

**MARCH 5, 2015**

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on March 5, 2015, in the Middle School Library. President Barbara Heyman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, EST.

**Board Members Present:**

Alan Colorito  
Harry Gilamo  
Dawn Greene  
Barbara Heyman  
Mary Ann Petcovic  
Lorraine Rocco  
Jennifer Sayre  
Dennis Sharpless

**Board Members Absent:**

Lori Pail

**School Staff Present:**

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

**Solicitor:**

Matthew Hoffman, Esq.

Guests: Public sign-in sheet attached to the minutes in the minute book.

Note: Freedom High School Students were in attendance to observe a governmental meeting.

An Executive Session for Legal and Personnel Matters was held following the Board Meeting on February 12, 2015.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Freedom Area High School H.O.P.E. and Student of the Month Awards for February 2015 were presented by Ryan Smith, Acting Assistant Principal, High School: (Administrative Report)

- H.O.P.E. Award (Theme – “Someone Important Along the Way”):
  - Ed Shephard, High School Math
- Students of the Month Award (Theme – “Leadership”)
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:
    - Boy - Josh Battaglia
    - Girl - Raylen Welling
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:
    - Boy - Trevor Adams
    - Girl - Brittany Bionda
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:
    - Boy - Nicholas Henderson
    - Girl - Madeline Kiefer
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade:
    - Boy - Callum Heavens
    - Girl - Ava Colorito

Freedom Area Middle School H.O.P.E. Award for February 2015 was presented by Frank Hernandez, Middle School Principal. (Theme – “Goes Above and Beyond”) (Administrative Report):

- Kelly Guerra, Fifth Grade Teacher

Conway / Big Knob Elementary Schools H.O.P.E. Award for February 2015 (Theme – “Caring”) was presented by Rich Edder, Principal (Administrative Report):

- Stephanie Hill, Grade 3 Teacher, Big Knob Elementary

William Deal, High School Principal, gave a report on the State Career Development DECA competition saying seven (7) Freedom students represented the District and competed with over 2,000 other students across the state. Freedom Students receiving awards at the State Career Development Conference were as follows:

Louis Dubovi and Dereck Majors ~ wrote a Business Operations Research paper on Pro Fitness Plus ~ Placed 3<sup>rd</sup>

Louis Dubovi was elected to the Pennsylvania Executive Council

Dan White and Hannah Buerkle ~ won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the DECA Quiz Bowl Event

Zach Kugel and Maddie Edder ~ wrote a Fashion Merchandising Promotion paper on Ribbons Bridal ~ won 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Ryan Gray ~ wrote a Creative Marketing paper on Motivating Employees ~ won 5th place

Reilly Collins was elected as District II Representative

Reilly Collins and Patrick Baker also wrote a Business Operations Research paper on Shakespeare's Restaurant and came in 6<sup>th</sup>

In addition, Freedom students will participate in Robotics competition that will take place on March 6<sup>th</sup> at Blair County Community College. Corporate sponsor for Freedom's Robotics Program is VEKA, Inc. O'Neal steel supported the team with a tool donation.

Invitation:

- Varsity Girls' Basketball Banquet, Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, Cranberry Township, PA, March 14, 2015, 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Other:

- April 2015 Board Meetings to be held on April 16 and April 23

Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Sharpless, to approve the use of School Facilities Schedule (According to Policy) (Enclosure)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Sharpless, Sayre, Petcovic, Heyman and  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Ed Eisenbrown, New Sewickley Township, thanked Principal Bill Deal and Mrs. Majors for going above and beyond working with the students in the Robotics program.

**MINUTES:**

Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Sharpless, to approve the Minutes of February 5 and February 12, 2015.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Sharpless, Sayre, Petcovic, Heyman, and  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

**ENCLOSURES:**

- A. Use of School Facilities Schedule (According to Policy)
- B. Free-Reduced Lunch Report as of March 2, 2015 – District at 45.64%
- C. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of March 1, 2015 – Current Projected Annual Cost for 2014-2015 School Year \$828,623.06; 41 Cyber/Charter Students, 36 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 77
- D. Before/After School Care Request For Proposals
- E. 2015-2016 School Calendar
- F. Board Resolution Regarding Basic Education Funding Formula
- G. Budget Transfers

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, discussed the following:

- A. A "Before-and-After-School Care" Request For Proposal (RFP) for K-6 was discussed. Dr. Fuller said that those submitting proposals are also to provide a day

- program in the summer. The Board was in favor of the Superintendent sending out an RFP to various centers to determine interest. (Enclosure)
- B. 2015-2016 School Calendar Review (Enclosure). Dr. Fuller reviewed Drafts A & B. The Thanksgiving holiday, spring break and snow days were the differences between the two. The Board will approve A or B at the April Board meeting. Commencement will be June 10.
  - C. Advised the Board that Clearances are to be updated every three years. Everyone will need their clearances updated by December but some faculty will need it completed earlier too be in compliance with Act 153 that was finalized December 31, 2014.
  - D. Letters of recognition for Big Knob's designation as a Distinguished Title 1 School were received from Sen. Elder Vogel, Rep. James Marshall and Rep. Rob Matzie
  - E. Updated the Board on the Basic Education Funding Formula Campaign and requested consideration of a Board Resolution supporting the development of a Fair Funding Formula. (Enclosure)

Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Rocco, to approve sending a "Resolution Urging The General Assembly To Establish a New Funding Formula For Basic Education". **Copy of the Resolution is attached to the minutes in the minute book.**

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Sharpless, Sayre, Petcovic, Heyman, and  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Business Manager Noriene Plate gave an overview of newly elected Governor Wolf's proposed 2015-2016, K-12 Education Budget and how it could affect the Freedom Area School District if passed. **Copy attached to the minutes in the minute book.**

Motion to approve the following Superintendent's items was made by Rocco, seconded by Gilarno, and unanimously approved through consent agenda:

- CA:1 A donation from the Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A. for District distribution to five (5) families in need during the Easter Season in the form of \$75 Food Certificates.
- CA: The Nomination of Mr. Harry Gilarno as Freedom Area School District's Representative to the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Board of Directors for a Three-Year Term commencing July 1, 2015.
- CA:3 Release Time, According to Contract, for Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent, and William Deal, High School Principal, to attend STEM: Creating a Regional Model for Economic and Workforce Development workshop on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, Wyndham Grand Downtown, Pittsburgh, PA, Cost Mileage and Parking.
- CA:4 Release Time, According to Contract, for Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent, to attend a screening for a documentary, titled The Family Next Door, chronicles the challenges of autism for a family, at Upper St. Clair School District, Friday, March 6, 2015, Cost Mileage.
- CA:5 Snow Make-Up Days, per the 2014-2015 School Calendar: Monday, March 9, 2015 (for Thursday, February 19, 2015) and Wednesday, April 1, 2015 (for Friday, February 20, 2015).

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Sayre, Petcovic, Sharpless, Colorito, and  
Vote Heyman. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Misty Slavic, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, updated the Board on the Penguins Foundation Tablets in Education Grant and the Title I Distinguished School Grant. Out of 68 schools in Pennsylvania, Big Knob Elementary School was fortunate enough to receive a \$50,000 grant award for the Title I Distinguished School Grant. Grant monies will be used to purchase a guided reading library & ELMO document cameras.

In addition, the "Tablets in Education" grant award provides a charging cart, twenty (20) Kindle Fire XDs, and twenty (20) sky blue shock covers with the Tablets in Education logo. **Copy of The "Summary of Grant Application" is attached to the minutes in the minute book.**

FINANCE:

Motion to approve the following Finance items was made by Rocco, seconded by Sayre, and unanimously approved through consent agenda: (Copies of items CA:1 – CA:7 are attached to the minutes in the minute book)

- CA:1 Bills in the amount of \$578,547.35 (Second Check Run for February 2015)
- CA:2 Bills in the amount of \$360,926.59 (First Check Run for March 2015)
- CA:3 Capital Improvement First Check Run for March 2015 - \$2,553.83
- CA:4 Primary Center construction payment in the amount of \$982,257.48 (First Check Run for March 2015); as approved by VEBH Architects and S. P. Smith Construction (Handout 3-5-15 – Scott Smith)
- CA:6 February 2015 Cafeteria Report
- CA:7 March 2015 Budget Transfer (Enclosure)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Sharpless, Sayre, Petcovic, Heyman and  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Following discussion regarding the BVIU 2015-2016 General Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,115,972 (Decrease of \$338,945 from 2014-2015 Budget – No Increase to District) the following motion was made:

Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Rocco, to disapprove the BVIU 2015-2016 General Operating budget in the amount of \$2,115,972 .

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Sharpless, Sayre, Petcovic, Heyman and.  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

■ Note in Minutes:

- The Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Board has awarded the bid for Gasoline, Diesel Fuel and Heating Oil for the 2015-16 school year. The Western Pennsylvania Gasoline/Diesel Consortium Committee has made a recommendation to award the bid to Guttman Energy, Inc. Participants will pay approximately \$1 less for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel for a \$40K savings to the District.

EDUCATION:

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

CA:1 Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:Other:

- a. Rita Kaplin, High School Counselor, Student Services Committee, March 12, 2015, BCCTC, Cost Mileage
- b. Gene Feliciani, School Psychologist, and Misty Slavic, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Why Use RtII for SLD Determination, April 17, 2015, PATTAN-Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage, Tolls
- c. Lisa Woods, HS Physical Education, and Dana Gaertner, Elementary Physical Education, Farm to Table Pittsburgh Conference, March 27, 2015, Pittsburgh, PA, Cost Mileage

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:Other:

- a. (Confirm) Jim Covert, Varsity Wrestling Coach, PIAA Regional Wrestling Tournament, February 27-28, 2015, Canonsburg, PA, Cost Lodging, Meals, Mileage
- b. (Confirm) Ed Shephard, Varsity Track Coach, Indoor Track State Championships, February 28 – March 1, 2015, State College, PA, Cost Lodging, Meals, Tolls (Used School Van)
- c. Jim Covert, Varsity Wrestling Coach, PIAA State Wrestling Tournament, March 4-7, 2015, Hershey, PA, Cost Lodging, Meals, Mileage, Tolls

- d. Anthony Zimmerman and Jennifer Glover, Gifted Instructors, Mental Math Competition, March 10, 2015, Midland, PA, Cost \$25 Registration
  - e. Jennifer Glover, Academic Games Sponsor, National Academic Games Competition, April 23-28, 2015, Orlando, FL, Cost Lodging, Transportation (Airfare/Taxi/Shuttle) Not to Exceed \$3,600.
  - f. Rob James, Middle School Band Director, Junior High District Band, March 31, 2015, Butler Intermediate High School, Butler, PA, Cost \$84 Registration
  - g. Fifth Grade Teachers, Strip District Field Trip, May 15, 2015, Pittsburgh, PA, No Cost to District – Funded by Middle School PTSA
- CA:2 Ryan Smith as High School Assistant Principal, effective March 5, 2015 - Salary \$77,500
- CA:3 Leticia Vallecorsa as Cyber Aide, Salary According to Contract, effective March 9, 2015 (Clearances on File).
- CA:4 Request from Kris McCowin, Big Knob 1st Grade Teacher, for three (3) unpaid Days, March 16, 2015, May 1, 2015, and May 4, 2015, According to Policy No. 439
- CA:5 The Resignation for purposes of retirement for Marjorie Anderson as Certified School Nurse, effective April 3, 2015.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Sharpless, Sayre, Gilarno, Heyman, Petcovic, and  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

### OPERATIONS:

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

#### **General Information:**

Routine maintenance and snow removal; Critical alarm notifications have been setup with the newly completed HVAC control system. This system will alert the Director, Buildings and Grounds by email and text upon a critical failure of a system within the High School and Middle School.

#### **High School:**

Hot water supply and return piping has been started for the hot water needs to the pool locker rooms; Repairs continue with roof top units and exhaust fans.

#### **Conway:**

Replacement of freeze stats and motors on failed uni-vents within the classrooms completed; Adjustments with the pneumatic controls to operate our heating system with the colder temperatures continue.

#### **Big Knob:**

Monitoring of the sewer plant operation due to the plant freezing. Maintaining flow by unfreezing lines and going to a 24 hour schedule determined by outside temperatures. On February 15, 2015 we suffered property loss due to a power issue, which tripped both 1200 amp mains feeding the Primary and Middle School. This occurred early morning with the temperatures below 0 degrees freezing up the four (4) pipe heating system. With the help of many Freedom administrators and staff we were able to move classrooms and be ready for school on February 17th with only a 2-hour delay. The damage was limited to a loss of 10 uni-vents, floor finish, VCT tiles and misc. classroom supplies. The insurance company has been contacted, quotes received by contractors and work orders issued. The insurance claim cost of \$114,138.17 to date minus the district's deductible.

#### Note in Minutes:

- Food Facility Inspection Report by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for:
  - Big Knob Elementary School, Status – In Compliance (February 26, 2015)

### FACILITIES MASTER PLAN:

Scott Smith, Construction Representative, gave a construction progress update, saying in part, the project status at this time was 51% of the 53% scheduled to date. The brick façade is approximately 50% completed; site grading has been placed on hold until spring; structural steel is completed throughout the entire building and drywall on the first floor of area K. is 90%

completed and L is 75% completed. All of the operative windows are completed along with 95% of the non-operable windows. The store front framing is completed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors.

In addition, the Board was advised that an overview of the furniture bid process would take place on Monday, March 16, 2015 beginning at 4:30 pm. The Board is invited to attend.

#### EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

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

- 1) Spring Team Updates – Approximate Roster Sizes:
  - Track & Field (28 Boys, 23 Girls)
  - Baseball (19)
  - Softball (16)
  - JH Baseball (14)
  - MS Softball (15)
  - MS Volleyball (36)
  - MS Track (40)
- 2) Met with Boosters – reviewed district guidelines for boosters and discussed reorganization to one booster group
- 3) PIAA Updated - looking at 5-day football heat acclimatization period, could affect start dates for this year
- 4) Individual accomplishments – Our students have earned many individual honors
  - Kody Komara – Placed at Sections, WPIALs, and Regionals – State Qualifier
  - Dean Ward – Placed at Sections, and WPIALs
  - Levi Bonzo – Placed at Sections, and WPIALs
  - Michael Muron – Placed at Sections
  - Evan Sweesy – Placed at Sections
  - Tyler Bonzo – Placed at Sections
  - Brett Johnston – Placed at Sections
  - Chase Komara – Placed at Sections
  - Noah Trombetta – Placed at Sections
  - Jake Pail – Placed at JH MAC and WPIALs
  - Bryson Miller – Placed at JH MAC and WPIALs
  - Shyann Komara – Placed at JH MAC
- 5) Update on Homecoming Festival – Saturday Oct 10 vs. New Brighton
- 6) MAC Football Weightlifting – Team showed much improvement over the past year
- 7) Need of a new Cheer Coach – will review the cheer program and evaluate needs based on interest.
- 8) Will be presenting a proposal for budgeting for independent sports that our athletes participate in
- 9) Coaching certification law – Athletic Director and Trainer to become certified to instruct the courses
- 10) Baseball Dugouts – Gary and his crew are still waiting on the weather to break
- 11) Coaching Contract Status – (recommendation to approve renewal of John Kaercher (G BB Coach) see attached.

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

- CA:1 The resignation of Kim Mihalik as Assistant Middle School Soccer Coach  
 CA:2 The resignation of Diana Sektman as Varsity Cheer Coach.  
 CA:3 The following coaches:
- Corey Gilarno as Middle School Track Coach, Salary According to Contract. (Clearances on File)
  - David Badamo, Assistant Varsity Track Coach, Salary According to Contract. (Clearances on File)
  - Erica Barlow, Assistant Varsity Track Coach, Salary According to Contract. (Clearances on File)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Sharpless, Heyman, Sayre, Petcovic, and Colorito.  
 Vote Abstain- Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas

NOTE: "Abstention for Conflict of Interest Form" attached for Board Member Harry Gilarno.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Sayre, for the Board to go into Executive Session at 8:40 pm, EST, for a personnel related matter.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Sharpless, Heyman, Gilarno, Sayre, Petcovic, and  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Motion by Sayre, seconded by Sharpless, for the Board to go out of Executive Session at 9:10 pm, EST.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Petcovic, Sharpless, Gilarno, Sayre, Heyman,  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Greene, to give Gary Mortimer, Director Building and Grounds, a one-time stipend of \$1,200 for exceptional work and time spent during the Winter 2015's frigid weather conditions in maintaining District buildings.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Petcovic, Sharpless, Gilarno, Sayre, Heyman,  
Vote Colorito. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Adjourn Motion by Sayre, seconded by Petcovic, to adjourn. All members voting Yea.  
8 Yeas. Adjourned at 9:11 pm, EST.

Signed by:

  
Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary