

**WAYNESBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Waynesboro, PA 17268**

The Waynesboro Area Board of School Directors held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, in the boardroom, 210 Clayton Avenue, Waynesboro, PA. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, by president Wilson.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Heefner called for a moment of silence and then led the pledge to the flag.

DISCUSS/ACT ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Bachtell made a motion to nominate James Kohler for school board. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. Mrs. Bachtell said she thought Mr. Kohler was the best candidate because he has lived in the community his entire life and has a vested interest in the district.

Mr. Lemley said he viewed the DVD provided to him since he was not at the interviews. Mr. Crutchfield, who was out of town on business when the interviews occurred, but was present tonight telephonically, said he reviewed the information provided by the superintendent and was prepared to vote. Mr. Lemley noted that he has never met or spoken to either of the candidates.

Mrs. Heefner said she thought both were very fine candidates. She said we bemoan that we educate our children, they go off to college and never come back, and never give back to the community. She said Mr. Kohler was educated in our school system, went to college, and came back to make this his home. She thought he could give back to the community and that is why she would cast her vote for Mr. Kohler.

The board then voted to appoint James Kohler as a board member.

YEA: Smith/Heefner/Bachtell
NAY: Crutchfield/Lucas/Lemley/Lind/Wilson
The vote failed.

Mr. Lind then said that the board doesn't have enough people with a financial background on the board. That is why he would support Billie Finn. Mr. Lind made a motion to nominate Billie Finn for school board. Mr. Lemley seconded the motion.

YEA: Crutchfield/Lucas/Lemley/Lind/Wilson
NAY: Smith/Heefner/Bachtell

Mrs. Finn was then sworn in and took her seat on the board.

There was no public comment on this item.

Mr. Crutchfield then left the meeting (telephonically).

ROLL CALL

Present were: Brenda Lucas, Marilyn Smith, Leland Lemley, Chris Lind, Pat Heefner, Bonnie Bachtell, Billie Finn, and Edward Wilson. Firmadge Crutchfield was absent for the rest of the meeting. Others present were: James Robertson, superintendent; Evan Williams, assistant superintendent; Caroline Dean, business administrator; Bobbi Trostle, recording secretary; James Flower, Jr., solicitor; Allison Schuchart, Record Herald; Jennifer Fitch, Herald Mail; and those individuals listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a Smith/Bachtell motion and roll call listed, the board approved the agenda.

YEA: Lucas/Smith/Lemley/Lind/Heefner/Bachtell/Wilson
NAY: None
ABSTAINED: Finn (new board member)
ABSENT: Crutchfield

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 16, 2010 and March 1, 2010

On a Lind/Bachtell motion and roll call listed, the board approved the February 16, 2010 and the March 1, 2010 minutes, with the following correction to the February 16, 2010 minutes:

On Page 3 under *Discuss School Resource Officer*, the third paragraph should read as follows: Solicitor Flower cited a 1958 PA Supreme Court case *and cited other cases as recently as 1998 and 1999*, and advised the board that paying tax dollars toward the grant is illegal. He said that the PA School Code has a provision that says the use or payment for items not provided for in the act is illegal. If the Code does not provide for it, the district cannot use general funds raised from taxes to pay for the SRO.

YEA: Lucas/Smith/Lemley/Lind/Heefner/Bachtell/Wilson
NAY: None
ABSTAINED: Finn (new board member)
ABSENT: Crutchfield

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Amos Miller said the School Resource Officer is doing an excellent job, goes above and beyond his duties and is a major cost-saving asset to the district. He will only get better as time goes by. He said that as a taxpayer and grandfather of children in the district, this position should be retained by the school. He said there are dollars that have to be spent for the sake of the children. He said he never asks the district to spend money, but this position has a lot of merit. Mr. Miller said that since the school district went to the Borough, the district is totally obligated to continue this position for the term of the contract. It's good management that the district does not go back on their word and stand up to a commitment with the Borough to participate in the contract for the three years. After that, you can reevaluate.

Mr. Lemley asked Mr. Flower to share the law with Mr. Miller.

This item will be discussed later in the meeting.

STUDENT REPORT

Amelia Rock reported that on March 2, elementary, middle, and high school choral students presented their annual Music In Our Schools concert. During the week ending March 5, FBLA held a fundraiser to benefit the March of Dimes and Habitat for Humanity and raised approximately \$800. Senior Brandon Baker was awarded the PSEA Human and Civil Rights Award. He will receive a crystal award and a check for \$500 at a dinner to be held in May in Philadelphia. This is a statewide award that is given once a year. On March 6, the High School gymnastics team was named champions of the PA Classic Gold Division.

Tyler Bowders reported that on March 22, the High School concert choir will travel to Harrisburg to perform in the Capitol Rotunda. This is part of Music In Our School's Month. Choir members will be treated to a tour of the Capitol and meet with Senator Alloway. On March 13, students Hayley Bowders, D. J. Barkdoll, Spencer Helman, and Corey Hess will participate in the PMEA Region V Chorus Festival to be held at Central Dauphin East High School.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ballot – Elect Members to the LIU Board of Directors

Board members were asked to complete the ballot in their packet to elect members to the LIU Board of Directors.

Discuss Bus Contractors Intent to Provide Transportation, 2010/2011

Bus contractors intent to provide transportation for the 2010/2011 school year will be placed on next week's agenda for acceptance.

Discuss Modular Update

Ms. Dean reviewed information on the sale of the modulares. These units were placed out for bid and are to be opened on March 16. To date, we have received no bids, but one district is visiting the site this week to review. Several potential buyers dropped out of the process when the items were advertised.

Discuss School Resource Officer

Mr. Robertson distributed a survey of school districts that use School Resource Officers and their funding source.

Information received from the PA Department of Education cited a provision in the School Code that allows school districts to hire a school police officer. Mr. Flower said this information is only partially correct. School districts can hire a school police officer as an employee of the district, but cannot pay an officer who is employed by a municipality. Mr. Lemley asked Mr. Flower if it was correct that PDE does not have the authority to override legislative law and Mr. Flower answered "correct". Mr. Flower said the district could petition the court to grant arresting powers for school grounds and allow that person to carry a weapon. Mr. Lemley reminded everyone that the SRO's salary and benefits have never been paid for with school district funds.

Mr. Lemley said that former superintendent, Barry Dallara, never had the authority to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Borough dated eight days after the board approved the SRO position. He said since this document was not authorized, it is null and void.

Discuss School Resource Officer (Cont'd)

Mrs. Smith said she was a big force in bringing this position into the school district, but wanted to make sure the information that was presented was correct. She said this was a grant that was funded for two years. At the end of the two years, a report was to be presented on how effective this position was. They are trying to get grants for the third year, but grants are drying up. She said this person needs to stay in the district and is doing an excellent job. She said she was not going to apologize for helping bring this person to the district and will fight to keep this position. She added, that when she first started on the board, there were rarely any expulsion hearings; now we have one at least every month. She said this board needs to think about the safety and well-being of our students.

Mr. Lemley said no one wants to see this person leave, but the district doesn't have the authority to hire using district funds. Mrs. Heefner told Mr. Lemley that he wanted the board to challenge the law on other issues, why not this one.

Mrs. Bachtell again said the safety of our children is the most important thing. Mr. Lemley replied that this will make good press tomorrow morning.

Mrs. Finn asked how much the district would have to cover to continue the position. Mrs. Smith said 75%. She then asked how much of the duties were educational and could that time be paid by the district on a separate contract. Mr. Flower said that could be a plausible solution. Mr. Lemley then questioned whether this person would need a teaching certificate.

Mr. Wilson suggested asking businesses to contribute to the position.

Mrs. Heefner questioned using stimulus money. Mr. Williams said it can't be done.

Mrs. Smith requested that the information received from PDE be put in writing and sent to the board for the next meeting.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Heefner, to table this discussion until the next meeting.

YEA: Lucas/Smith/Lemley/Lind/Heefner/Bachtell/Finn/Wilson
NAY: None
ABSENT: Crutchfield

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Recommend Approval of Tentative List of Seniors Scheduled to Graduate

Recommend Tentative Graduation Date for 2010

On a Lind/Bachtell motion and roll call listed, the board approved the following:

- (1) Attached list of students from the Class of 2010 presently attending the High School or an alternative high school. The administration and faculty of the High School recommend they be presented a diploma in June 2010, for having completed the required course of study. As in the past years, the High School administration reserves the right to delete the names of those students who do not fulfill final requirements for graduation and to present them with their diploma in the event they complete the requirements during the summer of 2010.
- (2) Tentative date for graduation at this time is June 8, 2010 at 6:30 PM, in the High School gymnasium and auditorium.

YEA: Lucas/Smith/Lemley/Lind/Heefner/Bachtell/Finn/Wilson
NAY: None
ABSENT: Crutchfield

Recommend Approval of Purchase Order Requisitions

On a Smith/Lind motion and roll call listed, the board approved purchase order requisitions in the amount of \$138,591.91.

YEA: Lucas/Smith/Lemley/Lind/Heefner/Bachtell/Finn/Wilson
NAY: None
ABSENT: Crutchfield

BUDGET WORKSHOP #1

Mr. Lemley, chairman of the budget committee, presented the committee's recommended cuts to the preliminary budget as follows:

Remove \$100,000 from the maintenance fund.

Reduce staff by four (4) teachers and the probation officer to save \$400,000 thru attrition (includes salaries and benefits). Administrators will evaluate positions as employees retire or resign and determine if it is imperative that each vacancy be filled.

Reduce \$20,000 from printing.

A \$270,000 reduction in medical premiums.

Reduce retirement premiums from 10% to 8.22%, savings \$390,000.

Act 93 employees, which includes superintendent, assistant superintendent, business administrator, principals, etc., will be asked for forego pay raises for the 2010/2011 school year to help close the gap. This would save the district \$25,706.

BUDGET WORKSHOP #1 (Cont'd)

Mr. Lemley said this would make the \$1.7 million shortfall more manageable.

Mr. Robertson said he would discuss with the administrators to determine what they would recommend for further cuts that will be the least disruptive to the district students and programs.

Mrs. Bachtell said that numbers need to be kept down in the classroom. She urged that students are not disrupted when cutting positions.

Ms. Dean said to date only five employees have indicated they “may” retire. Mr. Robertson reminded them that these positions will have to be looked at carefully. He said some of these positions will have to be filled, such as the elementary guidance counselor.

Mrs. Heefner said the board may have to raise property taxes after not having an increase this year. Mr. Lemley said you can’t balance the budget even with a tax increase. Mrs. Heefner then reminded Mr. Lemley that she made a motion to increase millage, but it failed for lack of a second.

Mrs. Smith questioned what happens to the students that are on probation if the district doesn’t have a probation officer. Mr. Robertson said these students would be sent to Manito.

Public Comment

Lee Bender said she was completely dissatisfied with the district and the discipline is atrocious. Her grandson went to Manito because he was being bullied and couldn’t function in school. She said Manito really helped him. She said the district needs someone to keep the discipline problems under control.

James Kohler congratulated Mrs. Finn on her appointment. He told the board not to be afraid to raise taxes. He said no one wants to pay more, but it can’t be avoided. He said the board needs to start thinking ahead – just don’t cut, cut, cut.

Amos Miller said he was really disappointed there wasn’t a tax increase for this school year and questioned how the board could pay down the high school construction debt without even a slight tax increase.

The board said they were comfortable in directing the administration to make these cuts. Ms. Lucas agreed, but said the district could cut languages and students could take these courses in college. Mr. Lemley said you can’t eliminate programs without the PDE’s approval and you have to have justification.

Mrs. Finn said you are not going to save a lot of money, except in salaries and benefits. She said the board has two choices – raise taxes, cut people, or maybe some combination.

Mr. Wilson said he is not opposed to raising taxes. He said everything around us goes up and if you don’t raise your rates a small amount every year it gets you in trouble in the long run. He said we are already in a bad spot and the board has to look at every option before-hand.

The board discussed if the \$490,000 would be a target or a mandate for the superintendent and his staff.

BUDGET WORKSHOP #1 (Cont'd)

On a Lind/Lucas motion and roll call listed, the board directed the administration to make the following adjustments to the budget:

Reduce retirement premiums from 10% to 8.22%.
Reduce \$270,000 in medical premiums.
Remove \$100,000 from the maintenance fund.
Reduce \$20,000 from printing.
Instruct the administration to come back with options of reducing \$490,000 from instruction and other areas.

YEA: Lucas/Lemley/Lind/Finn/Wilson
NAY: Smith/Heefner/Bachtell

Mrs. Heefner said she voted "Nay" because the word "target" was not included in the motion.

Mr. Lemley said the staff needs to know that Waynesboro would not be offering a retirement incentive. On a Smith/Lemley motion and roll call listed, the board voted not to offer a retirement incentive to staff.

YEA: Lucas/Smith/Lemley/Lind/Heefner/Bachtell/Finn/Wilson
NAY: None
ABSENT: Crutchfield

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lind reported that the Technology Committee held its third meeting on Friday. They are learning about infrastructure and will be reviewing budget requests at the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no information items.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Lind reminded everyone that one of the items for discussion at next week's meeting is *Pay to Play* and asked Mr. Robertson if the information could be sent home in the board packets on Friday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board president, Mr. Wilson, called for an executive session following the meeting to discuss personnel and negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

/s/ Edward Wilson, President SIGNED /s/ Patricia F. Heefner, Secretary

Approved March 16, 2010