

**NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
December 15, 2008**

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held in the District Conference Room on Monday, December 15, 2008. Mrs. Malamis, President, called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. Mrs. Elefante led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Malamis then asked the Secretary to call roll.

Members present: Mr. Behre, Mrs. Elefante, Mr. Fieber, Mr. Heath, Mrs. Malamis, Mr. Nally, and Mrs. Wahlgren.

Members absent: Mr. Dozbaba, Mrs. O'Brien

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

An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel and legal matters.

Dr. Boccuti introduced Ben Reinert, a student who was attending the Board meeting as part of his Boy Scout Communication Merit Badge.

### **Board Minutes**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Fieber, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 17 and December 1, 2008 Regular Meetings of the Board of School Directors.

### **Old Business**

#### **Student Report**

The student representatives presented their report on activities in the schools.

#### **Board Committee Reports**

Communications Committee: Mrs. Wahlgren reported the following information. The Committee met last Tuesday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Boccuti informed the Committee that a K-12 student directory will be in place for the 2009-2010 school year.

The meeting was attended by Julie Cimbalista, PTG President, who described how she meets regularly with the Middle School Principal, Joyce Mundy. The Committee is proposing joint meetings of parent groups and the building principals during the year to facilitate consistency.

Dr. Boccuti updated the Committee on the progress of his planning for upcoming informational forums. The first one will be held in late January for parents, the second in February for staff, and the third in May for taxpayers and the entire community. He also will conduct pod casts among other ways to meet with the students in our schools.

Originally, the Committee proposed a district newsletter to be sent to all homes in the community to advertise Dr. Boccuti's forums; however, Dr. Boccuti felt the cost would be prohibitive in this budget season. He suggested that since most districts are going electronic with regard to newsletters, we should as well. Some members disagreed and a compromise was reached that postcards could be mailed, as well as going the electronic route.

Throughout the spring, Dr. Boccuti will also be speaking to groups in the community explaining the budget process to taxpayers. The Committee is working on a short survey that residents who attend these meetings can complete on line.

The next Communications Committee meeting will be held on January 13, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., in the District Conference Room.

Facilities Committee: Mr. Behre reported on the Facilities Committee. He reported that they discussed the five-year plan. As part of the long-range plan, the Committee discussed an artificial turf field and its location.

Finance Committee: Mr. Nally reported that the Finance Committee was presented with the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2008. The Finance Committee discussed the tax collector salaries for the following terms and the expenditure budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Malamis reported on the Policy Committee in Mrs. O'Brien's absence. There are five policies on the agenda recommended for approval.

### **Board Follow-up**

Mrs. Elefante reported on the Board follow-up.

### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Boccuti presented the Superintendent's report which will be a part of the permanent minute book.

### **Draft Budget Report – 2009-2010**

Dr. Boccuti introduced the expenditure budget for 2009-2010.

Mr. Hogg presented the expenditure budget for 2009-2010. As part of that report, he stated that the increase in the expenditure budget from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010 was 4.32%.

## **Board Appointments**

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

- Mr. Laurence R. Fieber as representative, and Mrs. Genevieve F. Wahlgren as alternate, to the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology Executive Council for the 2009 calendar year.
- Mr. Robert Heath, Jr., as representative, and Mrs. Amanda Elefante as alternate, to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 Board of Directors and Legislative Council for the 2009 calendar year.
- Board committee chairs and members:

Communication Committee: Mrs. Genevieve F. Wahlgren, Chair  
Mrs. Amanda Elefante, Member

Facilities Committee: Mr. William J. Behre, Chair  
Mr. S. David Dozbaba, Member

Finance Committee: Mr. Christopher Nally, Chair  
Mr. William J. Behre, Member

Policy Committee: Mrs. Megan O'Brien, Chair  
Mrs. Amanda Elefante, Member

Student Activities Committee: Mr. S. David Dozbaba, Chair  
Mr. Christopher Nally, Member

Liaison NHS Education Foundation: Mr. Laurence Fieber, Liaison  
Special Education Committee: Mrs. Rebecca R. Malamis, Chair

## **New Business**

Mrs. Katauskas presented a report on "Meeting the Needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners."

## **Public Discussion / Agenda Items**

None

## Finance

Upon a motion made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Fieber, with Mr. Heath and Mrs. Elefante voting no as to tax collector salaries, the Board voted to approve and ratify the following:

- List of bills totaling \$1,191,510.06.

2008-2009 Checks Between Meetings for Ratification  
Check Numbers – 10023735 to 10023749  
Totaling - \$222,582.06

2008-2009 Checks for Approval  
Check Numbers – 10023750 to 10023937  
Totaling - \$968,928.00

- Attached budgetary transfers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and that they be made part of the permanent minute book.
- Agreement for special education services with Rock Brook School in the amount of \$27,214.98 for the 2008-2009 school year.
- Auditors' Report for the year ended June 30, 2008.
- Deny a request from Mr. & Mrs. James Lyons to rescind a tax penalty for late payment.
- Tax Collector salaries for the next term which represent an increase of 3% per year as recommended by the Finance Committee: \*

<u>Year</u>	<u>New Hope Borough</u>	<u>Solebury Township</u>
2010	\$9,015	\$29,110
2011	\$9,285	\$29,983
2012	\$9,564	\$30,883
2013	\$9,850	\$31,809

- Continue the payment of \$6.25 per collected bill for taxes paid on the installment method per Act 1 of 2006 for the next term.

## Personnel

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elefante, seconded by Mr. Heath, the Board voted to approve and ratify the following:

### Resignations/Leaves

- Resignation of Elisa Coren, Instructional Assistant, effective December 11, 2008.

- Resignation of Mrs. Bonnie Keiles, Elementary Teacher, with a release date of February 10, 2009 or earlier pending securing a replacement.
- Extend child rearing leave for Lori Ierubino, Biology Teacher, through the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.
- Extend child rearing leave for Craig Balmer, Technology Education Teacher, through the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year
- Approve child rearing leave for Jennifer Zahor, Learning Support Teacher, from approximately January 16, 2009 through May 4, 2009.
- Approve child rearing leave for Emily Van Praag, Music Teacher, from approximately March 9, 2009 through the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.

### Appointments

- Mrs. Joyce Fuller to serve as Acting Director of Special Education/Pupil Services effective beginning the week of January 5, 2009, three (3) days each week, at the rate of \$450 per day, through the position posting period, selection/appointment process, and start date of the new Director of Special Education/Pupil Services. This arrangement may be terminated by either the Superintendent or Mrs. Fuller at any time. Ms. Fuller is filling a temporary shortage pursuant to 24 Pa. C.S. 8346(b) created by the unexpected resignation of Dr. Demaris Foote.
- Contingent upon meeting all requirements of law and district policy:

Name	Classification	Employee Replaced/Reason	Effective Date	Salary	Benefits
Kelly Decembrino	Health/PE Teacher High School Long-term Substitute	Leave – Walker	12/12/08 – 6/18/09	\$44,486 (prorated) Bachelors, Step 0	Yes
Patrick O’Leary	Elementary Teacher Upper Elementary School Long-term Substitute	Leave – Walsh	1/26/09- 6/18/09	\$45,925 (prorated) Bachelors, Step 1	Yes
Jenna Ellsworth	French/Spanish Teacher High School Long-term Substitute	Leave – Vath	1/26/09 – 6/18/09	\$47,365 (prorated) Bachelors, Step 2	Yes
Maria Barnett	Biology Teacher High School Long-term Substitute	Leave – Ierubino	1/26/09 – 6/18/09	\$66,875 (prorated) Masters +24, Step 5	Yes
Terry Sphar	Technology Education Teacher High/Middle Schools Long-term Substitute	Leave – Balmer	1/26/09 – 6/18/09	\$46,171 (prorated) Bachelors +12, Step 0	Yes
Diane Schlesinger	Instructional Assistant – 8 Hour	Transfer – McDonough	12/1/08	\$18,902 (prorated)	Yes

	Lower Elementary School			Year 0	
Jessica Story	.5 Library/Media Specialist Long-term Substitute	Classrooms for the Future Grant – Schwander	1/5/09 – 6/18/09	\$ 44,486 (prorated .5) Bachelors, Step 0	Yes prorated
Matthew Hammerstone	Custodian Long-term Substitute	Leave – Levine	1/5/09 – 2/7/09	\$14.36/hour Year 0	Yes
Robert Allen	Part-time (4 Hour) Custodian Long-term Substitute	Leave – Snyder	1/5/09	\$14.36/hour Year 0	No
Sandra Gordon	Science Teacher Middle School Long-term Substitute	Leave – Kester	12/15/08 – 1/16/09	\$44,486 (prorated) Bachelors, Step 0	Yes
Jocelyn McDonough	Title 1 Reading Assistant – 8 Hour (transfer)	Resignation – Showlin	11/17/08	\$22,337 Year 5	Yes

### Per Diem Substitutes 2008/2009 School Year

Certified Teachers

Elizabeth May

Administrative Assistants

Jo Ann Knaupp

Monica Lombardi

### EDR Contracts 2008/2009 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>EDR Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Brian Loving	Intramural Football	\$305.50
Chris Shank	Intramural Football	\$305.50
Craig Balmer	Intramural Football	\$305.50
Jon Gonsiewski	Intramural Football	\$305.50
Kevin Elvy	Intramural Football	\$305.50

- Approve six (6) new EDR positions for the 2009-2010 school year, strictly under the stipulations provided in the attachment.

### Policy and Program

Upon a motion made by Mr. Behre, seconded by Mr. Heath, with Mr. Fieber and Mrs. Wahlgren voting no as to the Ski Club trip, the Board voted to:

- Adopt the following new/revised board policies:
  - No. 113.2 – Independent Education Evaluations (new)
  - No. 113.3 – Behavior Support (new)
  - No. 206 – Assignment Within District (new)
  - No. 216.1 – Supplemental Discipline Records (new)
  - No. 606 – Tax Collection (revised)
- Approve the proposed Special Education Committee Purpose and Mission Statement. \*

- Appoint Gregory Hogg as Open Records Officer, and appoint Karen Voorhees as Deputy Open Records Officer, of the New Hope-Solebury School District effective with the passage of amended Board Policy 801 Public Records. These appointees receive no additional compensation as Open Records Officer or Deputy Open Records Officer.
- Adopt the fee structure set by the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records, and further, setting a per copy rate of .10 per copy for black and white, and a rate of .25 for color copies.
- Authorize the Open Records Officer and Deputy to use the forms as recommended by the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records.
- Approve an overnight high school Ski Club trip to Stowe, VT, leaving the afternoon of Friday, January 23, and returning Sunday, January 25, 2009.
- Accept the following donations:
  - \$2500 from the HSA for the Lower Elementary School Readers' Theater.
  - \$7500 from the David R. and Patricia Atkinson Foundation for enhancement of instructional and guidance programs at the Lower Elementary School.
- In accordance with Board Policy 202, approve a student moving out of the school district to complete his senior year at New Hope-Solebury High School, graduating in June 2009, tuition free, provided the student is responsible for his own transportation.

## **Board Discussion**

Dr. Young and Mrs. Ohanian reported on using Perkins Funds for the Diversified Occupations Program, which had been requested by the Board. They updated the Board on the program.

Mrs. Katauskas updated the Board on the World Language Curriculum Committee. Dr. Boccuti reported that the positions recommended were originally included in the 2009-2010 budget but subsequently removed due to the difficult budget year. The Board discussed alternatives for providing the programs.

Mrs. Elefante stated that the district newsletter should get to all district residents and that she was concerned that the postcard idea may not be enough. She would like to continue the discussion and find ways to do it at little or no cost.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Wahlgren, seconded by Mr. Heath, the Board voted to direct Dr. Boccuti to proceed with the electronic preparation of a community newsletter, as well as a postcard mailing that includes notification of the newsletter, how to access a hard copy if needed and dates/times and location of forums; the Board further authorized the Communications Committee to continue investigation of hard copy production at no cost to the school district.

Mr. Nally requested that we contact PFM to see if there is an opportunity to refinance.

## **Liaisons**

Mr. Heath reported that there was no BCIU meeting.

Mr. Fieber reported that there was no MBIT meeting.

Mr. Fieber reported on the Education Fund.

Mrs. Malamis reported on the Special Education Committee. She reported that they worked on the Mission Statement and a strengths/weaknesses discussion. The Committee will meet again on January 7, 2009 to continue the strengths/weaknesses discussion.

## **Public Discussion**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Mr. Brooks/Gazette      | - Stated that the Gazette has a forum in the paper called "Senior Hallway" that reports on school activities.   |
| Mrs. Patrice Ockenhouse | - Statement that plaque for the Hall of Fame is not kept under lock and key.<br><br>- Statement that there is a conflict in the naming of the Webmaster EDR.  |
| Mrs. Karen Voorhees     | - Statement that Elisa Coren will be missed.  |
| Mr. Bill Reilly         | - Question on appointments.<br><br>- Statement that an alumni office would be helpful in gathering information.   |
| Mr. Glenn Preiss        | - Statement that he knows of one student taking advantage of Mandarin Chinese.  |
| Mr. Melvin Band         | - Statement that EDRs add up.<br><br>- Statement that there is discretion in staffing in that salaries are negotiated and that there are many classes that have less than 15 students.<br><br>- Statement and questions on the number of elementary school teachers.<br><br>- Statement that at his old school district, foreign language at the elementary level was taught by the classroom teachers. |

## **Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Behre, seconded by Mr. Heath, the Board of School Directors voted to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Hogg  
Board Secretary