

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LANCASTER SCHOOL BOARD
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Regular Meeting
August 16, 2011

The School District of Lancaster School Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at J.P. McCaskey High School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Attendance of the Board was as follows:

Mr. Richard Caplan, President
Mrs. Barbara Boben - Absent
Mr. Charlie Crystle, Jr.
Mr. Todd Heath
Mrs. Stacey Marten
Mr. Harvey Miller
Mrs. Linda Troublefield Owens
Mr. Michael Rowen
Ms. Janelle M. Simms

Officers: Mr. Pedro Rivera, Superintendent
Mr. Matt Przywara, Treasurer
Mrs. Colleen Marshall, Secretary

Legal Counsel: Mr. Robert Frankhouser, Solicitor

8/16/2011: CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Caplan. Roll call was answered by: *Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 8; Absent: Boben – 1.*

President Caplan announced the Board of School Directors met in Executive Session on August 9 and August 16, 2011 for the purpose of discussing matters involving employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion, or disciplining of specific or prospective officers or employees.

8/16/2011: ADDENDUMS AND CORRECTIONS: None

8/16/2011: APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Following a motion by Director Rowen and seconded by Director Miller, the agenda was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

8/16/2011: SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/BUDGET UPDATE:

The District is pleased to announce that we will receive an additional \$15.9 million of QSCB bonds which will offset our current construction projects. These low-interest bonds will save our taxpayers an additional \$3.8 million in interest payments over a 17-year period. This amount is in addition to the \$55 million we received a year ago.

District officials are working with Comcast to provide a new “Internet Essentials” program for our families. If a child qualifies for free school lunches, Comcast will provide internet access for only \$9.95 a month, free internet training, and a low-cost computer. The District will communicate this information to families and encourage them to visit www.internetessentials.com for more information.

CALL TO ORDER

**ADDENDUMS AND
CORRECTIONS**

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S
REPORT**

Music for Everyone sponsored its first free summer camp for SDOL string students in late June. Twenty-three of our elementary students participated, working with internationally known musicians/teachers Michael Jamanis and Sara Male. Music for Everyone continues to raise funds to help provide these high-quality opportunities for our students.

More than 300 fifth grade students participated in Career Camp 2011 this summer at JP McCaskey HS Campus. Students had the opportunity to learn about high-demand careers such as Law Enforcement, Health Careers, Building Trades, Electronics, Going Green and Lego Robotics and Engineering. The students also participated in the "No Bullying Allowed" lesson. Several high school students volunteered as mentors for the camp.

The first day of school for the 2011-12 school year is Monday, August 29th for grades kindergarten through 9, and Tuesday, August 30th for grades 10, 11, and 12.

Capital Improvement Plan Update:

All Phase I Schools and the Annex at Lincoln are on schedule to be completed prior to the first day of school.

The asbestos abatement at Hand is nearing completion. Hand bids were received August 10.

The Superintendent gave a powerpoint presentation, "Moving from Strategy into Action and Results" which included research information on the Effects of District, School & Teacher Effectiveness, Student Success and Changes Reflected in the Restructuring of Positions in the District.

8/16/2011: PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Anna Smith, Springhouse Road, asked about the changes in personnel and if they were being voted on by the Board at the meeting and if so, what do the changes have to do with improving the PSSA scores? The Superintendent stated that the changes were being voted on and PSSA scores have increased over the past three years and the number of schools that have met AYP has increased. The Superintendent offered to review the data again with the public.

8/16/2011: CONSENT AGENDA: Director Heath made a motion to approve all Consent Agenda Items with the exception of Consent Agenda Item (2) Personnel Recommendations as follows:

- (1) Approval of Minutes: June 21, 2011 Regular Meeting
Approval of Minutes: June 30, 2011 Special Meeting for Adoption of 2011-2012 Final Budget
- (2) Personnel Recommendations
- (3) Approval of 2011 Summer Graduation Diploma Candidates
- (4) Approval of Tuition Waivers for 2010-2011
- (5) Educational Excellence Contracts/Agreements:
 1. Bertrand Alcide – Master Agreement
 2. Alexander Breikreutz – Master Agreement
 3. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services – Master Agreement

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (cont.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Personnel Recommendations

Diploma Candidates
Tuition Waivers

Educational Excellence Contracts/Agreements

4. Easter Seals Interpreting Services – Master Agreement
 5. Elias George – Master Agreement
 6. Language Line Services – Master Agreement
 7. Jesenia Montanez – Master Agreement
 8. Lisbeth Paredes-Wolf – Master Agreement
 9. Don Sensenig – Master Agreement
 10. Devi Dulal Sharma – Master Agreement
 11. Shanta Sharma – Master Agreement
 12. Meg Leslie Tabarez – Master Agreement
 13. Irina Wasson – Master Agreement
 14. May Westlund – Master Agreement
 15. Your Language Connection – Master Agreement
 16. National Network of Partnership Schools – Master Agreement
 17. Team Care Behavioral Health – Master Agreement
 18. Compass Mark – Master Agreement
 19. TW Ponessa – Master Agreement
 20. COBYS Family Services – Master Agreement
 21. The District Management Council – Master Agreement
 22. The Communication Connection – Master Agreement
 23. Learning Sciences, Inc. – Not to exceed \$4,500.00
 24. Sopris West Educational Services – Not to exceed \$6,000.00
 25. The Speakers Guild – Not to exceed \$4,528.00
 26. Debra L. Kauffman – Not to exceed \$20,000.00
- (6) Finance and Operations Management Contracts/Agreements:
1. Advantage Engineers, LLC – Not to exceed \$6,980.00
 2. Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf – Not to exceed \$8,500.00
 3. Quest Behavioral Health, Inc. – Not to exceed \$24,000.00
 4. Benefit Coordinators Corporation – Not to exceed \$15,000.00

CONSENT AGENDA
(cont).

Finance and Operations
Contracts/Agreements

The motion was seconded by Director Marten and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 8; Recuse: – 0.*

Director Owens made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Item 6. (2), Personnel Recommendations. The motion was seconded by Director Rowen and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Rowen and Simms – 7; Nay: Owens – 1; Recuse: – 0.*

8/16/2011: EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE:

Director Rowen made a motion to approve the following items from the Educational Excellence Committee Report:

- A. Approval of Minutes: August 4, 2011 Meeting
- B. Approval of Contracts/Agreements in excess of \$25,000 threshold:
 1. Vernon L. Fisher – Not to exceed \$55,000.00
 2. Urban League – Not to exceed \$40,000.00
 3. Pressley Ridge – Not to exceed \$40,000.00
 4. Pennsylvania Counseling Services – Not to exceed \$45,000.00
 5. SACA – Not to exceed \$43,248.00
- C. Approval of Biology Textbook Adoption
- D. Approval of Chemistry Textbook Adoption
- E. Approval of Elementary Pilots for English Language Arts
- F. Approval of Secondary Social Studies Sequence

**EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Minutes
Educational Excellence
Contracts/Agreements

Biology and Chemistry
Textbook Adoption
Elementary Pilots for
English Language Arts
Social Studies Sequence

Director Crystle asked who would now be responsible for the Early Childhood Education Program. Superintendent Rivera stated that the job would be posted and for now Grant Managers and Coaches are assisting with the program until the best candidate is hired for the position. He offered to introduce the team members to the Board.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE REPORT (cont.)

Director Simms seconded the motion, and it was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 8; Recuse: – 0.*

8/16/2011: FINANCE AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Director Heath made a motion to approve the following items from the Finance and Operations Management Committee Report:

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. Approval of Minutes: August 3, 2011 Meeting
- B. Approval of Change Orders for Phase I Projects:
 - 1. Washington Elementary School – Not to Exceed \$9,439.62
 - 2. Lafayette Elementary School – Not to Exceed \$57,076.20
 - 3. Wharton Elementary School – Not to Exceed \$15,426.27
- C. Approval of PLANCON Parts A & F – Hand Middle School
- D. Approval of PLANCON Parts A & F – Rockland Center
- E. Approval of PLANCON Part I Revised (Interim Reporting) – Wharton, Lafayette, Ross and Washington Elementary Schools
- F. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports
- G. Approval to Accept an Additional \$15,980,624.00 in Qualified School Construction Bonds for the Purpose of Funding the Phase II Projects
- H. Approval of Resolution to Allocate Additional Unbudgeted State Subsidies Received for the 2011-2012 General Fund
- I. Approval of K-8 Program at Martin Elementary School, Construction of a New School Building at the Current Site and Demolition of the Existing School Building
- J. Approval of PLANCON Part A – Martin Elementary K-8 School
- K. Approval of Bids Received for Hand Middle School (added as an Addendum to the Agenda dated August 16, 2011)

Minutes

Change Orders

Approval of PLANCONS

Financial Reports

QSCB

Allocation of
Unbudgeted State
Subsidies

Martin Elementary K-8

PLANCON – Martin

Hand Middle School
Bids

Superintendent Rivera stated that a letter was just received the day of the meeting that the actual amount available in Qualified School Construction Bonds is \$9.5 million, not the \$15.9 million as originally anticipated.

The motion was seconded by Director Rowen and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

8/16/2011: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Director Miller made a motion to approve the following agenda item from the Public Engagement Committee Report:

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT

- A. Approval of Minutes: August 2, 2011 Meeting

Minutes

The motion was seconded by Director Marten and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

Director Crystle stated he was stepping down as Chair of the Public Engagement Committee and asked if there were any other Board Members who were interested in becoming Chair of the Committee.

**PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
REPORT (cont.)**

8/16/2011: DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

DISCUSSION

8/16/2011: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Director Heath made a motion to approve all payments in Item 11 (A) with the exception of the following:

A. Approval of Payments – Invoice #00324814, #00324815, #00325094, #00325338 and #OWIU0715 for Lancaster Lebanon IU 13; Invoice #WSTS0618, #OSTS0723 and #WSTS0709 for Substitute Teacher Service; Invoice #00325167, #00325168, #00325334, #00325335, #00325345 for Lancaster County CTC and #00325441 for Thaddeus Stevens School of Technology. The motion was seconded by Director Marten and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 8; Nay: – 0.*

Payments (Invoice Listings)

Director Marten made a motion to approve #Invoice #00324814, #00324815, #00325094, #00325338 and #OWIU0715 for Lancaster Lebanon IU 13; Invoice #WSTS0618, #OSTS0723 and #WSTS0709 for Substitute Teacher Service and Invoice #00325167, #00325168, #00325334, #00325335 and #00325345 for Lancaster County CTC. The motion was seconded by Director Owens and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens and Rowen – 7; Recuse: Simms – 1.*

Director Marten made a motion to approve Invoice #00325441 for Thaddeus Stevens School of Technology. The motion was seconded by Director Heath and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, and Simms – 7; Recuse: Rowen – 1.*

B. Judiciary Report – Annual Summary – Director Owens made a motion to approve the Judiciary Report with a correction noted by Director Simms. The correction to be made is to include the Charge of the last student listed on the next to the last page of the Summary Report. The motion was seconded by Director Marten and approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 7; Recuse: Miller – 1.*

JUDICIARY REPORT

Director Simms noted that during summer school there were no incidents to come before the Judiciary Committee.

8/16/2011: OLD BUSINESS: Director Crystle requested clarification on the approval of the Martin Elementary School as a K-8 program. Director Heath clarified that the approval that was given by the Board included Martin Elementary as a K-8 program, construction of a new school building at the current site and demolition of the existing school building.

OLD BUSINESS

8/16/2011: NEW BUSINESS:

A. Request by Penn Manor School District to Exonerate School Taxes. The Penn Manor School District asked the Board of Directors to consider an exoneration of real estate taxes owed by Penn Manor on property within the boundaries of the School District of Lancaster. Solicitor Frankhouser stated that this property involves 11 acres which is commonly known as Comet Field. The amount to be exonerated would be \$47,786.63 in taxes. The School District of Lancaster does not have the authority to exonerate the \$7,315.68 in interest. The interest would be payable to the School District of Lancaster.

Director Rowen made a motion to exonerate the \$47,786.63 in taxes owed by the Penn Manor School District. The motion was seconded by Director Heath and approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen and Simms – 8; Recuse: – 0.*

Director Owens stated she has recently been contacted several times by taxpayers of the District. One of those times was from a gentleman who requested that the additional budget funds received from the State be returned to the taxpayers in the form of a tax rebate. The additional times she has been contacted was regarding the Needs Assessment Report prepared by the District Management Council. Director Owens made a motion to release the entire Needs Assessment Report prepared by the District Management Council for the District.

President Caplan stated he was opposed to the Motion because the recommendations of the report are just that, recommendations. The Board will be meeting with the District Management Council on August 31st and he feels it makes more sense to meet with them first and determine how the Board wants to proceed before releasing the recommendations. Director Owens asked that once the meeting is held and the report is released, will the report be released in its entirety? President Caplan agreed that the entire report would be released along with the list of items the District plans to implement out of the options that were provided. Director Miller stated he was not sure that he agreed with releasing the entire report. President Caplan is hopeful that in September/October that the information can be released along with a plan of action. Superintendent Rivera recommended that the Board have a more detailed discussion regarding the report and what will be shared and whether it is going to be shared in its entirety. Director Heath stated that this is moving slowly and the meeting needs to be held and get the information released to the public as quickly as possible. Director Crystle stated that the Board hasn't deliberated on the document itself. He suggested the Board agree to a plan and then have public discussion. He asked what the expectation is for the outcome of the meeting with the District Management Council. President Caplan stated that the primary outcome is to determine the Smart Goals and hopefully the method of operational strategy. A definite timeline will need to be determined. Anna Smith asked about the reports that were to be prepared by the United Way and were to be shared with the public. President Caplan stated that the United Way reports are separate from the District Management Council report. Superintendent Rivera stated that the United Way Reports can be discussed at the next Public Engagement Committee meeting.

The motion was seconded by Director Crystle and rejected by the following vote: *Aye: Director Owens – 1; Nay: Directors Caplan, Crystle, Heath, Marten, Miller, Rowen and Simms – 7.*

NEW BUSINESS

Penn Manor School
District Exoneration of
Taxes

District Management
Council Needs
Assessment Report

8/16/2011: INFORMATION: None.

INFORMATION

8/16/2011: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anna Smith, Springhouse Road, commented about the Athletic Booster Club that was started 13 years ago and disbanded last year. There have been recent accusations against her regarding the mishandling of the money. She read a list of where the funds were spent and requested that the slander stop or she will seek legal action. Director Rowen stated there was never any question regarding Ms. Smith's financial integrity and the Superintendent stated the District will address the issue.

Beverly Richardson, Waterford Court, asked for clarification from President Caplan regarding his comment involving student activities. President Caplan indicated he meant the public cannot name individual students during public comments. Ms. Richardson stated she was disappointed for the second year in a row the Benjamin Wiley Program was not mentioned in the Superintendent's Report. There is no more money for the program in the future but there were 40 students who went to the Indiana University of Pennsylvania for three weeks and feels they should be recognized. Ms. Richardson also asked clarification from President Caplan on his comment at the YWCA regarding problems with attendance of children in the District because children are afraid to leave their homes because of bullying. President Caplan stated he was corrected at the meeting regarding the perception and that really isn't the case. Ms. Richardson stated she volunteers a lot and is involved in the community and feels that is not the situation. However, she feels she is being bullied by an administrator at the School District of Lancaster and it needs to end.

8/16/2011: ADJOURNMENT: President Caplan adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. on a motion by Director Todd, seconded by Director Owens.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest:

Colleen R. Marshall
Board Secretary