

Jim Thorpe Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Jim Thorpe School Board of Education
November 12, 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, 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*, Lori Lienhard, *Director of Security*, Ted LaRizzio, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*, and Kathy Doll, *Curriculum Coordinator*. Also present: Attorney Gregory Mousseau, *Solicitor* and Michelle Searfoss, *Business Manager Secretary*. Visitors present: Elena Monaco, Robert Renode, T.J. Garritano, Vincent Capria, Victoria DeFazio, Robert Renode, Raymond O'Neil, Dan Smelas, Danielle Murphy, Marion Domski, Erin McArdle, Karen Nace, Tassy Clausius, Allison Priore, Paul Montemuro, Scott Pompa, Cindy Henning, Guy R. Antolick, Ron Dunbar, Tonia Schaeffer and representing the Times News, Chris Reber

GENERAL BUSINESS

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF VISITORS**

LAURA McARDLE

Ms. Laura McArdle asked the Board why we are rehiring a Math teacher who resigned three (3) months ago. She asked if there were any other applicants and they can reassure her that the teacher will not resign again. Ms. McArdle stated that Ms. Shirer is doing a great job filling in at this position. Dr. B. Gasper stated that there were other applications, but the recommendation of the administrators was to hire this teacher. He also stated that administration had a conversation with this teacher about her leaving again and they feel that everything will be fine.

PAUL MONTEMURO

Mr. Paul Montemuro stated that he cannot believe that the audit did not pick up that 40% of the expenses are in a miscellaneous account instead of putting it in categories.

Mr. P. Montemuro reported that the District has not billed for \$2.5 million for YSA. Mrs. L. Kovac stated that figure is incorrect. There is not \$2.5 million that could be billed for YSA because we have not paid that much. She added that some of the YSA billing was completed and we have received some money from those billings, but unfortunately it can take a

long time. Mrs. L. Kovac explained how the billing process works. She also said that if the Board is interested, we can bring in Mary K. Lesisko, our Registrar and Child Accounting Clerk to explain how the process works.

Mr. G. Confer asked why we renewed the contract with YSA. Mrs. L. Kovac explained how the contract with YSA came to be. She noted that YSA threatened to send the students to our High School if the District did not take over the billing.

Mr. P. Montemuro also stated that he can't believe that the schools are using taxpayers' money to pay for bereavement, lunches, and other things. He stated that we should have a sunshine fund that employees would put money into and then that money can be used for whatever is needed in the District. He added that every last penny must be accounted for.

Mrs. L. Kovac asked Mr. P. Montemuro where he received the figures that 40% of the District's expenditures were booked to a miscellaneous account. She noted that a miscellaneous account is not used.

CINDY HENNING

Ms. C. Henning stated she asked Mr. Ciavarella last month if he was bonded and he said he was not. Mr. Ciavarella stated he was not at the last Board meeting and noted that he is bonded.

Mrs. C. Henning asked about the minutes from August. Mrs. L. Kovac stated that they need to be amended and will be posted when that is completed.

Mrs. C. Henning asked if we can just give her the information for her Right-to-Know request. She is still waiting for information on the gym floor, bond information, and information on the credit card. Mrs. L. Kovac explained that the Business Office is being inundated with Right-to-Know requests and that they are trying to get them completed in the order that they come into the office.

FBLA

Miss Victoria Fazio is the president of FBLA and she addressed the Board to give them an update on the program. Mr. Raymond O'Neil also addressed the Board to speak on the accomplishments of FBLA members.

Dr. B. Gasper stated that Mrs. Schaffer had done a great job with the FBLA program and he feels it should be made to a paid position.

T.J. GARRITANO

Mr. T.J. Garritano asked the Board if there was a decision on getting turf on the football field. Mr. Ciavarella stated that they are looking to see if we have the funds for it and they will let Mr. Garritano know.

ROBERT RENODE

Mr. Robert Renode informed the Board that JT Talks will be held at the High School from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM on December 20, 2018.

RON DUMBAR

Mr. R. Dumbar asked the Board about the YSA billing. Mrs. Kovac again explained how the YSA system works. Ms. C. Henning asked who does the YSA billing. Mrs. Kovac stated that she currently completes the billing but that they are in the process of training a secretary to complete the task.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held for security matters.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- *Approval/Minutes of October 8, 2018*
- *Approval /Athletic Report*
- *Approval/Repository Sales*
- *Approval/Real Estate Tax Exemption – Disabled Veteran - JH*
- *Approval/FLMA – Employee #1528*
- *Approval/Completed Applications*
- *Informational – JTASD Substitute List*
- *Approval/Acceptance of JTASD School Bank Report (July 1, 2018 – Sept. 30, 2018)*

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*

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

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

Motion by Mr. G. Confer, seconded by Mr. D. McGinley, to *approve the financial consent agenda as presented.*

- *Treasurer’s Report*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Strubinger asked Mrs. L. Kovac why the Treasurer's Report does not add up. Mrs. L. Kovac explained that the report does at up and that the format of the report has changed slightly.

Mr. R. Marciante questioned if the District is giving the Dimmick Library \$20, 000.00. Mrs. L. Kovac replied that it is.

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

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

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

- *Tax Collectors' Report*

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

NO REPORT

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEER WRESTLING COACH –

DAN HEANEY

Motion by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve Mr. Dan Heaney as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

VOLUNTEER SOFTBALL COACH –
MELISSA EJK

Motion by Mr. D. McGinley, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve Ms. Melissa Ejk as a Volunteer Softball Coach.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

CAFETERIA/BUILDING COMMITTEE

OCTOBER REPORT The Nutrition Inc. October 2018 report was included in the Agenda packet.

CARBON CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

AGENDA & MINUTES The November 15, 2018 CCTI JOC Board Meeting Agenda and the October 18, 2018 JOC Meeting Minutes were included in the Agenda packet.

MEETING A CCTI meeting will be held this Thursday.

CARBON-LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT

NO REPORT

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

NO REPORT

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ELECTION & BASIC ED
FUNDING

Mr. G. Strubinger stated that the election is over and, regarding basic education funding, Jim Thorpe receives the least of any local district.

LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FINANCIAL ADVISOR Mr. G. Strubinger reported that LCCC is looking for a Financial Advisor.

OWNERSHIP Mr. G. Strubinger reported that Jim Thorpe pays more for ownership than the other Lehigh County schools.

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE

FORGIVE DELINQUENT
REAL ESTATE TAXES
#82A1-14-A7

Atty. G. Mousseau noted that the property seeking tax forgiveness was taken by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when the new bridge was being constructed.

Motion by Mr. G. Strubinger, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the forgiveness of delinquent real estate taxes on property #82A-14-A7 owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (5-4)** with the vote as follows:

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

PSBA CONTRACT – SUPERINTENDENT
SEARCH

Motion by Mr. G. Strubinger, seconded by Mr. W. Redline, to *approve a contract with PSBA to conduct the Superintendent search for a fee of \$5,000.00.*

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

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

FORENSIC AUDIT

Motion by Mr. G. Strubinger, seconded by Mr. R. Marciante, to *approve the Letter of Engagement for the forensic audit in the amount of \$15,000.00.*

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

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

POLICY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT:

MATHEMATICS TEACHER –

AMY SERFASS

Motion by Mr. J. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. M. Principe, to *approve the employment of Ms. Amy Serfass as a Mathematics Teacher with a salary of \$47,345.00 (MS Step 2).*

Under the Head of the Question:

Mr. G. Confer asked who she is replacing. Dr. B. Gasper stated that technically she is replacing herself. She is being rehired.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT:

PARAPROFFESIONAL –

MINKE PHEIFFER

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. R. Marciante to *approve the employment of Ms. Minke Pheiffer as a Paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.00 per hour.*

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

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

RESIGNATION:

JUDY PATERSON

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the resignation of Ms. Judy Paterson as a Paraprofessional, effective October 19, 2018.*

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**

RESIGNATION:
TRUANT OFFICER –
LORI LIEHARD

Motion by Mr. G. Strubinger, seconded by Mr. W. Redline, to *table approving the resignation of Ms. Lori Lienhard as Truant Officer.*

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

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

EMPLOYMENT:
CHORAL DIRECTOR –
NANCY SCHIELDS

Motion by Mrs. P. Sheckler, seconded by Mr. R. Marciante, to *approve the employment of Ms. Nancy Schields as Choral Director – Penn Kidder Campus with a stipend of \$905.00*

Roll call vote. **MOTION PASSES (9-0)** 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	Aye
G. Confer	Aye		

EMPLOYMENT:
LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
CUSTODIANS –
CHRISTOPHER SABLE
TERI SMITH

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the employment of Mr. Christopher Sable and Ms. Teri Smith as Long-Term Substitute Custodians at a rate of \$9.00 per hour.*

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

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

TRANSPORTATION & SECURITY COMMITTEE

TRAVERSA

Mr. W. Redline reported that Traversa is looking into bus scheduling and if it is feasible to run two-tier busing.

COMMITTEE MEETING

A Committee Meeting was scheduled for December 3, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Mr. W. Redline would like the Mayor and Chief of Police from Jim Thorpe and Penn Kidder to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

STUDENT TEACHERS
SPRING 2019

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve the Student Teachers Ms. Kristine Gilbert at the L.B. Morris and Mr. Logan Termini at Penn-Kidder from Bloomsburg University – Elementary Education – Spring 2019.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP –
HISTORY CLUB

Motion by Dr. M. Principe, seconded by Mr. J. Ciavarella, to *approve an Out-of-State Field Trip for the History Club to Washington, D.C. from April 28-30, 2019.*

Voice vote. **MOTION PASSES**

NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

Mr. D. McGinley announced that Mr. J. Ciavarella will serve on the nominating committee for the next President and Vice President.

PRINCIPAL AT
PENN-KIDDER

Mr. G. Strubinger asked why there was not a Principal at Penn-Kidder on November 2, 2018. Dr. B. Gasper stated that the Assistant Principal is out on leave and Mr. McAndrew was at a meeting. Dr. B. Gasper was out at Penn-Kidder within an hour and was able to handle the situation.

Mrs. P. Sheckler asked if we could rotate other Principals out there if we need to. Dr. B. Gasper stated that we have a plan to have the buildings covered at all times. Mr. McAndrew stated that Ms. Mass had volunteered to take on the lower level infractions while Mr. Engle is out.

PSBA CONFERENCE

Mr. W. Redline reported that he went to the PSBA Conference and he heard Tom Murray speak. He said he was fantastic and very motivating. Mr. Murray is from Parkland so if we would want him to speak to our teachers he said he was willing to come to Jim Thorpe. Mr. W. Redline

also went to Engaging Communities to support facilities upgrades. He found this very interesting.

Mr. W. Redline quoted one of the speakers: "The worst day as a Board Member is some child's hope for tomorrow."

STEM WEEK

Dr. B. Gasper informed the Board that last week our buildings celebrated National STEM Week.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. D. McGinley wished all veterans a Happy Veterans Day.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PPL GRANT

PPL Foundation approved Empowering Educators Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 for STEM project at L.B. Morris & PKC. \$500.00 is being allocated to each building.

**SUSPENSIONS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS**

Suspension and Administrative Reports were included with the Agenda packet

**CURRENT
ENROLLMENT
SUMMARY**

The current enrollment summary was included with the Agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren K. Kovac
Business Manager/Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President