
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2008, 6:00 PM
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

* 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

REGULAR MEETING CALL TO ORDER



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Manfredi, Mrs. Timmons, Mr. Miller, Mr. Koster and Mr. Honkala (arrived late).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the agenda as submitted.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Koster, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2008 Organizational and Regular Meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Expenditures:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$739562.41 for the month of January and any necessary for February, along with month end reports, including amended certificate. Total General Fund Certified Revenues: \$10,559,606.47; Total All Other Funds Certified Revenues: \$1,644,147.19.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Interest Earned:

The treasurer earned \$19,437.83 in interest for January investments. The total fiscal year-to-date earnings are \$124,138.87. Current interest rate: Star 3.94%, Huntington 5.19%, Charter One 3.95%.

Appropriation Modifications:

Motion made by Mr. Koster, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve all appropriation modifications for January as needed. Total General Fund Appropriations: \$10,583,925. Total All Other Funds Appropriations: \$1,605,611.14.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

VOCATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Miller reported that they have a couple of new hires and three retirees at ACC. Received some donations. *Mr. Manfredi asked if they are still talking about a levy in November.* Mr. Miller said yes.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

None to report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (PRINCIPALS' UPDATES)

Cindy Ducca introduced students from all three campuses to present the board members with certificates in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Month which was in January. The students thanked the board members for their hard work and dedication to the school district.

Mrs. Ducca introduced Mrs. Starr and Mrs. Klingman, second grade teachers, and some of their students for a presentation of the Reader Theater. The students took turns reading the book 'A Bad Case of Stripes' to the audience. They did a great job of reading the story.

Mrs. Ducca said that Lisa and Mary Jo Maxwell volunteer a lot of extra time with the Roots & Shoots group and she appreciates all of the hard work. The Roots & Shoots officers shared the program held at both Berkshire and Troy Elementary buildings. They told of the history, the purpose and some of the community service projects they have completed so far and the upcoming events for the remainder of the year. They have sold suckers for Relay for Life, character bracelets have been made and will be sold and they are planning a candle sale and a possible car wash. The candy canes were sold in December, with the \$450 collected by BE going to Rescue Village and the \$125 collected by Troy going to the Jane Goodall Organization for the care of a chimpanzee. They also collect food and gifts in November and December to give to their adopted family of a single mother and four children.

Mr. Miller said that we definitely have evidence of a great staff and parents who are involved with their students' education. We have some very fine readers here in the group. They did a great job.

Gina Symsek gave a brief slide presentation on the Strategic Plan Update. This is the road map to ensure district organization is going in the right direction. The plan was first updated at the June 2007 board meeting and the continued changes and progress were highlighted in the presentation. Some of the items included:

- Changes due to AYE requirements.
- Differentiating Instruction – working towards more consistency in teaching.
- Improving instruction for gifted and special education students with enrichment education.
- Mr. Gardner has completed a WEP for all gifted students which involved the students, parents and the teachers.
- Working on consistent programming, communication, intervention and follow through.
- Looking to increase course options to challenge our students, especially the gifted and accelerated students.
- Improve and keep current with technology needs and course options.
- Encourage interests in fine arts and athletics.
- Continue staff development.
- Continue to recognize the value of the PTO and community support.

PERSONNEL:

Certified:

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve the level change on salary schedule with proper certification for Tamara Beitzel, from Level IV (MA) to Level V, Step 1 (MA+15).

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Mr. Manfredi asked if Tamara was a special education teacher or a new hire. Mr. Koster asked what the procedure was for salary changes. Mrs. Symsek replied that the proper paperwork must be completed and turned in for approval. Changes to pay levels for additional graduate hours can be made in October and February per the negotiated contract. Ms. Beitzel is a special education teacher.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the supplemental contract for Chris Kostih, Sixth Grade Camp Teacher.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to approve the County Certified Substitute List.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Classified

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve Melissa R. Malkus as a substitute, (Required checks completed).

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve Matt Marks for the administering medication on the Washington D.C. trip per the Board of Education Policy (#5331[c]) that requires the:

Board of Education assign to specific employees the responsibility of storage and administration of medication following in-service by, and under the supervision of, the school nurse.

Mr. Manfredi asked who the chaperones were to be. Mr. Reedy said there are three teachers and five parents.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS:

Motion made by Mrs. Timmons, seconded by Mr. Honkala, to accept the resignation of Merry Lou Tramont, Treasurer, effective no later than July 31, 2008.

Mr. Manfredi thanked Mrs. Tramont for all that she has done for the district, but commented that they were not done using her yet. Mrs. Timmons said they have received much positive feedback from the staff regarding getting answers from the Treasurer's office giving them a better understanding of things. They appreciate the explanations and the time taken. Mrs. Ducca and Mrs. Symsek agree there have been many positives since Mrs. Tramont has joined the district. Mrs. Tramont responded with thanks and said that this was not an easy decision to make but with the changes in both districts through staffing and directions it was becoming more involved and to best serve each district a change had to be made. She greatly appreciates the staff, the administration, the board and the community for welcoming her into this position and making it a positive experience.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to approve the preliminary list for the Graduating Class of 2008. Graduating seniors must complete all district and state requirements in order to receive a diploma. At the June regular meeting, the final list will be approved and recorded in the minutes.

Mr. Manfredi asked if everyone was on course to graduate. Mr. Reedy said yes, so far. Graduation is set for May 31, 2008 at 6 p.m.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Open Public Participation

Scott Weber – The second graders did a great job, are they the top readers? *Mrs. Ducca said no, this was a variety of the students.* Mr. Weber stated that he has a contact with Taylor Publishing for yearbooks and they could save you money over Herff Jones. He has a store and a blog and hears from many people. We need to be careful about the new school. He hears complaints that the people voted down a new school on the vacant land and now we are building one there anyway. The Board needs to make sure to tell people how much it will cost and how it is going to be paid for. Must be honest about needing a levy after it is built for operating and a levy for permanent improvement of the athletic fields. People are being taxed too much and aren't going to go for more taxes. With the new fire department coming, it will be another tax burden for the community. He would like to know why we are trying to build a new building when we have declining enrollment.

Mr. Manfredi responded that we have discussed this issue at great length and have not made a firm decision at this time. We are still getting information on costs and options and when we get it all together we will make a decision at that time. There are things each of us with our different backgrounds bring into this and we will have to decide what is best for the students of the district.

Mr. Miller stated that none of us here want taxes to go up. But if we can get all buildings on one campus, we can best utilize our staff and resources. We can save money with less buildings to maintain.

Mr. Honkala stated that if we did not close Claridon we would be taken over by the state due to the costs of running three elementary buildings.

Mr. Manfredi stated again that they are still working on things and a decision of which direction to go will be made a later time.

Mr. Koster stated that the Berkshire Planning Committee meeting is tomorrow night at the Fire House at 7 p.m. The new fire house will be on the agenda for discussion.

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Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mrs. Timmons, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at: 7:16 p.m.

Mr. John Manfredi, President

Mrs. Merry Lou Tramont, Treasurer