

WAYNESBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Waynesboro, PA 17268

The Waynesboro Area Board of School Directors held a special meeting on Monday, December 14, 2009, in the board room, 210 Clayton Avenue, Waynesboro, PA. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM, by board president, Mr. Wilson.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Marilyn Smith, Pat Heefner, Chris Lind, Bonnie Bachtell, Leland Lemley, Brenda Lucas, Firmadge Crutchfield, and Edward Wilson. Mindy Rouzer was absent. Others present were: James Robertson, superintendent; Evan Williams, assistant superintendent; Bobbi Trostle, recording secretary; James Flower, Jr., solicitor; Allison Schuchart, Record Herald; and those individuals listed on the attached sign-in sheet. Caroline Dean was absent.

ACT ON STUDENT ADJUDICATION

On a Smith/Heefner motion and roll call listed, the board approved the recommendation of the disciplinary committee of the board on a student adjudication.

YEA: Smith (present at hearing)
 Heefner (present at hearing)
 Lind (present at hearing)
 Bachtell (present at hearing)
 Lemley (present at hearing)
 Lucas (present at hearing)
 Crutchfield (present at hearing)
 Wilson (present at hearing)

NAY: None

ABSENT: Rouzer

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSS SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Board members discussed their responsibilities. Mr. Wilson said directors can raise taxes, pass the budget, and have the authority to hire and fire employees. Mr. Lemley said directors set policies, sit on other committees (Franklin County Career & Technology Center, Franklin Learning Center, LIU), set funding, and is the vision for the administration. Mrs. Heefner said it is important that board members find balance – it cannot be tipped one way or the other. She said the board's main responsibility is to provide the best education possible for our students. Mrs. Smith reminded the board that they are a board of the whole. One person is just that – one of nine. Mr. Lemley reminded them that no board member has legal authority except when seated and all decisions are made collectively, but board members must come to the meeting prepared – do your research before the meeting. Mr. Lemley said the board is only here to provide oversight, but is the public's representatives. He said it is their responsibility not to rubber stamp, but to evaluate all recommendations and provide guidance to all the professionals so they understand where the board wants to move. Trust them and give them the trust to move forward. Mr. Wilson said any time a resident has a question that needs answered, they are to feel free to ask the question.

DISCUSS STRUCTURE OF BOARD MEETINGS

Mr. Wilson explained why he moved board members around – so that the public could feel more involved in the meetings and because some members of the public have said they have trouble seeing and hearing at meetings. The older members are seated in the front and new members are seated off to the side. He also suggested having *Public Comment* before each vote so the public can have more input before some decisions are voted on. Mrs. Smith said she was OK doing this on a trial basis, but said she doesn't want to have meetings until 2:00 in the morning because of repeated comments. Mr. Flower said *Public Comment* can be done one time, maybe two. The issue is whether it would slow down the meeting and become more cumbersome. He suggested a trial basis before revising the policy.

DISCUSS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Five committees were established that will give reports at each meeting.

Policy Committee

Ed Wilson
Firmadge Crutchfield (Chairman)
Marilyn Smith
Bonnie Bachtell

Budget Committee

Chris Lind
Lee Lemley (Chairman)
Brenda Lucas

Academics Committee

Bonnie Bachtell
Marilyn Smith (Chairman)
Firmadge Crutchfield

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Jeff Adams
Pat Heefner (Chairman)
Ed Wilson
Bonnie Bachtell

Technology Committee

Pat Heefner
Chris Lind (Chairman)
Mike Kugler
Roger Lange
Caroline Dean

The sound system in the board room was discussed. Mrs. Heefner said that board packets are no longer available for the public and questioned if it could be put on the screen in the board room for the meeting. Mr. Lind suggested that the Technology Committee meet during school hours.

Jay Heefner suggested purchasing a better sound system. He said he finds the board's dress code appalling, they are supposed to look professional. Mr. Crutchfield said he agreed and started to explain why he was dressed the way he was tonight, but Mr. Heefner kept talking and then later apologized. He told the board they are the elected representatives and should do their homework. He said he knows of no other legislative body that offers public comment before each vote. Mr. Wilson said Quincy and Washington Townships conduct their meetings this way. Mrs. Heefner said that unless there is a controversial issue, there are usually only two or three people in the audience. She said it is discouraging.

DISCUSS SCHOOL BOARD/ADMINISTRATION GOALS/PLANNING, 2010/2011

Mr. Robertson said the administration's goals for the 2010/2011 school year are based on PSSA scores. He said the bottom line from an academic standpoint is to improve. He said that overall, the district has good teachers and students; however, the administration needs to look at curriculum and assessment and move forward to get a better picture. He said that purchasing Power School would make a major difference. Also, making sure there is enough room for students. He said the board needs to discuss what to do with the modulars.

DISCUSS SCHOOL BOARD/ADMINISTRATION GOALS/PLANNING, 2010/2011 (Cont'd)

Mr. Lemley said we are going to have to call on everyone's help in order to meet the financial challenges that are ahead. Mr. Lind said that the decisions they make today will impact for the next three years. Mrs. Bachtell said that the *Race to the Top* grant should help. Mr. Williams reminded them that this is just a possibility – that the district needs to “throw its hat in the ring preliminarily”. He said cost impact and what kind of restrictions have to be reviewed before applying for the grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

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

Approved January 12, 2010