

MAY 7, 2015

The Freedom Area School Board held their Agenda Board Meeting on May 7, 2015, in the Middle School Library. Vice President Mary Ann Petcovic called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, EST.

Board Members Present:

Dawn Greene
Lori Pail
Mary Ann Petcovic
Lorraine Rocco
Dennis Sharpless

Board Members Absent:

Alan Colorito
Harry Gilarno
Barbara Heyman (III)
Jennifer Sayre

School Staff Present:

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent
Noriene Plate, Business Manager
Misty Slavic, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
William Deal, Principal, High School
Frank Hernandez, Principal, Middle School
Richard Edder, Principal, Elementary Schools
Scott Smith, Construction Representative/Clerk of Services
Gary Mortimer, Director, Building and Grounds
John Rosa, AD & Faculty

Solicitor:

N/A

Guests: Public sign-in sheet attached to the minutes in the minute book.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Elementary School HOPE Award recipients:
 - Lori Baker, 3rd grade teacher, Conway for April
 - Dana Gaertner, Physical Education, Big Knob and Conway for May
- Mr. Aaron Fitzpatrick, Newspaper Advisor, introduced the High School Print Media Students in attendance at the Board Meeting who were recently recognized for the Freedom High School Press awards. They are:
 - Seniors:**
Travis Hryckowian, Michelle Keith, Peter Korman and Raylen Welling
 - Juniors:**
Dereck Majors, Olivia Jansen, Sara Skinger, Grace Hutchison, Lea Gualtieri, Marley Hoko, Lara Pavlick, and Brianna Frashure
 - Sophomores:**
Michael Fricke, Devin Daley, Breanna Leasure, Brianna McKee, Joseph Pail, and Hannah Shumsky

Note: The High School Newspaper staff won an award as one of the top school newspapers in the nation. Fitzpatrick said that the articles the students write are not fluff, our students are thinking, patient and really intelligent students. He said that he is really proud of them and their accomplishments with the "Shawnee".

Michelle Keith, won the National Photography contest co-sponsored by Jostens and Wolfe's Camera, celebrating creative and innovative talents of student photographers from schools across the country

- The District is in receipt of correspondence from the Beaver County Career & Technology Center indicating (5) five Freedom Area High School Students acquired Perfect Attendance for a 120-Day Period beginning September 15, 2014 and ending April 15, 2015:
 - Tina Davis
 - Joel Kemerer
 - Eric Makray
 - Christopher Then

- Charles Zeidler

- The District is in receipt of the following “thank you” letters:
 - Madison Rae Daubenspeck, High School Student, commented on her attendance/observation of a monthly School Board meeting. Madison said she never realized what goes on behind the scenes of a high school and that an overwhelming amount of work is done and covered in just one meeting.
 - Leslie Rizzi, District parent, was a chaperone for the Freedom Big Red Marching Band on its recent trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. She thanked Dr. Fuller and the school board for allowing this special group of students to continue the tradition of marching in Disney. Mrs. Rizzi commented that the students were well behaved, respectful and represented our district with pride.

Invitations:

1. 37th Annual Graduation Ceremonies of the Beaver County Career & Technology Center, Thursday, May 21, 12:30 P.M., Community College of Beaver County “Golden Dome”
2. Circle of Scholars Dinner, Wednesday, June 3, 6:30 P.M., Franzees & Javy’s, Ambridge
3. Freedom Area High School Class of 2014 Graduation Ceremony, Thursday, June 4, 7:00 P.M.

Motion to approve the following Borough requests for Community events was made by Rocco, seconded by Pail, and unanimously approved through consent agenda:

- Borough of Freedom for District participation in the May 25, 2015 Memorial Day Parade, Commences at 9:30 A.M.
- Borough of Conway for District Participation in the May 25, 2015 Memorial Day Parade, Commences at 11:30 A.M.

