

**NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
April 21, 2008**

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held at the Conference Room on Monday, April 21, 2008. Mr. Behre called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Behre led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Behre then asked the Secretary to call roll.

Members present: Mr. Behre, Mr. Dozbaba, Mrs. Elefante, Mr. Fieber, Mrs. Malamis, Mr. Nally, Mrs. O'Brien, and Mrs. Wahlgren. Mrs. Elefante left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Member absent: Mr. Heath

Administrators present: Dr. Boccuti, Mr. Hansel, Mr. Hogg, Dr. Foote, Ms. Katauskas, Mr. Radaszkiewicz, Mrs. Trioli, Mr. Harrington, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Mundy, Mr. Silver, and Dr. Young

The Board held an executive session before the meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues. Mr. Behre also announced that the Board had held a retreat to discuss Board priorities.

### **Board Minutes**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Fieber, seconded by Mr. Nally, with Mr. Behre abstaining, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

### **Bond Refinancing**

Mr. Ditka, Dinsmore, and Shohl presented a resolution for the Board to approve authorizing board members and administration to negotiate a bond sale if the savings are \$120,000 or greater.

### **Board Resolution**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Dozbaba, seconded by Mr. Nally, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board Resolution as follows:

**FORMAL ACTION CONSTITUTING A DEBT ORDINANCE UNDER THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT**

AUTHORIZING THE INCURRING OF NONELECTORAL DEBT BY THE ISSUANCE  
OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES OF 2008 IN THE AGGREGATE

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED NINE MILLION DOLLARS (\$9,000,000.00); COVENANTING TO PAY, AND PLEDGING ALL AVAILABLE TAXING POWER FOR THE PAYMENT OF, THE BONDS; ESTABLISHING A SINKING FUND AND APPOINTING A SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY; FIXING THE FORM, MAXIMUM INTEREST RATES, MATURITY DATES, REDEMPTION AND OTHER PROVISIONS FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; COVENANTING TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING A FILING OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; RATIFYING AND DIRECTING CERTAIN ACTIONS OF OFFICERS; AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER COVENANTS AND PROVISIONS IN RESPECT OF THE BONDS.

## **Old Business**

### **Board Committee Reports**

Mrs. Wahlgren reported on the Communications Committee. She reported that the calendar would be on-line for the next school year. She also reported that the committee met on April 1, 2008 and Scott Radaszkiewicz demonstrated all the electronic tools used in the district to communicate with parents, students, staff and community. A discussion of the effectiveness of each method followed including individual committee member's experiences. She reported that Mr. Radaszkiewicz was also working on an electronic calendar for next year. With regard to the Community Day recommended by the Strategic Plan, ideas were discussed on how this day could have the greatest impact in the community. Dr. Boccuti shared with the committee that he is developing a Volunteer Policy for the schools so that the district can access the rich resources of parents and others in a regulated way. Their next meeting is scheduled on May 13, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Elefante reported on the Facilities Committee. She reported that the school district would be going out to bid for seal-coating the parking lots. She reported that the "low lighting" complaint for the parking lots was being reviewed. The PTF requested that the 5% traditionally given to the district (approximately \$500) from parking lot donations be allocated by the PTF at their discretion. She reported on the High School addition and the One Room School House. The committee opted to form a subcommittee to review options for renovating and maintaining the One Room School House. Lastly, she reported that the committee reviewed the range of sponsorship options within the district and asked the school board for direction on whether to actively seek sponsorships or passively address requests as they come in. Mrs. Elefante also reported on the follow-up issues.

Mr. Nally reported on the Finance Committee. He reported that the funds from the swap reduced the deficit for 2007/2008. He reported that the topic was transportation which would continue into the next meeting. He reported that at the next meeting legal fees and transportation would be discussed.

Mrs. O'Brien reported that Policy Committee reviewed a cable channel policy and the field trip policy. She reported that the field trip policy was being postponed until Dr. Boccuti could work on tightening up the guidelines. She reported that special education policies would be on the next agenda.

Mr. Dozbaba reported that the Student Activity Committee reviewed cross gender sports participation and school spirit.

### **Public Discussion/ Agenda Item**

Mrs. Flynn - question if girls' lacrosse could be added to the budget for 2008/2009.

### **Board Action**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Fieber, seconded by Mrs. Malamis, the Board voted to adopt the proposed final budget and make it available to the public for at least 20 days prior to adoption of the final budget, and further, to confirm that the final adoption of the budget for the fiscal year of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 will be done at the regularly scheduled board meeting of June 2, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Boccuti reported that Mr. Irv Miller, Jr. had been awarded the Bicentennial Athletic League as Coach of the Year. The Board and guests congratulated Mr. Miller, who was present at the meeting.

Dr. Boccuti presented the Superintendent's Report, which is attached to the minute book.

### **New Business**

#### **Discussion/Information Items**

Mrs. Mundy presented a report on the Lehigh Program Evaluation of the Middle School.

Mrs. Katauskas reported that the leadership team is discussing a change in communication on curriculum development.

Dr. Boccuti, Dr. Young, and Mrs. Mundy began a discussion with the Board and guests on drug and alcohol testing of students.

#### **Finance**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Dozbaba, the Board of School Directors voted to approve and ratify the following:

- The Treasurer's Reports and Financial Reports for February, 2008

- The following list of bills totaling \$2,428,631.12
  - 2007-2008 Capital Reserve Fund Checks Between Meetings for Ratification  
Check Number – 1001074 to 1001077  
Totaling - \$324,313.61
  - 2007-2008 Capital Reserve Fund Checks for Approval  
Check Number – 1001078 to 1001086  
Totaling - \$268,661.32
  - 2007-2008 Checks Between Meetings for Ratification  
Check Numbers – 10021905 to 10021968  
Totaling - \$383,018.27
  - 2007-2008 Checks for Approval  
Check Numbers – 10021969 to 10022193  
Totaling - \$1,452,638.02
- The attached budgetary transfers for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and that they be made part of the permanent minute book.
- The Middle Bucks Institute of Technology budget for 2008-2009 with the New Hope-Solebury School District share being \$183,454 for operations and \$123,421 for debt service.
- The submission of PlanCon Part J forms, Project Accounting Based on Final Cost, for Project #2942 Upper Elementary School and Project #3094 Lower Elementary School.
- Permanently wave its 5% share of the parking lot funds and allow the PTF to disburse the funds to school district groups, with the understanding that the school district will receive an annual accounting of the funds.

## **Personnel**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Fieber, seconded by Mr. Dozbaba, the Board voted to approve the following:

### **Retirement**

Joanne Mitchell, English Teacher, in accordance with the terms of the revised Exhibit B Early Retirement Incentive Plan of the NHSEA Agreement effective June 30, 2008, and approve her request for super max option for unused sick days.

Albert R. Granato, Jr., Custodian, effective August 15, 2008, and approve his request for super max option for unused sick days.



## **Policy & Program**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Fieber, the Board of School Directors voted to approve the following:

### **Student Accident Insurance Provider**

American Management Advisors as providers of student accident insurance for the 2008-2009 school year at the following rates, which are unchanged from 2007-2008:

School Time	\$27.00
24 Hour	\$98.00

### **2007/2008 School Calendar**

The revised 2007-2008 School Calendar with the last student day/commencement being June 17, 2008.

### **School Board Meeting Schedule**

The proposed 2008-2009 School Board Meeting Schedule.

### **Kindergarten 2008-2009 School Year**

A staggered start of school for kindergarten students for the 2008-2009 school year.

## **Plant & Equipment**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Fieber, seconded by Mrs. Malamis, the Board voted to approve the following:

- The Facility Use Fee Schedule revised March 25, 2008, effective April 22, 2008
- To authorize the administration to accept the donation of a bucket lift truck from the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission should they choose to award it to the school district.

## **Board Action**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Wahlgren, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, the Board voted unanimously to create committee to create Request for Proposal for solicitor.

## **Board Discussion**

Mr. Behre suggested that the district should discontinue the paper calendars and should do a web based or electronic calendar.

Mr. Behre recommended that School Board issue a Request for Proposal for solicitor.

Mr. Hogg reported that a Request for Proposal for copy services was out and that it was a joint RFP with Council Rock School District.

### **Liaisons**

Mr. Fieber reported on the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.

Mr. Fieber also reported on the Education Fund.

### **Public Discussion**

Karen Voorhees - statements on behalf of Joanne Mitchell and Albert Granato, Jr. who are retiring.

Glenn Preiss - statement on behalf of Joanne Mitchell and Albert Granato, Jr. who are retiring.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Fieber, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, the Board of School Directors voted to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Hogg, Director of Business & Finance  
Board Secretary