

Jim Thorpe Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Jim Thorpe School Board of Education
October 8, 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: Glenn Confer, Pearl Downs-Sheckler, Dr. Clement McGinley, Dennis McGinley, Raniero Marciante (via Skype), 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*, Randy Engle, *Penn-Kidder Assistant Principal*, David McAndrew, Jr., *Penn-Kidder Principal*, Katherine Doll, *Curriculum Coordinator*, Ted LaRizzio, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*, Lori Lienhard, *Director of Security*, and Laurie Munding, *Director of Transportation*. Also present: Attorney Gregory Mousseau, *Solicitor* and Michelle Searfoss, *Business Manager Secretary*. Visitors present: Guy R. Antolick, Cindy Henning, Paul Montemuro, T.J. Garritano, Joshua McCartney, Brian Off, Scott Pompa, Elena Monaco, John McGuire, Tom Laford, Tom Cross, and Laura McArdle.

GENERAL BUSINESS

CREDIT CARD

Mr. D. McGinley read a prepared statement concerning the credit card used for District purposes and spoke to the character of Mrs. Lauren Kovac, Business Manager.

Mr. G. Confer asked if the Board approved the credit card back in 2009. Mrs. L. Kovac replied that the Board was aware of the credit card but that it was not voted upon. Mr. G. Confer asked how that happened. Mrs. Kovac explained that it was a personal credit card. Mr. G. Confer stated that he believes it should have been approved by the Board.

Mr. G. Confer stated that he does not remember Bill McElmoyle having a credit card when he was the Business Manager.

Mrs. P. Sheckler explained the new District debit card and how it will work.

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mrs. P. Sheckler, to *approve initiating a forensic audit not to exceed \$7,500.00.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0)** with the vote as follows:

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF VISITORS

PAUL MONTEMURO

Mr. P. Montemuro passed out information to the Board. He summarized it as follows:

Page 1 – Suggest a forensic audit.

Page 2 – Breakdown of expenses via a bar graph and an itemized list. He stated that 40% of Jim Thorpe is miscellaneous spending. He noted he read that in The Morning Call.

Mr. P. Montemuro stated that 2.5 million dollars was not billed for YSA. He added that \$30,000.00 was overpaid for transportation.

Mr. P. Montemuro stated that the Board could be the first Board anywhere to reduce taxes. Dr. M. Principe stated that we haven't raised taxes since he has been on the Board.

Mr. P. Montemuro also noted that he still did not receive all the Right to Know Requests. He added that the cover sheet on the statement was redacted. He said that he hired an attorney. Mr. Scott Pompa asked who benefitted from the perks on the credit card.

T.J. GARRITANO

Mr. T.J. Garritano addressed the Board noting that he emailed the Board regarding the football field. He noted that the best grounds crew in the world could not save our field this season and he feels it is time to look at getting a turf field. He prepared a power point presentation and offered his assistance on this project.

Mr. T. LaRizzio noted that the field was renovated in 2011.

Mr. G. Strubinger suggested playing somewhere else if our field is not safe to play on. He recommended that our High School combines with Panther Valley and that we play our home games in the Panther Valley stadium.

Mr. W. Redline noted that he would like to put showers in so the players don't have to get on the bus dirty. He added that the North Schuylkill football team had to get on the bus all wet and muddy. That should not happen.

Dr. M. Principe stated that a new turf field would be much safer than grass.

Mr. T. LaRizzio stated that turf would be guaranteed for 10 years.

Dr. C. McGinley said that they need to have another meeting to discuss the turf field. A Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting was scheduled for October 29, 2018.

CINDY HENNING

Ms. C. Henning stated that she was told by the solicitor and the Open Records Officer that she can't have information because it's confidential. Atty. Mousseau responded that he does not like being misrepresented and added that there are thirty (30) exceptions to the Right-to-Know Law.

Ms. C. Henning gave documents to Mr. W. Redline and she stated that she has waited three (3) months for the records that she requested. She noted that she just wants her documents.

Ms. C. Henning added that she would also like to know on the restaurant charges a list of who was there.

Ms. C. Henning stated that there was no Treasurer's Report with the Agenda.

Ms. C. Henning asked Dr. B. Gasper what the daily amount is per youth at YSA. Dr. B. Gasper stated that it was \$84.50 per student. She also asked if we have a 4605 from YSA. Dr. B. Gasper replied that we get a number of 4605s from YSA.

Ms. C. Henning stated that the Business Manager currently bonded for \$50,000.00. She asked if that is appropriate. She also asked if the Treasurer bonded.

Ms. C. Henning stated that she would like to know what the executive session is about.

Motion by Mr. W. Redline, seconded by Mr. G. Strubinger, to *approve that the Executive Session involved personnel and contracts.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

Motion by Mr. W. Redline, seconded by Mr. G. Strubinger, to *approve the letter from Cindy Henning to become part of the official minutes.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

JOHN MCGUIRE

Mr. J. McGuire addressed the Board to discuss the Penn Kidder Library donation. He distributed a draft budget, including the new donation.

Mr. J. McGuire informed the Board that the Jim Thorpe Borough completed work at the end of 10th Street and the flooding into Germantown has been controlled.

Mr. R. Marciante asked how much the Borough contributes to the Library. Mr. McGuire responded that they contribute about \$12,500.00 and also pay for the parking passes for the employees, utilities, water, and sewer.

Mr. R. Marciante asked how much the lease was at Penn Kidder. Mr. McGuire stated that they currently pay \$1,200.00 per month.

Mr. R. Marciante asked what they are leasing the property for. Mrs. P. Sheckler stated that it is not done yet. Mr. J. McGuire stated that it is in the planning stage with the property. Mr. R. Marciante asked what if we lease it for \$1.00.

TOM LaFORD

Mr. T. LaFord addressed the Board noting that he is a Penn Kidder resident and a member of the Penn Kidder Library. He stated that Penn Kidder cannot afford to be a branch of the Dimmick Library because of the state mandates. He also stated that the Dimmick cannot give money to Penn Kidder. He added that they also have to pay twenty (20) hours for a Librarian and he fears that if Dimmick brings them into a branch that they will have to close the doors and that they will go bankrupt.

Mr. T. LaFord would like to keep it as a community library.

Mr. R. Marciante asked if they are planning on building a new library. Mr. LaFord said absolutely not and asked where they would get the money to build a library. Mr. R. Marciante responded that they wouldn't.

Mr. McGuire stated that the draft budget he provided is doable. He stated that he gave a draft budget to Dennis McGinley and that he will get a final budget to us as soon as he has one.

Dr. C. McGinley asked is there an agreement between both boards. Mr. J. McGuire stated that both board of directors have agreed to do this and that they voted and accepted on both sides.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held for personnel matters and contract negotiations.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Dr. M, Principe, seconded by Dr. C. McGinley, to *approve the consent agenda as presented:*

- *Approval/Minutes – September 10, 2018 Board Meeting*
- *Approval/Athletic Report*

- *Approval/Repository Sale*
- *Approval/FLMA Request – Employee #1229*
- *Approval/Completed Applications*
- *Informational: JTASD Substitute List*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

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

- *Approval/Bills Payable - Area*
- *Approval/Bills Payable – Cafeteria*
- *Treasurer’s Report – July 2018*
- *Treasurer’s Report – August 2018*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (7-1)** with the vote as follows:

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

Mr. R. Marciante asked if the September Treasurer’s Report will be ready for next month. Mrs. L. Kovac stated that it will be ready.

Mr. R. Marciante noted that thought everyone was crossed-trained. Mrs. L. Kovac replied that this was not a crossing-training issue.

Motion by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the financial consent agenda as presented.*

- *Tax Collectors’ Report*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0)** with the vote as follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS

NO REPORT

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEER WEIGHTLIFTING COACH –

RALPH CLAY

VOLUNTEER CHEERLEADING COACH –

JULIE ROMANISKO

VOLUNTEER CHEERLEADING COACH –

TIANA ELDRIDGE

Motion by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve moving Mr. Ralph Clay from a paid Assistant Weightlifting Coach to a Volunteer Weightlifting Coach and to approve Ms. Julie Romanisko and Ms. Tiana Eldridge as Volunteer Cheerleading Coaches.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

EMPLOYMENT:

ASSISTANT WEIGHTLIFTING COACH –

DAN HEANEY

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Mrs. P. Sheckler, to *approve moving Mr. Dan Heaney from Volunteer Weightlifting Coach to a paid Assistant Weightlifting Coach with a stipend of \$4,585.00.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked who is the Head Coach of Weightlifting and how much does he make? Mrs. P. Sheckler responded that the Head Coach is John McGowan. Mr. R. Marciante responded that he makes \$6,720.00.

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0)** with the vote as follows:

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

CAFETERIA/BUILDING COMMITTEE

ASPHALT PAVING ASSESSMENT:

BARRY ISETT

& ASSOCIATES

Motion by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Dr. M. Principe to *approve hiring Barry Isett & Associates to conduct an asphalt paving assessment.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer asked where this was being done. Dr. B. Gasper responded that it was going to be all of the lots in the district. He noted that a study was included in Agenda packet and the cost would be \$7,500.00.

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0)** with the vote as follows:

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

CAFETERIA REPORT The September 2018 Nutrition, Inc. report was included with the Agenda.

CARBON CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

UPDATE Mr. G. Strubinger reported that all is well at CCTI. He feels it is a great opportunity for our students. They are thinking about adding some new trades.

CARBON-LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT

NO REPORT

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

REVISED SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM:

GRADES 11 AND 12 **Motion** by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Mr. W. Redline, to *approve the revised Social Studies curriculum for grades 11 and 12.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

REVISED COMPUTER SCIENCE AND

LIBRARY SCIENCE CURRICULUM:

KINDERGARTEN TO 12 **Motion** by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Dr. C. McGinley, to *approve the revised Computer Science and Library Science curriculum for grades Kindergarten through 12.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ASSEMBLY IN
SESSION

Mr. G. Strubinger reported that general assembly is in session for a short period of time.

LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UPDATE Mr. G. Strubinger reported that LCCC is running smoothly and that enrollment has increased. There are over 10,000 students.

LCCC INFORMATION The President's Desk Flyer, September 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, and the Fall 2018 Fact Sheet for JTASD were included in with the Agenda.

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE

YOUTH SERVICES
AGREEMENT

Motion by Mr. W. Redline, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the acceptance of agreement between the Jim Thorpe Area School District and Youth Services.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (7-1)** with the vote as follows:

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

INCREASE DONATION TO
DIMMICK MEMORIAL LIBRARY'S PKL BRANCH
BY \$20,000 FOR
2019-2020

Motion by Mr. W. Redline, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve increasing the donation to Dimmick Memorial Library's PKL branch by an additional \$20,000.00 for 2019-2020.*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer asked if this was going to be set in stone. Mr. J. McGuire replied that both Boards approved this.

Mrs. P. Sheckler asked if she can get a copy of the minutes from the meetings.

Mr. R. Marciante asked if this would be for every year moving forward. Mrs. P. Sheckler replied it would be as long as we can afford it.

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (7-1)** with the vote as follows:

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

R. Marciante Nay

POLICY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RESIGNATION:
PARAPROFESSIONAL –
JACQUELIN DEPUE

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the acceptance of the resignation of Ms. Jacquelin DePue as a Paraprofessional, effective September 26, 2018.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

RESIGNATION:
PARAPROFESSIONAL –
TAYLOR BOILEAU

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the acceptance of the resignation of Ms. Taylor Boileau as a Paraprofessional, effective October 5, 2018.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

RESIGNATION:
CUSTODIAN -
ZACHARY KNOX

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Dr. C. McGinley, to *approve acceptance of the resignation of Zachary Knox as a Custodian, effective October 12, 2018.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

RESIGNATION:
STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISOR –
HEDI SEIWELL

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the acceptance of the resignation of Ms. Heidi Seiwell as L.B. Morris Student Council Advisor.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

EMPLOYMENT:
STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISOR –
JUSTINA REPH

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. W. Redline, to *approve the employment of Ms. Justina Reph as L.B. Morris Student Council Advisor with a stipend of \$455.00.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0)** with the vote as follows:

M. Principe	Aye	R. Marciante	Aye
J. Ciavarella	Absent	G. Confer	Aye
C. McGinley	Aye	D. McGinley	Aye

W. Redline	Aye	P. Sheckler	Aye
G. Strubinger	Aye		

EMPLOYMENT:
 PARAPROFESSIONALS –
 MARIA BURZYNSKI
 JULIE RENODE
 COLLEEN SCHERER

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. W. Redline, to *approve the employment of Ms. Maria Burzynski, Ms. Julie Renode and Ms. Colleen Scherer as Paraprofessionals at a rate of \$13.00 per hour.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0)** with the vote as follows:

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

AMEND MOTION:
 SUPERINTENDENT
 POSTING

Motion by Mr. G. Strubinger, seconded by Mr. G. Confer, to *approve amending the motion to post position of Superintendent immediately to current time frame.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (6-2)** with the vote as follows:

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

EMPLOYMENT:
 LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTES –
 ERIN SEDON
 MELISSA EJK

Motion by Mr. G. Confer, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the employment of Ms. Erin Sedon as Long-Term Substitute Elementary Teacher at a salary of \$45,345.00 (BS Step 1) and Ms. Melissa Ejk as a Long-Term Substitute Elementary Teacher at a salary of \$45,345.00 (BS Step 1).*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked if there were any local candidates. Dr. B. Gasper stated that there were. Mr. Strubinger asked if the two hired were locals. Dr. Gasper stated that they are not locals but they were the most qualified for the position. Mr. Strubinger feels we should hire local candidates.

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0)** with the vote as follows:

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

POSTING:

FULL TIME CUSTODIAN **Motion** by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve posting for a full-time Custodian.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

TRANSPORTATION & SECURITY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING A Transportation & Security Committee Meeting was scheduled for October 29, 2018. Mr. W. Redline would like to have someone from Traversa there to go over the new software.

NEW BUSINESS

MOVE ELEMENTARY
START TIME

Mr. G. Confer noted that he believes we should start the Elementary students an hour later due to its being so dark in the morning. Mr. W. Redline asked what time the L.B. students come in at. Dr. B. Gasper replied that they arrive around 8:05 AM. Dr. B. Gasper expressed concern about how dark it would be after school since the students would not get out until 4:30 PM.

Mr. T.J. Garritano stated that it would be tough to get the kids to school at 9:00 AM. It is easier to get arrangements for after-school care. Mr. G. Confer stated that he used to walk to school. Mr. T. LaFord also feels it is a safety issue; you don't want kids left alone in the morning.

TRANSPORTATION SOFTWARE
COMPANIES

Mr. G. Strubinger would like to look at new transportation software companies.

Motion by Mr. G. Strubinger to *have Traversa routing specialist come in to look at our routes for around \$5,000.00.*

Motion dies for lack of second.

DIMMICK LIBRARY
DONATION

Mrs. L. McArdle stated that the motion for the donation to the Library was incorrect.

Motion by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *amend the Dimmick Library donation motion to increase the donation to \$20,000.00 for the Library, not increase it by \$20,000.00.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (8-0)** with the vote as follows:

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

CREDIT CARD
STATEMENT

Mr. D. McGinley stated that he was informed and misinformed about the credit card statements and misspoke during the reading of his letter earlier in the meeting. He misread what was in the letter.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS**

Monthly reports were included in the Agenda packet.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

STUDENT
SUSPENSIONS

Student suspensions for September were included in the Agenda packet.

CURRENT
ENROLLMENT

Current enrollment information was included in the Agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren K. Kovac
Business Manager/Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President