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas

Other:

- Voting Ballots to be cast for Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Board of School Directors (Three Year Term Beginning July 1, 2015, thru June 30, 2018) – (Ballots to be returned to Board Secretary at end of Meeting of May 7, 2015 (Handout))
- June 2015 School Board Meetings to be held on June 11 and June 18
- Use of School Facilities will be scheduled according to policy. (Enclosure)

Note in Minutes:

- Important Dates for End-of-Year High School/District Activities:
 - *Principal’s Reception – Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 P.M.
 - *High School Spring Concert – Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 P.M.

PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- A. Patty Colorito, Conway parent, discussed the lack of attendance at the Special Olympics event that recently occurred saying that Freedom was the only District not represented at the Special Olympics. Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, said we will plan for active involvement next year.

MINUTES:

Motion by Pail, seconded by Greene, to approve the Minutes of April 16, 2015.

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas

ENCLOSURES:

- A. May Budget Transfers
- B. Free/Reduced Lunch Report as of April 30, 2015 – District at 46.57%
- C. Non-Bargaining Unit Increases for 2015-2016
- D. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of May 5, 2015 – Current Projected Annual Cost for 2014-2015 School Year \$789,795.33; 40 Cyber/Charter Students, 36 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 76
- E. BVIU School Board Notes for April 22, 2015 Meeting
- F. Athletic Director Monthly Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, reported on the following:

Bomb Threats -

We have had several bomb threats over the last three weeks. Each of the threats were delivered by messages written on bathroom walls so we are confident that they are coming from a student. The threats received at the middle school are very clearly copycat activity following the threats received at the high school.

This is a very serious matter and we are using all means necessary to identify the persons involved. We have involved the local police agencies, Beaver County Emergency Management, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Forensic Handwriting Specialists to identify suspects.

When a suspect is identified, they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This includes the filing of felony charges, the payment of restitution, and expulsion from school.

Relay For Life -

If you weren't able to join us last Saturday at the stadium for our Relay For Life event, you missed an amazing day! Our students set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the event. Mr. Deal and Mr. Smith agreed that if the students reached that goal, they would color their hair purple. That goal was met two days before the event started! So, I challenged the students to reach \$15,000 and that goal was met by mid-afternoon on Saturday. So, we raised the bar again. Mr. Deal and Mr. Smith agreed that if they reached \$20,000, they would each take a pie in the face from each team captain. There are 31 team captains. They also agreed that if the event reached \$25,000 by next Tuesday, they would stand under a bucket of slime. And we defined a bucket as the bucket of a front loader. After some negotiations with my wife, I also agreed that if the event reaches \$30,000 by next Tuesday, I would shave my head.

The event currently stands at \$21,909.98. The hair coloring has taken place. The pies are on the way. Please visit the Relay For Life of Freedom High School website (www.relayforlife.org/freedompa) and donate before Tuesday.

Fed-EX Safe Driver Program -

On Monday morning, our junior and senior students had a great opportunity to participate in the Fed-EX Operation Safe Driver program. This national program travels to schools to teach students about the dangers of drunk and distracted driving. Students heard an impactful presentation from a young lady who was in a serious accident as a result of distracted driving. They also had the opportunity to safely experience what it feels like to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence. Students drove golf carts through a closed course while wearing impairment goggles. This program was brought to the district by our school resource officer, Mr. Tom Liberty of the New Sewickley Township Police Department. It is our hope that we will be able to repeat this program on an annual basis for our high school students.

Motion to approve the following Superintendent's items was made by Rocco, seconded by Sharpless, and unanimously approved through consent agenda.

- CA:1 Adjudications for Disciplinary hearings held on April 30, 2015
- CA:2 Release Time, According to Policy, for Superintendent to attend the following for 2015-2016 School Year:
 - 1. PASA Board of Governors' Meetings, Harrisburg, Cost Lodging plus Meals

2. Administrative Meetings, BVIU, Cost Mileage
- CA:3 Release Time, According to Policy, for Principals' Administrative Meetings for 2015-2016 School Year, BVIU, Cost Mileage:
1. Bill Deal, High School Principal
 2. Ryan Smith, High School Assistant Principal
 3. Frank Hernandez, Middle School Principal
 4. Rich Edder, Conway/Big Knob Elementary Principal

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas
Vote

FINANCE:

Motion by Pail, seconded by Greene, to appoint Lorraine Rocco, as Board Treasurer effective July 1, 2015, thru June 30, 2016, According to Section 404 of the School Code (Non-Paid Position)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas
Vote

Motion to approve the following Finance items was made by Sharpless, seconded by Pail, and unanimously approved through consent agenda: (Copies of items CA:1 – CA:2 are attached to the minutes in the minute book)

- CA:1 May Budget Transfers (Enclosure)
- CA:2 Non-Bargaining Unit Increases for 2015-2016 (Enclosure)
- CA:3 Release Time, According to Policy, for Noriene Plate, Business Manager, to attend Monthly 2015-2016 Beaver County Business Managers' Meetings and 2015-2016 West Central PASBO Meetings (Costs According to Policy) and Health Consortium Meeting
- CA:3 Release Time, According to Policy, for Noriene Plate to attend PASBO 61st Annual Conference, March 8-11, 2016, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center (Costs According to Policy)
- CA:4 Release Time, According to Policy, for Wanda Murray, Accounts Payable Coordinator, attendance at 2015-2016 Beaver County Joint Purchasing Meetings usually held at BVIU, Cost Mileage
- CA:5 Release Time, According to Policy, for Linda Eldridge, Payroll Coordinator, attendance at 2015-2016 PSERS Meetings usually held at BVIU, Cost Mileage
- CA:6 2015-2016 Child Nutrition Program Sponsor Agreement with the BVIU for the operation of the Cafeteria at New Horizon School
- CA:7 Exoneration of Real Estate Taxes, Penalty and Interest for Conway Property #27-001-0309.000 for the Years 1984-2014 in the Amount of \$1,677.11

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas
Vote

EDUCATION:

Motion to approve the following Education items was made by Greene, seconded by Pail, and unanimously approved through consent agenda according to Act 48:

- CA:1 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**
1. Randal Perkins, Middle School Guidance Counselor and Lori Landis, Big Knob Administrative Assistant, PIMS Data Quality Network Meeting, BVIU, May 20th, Cost Transportation
- STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:**
1. Other:
 - a. Joy Crouch, Big Knob Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher, Around the World Field Trip to University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms, May 14th, No Cost to District (Target Field Trip Grant)
 - b. Katie Gigl, High School Social Studies Teacher, World Affairs Club, Field Trip To Heinz History Museum, May 11th, will use school van, Cost Substitute

- c. Aaron Fitzpatrick, High School Newspaper Advisor/English Teacher, plus (7) seven students, Publication Improvement/2015-2016 Planning, field trip To Neshannock High School Yearbook Workshop, May 19th, will use school vans, Cost Substitute
- d. John Capehart and Lori Baker, Conway Elementary 3rd Grade Teachers, Field Trip to Carnegie Science Center, May 21st, No Cost to District (Bus paid by PTA)
- e. Aaron Fitzpatrick, High School English Teacher, and Nate Langelli, High School Social Studies Teacher, plus (9) nine students, Team Building/Photography (Print Media), Field trip to Pittsburgh, May 30th, will use school vans
- f. Ellen Hill, Job Coach, and Officer Tom Liberty, School Resource Officer, plus approximately fourteen students, Career Shadowing, Field Trip to the Beaver County Court House, May 15th, Cost Transportation

CA:2 Approve List of June 2015 Graduates (Copy attached to minutes in the minute book)

CA:3 Annual Requests from:

