

**COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2015 - 6:00 PM
9/10 Center Auditorium**

OPENING ACTIVITIES

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 6:11 P.M.

2. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, A LEARNING COMMUNITY RICH IN DIVERSITY AND COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE, IS TO EDUCATE ALL STUDENTS BY PROVIDING RIGOROUS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE, PRODUCTIVE, LIFE-LONG LEARNERS IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY.

3. ADVISEMENT

By notice of the President, Board Members are advised that all votes shall be regarded as roll call votes. The minutes should also note that public notice was given for this meeting in accordance with Act 93 of 1998, Section 1. School Board meetings shall proceed in accordance with School Board policy.

4. ROLL CALL

Board of School Directors

Dean A. Snyder, President - present	<i>(Finance & Personnel Committee)</i>
Stuart C. N. Deets, Vice President - present	<i>(Operations and Finance & Personnel Committees)</i>
Diane M. Brownfield - present	<i>(Education Committee)</i>
James Hills - present	<i>(Education and Operations Committees)</i>
Laurie C. Knecht - present	<i>(Operations Committee)</i>
Michele S. Maffei - present	<i>(Finance & Personnel Committee)</i>
Deborah L. Thompson - present	<i>(Education and Policy Committees)</i>
Ann Wuertz - present	<i>(Policy Committee)</i>

Solicitor

Michael I. Levin, Esquire – not present

Administration

Dr. Cathy Taschner, Superintendent of Schools - present
Dr. Kimberly R. Donahue, Assistant to the Superintendent of Curriculum & Learning - present
Ronald G. Kabonick, Director of Business Administration & School Board Secretary - present
Erika Zeigler, Director of Human Resources - absent
John Reid, Director of Pupil Services, Data & Assessment - present
Dave Krakower, Director of High School & Curriculum Instruction – Special Education (6-12) - present
Jason Palaia, Director of Elementary Education & Special Education (K-5) - present

5. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER FOR REGION III

The Board has requested all persons making comments on **agenda items** to list their name, address, telephone number and motion item(s) on the sheet provided. There is a three (3) minute limit per person. The Board does not take action or discuss items not appearing on the agenda. The Board values public comments and wishes to convey that although Board members cannot discuss items that are not on the agenda, they listen carefully and appreciate and value input from the public.

- 1) Chris Taylor spoke in support of Mr. Greg Wynn, Region III candidate. Mr. Taylor reminded everyone of just how close Mr. Wynn came to winning the election in 2013 as an indication of who the community wants to represent them.
- 2) Fonz Newsuan also spoke in favor of Mr. Wynn's interest to fill the vacancy in Region III. Mr. Newsuan reminisced about prior events that earned Mr. Wynn's participation, with an emphasis on his bipartisanship as well as those that cross racial and gender lines. Mr. Newsuan strongly believes Mr. Wynn will be able to withstand the challenges this school board faces, if selected.
- 3) Dawn Barringer spoke in support of Mr. Wynn's interest to fill the vacancy in Region III, and she reminded everyone of his volunteering commitment to share his IT expertise with CASD. She appreciates the tough questions Mr. Wynn presents, and feels he will be an excellent addition to the School Board.

MOTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

1. **Appointment of New School Board Director** (*Enclosure 1*)

- Tom Siedenbuehl
- Gregory Wynn

The Board voted 7 to 1 in favor of selecting and appointing Mr. Gregory D. Wynn as the School Board Director to fill the vacancy in Region III. Laurie Knecht was not in favor.

2. **Executive Session Recess to Brief New Board Member**

3. **Audit Presentation**

Ed Furman of Maille, LLP reviewed documents that were handed out to the Board as he pointed out specific sections of particular interest during the presentation.

4. **2013-2014 Audit Report**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors accept the 2013-2014 audit report as presented.

Motion: Dean Snyder

Second: Stuart Deets

Vote: 9-0-0

5. **Budget Presentation**

6. **2015-2016 Preliminary General Fund Budget**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve the 2015-2016 Preliminary General Fund Budget in the amount of \$151,606,287.00, as presented. (*Enclosure 2*)

Motion: Dean Snyder

Second: Diane Brownfield

Vote: 9-0-0

7. **Microsys Information Systems, Microsys and Simon Abboud**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors authorize and direct the Levin Legal Group, P.C., to file suit against Microsys Information Systems, Microsys, and Simon Abboud, and to take all actions necessary to protect the school district's interests, including the filing of discovery, motions, pleadings, appeals and any other action required to advance the district's interests.

Motion: Dean Snyder

Second: Deborah Thompson

Vote: 8-0-1

Abstained: Wynn

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board has requested that all persons making comments of public concern to list their name, address, telephone number and topic(s) on the sheet provided. There is a three (3) minute time limit per person.

- 1) Fonz Newsuan offered his sincerest apologies to Diane Brownfield, Laurie Knecht and Erika Zeigler for revealing their names during his public comment at the last board meeting. He then addressed the Board and the Superintendent in regards to the Conrad O'Brien Report. He found it troubling to read how some administrators, appointed by Mr. Como, were put into place to undermine all that was good in the District, wreaking havoc which may take years to reverse; however, as a school district we [citizens] are up for the task of bringing it back to where it should be. He spoke of how positions where integrity should have been of the utmost importance actually became the playing field for cronyism and nepotism. Mr. Newsuan feels the credibility within the Human Resources department is questionable for various reasons, stating that there is never a right time or reason to do the wrong thing, and he assured everyone that the citizens of Coatesville will no longer tolerate this type of behavior. He feels the Human Resources Director should be suspended with the intent to dismiss based on her actions as outlined in the investigative report.
- 2) Ron Suber asked the Board about communications with the City of Coatesville, as he expressed his concerns of a possible increase in tax millage. He encouraged the School Board to work together with the City of Coatesville. Mr. Suber also inquired about the Rip City Basketball League's request to use school district facilities. He was curious to know why the League was not permitted use of the gymnasium; however, per Dr. Taschner, this issue has already been addressed and resolved.
- 3) Rich Hall inquired about motion item #7 [Microsys], and raised legal questions that were not open for discussion at this time.

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

INFORMATION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Laurie Knecht and seconded by Stuart Deets.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Jackson, Recording Secretary

Ronald G. Kabonick, School Board Secretary

Anyone wishing to review the minutes verbatim should contact the School Board Secretary to request a copy of the digital/audio file.