

**NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
February 11, 2009**

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held in the District Conference Room on Wednesday, February 11, 2009. Mrs. Malamis, President, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Fieber led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Malamis then asked the Secretary to call roll.

Members present: Mr. Behre, Mr. Dozbaba, Mrs. Elefante, Mr. Fieber, Mr. Heath, Mrs. Malamis, Mr. Nally, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Wahlgren.

Members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. Boccuti, Mr. Hansel, Mr. Hogg, Mr. Rivera

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

Board Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Fieber, with Mrs. O'Brien abstaining as to January 15 and Mr. Dozbaba abstaining as to January 21, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2009 Special Meeting and January 21, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Nally, the Board voted to reword Mr. Eler's statements in the minutes of January 21, 2009.

Student Report

Michael Heffernen presented the student representatives' report.

Special Presentation

Mr. Shearer, PFM, reported on the negotiated refinancing of 2004 and 2004AA bonds into a 2009A bond issue resulting in savings of \$257,128.

Mr. Shearer reported on the SWAP opportunity. Mr. Brewer, attorney, reviewed the resolution. Mr. Shearer reviewed the Interest Rate Management Plan related to the SWAP.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Dozbaba, seconded by Mr. Nally, the Board voted to approve the SWAP Agreement resolution.

Old Business

Board Committee Reports

Communications Committee: Mrs. Wahlgren reported that the Committee previewed the school-community newsletter from Dr. Boccuti which was scheduled for mailing on February 13. Also addressed were some concerns from members about how homework is communicated through the grades with an eye toward parameters for consistency. The Committee started reviewing handbooks of the four schools to see if there are where there could be consistency as well. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room.

Facilities Committee: Mr. Behre reported that the Committee agreed to pay for Capital Projects that were budgeted in General Fund out of the Capital Reserve Fund. The Committee recommended that they do not purchase a lift since it is cheaper to rent one. Also discussed were possible uses of stimulus money if available. He reported on a consultant for drilling of wells. The Committee discussed possible locations for a turf field and that they would work with neighboring residents and get an estimate on getting an architect review of the fields.

Finance Committee: Mr. Nally reported that the Finance Committee is awaiting reports from administration on Special Education, Instructional Assistants, Books/Periodicals, and Technology issues. He also reported that the Committee will be looking at revenue trends.

Policy Committee: Mrs. O'Brien reported on a policy being discussed on transportation to post season games and other co-curricular activities. She reported on a discussion of student cell phone use in school and a discussion of the policy on substitute support staff employees. The next meeting will be March 26, 2009.

Student Activities Committee: Mr. Dozbaba reported that the Committee had not met since the last Board meeting.

Board Follow-up

Mrs. Elefante reported on the Board follow-up.

Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Boccuti presented the first draft of the 2009-2010 school calendar.

New Business

Public Discussion/Agenda Items

Mr. Panzica - Question on Earned Income Tax revenue.

- Mr. Band
- Statement that he is opposed to approving the budget unless the school district re-opens the teacher contract.
 - Question on clarification of appointment of Instructional Assistant.
 - Question on why the district needs to replace the Instructional Assistant position.

Finance

Upon a motion made by Mr. Behre, seconded by Mr. Heath, with Mr. Fieber and Mr. Dozbaba opposed to the budget motion, the Board voted to:

- Approve the preliminary budget for the July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 fiscal year in the amount of \$33,336,941 and revenue, including the use of the fund balance, of \$31,649,302, requiring a tax increase of \$1,687,639, which results in a change in the tax rate from 76.70 to 82.23 or 7.21%.

- Authorize and direct the Business Administrator to submit the Preliminary Budget for 2009-2010 to the Pennsylvania Department of Education per the requirements of Act 1 of 2006.

- Authorize and direct the administration to apply for the maximum amount of exceptions allowable under Act 1 of 2006 with the understanding that these exceptions will only be used in the final budget to the extent that they are needed.

- Approve the Treasurer's Report and Financial Report for December, 2008.

- Approve and ratify the following list of bills totaling \$475,220.88. -

2008-2009 Checks Between Meetings for Ratification
Check Numbers – 10024153 to 10024159
Totaling - \$69,263.54

2008-2009 Checks for Approval
Check Numbers – 10024160 to 10024305
Totaling - \$405,957.34

- Approve the attached budgetary transfers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and that they be made part of the permanent minute book.

- Approve a settlement agreement in the amount of \$13,300 to settle and compromise claims raised by the parents of an exceptional student and to authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute that agreement on behalf of the District.

- Approve the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology budget for 2009-2010 with the New Hope-Solebury School District share being \$184,265 for operations and \$122,229 for debt service.

- Authorize the administration to enter into a contract in the amount of \$10,000 with Connor Strong to review health care costs, with the understanding that savings will exceed the cost of the contract.

Personnel

Upon a motion made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mrs. Wahlgren, the Board voted to:

- Ratify/appoint the following individuals, contingent upon meeting all requirements of law and district policy:

Name	Classification	Employee Replaced/Reason	Effective Date	Salary	Benefits
Annette Margaret (Meg) Eubank	Instructional Assistant-8 Hour UES Long-term sub.	Transfer – Bowers	1/26/09-5/4/09	\$18,902 0 Years (prorated)	Yes

- Approve a change in employment status for the following employees:

- Jim Housel from part-time Custodian-20 hours/week to 24 hours/week during the student school year, with no change in hourly rate, effective February 11, 2009.

- Michele Del Prior, Cafeteria Worker, from per diem substitute to permanent employee, with no change in hourly rate, effective November 17, 2008.

- Beth Hasher, in addition to her regular 4-hour Instructional Assistant duties, approve as per diem substitute Administrative Assistant at her current hourly rate.

- Approve the following EDR contracts for the 2008-2009 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>EDR Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jordan Brennan	Drama Club Choreographer	\$2330

- Terminate employment of Matthew Hammerstone, per diem substitute Custodian, effective January 30, 2009.

Plant & Equipment

Upon a motion made by Mr. Behre, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, the Board voted to:

- Ratify the authorization of the administration to sign contracts for communications services under the E-rate Program for 2009-2010 in order to get the discount.

Board Discussion

Mrs. Elefante asked for clarification on how the process works for locking down schools.

Mrs. Elefante requested that concerns regarding cheerleaders be addressed.

Mr. Nally asked about the status of the OCR submission.

Liaisons

Mr. Heath reported on activities at the BCIU. He reported that Dr. Galasso will come to the next Board meeting to explain the BCIU budget.

Mr. Fieber reported on MBIT and that they are still in negotiations with the teaching staff. Mrs. Wahlgren reported that they were looking at renovation ideas.

Mr. Fieber reported on the Education Foundation.

Mrs. Malamis reported on the Special Education Committee.

Public Discussion

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mr. Chris Eler | - Reported on his attendance at the Facilities Committee. He reported on an agreement in an adjacent school district with their neighboring residents that reduced the use of the field. |
| Mr. Melvin Band | - Statement about the reporting of the game with Holy Ghost.

- Statement that teaching positions can be eliminated if class sizes are low. |

Mr. Panzica

- Question on the goal of the School Board relative to the tax increase.
- Question on whether the Board considered going back to half day kindergarten.

- Question on whether there had been serious consideration of cutting specific programs.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Nally, the Board of School Directors voted to adjourn at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Hogg
Board Secretary