1. High School Principal for Counselor Chris Bennett to work up to twelve (12) additional days, as needed and as approved by Building Principal, to complete High School schedule and special projects for summer work (Budgeted)
2. Middle School Principal for Counselor Susie Suleski and Randy Perkins to work up to six (6) additional days each during 2015-2016 School Year, as needed and as approved by Building Principal – Three (3) days prior to start of School Year to work on schedules for new incoming students and three (3) days for summer work (Budgeted)
3. Middle School Principal for Counselor Randy Perkins to work up to six (6) additional special project days, as needed and as approved by Building Principal (Budgeted)

CA:4 Jeanna Postupack, Student Teacher from Geneva College, to be placed with Karen Suhayda, Freedom Elementary Teacher (2nd Grade), January 12 through March 4, 2016 (Clearances on File)

CA:5 The Following for extended school year scheduled for June 22 through July 24, 2015:

1. Kathleen Dames, 45 Hours of Speech and Language Therapy @ \$48 Per Hour, Plus 5 Hours for Preparation/Documentation – Cost not to exceed \$2,400

CA:6 Renewal Agreement with MRS Physical Therapy for 2015-2016 School Year at a rate of \$60 per hour patient care and \$60 per hour non-patient care, including IEP Meetings and Documentation (No increase from previous year)

CA:7 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Project Cooperative Agreement Renewal for 2015-2016 School Year with the BVIU for the extended school year program and purchase of Certain Specialized Instructional Materials

CA:8 Adoption of Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds by School District as Part of the BVIU's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Application

CA:9 The Following Extended School Year Tuition Rates:

- **St. Stephen's:**
Glade Run Academics – Tuition Fee at \$3,500 per student (4 students) Plus Transportation
Glade Run Adventure Camp - \$1,720 (2 students, includes aide)
Plus Transportation
- **ACHIEVA/The Arc of Beaver:**
Tuition \$1,650 per student (4 students) plus transportation
- **LifeSteps:**
Tuition \$885 per student (3 students) plus transportation
- **Western Pennsylvania Psych Care:**
No tuition/transportation to District (1 student)
- **McGuire Homes:**
No tuition fee to District (1 student), transportation only
- **New Horizon:** No tuition fee to District (6 students), transportation only
- **Watson Institute/YMCA – Sewickley:**
Tuition \$7,218 plus YMCA - \$992.00 per student (1 student) Plus Transportation
- **Children's Institute:**
No tuition/transportation, District reimbursed by BVIU (1 student)

CA:10 Resignation from Tricia Schink, Conway Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher, effective August 31, 2015

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas
Vote

OPERATIONS:

Gary Mortimer, Director of Buildings & Grounds, provided the following monthly report:

General Information:

- An update of our 2005 F-350 salt truck. The new bed, shocks and leaf spring has been completed. The new salt spreader and bed liner will be finished shortly.
- Installation of all unit ventilators has been completed along with the control system at the Middle school.
- Currently new concrete pads have been installed at the baseball and softball field. Installation date of the new aluminum bleachers to be schedule upon delivery.
- Work continues with preparing the spring sport events and grounds work. The gravel base and finish has been completed for the shot put.

Motion to approve the following Operations items was made by Rocco, seconded by Pail, and unanimously approved through consent agenda

- CA:1 Disposal of district wide unused textbooks and/or library books for 2015-2016 school year
- CA:2 1938 Route 68 as Bus Stop
- CA:3 \$3500 payment to High School Drama Club
- CA:4 Disposal/donation of old unusable computers for 2015-2016 school year (Details will be provided at monthly board meetings when necessary)
- CA:5 Resignation for purposes of retirement from Donna Dunning, School Nurse Aide, effective at the end of 2014-2015 School Year
- CA:6 Payment of \$300 for the district's annual membership fee for the Pittsburgh Regional Food Service Directors Association
- CA:7 Resignation from Robert F. Petures, Big Knob Elementary Custodian effective May 1, 2015

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 5 Yeas
Vote

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN:

Scott Smith, Construction Representative, gave a construction progress update and discussed change orders. Project status to date: 66% scheduled, actual 65%. **Copy of report attached to the minutes in the minute book.**

Motion to approve the following Facilities Master Plan items was made by Greene, seconded by Pail, and unanimously approved through consent agenda:

- CA:1 No Cost Change Order for furniture award to Burke and Michael
- CA:2 Rescind motion from April 16, 2015 approving payment of \$21,500 to Freedom Borough for completion of Storm Water Sewage System upgrades on 8th Avenue
- CA:3 Agreement with John Drumm in the amount of \$19,350 for completion of Storm Water Sewage System upgrades on 8th Avenue

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas
Vote

Note in Minutes:

Public Hearing on closings of Big Knob and Conway Elementary Schools will be held prior to the Board Meeting on May 14, 2015

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

John Rosa, Athletic Director, provided the following monthly report (enclosure):

1) Spring Team Updates –

Track & Field Boys (7 - 3) Girls (5 - 3) 11 qualifiers for WPIALs in over 12 events

Baseball (6 – 11)

Softball (1 – 12)

JH Baseball (5 – 8 – 1)

MS Softball (4 – 3)

MS Track Boys (3 – 7) Girls (2 - 8)

2) Cheer tryouts are next week, approximately 27 total girls trying out. Not all are trying out for both. The plan is to keep 16 for Fall and 18 for Winter

3) Spring season was very difficult due to bad weather and lack of players in varsity/middle school softball

4) The robotics class has stepped up to help the athletic department – they are in the process of repairing a basketball-shooting machine that was not working properly. Mrs. Majors and her class have hopes to repair machine by the end of the year. The basketball programs and athletic department would like to thank Mrs. Majors and her students.

5) The baseball team has expressed interest in a spring training trip to Florida in 2016. Full details have yet to be provided. Once the details are received I will review with Dr. Fuller and Mr. Deal and determine the feasibility. If determined that it could work, we will review with Athletic Committee and Board for consideration.

6) I would like to recommend Ed Shephard for renewal as the Varsity Track and Field Coach. Coach Shephard is currently only interested in a 1-year contract for next school year.

7) The PIAA has adopted a 5-day football heat period for next year. This process will start on August 10, and will be followed and directed by athletic director, football coach, and athletic trainer.

8) I would like to thank the board, administration, and community for their support of our athletic teams during the 2014-2015 school year. We hope to continue to grow as student-athletes and teams in 2015-2016.

Motion to approve the following Extra Curricular items was made by Greene, seconded by Sharpless, and unanimously approved through consent agenda

CA:1 Laura Gundlach as Middle School Drama Asst. Director, Salary According to Contract

CA:2 Confirm: Additional Hotel Night for PIAA Wrestling, Cost \$103.95

CA:3 John Rosa, High School Math Teacher and Anna Maria Folmar, High School Attendance Secretary, Schedule Star Training- WPIAL Athletic Directors, Baldwin High School, May 27, 2015, Cost Mileage and Substitute

CA:4 Ed Shephard, Ryan Smith, Dave Badamo, PIAA Track and Field Championships, Championship Meet, May 27, 2015, Cost Meals, Lodging and Substitute

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas
Vote

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Greene, seconded by Sharpless, for the Board to go into Executive Session at 8:25 pm, EST, for personnel and legal related matters.

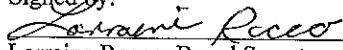
Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried – 5 Yeas
Vote

Motion by Pail, seconded by Greene, for the Board to go out of Executive Session at 8:50 pm, EST.

Roll Call Yea Votes -- Greene, Rocco, Pail, Sharpless, and Petcovic, Motion carried -- 5 Yeas
Vote

Adjourn Motion by Greene, seconded by Sharpless, to adjourn. All members voting Yea.
5 Yeas. Adjourned at 8:50 pm, EST.

Signed by:



Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary