

Jim Thorpe Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Jim Thorpe School Board of Education
October 12, 2015

ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Jim Thorpe School Board of Education was opened at the District Office with a moment of silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The following directors were present: William Allison, John Ciavarella, Glenn Confer, Pearl Downs-Sheckler, Dennis McGinley, Michael Principe, Robert Schaninger, and Gerald Strubinger. Administrators present: Brian Gasper, *Superintendent*, Lauren Kovac, *Business Manager/Board Secretary*, Thomas Lesisko, *High School Principal*, Holly Mordaunt, *L.B. Morris Principal*, David McAndrew, Jr., *Penn Kidder Principal*, and Kathy Doll, *Curriculum Coordinator*, Brian Baddick, *Director of Special Education*, Laurie Munding, *Director of Transportation*, Lori Lienhard, *Director of Security*, and Ted LaRizzio, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*. Also present: Attorney Gregory Mousseau, *Solicitor* and Michelle Searfoss, *Business Manager Secretary*. Visitors present: Dr. Cristina Vea, Joann Donati, Laura McArdle, Jane Adams, Erin Shigo, Emily Layden, Mary Vermillion and representing the Times News, Chris Reber.

GENERAL BUSINESS

REFUNDING THE
2011 BONDS

Mr. Jens Damgaard gave a presentation on the refunding of 2011 series Bond.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
REFUNDING OF
2011 BONDS

Motion by Mr. R. Schaninger, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the resolution refunding of 2011 Bonds – Mr. Jens Damgaard.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF VISITORS

Ms. Mary Vermillion, Class Advisor of the Class of 2016 asked permission to have the prom at Woodstone Country Club on May 6, 2016. Mr. Brain Gasper asked why the class needs to go out of the district for the prom. Mrs. Jane Adams stated this is what the Prom Committee voted on and it has been done in the past. Mrs. Pearl Sheckler asked if there would be enough money if we need to transport the students to the prom. Mrs. Jane Adams stated that there will be enough money for transportation.

REQUEST FROM
PROM COMMITTEE

Motion by Mr. R. Schaninger, seconded by Mr. G. Confer, to *approve the request from the Prom Committee to hold the prom at Woodstone Country Club on May 6, 2016, provided transportation is available.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

R. Schaninger	Aye	D. McGinley	Aye
G. Strubinger	Aye	G. Confer	Aye
M. Principe	Aye	P. Sheckler	Aye
J. Ciavarella	Aye	W. Schulz	Absent
W. Allison	Aye		

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held for personnel matters. Actions will be taken during the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the consent agenda as presented:*

- *Approval / Minutes of September 14, 2015*
- *Approval / Athletic Report (September)*
- *Approval / Real Estate Tax Exemption – Disabled Veterans – GM & CB*
- *Approval / Repository Sale*
- *Approval / Completed Applications*
- *Informational: Current JTASD Substitute List*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer explained to the Board what the Real Estate Tax Exemption is and who receives it.

Voice Vote. **MOTION PASSES**

FINANCIAL APPROVALS **Motion** by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the financial consent agenda as presented.*

- *Approval / Bills Payable – Area*
- *Approval / Bills Payable – Cafeteria*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer asked about a bill from King Spry. Mrs. L. Kovac stated that is was a bill for legal fees related to Special Education.

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (7-0-1) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

W. Allison	Aye	M. Principe	Aye
G. Strubinger	Aye	P. Sheckler	Aye
D. McGinley	Aye	J. Ciavarella	Aye
R. Schaninger	Abstain	W. Schulz	Absent
G. Confer	Aye		

Motion by Mr. R. Schaninger, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the financial consent agenda as presented.*

- *Treasurer's Report*
- *Tax Collectors' Report*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Mrs. P. Sheckler asked Atty. G. Mousseau how we are doing with assessments on home sales in the district. Atty. G. Mousseau stated that new home sales and assessments are low. Mrs. P. Sheckler said that she had two different realtors say that Jim Thorpe does not reassess on home sales. Atty. G. Mousseau said that there is a 10% threshold. If the sale price is within 10% of the original price, we do not reassess.

MEETING LOCATION

Mr. W. Allison asked why Board Meetings are no longer held at Penn-Kidder. He requested that next year some meetings be held at Penn-Kidder. Mr. D. McGinley stated that the reason we have them at the District Office is because we have access to all records. Mr. D. McGinley said that we can start going back to Penn-Kidder in the new year.

OLD BUSINESS

NO REPORT

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT: HEAD SOFTBALL

COACH – LORI

LIENHARD

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the employment of Ms. Lori Lienhard as the Head Softball Coach at a stipend of \$4,410.00.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

D. McGinley	Aye	J. Ciavarella	Aye
R. Schaninger	Aye	W. Schulz	Absent
G. Confer	Aye	W. Allison	Aye
M. Principe	Aye	G. Strubinger	Aye
P. Sheckler	Aye		

CAFETERIA/BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. J. Ciavarella stated that the District is looking into a new Administration Building.

Mr. B. Gasper stated that LCCC is looking for expansion.

CARBON CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Mr. G. Strubinger reported that CCTI is maxed out with students and some students are being rejected as a result. There is already one portable being used to house students. Mr. R. Schaninger asked when CCTI meets. Mr. G. Strubinger answered that they meet the seconded Thursday of the month. Executive Session is at 5:00 PM and then the regular meeting is at 6:00 PM.

CARBON-LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT

JTASD

REPRESENTATIVE

There were no volunteers to represent the Jim Thorpe Area School District on the CLIU #21 Board of Directors.

NO VOTE

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

REVISION AP STATISTICS

COURSE

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the revision of AP Statistics Course.*

Voice Vote. **MOTION PASSES**

TEST SCORES

Mr. Strubinger said he saw in the newspaper that our test scores are not good through K-8. Mr. B. Gasper said he begs to differ. We are doing fine. Mr. B. Gasper referred to the presentation he gave at the last meeting during which he explained the test scoring and our results.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

NO REPORT

LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

REPRESENTATIVE
ATTENDANCE

Mrs. L. Kovac reported that she spoke to Mr. R. Smith regarding his attendance at Board Meetings. Mr. R. Smith said that, per the bylaws, he is required to report to the Board in January, April and September. Going forward, he will be present at those meetings.

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE

BOND REFINANCE Taken at the beginning of the meeting.

POLICY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RETIREMENT:
JOANN HAGGERTY

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the retirement of Mrs. Joann Haggerty as Special Education Teacher effective November 30, 2015.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:
SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the posting for a Special Education Teacher.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked if our Special Education enrollment is growing. Mr. B. Baddick stated that it is growing gradually.

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

EMPLOYMENT:
SPANISH TEACHER –
MARIA SHIRAR

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the employment of Ms. Maria Shirar as a Spanish Teacher on BS step 2 at a salary of \$44,560.00.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer asked where the teacher was being hired for. Mrs. L. Kovac stated she was hired for the High School.

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

M. Principe	Aye	W. Allison	Aye
P. Sheckler	Aye	G. Strubinger	Aye
J. Ciavarella	Aye	D. McGinley	Aye
W. Schulz	Absent	R. Schaninger	Aye
G. Confer	Aye		

EMPLOYMENT:
SUBSTITUTE VAN
DRIVERS

Motion by Mr. G. Confer, seconded by Mr. R. Schaninger, to *approve the employment of Mrs. Sheila Harrison and Mr. Joseph Gorski as Substitute Van Drivers.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

P. Sheckler	Aye	D. McGinley	Aye
J. Ciavarella	Aye	R. Schaninger	Aye
W. Schulz	Absent	G. Confer	Aye
W. Allison	Aye	M. Principe	Aye
G. Strubinger	Aye		

RETIREMENT:
DAVID MEEKER

Motion by Mr. R. Schaninger, seconded by Mr. G. Confer, to *approve the retirement of Mr. David Meeker as a Custodian effective October 8, 2015.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:
FULL-TIME
CUSTODIAN

Motion by Mr. G. Confer, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the posting for a full-time custodian.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

SALARY/HOURLY
WAGE INCREASES

Motion by Mr. R. Schaninger, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the salary/hourly wage increases as presented in attachment.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0-1) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

J. Ciavarella	Abstain	D. McGinley	Aye
W. Schulz	Absent	R. Schaninger	Aye
W. Allison	Aye	G. Confer	Aye
G. Strubinger	Aye	M. Principe	Aye
P. Sheckler	Aye		

ADOPTION AND
REVISION OF POLICIES

Motion by Mr. R. Schaninger, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the adoption of and revision to policies.*

- #113 – *Special Education*
- #114 – *Gifted Education*
- #146 – *Student Services*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

EMPLOYMENT:
TRUANCY OFFICER –
LORI LIENHARD

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the employment of Ms. Lori Lienhard as the Truancy Officer with a stipend of \$5,000.00.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

W. Schulz	Absent	M. Principe	Aye
W. Allison	Aye	P. Sheckler	Aye
D. McGinley	Aye	J. Ciavarella	Aye
R. Schaninger	Aye	G. Strubinger	Aye
G. Confer	Aye		

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT:
JEFF NIETZ

Motion by Mr. G. Confer, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the contract with Mr. Jeff Nietz as an Educational Consultant at a rate of \$40 per hour (with a maximum of 240 hours per year).*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked if we would use Mr. Nietz on a regular basis or as needed. Mr. B. Gasper responded that we will use him on an as needed basis. Mr. B. Gasper added that this contract was discussed at the Policy and Personnel Committee meeting. Mr. R. Schaninger asked how long this last will. Mr. B. Gasper said we will try it out for one year and see how it goes.

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (7-1) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

G. Strubinger	Aye	P. Sheckler	Aye
D. McGinley	Aye	J. Ciavarella	Aye
R. Schaninger	Aye	W. Schulz	Absent
G. Confer	Nay	W. Allison	Aye
M. Principe	Aye		

SADD ADVISER –

SUZANNE MILKOWICH

Motion by Mr. R. Schaninger, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the employment of Mrs. Suzanne Milkowich as the SADD adviser with a stipend of \$875.00.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

D. McGinley	Aye	J. Ciavarella	Aye
R. Schaninger	Aye	W. Schulz	Absent
G. Confer	Aye	W. Allison	Aye
M. Principe	Aye	G. Strubinger	Ay
P. Sheckler	Aye		

VOLUNTEER GLEE CLUB

ADVISER – KIM HILL

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. R. Schaninger, to *approve Mrs. Kim Hill as the volunteer Glee Club adviser.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

TRANSPORTATION & SECURITY COMMITTEE

BUS STOP CHANGE

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the moving of the bus stop at Old Piney and Fawn Circle to Dew Drop Upper.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST PROM
COMMITTEE

Addressed at the beginning of the Board Meeting.

EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Mr. W. Allison addressed the board and stated that Dr. C. McGinley proposed a 503(c) for the Jim Thorpe Education Foundation Alumni Association and he wanted to know if it was approved. Atty. G. Mousseau stated that is was not approved yet and we are waiting on the IRS to approve it.

REDUCE TAXES
2 MILLS

Motion by Mr. G. Strubinger, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *reduce tax millage by 2 mills for next year.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION FAILS (2-6) WITH THE VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

R. Schaninger	Nay	J. Ciavarella	Nay
M. Principe	Nay	W. Schulz	Absent
W. Allison	Nay	G. Confer	Aye
P. Sheckler	Nay	G. Strubinger	Aye
D. McGinley	Nay		

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SUSPENSIONS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS

Suspension and Administrative Reports were included with the Agenda packet

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren K. Kovac
Business Manager/Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President

ABSTENTION FORM

This form is to be filed with the Board Secretary following any vote of "abstain" at any duly advertised Jim Thorpe Area School Board meeting.

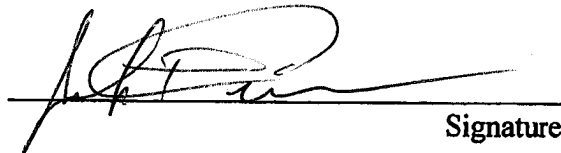
Meeting Date: 10/12/2015

Agenda Item: 15.07 Salary/hourly increases

Board Member: John Ciavarella

Reason:

SOW WORKS FOR SCHOOL.


Signature

This form must be attached to the minutes of each meeting where an abstention vote is recorded.

ABSTENTION FORM

This form is to be filed with the Board Secretary following any vote of "abstain" at any duly advertised Jim Thorpe Area School Board meeting.

Meeting Date: 10-12-15

Agenda Item: 5.01 + 5.02

Board Member: ROBERT SCHWENGER

Reason:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Robert Schwenger
Signature

This form must be attached to the minutes of each meeting where an abstention vote is recorded.