

Jim Thorpe Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Jim Thorpe School Board of Education
September 10, 2018

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, Raniero Marciante, Clement McGinley, Dennis McGinley, Dr. Michael Principe, Wilmer Redline, 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*, Sandra Michalik, *Director of Special Education*, Katherine Doll, *Curriculum Coordinator*, Lori Lienhard, *Director of Security*, and Ted LaRizzio, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*. Also present: Attorney Gregory Mousseau, *Solicitor* and Michelle Searfoss, *Secretary to the Business Manager*. Visitors present: Paul Montemuro, Cindy Henning, Allyson Carter, Elena Monaco, Julie Renode, Jenn Bevilacqua, Melissa Acker, Laura McArdle, Tassy Clausius, Karen Nace, Terry Ciavaglia, Kim Civitano, Kerry Uher, Nicole Meader, Daniel Meader, Cathy Seachrist and representing the Times News: Linda Hurlbert.

GENERAL BUSINESS

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF VISITORS**

PAUL MONTEMURO

Mr. Paul Montemuro stated that our solicitor said we are wasting money on all the Right-to-Know requests. He also stated that there is \$2.5 million not billed for YSA. Mr. Montemuro noted that booster clubs must follow school policy. Mr. Montemuro said that in April Mr. Redline asked about the credit card and the Business Manager said that it was a District credit card. He added that he won an appeal and that if he does not receive records he will file a court order. He also asked where the free stuff that comes with the credit card is. He also noted that the District may not change the original document.

CINDY HENNING

Mrs. Henning stated that she was her last month and wanted to know whose name is on the credit card. She did receive the copies, but there was no name and things were redacted. She asked what was taken off. She added that she wants to see the credit card number. Mr. G Strubinger stated that the Business Manager's name was on the card. Atty. Mousseau stated it was redacted for confidential reasons. Mrs. Henning also asked

where the bill is sent. Dr. B. Gasper responded that it comes to the District Office.

ROBERT RENODE

Mr. Robert Renode addressed the Board to ask why kids are not allowed to bring water bottles to school. He stated that his daughter was hospitalized with dehydration and that the Principal said he prohibited it due to sanitary reasons. He is asking for the rule to be changed.

Dr. B. Gasper stated that students have access to water and that contraband has been brought to school and that is a reason why they are not allowed to have water bottles with them at all times.

Mr. Renode stated that water is a human right. Mr. T. Lesisko responded that students may bring water bottles to school but they need to stay in their lockers. He also stated that if students have a note from a doctor it will be honored and they will let the students have water with them.

Mr. Renode asked if there was a policy on this. Dr. B. Gasper said he will gladly look into it.

Mr. G. Strubinger asked if our fountains have a filter to fill up water bottles. Mr. T. Lesisko responded that they do not. Dr. B. Gasper noted that they are looking into a grant for this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Mrs. P. Sheckler, to *approve the consent agenda as presented.*

- *Approval/Athletic Report*
- *Approval/Repository Sales*
- *Informational – Thank You – Jim Thorpe Rotary*
- *Approval/Completed Applications*
- *Informational – JTASD Substitute List*

Motion by Mr. W. Redline, seconded by Mr. G. confer, to *amend the minutes to include Mr. Shaniger's comments in the entirety about Mr Strubinger & Doctor Principe and also Mr. Confer, Mr Redline and Mr Ciavarella's comments in response to Mr Shaniger accusations.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

Roll call vote on original motion with the minutes amended as approved.

MOTION PASSES (9-0) with the vote as follows:

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

FINANCIAL APPROVALS **Motion** by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. C. McGinley, to *approve the financial agenda as presented.*

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

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

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

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. C. McGinley, to *approve the financial agenda as presented.*

- *Tax Collector's Report*

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

NO REPORT

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT:

ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACH –

PETER MCGUIRE

Motion by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the employment of Mr. Peter McGuire as an Assistant Football Coach with a stipend of \$2,290.00 (pro-rated).*

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

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

EMPLOYMENT:

ASSISTANT VOLLEYBALL COACH –

JESSICA PRUITT

Motion by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the employment of Ms. Jessica Pruitt as an Assistant Volleyball Coach with a stipend of \$1,895.00 (pro-rated).*

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

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

CAFETERIA & BUILDING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

A Cafeteria & Building Committee Meeting has been scheduled for October 1, 2018 to discuss the parking lots and the Honeywell light project.

CARBON CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

START OF YEAR

Mr. G. Strubinger stated that the new year is off to a good start.

WELDING INSTRUCTOR

Mr. G. Strubinger reported that CCTI is looking for a welding instructor.

CARBON-LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT

NO REPORT

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING A Curriculum Committee Meeting has been scheduled for October 1, 2018 following the Cafeteria & Building Committee meeting.

UPDATE Mr. G. Strubinger asked how the curriculum is doing. Dr. B. Gasper responded that they have been conducting trainings and they have extended elementary math time. He noted that good things are going on in the District.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE Mr. G. Strubinger reported that the Legislature is back in session for a short time and hopefully they will get rid of property tax.

LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UPDATE Mr. G. Strubinger reported that things are going well

ENROLLMENT Mr. G. Strubinger reported that there are 100 students from Carbon County attending LCCC.

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE

TITLE I AGREEMENT WITH SCHUYLKILL I.U. 29 **Motion** by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the 2018-2019 Title I Agreement with Schuylkill County I.U. 29.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer asked what is involved with this. Dr. B. Gasper responded that a portion of the federal funding from Title I is allocated to private schools. Since St. Joe's in Jim Thorpe closed, the money must not go through the Schuylkill County I.U. We previously gave the money to St. Joe's.

Mr. G. Strubinger asked what type of services are provided with the money. Dr. B. Gasper responded that it is for Title I Reading.

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

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

PSYCHOLOGIST AGREEMENT
WITH WEATHERLY AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the agreement for Jim Thorpe Area School District to provide Psychologist Services to the Weatherly Area School District as needed. (\$400.00 per initial evaluation and \$300.00 per re-evaluation)*

Under the Head of the Question:

Dr. C. McGinley asked Dr. B. Gasper to elaborate on the agreement. Dr. B. Gasper stated that the Weatherly schools have been left without a school psychologist so we are going to assist them by providing psychological services with our school psychologists. The I.U. is unable to help them. This is a temporary agreement.

Mr. R. Marciante asked if they would get reimbursement for mileage. Dr. B. Gasper responded that they would.

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

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

REAL ESTATE
TAX REFUND

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve a real estate tax refund for parcel 96-40-B29.01 in the amount of \$2,054.00.*

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

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

DISCONTINUE
USE OF PERSONAL
CREDIT CARD

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve discontinuing the use of the personal credit card.*

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

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

OPEN JTNB DEBIT
CARD ACCOUNT

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. W. Redline, to *approve opening an account at the Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank which would be attached to a debit card with a daily limit of \$500.00.*

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

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

POLICY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RESIGNATION:
THOMAS BOLD

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the resignation of Mr. Thomas Bold as an Elementary Education Teacher.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
TEACHER

Motion by Mr. G. Confer, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the posting for an Elementary Education Teacher.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked what grade Mr. Bold taught. Dr. B. Gasper responded that he taught second grade at Penn-Kidder.

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

EMPLOYMENT:
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TEACHER –
NICOLE MEADER

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the employment of Ms. Nicole Meader as an Elementary Education Teacher with a salary of \$45,345.00 (BS Step 1).*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer asked who she was replacing. Dr. B. Gasper responded that she is replacing Mr. Bold.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT:

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER –

KERRY UHER

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the employment of Ms. Kerry Uher as a Middle School English/Language Arts Teacher with a salary of \$62,845.00 (MS Step 13).*

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

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

RESIGNATION:

AMY SERFASS

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the resignation of Ms. Amy Serfass as a Secondary Mathematics Teacher.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked if we released her or are we holding her. Dr. B. Gasper stated that we released her and we have a substitute for her. Mr. G. Strubinger asked if we can pay the substitute a teacher's rate. Mr. G. Confer stated that we need to stick to our policy.

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:

SECONDARY MATHEMATICS

TEACHER

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

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

RESIGNATION:
THOMAS O'ROURKE

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the resignation of Mr. Thomas O'Rourke as a paraprofessional.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:
TWO (2) LONG-TERM
SUBSTITUTE ELEMENTARY
TEACHERS

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the posting for two (2) Long-Term Substitute Elementary Teachers.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked why we need elementary teachers. Dr. B. Gasper responded that we need to add kindergarten classes at Penn-Kidder and the L.B. Morris. Mr. G. Confer asked if we have room to put another class at Penn-Kidder. Dr. B. Gasper stated that right now we have the room. Mr. G. Confer said he thinks we have at least 1,000 more students since we built the school. Mr. G. Confer stated that we need to look towards the future to make sure we have enough room for all the students.

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:
TWO (2) LONG-TERM
SUBSTITUTE
PARAPROFESSIONALS

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the posting for two (2) Long-Term Substitute Paraprofessionals.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

POSTING:
PARAPROFESSIONAL

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the posting for a Paraprofessional.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

TITLE I UPDATES

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the Title I policy updates.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

TENURE –
BRANDON KNAPP

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *acknowledge the tenure of Mr. Brandon Knapp.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer asked what this is. Dr. B. Gasper stated that this is something new that will be presented to the Board letting them know that a teacher has qualified for tenure.

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

TRANSPORTATION & SECURITY

BUS CONTRACTS

Mr. W. Redline stated that we will be soliciting bids for transportation contracts.

NO REPORT ON SECURITY

Mr. W. Redline stated that security is doing fine and that he has nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

BERKHEIMER LIAISON

Motion by Dr. C. McGinley, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the resolution appointing a liaison between JTASD and Berkheimer.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked what this is. Mrs. L. Kovac said that the resolution is to add Michelle Searfoss to the account to receive correspondence.

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

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

**POSTING:
SUPERINTENDENT**

Motion by Mr. R. Marciante, seconded by Mr. G. Confer, to *direct Business Manager to post Superintendent Position in Educational Publications to include: PSBA, Scranton Newspapers, Reading Newspapers, IU. Posting to include search for candidate with strong district financial skills and knowledge, strong communication skills, experience with large special education student population and strong human resources knowledge, background and skills. All responses are to be made to the Law Office of Gregory L. Mousseau, Solicitor JTASD, 331*

Center Street, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229 Attn: Pearl Sheckler. More than 5 yrs. exp. is required Ad should run for 60 days from end of April to the end of June 2019.

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to table the motion to post the Superintendent position.

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

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

Original motion remains on the table. Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (5-4)** with the vote as follows:

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PDE

PDE – LEA’s performance for FFY 2016

CURRENT ENROLLMENT
SUMMARY

The current enrollment summary was included in the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren K. Kovac
Business Manager/Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President