

**Jim Thorpe Area School District**  
**Regular Meeting of the Jim Thorpe School Board of Education**  
**November 13, 2017**

**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: John Ciavarella, Glenn Confer, Pearl Downs-Sheckler, Clement McGinley, Dennis McGinley, Raniero Marciante, Michael Principe, Wilmer Redline, and Gerald Strubinger. Administrators present: Brian Gasper, *Superintendent*, Lauren Kovac, *Business Manager/Board Secretary*, Thomas Lesisko, *High School Principal*, David McAndrew, Jr., *Penn-Kidder Principal*, Holly Mordaunt, *L.B. Morris Principal*, and Kathy Doll, *Curriculum Coordinator*, Attorney Gregory Mousseau, *Solicitor*, Jerome Brown, *Director of Technology*, Laurie Munding, *Director of Transportation*, Ted LaRizzio, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*, and Lori Lienhard, *Director of Security*. Also present: Michelle Searfoss, *Business Manager Secretary*. Visitors present: Elena Monaco, Kris Newburn, Jens Damgaard, Jason Capper, Paul Montemuro, Kathy Schwartz, Jacob Schwartz, Samantha Forturgto, Tonia Schaeffer and representing the Times News, Brian Myszowski.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF VISITORS**

Mr. G. Confer addressed the Board on how proud he was of his grandchildren learning to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Tonia Schaeffer gave the Board an update on the FBLA. She thanked the Board for allowing her to start the chapter. There are 72 student members of FBLA and each of those members have to pay dues which are \$15.00. FBLA Member Samantha Forturgto explained how she went to a workshop in Stroudsburg and learned how to own her own business. FBLA Member Jacob Schwartz explained that at the work shop he learned how to communicate with other business leaders. Ms. Schaeffer said she is looking into helping Mr. Strubinger run the School Store so some of the students will understand of what it like to run a business. Mr. R. Marciante would like a breakdown by grade of how many students are in the program.

Mr. Jason Capper stated that he is planning on applying for the Gifted Teacher position. He is currently a substitute teacher in our District. He wanted to know what the current hiring process is. Mr. B. Gasper stated that the applications go to him and then the Principals make the decision on whom to interview. Mr. Capper feels that the Board needs to view all the applications because he feels he is lost in the process. He feels like not everyone gets a fair shot at getting an interview.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion** by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the consent agenda as presented:*

- *Approval/Minutes of October 9, 2017*
- *Approval /Athletic Report*
- *Approval/Real Estate Tax Exemption – Disabled Veteran - RK*
- *Approval/Real Estate Tax Exemption – Disabled Veteran - RF*
- *Approval/FLMA – Employee #975*
- *Approval/FLMA – Employee #805*
- *Approval/FLMA – Employee #1167*
- *Correspondence – National Inventors Hall of Fame – Camp Invention*
- *Approval/Completed Applications*
- *Informational – JTASD Substitute List*

### Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger noted that he would like more details in the minutes.  
Mrs. L. Kovac stated that the auditors asked us to keep our minutes to just the facts.

Voice Vote. **MOTION PASSES**

FINANCIAL APPROVALS **Motion** by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the financial consent agenda as presented:*

- *Approval/Bills Payable- Area*
- *Approval/Bills Payable-Cafeteria*
- *Treasurer's Report*
- *Tax Collectors' Report*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-1)** with the vote as follows:

G. Strubinger	<b>Nay</b>	M. Principe	<b>Aye</b>
C. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>	P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>
D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>	J. Ciavarella	<b>Aye</b>
R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>	W. Redline	<b>Aye</b>
G. Confer	<b>Aye</b>		

REFUNDING OF GENERAL  
OBLIGATION BONDS  
SERIES 2012

Mr. Jens Damgaard gave a presentation on the refunding of outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012. He stated that currently we would see a savings of about \$150,000.00. Mr. R. Marciante asked if we wait longer will we get more of a savings. Mr. J. Damgaard stated it is possible to get more but the recommendation is to move now.

**Motion** by Mr. W. Redline, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the authorization for refunding Outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (9-0)** with the vote as follows:

W. Redline	<b>Aye</b>	G. Confer	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
M. Principe	<b>Aye</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	J. Ciavarella	<b>Aye</b>
C. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>		

**OLD BUSINESS**

NO REPORT

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

EMPLOYMENT:

ASSISTANT WRESTLING COACH –

BLAKE YURCHAK

**Motion** by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. G. Confer, to *approve the employment of Mr. Blake Yurchak as Junior High Wrestling Coach with a stipend of \$2,240.00, replacing Mr. Lance Malatak.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-1)** with the vote as follows:

G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
M. Principe	<b>Aye</b>	J. Ciavarella	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	C. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
G. Confer	<b>Aye</b>	W. Redline	<b>Aye</b>
R. Marciante	<b>Nay</b>		

Mr. W. Redline asked if he can be notified of any coaching changes. Mr. B. Gasper stated that someone will email him with the information when there are changes.

COMMITTEE MEETING     An Athletic Committee Meeting has been scheduled for December 11, 2017.

CAFETERIA/BUILDING COMMITTEE

NO REPORT

CARBON CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

UPDATE                      Mr. G. Strubinger stated that all is well at CCTI. He added that they are the elite in the county. Mr. W. Redline stated there were two (2) students from the Vo-Tech that made it to the finals at the STEM competition.

CARBON-LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT

REPRESENTATIVE        The Jim Thorpe Area School District Representative to the CLIU #21 Board of Directors will be filled at the next meeting.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
2018-2021                      Mr. B. Gasper stated that the Comprehensive Plan was finished last year. Submission was postponed by PDE until this year. The mission is the same and it was uploaded.

**Motion** by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the JTASD Comprehensive Plan - 2018-2021 for submission to PDE.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENT                      Dr. M. Principe stated that the Constitutional Amendment passed.

LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ENROLLMENT                      Mr. G. Strubinger stated that enrollment is up at LCCC.

LCCC SITES                      Mr. G. Strubinger reported that LCCC is very happy with the situation at the High School and added that it is still looking for a site in the Allentown area.

## FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE

### AUDIT REVIEW

Dr. C. McGinley reported that the Department of Auditor General held an Audit Review Conference for Audit Period 07/01/2012-06/30/2016 on November 2, 2017. He added that the District did pretty well with the audit. There was a finding related to our transportation software.

### AGREEMENT:

#### EMPLOYEE #1490

**Motion** by Mr. G. Strubinger, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the agreement with Employee #1490.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION FAILS (3-6)** with the votes as follows:

M. Principe	<b>Aye</b>	D. McGinley	<b>Nay</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Nay</b>	J. Ciavarella	<b>Nay</b>
G. Confer	<b>Nay</b>	C. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
R. Marciante	<b>Nay</b>	W. Redline	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>		

## POLICY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### RETIREMENT:

#### CANDACE DAILY

**Motion** by Mr. G. Confer, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the retirement of Ms. Candace Daily, effective November 28, 2017.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (9-0)** with the votes as follows:

P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>	J. Ciavarella	<b>Aye</b>
G. Confer	<b>Aye</b>	C. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>	W. Redline	<b>Aye</b>
D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>	G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>
M. Principe	<b>Aye</b>		

### EMPLOYMENT:

#### LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER –

#### LAURA SMARR

**Motion** by Mr. G. Confer, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella to *approve the employment of Ms. Laura Smarr as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher with a salary of \$44,170.00 (BS Step 1), retroactive to October 6, 2017.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (9-0)** with the votes as follows:

G. Confer	<b>Aye</b>	C. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>
R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>	W. Redline	<b>Aye</b>
J. Ciavarella	<b>Aye</b>	G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>
D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>	M. Principe	<b>Aye</b>
P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>		

POSTING:

K-12 GIFTED TEACHER

**Motion** by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the posting for a K-12 Gifted Teacher.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked why this is being posted. Mr. B. Gasper replied that there was some internal movement with other teachers.

