

**COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
9/10 CENTER AUDITORIUM
December 16, 2014 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

OPENING ACTIVITIES

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 7:05 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
Stuart C. N. Deets, Vice President - present
Diane M. Brownfield - present
James A. Fox - present
James Hills - present
Laurie C. Knecht - present
Michele S. Maffei - present
Deborah L. Thompson - present

Student Representatives

Katie Stefanski, Senior Class Representative - present
Andrew Scott Patterson, Junior Class Representative - present

Solicitor

Michael I. Levin, Esquire - not present

Administration

Dr. Cathy Taschner, Superintendent of Schools - present
Dr. Angelo Romaniello, Jr., Assistant to the Superintendent - absent
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
Abdallah Hawa, Director of Technology - absent
John Reid, Director of Pupil Services, Data & Assessment - present
Dave Krakower, Director of High School & Curriculum Instruction - Special Education (6-12) - absent
Dr. Teresa Powell, Director of Middle School Education & Curriculum Instruction - present
Jason Palaia, Director of Elementary Education (3-5) - Special Education (K-5) - present

5. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Modifications:

- **Amend Public Comment To Allow Second Public Comment**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors amend Public Comment to allow a second Public Comment and to also allow open dialogue during the Building and Grounds discussion.

Motion: Laurie Knecht

Second: Deborah Thompson

Vote: 8-0-0

Additions:

- **Addition of Two Informational Items**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors add two informational items to the December 16, 2014 School Board Agenda.

1. Waiver Resolution
2. Release of the Conrad O'Brien Report

Motion: Michele Maffei

Second: Diane Brownfield

Vote: 8-0-0

- **Move Informational Items**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors move the Informational Items to appear before the Operations Committee section.

Motion: Stuart Deets

Second: Diane Brownfield

Vote: 8-0-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. The student representative's report was provided by Katie Stefanski.
- B. Honoring of the Advanced Placement Graduates
- C. Announcement of the Winning Christmas Card

PUBLIC COMMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER FOR REGION II

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) *Fonz Newsuan* spoke on behalf of Region II candidate, Mr. Corey Fields, whom he has known for more than 25 years. Mr. Fields has always been engaged in community service, and is a champion for the people in the community. He is an active church member currently working with the TIMS (*Training, Introspect, Mentoring & Service*) Program and puts in the hard work. His motto is "Be all you can be". Mr. Fields is a School Administrator/Assistant Principal, who has been involved with our kids forever. He brings diversity to CASD, and he would be good for the community.

- 2) *James Jackson (Region I)*: Mr. Jackson spoke on behalf of Region II candidate, Mr. Corey Fields, a well-known individual in the CASD community. Mr. Fields would be an asset to the School Board and the community. Mr. Jackson thanked Dr. Cathy Taschner and the new Board Members for their hard work this year, and he also thanked them for their transparency.

APPOINTMENT of NEW BOARD MEMBER for REGION II (*Confidential Enclosures I*)

Mrs. Ann Wuertz was appointed the new Region II School Board Director of the Coatesville Area School District based on a 5-3 vote in her favor. The Board recessed for a brief executive session.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Additions:

• **Waiver of Privileges Resolution**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Be it resolved that senior management and legal counsel determine what waivers may be needed to allow the District Attorney's office to obtain the waivers they seek to review records, conduct interviews, etc., with attorneys at Rhoads & Sinon, and James Ellison.

Motion: Deborah Thompson

Second: Laurie Knecht

Vote: 9-0-0

• **Release of the Conrad O'Brien Report**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Be it resolved that the Conrad O'Brien report, their supplemental report, and the forensic audit be made public after they are redacted by Conrad O'Brien to the extent that there are legal or privacy issues justifying the redaction. Conrad O'Brien will not charge for the redaction of the materials.

Motion: Stuart Deets

Second: Michele Maffei

Vote: 9-0-0

• **Human Resources Addendum**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve the addition of the Human Resources Addendum.

Motion: Dean Snyder

Second: Diane Brownfield

Vote: 9-0-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 for legal and personnel reasons.

1. **Amendment of Policy 005 - Organization**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors amend Policy 005, Organization, in the area of standing committees. (*Enclosure 2*)

Motion: Diane Brownfield

Second: Deborah Thompson

Vote: 9-0-0

2. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

A. **Schedule of Bills Payable**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve the Bills Payable list, as submitted. (*Enclosure 3*)

Motion: Stuart Deets Second: Diane Brownfield Vote: 8-0-1
Abstained: Wuertz

B. **Temporary Facilities & Maintenance Staffing Agreement**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve the Temporary Facilities and Maintenance Staffing Agreement through the Chester County Intermediate Unit, as indicated. (*Enclosure 4*)

Motion: Stuart Deets Second: Deborah Thompson Vote: 9-0-0

C. **Temporary Technology Staffing Agreement**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve the Temporary Technology Staffing Agreement through the Chester County Intermediate Unit, as indicated. (*Enclosure 5*)

Motion: Deb Thompson Second: Stuart Deets Vote: 9-0-0

D. **Human Resources Addendum**

1. **Resignations - Regular and Extra Duty**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the following Resignations - Regular and Extra Duty:

a. CATA

1) Jakubowski, Candy, Mental Health Specialist for the Coatesville Area Senior High School. Letter Dated: 11/25/14. Reason: Personal. Effective: 12/19/14.

b. CATSS

1) Mickens, Malcom, Technology Associate for the King's Highway Elementary School. Letter Dated: 12/2/14. Reason: Personal. Effective: 12/5/14.

2) Shortlidge, Barbara, Facilities Secretary for the Coatesville Area School District. Letter Dated: 12/8/14. Reason: Retirement. Effective: 1/5/15.

3) Watson, Kim, 3.5 Hour Cafeteria Aide for the Coatesville Area Senior High School. Letter Dated: 12/1/14. Reason: Retirement. Effective: 6/30/15.

c. EXTRA DUTY

- 1) Jakubowski, Candy, SADD Club Advisor for the Coatesville Area Senior High School Campus. Letter Dated: 12/16/14. Reason: Personal. Effective: 12/19/14.

2. New Appointments - Regular and Extra Duty

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the following New Appointments - Regular and Extra Duty:

a. CATSS

- 1) Chan, Kristin, 6.5 Hour Special Education One-on-One Aide for the Friendship Elementary School. Posted: 11/4/14. Salary: \$12.50/hr. Effective: TBD. SP4: Approved.

b. EXTRA DUTY

- 1) Morrison, Jamie, Assistant Softball Coach for the Coatesville Area Senior High School Campus. Posted: 10/13/14. Salary: \$2,464.00. Effective: 2014 – 2015 School Year. SP4: Approved.
- 2) Pearson, Eric, 8th Grade Wrestling Coach for the South Brandywine Middle School. Posted: 10/22/14. Salary: \$1,647.00. Effective: 12/11/14 (2014 – 2015 School Year). SP4: Staff.

3. Leave(s) of Absence

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the following Leave(s) of Absence as indicated:

a. ADMINISTRATION

- 1) MacNamara, Joseph, Assistant Principal for the Coatesville Area Senior High School Campus – 9/10 Center. Letter Dated: 12/9/14. Effective: 2/4/15 – 2/18/15.
- 2) Olseski, Anthony F., Police Officer for the Coatesville Area School District. Letter Dated: 12/10/14. Effective: 11/24/14 – 1/20/15.

b. CATA

- 1) Delp, Kristine, 1st Grade Teacher for the Rainbow Elementary School. Letter Dated: 12/10/14. Effective: 12/15/14 – 2/6/15.
- 2) Freeman-Petersen, Jessika, Mathematics Teacher for the Scott Middle School. Letter Dated: 10/29/14. Effective: 10/29/14 – 12/5/14.
- 3) Girafalco, Paul, Earth & Space Science Teacher for the Coatesville Area Senior High School Campus. Letter Dated: 11/21/14. Effective: 11/11/14 – 1/30/15.

- 4) Shuman, Pamela, Special Education Teacher for the Scott Middle School. Letter Dated: 12/15/14. Effective: 12/15/14 – 2/27/15.
- 5) Stanley, Jennifer, 4th Grade Teacher for the Caln Elementary School. Letter Dated: 12/11/14. Effective: 1/22/15 – 6/8/15.
- 6) Stracinski, Kimberly, 3rd Grade Teacher for the Friendship Elementary School. Letter Dated: 11/20/14. Effective: 12/13/14 – 12/19/14.

c. **FEDERATION**

- 1) Leusky, Mark, Custodian for the Coatesville Area Senior High School Campus – 9/10 Center. Letter Dated: 12/4/14. Effective: 1/12/15 – 4/3/15.

4. **Voluntary Transfers**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Voluntary Transfer of:

a. **CATSS**

- 1) Grannells, Bonnie, move from Receptionist for the Coatesville Area School District Administration Building to Facilities Secretary for the Coatesville Area School District Facilities Department. Effective: 12/15/14.

3. **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

A. **Special Counsel for Student Discipline Hearings**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve special counsel for student discipline hearings to represent the administrators, at a rate not to exceed \$190 per hour.

Motion: Diane Brownfield

Second: Stuart Deets

Vote: 9-0-0

B. **Professional Development**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve Professional Development funds from Title II for the administrative team training with Divinely Equine, LLP. (*Enclosure 6*)

Motion: Deborah Thompson

Second: Stuart Deets

Vote: 9-0-0

C. **Homebound Instruction Approval**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve Student #0001 for Homebound Instruction. (*Confidential Enclosure 7*)

Motion: Stuart Deets

Second: Diane Brownfield

Vote: 9-0-0

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1) 3CTVLive.com Proposal
- 2) Chester County Intermediate Unit's Upcoming Election for the I. U. Board (*Confidential Enclosure 9*)
- 3) The recent forensic audit, thus far, has revealed theft, a lack of oversight and a high risk area regarding the transfer of funds. Ms. Thompson encouraged fellow Board Members to strongly consider asking the Superintendent to have a discussion and work with the District Solicitor to have a discussion with the District Attorney to engage the FBI or other State Agency such as the Attorney General's Office to come and perform such an investigation for the Coatesville Area School District.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors move this item to the Finance Committee as an action Item.

Motion: Stuart Deets Second: Deborah Thompson Vote: 9-0-0

- 4) Release of the Conrad O'Brien Report

4. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (*Laurie Knecht, Chair*)

Ken Johnson from Gilbert Architects, and Jeff Chambers of Chambers Associates, will present and discuss the summer projects and Change Orders. (Enclosure 8)

A. Change Order No. 001-001 – Caln Elementary School Miscellaneous Upgrades

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve Change Order #001-001 for miscellaneous upgrades at Caln Elementary School.

Balton Construction Inc. General Contractor \$54,596.12

Motion: Laurie Knecht Second: Diane Brownfield Vote: 8-0-1
Abstained: Wuertz

B. Change Order No. 002-001 – Caln Elementary School Miscellaneous Upgrades

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve Change Order #002-001 for miscellaneous upgrades at Caln Elementary School.

Phillips Brothers Electrical Inc. Electrical Contractor \$51,405.89

Motion:

C. Change Order No. 002-001 – King's Highway Elem. School Miscellaneous Upgrades

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve Change Order #001-001 for miscellaneous upgrades at King's Highway Elementary School.

Jay R. Reynolds Inc. Plumping Contractor \$1,776.00

Motion: Stuart Deets Second: Deborah Thompson Vote: 8-0-1
Abstained: Wuertz

- D. Change Order No. 001-001 – North Brandywine Middle School Refurbishing Project**
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve Change Order #001-001 for the refurbishing project at North Brandywine Middle School.

Columbus Construction, LLC General Contractor \$18,571.56

Motion: Laurie Knecht Second: Diane Brownfield Vote: 8-0-1
Abstained: Wuertz

- E. Change Order No. 003-001 – North Brandywine Middle School Refurbishing Project**
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approve Change Order #003-001 for the refurbishing project at North Brandywine Middle School.

Phillips Brothers Electrical Inc. Electrical Contractor (\$5,154.00)

Motion: Stuart Deets Second: Diane Brownfield Vote: 8-0-1
Abstained: Wuertz

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) Mr. Barringer asked “Who is watching the store?” Who determines who gets proposals; who is supposed to keep their eye on things in order for the public to have a better understanding of this? Mr. Barringer also questioned the process that lead up to the current construction issues.
- 2) *Tom Audette* read excerpts from the Grand Jury Report pertaining to nepotism violations and poor hiring practices by the Human Resources Director as named certain employees and outlined their unacceptable backgrounds. He requested their immediate termination, as well as that of those responsible for allowing this action to take place without questioning. Mr. Audette requested that five coaches, hired and given bogus positions for years, be terminated immediately regardless of the good they have done for this District. He also called for the investigation of two coaches who accepted \$250 from the Bert Bell Championship for security. Mr. Audette requested the resignation of certain board members for costing taxpayers millions of dollars due to their incompetence and dishonesty.
- 3) *Gregg Wynn* questioned whether or not existing employment laws and procedures are (*now*) being carried out, as recommended by the District Attorney. He also questioned the actions previously taken, and not questioned, by certain board members and reiterated the District Attorney’s recommendation that every board member receive family relationship and background check reports on every new hire, and that all board members request the same. Mr. Wynn also questioned certain entries on the Bills Payable list.
- 4) *Linda Messinger* thanked Ms. Thompson for requesting the Attorney-Client Waiver of Privilege. She also referenced the ongoing investigation and questioned the qualifications and current status of the Human Resources Director. Mrs. Messinger commended those (*employees*) who maintained honesty during the investigative interviews with the Grand Jury, despite the threat of losing their job.

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 11:24 p.m. on a motion by Stuart Deets and seconded by Deborah Thompson.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Jackson, Recording Secretary

Ronald G. Kabonick, School Board Secretary

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