

# Freedom Area School District



## Administrative Offices

1701 EIGHTH AVENUE  
FREEDOM, PENNSYLVANIA 15042

RONALD SOFO, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

NORIE PLATE  
Business Manager

LORRAINE J. ROCCO  
School Board Secretary

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### Board of Directors Meeting "Students Are the Center of the Decision Making Process" January 12, 2012

Approve Bills \$446,682.08 (First Check Run for January)

Approve Capital Improvement Check Run for January - \$25,631.00

Approve December 2011 Treasurer's Report

Approve December 2011 Cafeteria Report

**Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Minutes of December 8, 2011

**Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Bills \$546,029.83 (Second Check Run for December)

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Open School Communications: Positive and Constructive Comments Between School Board Members, Administrators and Community:
  1. January 2012 PSBA School Director Recognition Month (**Handout**)
  2. Receipt of Letter from the Beaver County Educational Trust Informing Lori Sacco, Conway Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, Her Project Proposal, "Interactive Alphabet Centers", Has Been Selected as One of 20 Award Winners in the 2011 Great Ideas Program, Amount \$1,000
  3. Jeff Bishop, Freedom Area Graduate of Class of 2000, Made the Forbes 30 Under 30 for Energy
- B. Invitation:
  1. 2011 Freedom Lil' Bulldogs Football Banquet, Saturday, January 28, 4:00 P.M., The Fez, RSVP to Steve Slowinski at (724) 417-2153 by January 19
  2. 2011 Freedom Area Varsity Football Banquet, Sunday, January 29, 5:30 P.M., Javy's, RSVP to Cheryl Fiscus at (724) 544-8671 or E-Mail at [freedomfootballboosters@gmail.com](mailto:freedomfootballboosters@gmail.com) by January 19

**COMMUNICATIONS (CONT'D):**

3. Freedom Area High School Big Red Marching Band Banquet, Saturday, February 18, 4:30 P.M., Center Stage, Mail RSVP by Friday, February 3, to Diana Brunner (Address on Invitation)
- C. Other:
1. **Presentation of Freedom Area High School Guidance Web Page**
  2. New Sewickley Township Featured in Sunday, December 11, 2011 Post-Gazette "Real Estate Now"
  3. Discuss Board Attendance at National School Boards Association Conference
  4. **Filing of State Ethics Commission Statement of Financial Interests Form (Handout)**
  5. **February 2012 Board Meetings to be Held on February 2 and February 9**
- D. Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):
1. Freedom ESPA, Middle School Cafeteria, 12/21, Association Meeting
  2. Freedom Varsity Girls' Softball, High School Gym, 12/8 thru 3/5, Conditioning
  3. Freedom Varsity Girls' Softball, High School Weight Room, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, Conditioning
  4. Freedom Varsity Girls' Softball, Middle School Gym, 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, Promote High School Girls' Softball to Middle School Girls'
  5. Skybacher Ministries, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 1/13 and 2/3, Hangtime Basketball Games
  6. Freedom Area Education Association, High School Library, 12/21, Meeting
  7. Freedom Football Boosters, High School Cafeteria, 1/11, 2/1, 2/15, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 4/11, 5/9, Meetings

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

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

- A. Mrs. Carol-Lynn Dubovi – Parent, Topic: Swimming Pool

**ENCLOSURES:**

- A. Article on "What Americans Keep Ignoring About Finland's School Success" (Equity Versus Excellence) (**Superintendent's Report – Item B.**)
- B. Beaver County School Health Care Consortium Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2011 (**Finance – Item D.**)

**ENCLOSURES (CONT'D):**

- C. List of Student Activity Account Signatures for Students and Activity Sponsors for French and German Clubs (**Extra-Curricular – Item A.**)
- D. In-Out Migration Report as of December 2011 – 1,526 (+6 from November 2011)
- E. Free-Reduced Lunch Report as of January 3, 2012 – District at 40.34%
- F. **Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of January 10, 2012 - Current Projected Annual Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$468,351.92; 38 Cyber/Charter Students, 14 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 52; 4 Year Old Program Enrollment 3 – Current Projected Annual Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$25,910.67**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- A. Gather Board Input on Beaver County Superintendents' Proposal to Develop a Beaver County Public Education Strategic Plan
- B. Discuss "What Americans Keep Ignoring About Finland's School Success" (Equity Versus Excellence) (**Enclosure**)
- C. Receipt of PDE Letter Clarifying Department's Position Regarding the Effect of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Decision Regarding the Enrollment of 4 Year Old Kindergarten Students in Charter Schools (**Solicitor's Report**)
- D. Approve Request by Phyllis Pelt, Retired Director of School Nurse Certification Program, University of Illinois College of Nursing, to Use Picture of Big Knob Elementary School Hand Washing Area in a Book Entitled, "Art of Implement School Health Programs for the National Association of School Nurses"
- E. Personnel Matters (**Executive Session**)
- F. **Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Release Time, According to Policy, for Superintendent to Attend Creative Clash! The Future of Creativity, Technology and a New Innovation Community in Pittsburgh, Thursday, January 26, 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., The Carnegie Museum of Art-Pittsburgh, Cost \$45 Registration Fee

**Note in Minutes:**

- G. District Letter Dated December 15, 2011, Sent to Pennsylvania Department of Education Requesting Refund of Charter School Tuition in the Amount of \$57,307.19 (Deducted by PDE for 4 Year Old Charter School Tuition); Other Beaver County School Districts Requested Copy of Letter to Adapt to Their Needs
- H. Letter of Inquiry Submitted to Grable Foundation for Funding a \$10,000 Planning Grant to Create a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Promise Grant Proposal for Consideration by the Gates Foundation and Other Potential Funding Sources

**LEGISLATION:**

- A. School Voucher Bill and Revised Charter School "Reform" Bill Fail to Pass House Vote (**Administrative Report**)

**FINANCE:**

- A. Approve New Three Year Agreement With Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP, District Auditors (**Signature Required**):
1. 2012 Audit - \$16,200 (No Increase)
  2. 2013 Audit - \$16,200 (No Increase)
  3. 2014 Audit - \$16,500 (\$300 Increase)
- B. Approve Release Time, According to Policy, for Noriene Plate, Business Manager, to Attend Commonwealth Budget Seminar, February 23, Four Points Sheraton Inn-Mars, Cost \$75 Registration Fee Plus Mileage
- C. Update on Identifying Qualified Broker to Organize/Compare Proposals Received for District Health Care Coverage (**Administrative Report**)
- D. Review Beaver County School Health Care Consortium Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2011, for Possible Action Related to the Calculation of Annual Health Care Premium Renewal Rates (**Enclosure**)
- E. 1-5-12: Discuss Governor Corbett's Press Release on Issuing Mid-Year Budget Freeze (**Administrative Report**)
- F. 1-5-12: Early Bird ESPA Negotiations (**Executive Session**)
- G. 1-5-12: Non-Bargaining Unit Employment Contracts and Secretaries (**Executive Session**)
- H. 1-5-12: Personnel Matter (**Executive Session**)

**Note in Minutes:**

- I. Highmark, UPMC Reach Contract Extension Agreement
- J. Need to Select Meeting Date With Act 93 Administrator's Group for New Labor Agreement Commencing July 1, 2012
- K. Request for Finance Committee Meeting on Thursday, February 16, 6:00 P.M., to Review 2012-2013 Budget Development

**EDUCATION:**

- A. Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

1. **Other:**

- a. **Confirm:** Rita Kaplin, High School Counselor, RCI Planning / Networking Meeting, January 12, BCCTC, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage

**EDUCATION (CONT'D):**

- b. Rita Kaplin, High School Counselor, RCI Meeting to Review On-Line Curriculum With Vendors, February 7, BVIU, Cost Mileage
- c. Karen Suhayda, Conway Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Classroom Management of Children With Emotional and Behavioral Problems, February 2, Doubletree Hotel-Green Tree, Cost \$164 Registration Fee, Substitute, Mileage

**STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:**

1. **Other:**

- a. Hillary Frankenstein, Middle School Music Teacher, 2012 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Fest, March 2, Beaver Falls Middle School, Cost \$139.50 Registration Fee, Substitute, Transportation
- B. Accept Resignation of Kim Smith as Title I Coordinator Effective On or Before June 29, 2012, Pending Hiring of Replacement
- C. Approve Acceptance of \$2,000 Gift from Alumnus C.J. Arbes, Esquire, FAHS Class of 1961, to Fund Two \$1,000 Scholarships to Two 2012 Graduating Seniors, Students Must Be Accepted and Enrolled in a Post-Secondary School for the Fall of 2012 and Conway Residents (**Administrative Report**)
- D. Request from Music Department to Financially Support Up to Six (6) Freedom Area Students' Participation in Regional and State Chorus and Band Competitions (**Administrative Report**)

**Note in Minutes:**

- E. **1-5-12: Education Committee Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 6:00 P.M., to Review Implementation of District Operated Cyber Education Program to Increase Student Holding Power and Open Dialogue Related to Instruction and Planning Time**

**Following Items Approved at January 5, 2012 Board Meeting:**

- F. Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

1. **Special Education:**

- a. **Approved 1-5-12:** Jessika Fontaine, High School Learning Support Teacher, Beaver County Career & Technology Center Visitation for Special Education Students, December 16, CCBC/CTC-Monaca, Cost Mileage
- b. **Approved 1-5-12:** Henry Podbielski, High School Learning Support Teacher, Career Fair Planning Committee Meeting, January 7, Panera's-Monaca, Cost Mileage
- c. **Approved 1-5-12:** Henry Podbielski, High School Learning Support Teacher, Beaver County Transition Fair, February 24, CCBC-Monaca, Cost Mileage

**EDUCATION (CONT'D):**

**2. Other:**

- a. **Approved 1-5-12:** Tricia Schink, Elementary Math Coach, Knowledge of 4 Year Old Kindergarten Program, December 13, BVIU, Cost Mileage
- b. **Approved 1-5-12:** Riverside Cyber Program, December 20, Riverside High School, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage:
  - i. Kristen Milanovich, High School Multimedia Teacher
  - ii. Ed Shephard, High School Math Teacher
- c. **Approved 1-5-12:** Wendy Vannoy, Middle School Math Coach, Math 24, January 11, Midland School District
- d. **Approved 1-5-12:** Pete Kappas, Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade History Teacher, National Security Briefing for Teachers Tackling Global Threats: Challenges Facing National Security, February 14, Heinz History Center-Pittsburgh, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage
- e. **Approved 1-5-12:** Pete Kappas, Middle School Personal Finance Teacher, Economics of Sports, April 25, Conley Resort-Butler, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage

**STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:**

**1. Gifted:**

- a. **Approved 1-5-12:** Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted Coordinator, CLO Gallery of Heroes Performance, January 18, Beaver Falls Middle School, Cost Transportation

**2. Special Education:**

- a. **Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Freedom Area School District Contribution of \$100 to Help Defray Cost of Beaver County Transition Fair for Students and Parents Which is Being Held on Friday, February 24, at Community College of Beaver County
- G. **Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Kara Battalini as Conway Elementary Substitute Part-Time Aide for Months of January thru March 2012, Based on a 5 Hour and 45 Minute Workday, Daily Rate of \$59 (**Clearances on File**)
  - H. **Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Dan Guerra as Long Term Substitute Teacher for Dennis Partridge, High School Social Studies Teacher, Effective January 3, 2012 thru End of School Year, Daily Rate of \$95 (**Clearances on File**)
  - I. **Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Carrie Cooper as Emergency Chinese Substitute Teacher Effective Approximately January 23 thru April 10, 2012 (**Clearances on File**)

**OPERATIONS:**

- A. Approve Release Time, According to Policy, for Dawn Fronius, Food Service Director, to Attend Second Session on New USDA Commodity Ordering System, Thursday, January 19, 12:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., King's Restaurant-Grove City, Cost Mileage
- B. Approve Disposal of Computer CPU's (See Folder)
- C. Approve Unpaid Medical Leave for Patricia Spencer, High School Food Service Employee, Effective January 27, 2012 for Approximately 6 – 8 Weeks
- D. Head Start Feeding Program to be Claimed Under Our National School Lunch Reimbursement Program (**Administrative Report**)
- E. Facilities Master Plan Development Process (**Administrative Report**)
- F. Buildings & Grounds Director Monthly Report
- G. Approve \_\_\_\_\_ as Buildings & Grounds Director Pending Receipt of Updated Clearances and District Required Voluntary Drug Screening (**Executive Session**)
- H. **Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Chris Glass, High School Security Monitor, from Part Day to Full Day Until Replacement for Dan Guerra Found
- I. **Approved 1-5-12:** Approve the Following as Permanent Part-Time Custodians (**Clearances on File**):
  - 1. Arthur Brown, Big Knob Elementary School
  - 2. Trina Martin, High School
- J. **1-5-12:** Director of Buildings & Grounds Selection Process (**Administrative Report**)

**Note in Minutes:**

- K. Receipt of Letter from Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Food Distribution, Indicating Review of District's Single Audit Report for Year Ending June 30, 2010, is Approved and In Compliance for Programs Funded by the Department of Agriculture
- L. E-Mail Sent to New Sewickley Township Water Authority on January 3, 2012, Requesting Meeting to Share Emerging Future Plans for the District's Facilities and Potential Need for Public Water at Big Knob Elementary School

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR:**

- A. Approve List of Student Activity Account Signatures for Students and Activity Sponsors for French and German Clubs (**Enclosure**)
- B. Approve Request to Close Following High School Student Activities (**Administrative Report**):
  - 1. French Club
  - 2. German Club

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

- C. Accept Resignation of Thad Tokar as Stage Director/Stage Assistant for High School Musical
- D. Approve Aaron Fitzpatrick as Stage Director/Stage Assistant for High School Musical, Salary \$1,000 (**Clearances on File**)
- E. Consider Approval to Restructure Selective High School Clubs and Sponsorships at No Additional Cost (**Administrative Report**)
- F. Consider Extension of Contract for Tim Morgan, Head Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach (**Board Member Requested Discussion**)
- G. Athletic Director Monthly Report
- H. Personnel Matters (**Executive Session**)
- I. **Approved 1-5-12:** Approve Carrie Cooper as Head Varsity Boys' and Girls' Swim Coach, Salary According to Contract - \$2,800

**POLICY:**

- A. Review Board Policy No. 004, Membership

**MEET AND DISCUSS:**

- A. **1-5-12:** Personnel Matter (**Executive Session**)