

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on September 15, 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
Harry Gilarno
Barbara Heyman
Greg Lehocky
Mary Ann Petcovic
Kathleen Schlegel

Board Members Absent:

Bobbie Jo Elmer
Mike Tibolet

School Staff Present:

Ron Sofo, Superintendent
Norienne Plate, Business Manager
Robert Staub, High School Principal
Richard Edder, Middle School Principal
Sherry Perry, Lead Big Knob/Conway Teacher
Chad Yopp, Building & Grounds
John Rosa, Faculty and Athletic Director

Solicitor

Matt Hoffman, Esq.

Beaver County Times:

Bill Utterback

Guests: Students, Sarah Choflet & Zachary Wilson, Students, New Sewickley Township, Megan Szatkiewicz, Freedom School District

- Bills Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve the first check run for payment of bills for September 2011, in the amount of \$357,904.80. **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, Gilarno, Lehocky, Challis, Heyman, Rocco, and Schlegel.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas
- Cafeteria Report Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to approve the August 2011 Cafeteria Reports. **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 – Gilarno, Petcovic, Rocco, Challis, Heyman, Lehocky, and Schlegel.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Treasurer's Report Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to approve the August 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>August 30, 2011</u>
Money Market, Huntington Bank	\$ (12,080.59)
General Fund, Huntington Bank	\$ 3,015,719.20
Payroll, Huntington Bank	\$ 1,044.90
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 674,270.13
Premier Savings – Huntington	\$ 1,385,168.29
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 3,089.76
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 201,223.43
PDSLAF - Capital Improvement	\$ 61,913.25
Huntington – Capital Improvement	\$ 1,980.24
Student Activity Account	\$ 58,342.62
Huntington – Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 265,834.71
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 1,291,475.89
PSDLAF CD – Capital Projects	\$ 3,524,000.00
PSDLAF General Fund	\$ 4,090,000.00

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Correspondence The District is in receipt of a letter from the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Ronald Tomalis, commending the District "For the Hard Work Being Done to Deliver High Quality Programs to Students With Disabilities", with a determination that Freedom Area School District Meets Requirements of Part B of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Other:

All board members will have a laptop computer available at the September 15 Board Meeting to view agenda and enclosures/Handouts (Pilot "Paperless" Board Meeting)

Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):

1. National Honor Society, High School Auditorium and Cafeteria, 11/9, Induction Ceremony and Reception
2. Conway Elementary PTA, Multi-Purpose Room, Tuesdays and Fridays, October thru May, Intramural Sports
3. FAST, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, Thursdays, October thru March, Practices
4. Skybacher Ministries, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1/3 thru 3/1, Hangtime Basketball
5. Courage for Life Foundation, High School Conference Room, 9/12, 10/3, 11/4, Board Meetings
6. FHS Golf Team, Softball Field, 10/20, Fundraiser

ENCLOSURES:

- A. Third Day Enrollment Data for 2011-2012 (Superintendent's Report - Item A.)
- B. Article on PA Cyber Ready to Delve Into STEM Education and Highlights of 2011 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll (Superintendent's Report - Item B.)
- C. Update on Projected High Priority State Legislation for Fall 2011 (Legislation - Item A.)
- D. Homeless Student Information/Compliance With McKinney Vento Homeless Act (Education - Item D.)
- E. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of September 13, 2011 - Current Projected Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$439,006.90; 36 Cyber/Charter Students, 11 Brick and Mortar Students - Total No. of Students - 47
- F. 2011-2012 Freedom Area School District General Office Telephone Directory
- G. 2011-2012 Kindergarten Survey Received from BVIU
- H. BVIU School Board Notes for August 24, 2011 Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Back-to-School The following administrators reported on Third Day Student Enrollment Data, Bussing and District Cyber Education Program

Dr. Staub - Logistics went smoothly. Minimal challenges, faculty cooperative. Some scheduling matters occurred but one of the smoothest & exciting opening of Dr. Staub's career. Orientations went well, new graduation requirements in process, greater expectations this year with faculty, benchmark testing etc. Losing students to Cyber School, 12 out of HS, saved six transfers the first two weeks of school. Meeting with anyone requesting to leave and will continue to do that. Some students struggling academically. We must find a way ASAP to have cyber version as part of our curriculum.

Rich Edder - Middle school - Fifth grade expanding with additional students, minor bussing issues, day one since then fantastic, seamless and smooth opening, students know what is expected of them. Overall going very well.

Sherry Perry (Reporting for Mrs. Baycura) - Reported that she has been in the district for 20 years helping Mrs. Baycura where needed, safety is of the essence, opening went very smooth, few more students in Conway up by 20. Bussing included all new buss routes and numbers, amazingly it is going quite well. Curriculum aligned for

reading and math, teachers have a common planning time. Overall going very well. 315 students in BK.

Cyber Education Dr. Sofo, Superintendent reported on plans for a Charter Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program at the High School sponsored by the Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School; Not sure when they will open, couple of years a reality, may be connected to cyber school, we need to understand what they are doing and determine if we can have a win win situation. Dr. Sofo will be meeting with Vince Trombetta, Midland, to determine if there are ways to collaborate. Initial small success with robotics and gaming courses, there may be opportunity to create academically and then fully blown program in grades 9-12. Competition will continue to increase.

Grant Funds Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, gave a status report on identifying Grant Funds for the 21st Century Promise Initiative saying he will be having a phone conversation on 10/3/11 with members of the Gates Foundation and is hoping to receive a major grant.

LEGISLATION:

State Legislature Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, updated the board on projected high priority State Legislation for fall 2011.

FINANCE:

Negotiations Contract Negotiations

Note in Minutes:

- Finance Committee Meeting, Thursday, September 8, 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., to Discuss Contract Negotiations
- BVIU Conducting wage freeze survey with all Beaver County School Districts at Freedom's request – Due September 12, 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 Speech/Language Teacher, The Role of the SLP in Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTII), September 23, PaTTAN-Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage

2. Other:

a. Gena Tokar, Conway Elementary Title I Reading Specialist, Beaver County Early Care & Education Council, September 14, Red Cross Building-Beaver, Cost Mileage

b. Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) Meeting, September 29, January 25, April 3, BVIU, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage:

i. Susan Camp, Big Knob Elementary 4th Grade Teacher

ii. Joy Crouch, Big Knob Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher

iii. Amy DeChellis, Big Knob Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

iv. Stephanie Hill, Big Knob Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher

v. Kris McCowin, Big Knob Elementary 1st Grade Teacher

vi. Sherry Perry, Big Knob/Conway Elementary Lead Teacher

vii. Cheryl Shaffer, Big Knob Elementary Title I Reading Specialist

viii. Courtney Anderson, Conway Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher

ix. Lori Baker, Conway Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher

x. Leslie DePace, Conway Elementary 1st Grade Teacher

xi. Kristine Ricci, Conway Elementary 4th Grade Teacher

xii. Lori Sacco, Conway Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

xiii. Gena Tokar, Conway Elementary Title I Reading Specialist

c. Dave Badamo, Middle School Technology Teacher, Future City Orientation, September 30, Carnegie Science Center-Pittsburgh, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage

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

- Aide Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve and Confirm Lauren Sieger as Middle School Learning Support Aide for 2011-2012 School Year (Clearances on File, Pending Receipt of New Employee Drug Screening)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Substitute Teachers Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve the following as Day-to-Day Substitute Teaches:
 1. Laura Baughman (Clearances on File)
 2. Katelyn Debogovich (Clearances on File)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Alternative Ed Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth Act 48 Program Agreement for services with PHASE 4 Learning Center, Inc. for 2011-2012 School Year, \$6,000 Per Student (No Increase)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- MMS Server Rich Edder, Principal reviewed the operational challenges presented by the Modular Management System (MMS) Server impacting Middle School Student Schedules saying the schedules were put back together through a lot of work. It was an inadvertent, non-intentional mishap where all scheduling for the 2011/2012 school year was lost. Procedures are now in place so that this does not occur again. MMS runs on a SQL server. Back up not able to be functionally restored as result. Scheduling was restored successfully.
- Teacher Evaluation Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, reviewed the status of the District's participation in the Pennsylvania Department of Education Teacher Evaluation Pilot saying that over the next eight to nine months the second level pilot of the new evaluation system will take place, multiple measures need to be used over time. During the second year of the pilot 65 schools are being asked to participate. The district will take part in the pilot program with up to four middle school teachers and the Association willing to have a voice in the process. Freedom would like to be on the cutting edge of the process.

Note in Minutes:

- Homeless Student Information/Compliance with McKinney Vento Homeless Act

OPERATIONS:

- Retirement Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to accept a letter of retirement from Linda Bellon, School Nurse Aide, effective November 1, 2011.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Substitute Nurse Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve Linda Bellon as substitute School Nurse effective January 1, 2012 (Pending Receipt of Updated Clearances)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Retirement Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to accept notice of retirement from Edward Jones, full-time High School Custodian, effective September 15, 2011.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Custodial Position Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, discussed realignment of a custodial position for economic/efficiency reasons saying that one full-time custodial position may become two part time positions. The District will look at various options.

- Parent Agreement Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve Parent Transportation Agreements with two parents. (Signatures Required)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Utility Easement Solicitor Matt Hoffman advised the Board that a request was made to the district by Columbia Gas to relocate their utility easement that is located on school property near Bulldog Stadium. Solicitor Hoffman will work on the easement agreement and come back to the board in October with an outline of the agreement.
- “No Parking” Signs The Board discussed tentative plans to post “No Parking” signs along the High School access road in front of the gym/pool entrance. If parking signs are placed on both sides of the road, the police have indicated they will enforce it. Parking will be available behind the building eliminating traffic jams. The information will be forwarded to the Architect for review.
- Integrated HVAC The Board discussed the feasibility of awarding a bid for integrated HVAC controls for Big Knob Elementary and Middle/High Schools to FIT Optimized Solutions in the Amount of \$41,831. This is not a budgeted project. Following discussion the following motion was made:
- Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve awarding the integrated HVAC control system for Big Knob Elementary and the Middle/High Schools to FIT Optimized Solutions in the amount of \$41,831 contingent on procedures being developed outlining responsibilities for monitoring the systems over the weekends and holiday. Note: Business Manager Noriene Plate indicated the money would come from the Capital Project fund.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Release Time Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve release time, according to contract, for Dawn Fronius, Food Service Director, to attend WEBSCM Training (Electronic Ordering System for Commodities), November 10, Seneca Valley High School, Cost Mileage
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- District Architect Solicitor Hoffman reported upon review of the Altman & Altman Architects letter of September 13, 2011 (copy attached) and review of the VEBH contract, he could see no deterrents to selecting either of the firms. The letter from Altman & Altman stipulated additional fees for requests made above the 5.5% new construction fee or the 6.5% renovation fee. Solicitor Hoffman is confident with either architectural candidate. Economics will be the determining
- Building & Grounds Chad Yopp, Director Buildings & Grounds provided the following monthly report saying since school has just started there have only been minor repairs, the pole building has been started, and the fields were ready for the football game.

Note in Minutes:

- Operations Committee Meeting, Thursday, September 8, 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., to discuss selection of Architectural Firm
- Ad placed in Beaver County Times and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Sunday, September 4, with a deadline date of September 23, for Buildings & Ground Position
- Receipt of thank you letter sent to Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the 14 Beaver County School Districts granting access to the County-Wide GPS Database
- Need to prepare letter to New Sewickley Township Water Authority Board conveying interest in bring public water to Big Knob Elementary School with appropriate engineering data
- Food Facility Inspection Report (Dated September 8, 2011) by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for Big Knob Elementary School, Status – In Compliance

EXTRA CURRICULAR:

- School Musical Keith Kovalic, Band Director, submitted a proposal to the Board to reorganize the High School Musical Personnel within existing budget. Kovalic said that **although he** requested a sabbatical he continually thinks about the orchestra/play – He would like to involve a few more people, spread the work out more and still be producing the play, his touch would still there. Mr. Kovalic said that he loves the art and doesn't want to lose it. No additional money to district, staff will be paid accordingly with the money that is there. Mr. Kovalic provided the Board a copy of his proposal. Under his guidance each task would be accomplished. Following discussion the following motion was made:
- Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve for one year Mr. Kovalic's proposal. If it works for one year, the Board will approve continuing the proposal going forward. (Copy of proposal attached)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Band Participation Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve request from Keith Kovalic for Freedom Marching Band to participate in New Brighton Halloween Parade, Wednesday, October 26 – No cost to District (New Brighton Parade Committee will cover expenses, approximately \$80.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- AD Report John Rosa, Athletic Director provided the following monthly report:
- 1) Team Records - Daily at Weekly Updates are being posted on the Team Pages on District Web Site:
 - Varsity Football 0 – 2
 - JV Football 0-2
 - Boys Soccer 2-2
 - Girls Soccer 1-3
 - Golf 5-5
 - Volleyball 0-2
 - Boys Cross Country 0-1
 - Girls Cross Country 0-1
 - MS Boys Soccer 1-4-1
 - MS Girls Soccer 0-2
 - MS Girls Basketball 7th 2-1
 - MS Girls Basketball 8th 3-1
 - 2) Ice Machine has been delivered and installed – working great
 - 3) First home football game went well
 - 4) WPIAL Eligibility Hearing is Monday Night
 - 5) Football Parking – all spots available were sold
 - 6) Football Uniforms – 15 white jerseys are missing
 - 7) Upcoming Home Football Games – Sept 23 (Aliquippa) Sept 30 (Laurel – Homecoming)
 - 8) Mohawk Away Football Game – This Friday, Comp Tickets available
 - 9) Creation of the Freedom Gold Boosters – Commendation to Aaron Fitzpatrick for helping get this new booster club started
 - 10) Commendation for Chad Yopp, Brion Weiss, and staff for being very helpful with Building and ground needs for athletic department.
 - 11) Thanked the board and administration for being very helpful and supportive of athletic director and teams as we start the fall sports seasons.

Note in Minutes:

- Creation by Community of Freedom High School Golf Booster Club

POLICYNote in Minutes:

- PSBA Policy on the Web Program to be placed on the District Website by October 1, 2011

MEET AND DISCUSS:

Personnel Matter Executive Session
 Student Discipline Student Disciplinary Matter

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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


- ❖ Contract Negotiations (Finance # A)
- ❖ Personnel Matter (Meet & Discuss #A)
- ❖ Student Disciplinary Matter (Meet & Discuss #B)

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

Adjourn Executive Session Motion by Challis seconded by Gilarno, to adjourn executive session at 9:20 pm EST.

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

Adjourn Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Challis, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. – 7 Yeas. Adjourned at 9:20 p.m., E.S.T.


 Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary