

February 11, 2016

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on February 11, 2016, in the Middle School Library. President Sayre called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Board Members Present:

Alan Colorito
Harry Gilarno
Dawn Greene
Gerald Inman
Julie Leindecker
Lori Pail
Mary Ann Petcovic
Lorraine Rocco
Jennifer Sayre

Board Members Absent:

School Staff Present:

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent
Noriene Plate, Business Manager
Misty Slavic, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
William Deal, Principal, High School
Frank Hernandez, Middle School Principal
Richard Edder, Principal, Elementary School
Ryan Smith, Assistant Principal, High School
John Rosa, Athletic Director and Faculty Member
Scott Smith, Construction Representative/Clerk of Services
Gary Mortimer, Director, Buildings & Grounds

Solicitor:

John Vogel

GUESTS: Public sign-in sheet is attached to the minutes in the minute book

NOTES: Senior High School students were in attendance to observe a School Board meeting to fulfill graduation requirements

COMMUNICATIONS

Freedom Area High School H.O.P.E. and Student of the Month awards for December 2015 and January 2016 (combined) was presented by Principal Bill Deal.

- H.O.P.E. Award (Tie) (Theme – “Brightens My Day”):
 - Jeff Griffith, Social Studies Teacher
 - Kaylee Haggerty, Arts/Industrial Arts Teacher
- Student of the Month Award (Theme – “Most Improved”)
Presented by Assistant Principal, Ryan Smith
-12th Grade:
 - Boy - Jacob Moldovan

- Girl - Nicole Manges
- 11th Grade:
 - Boy - Sean Freed and Jordan Herzog (tie)
 - Girl - Mackenzie Moldovan
- 10th Grade:
 - Boy - Jimmy Hinzman
 - Girl - Kaitlyn Daniel
- 9th Grade:
 - Boy - Doug Sanchez
 - Girl - Sara Schoedel

- Freedom Middle School H.O.P.E. Award for February 2016 (Theme – “Making a Difference”) Presented by Middle School Principal, Frank Hernandez
 - Ron Miller, 5th Grade Teacher
- Elementary School H.O.P.E. Award for February 2016 (Theme – “Someone Who is Encouraging”) Presented by Elementary School Principal Rich Edder
 - Colleen Tyler, 3rd Grade Teacher
- Congratulations were extended to the following Freedom High School Athletes and Coaches by Athletic Director, John Rosa
 - Greg Cercone, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach
 - Hunter Giles
 - Jim Covert, Wrestling Coach
 - Kody Komara
- NFL Golden Football was presented to the District by John Rosa on behalf of Jimbo Covert, former student and NFL player with the Chicago Bears.

The District is in receipt of a letter from The Salvation Army thanking Keith Kovalic and the High School Band for their donation of coats.

Invitation:

- Elementary Story Walk Event, “Mystery Madness”, will take place on Saturday, March 5th, 9:30am – 12:00pm

Other:

- March 2016 Board Meeting to be held on March 17
- Use of School Facilities Schedule (According to Policy) (Enclosure)
- Bill Deal, Senior High Principal, gave a brief presentation on the Freshman Forum that is scheduled for March 14, 2016. This year it will be titled the “Folmar Leadership Forum” after Mrs. Anna Maria Folmar, a long-time employee of the district, supporter of our students, and initiator of the Forum.

PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Sue Vogel, New Sewickley Township, discussed the proposed Freedom Area Varsity Soccer Co-op and the number of current players (19/25) who lack the opportunity to play.

Natalie Dubovi, Middle School Student, New Sewickley Township, expressed her concerns regarding the number of students in the Middle School and the lack of lockers due to what she termed over-crowding. Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, said the district will take her concerns under advisement and work with Mr. Hernandez, Middle School Principal, to find a solution.

MINUTES

Motion by Petcovic, seconded Leindecker, to approve the Business meeting minutes of January 14, 2016.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Colorito, Inman, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, Gilarno, Leindecker,
Vote and Greene. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

ENCLOSURES

- A. Use of School Facilities Schedule (According to Policy) (Communications- Item D.)
- B. Free-Reduced Lunch Report as of February 4, 2016 – District at 48.81%
- C. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of February 1, 2016 – Current Projected Annual Cost for 2015-2016 School Year \$758,624.00; Cyber/Charter Students - 33, Brick and Mortar Students - 33 – Total No. of Students - 66
- D. January 2016 Budget Transfers (Finance – Item F.)
- E. Updated List of Bus and Van Drivers and Vehicle Aides (Operations - Item B.)
- F. 2016-2017 School Calendar – Draft Two (Operations – Item E.)
- G. BVIU School Board Notes for January 27, 2016 Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, reported on the following:

Review of January PASA Board of Governors Meeting:

Dr. Fuller reviewed his recent trip to Harrisburg representing the District and Beaver County Superintendents on the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Board of Governors. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Governor Tom Wolf. Governor Wolf spoke about the ongoing state budget crisis and his commitment to public education. At this time our legislature has not approved a state budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, although the state constitution required that the budget be passed by June 30 of last year. This week, Governor Wolf presented his budget proposal for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. That means that our legislators are now working through issues related to (2) two separate budgets. Additionally, they will spend the remainder of this month in appropriations meetings and will not be in session until March. They

will then go out of session for the election season, in which every member of the House of Representatives and half of the Senate will be up for re-election, meaning that we likely won't see any real action on either budget until early May at the earliest. By then, what is the point of passing a 15-16 budget? In December, they had agreed to a framework that would have provided an 18-month budget, which made perfect sense. Now they are talking about passing (2) two separate budgets, one for 15-16 and one for 16-17. This does not seem likely.

Without a state budget, it is very difficult for us to plan for the coming school year, as we not only don't know how much state funding we will receive towards next year's budget, we don't know what we will receive toward this year's budget. Since the start of this crisis, school districts across the state of Pennsylvania have borrowed over \$1.0 Billion, with over half of that going to the Philadelphia City Schools. Additionally, the three major rating agencies have downgraded our bond ratings (5) five times each, making the cost of borrowing that money so that we can continue to do our jobs extremely high. Fortunately, the Freedom Area School District has not had to borrow money to keep the doors open. Nor do we feel that we will have to borrow money in the future to meet operating expenses. However, that is not a position that can be maintained without end. If the state does not pass a budget this spring, we may have to borrow money in order to continue into the 16-17 school year.

The Board of Governors also heard a report on the re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1969 - most recently referred to as the No Child Left Behind Act. The newly reauthorized law is called the Every Student Succeeds Act. ESSA is a significant improvement over NCLB. While it maintains a Federal role in education, it swings the pendulum back to local control. We no longer have to deal with issues like:

- No Adequate Yearly Progress
- No Highly Qualified Teachers
- No Vouchers
- No Prescriptive Turn-Around Models
- No Federal Standards

States still must have high standards and States must have annual assessments in grades 3-8 and once in high school (PSSA and Keystone Exams).

The timeline for implementing the new laws is quite extended due to the magnitude of its impact: Now Law, regulations will be developed in 2016, with a "soft launch" during the 16-17 school year. New provisions will go into effect for the 2017-2018 school year.

In other news, the Governor signed into law a waiver of the law that made the Keystone Exam a Graduation Requirement for students in the class of 2017. This waiver will be in place for (2) two years. Although the state has temporarily waived the passing of the exam as a graduation requirement, we are still required to administer the exam and it will still impact teachers, schools, and districts through the School Performance Profile. So, we have our work cut out for us. Because the exam is not a graduation requirement, it may be difficult to help our students see the value in taking the exam seriously. However, there is still a significant impact associated with the exam.

Review of Feb 4 Operations Committee Meeting re: Elementary School Project Wrap-Up and HS Renovations:

The Operations Committee of the Board met in a public meeting to discuss the wrap-up of the elementary project and begin the discussion on renovations at the high school.

The elementary project is nearing completion. Contractors are finishing up their punch-list items, and there are very few things left to complete. The Board compiled a list of items that need to be discussed with the Solicitor and with the Architect before finalizing payments, but we are very near the end of the project.

With the work on the elementary school coming to an end, we turn our attention to the high school facility. At the end of the current project, we anticipate having approximately \$1.0 million in the Capital Improvement Fund to begin our work at the high school. The Board reviewed estimates from Clarke Construction for the replacement of exterior doors and windows, at a cost of just over \$900,000. Although that would get the project started, the Board decided that a better course of action would be to hire a construction manager to assist the district in pre-construction work to begin developing a scope of work, a possible phasing plan, and a budget and financing schedule that would ensure that the project is done completely, done well, and done in a cost-effective manner.

As a positive side note on the elementary project, we were visited by a team of administrators from the Fox Chapel School District last week. They are looking at building a new elementary school and spent the day visiting (3) three new school buildings around the area. They were very impressed with the child-centered focus of our school and the variety of spaces set aside for instruction. In fact, the follow-up conversations were that they want to base the design of spaces in their new school on things that they saw when visiting Freedom Elementary School. I think that is something about which we can be very proud - that other districts want to follow our lead on the design of primary level instructional spaces.

The district webpage is in the process of being redesigned by Mrs. Slavic, Mrs. Dohanich, and Mr. Deal. We have all expressed concern about the difficulty of navigating the website and in finding necessary information. It is a work in progress, but we think the final project will be a much more user-friendly site that presents information in a helpful and easily accessed way.

FINANCE:

Motion to approve the following Finance items was made by Pail, seconded by Petcovic, and unanimously approved through consent agenda: **(Copies of items CA:1 – CA:6 are attached to the minutes in the minute book)**

CA:1 Bills in the amount of \$ 575,122.56 (First Check Run for February 2016)

CA:2 Bills in the amount of \$1,471,691.37 (Second Check Run for January 2016)

CA:3 Primary Center Construction Payment in the amount of \$83,292.40 + \$808.75= \$84,101.15 (First Check Run for February 2016); as approved by VEBH Architects and S. P. Smith Construction (Handout - Scott Smith)

CA:4 January 2016 Treasurer's Report

	<u>January 2016</u>
Wesbanko - Money Market	\$ 6,074,705.87
Wesbanko - Payroll	\$ 723.64
Wesbanko- General Checking Account	\$ 23,672.24
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 1,423,863.41
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 0.00
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 852,645.99
PSDLAF Term – General Fund	\$ 0.00
Wesbanko General Fund – CD's	\$ 1,480,000.00
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 959,100.07
PSDLAF Max – Capital Projects	\$ 30,958.04
Wesbanko – Student Activity Account	\$ 56,573.91
Wesbanko Bodkin Scholarship - CD	\$ 201,402.44
Wesbanko Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 26,605.29
PSDLAF MAX – 2014 Construction Fund	\$ 0.00
PSDLAF – 2014 Construction Fund	\$ 8,509.68
Wesbanko - Capital Projects Checking	\$ 40,532.09
Wesbanko - Capital Projects – CD	\$ 202,113.90

CA:5 January 2016 Cafeteria Reports

CA:6 January 2016 Budget Transfers (Enclosure)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Colorito, Inman, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, Gilarno, Leindecker,
Vote and Greene. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

EDUCATION:

Motion to approve the following Education items was made by Petcovic, seconded by Greene, and unanimously approved through consent agenda according to Act 48:

CA:1 Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:1. Other:

- a. Transition to Kindergarten Meetings, February 9 (New Horizon), February 17 (Lifesteps), and February 19 (Tiny Tots), Cost Substitute (David's and Harley Only):
 - i. Erica Davids, Kindergarten Teacher
 - ii. Lauren Harley, K-2 Learning Support
 - iii. Renae Bogdan, Elementary Speech/Language
- b. Renae Bogdan, Elementary Speech/Language, Helping K-3 Students Comprehend and Compose Informational Text, April 21, BVIU, No Cost to District
- c. Lorraine Landis, Elementary Secretary, PIMS Data Quality Meetings, February 17 and March 16, BVIU, No Cost to District

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:1. Gifted:

- a. Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted:
 - i. Engineer Your Future, February 19, Carnegie Science Center, No Cost to District

- ii. 4th Grade Equations Workshop, March 17, Economy Elementary, Cost Transportation
 - iii. CLO Performance – Gallery of Heroes, February 25, Rochester High School, No Cost to District
2. Other:
- a. Aaron Fitzpatrick, High School English Teacher:
 - i. Senior Class Trip, Cedar Point, May 14, No Cost to District
 - ii. Pennsylvania Scholastic Press Association’s State Journalism Competition, March 3-4, Penn State - University Park, Cost Substitute, Lodging and Transportation
 - iii. Escape the Room, Print Media Workshop Students, March 11, Pittsburgh, No Cost to District
 - b. Keith Kovalic, High School Music Teacher/Band Director:
 - i. Regional Band, March 9-11, Valley High School, Cost Substitute, Registration Fee (\$240) plus Two Nights Lodging (Total amount to be determined)
 - ii. Regional Chorus, March 16-18, Western Beaver High School, Cost substitute plus registration fee (\$87)
 - c. Beth Majors, High School Business/Technology Teacher:
 - i. DECA Career Preparation Conference, February 12-13, Drexel University, No Cost to District
 - ii. Southwest Bots IQ Preliminary Competition, March 10, Butler County Community College, Cost Substitute (Will Use School Van)
 - d. Kaylee Haggerty, High School Arts/Industrial Arts Teacher, Mattress Factory Museum Tour, February 24, North Side, No Cost to District
 - e. Robert James, Middle School Band Director, Junior High District Band, March 22, Mars Area High School, Cost Substitute, Registration Fees (\$190 Total) plus Transportation
- CA:2 Resignation from Kalynn Hill, High School Instructional Aide, effective January 29, 2016
- CA:3 Uncompensated Leave for personal reasons, Per Policy No. 439, for Amy Nicely Giles, 5th Grade Teacher, effective February 4 and February 5, 2016
- CA:4 Uncompensated Leave for Personal Reasons, Per Policy No. 439, for Lisa Moore, 6th Grade Teacher, effective March 16, 2016
- CA:5 Request from Freedom Area Educational Association to offer voluntary sick bank for one (1) Elementary Teacher

Roll Call Yea Votes – Inman, Rocco, Colorito, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, Gilarno, Leindecker,
Vote and Greene. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

OPERATIONS:

Motion to approve the following Operations items was made by Gilarno, seconded by Colorito, and unanimously approved through consent agenda:

CA:1 Updated List of Bus and Van Drivers and Vehicle Aides (Enclosure)

- CA:2 Agreement with Kennywood to hold the District's School Picnic on Monday, June 12, 2017
- CA:3 Contract with Hostetter Auctioneers for Sale of Materials at the Elementary Schools
- CA:4 Draft two (2) of the 2016-2017 School Calendar (Enclosure) (Handout)
- CA:5 Scott Smith as Pre-Construction Management for High School renovations, paid through Capital Projects fund. Fee \$3,250 monthly, 12 month contract.
- CA:6 Released Time, According to Policy, for Randy Walker, Food Services Director, to attend:
- i. Concept Foods - Think Tank Meeting, February 18, Wexford, Cost Mileage
 - ii. Pittsburgh Region Food Service Directors Meeting, February 26, Cost Mileage
- CA:7 Request from Freedom Educational Support Professional Association to offer voluntary Sick Bank for one (1) Food Service Employee

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Colorito, Sayre, Gilarno, Rocco, Inman, Pail, Petcovic,
Vote and Leindecker. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

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

- A new monitoring system of the districts walk-in coolers and walk-in freezers has been completed. The installation of temperature sensors along with KMC controls and programming has been tested. Upon a freezer or cooler breakdown, the system will notify the following by text and/or email: Randy Walker – Director, Food Services, Gary Mortimer- Director of Buildings and Grounds, Craig Zeigler- Maintenance, and the building head cooks.
- No Parking signs are being installed on both sides of the back of the High School loading dock road to help prevent damage to the grounds.
- The Middle School Pneumatic system has been repaired and tested along with repairs to the main boiler system. Work completed in house with parts purchased.
- The motor assembly was replaced reusing the winch system for one of the High School basketball hoops. This system lifts the backboard up and out of the way when the bleachers are needed.
- The hot water heater which serves the High School student center and library areas has started leaking. A new unit has been ordered and we are tending to the current unit until the replacement arrives.
- High School: Roof top unit 7's gas burner has been repaired. The ignition control system on make-up air unit B is operational and running for the boys' locker room. A step down transformer has been ordered for roof top unit 17 which is currently shutdown. (1 of 3 Auditorium units)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

Motion to approve the following Extra Curricular items was made by Greene, seconded by Rocco, and unanimously approved through consent agenda:

CA:1 Resignation from Ellen Hill, Public Relations Director, effective January 20, 2016

CA:2 Resignation from Rob Henderson, Junior High Baseball Coach, effective February 2, 2016

CA:3 The following coaches:

- i. Corey Cochran, Junior High Baseball Coach, Salary According to Contract (Clearances on File)
- ii. Bradley Baldwin, Middle School Softball Coach, Salary According to Contract (Clearances on File)
- iii. Charles Speicher, Middle School Softball Coach, Salary According to Contract (Pending Act 168 and TB Test)
- iv. Traci Swab, Middle School Track Coach, Salary According to Contract (Clearances on File)
- v. Jason Melvin, Boys Varsity Soccer Assistant Coach, Salary According to Contract (Clearances on File)

CA:4 Released Time, According to Policy, for Jim Covert, Head Wrestling Coach, Wrestling Staff and Team (Pending Team/Individuals Qualifying and Advancing) to attend:

- i. PIAA Team Tournament, February 10-13, Hershey
- ii. PIAA Southwest Individual Regional Tournament, March 4-5, Canonsburg
- iii. PIAA State Individual Tournament, March 9-12, Hershey Quigley (Varsity Football) 2-4 participants up to 6-7.

CA:5 The following co-operative agreement:

- i. Quigley (Varsity Football) 2-4 participants up to 6-7

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Colorito, Sayre, Gilarno, Rocco, Inman, Pail, Petcovic,
Vote and Leindecker. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

Motion to approve the following Extra Curricular item was made by Greene, seconded by Rocco and approved as follows:

CA:1 The following Cooperative Agreement

- i. New Brighton (Girls Varsity Soccer) - \$250 per participant

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Sayre, Gilarno, Rocco, and Petcovic,

Vote No votes – Leindecker, Inman, Pail, and Colorito. Motion carried – 5 Yeas

John Rosa, Athletic Director gave the following monthly Report:

1) WINTER SPORT UPDATES

Boys Basketball – Team finished 5-17

Girls Basketball – Team is 8-14, but made the playoffs – open Friday vs Charleroi at Peters Twp.
HS 6:30 PM

Varsity Wrestling – Section Champs, WPIAL Runner Ups, lost in State Playoffs – individuals upcoming

Winter Cheer – Had a great season with no issues

MS Boys Basketball – Successful season

JH Wrestling – Finished with individual success

MS Volleyball Season is underway, 38 players on team

2) WPIAL alignments should come out next week, and we should know sections. The schedules will begin to follow starting late February 9, 2016

3) In honor of Super Bowl 50, The NFL Golden Football was presented to Freedom High School by 1978 graduate Jimbo Covert. Jimbo was the guest speaker at the Football Banquet – which was a great event

4) Kody Komara – Newest member of the PIAA, WPIAL, and Freedom Wrestling Century Club with his 100th career win in the state playoffs

5) Hunter Giles – Great media coverage of this great story. Hunter scored his first career basket in late January and had 10 points in his first career start on Senior Night.

6) I would like to thank Gary Mortimer and his staff for their cooperation this week with the multi events held on Monday. This was the first time we ever hosted wrestling in the Middle School and it was successful mainly because of Gary and his staff.

7) Baseball trip to Florida needed to be cancelled due to a lack of players who fundraised enough money

8) Louie Rivera, Freedom Graduate, donated a new sign for the ticket booth at the stadium

9) The tribune review does a ranking of athletic departments by school size. The ranking is an overall picture of all sports, where high schools earn points for wins, playoff appearances, and championships. There are approximately 45 AA schools in the WPIAL and Freedom currently ranks 6th overall.

CLASS AA

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Shady Side Academy 89 points | 6. Freedom 51 |
| 2. Seton-La Salle 76 | 7. Waynesburg 48 |
| 3. Avonworth 66 | 8. OLSH 47 |
| 4. Neshannock 61 | 9. Shenango 43 |
| 5. Charleroi 58 | 10. Brentworth, Frazier 41 |

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN:

Scott Smith, Construction Representative, gave a construction progress update saying following review the project is under budget by \$159,551.00 or 3.55%. 14.22% of the contingency was due to the District having no choice but to incur the expense due to Municipality requirements.

Motion by Gilarno, seconded Colorito, to approve an agreement with McElory Paving for completion of the track extension in the amount of \$10,000.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Colorito, Sayre, Gilarno, Rocco, Inman, Pail, Petcovic,
Vote and Leindecker. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

Adjourn Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Greene, to adjourn. All members voting Yea.
9 Yeas. Adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary