

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LANCASTER SCHOOL BOARD
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Regular Meeting
April 21, 2009

The School District of Lancaster School Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at J.P. McCaskey High School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The following members of the Board answered roll call:

Mr. Patrick Snyder, President
Mr. Michael Rowen, Vice President
Mrs. Barbara Boben
Mrs. Marta Howell
Mrs. Stacey Marten
Mrs. Jacqueline McCain
Dr. Nenita Faller-Miller
Mrs. Linda Troublefield Owens
Ms. Janelle M. Simms

Officers: Mr. Pedro Rivera, Superintendent
Mr. Matt Przywara, Treasurer
Mrs. Rita Balogh, Secretary

Legal Counsel: Mr. Robert Frankhouser, Solicitor

Student Board Representative: Mr. Eric Freeman – Absent

4/21/2009: CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Snyder. Roll call was answered by: *Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9*. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. A moment of silence was observed in memory of employee Eric Hendershott and retiree Freda Hess.

4/21/2009: ADDENDUMS AND CORRECTIONS: Director Rowen made a motion to remove from Approval of Finance Agenda, Item E, Approval of Food Service Budget with Provision II. Following a second by Director Howell, the motion was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9; Nay – 0*.

4/21/2009: APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The amended agenda was approved in a unanimous voice vote on a motion by Director Howell, which was seconded by Director McCain.

4/21/2009: SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:
Congratulations to Joann Judge, the Secondary Adapted Physical Education Teacher and Varsity Field Hockey Coach, for being named the 2009 Lancaster-Lebanon Counties Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Teacher of the Year! Ms. Judge will receive an award for this recognition at a banquet on April 23rd.

Kudos to the McCaskey Music Department for presenting a fabulous spring musical last month. The costumes, set designs and talent showcased by our students made this

CALL TO ORDER

**ADDENDUMS AND
CORRECTIONS**

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S
REPORT**

show a spectacular event.

Fulton Elementary School will host its 10th Annual Poetry and Arts Night on April 23 at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include original poetry read by students, student artwork, student dance performances, and a folktale play. In addition, world renowned jazz violinist, Mr. John Blake Jr., accompanied by local guitarist Tom Witmer and a surprise guest musician will perform. The event is coordinated by Barbara Strasko, Fulton Literacy Coach.

As a reminder, April is kindergarten registration month in the SDoL. All children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2009 should be registered at the Enrollment Center, which is located at the Scheffey Administrative Center. Parents should bring their child's birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residence. Parents also have the opportunity to apply for the dual-language immersion kindergarten class. Students will be selected via lottery.

McCaskey's graduation is scheduled for the last day of school, which is Tuesday, June 9th. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Capital Improvement Plan Update:

PlanCon D and E for both Ross and Wharton Elementary Schools have been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Wharton and Ross bids were opened on April 15, 2009.

President Snyder echoed the Superintendent's praise for the musical and expressed his pleasure with the number of students who participated. He also encouraged people to attend Fulton's Poetry Night.

4/21/2009: STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Due to the absence of Student Board Representative, Eric Freeman, there was no high school report, but the middle school report was read by President Snyder:

Middle School Report:

Hand:

Tryouts are being conducted for Hand's Annual Talent Show.

Students competed at the state level Technology Student Association, and five had qualified for national competition in Denver as of the midpoint of the competition when these notes were written.

A PSSA incentive event was held April 8.

Lincoln:

The 7th grade at Lincoln Middle School collected a total of 380 cans during the month of March. The cans were donated to Water Street Rescue Mission.

In addition, LMS had a visit from the NED Show prior to PSSA's. Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best was the message that was constantly heard during the NED show assembly. The message was presented in a way that made students

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (cont.)**

**STUDENT BOARD
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

laugh, say wow, ask to see it again, and think about themselves. While expressing his message, NED hit on testing and bullying as way to use his message in a positive way. Overall, the students were impressed with the tricks, laughed at the jokes and left saying NED!

Reynolds:

The monthly PTO Fundraiser – “Reynolds Eats Out” took place at Rachel’s Café and Creperie on North Queen Street in Downtown Lancaster on Tuesday, March 31. Mr. Simms, Ms. Fisher and other Reynolds staff members were servers and dishwashers.

On March 28th, RMS students participated in the Lancaster Urban League Debate Tournament at Edward Hand Middle School. Reynolds placed third in two team categories.

Also on March 28th, RMS students participated in the Quiz Bowl League Tourney at Manor Middle School in the Penn Manor School District.

Wheatland:

Genesis Torres, a 7th grade student, was one of 12 students who attended the civic and leadership development training program of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Ed. Migrant Education Program in Hazelton, and was selected to receive a scholarship to visit Washington, D.C. this summer. The students will visit Capitol Hill and meet with Congressmen during the visit.

Seventeen students were inducted into the Wheatland Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society during ceremonies on March 31.

4/21/2009: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Beverly Richardson, Waterford Ct., also offered kudos to the music department and recognized Mr. and Mrs. Forster for their work with the musical. Donations of \$150 were received during the musical for the music department. She suggested recognition at the high school for students with perfect attendance. She also expressed disappointment that no one from the Board reached out to her following her comments last month, and stated the letter she received was incomplete. She wants her granddaughter educated properly so she is ready for Spanish Honors II next year.

Kendra Saunders, N. Pine St., City Council member, stated she and Todd Smith recently went door-to-door to talk to city residents. A common theme was frustration with behavior of some Reynolds Middle School students after school. She suggested we have police patrol the neighborhood at dismissal time.

Tabatha Hernandez, N. Lime St., requested an investigation into the incident that began in Fall 2007 with the cheerleader’s participation in a parade. She is not satisfied with the letter sent to the Cheerleader Boosters nor the previous investigation.

4/21/2009: CONSENT AGENDA: Director Marten made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items (1) through (5) as follows:

- (1) Approval of Minutes: March 17, 2009 Regular Meeting
- (2) Personnel Recommendations

**STUDENT BOARD
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT (cont.)**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Personnel Recommendations

- (3) Approval of Judiciary Report
- (4) Approval of Board Policy Revisions:
 - 116 Tutoring
 - 121 Field Trips
 - 122 Extracurricular Activities
 - 123 Interscholastic Athletics
- (5) Changes to 2008-2009 Board-Approved School Calendars

Judiciary Report
 Board Policy Revisions
 Changes to 2008-09 School Calendars

Director Rowen seconded the motion, which was approved by the following vote:
Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9; Nay – 0.

4/21/2009: EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Director Miller reviewed the minutes of the Education Committee’s April 6, 2009 meeting, and made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Director McCain seconded the motion, and it was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9; Nay – 0.*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 Minutes

Director Miller made a motion to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report items as follows:

- B. Grant Updates (informational item):
 - 1. Music for Everyone – King Elementary
 - 2. Music for Everyone – Ross Elementary
 - 3. Music for Everyone – Wickersham Elementary
 - 4. Music for Everyone – Burrowes Elementary
 - 5. Music for Everyone – Martin Elementary
 - 6. Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Continuation Grant
 - 7. School Improvement State Grant Level II
 - 8. Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS)
- C. Permission to Accept:
 - 1. Title 1 Academic Achievement Award in the amount of \$8,000.00
 - 2. PPL Project Earth in the amount of \$1,118.00
 - 3. Team PA Southeast Region Tech Prep Consortium in the amount of \$2,650.00
 - 4. 2008-09 Reading First in the amount of \$361,118.00
- D. Education Contracts/Agreements #1 through #5:
 - 1. Dominic J. DeFilippo – not to exceed \$10,500.00
 - 2. Vianna Huynh – master agreement
 - 3. United Way – School & Community Network – not to exceed \$34,805.82
 - 4. Lauren Innovations – master agreement
 - 5. Millersville University (2009/2010) – not to exceed \$12,161.25

Grant Updates
 Permission to Accept
 Contracts/Agreements

The motion was seconded by Director Marten. Before a vote was taken, Director Simms asked for an amended motion that would approve all items detailed above except Permission to Accept #3. Director Miller amended her original motion accordingly, and the amended motion was seconded by Director Marten before it was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9; Nay – 0.*

Director Miller's motion to approve Permission to Accept #3, Team PA Southeast Region Tech Prep Consortium in the amount of \$2,650.00 was seconded by Director Miller. The motion was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Snyder – 8; Nay – 0; Recuse: Director Simms – 1.*

**EDUCATION
COMMITTEE (cont.)**

4/21/2009: FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: President Snyder made a motion to approve the following Finance Agenda items:

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

[Note Finance Agenda Item E was pulled from the agenda; See Addendums and Corrections to Agenda, Page 1.]

- A. Approval of Minutes: April 15, 2009 Committee Meeting
- B. Contracts/Agreements:
 - 1. National School Boards Association (NSBA) – not to exceed \$5,400.00
 - 2. Conestoga Roofing & Waterproofing, Inc. – master agreement
 - 3. Dan-Dan the Poolman – master agreement
 - 4. Capraro Associates LLC – not to exceed \$2,995.00
 - 5. WLGS, Inc. D/B/A Manpower – not to exceed \$325,000.00
 - 6. Hammel Associates Architects, LLC – contract amendment
 - 7. Tom Josiah Consulting – not to exceed \$25,000.00
 - 8. Michael E. King Transportation Consulting & Management Services – not to exceed \$49,920.00
- C. Approval of Bids:
 - Bid 2905 Fall Athletics
 - Bid 2909 Custodial Supplies
 - Bid 2922 Art Supplies
 - Bid 2923 Art Paper
- D. Approval to Submit a Continuation of Mandate Waiver for Bid Threshold of \$15,200.00 to Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)
- G. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

Minutes
Contracts/Agreements

Approval of Bids

Mandate Waiver

Monthly Financial
Reports

Following a second by Director Rowen, the motion was approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9; Nay – 0.*

President Snyder's motion to approve Finance Agenda Item F, 2009-2010 Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 Budget, was seconded by Director Rowen, and approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Snyder – 8; Nay – 0; Recuse: Director Simms – 1.*

2009-2010 IU 13 Budget

Matt Przywara, Chief Financial Officer, provided a PowerPoint presentation update of the 2009-2010 preliminary budget. The Act 1 index set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the District is 5.8%, which would increase the average tax bill \$130 if implemented. Mr. Przywara explained the impact of property tax relief under Act 1. He also detailed what is currently known of the amounts and limitations of stimulus funding and explained that there is still much uncertainty, with new information being released almost daily.

Budget Update
Presentation

4/21/2009: EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOM-

MENDATIONS: Director Owens recapped the Extra-Curricular Committee meeting of April 8 and stated she is asking a ROTC representative to give a presentation to the Board. Her motion to approve the meeting minutes was seconded by Director Howell and approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

Director Owens' motion to approve a joint agreement with Lancaster Country Day for participation in the J.P. McCaskey Marching Unit was seconded by Director Miller and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9; Nay – 0.*

President Snyder commented on the dedication of the new lights and improvements at the varsity baseball field. It is a great facility.

4/21/2009: FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDA-

TIONS: Following Director Rowen's report of the Facilities Committee April 1 meeting, he made a motion to approve these agenda items:

- A. Approval of Minutes: April 1, 2009 Committee Meeting
- B. Approval to Submit PlanCon G for Washington Elementary School to PDE
- C. Waiver Submissions for Usage Fees:
 - 1. Spanish American Lancaster Sports Association (SALSA)
 - 2. United Way
 - 3. Lancaster Youth Soccer Club

The motion was seconded by Director McCain and approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9; Nay – 0.*

Anna Smith commented that she would like food requests incorporated in with facilities use requests.

Director Rowen reported Bill Laudien, Lancaster Township Manager, attended the committee meeting to open dialogue about the Lancaster Township Fire Department and the need for a new fire station. Director Rowen explained the fire department is now fully funded by the Township. Because the Township is another taxing body, this could have an effect on an agreement for land request. Formerly the District negotiated with fire company volunteers, and they could change over time.

Director McCain stated our children are our priority. It is fine if we can help someone else, but our students and their best interests must come first.

Director Rowen stated PPL is looking for districts willing to allow use of parcels of their land for solar panels to generate electricity. Participating districts would be able to purchase electricity at reduced rates.

4/21/2009: DISCUSSION:

Revisions to the following Board Policies were introduced for first readings:

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR
COMMITTEE
REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Minutes

Joint Agreement with
Lancaster Country Day
for J.P. McCaskey
Marching Unit

**FACILITIES
COMMITTEE
REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Minutes

PlanCon G to PDE

Waiver Submissions for
Usage Fees

DISCUSSION

Revisions to Board
Policies (First Readings)

- 142 Migrant Students
- 206 Assignment Within District
- 221 Dress and Grooming

DISCUSSION (cont.)
Revisions to Board
Policies (cont.)

There were no questions or discussion of any revisions, and second readings and Board action are anticipated at the regular May meeting.

Director Howell thanked the Superintendent for his efforts in continuing to march Board policy revisions forward.

4/21/2009: DISCUSSION/ACTION: President Snyder made a motion to remove for separate votes the following payments from the approval listings: #00311391 for Franklin & Marshall; #00311467 and #00311468 for Lancaster County Career & Technology Center; #00311473, #00311474, and #0WEHC409 for Lancaster Lebanon IU 13; 0WSTS323 and 0WSTS410 for Substitute Teacher Service; and #00311649 for T.W. Ponessa. Director Howell seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 9; Nay – 0.*

DISCUSSION/ACTION
Approval of Payments
(Invoice Listings)

President Snyder's motion to approve all other payments on the invoice listings was seconded by Director Howell and approved in a unanimous voice vote.

A motion to approve payment #00311391 for Franklin & Marshall was made by President Snyder and seconded by Director Howell. It was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 8; Nay – 0; Recuse: Director Owens – 1.*

Following a second by Director Marten, President Snyder's motion to approve payments #00311467 and #00311468 for Lancaster County Career & Technology Center; #00311473, #00311474, and #0WEHC409 for Lancaster Lebanon IU 13; 0WSTS323 and 0WSTS410 for Substitute Teacher Service was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Snyder – 8; Nay – 0; Recuse: Director Simms – 1.*

President Snyder made a motion to approve payment #00311649 for T.W. Ponessa. Director Marten seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Boben, Marten, McCain, Miller, Owens, Rowen, Simms, and Snyder – 8; Nay – 0; Recuse: Director Howell – 1.*

4/21/2009: REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Director Marten attended the IU 13 Board meeting and offered the report. In a discussion of the stimulus package, she reported that IDEA stimulus funds only will be distributed by the IU as a pass-through agent, but they will also keep some of those funds. Director Marten also attended the IU Convention at Manheim Township which included an open house of their new high school. She distributed the most recent IU newsletter.

**REPRESENTATIVE
REPORTS**
IU 13

Director Rowen reported the LCCTC Joint Operation Committee meeting included a discussion of PPL's search for 4-5 acre sites for solar panels to generate electricity.

LCCTC

Director Boben had nothing to report for the Lancaster Recreation Commission Board.

Lancaster Recreation
Commission

4/21/2009: OLD BUSINESS: Beverly Richardson expressed displeasure that no one from the Board reached out to her following her letter from the Superintendent that was copied to the Board. She feels her granddaughter's education has been compromised because she is in a class of disruptive, low achievers, but she is a straight-A student. A book was thrown in the classroom and it hit her granddaughter, but nothing was done to the teacher or principal. She wants the Directors to make it right so her granddaughter is ready next year for Spanish Honors II.

OLD BUSINESS

At President Snyder's request for clarification, Solicitor Bob Frankhouser stated the staff is responsible for the educational provisions of any individual child, so these are administrative decisions and not a Board function.

President Snyder requested a meeting be set up with Mrs. Richardson by the Superintendent and the Board invited to sit in on the meeting.

Director Miller stated she would be glad to discuss this in an Education Committee meeting.

Superintendent Rivera stated if an issue comes up at the podium during public comments, the district will work diligently to address it, but personnel issues dealing with a teacher, such as support of a teacher through coaching initiatives, suggestions for improvement, or career recommendations, will not be put in writing or discussed in a public forum. If a member of the Board wants to know what has been done, we will share that information with them, but specific personnel issues will not be publicly discussed for teachers, administrators, or any staff member.

Director Owens wants to make sure parents are told what is being done to rectify situations.

President Snyder again asked Superintendent Rivera to set up a meeting for Mrs. Richardson and for Board members to be invited to attend.

Mrs. Richardson stated the letter she received is very vague and contains incorrect information. Since her public comments on March 17, the classroom is no better, and at least twenty minutes are being wasted every day. Although her granddaughter is being enriched, is she getting as much as she should?

4/21/2009: NEW BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

4/21/2009: INFORMATION: None

INFORMATION

4/21/2009: ADJOURNMENT: Director Miller's motion to adjourn was seconded by Director McCain and approved in a unanimous voice vote. President Snyder adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest:

Rita Balogh
Board Secretary

