

**FEBRUARY 7, 2013**

The Freedom Area School Board held their Agenda Board Meeting on February 7, 2013, in the Middle School Library. President Kathleen Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm EST, following a Football Coach candidate interview during executive session.

**Board Members Present:**

Lorraine Rocco  
Scott Challis  
Bobbie Jo Elmer  
Harry Gilarno  
Barbara Heyman  
Mary Ann Petcovic  
Kathleen Schlegel  
Dennis Sharpless (Left meeting at 7:00 pm / returned at 8:25 pm)

**Board Members Absent:**

Mike Tibolet

**School Staff Present:**

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent  
Noriene Plate, Business Manager  
Richard Edder, Principal, Big Knob/Conway Elementary  
Tim Dadich, Principal, High School (Arrived 7:10 pm)  
John Rosa, Faculty and Athletic Director (Left at 7:20 pm)  
Gary Mortimer, Buildings & Grounds Director

**Solicitor**

N/A

Guests: Roy Whipple, Freedom; Andy Yeck, New Sewickley Township

Note: Board Member Sharpless left the meeting, as it was about to begin at 7:00 pm. Attended football coach interview.

Minutes                      Motion by Challis, seconded by Elmer, to approve the following minutes:  
   Agenda Board Meeting              January 10, 2013  
   Regular Board Meeting              January 17, 2013

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Donations                      Dr. Jeff Fuller, Superintendent, advised the Board that the High School is in receipt of donations totaling \$2,000 from seven local contributors in support of the High School’s effort to form a “National Archery in the Schools Program”. Mr. Bert Pickard is actively seeking funding and has raised over \$2,000 to date from multiple donations.

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

➤ Roy Whipple, Freedom, asked for an explanation of the Common Core Curriculum and how it was being mandated by the state taking away local control. Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent, responded saying the PA Common Core State Standards (PACCS) clearly communicates what is expected of students at each grade level. This will allow our teachers to be better equipped to know exactly what they need to help students learn and establish individualized benchmarks for them. The Common Core State Standards focus on core conceptual understandings and procedures starting in the early grades, enabling teachers to take the time needed to teach core concepts and procedures well and to give students the opportunity to master them.

While the PA Common Core Standards have been adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, we have been working with our professional staff to create instructional objectives that are based on the PACCS, but are appropriate to the Freedom Community. The PACCS are the minimum requirements, but districts are permitted to go beyond the standards.

- Andy Yeck, New Sewickley Township, represented the football team to express their opinion as to what they would like to see happen in replacing the football coach vacancy. Mr. Yeck said the team is not sure why change is necessary and presented to the Board a letter signed by the team requesting the same coaching staff be retained.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

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

Dr. Fuller reported Governor Corbett presented his proposed budget to the joint legislature on February 6th. His proposal did not appear to receive broad support, even from his own party members in the legislature. Governor Corbett is proposing what he referred to as "Record Funding for Education" as part of his budget proposal for the new fiscal year. This includes approximately \$100 million in additional funding for K-12 schools.

Additional funding comes in the form of an added \$96 multiplied by our Weighted Average Daily Membership multiplied by our Aid Ratio, which nets an approximate proposed increase of \$98,620. However, the proposed budget also includes a proposed shortfall of \$100 million in the state's contribution to the Retirement system, meaning, in our opinion, that if the proposed changes to the retirement system are not enacted, the \$100 million budgeted for K-12 educational programs will be redirected to the retirement system.

The Governor has also proposed selling the state-controlled liquor stores and using the \$1.01 billion in proceeds to fund a block grant program. The program would be funded for a period of four years, when the funds would be completely expended. School districts would be able to apply for funding in four areas:

- Pre-K programming
- Individualized Instruction
- STEM-related programs for students in grades 6-12
- School Safety

Also, although the Governor's proposed budget did not address the issue of funding for Charter Schools, there was some positive news for traditional public schools from Harrisburg regarding Charter Schools over the last few weeks. When the initial achievement results came out in the fall, many educators felt that the scores for both brick-and-mortar and cyber charter schools were inflated. This led to a number of questions being raised that made it to the US Department of Education. Based on a directive from the US Department of Education, PDE was required to recalculate the achievement rates for all charter schools in the state. Not surprisingly, they found that 21% fewer Charter Schools - including both brick-and-mortar and cyber charters - made Adequate Yearly Progress. In fact, not one of the eight-cyber charter schools operating in the state achieved AYP and six of the eight are in Corrective Action II, meaning that they have not made Adequate Yearly Progress in at least six years.

While this is not good news for our students who attend a charter school, it continues to point to the fact that the Freedom Area School District really is the best choice in public education for the students in our community.

### **FINANCE:**

Presentation	Noriene Plate, Business Manager, presented the 2013-2014 Preliminary Budget with a slide presentation outlining projected income and expenses for the next school year. <b>Copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes in the minute book.</b>
ESB Bank	Motion by Heyman, seconded by Gilarno, to approve ESB Bank as a Depository for the School District for Year 2013.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 7 Yeas

**EDUCATION:**

Released Time Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve released time according to Act 48:

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

1. **Special Education:**

a. Confirm: Bonnie Adams, School Nurse, SBAP ACCESS Training with PCG, January 23, BVIU, Cost substitute plus mileage

2. **Other:**

a. Confirm: Wendy Vannoy, Title I Coordinator, Federal Programs New Coordinator Training, February 6, AIU3-Homestead, Cost Mileage

b. Amy DeChellis, Big Knob Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, Transition Team Day 2013, February 8, BVIU, Cost \$15 Registration Fee, Substitute, Mileage

c. PSSA Administrator Training Session, February 11, PaTTAN-Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage:

i. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent

ii. Rich Edder, Big Knob/Conway Elementary Principal

d. PSSA Administrator Training Session, February 11, BVIU, Cost Mileage:

i. Darlene Corris, Middle School Principal

ii. Randy Perkins, Middle School Counselor

e. STEM Forum, February 12, Penn State Beaver, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage:

i. Tim Dadich, High School Principal

ii. Bill Saludis, High School Chemistry Teacher

f. Computing in 2013: What's New? Workshop, March 19, Robert Morris University-Moon Township, Cost \$20 Registration fee, substitute, mileage:

i. Tiffany Beckwith, Middle School Computer Technology Teacher

ii. Beth Majors, High School Computer Technology Teacher

iii. Valerie Marburger, High School Computer Technology Teacher

iv. Kristen Milanovich, High School Computer Technology Teacher

**STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:**

1. **Gifted:**

a. Presidents' Academic Games Competition, February 28 (Snow date March 4), Geneva College, registration fee \$3.50 per student/game, Substitute, transportation:

i. Ali Chiapusio, Long-Term Substitute K-8 Gifted Coordinator

ii. Jeanine Ging, Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

2. **Other:**

a. Beth Majors, High School Marketing Teacher, plus 13 High School Students, State DECA Competition, February 27 thru March 1, Hershey, Substitute needed - Only cost to District

b. Keith Kovalic, High School Music Teacher/Band Director, PMEA Region I Band, March 7-8, Mercer High School, Cost \$90 registration fee, substitute, mileage

c. Hillary Frankenstein, Middle School Music Teacher, PMEA District 5 Chorus Fest, March 8 (Snow date March 22), Rochester High School, Cost \$155 registration fee, substitute, transportation

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

Cyber Program Aide Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Lisa Bradley as Cyber Program Aide retroactive to January 22, 2013, based on a five (5) hour and forty-five (45) minute workday, daily rate of \$59 (Clearances on file, pending receipt of new employee drug screening).

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

Mentor Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Lisa Woods, High School Physical Education/Health Teacher, as Mentor for Christopher Coennen, High School Physical Education/Health Teacher.

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

Glade Run	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve Addendum to Day Student Education Agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services commencing week of January 14, 2013, thru end of School Year (Two days per week)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 7 Yeas
Field Trips	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman to approve the following field trip requests: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Middle School Bowling Field Trips to Baden Bowl During School Day - No cost to the District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friday, February 8 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade</li> <li>Friday, February 22 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade</li> <li>Friday, March 1 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade</li> <li>Friday, March 22 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</li> </ul> </li> <li>High School 10<sup>th</sup> Grade History Class Field Trip to United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., Saturday, February 23 - No Cost to District</li> <li>Middle School Sixth Grade Advisory Curriculum Field Trip to Rochester Manor, Friday, February 8 - No Cost to District</li> </ol>
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 7 Yeas

### OPERATIONS:

Building & Grounds Report	<p>Gary Mortimer, Director, Buildings &amp; Grounds, gave the following monthly report:</p> <p><u>General:</u> All school generators have been serviced and tested; our insurance company has inspected all boilers and air tanks. Recommended repairs, which are minor, are being completed. Costs of materials are less than \$2000.</p> <p><u>Big Knob:</u> Completed were: A water leak repair on the HVAC hot water supply line to the roof top unit (reset boiler pumps and domestic water pumps); Damage repaired to the walls and ceiling tiles due to the water leak; Sewer plant repairs on pump controller. We received a letter confirming two violations of the sewer plant, awaiting recommendation from DEP.</p> <p><u>Conway:</u> General repairs.</p> <p><u>High School:</u> Replacement of a gas valve on Renzor air unit A for girls' locker room on the pool section; Replacement of the ignition control with a new sparker on Renzor air unit B for boys' locker room on the pool section; Rooftop units 12, 3, A, were repaired with various parts; Failure of control system on 1/6/13, system running on old GCM controls with no available way to adjust temperature/operation times.</p> <p><u>Middle School:</u> Replacement of six univent motors completed; Elevator inspection was completed by the Department of Labor and Industry, one deficiency was discovered, code 114, no telephone or elevator gong available, bids are being accepted to meet current codes.</p> <p>The boiler control board system has failed, heat operation is being manually controlled while bids are received.</p>
Release Time	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Elmer, to approve release time for Matt Scala, Director, Technology and Information Services, to attend PETE&C Conference, February 10-13, Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Cost \$220 registration fee, lodging (Approximately \$365), meals, mileage, tolls.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 7 Yeas
Release Time	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve release time for Dawn Fronius, Food Service Director, to attend: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commodity Reprocessing Protocol Session 1, February 15, Diamond Run Country Club-Sewickley, Cost mileage</li> <li>Commodity Reprocessing Protocol Session 2, February 27, RIDC Park-Pittsburgh,</li> </ol>

Cost mileage

3. School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania Annual Director's Retreat, March 24-25, Radisson Conference Center-Camp Hill, Cost \$125 registration fee, lodging (Approximately \$135), mileage and tolls.

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

Bus Stop            Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve adding Bus Stop at 380 Brewer Road, New Sewickley Township.

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

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR:**

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

1) Winter sports records

a) Boys Basketball 2 – 19; JV 5 – 10

b) Girls Basketball 11 – 10; JV 5 – 10

c) Wrestling 2 – 5

d) Swimming Boys 2 – 8 Girls 0 – 10

e) MS Boys Basketball 8th 3 – 11; 7th 0 – 14

f) JH Wrestling 9 – 0

2) Indoor Track as a varsity sport

3) Spring sports getting set to start, MS Softball and JH Baseball set for first year

Football Coach    The Board will interview additional candidates the week of 2/10/13. One candidate has been interviewed at this time.

Executive Session    Motion by Challis, seconded by Gilarno, for the Board to go into executive session at 8:20 pm to discuss the following:

➤ Personnel Matters

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

Board Member Dennis Sharpless returned to the meeting at 8:25 PM

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

Roll Call Vote      Yea Votes – Sharpless, Gilarno, Elmer, Heyman, Rocco, Challis, Petcovic, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Note: No action taken following Executive Session

Adjourn            Motion by Challis, seconded by Heyman to adjourn. All members voting Yea. 8 Yeas. Adjourned at 9:20 pm, EST.

Submitted by:

Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary