

JANUARY 10, 2013

The Freedom Area School Board held their Agenda Board Meeting on January 10, 2013, in the Middle School Library. President Kathleen Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm EST, following executive session.

Board Members Present:

Lorraine Rocco
Scott Challis
Harry Gilarno
Barbara Heyman
Mary Ann Petcovic
Kathleen Schlegel
Dennis Sharpless
Mike Tibolet

Board Members Absent:

Bobbie Jo Elmer

School Staff Present:

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent
Noriene Plate, Business Manager
Richard Edder, Principal, Big Knob/Conway Elementary
Tim Dadich, Principal, High School
John Rosa, Faculty and Athletic Director
Gary Mortimer, Buildings & Grounds Director
Dawn Fronius, Food Service Director

Solicitor

N/A

Guests: Kim Nice, Auditor, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP; Mrs. Virginia Whipple and Jennifer Sayre, New Sewickley Township (NST); Rick Dicerio, Conway

COMMUNICATIONS:

Audit Review

Kim Nicely, Auditor, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP, presented audited financials for year ending June 30, 2012. Ms. Nicely reviewed each of the financial statements saying this was an unqualified audit, indicating no findings of non-compliance. She also reported that statements for School Year ending June 30, 2013 will change due to GASBY requirements. Appreciation was extended to Business Manager, Noriene Plate and the Business Office for the outstanding job they do in managing the District financials.

Note: Harry Gilarno, Board Member, left the meeting at 7:05 pm.

PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Student Safety

Mrs. Virginia Whipple, NST, addressed the Board requesting information on what the District is doing to address school safety in lieu of two very tragic events that recently occurred involving school shootings.

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent, stated that while we will not make our security plans public, we do take that portion of our jobs very seriously. We have been working diligently to review and update our School Security plans and are working with Local Police Agencies to provide increased availability and visibility at our schools. Following the Newtown, CT, and Taft, CA, school shootings, the District had police stationed at each school as much as possible, especially at the beginning and end of the day. This continues now, with officers from Freedom and New Sewickley walking the halls of the High School and Middle School occasionally and continued presence at entry and exit times.

In addition, the District has received reports from two agencies that completed security analyses of our secondary facility. The District is currently in the process of reviewing these findings with building principals, Buildings and Grounds, and staff to make adjustments.

Dr. Fuller stated that the District understands the trust that the members of our community have in us and know that students can't learn and teachers can't teach if they don't feel safe. We will take every reasonable step to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

School Colors
Policy 122.1

Parent Jennifer Sayre, New Sewickley Township, addressed the Board asking for clarification on parental responsibility addressing school colors for their student athletes and how the message is conveyed to the parents regarding school requirements.

Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, responded saying that School Colors are addressed in Policy 122.1 adopted November 8, 2007, indicating that school colors are red and white. Purchased uniforms, championship jackets and apparel, or any component of uniforms for any public event representing the FASD, are subject to Board Approval. In addition, uniform selections must be presented in mock-up or picture to the Extra-Curricular Committee of the Board prior to submission to full Board for approval. On May 14, 2009, a motion was made allowing cheerleaders and wrestlerettes to wear uniforms that included a small gray stripe. Dr. Fuller stated that the Board will review Policy 122.1 to create clarity and ensure the policy is equally applied to all teams.

Note: Board Member Harry Gilarno returned to the meeting at 7:33 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent, reported on the following:

1. January In-Service Activities and Curriculum Update – In-service activities are scheduled for a full day on Monday, January 21, and an early release day on Friday, January 25.
 - January 21 will include the following:
 - Middle School staff will attend the Pennsylvania Association of Middle Level Educators professional development activities, including a keynote address by nationally known speaker Mr. Bill Sanders, author of many books on parenting and teens, including Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul.
 - Elementary teachers will meet together at Big Knob to review the work being completed by the Mathematics and English/Language Arts curriculum committees, spend time looking at building goals, and science-related activities.
 - High School teachers will spend time reviewing the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment completed by the Pennsylvania State Police and reviewing the progress of the curriculum committees. They will then spend some time talking about their school mission and establishing common goals and vocabulary, then finish their discussion in department meetings.
 - January 25 – will be an early release day for students. Teachers and staff will be working in grade levels and/or departments to continue their review of student data that is available to them and would support their work with students.
 - Curriculum Update:
 - The administrative team continues to meet monthly with teams of Mathematics and English/Language Arts instructors to develop a written curriculum that is in alignment with the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards and is aligned both vertically and horizontally. The goal is to complete a cohesive curriculum document to guide instruction in both Mathematics and English/Language Arts before the end of the year. The Curriculum will be tied to the standards and will be implemented consistently and appropriately across all classes of the same grade level or department and will flow across the grade levels. This will ensure that instruction makes sense from the time a student enters our district in kindergarten until they graduate from their senior year.
 - Policy Update:
 - District Policies are being reviewed and updated based on suggestions from PSBA. Over the next few months, several policy revisions will be brought before the Board for consideration. Solicitor Hoffman will review each policy prior to Board review.

PDE	Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, reported that Mrs. Nancy Stanley, Special Education Compliance Monitor from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, was in the District on December 7 to follow up on a list of areas that the District was found to be out of compliance on in her November 2011 visit. Dr. Fuller said that we have received a letter from the Department of Education that all areas of non-compliance have been corrected and commending our staff for their hard work in correcting these areas of concern. Dr. Fuller commended Mr. Gene Feliciani, School Psychologist and Coordinator of Special Education, and Mrs. Deborah Baycura, retired Elementary Principal and Director of Special Education, for their work in training staff to make the required corrections and the extensive work that was required to prepare for Mrs. Stanley's visit. Great work was done by all.
Hearing	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Tibolet, to approve Resolutions pertaining to Student Disciplinary Hearings conducted on December 10, 2012 (Signatures Required)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Tibolet, Sharpless, Heyman, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

EDUCATION:

Released Time	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve released time according to Act 48: <u>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:</u> 1. <u>Math, Science Partnership:</u> a. Confirm: Amy Shultz, Elementary Math Coach, Math Coach Network, January 10, February 25, May 6, AIU-Homestead, Cost Mileage 2. <u>Other:</u> a. Basic Archery Instructor Training, January 21, Central Valley High School, Cost Mileage: i. Bert Pickard, High School Industrial Arts Teacher ii. Lisa Woods, High School Physical Education/Health Teacher iii. High School Teacher – TBD iv. Ed Majors, High School Math Teacher b. Pete Kappas, Middle School 8 th Grade Teacher, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh National Security Briefing for Teachers, February 12, Heinz History Center-Pittsburgh, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage c. Best Practices in Literacy Conference, February 22, Robert Morris University, Cost Registration Fee, Substitute, Mileage: i. Tiffany Beckwith, High School Family/Consumer Science / Middle School Technology Teacher - Registration Fee \$25 (Student Rate) ii. Tara Roberts, Elementary Librarian - Registration Fee \$69 d. A Vision for STEM Education: Exploring, Connecting, Transforming, February 18, David L. Lawrence Convention Center-Pittsburgh, Cost Substitute, Mileage, Parking: i. Tim Dadich, High School Principal ii. Bill Saludis, High School Chemistry Teacher iii. Dave Badamo, Middle School Technology Teacher iv. Sherry Perry, Elementary Science Coach/Lead Teacher e. Margie Anderson, School Nurse, 7 th Annual School Nurse In-Service, January 21, The Villa-New Castle, Cost \$30 Registration Fee Plus Mileage <u>STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:</u> 1. <u>Other:</u> a. Ali Chiapusio, Long-Term Substitute K-8 Gifted Coordinator: i. Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, January 24, Robert Morris University-Moon Township, Cost Mileage ii. Word Events Competition, January 31 (Snow Date - February 5), Ambridge Area High School, Cost \$84 Registration Fee Plus Transportation b. Katie Gigl, High School Social Studies Teacher, Academic WorldQuest Annual International Knowledge Competition for High School Students, February 8, Soldiers and Sailors National Military Museum and Memorial-Oakland, Cost Substitute
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Tibolet, Sharpless, Heyman, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Resignation	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to accept the resignation of Sara Willis as Aide for Cyber Program effective December 7, 2012.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Sharpless, Heyman, Gilarno, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas
Kindergarten Aide	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Brittany Ferrazzano as Kindergarten Aide for Conway Elementary retroactive to December 17, 2012, thru End of 2012-2013 School Year based on a 5 hour and 45 minute workday, daily rate of \$59 (Clearances on File, Pending receipt of New Employee Drug Screening)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Sharpless, Heyman, Gilarno, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas
FMLA	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve FMLA for Lisa Liptak, Middle School Learning Support Teacher, effective December 12, 2012, thru January 1, 2013.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Sharpless, Heyman, Gilarno, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas
PE/Health Teacher	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Gilarno, to approve Christopher Coennen as High School Physical Education / Health Teacher, Pending Release of his Current Position, Step 0M (Clearances on File, Pending receipt of New Employee Drug Screening)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Sharpless, Heyman, Gilarno, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

OPERATIONS:

Food Service	<p>Dawn Fronius, Food Service Director, provided an overview on cafeteria usage, waste, and new regulations saying that the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 is to update nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program for the first time in over 15 years. The new meal patterns are based on age-appropriate nutrition and physical activity habits of the average student. The updated requirements will now allow for a range of calories with both a minimum and maximum level, adjusted to the age of the student. The District was granted an additional \$.06 to help defray costs in the cafeteria due to the new regulations. The \$.06 is in addition to our regular federal reimbursement, but barely scratches the surface for meeting the 30 to 40 cents more per meal.</p> <p>Due to the new regulations, it was noted early in the school year that students have discarded food since students had to get used to having a fruit or vegetable on their tray. Some students did not like to take the items and would just throw it away. That has slowed down at this time.</p> <p>Ms. Fronius said that going forward she will keep the Board informed of any new occurrences and appreciates the Board's support.</p>
Wheelchair Van	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Tibolet, to approve the addition of a wheelchair accessible van to Freedom's Fleet (Administrative Report).
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Sharpless, Heyman, Gilarno, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas
Building & Grounds Monthly Report	<p>Gary Mortimer, Director, Building & Grounds, provided the following monthly report:</p> <p>Big Knob: General electrical and plumbing repairs; Inspection of the sewage treatment plant by DEP completed on January 9th, awaiting results; Chlorine levels being monitored for the drinking water.</p> <p>Conway: Work completed on electrical panel for stage lighting; Elevator cleaned and inspected; General repairs.</p> <p>Middle School: New Locks have been installed on the hallway gates; New door seals have been installed on the exterior gym doors; General repairs.</p>

High School: Installed new bronze pump assembly on the original Raypack boiler that heats the hot water for the locker rooms on the poolside. Cost to district: \$1180.00. Rekeyed the coaches' doors per Mr. Rosa. One PMF trailer has been removed from the back of the building. A control system failure of the HVAC system is being worked on. At one time, we had 7 heating units off- line with the operational control boards.

General Facility: Repairs were made in-house to the F-350 snowplow, approximate cost of materials \$500. Timber estimates on the Economy and Big Knob properties have been completed.

Reported the sidewalk on School Street has been taken care of resulting from the Columbia Gas summer project of relocating the meter house. Due to an underground spring on the hillside, water would run out and freeze on the sidewalk and road surface. While installing a new gas line on School Street, a decision was made to install a new 6" perforated drain line with gravel to attach into the existing storm sewer. By doing so, water is being directed away from the surface and into the storm sewer preventing the sidewalk and road from icing up and solved a safety problem and continual road surface damage.

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN:

Public Meeting A Public Meeting for the District's proposed Building Project will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 7:00 P.M., Middle School Auditorium. An advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper. In addition, the District's phone system and website will carry the message.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

AD Monthly Report John Rosa, Athletic Director, gave the following monthly report:

1. Winter sports' records are as follows:

Boys Basketball	1 – 10	JV	5 – 4
Girls Basketball	7 – 5	JV	1 – 5
Wrestling	2 – 2		
Swimming: Boys	2 – 1	Girls	0 – 3
MS Boys Basketball - 8 th	1 – 5	7 th	0 – 6
JH Wrestling	4 – 0		
2. Football Coach Update – 26 total applicants as of January 10
3. Indoor Track sports status – Report will be held for the Regular meeting
4. Rochester has agreed to explore cooperative sponsorship for girls tennis
5. Football Banquet is January 27
6. Coach Hernandez has been honored by two separate organizations as “Coach of the Year” - MAC and the Italian Coaches Football Association of Western PA

Note in Minutes: Rick Diciro, Conway, asked for clarification on who the Head Basketball Coach was. Athletic Director John Rosa indicated the Head Basketball Coach is Tim Morgan.

Note: Board Member Mike Tibolet left the meeting at 8:39 pm; Board Member DJ Sharpless left the meeting at 8:40 pm

Executive Session Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, for the Board to go into executive session at 8:40 pm to discuss the following:

➤ Athletic Equipment/Personnel

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

Adjourn Executive Session Motion by Challis, seconded by Heyman, to adjourn executive session at 8:55 pm EST.

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

Note: No action taken following Executive Session

Adjourn

Motion by Challis, seconded by Heyman, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. - 6 Yeas. Adjourned at 8:55 pm, EST.

Submitted by:

Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary