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# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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**MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2007, 6:00 PM  
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR SESSION  
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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\* The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

*In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every public meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation. These rules are available at each Board meeting. Anyone desiring to speak is asked to make this request in advance. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer. Comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; not to Board members individually. Board Bylaw 0169.1*

## CALL TO ORDER

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2007 Regular Meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### EXPENDITURES:

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$933,119.70 for the month March and any necessary for April, along with month end reports, including amended certificate. Total General Fund Certified Revenues: \$10,460,091.34; Total All Other Funds Certified Revenues: \$2,089,383.63.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

#### INTEREST EARNED:

The treasurer earned \$15,750.69 in interest in March investments. The total fiscal year-to-date earnings are \$129,636.60. Current interest rate: Star 5.18%, Huntington 5.18%, Charter One 5.17%.

#### APPROPRIATION MODIFICATIONS:

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve all appropriation modifications for April as needed. Total General Fund Appropriations: \$9,980,686.10; Total All Other Funds Appropriations: \$1,742,516.20.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

#### POTENTIAL SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons to allow AFLAC, New York Life, and Ohio Deferred Compensation to make presentations to school district employees for supplemental benefit programs. Per payroll policy, there must be at least five employees signed up to offer program through payroll deduction.

*Mrs. Tramont stated that we wanted to give the employees a chance for retirement planning that will benefit them in the long run.*

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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## **VOCATIONAL REPORT**

Mr. Miller introduced Superintendent Tom Schultz from Auburn Career Center who spoke on behalf of the upcoming bond levy. Mr. Schultz stated that they recently held a kick-off meeting for the bond levy. There will be a bond issue on the ballot in May for .58 mills which equates to \$1.50 per month for every \$100,000 in housing value. With this money they can expand programs to accommodate the students that are being turned away to limited class room space. There will be two new additions and renovation of the current facility. We have not asked for a bond levy increase since 1965. They did a public survey and the support is there for programs related to career education. We have one of the highest performing career centers in Ohio. ACC is asking the board for their support of the levy.

*Nick Dash – Culinary Arts student from Berkshire, spoke about the great programs ACC has to offer. They helped him to set career goals and presented opportunities for scholarships for further education. The Culinary Arts team received a silver medal in competition last year and had 10 gold medal winners going to State this year. The CA program runs the lunchroom on Thursdays and Fridays for the school. The kids attending ACC look forward to going to school because they have so many good programs to offer. There are good programs and it is a fantastic place. I don't know why you wouldn't want to support this.*

Mr. Miller stated that ACC pioneered the career center 40 years ago. They are 1 of 75 model high schools in the country. They continue to upgrade and expand into science and math programs. They are clearly a leader in vocational education.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Levy Committee – Linda Stone reported that we are Issue #2 on the ballot. We are doing a lot of community groups, home meetings are starting up, letters are going out to college students, registering 18 year olds, visiting the Amish and others. Need folks in Claridon and Troy to host in-home meetings.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (PRINCIPALS' UPDATES)**

Kim Sethna acknowledged William Dunton, a senior, winner of a \$500 scholarship for an essay he wrote on the pros and cons of the Ohio Graduate Tests. Basically he summed up that we are teaching to take the test.

Mr. Reedy reported that the senior trip to New York went well. The OGT testing is finishing up this week; a lot of prep time was spent in this area.

Mrs. Ducca reported that the Roots & Shoots group collected 2,002 pounds of food for Harvest for Hunger. Starting in April the Moons & Stars will be working on projects to donate to Relay for Life. The PTO donated \$8,000 for 2 smart boards.

Mr. Knapp reviewed the "Redirecting Our Efforts" page presented at the meeting which discussed the continuing issue of school funding, the Plain Dealer article on Retire/Rehire, Drug Free Action Alliance eighth annual "Parent's Who Host Lose the Most" campaign, the Saturday make-up day of April 21, 2007, and the Spring break board office hours.

## **PRESENTATION BY TROY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:**

Dr. Symsek introduced Mr. Gardner. He introduced the students who participated in the Math Survivor challenge. Kieran Wichert – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Kyle Kaniecki – 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Ian Moore – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and Marie Dienes – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As each child is learning their math facts and tables their progress is charted. When they complete a set of tables they get a sticker. Have been using the Flash Master to learn the facts and challenge the students in Math Survivor.

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Each grade level has a bandana color and a drawing is held each day to see who wants to go head to head with another student. Each time they win they get points. Everyday the grade gets a challenge problem to complete. The students then passed out the Flash Master to each of the board members to challenge their math skills. Fun was had by all once they got the keys to work out.

Mrs. Sherman introduced her 2<sup>nd</sup> graders who shared their biographies they put together for class. Brandon Jones reported on George Washington, Charlie Snyderburn reported on Robert E Lee, Corrie Rockefeller reported on Anne Frank, Annamaria Hills reported on Annie Sullivan, and Samantha Hargis reported on Diana Princess of Wales.

Mrs. Symsek then reported on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington D.C. Trip. They went to the White House, the War Memorials, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Hard Rock Café, Spy Museum, Holocaust Museum and swimming at the hotel. It was a very activity filled trip. Thanks to the parents, chaperones and teachers who made this trip possible. Some of the students shared their favorite parts: Maria Corrigan - Holocaust Museum, Allison Noble – Capital Building, John Honkala – Holocaust Museum, Megan Burnett – Arlington National Cemetery, Bryan Briggs – War Memorials, Stefan Tompkins – Vietnam and World War II Memorials, Bill Thompson – Memorials, Garret Blair – Museums, Nick Jevnikar – Holocaust Museum and Ti Larenas provided booklets outlining the activities of each day for the board members.

## **PERSONNEL:**

### *Certified:*

Motion made by Mr. Imhof and seconded by Mr. Honkala to accept the resignation of Susie Burzanko, teacher at Burton Campus, for reason of retirement after thirty years of service to Berkshire Local Schools, effective June 30, 2007.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the continuing contracts for the following employees who have met all qualifications for tenure according to the negotiated agreement and recommendation of their principal.

- Cheryl Rubino, Special Education Teacher, Burton Campus
- Margaret Peters, High School Spanish Teacher

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Imhof and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the one-year limited teaching contracts for the 2007-2008 school year to the following teachers:

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Patricia Donaldson            | k. Ted Janssen            |
| b. Beth Duricky                  | l. Karen Kirby            |
| c. Karen Fortier                 | m. Matt Marks             |
| d. Brent Gardner (retire/rehire) | n. Kelly Mathews          |
| e. Cheri Goggin                  | o. MaryJo Maxwell (50%)   |
| f. Richard Guthrie               | p. Brent Nenadal          |
| g. Nancy Harris                  | q. Donald Nikolai (73.6%) |
| h. Eric Higgs                    | r. Joan Prots             |
| i. Meghan Hull                   | s. Maria Ritter           |
| j. Lynn Hunter                   | t. Mindy Cannella         |

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Timmons to approve the substitute teachers on the County E.S.C. certified substitute list.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve Don Nikolai as a Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

*Classified:*

Motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Imhof to approve Randal Sweet as a Substitute Bus Driver.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Manfredi and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Coaching Volunteers as follows:

- William Poole, Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach
- Robert Himmelein, Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Imhof and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve a One Year Purchased Service Agreement for Technology Services with Newbury Schools for 2007/2008 in the amount of 40% of the current salary.

*Mr. Miller asked how the service is.* Mr. Knapp responded that there are a lot of technical issues, things are improving but still needs work. We are replacing lots of old equipment, repairing lots of equipment and both of these take a lot time to do.

*Mr. Imhof stated that it seems to be a full time job with the amount of equipment that we have but understands that for financial reasons we are sharing the services.* Mr. Knapp stated that we will have a part-time helper with Frank Milhalic, a teacher, being trained to help out. We are also trying to train some other teachers to help trouble-shoot within the individual buildings.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Honkala to approve Griffin Agencies, Ltd. as the carrier for our Student Insurance at no cost to the district. (Former carrier, Pease, Kerr, Canfield, has discontinued this service.)

*Mr. Knapp said that the individual carrier sends out information each year to the students.*

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Honkala and seconded by Mrs. Timmons to approve camp counselors for the Outdoor Education Camp to be held at Hiram House May 22-May 25, 2007.

**BOYS:** Corey McMurray, Ben Hess, Andrew Hauser, Jake Mullett, Nate Petersen, Graham Richardson, David Owen, Mack Stone, Joel Jenkins, Kelly Blair, Zach Thoren and Nick Snyder. **ALTERNATES:** Corey Hiscox, Josh Stone, Ronnie Blair, Jordan Tompkins, Aaron Roubic and Josh Talarcek.

**GIRLS:** Ashley Gruver, Erin Shalek, Megan Shalek, Breanne Skidmore, Kristin Duns, Kelsey Kimmel, Megan Greenhouse, Joni Hollesh, Jamie Sargent, Christine Hehr, Gillian Hansel and Heather Peattie. **ALTERNATES:** Brittany Klarich, Emily Patton, Kayla Hiscox, Alyssa Dobay, Ashley Kovach and Courtney Bucholtz.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Motion by Mrs. Timmons and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to accept with regret the retirement of Darlene Kostelec, secretary at Burton Campus, effective June 30, 2007, after 25 years of service with Berkshire Schools.

*Mr. Knapp stated that the changes in SERS are causing classified staff members to seriously consider their retirement options, especially due to changes in health care. May see more retirements down the line.*

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Imhof and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to rescind the contract with From the Heart for one on one nursing services due to legal concerns.

*Mrs. Timmons asked how much we have utilized their services. Mrs. Symsek said that we use a nurse four one-half days a week. The cost of the new service will be the same as the current service.*

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons and seconded by Mr. Miller to enter into a contract with B&B Health Care LLC for one-on-one nursing services. The services and cost will be \$105 per day (\$35.00 per hour) when the student is in session.

*Mr. Knapp wanted to commend Mrs. Symsek on the hard work to get all in place last week so the student did not miss any school time with nursing care.*

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

None.

## **New Business**

Mrs. Timmons mentioned that the next meeting is the night before elections and we should consider moving it to the Wednesday afterwards. All agreed, therefore the next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 6 pm.

Mr. Honkala mentioned the motion to support the Auburn Career Center bond levy. He questioned if we could legally do this as a board. No one knew for sure. *Mrs. Timmons asked what the projected enrollment would be.* Mr. Miller stated that there was projected about 2,500 in the adult program enrollment and expand the high school student enrollment through expanded programs and increased class sizes.

At this time the board decided not to support the levy as a board resolution, but individually as their preference.

## **Open Public Participation**

Ms. McInteeLarenas – Appreciated all of the work people did to help Ti go on the Washington DC trip. She greatly appreciates Gina Symsek and all of the teachers who work with him.

## **Executive Session**

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to go into executive session under the provisions of O.R.C. 121.22(2) to consider purchase or sale of property.

Entered into Executive Session: 7:25 pm

Exited Executive Session: 8:05 pm

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## **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Honkala and seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting.  
Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at: 8:06 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tim Honkala, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Merry Lou Tramont, Treasurer

*Next board meeting is May 9, 2007 at 6:00 pm at the High School Library/Cafeteria.*