

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LANCASTER SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Lancaster, Pennsylvania**

**Regular Meeting**  
**September 15, 2009**

The School District of Lancaster School Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at J.P. McCaskey High School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Attendance of the Board was as follows:

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

Mr. Michael Rowen, Vice President – Absent  
Mrs. Linda Troublefield Owens – Absent

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

Legal Counsel: Mr. Robert Frankhouser, Solicitor

Student Board Member: Miss Alvia Urdaneta

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**9/15/2009 CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Snyder, who welcomed everyone in attendance. Roll call was answered by: *Directors Boben, Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Simms, and Snyder – 7; Absent: Directors Rowen, and Owens – 2.* The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Lafayette K5 student Kyle Wintersteen, retired Ross Elementary teacher Donald Long, and former Hand SLC Assistant Sandra Perry.

President Snyder announced the Board of School Directors held an Executive Session on August 25, 2009 for the purpose of discussing matters involving employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and condition of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion, or disciplining of specific or prospective officers or employees.

**9/15/2009 ADDENDUMS AND CORRECTIONS:** None

**9/15/2009 APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote on a motion by Director Marten, which was seconded by Director Howell.

**9/15/2009 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

I want to thank all staff members for a fantastic opening of the school year. It was well orchestrated with very few problems in spite of some logistical changes due to

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ADDENDUMS AND  
CORRECTIONS**

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S  
REPORT**

the construction areas at four of our schools. A smooth opening doesn't just happen; it is the result of a lot of planning, hard work, and teamwork over the summer months. I want to especially acknowledge our Facilities and I.T. Departments and those staff members who facilitated purchasing and delivery of supplies and textbooks for their outstanding efforts in the preparation of clean, safe, and fully-ready learning environments; to the Enrollment Office for expediting the processing of our new and transferring students; to the Human Resources Office for ensuring every classroom has a qualified teacher; and to all the teachers and principals who attended professional development, studied and fine-tuned curriculum, and created welcoming classrooms for our new and returning students. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

In spite of the inclement weather, McCaskey Pride Night on September 9 gave the community an opportunity to show support to the fall athletic teams, the band, and the cheerleaders. Let's continue to build on that support! I encourage each of you to attend as many events as possible to cheer on our student performers.

At our recent All-Staff meeting prior to the opening of school, an Essence of Humanity Award was bestowed on adaptive physical education teacher Joann Judge. On behalf of the Board and the District, I would also like to offer our congratulations and present a commendation to Ms. Judge.

We also have a news release out of Chicago that reads, "The Certificate of Achievement for excellence in financial reporting has been awarded to the School District of Lancaster by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management." This award has been presented to our Business Office in the School District of Lancaster. I'd like to congratulate our CFO and our Business Office for this tremendous accomplishment!

#### Capital Improvement Program Update

Construction work is continuing at each of the four schools in Phase I.

Tonight the Board will consider buildings to be included in Phase II. As part of the due diligence, a public forum was held last night to gather input about the possible purchase of the Steinman Building at 622 Rockland Street for use as permanent classrooms. We want to thank all those who attended that forum. Selection of the architectural firm(s) for Phase II is entering the final stages.

Superintendent Rivera concluded his remarks with a presentation of the 2009 PSSA data. The following schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): Carter and MacRae Elementary, Fulton Elementary, Hamilton Elementary, King Elementary, Lafayette Elementary, Martin Elementary, Wharton Elementary, and Lincoln Middle School.

#### **9/15/2009 STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

President Snyder introduced and welcomed Alvia Urdaneta as the new student representative to the School Board for this year.

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

**STUDENT BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

Alvia reported the middle schools and high school buildings were off to a great start.

Lincoln had their Back-to-School night and had a great turnout with over 300 parents, guardians and students. They celebrated the start of school with a chicken barbecue.

Reynolds held orientations for new students over the summer followed by a 6<sup>th</sup> grade open house. Reynolds had a smooth opening and kept it going by including assemblies explaining the rules of the teachers to students and walk-throughs of the building.

Wheatland also had a smooth start to the 2009-10 school year and held an orientation for parents and new students. They had an amazing turnout of over 400 families!

All the middle schools' athletic competitions have already started with soccer and cross country competing along with the McCaskey teams. Information on the middle schools and high school sports can be found on Highschoolsports.net.

As for the McCaskey High School Campus, the new year is off to a great start. Student Congress held our retreat at Black Rock over the summer in order to build ourselves as a team, elect student officers, and to organize and strategize for everything we want to get done this year. So far the Student Government has two trips planned already. The officers are going to Penn Court in Harrisburg to meet with officers of other school districts to discuss what we can do for our schools and how we can make them better. Student Congress representatives will also go to the PA State Student Council meeting in the next two weeks. The Senior Class is showing our freshman support by adopting a freshman homeroom in order to make sure we have more sophomores next year. McCaskey football team is showing spirit by dressing in red jackets and ties every Friday at school. The team this year is already showing tremendous progress in racking up touchdowns against their competitors. The relationship between the team, the marching band, and the cheerleaders is also improving, with the football team now staying after the game to watch the marching band perform, unlike previous years. Pride Night, held last Wednesday, had a great turnout despite the pouring rain. The marching band attended Auntie Anne's homecoming parade welcoming their company convention held for the first time ever in their hometown of Lancaster. The marching band will also be performing in the Puerto Rican parade this Saturday. Vocal groups from McCaskey sang at the 9/11 commemoration ceremony last week. After-school clubs are starting at McCaskey already. The Theater Department held their auditions on Monday and Tuesday for the winter play.

**9/15/2009 PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Robert Field, representing Manor House Apartments, commented on the presentation at the Facilities Committee regarding the Lancaster Township use of land near Wheatland Middle School and adjacent to Manor House Apartments for construction of an emergency management center. Although the residents are not thrilled with it, he spoke in support of the plan which includes a private road that will seldom be used and a buffer between the center and the apartments.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Several cheerleaders spoke in support of their varsity cheerleading coaches. They feel their head coach is highly qualified and cited some of the squad's past successes. They are upset about comments and allegations made against their coach and want the harassment to stop.

Judy Kline questioned why the behavior is tolerated against the cheerleading coach. The squad is complimented by other schools. There are specific guidelines on paper in other districts.

Iris Ramos, Strawberry Street, is concerned about the negativity against the cheerleading coach which continuously affects the students and the coach's ability to be productive.

Denise Hull, mother of two cheerleaders, complimented the coaches. The negativity needs to stop.

Director Boben left the meeting at 7:35 and did not return.

Yvette Hudson, Wilderness Rd., is the parent of a cheerleader captain. The Booster Club needs to focus their efforts on positive things. We must to come together and move forward.

**9/15/2009 CONSENT AGENDA:** Director Miller made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- (1) Approval of Minutes: August 18, 2009 Regular Meeting
- (2) Personnel Recommendations
- (3) Approval of Board Policy Revision:  
312 Evaluation of Superintendent

Director Howell seconded the motion, which was approved by the following vote:  
*Aye: Directors Howell, Marten, Miller, McCain, Simms, and Snyder – 6; Nay – 0.*

**9/15/2009 EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Director Miller reviewed the September 10, 2009 meeting. Director Marten asked for clarification on the contract for National Network of Partnership Schools. Dr. Arthur Abrom, Coordinator for School Improvement & Federal Programs, stated we are extending the training to four more schools under this contract. He explained Joyce Epstein's model of six keys to parent involvement is the basis for the training. Darlene Taylor, District PAC President, added the Council is working on developing parent leaders in the schools, and this will be discussed at their meeting next Monday at 6:30 p.m. at J.P. McCaskey.

Director Miller made a motion to approve the following agenda items from the Education Committee Report and Recommendations:

- A. Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2009 Committee Meeting
- C. Permission to Accept Grants
  1. Active Schools in the amount of \$20,383.73
  2. Refugee School Impact Grant (RSIG) in the amount of \$43,000.00
- D. Contracts/Agreements (Roll Call)
  1. Hikmat Sadek – master agreement

**PUBLIC COMMENTS  
(cont.)**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes  
Personnel Recommendations  
Board Policy Revisions

**EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Minutes  
Permission to Accept  
Contracts/Agreements

2. National Network of Partnership Schools – not to exceed \$13,428.00
3. The Lancaster Partnership Program (Millersville University) – not to exceed \$18,435.00
4. Junior Achievement of Central PA – not to exceed \$22,000.00
5. PA Dutch Council – not to exceed \$8,500.00
6. Lancaster Lebanon Science and Technology Alliance (What in the World?) – not to exceed \$13,791.00
7. Lancaster Lebanon Science and Technology Alliance (TKe) – not to exceed \$3,920.00
8. Franklin and Marshall College – Center for Opinion Research (COR) – master agreement

- E. Extended Day Enrichment Programs Contracts/Agreements (Roll Call)
1. Heads Up Lancaster!
  2. American Red Cross
  3. Threshold Foundation, Inc.

Director Howell seconded Director Miller's motion, and it was approved by the following vote: *Aye: Directors Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Simms, and Snyder – 6; Nay – 0.*

Director Miller made a motion to approve the final Education Committee Agenda item. She highlighted to the parents who were present that these are approved providers for free tutoring services for their students. Dr. Abrom noted that he expects an additional 3 or 4 providers will be brought to the Board for approval next month.

Director McCain seconded the motion to approve these SES providers:

- F. Supplemental Education Services (SES) Agreements (Roll Call)
1. ATS Project Success
  2. Attain Learning Centers
  3. Global Partnership Schools, Inc.
  4. Education Futures Corporation
  5. Sylvan Learning Center
  6. Youth Enriched Academic Resources of Pennsylvania
  7. Huntington Learning Center

The motion was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Simms, and Snyder – 6; Nay – 0.*

Grant Updates listed as B. on the Education Committee Agenda are an information item with no Board action required at this time:

1. Highmark Healthy High 5 Challenge
2. Melody Grant
3. Special Education Performance Grant

**9/15/2009 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

President Snyder made a motion to approve the following items from the Finance Committee Report and Recommendations:

- A. Approval of Minutes: September 8, 2009 Committee Meeting
- B. Contracts/Agreements: (Roll Call)
  1. Willow Valley Resort & Conference Center – estimated \$4,353.00
  2. Fred Pryor Seminars – not to exceed \$3,300.00

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont.)**  
Contracts/Agreements (cont.)

Extended Day Enrichment Programs Contracts/Agreements

Supplemental Education Services (SES) Agreements

Grant Updates

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Minutes  
Contracts/Agreements

3. Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Services – not to exceed \$20,000.00
4. Zeller Service Company – not to exceed \$51,840.00
5. Boys & Girls Club – not to exceed \$70,000.00
6. Benefit Coordinators Corporation – not to exceed \$14,000.00
7. EHC Associates – not to exceed \$10,800.00
8. DELL Financial Services – not to exceed \$883,365.00

C. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

The motion was seconded by Director Miller and approved by the following vote:  
*Aye: Directors Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Simms, and Snyder – 6; Nay – 0.*

**9/15/2009 EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** In Director Owens' absence, President Snyder reported the Extra-Curricular Committee met last night. Superintendent Rivera stated the meeting included an update on the wrestling program and a discussion on booster clubs. Minutes of last night's meeting will be presented for approval at next month's regular Board meeting.

**9/15/2009 FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** President Snyder made a motion, which was seconded by Director Howell to approve minutes of the August 19 and September 2 Facilities Committee meetings. The motion was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Simms, and Snyder – 6; Nay – 0.*

Superintendent Rivera reviewed the schools and buildings in Phase II of the Capital Improvement program. Director Howell asked for clarification that what the Board is being asked to approve is to go forth with development of plans, not approval of the projects. Superintendent Rivera stated the approval steps of the PlanCon process will lock in the projects. President Snyder added approval of this Phase II list is not a commitment to a K-8 program for Martin Elementary School. President Snyder made a motion to approve the list of schools and buildings for Phase II. Following a second by Director Howell, the motion was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Simms, and Snyder – 6; Nay – 0.*

Bill Laudien, Lancaster Township Manager, showed a drawing outlining proposed changes to land near Wheatland Middle School that would allow for the construction of a comprehensive emergency services center housing a fire department, ambulance equipment, and a Township or regional police force. The municipality currently leases a western lot section under a 99-year lease agreement with approximately 90 years left on the lease. Proposed changes include construction of a new private access drive running north to south to connect Atkins Avenue and Millersville Pike (Rt. 999). In a change from previous proposals, the emergency services center would be located closer to the back of Planet Fitness and further from Manor House Apartments, with a buffer to minimize noise. It would segregate park land from the emergency facility and relocate the existing athletic fields closer to the schools. Superintendent Rivera voiced the administration's support for the plan, and noted the relocation of the athletic fields would allow the schools to use them during the day. Although no Board action is sought tonight, the parties will review the lease and bring an amendment back through the Facilities Committee as an agenda item.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REPORT (cont.)**  
Contracts/Agreements  
(cont.)

Monthly Financial  
Reports

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**FACILITIES  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**  
Minutes

Selection of Buildings for  
Phase II of Capital  
Improvement Program

**9/15/2009 DISCUSSION:** Presented for first reading was a draft revision to Board Policy 111 for Lesson Plans and Syllabus Guide. There were no questions or comments.

**DISCUSSION**  
Draft Board Policy  
Revision

**9/15/2009 DISCUSSION/ACTION:** President Snyder made a motion to approve all payment in the invoice listings with the following exceptions removed for a separate vote: #00314053 and 00314295 for Lancaster Lebanon IU 13; and #WSTS0908 for Substitute Teacher Service. Director McCain seconded the motion, and it was approved as follows: *Aye: Directors Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, Simms, and Snyder – 6; Nay – 0.*

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**  
Payments (Invoice  
Listings)

A motion to approve payment #00314053 and 00314295 for Lancaster Lebanon IU 13 and #WSTS0908 for Substitute Teacher Service was made by President Snyder and seconded by Director Marten. Approval was as follows: *Aye: Directors Howell, Marten, McCain, Miller, and Snyder – 5; Nay – 0; Recuse: Director Simms – 1.*

**9/15/2009 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Director Howell distributed reports for IU 13 for June/July and for August. She also showed two example reports available to the public, an educational resources directory and a catalog of services and products.

**REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORTS**  
IU 13

Director Rowen was not present to report on LCCTC.

LCCTC

Director Boben was not present for a report on the Lancaster Recreation Commission.

Lancaster Recreation  
Commission

**9/15/2009 OLD BUSINESS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**9/15/2009 NEW BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**9/15/2009 INFORMATION:** President Snyder acknowledged two donations of furniture with an estimated total value of \$7,000.00 from the County of Lancaster and from R. R. Donnelley with an estimated total value of \$10,000.00.

**INFORMATION**

**9/15/2009 ADJOURNMENT:** Director Miller's motion to adjourn was seconded by Director Marten. President Snyder adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. following a unanimous voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Attest:

Rita Balogh  
Board Secretary