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# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2015 6:00 P.M.  
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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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*



## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Roll Call:** Mr. Koster, Mr. Manfredi, Mr. Honkala, Mr. Imhof, Mrs. Brown – present

Mr. Koster presented Mr. Miller with a gift from the Board and thanked him for his years of service.

Motion made by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the current Agenda and Minutes of January 13<sup>th</sup> organizational and regular meeting, January 20<sup>th</sup> special meeting and January 26<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

## **Public Hearing for the Rehire of Lavada Hanley, confidential board office secretary**

Mr. Manfredi made mention that Lavada is very devoted to the Berkshire School District and he is all in favor.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Let the records reflect that – The Treasurer has submitted a statement to the board and to the Superintendent showing the revenues and receipts from whatever sources derived, the various appropriations made by the board, the expenditures and disbursements therefrom, the purposes thereof, and the balances remaining in each fund. The financial statements for the period ending **January, 2015** submitted subject to audit and include: Financial Summary, Appropriations and Revenue Summary, Check Register Recap, and Bank Reconciliation per *ORC 3313.29*.

## **Ohio Schools Council Cooperative Bus Purchase**

Motion made by Mr. Imhof, seconded by Mr. Koster to participate in the 2015/2016 Ohio Schools Council Cooperative School Bus Purchased Program and authorizes the Ohio Schools Council to advertise and receive bids on behalf of the Berkshire Board of Education as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of a minimum of two (2) 72 passenger conventional school bus chassis and body. The Board agrees to pay \$325.00 to the Ohio Schools Council for participation in the 2014/2015 cooperative bus purchase.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

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## Then and Now

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala to approve the Then and Now encumbrance to the Geauga County ESC for \$2,034 for related services.

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

## Vocational Report

Mr. Miller reported on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade experience that was held at Auburn Career Center. Said it was very well attended and a success. He also stated that there have been talks about Auburn adding a Permanent Improvement levy on the ballot which would fund the medical building, which would cost about 10-20 million dollars. They have currently moves the treasurer's office across the street to make more room for programs.

## Committee Reports

Mr. Delong noted that the facilities committee met on February 4 to determine a list of projects to be completed in the spring/summer with the permanent improvement levy funds. Mr. Manfredi questioned putting money into the modulars at the elementary school and added maybe to look into renting new trailers and possibly selling the current ones. All Board members agreed that the school has gotten their money worth from the modulars. Mrs. Brown asked what classes are currently in the modulars and Mr. Randles responded by saying that they held two intervention classes, an OT class, a speech class and the gifted class.

Mr. Delong also mentioned that Mr. Koster, Mr. Manfredi, Mrs. McCaffrey and himself met with Kent Geauga about the possible consolidated high school. Cardinal is still very unsure about this move but seems the community members are interested. There are a lot of uncertainties with this project Mrs. McCaffrey added. Kent Geauga has hired an attorney and formed a financial committee. This type of consolidation has never been done and there are taxation issues that need to be worked out. February 26 is the next meeting and hopefully some legal and financial questions will be answered. Mr. Koster added that each school had four representatives and Kent State had eight.

## Superintendent's Report and Recommendations:

### Certified:

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve a salary schedule change for Jill Bittinger from Step 15 Level IV to Step 15 Level V.

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Imhof to approve the following supplementals:

- Amy Hochschild                      6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Coordinator

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- Janet Duns 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Teacher
- Brent Gardner 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Teacher
- Chris Kostiha 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Teacher
- Debbie Zenz 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Teacher

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

## **Classified:**

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve James Burzanko as a volunteer coach for the girls' junior high basketball team:

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

## **Business:**

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve Sixth Grade Camp from May 12 – May 15, 2015.

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve an Agreement between Camp Whitewood and Berkshire Board of Education for Sixth Grade Camp.

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Mrs. Brown asked why Berkshire was changing camp locations from Hiram House. Mrs. Randles answered by stating they just wanted a change and Camp Whitewood has more to offer and has more of a camp experience.

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the 2015/2016 school calendar.

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Imhof to approve the March 31, 2015 – April 5, 2015 Band Trip to Florida.

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala to approve Inter-District Open Enrollment for the 2015/2016 school year:

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Imhof to instruct the Treasurer, should no referendum be filed in the Ledgemont Territory Transfer, by February 27, 2015, to notify the Geauga County Board of Elections of Berkshire's intention to remove the .25% earned income tax from the May 5, 2015 ballot.

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Mrs. McCaffrey added that she talked to the Board of Elections and ballots will be sent to print on March 4. We could have the earned income tax removed from the ballot if no referendum is filed and it would not cost the District anything. If the issue is on the ballot, it could cost the district as there are only 4 issues on the ballot.

Mr. Manfredi asked Mrs. McCaffrey is the Governor's budget changes anything with state funding. Mrs. McCaffrey answered by saying that under HB 487, the territory transfer guarantees funding for three years so any cuts that would be made would not affect the district because of that house bill.

Mr. Koster acknowledged Mrs. McCaffrey with the Dave Yost, Auditor of State Award with Distinction.

Mr. Koster read a letter he received from the Ledgemont Board President regarding questions of Ledgemont starting the process of selling the high school building or if the Berkshire Board would rather wait until the territory transfer occurred. Mr. Manfredi said he would personally rather wait till the transfer occurred and Berkshire would take care of that. Mr. Koster also agreed. Mr. Manfredi wants the focus to be on education first and that would come later.

If no referendum with Ledgemont is filed, it will be official on March 9<sup>th</sup>. After that time, Mr. Manfredi asked Mr. Delong to schedule meetings for the Boards to talk as Boards. Mr. Koster agreed.

Mr. Delong met with the union president from Ledgemont, Eric Higgs and Julie Ramos and gave the union president a copy of the Berkshire contract. They talked about very general personnel issues. Mr. Delong and Suzanne Steinhoff also met with Community Bus in regards with that was expected from them if the territory transfer takes place.

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A meeting was also scheduled between the Superintendents, the principals and the athletic director to discuss the transition in education. A meeting for parents with students interested in the College Credit Plus program is scheduled for both Berkshire and Ledgesmont parents. This is a mandatory meeting if students are interested in talking college credit classes at Kent State Geauga.

Berkshire guidance counselors will be meeting with Ledgesmont students on February 17 to start scheduling classes for the 15/16 school year as Berkshire students are already doing so.

Mr. Koster asked if Ledgesmont students can participate in spring sports this year as part of the Berkshire School District. Mr. Delong responded by saying no, they cannot play with Berkshire.

### **Open Public Participation**

Mr. Miller mentioned he thinks the potential high school consolidation with Kent Geauga is a great thing and to keep moving forward with it.

Mr. Higgs requested a copy of the 15/16 school calendar that was approved at this meeting

### **Executive Session:**

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), we hereby move that the Board adjourn to executive session for the purpose of personnel matters.

Motioned by Mr. Honkala, seconded Mr. Manfredi to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters

Roll Call: All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

The Board entered into executive session at 6:57 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 7:32 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call: All Ayes

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Mr. James Koster                      President

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Mrs. Beth McCaffrey              Recorder of Proceeding