
- School Spirit In the absence of Committee Chairperson Greg Lehocky, the School Spirit Committee Report will be held for the June 2011 meeting.
- Monthly AD Report Bob Gallagher, Acting Athletic Director, gave his last report saying:
- Middle School Spring Sports are completed
  - Softball-One of the most rainy seasons ever, many games were rescheduled, also several injuries occurred
  - Baseball – District in the playoffs – tied for second place
  - Track – All equipment has been collected
    - Section Champs – Girls
    - Section Runner-up – Boys
    - Teams in the WPIAL championship this evening
  - Coaching positions currently open:
    - MS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball Coach – No one has applied to date
    - MS Girls' Soccer Coach
  - Coaches Meeting was held to discuss the athletic budget – Full cooperation with the Coaches was received regarding Governor's budget
- John Rosa, new Athletic Director reported that the Coaches stepped up to the request for budget cuts and were able to save all sports by taking a one-year salary freeze.
- P-T AD, MOU Part-Time Athletic Director Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) /Terms and Conditions of Employment (Solicitor's Report) (Signatures Required) (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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Executive Session Motion by Heyman, seconded by Rocco, for the Board to go into executive session at 8:26 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss the following:
- ❖ FIT Optimized Solutions Agreement (Operations #E)
  - ❖ Part-time Athletic Director Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) /Terms and Conditions of Employment (Extra-curricular #H)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes -- Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Tibolet, Challis and Elmer. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Adjourn Executive Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, to adjourn executive session at 8:50 p.m., E.S.T.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Rocco, Schlegel, Heyman, and Rocco. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Part-Time AD Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, to approve John Rosa's Memorandum of Understanding extending the term of the first contract for one year and two months (total 14 months) commencing May 1, 2011. Probation (trial period) period 5-1-11 / 12/31/11.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Challis, Tibolet, Elmer, Schlegel, Rocco, and Petcovic. No Vote - Heyman. Motion carried – 6 Yeas  
 Comment from Board Member Heyman: Because the majority of the Board did not take the recommendation of the Administrative Staff not to hire Mr. Rosa as the athletic director at a salary higher than what we budgeted for, I vote no on the budget. With all the cuts we had to make educationally I cannot in good conscience vote to approve the budget. I am not against Mr. Rosa I am against the salary.
- Adjourn Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. – 7 Yeas. Adjourned at 8:55 p.m., E.S.T.

  
 Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary