

RONALD SOFO, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

NORIENE PLATE  
Business Manager

Freedom Area School District



Administrative Offices

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School Board Secretary

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**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**"Students Are the Center of the Decision Making Process"**  
**April 19, 2012**

Approve Bills \$126,259.21 (Second Check Run for April 2012)

Approve March 2012 Treasurer's Report

Approve March 2012 Cafeteria Report

**Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Minutes of March 1 and March 8, 2012

**Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Bills \$584,235.51 (Second Check Run for March 2012)

**Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Bills \$130,883.56 (First Check Run for April 2012)

**Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Capital Improvement Check Run for April 2012 - \$3,000

**Approved 4-12-12:** Approve February 2012 Treasurer's Report (**Administrative Report**)

**GO TO EDUCATION, ITEM M.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Open School Communications: Positive and Constructive Comments Between School Board Members, Administrators and Community:
1. Two Freedom Area Middle School Eighth Grade Students Have Been Selected by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for Awards in Math and Science
  2. Receipt of Letter from the Beaver County Career & Technology Center Indicating Eleven Freedom Area High School Students Acquired Perfect Attendance for a Ninety Day Period Beginning September 12, 2011 and Ending February 27, 2012

**COMMUNICATIONS (CONT'D):**

3. Receipt of Letter from the Beaver County Career & Technology Center Indicating Two Freedom Area High School Students Will Be Inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 P.M.
  4. Approve Request from Borough of Freedom for District Participation in the May 2012 Memorial Day Parade
  5. **Approved 4-12-11:** Approve Offer from the Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A. to Extend a Helping Hand to Five Families in the District During the Easter Holiday Season in the Form of a \$65 Food Certificate
- B. Invitation:
1. **4-12-12:** Entrepreneurship Celebration to Support Youth Entrepreneurs in Action, Tuesday, April 24, 4:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M., CCBC Learning Resources Center, RSVP to [joy.donnely@ccbc.edu](mailto:joy.donnely@ccbc.edu) or (724) 480-3452 by Tuesday, April 17
  2. **4-12-12:** BVIU/PSBA Legislative Action Council's "Meeting With Our Legislators", Thursday, April 26, 4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., BVIU, RSPV to Sandy DiSante at [sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us](mailto:sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us) by Monday, April 16 (Handout)
  3. **4-12-12:** Freedom RCI Celebration Dinner, Wednesday, May 2, 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M., Freedom Area High School Cafeteria, RSVP to Sandy DiSante @ [sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us](mailto:sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us) by Friday, April 20 (Handout)
- C. Other:
1. **REMINDER: Meeting With FAEA Leadership, Thursday, April 19, 6:00 P.M., to Continue Dialogue on Teacher Planning Time Grievance**
  2. **May 2012 Board Meetings to be Held on May 3 and May 10**
  3. **4-12-12: BVIU 2011 Annual Report (Handout)**
- D. Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):
1. Freedom/New Sewickley Girls' Softball, Big Knob Elementary, Mondays, 3/19 thru 4/30 (4/16 Not Available), Practices
  2. Cavegirl AAU Basketball, Middle School Gym, Wednesdays, 3/20 thru 5/31, Practices
  3. Conway Elementary Staff, 4/3, Transition Night for Children and Parents Transitioning to Conway Elementary Kindergarten
  4. Conway Elementary PTA, Conway Elementary Science Lab, 4/30, Board Meeting
  5. Regional Choice Initiative, High School Cafeteria, 5/2, Celebration Dinner
  6. Freedom Colt Baseball League, High School Baseball Field, May thru July (Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Share With American Legion on Sundays), Games



**COMMUNICATIONS (CONT'D):**

7. Unionville American Legion Baseball, High School Baseball Field, May thru July (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Share With Colt League on Sundays), Games
8. Big Knob Elementary PTA:
  - Big Knob Elementary School, 4/25, Story Walk for Students
  - Big Knob Elementary Science Lab, 5/3 thru 5/11, Book Fair
  - Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 5/8, Science Fest
9. Dianne's School of Dance, Middle School Auditorium and Classroom, 5/30 and 5/31, Rehearsal and Recital

**Note in Minutes:**

- E. Freedom Area Middle School Career Day, Friday, May 4 - Hosting Up to 24 Presenters from Community, Along With Six Speakers in Each Grade Level
- F. Receipt of BCCTC Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2012 Meeting

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

(Formal Request – 10 Minutes) / Informal Request – 5 Minutes)

- A. Mrs. Rose DeWeese, Parent of High School Students – Topic: High School Block Schedule
- B. Mrs. Carol-Lynn Dubovi, Parent of High School Student – Topic: High School Block Schedule
- C. **4-12-12:** Mrs. Rose DeWeese, Parent of High School Students – Topic: High School Block Schedule

**ENCLOSURES:**

- A. Testimony on School District Audits – House Education Committee (**Legislation – Item B.**)
- B. Letter Received from Beaver County Career & Technology Center on 2012-2013 Operating Budget (**Finance – Item C.**)
- C. Article - "What Public Employee Unions Are Doing to Our Country" (**Finance – Item G.**)
- D. Emergency Day-to-Day Substitute List Received from the BVIU Dated March 16, 2012 (**Education – Item E.**)
- E. Final Draft of District 2012-2013 School Calendar (**Education – Item F.**)
- F. Summary of PERC Teacher Job Fair (257 Applications) (**Education – Item N.**)
- G. Average Daily Membership for Freedom Area School District – 120 Day Report
- H. In-Out Migration Report as of March 2012 – **1,522 (+3 from February 2012)**
- I. Free-Reduced Lunch Report as of April 12, 2012 – **District at 41.01%**

**ENCLOSURES (CONT'D):**

- J. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of April 4, 2012 - Current Projected Annual Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$481,617.55; 40 Cyber/Charter Students, 13 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 53; 4 Year Old Program Enrollment 3 – Current Projected Annual Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$25,910.67
- K. BVIU Financial Data Tables:
  - 2009-2010 Aid Ratios
  - 2009-2010 Revenue by Source
  - 2009-2010 Act 511 Taxes
- L. Beaver County Births/Deaths Preliminary Information for January 1 thru December 31, 2010 (Received from BVIU): FASD – Total Births 113, Total Deaths 106
- M. BVIU School Board Notes for March 28, 2012 Meeting
- N. Beaver County Times Articles (*Available Upon Request*):
  - Sofo Saying So-Long to Freedom Area
  - Sofo Moving to Pittsburgh Charter School
  - Blackhawk, Freedom Area Exploring Pre-K Options

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- A. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Initiative Progress Report
- B. **Approved 4-12-12:** Accept Resignation of Dr. Ron Sofo, Superintendent, Effective June 15, 2012

**Note in Minutes:**

- C. US Department of Education Informed BVIU No Funding Has Been Allocated for the Continuance of the Regional Choice Initiative (RCI)
- D. Superintendent Invited to Speak to Residents of Liberty Hills Concerning District's Programs and Priorities, Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 P.M.

**LEGISLATION:**

- A. Consider Adopting Board Resolution Supporting Increased State Funding for K-12 Public Education

**Note in Minutes:**

- B. PA Auditor General's Office: Taxpayers and School Districts Could Have Saved Approximately \$86 Million in 2009-2010 if Cybers Received Funding Based on What They Spent Per Student (**Enclosure**)

**FINANCE:**

- A. Approve the Following Budget Transfers to Cover Cost of Superintendent and Other Position Searches and Telephone Panel/Electronics:
1. From:
    - 1100-610 (4533) Instructional Reserve - (\$20,000)
    - 2270-329 (5392) Professional Development Reserve - (\$35,000)
  2. To:
    - 2600-760 (3548) Equipment – District Wide - \$40,000
    - 2310-540 (3067) Board Advertising - \$15,000
- B. Discuss Approval of BVIU 2012-2013 General Operating Budget in the Amount of \$1,205,588 (Decrease of \$93,627 from 2011-2012 Budget – No Increase to District) **(Signatures Required)**
- C. Discuss Approval of 2012-2013 Beaver County Career & Technology Center Operating Budget – \$4,016,006.29 (Increase of \$125,647.10) **(Signatures Required) - Review Letter Received from Beaver County Career & Technology Center Dated March 23, 2012 (Enclosure)**
- D. Request from Buncher Company to Approve an Extension of the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) Tax Abatement for Tri-County Commerce Park for an Additional Five Years (June 30, 2012 to June 30, 2017) **(Solicitor's Report)**

**Note in Minutes:**

- E. Finance Committee Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 6:00 P.M., Middle School Library
- F. NOTICE: May is Month to Elect Board Treasurer for Next Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2012
- G. Article - "What Public Employee Unions Are Doing to Our Country" **(Enclosure)**
- H. Beaver County School Health Insurance Consortium Report for February and March 2012
- I. Beaver County School Health Care Consortium Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2012
- J. Community College of Beaver County is Withdrawing its Membership from the Beaver County Health Care Consortium Effective June 30, 2012

**EDUCATION:**

- A. Approve Released Time According to Act 48:  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**
1. **Other:**
    - a. **Confirm:** Linda Haffner, Big Knob Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, MSP Workshop, April 16, BVIU, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage



EDUCATION (CONT'D):

- b. Observation of Engineering by Design Program, April 20, Mars Area Middle School, Cost Substitute (Bert Pickard Only) Plus Mileage:
  - i. Darlene Corris, Assistant High School Principal
  - ii. Chris Bennett, High School Counselor
  - iii. Rita Kaplin, High School Counselor
  - iv. Tom Hickey, Technology Coach
  - v. Bert Pickard, High School Industrial Arts Teacher
- c. Wendy Vannoy, Title I Coordinator, New Federal Programs Coordinator Training–New Session, May 21, AIU-Homestead, Cost Mileage

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:

- 1. Other:
  - a. **Confirm:** PA Computer Fair, April 13, BVIU, Cost Substitute:
    - i. Valerie Marburger, High School Multi-Media Teacher
    - ii. Kristen Milanovich, High School Multi-Media Teacher
- B. Approve Maternity Leave for Rebecca Russell, High School English Teacher, Effective Approximately May 18, 2012 thru End of 2011-2012 School Year
- C. Approve FMLA for Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted Coordinator, Effective Approximately September 20, 2012, Followed by Unpaid Child Rearing Leave for Remainder of 2012-2013 School Year
- D. Approve Request from Patty Donaldson, Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, for One Unpaid Day – May 17, 2012 - According to Policy No. 439
- E. Approve Emergency Day-to-Day Substitute List Received from BVIU Dated March 16, 2012 (**Enclosure**)
- F. Approve District School Calendar for 2012-2013 (**Enclosure**)
- G. Approve 2012 Beaver County Summer Academy – Cost \$500 (**Signatures Required**)
- H. Approve Request from Beth Majors, High School Marketing Teacher, for District to Pay Hotel Expenses in the Amount of \$1,253.75 for the National DECA Conference, April 26 thru May 3, Salt Lake City, Utah (District Will Be Refunded Once Funds are Received from Donors) (**Administrative Report**)
- I. Review Proposed High School Curriculum/Instruction Changes in Light of Board's Preference to Wait for New Superintendent's Review (**Administrative Report**)
- J. Review Highlights of Pittsburgh Business Times 2012 Guide Ranking Western Pennsylvania Schools (**Freedom Area Ranked No. 3 Out of 14 Beaver County School Districts**) (**Handout**)
- K. Discuss Board Member Scott Challis' Ideas for a Student Exit Survey
- L. Status of High School Principal Selection Process (**Administrative Report**)

**EDUCATION (CONT'D):**

- M. Presentation of District's School-to-Career Transition Program

**Note in Minutes:**

- N. Summary of 2012 PERC Teacher Job Fair (257 Applications) (**Enclosure**)
- O. **4-12-12:** Initial Summary Chart Comparing Longitudinal PSSA Reading and Math Scores 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Grades

**Following Items Approved at April 12, 2012 Board Meeting:**

- P. Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

1. **Other:**

- a. **Approved 4-12-12:** Tara Roberts, Elementary Librarian, Beaver County Association of School Librarian's Workshop, April 11, BVIU, Cost Substitute (Afternoon Only) Plus Mileage
- b. **Approved 4-12-12:** Sara Heiman, High School Library Media Specialist, Professional Development Meeting for Beaver County School Librarians, April 11, BVIU, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage
- c. **Approved 4-12-12:** Chris Bennett, High School Guidance Counselor, Air Traffic Control Tour/Meeting for Career Information, April 13, CCBC, Cost Mileage
- d. **Approved 4-12-12:** Darlene Corris, High School Assistant Principal, Principals Leadership Academy Retreat, May 17-May 18, Bedford Springs Resort, Cost \$100 Registration Fee Plus Mileage
- e. **Approved 4-12-12:** Sherry Perry, Elementary Science Coach, ASSET: STEM Education Program, May 29, Bayer Building-Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage
- f. **Approved 4-12-12:** PA School Counselors Association Western Regional Conference, May 11, Westmoreland County Community College-Youngwood, Cost Registration Fee Plus Mileage:
  - i. Randy Perkins, Middle School Guidance Counselor – Registration Fee \$35 (Member)
  - ii. Susie Suleski, Middle School Guidance Counselor – Registration Fee \$60 (Non-Member)

**STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:**

1. **Gifted:**

- a. **Approved 4-12-12:** Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted Coordinator, Robot C Training, April 11, BVIU (No Cost to District)

2. **Other:**

- a. **Approved 4-12-12:** Amanda Swiontek, Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Spelling Bee, April 20, Aliquippa Elementary School, Cost Substitute

EDUCATION (CONT'D):

- Q. **Approved 4-12-12:** Accept Retirement from the Following:
  - 1. Roseann Lacey, Big Knob Elementary Learning Support Teacher, Effective June 8, 2012
  - 2. Cheryl Shaffer, Big Knob Elementary Reading Specialist, Effective End of 2011-2012 School Year (Will Continue Family Healthcare Coverage and Will Pay the Difference Between Worker/Spouse and Family Plan)
- R. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Kaléen Quinn as Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher (Clearances on File)
- S. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Homebound Instruction for High School Student

OPERATIONS:

- A. Approve Disposal of Computer CPU's (See Folder)
- B. Approve Stephanie Gilmore as Substitute Secretary for Big Knob Elementary School Effective April 19, 2012 (Clearances on File)
- C. Accept Resignation of Nanine Karpinski as Conway Elementary Part-Time Custodian Effective April 27, 2012
- D. Approve the Following Annual Membership Fees for Dawn Fronius, Food Service Director, for the 2012-2013 School Year:
  - 1. School Nutrition Association - \$135
  - 2. Pittsburgh Regional Food Service Directors Association (PRFSDA) - \$150
- E. Approve Continuation of Health Insurance thru the District's Plan, at Employee's Expense, for Donald Watson, Part-Time Custodian, Effective May 1, 2012
- F. Update on Selection Process for New Director of Buildings & Grounds (Administrative Report)
- G. Buildings & Grounds Director Monthly Report
- H. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Wanda Murray, Accounts Payable Coordinator, Up to One and One-Half Hours Per Day of Overtime, Retroactive to March 14, 2012, to Assist Gary Mortimer, Acting Buildings & Grounds Director
- I. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Edith Milligan as Cafeteria Substitute for Food Service Department (Clearances on File)
- J. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Extended Hours for Dave Matthews, Middle School Security Hall Monitor, Retroactive to March 27, 2012 - Rate \$104.33 Per Day Versus Current Daily Rate of \$80
- K. **Approved 4-12-12:** Accept Resignation of Chris Glass as High School Security Hall Monitor Effective March 29, 2012
- L. **Approved 4-12-12:** Accept Resignation of Marcy Schoy as Big Knob Elementary Full-Time Secretary Effective April 25, 2012



**OPERATIONS (CONT'D):**

- M. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve the Following as Substitute Custodian:
  - 1. Victor Miller (**Clearances on File**)
  - 2. James Altobello (**Pending Receipt of Act 151 and Fingerprint Clearances**)
  - 3. James Deladesmo (**Pending Receipt of Clearances**)
  - 4. Nina Moore (**Pending Receipt of Clearances**)
  - 5. Joann Smith (**Pending Receipt of Clearances**)
  - 6. Brenda Smith (**Pending Receipt of Clearances**)
- N. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Detmar (Sonny) Starr as High School Security Hall Monitor Effective April 16, 2012 – Salary \$59 Per Day (**Pending Receipt of New Employee Drug Screening**)
- O. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Price Increase for 2012-2013 School Breakfast by \$.05, Lunch Meals by \$.10 and Milk by \$.05 (All Breakfasts \$1.15, Elementary Lunch \$2.10, Middle School/High School Lunch \$2.25, Milk \$.55)
- P. **4-12-12:** Review Letter and Accompanying Maps Received from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection-Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation Concerning Building on High School/Middle School Campus
- Q. **4-12-12:** VEBH Architects Follow-Up from March 2012 Community Meeting on District Master Plan
- R. **4-12-12:** Determine Board's Interest in Exploring Ambridge Area School District's Idea Concerning Sharing a Common Buildings & Grounds Director

**Note in Minutes:**

- S. Food Facility Inspection Report by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for:
  - 1. Conway Elementary School, Status – In Compliance (March 15, 2012)
  - 2. Freedom Area High School, Status – In Compliance (April 11, 2012)
  - 3. Freedom Area Middle School, Status – In Compliance (April 11, 2012)
- T. **Total of 88 District Students Currently in Danger of Being Suspended from School as of April 29, 2012, Due to Non-Compliance of Required Immunizations Per Pennsylvania Department of Health Regulations**

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR:**

- A. Approve Contract Renewal for Current Head Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach
- B. Accept Resignation of Heather Giammaria as Majorette and Flag Sponsor Effective June 8, 2012
- C. Athletic Director Monthly Report
- D. **Approved 4-12-12:** Accept Resignation of Chris Glass from the Following Positions Effective March 29, 2012:
  - 1. Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach
  - 2. Boys' Assistant Baseball Coach
  - 3. Varsity Assistant Football Coach

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR (CONT'D):**

- E. **Approved 4-12-12:** Approve Joe Taormina as Boys' Assistant Baseball Coach, Salary \$1,100 (Prorated) **(Clearances on File)**
- F. **Approved 4-12-12:** Accept Resignation of Roslyn Ionta as High School World Affairs Club Sponsor Effective End of 2011-2012 School Year
- G. **Approved 4-12-12:** Accept Resignation of Sara Miller as Middle School Newspaper Sponsor Effective End of 2011-2012 School Year
- H. **4-12-12:** Freezing Athletic Coaches Salary for 2012-2013 School Year **(Executive Session)**

**POLICY:**

- A. **4-12-12:** Review Draft Student-Athlete Concussion Policy **(Handout) (Refer to Committee to Compare With Model PSBA Policy Expected May 2012)**

**MEET AND DISCUSS:**

- A. Research Related to Board Member's Question Concerning Children of District Faculty Attending Freedom Area Schools Tuition Free
- B. Status of New Act 93 Agreement **(Executive Session)**
- C. Deliberate on FAEA MOU Related to Pending Arbitration Hearing **(Executive Session)**
- D. **4-12-12:** Student Disciplinary Matter **(Executive Session)**