

MARCH 7, 2013

The Freedom Area School Board held their Agenda Board Meeting on March 7, 2013, in the Middle School Library. Vice President Barbara Heyman called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm EST, following a Meet & Discuss meeting with the Association (FAEA).

Board Members Present:

Lorraine Rocco
Scott Challis
Bobbie Jo Elmer
Barbara Heyman
Mary Ann Petcovic
Dennis Sharpless

Board Members Absent:

Mike Tibolet
Harry Gilarno
Kathleen Schlegel

School Staff Present:

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

Solicitor

N/A

Guests: Chief St. Clair, Freedom Police Department; John Cummins, Freedom Cares Committee (**List of Names Attached**)

COMMUNICATIONS:

Thank you/
Congratulations

Congratulations and thank you to John Cummins and the Freedom Cares Committee on the success of the Freedom Cares Cash Bash. Mr. Cummins said that the Committee's goal was to sell 500 tickets and give back \$20 per ticket sold. The Committee set up a tax identification number to be listed as a business entity under Freedom Cares. Six hundred tickets were initially sold then 400 additional tickets, 2000 Chinese auction tickets, and several 50/50 tickets – generating \$43,427 in gross revenue. \$43 per ticket went back to the students. Approximately 440 guests showed up that evening. Everyone had a good time; sold out of everything they had. Board Member Barbara Heyman also acknowledged how well the program went.

Congratulations

Congratulations was extended to Freedom Area High School Student Noah Marks, Recipient of the Eagle Scout Award. A letter of congratulations will be sent from the Board and Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Fuller reported on the following:

1. Bomb Threat – Superintendent Fuller reported on the Bomb Threats that the District has been dealing with this week saying that he would like to thank the students and staff of our schools for the amazing job they did in effecting a smooth, incredibly orderly evacuation of all of our schools when we received the first threat on Monday afternoon. All of our students and staff were transitioned to safe locations within five minutes of receiving the call.

On the secondary campus, all students and staff moved quickly from their buildings to the stadium with every student accounted for when they arrived at their assigned location. At the elementary schools, both buildings were evacuated with incredible speed. At Big Knob, students were first evacuated to the rear parking lot while waiting for buses. Once the buses arrived, students were transported to the Big Knob Fire Station. Teachers and students treated the evacuation as a field trip. Comments from the community have been understanding and supportive; we appreciate that support.

Unfortunately, we received a second threat on Tuesday afternoon. Fortunately, it came after we had completed dismissal at the secondary campus and starting dismissal at the elementary schools. While we gathered all remaining students on campus to cancel

afternoon and evening activities, we asked the elementary schools to expedite the dismissal process so that the students could get home. Both Monday and Tuesday, we received an amazing response from our Emergency Service Providers. We had many police officers, the support of the Beaver County Detective's Office and Emergency Management Office, and 4 bomb-sniffing K9 police units from across the region in the district to sweep all of our buildings. In response to Tuesday's threat, each of our local agencies responded in force, including officers from New Sewickley Township, Freedom, Conway, Monaca, and Rochester. We again had the support of the Beaver County Detectives and the Beaver County Emergency Management Agency. We also received an overwhelming response from the Region 13 Anti-Terrorism Task Force, with 5 Bomb Technicians and 7 different bomb-sniffing K-9 units that completed a very thorough sweep of each of our facilities.

The police investigation into the threats is on-going. The United States Attorney has given the Federal Bureau of Investigation jurisdiction on the case, so it is now being investigated and will be prosecuted at the Federal level. This brings a lot of additional resources to the investigation and a lot of weight to the final outcome. We are very appreciative of the support that we have received from all of our local, regional, and federal agencies that have provided resources to us during this situation.

2. Agenda Changes - After meeting with the Board President, Mrs. Schlegel, we have made some adjustments to the layout of the agenda for Board meetings. For tonight's meeting, you will see that we start with Communications, then move into Public Comments. The finance-related motions that you are used to seeing at the top of the agenda have been moved to the Finance Committee section of the agenda. This was done to give the public the opportunity to comment on any action taken by the Board prior to that action being taken. The second major change to the agenda comes after the Public Comment section. Occasionally during the Work Session meeting - our first meeting of the month - there are items on which the Board needs to take action. These items have been pulled out of the committee sections and included in a separate Action Agenda section. This will enable the Board to give each of these items the attention they deserve, then move on to discuss each of the items that will be acted on during the regular action meeting the next week.

At times during the work session, if an item is not going to be acted upon, the item is not read or discussed. However, sometimes there are questions about those items that, if answered, will help to clarify the item. By working through the agenda in this way, items can be discussed and questions answered during the work session. Additionally, if needed, it will allow the administration time to review and answer questions prior to Board action the next week.

Presentation High School Principal Timothy Dadich outlined the proposed Academic Programming at Freedom Area High School for the 2013-2014 school year. Principal Dadich outlined the School Mission to include life-long learning benchmarks and said that students who may struggle with the mathematics program will receive support if needed. **Copy of the presentation is included in the minute book.**

FINANCE:

Laptops Motion by Elmer, seconded by Petcovic, to approve purchase of new laptops for Elementary/Middle School Teachers – Technology Fund Balance.

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

EDUCATION:

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- 1. Other:
 - a. App Jam 2013, March 13, Carnegie Science Center, Cost Substitute, Mileage, Parking:
 - i. Beth Majors, High School Computer Technology Teacher
 - ii. Kristen Milanovich, High School Computer Technology Teacher

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:1. **Gifted:**

- a. Confirm: Forensics Competition, March 4, Penn State Beaver, Cost \$10 District Registration Fee Plus \$4 Per Student/Event, Substitute, Transportation
 - i. Ali Chiapusio, Long-Term Substitute K-8 Gifted Coordinator
 - ii. Heather Giammaria, High School English Teacher
 - iii. Aaron Fitzpatrick, High School English Teacher
 - iv. Ellen Hill, High School Career Coach

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

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

Volunteer Coach Motion by Challis, seconded by Elmer, to approve Miranda Pfeiffer as Volunteer Volleyball Coach (Clearances on File).

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

OPERATIONS:

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

Big Knob: Routine maintenance of plumbing and electrical; rebuilt the sewer plant chlorine pump/tested.

Conway: Repairs to the VCT flooring of the gymnasium; General repairs to kitchen equipment and lighting; received a letter from Conway Borough insuring compliance and proper maintenance of installed grease traps and grease recovery devices. (Discussion)

High School: Control System Inc. has connected the GCM to a High School computer. This will permit us to have control over the HVAC system at the High School location only. (Discussion); we repaired AB1 partition door by installing new steel cable; investigating upgrading of roller and track; completed installation of Kevlar netting and supports for Mr. Pickard's Archery class; grounding of the IT closets and installation of a fiber optic cable from the Middle School to the High School has started.

Middle School: Replacement of the electric eye flush valves with manual flush handles has been installed in all faculty restrooms; emergency lights have been ordered and will be installed in each restroom; Control System Inc. has completed the installation of the new boiler control; completed the Spring cleaning of all univents and air handlers; replacement of two actuators on Boiler 2 in the supply header completed. Replacement of the phone blocks at the Middle School to be scheduled; grounding of all IT rooms has been completed; damage for the Middle School fencing has been estimated/awaiting insurance company.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

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

- 1) Spring sports are under way, weather needs to cooperate
- 2) Soccer update – 2 candidates have applied (need direction from board)
- 3) Football staffing
- 4) Boe Bonzo, Sr. Wrestler – WPIAL and Regional Wrestling Champion (also won his first match today at the State Championships in Hershey)

Executive Session Motion by Challis, seconded by Sharpless, to go into executive session at 8:45 pm EST to discuss a personnel matter.

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

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

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

 Note: No action taken following Executive Session

Adjourn Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Sharpless to adjourn. All members voting Yea. 6 Yeas. Adjourned at 8:56 pm, EST.

Submitted by:

Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary