

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LANCASTER SCHOOL BOARD
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Regular Meeting
March 16, 2010

The School District of Lancaster School Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Wheatland Middle School Auditorium, 919 Hamilton Park Rd., Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Attendance of the Board was as follows:

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

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

Legal Counsel: Mr. Robert Frankhouser, Solicitor

3/16/2010: CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Owens. Roll call was answered by: *Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 8; Absent: Director Crystle – 1.* Mr. Marty Slauch, Principal of Wheatland Middle School, welcomed everyone in attendance and gave a brief history of the school in Lancaster Township. Wheatland is the largest of our four middle schools, and the 620-member student body closely mirrors the District’s demographics. Mr. Slauch highlighted the wide variety of student activities offered at the school and detailed the parent involvement groups. Following his introduction of Assistant Principal Cheryl Abney, he introduced 7th grade student Emily Engleman who led the audience in The Pledge of Allegiance.

President Owens asked the audience to join in a moment of silence in recognition of retirees Anneliese Gundling Kiely and Joseph Batturs.

3/16/2010: ADDENDUMS AND CORRECTIONS: Director Heath made a motion to remove from the Finance and Operations Management Committee Report agenda item B3 – Approval of Contracts/Agreements for Manheim Township Police Department – not to exceed \$46,942.00 and to add an agenda item to Discussion/Action for Approval of Applications to PA Department of Education to Allow the District to Apply for Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The motion was seconded by Director Caplan and approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

CALL TO ORDER

**ADDENDUMS AND
CORRECTIONS**

3/16/2010: APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The amended agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote on a motion by Director Marten, which was seconded by Director Heath.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

3/16/2010: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The window for the math and reading portion of the PSSA tests begins on April 7th and runs through April 16th. The writing and science PSSA tests round out the remainder of the month. We wish our schools well as they continue to prepare our students for these important tests.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

The McCaskey Music Department will present "Thoroughly Modern Millie" on Thursday, March 18th through Saturday, March 20th. All three performances will begin at 7 p.m. in the J.P. McCaskey Auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Call 291-6211 ext. 30048 to order your tickets.

On Friday, March 26, 2010 the Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era Championship Spelling Bee will take place at 7:00 p.m. at Manheim Township Middle School. The students who have made it to this level of competition representing the School District of Lancaster are:

- Monica Mede - 8th grade, Reynolds Middle School
- Therese Deslippe - 8th grade, Reynolds Middle School
- Benjamin Juengling - 7th grade, Wheatland Middle School

These students will compete with middle school students from Lancaster County. The champion of this spelling bee will compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

As a reminder, Thursday, April 1st is the first snow make-up day for students. The District will be closed on Friday, April 2nd and Monday, April 5th for spring break.

Capital Improvement Plan Update:

On March 8, Ross Elementary moved into the new addition located off the north wing. The classrooms include interactive white boards, ceiling mounted HD projectors, and sound reinforcement systems, as well as the convenience of restrooms located in each room and sinks with drinking fountains.

Work continues on Washington, Lafayette, Wharton and other rooms at Ross with more new classroom space coming on line in the next few months.

3/16/2010: STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:

**STUDENT BOARD
REPRESENTATIVE'S
REPORT**

HIGH SCHOOL:

The Music Department would like to congratulate William Broaddus, Devin Coutreyer, Kevin Frey, and Calli Graver for being selected to participate in this past weekend's PMEA Region V State Chorus Festival. The festival was hosted by Central Dauphin East High School. At the festival, Calli Graver was selected to represent J.P. McCaskey at the 2010 All-State Choral Festival to be hosted in Pittsburgh. We are so proud of all these students!

The McCaskey Institute of Technology (MIT) Small Learning Community is hosting its 3rd annual Computer Fair this Thursday, March 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at McCaskey East in the IMC Library. It is open to the public.

We're all very excited for the musical performance this week of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" on March 18, 19, and 20. As Mr. Rivera said, admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. You may buy tickets at the door or by placing an order over the phone.

We're going to have a Parent Café at the Parent Access Center at J.P. McCaskey on March 25, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It's going to be about community services and seven secrets to budgeting.

The McCaskey Music Department will be going to Orlando, Florida from March 28 – April 2. While there, the marching band will perform in the Magic Kingdom, the orchestra will perform at downtown Disney, and the combined vocal ensemble mixed chorus and gospel choir will perform at Epcot. There are a total of 137 students going on the trip.

On March 5 the McCaskey Jazz Band performed as part of the Conestoga Valley High School Jazz Band Festival, and it went extremely well.

3/16/2010: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tracy Dettrey, East Walnut Street, spoke in opposition to a change in the time of cheerleading tryouts from spring to August. She also objected that the response to a recent e-mail message she sent to the Athletic Director included copies to the Lincoln principal and athletic director, noting her daughter is a student at McCaskey, not Lincoln.

Howard Payne, St. Philips Drive, spoke of difficulty in assisting his 7th grader with math homework since the textbook does not provide examples of problems.

Superintendent Rivera directed Dr. Tracy Ocasio, Director of Elementary Education, to work with Mr. Payne on the situation.

Brian Hernon of Atkins Avenue reported he had spoke with a land acquisition specialist with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who informed him the community park land on the Millersville Pike property can't be used for anything other than recreation. Any application for a change by the Township is a long, drawn-out process. Mr. Hernon introduced a map with an alternate plan of locating the proposed emergency center on the east side of the land versus the west side and asked for a response from the District on the suitability of his proposal.

Superintendent Rivera agreed the Township would need to apply for permission to change the land usage and stated the District has been in no further negotiations with the Township, so we can't respond to Mr. Hernon's request.

Alvia Urdaneta, Student Board Representative, called attention to a situation with Food Services when spoiled milk was served at the high school.

The Superintendent noted the administration became aware of the problem in an article in the school newspaper. Mr. Jim Lewis, Director of Food Service, already met with the student who wrote the article to resolve the situation. Superintendent Rivera encouraged students to notify him immediately for problems of this nature.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Willie Wilhelm, East Walnut Street, questioned the math curriculum being taught at the Camelot program. Her son was doing 12th grade math, but is now doing 9th grade math under that program.

The Superintendent noted Ms. Wilhelm meets regularly with Mr. Ben Saldaña and asked if she has spoken with him concerning this issue.

Beverly Richardson, Waterford Court, noted her comments under old business and new business were not recorded in the minutes and that the Board Secretary admitted she missed the comments. She commended Viola Wesley for her efforts in organizing the program for the football players at the Marriott and expressed disappointment this was not mentioned in the Superintendent's Report. She also commented on the football concessions and the 60/40 split between athletic boosters and football players. Football cheerleaders and the band also participate and should be included in the profits.

Anna Smith, Springhouse Road, said she has still not received a response following her comments four months in a row regarding the Assistant Superintendent's contract. She noted it is not fair PTO's in Lancaster Township must pay \$67 per hour for police service when other schools pay only \$27 and stated the District should pay the difference. She also noted the Athletic Boosters Club has donated hundreds to the cheerleaders and others.

3/16/2010: CONSENT AGENDA: Director Caplan made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- (1) Approval of Minutes: February 23, 2010 Regular Meeting
- (2) Personnel Recommendation
- (3) Student Achievement Contract/Agreement: Ibrahim Dalo – master agreement

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

3/16/2010: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Director Caplan cited a possible change of the committee name to Education Excellence Committee because this would convey a goal. He discussed recent 4Sight test results that indicate remarkable growth in test scores for many schools but cautioned that these schools may not achieve adequate yearly progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind because a component of the student body may miss a target. He assured the audience both the Board and his committee are very concerned about achieving excellence and that they will be making sure the District is using best practices and best utilization of resources. Although we may still fall short, we believe we can meet AYP goals in every school within the next few years.

Director Marten's motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of February 25, 2010 was seconded by Director Rowen and approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

Following a second by Director Boben, Director Caplan's motion to adopt the 4th Year *Discovery Math* textbook was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(cont.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes
Personnel Recommendations
Contract/Agreement

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes

Textbook Adoption

3/16/2010: FINANCE AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT: Director Rowen made a motion to approve the March 3, 2010 meeting minutes. Following Director Boben's second of the motion, the minutes were approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

The following Contracts/Agreements were approved on a motion by Director Heath, seconded by Director Marten. (Note Contract/Agreement #3 for Manheim Township Police Department was removed under Addendums and Corrections to the Agenda.)

B. Contracts/Agreements: (Roll Call)

1. SunGard Public Sector – not to exceed \$26,177.00
2. Kadimac Corporation – master agreement
4. Shultz Transportation Company – not to exceed \$2,752.00
5. MM Architects, Inc. – estimated \$1,229,258.00
6. Reese, Lower, Patrick, Scott Ltd. – estimated \$2,610,090.00

The vote to approve the motion was as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

Director Marten made a motion to approve change orders for Phase I schools as follows:

1. Washington Elementary School – total of \$29,676.21
2. Lafayette Elementary School – total of \$7,012.62
3. Wharton Elementary School – total of \$1,174.65

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

Director Heath's motion to approve the monthly financial reports was seconded by Director Marten and approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

Following a second by Director Marten, Director Heath's motion to waive delinquent taxes on Parcel #337-52600-0-0000, 1123 River Road, was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

Director Rowen read an excerpt from a resolution regarding the Pennsylvania School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) imploring the State Legislature to:

1. Immediately review the anticipated rate spike during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.
2. Consider immediately amending the Public School Employees' Retirement Code so as to take immediate action in either amending the Public School Employees' Retirement Code to limit eligibility, funding levels, and/or the extent of the benefits so that the employer contribution rate will be substantively reduced, and/or provide other sources of revenue independent of the employer contribution rate.
3. Recognize that permitting the employer contribution rate to spike to a 16.4%-28% level would adversely impact every school district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from providing the constitutional mandate of a thorough and efficient education for district students.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Director Marten. Following a second by Director Caplan, the motion was approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

**FINANCE &
OPERATIONS
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE REPORT**
Minutes

Contracts/Agreements

Change Orders for Phase I
Schools

Monthly Financial
Reports

Approval to Waive
Delinquent Taxes

Adoption of Resolution
for PSERS

3/16/2010: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Due to the illness and absence of Committee Chair Charlie Crystle, Director Miller reviewed the minutes of the March 2nd Public Engagement Committee meeting.

Director Rowen made a motion to approve the following agenda items:

1. Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2010 Meeting
2. Approval of Revision to 2010-2011 Student Calendar
3. Approval of 2009-2010 School Calendar Changes

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

3/16/2010: DISCUSSION: Presented for a first reading was the following draft Board policy revision:

- 200 Enrollment of Resident and Nonresident Students

Also presented for first readings were deletion of the following obsolete Board policies:

- 204.1 Open Enrollment
- 256 Parent Involvement Policy and Procedures
- 624 Expenditures

The policy changes were received without questions or comments and will be presented for approval next month.

3/16/2010: DISCUSSION/ACTION:

A motion was made by Director Caplan to approve all payments from the invoice listing with the following exceptions: #WIUMARCH, 00317208, 00660369, 00317107, WSTS0213, and 00317141. Following a second by Director Rowen, approval was as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

Director Caplan made a motion to approve the following payments from the invoice listing: #WIUMARCH and 00317208 for Lancaster Lebanon IU 13; #00660369 for Lancaster County Career and Technology Center; #00317107 for County of Lancaster; and #WSTS0213 for Substitute Teacher Service. The motion was seconded by Director Heath and approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, and Rowen – 7; Nay – 0; Recuse: Director Simms – 1.*

Director Marten's motion to approve payment #00317141 for Franklin & Marshall was seconded by Director Simms. The motion carried as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Rowen, and Simms – 7; Nay – 0; Recuse: President Owens – 1.*

Following a motion by Director Caplan, seconded by Director Marten, the Judiciary Report was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 7; Nay – 0; Recuse: Director Miller – 1.*

Acting Director of Human Resources, Jennifer Copes, explained the resolution to opt-out of compliance with the provisions of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act because the District is a self-funded health insurance benefit program.

**PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Minutes
2010-2011 Calendar
2009-2010 Calendar

DISCUSSION

Board Policy Revision -
First Reading

Obsolete Board Policies
for Deletion - First
Readings

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Payments (Invoice
Listings)

Judiciary Report

Resolution to Opt-out of
Compliance with Mental
Health Provisions

This resolution would allow the District to maintain the current benefits for mental health coverage.

Superintendent Rivera commented on the resolution for contracts from \$2,500 to \$25,000 to be approved by the School Board via consent. The Board directed the Administration to similarly process education-related and finance-related contracts of this value in accordance with the PDE-approved mandate waiver of contracts in value up to \$25,000. The process will not change, and the system of checks and balances is still in place. Adoption of this resolution will allow approval of these contracts to be considered under consent agenda unless they represent a material change in educational practice, in which case they would be reviewed and voted upon individually. Director Caplan expressed support of the resolution and commented that review of these contracts takes most of the committee's meeting time.

Superintendent Rivera explained the additional item to the Discussion/Action agenda (Ref. Additions and Corrections), the Approval of Applications to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to allow the district to apply for Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This action could qualify the District to receive over \$75 million in low-cost bonds for the Capital Improvement Program.

Director Rowen made a motion to approve the Resolution to Opt-out of Compliance with the Provisions of the Mental Health Parity and Addition Equity Act, Resolution for Contracts from \$2,500 to \$25,000 to be Approved via Consent, Revision of Public Comment Procedures for Monthly Voting Meetings, and Approval of Applications to PDE to Allow the District to Apply for Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The motion was seconded by Director Marten and approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Boben, Caplan, Heath, Marten, Miller, Owens, Rowen, and Simms – 8; Nay – 0.*

3/16/2010: REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

There was no report for the IU 13 Board of Directors.

Director Rowen reported he attended the LCCTC meeting but had nothing to report. He reminded the Board of Directors that their retreat would be held at LCCTC on Thursday.

Director Miller reported the Lancaster Recreation Commission Board did not meet last month.

3/16/2010: OLD BUSINESS: Director Rowen introduced a map indicating a potential new location on the Millersville Pike property for the Lancaster Township emergency center. This new option would locate the facility next to Planet Fitness, fronting Millersville Pike. He noted that most public comments have dealt with moving existing athletic fields and an access road to Atkins Avenue. There are no athletic fields at the proposed location, and an access road to Atkins Avenue would be for entry only. Its narrow width would make it unsuitable for emergency vehicles, which would exit on to Millersville Pike. Zoning requirements would be different since the location is against an existing parking lot, and this location would require only two to three acres versus the six to seven acres on the previous plan. This new

DISCUSSION/ACTION
(cont.)

Resolution for Contracts from \$2,500-\$25,000 to be Approved via Consent

Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB)

Revisions to Public Comments Procedures

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS
IU 13

LCCTC

Lancaster Recreation Commission

OLD BUSINESS
Lancaster Township Emergency Center

proposal was generated by Bill Laudien, Lancaster Township Manager, within the last two weeks.

Director Miller asked if the Township Fire Department was involved in the new proposal, but Director Rowen stated he has not had contact with them. He noted this move to the east side of the property is on land not currently leased to the Township.

Director Marten asked why it is necessary to have access to Atkins Avenue. Director Rowen responded without the access it would be necessary to extend Spencer Avenue to Springhouse Road to the traffic light, requiring an additional three to four minutes for emergency responders. He reiterated the new road to Atkins Avenue is only for access in to and not for exit from the facility. He also noted the Charles Road property is not for sale and the other property in back of Valentino's has access issues which would involve residential areas.

In Director Crystle's absence, Director Miller spoke on his behalf to request detailed budget information.

3/16/2010: NEW BUSINESS: Director Rowen emphasized there are only 22 months remaining before the PSERS crisis hits.

3/16/2010: INFORMATION: President Owens acknowledged the donation of an upright piano with an estimated value of \$1,500 to J.P. McCaskey from Susanne Anderson.

3/16/2010: ADJOURNMENT: President Owens adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Attest:

Rita Balogh
Board Secretary

OLD BUSINESS (cont.)
Lancaster Township
Emergency Center (cont.)

Budget

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION
Donation of Piano

ADJOURNMENT