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

RESIGNATION:

DANIELLE ROZELLE

**Motion** by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the resignation of Ms. Danielle Rozelle as a Secondary Special Education Teacher, effective November 6, 2017.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:

SECONDARY SPECIAL  
EDUCATION TEACHER

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

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER –  
SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Motion** by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. R. Marciante, to *approve the posting for a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

EMPLOYMENT:

PARA-PROFESSIONALS –  
LUCIEN NOCELLI  
MELISSA SOLT

**Motion** by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the employment Mr. Lucien Nocelli as a para-professional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour and Ms. Melissa Solt as a long-term substitute para-professional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (9-0)** with the vote as follows:

R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>	W. Redline	<b>Aye</b>
D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>	G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>
J. Ciavarella	<b>Aye</b>	M. Principe	<b>Aye</b>
C. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>	P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>
G. Confer	<b>Aye</b>		

COMMITTEE MEETING     A Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting was scheduled for December 11, 2017.

## TRANSPORTATION & SECURITY COMMITTEE

### FIRE DEPARTMENT DRILLS

Mr. W. Redline reported that in September the local fire departments came together with our Transportation & Security Departments and ran through drills with buses from Brandywine Carbon and Kuhn Transportation. The event was held at the Penn-Kidder Campus.

### FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Trainings were held November 1, 2017 at all three schools on how to use a fire extinguisher.

## NEW BUSINESS

### HIGH SCHOOL SKI CLUB OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP – VERMONT

**Motion** by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Mrs. P. Sheckler, to *approve an Out-of-State Field Trip by the JTHS Ski Club to Smuggler's Notch, VT from March 2-7, 2018.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

### SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE

Mr. B. Gasper gave an update on the School Performance Profile. He feels that this is not a good assessment indicator for the District and added that this will be the last year for SSP.

Mr. T. Lesisko stated that they are now benchmarking Algebra I students and if students need help, it is available to them.

Mrs. P. Shecker noted that since the 1:1 initiative has been implemented, the scores have dropped. She feels we need to keep an eye on this, especially in math.

Mr. B. Gasper stated that they are looking into increasing math time at the elementary level. Mrs. H. Mordaunt noted that they are incorporating math into RTII. Mr. D. McAndrew reported that they run into problems with students from other districts enter our schools far behind in math.

Mr. R. Marciante stated that the PSSA scores are not good. Dr. M. Principe responded that a lot of the kids that are coming to our district are Special Ed and that is why our scores are lower. Mrs. E. Monaco, a Special Education Teacher at Penn-Kidder, stated that she teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade but most of her class can only read at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. It is very difficult to have them prepared for the PSSA.

Mr. Paul Montemuro asked if the Head of the Math Department sits in on Math Teacher evaluations. Mr. B. Gasper stated that the Principals and Assistant Principals evaluate the teachers. Teachers cannot evaluate other teachers.

Dr. M. Principe feels like we are finding success with the SAT & ACT. He noted that our SAT scores from 2016 were the highest in the county and that is because if we get students for 6-7 years we can have them prepared for testing. He feels that the teachers are doing a good job.

Mr. G. Strubinger feels we should introduce Algebra to students from Kindergarten through fifth grade.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR  
PRESIDENT AND  
VICE PRESIDENT**

Dr. M. Principe addressed that Board and said it has been an honor to be President for the past two (2) years. He appointed members of the Nominating Committee to recommend a President and Vice President at the December 2017 Meeting. Mr. W. Redline was named chairman of the Nominating Committee and Mrs. P. Sheckler and Mr. J. Ciavarella were added as members.

**ADVERTISE FOR NEW SCHOOL  
BOARD DIRECTOR**

**Motion** by Mr. G. Strubinger, seconded by Mr. R. Marciante, to *advertise in the newspaper for a new School Board Director.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (7-2)** with the vote as follows:

D. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>	P. Sheckler	<b>Aye</b>
J. Ciavarella	<b>Nay</b>	G. Confer	<b>Nay</b>
C. McGinley	<b>Aye</b>	R. Marciante	<b>Aye</b>
G. Strubinger	<b>Aye</b>	M. Principe	<b>Aye</b>
W. Redline	<b>Aye</b>		

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**STUDENT ROTARIANS** The November Rotarians were Sarah Gabel (Jim Thorpe) and Nevada Currier (CCTI).

**STUDENT OF  
THE MONTH** The November Student of the Month is Sarah Gabel (Physical Education).

SUSPENSIONS AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
REPORTS

Suspension and Administrative Reports were included with the Agenda packet

ENROLLMENT  
SUMMARY

The current enrollment summary was included in the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren K. Kovac  
Business Manager/Board Secretary

ATTEST:

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President