

**NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
March 12, 2008**

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held at the Conference Room on Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

President Pro-Tem

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Wahlgren, seconded by Mrs. Malamis, the School Board of Directors voted to appoint Mr. Dozbaba as President Pro-Tem.

Mr. Dozbaba took his seat as President Pro-Tem, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Mrs. Mundy led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Dozbaba then asked the Secretary to call roll.

Members present: Mr. Dozbaba, Mrs. Elefante, Mrs. Malamis, Mr. Nally, Mrs. O'Brien, and Mrs. Wahlgren. Mrs. O'Brien left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Members absent: Mr. Behre, Mr. Fieber, and Mr. Heath

Administrators present: Dr. Boccuti, Mr. Hansel, Mr. Hogg, Dr. Foote, Ms. Katauskas, Ms. Mangano, Ms. Mundy, Mr. Silver, and Dr. Young

The Board held an executive session before the meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Board Action

Upon a motion made by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Elefante, the Board voted to change the agenda to move action items to the front.

Board Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elefante, seconded by Mrs. Wahlgren, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

New Business

Public Discussion

Mrs. Flynn	- question on whether there would be a report on girl's lacrosse.
Student	- statement in support of the girl's lacrosse team.

Finance

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elefante, seconded by Mrs. Malamis, the Board of School Directors voted to approve and ratify the following:

- The Treasurer's Reports and Financial Reports for January, 2008
- The list of bills totaling \$208,995.26

2007-2008 Capital Reserve Fund Checks for Approval
Check Number – 1001073
Totaling - \$2,843.93

2007-2008 Checks Between Meetings for Ratification
Check Numbers – 10021773 to 10021780
Totaling - \$19,464.08

2007-2008 Checks for Approval
Check Numbers – 10021781 to 10021904
Totaling - \$186,687.25

- The budgetary transfers for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and that they be made part of the permanent minute book.
- The referendum exceptions from the PA Department of Education and direct that this be attached to the permanent minutes.
- Set the regular meeting of April 21, 2008 to vote on making the proposed final budget available to the public.
- Authorize the administration to contract with consultants for high school scheduling and for document management.

Personnel

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

Retirement

Janet Augenblick, 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.

Child-Rearing Leave

Karen Rosenberg, Art Teacher, to extend her child rearing leave through the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year.

New Positions

One (1) full time guidance counselor, one (1) full time social worker, and one (1) full time alternative specialist and authorize the administration to begin the search to fill these positions beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. This is a component of the previously approved special education proposal for the 2008-2009 school year.

Job Classification

David Housel from long-term substitute Custodian to permanent status, with no change in salary or benefits, effective March 10, 2008.

Appointment

Mark Hillman as a Homebound Instructor for the 2007-2008 school year at an hourly rate of \$36.00.

EDR 2007/2008 Contracts

Name	EDR	Amount
Anthony Mui	Odyssey of the Mind	\$259.00
Leah Ingram	Odyssey of the Mind	\$259.00
Robin Elliott	Odyssey of the Mind	\$259.00
Yona Rose	Odyssey of the Mind	\$259.00

Policy & Program

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elefante, seconded by Mrs. Malamis, the Board of School Directors voted to approve the following:

- The proposed 2008-2009 School Calendar
- Adopt the following revised/new policies:
 - #004 – School Board Membership (revised)
 - #303 – Employment of Administrators (revised)
 - #404 – Employment of Professional Staff (revised)
 - #505 – Employment of Support Staff (revised)
 - #815.1 – Acceptable Use of Email (new)
- The Girls Lacrosse Club at the high school on a probationary basis (no cost to the district).
- Accept donation of \$2000 from the Home and School Association for equipment and supplies to establish a Readers' Theater at the Lower Elementary School.

Plant & Equipment

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

- A one year extension of the Net Carrier contract for telephone services (expires February 2009).
- The change orders for the High School project:

EC-5	Added/Relocated Fire Alarm Devices	\$1750
C-6	Mechanical Room Lighting	\$790

Student Report

Yohsuke Araki and Miles Greene reported on activities in the schools.

Special Presentation

Scott Shearer from Public Financial Management reported on refunding a portion of 2004 and 2004AA bonds. He discussed a proposal for a parameters resolution which would allow a negotiated sale under certain conditions.

Mr. Shearer updated the Board on the swap agreement. He reported that the current value was about \$480,000. He reported that they are monitoring the swap on a daily basis and will keep the district updated.

Old Business

Mrs. Elefante reported on the Facilities Committee. She reported that vandals had damaged the signs at the High School. She reported on a proposal to replace or repair the wrestling mats. She reported that the facilities use fee chart would be brought to the next board meeting. The lease with the Solebury Historical Society was reviewed. She stated that the Board would have to decide on whether to support having the One Room schoolhouse being registered as a historical building. She reported that the NH-S Baseball Booster club's requested the school district allow sponsorship for scoreboards.

Mrs. Wahlgren reported that the Communications Committee is working on a community day. She reported on the progress of obtaining funds to add equipment to the TV channel to allow for more options for the channel.

Mr. Nally reported on the last Finance Committee. He reported that PECO was becoming deregulated in the future and costs would probably go up. He reported on a program that would allow the district to go on a program to reduce costs. He reported that the committee requested that the tax increase be lowered to under 7%. He also reported that the committee discussed fund balance management. As a result of a prior Finance Committee meeting, he reported that the librarians had recommended a \$21,000 savings.

Mr. Nally also reported on the SWAP agreement. He reported that the district entered into the SWAP agreement on April 16, 2007. He reported that the district and financial

advisors were closely watching the SWAP. In addition to the value of the SWAP, he reported that starting in September 2008, the district would begin to receive positive cash flows. The school district can terminate the agreement at any time.

Mr. Nally reported that transportation would be discussed at the next meeting on March 31, 2008.

Mrs. O'Brien reported on the Policy Committee that met on February 28, 2008. She reported that the changes to employment policies were to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. She reported on the change to the board membership policy was to add the procedure used to appoint Mrs. Wahlgren. She reported that the policy on field trips was being worked on by Dr. Boccuti. She reported that the next meeting was April 17, 2008.

Mr. Dozbaba reported on the Student Activities Committee. He reported that security presence was discussed. He reported that they were working on the EDR process and review. The committee is also reviewing cross gender participation in sports.

Budget Update

Mr. Hogg presented an update on the budget for 2008/2009. He reported that the proposed tax increase had been reduced from 8.07% to 6.93%

Superintendent's Report

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

New Business

Ms. Katauskas, Dr. Foote, Ms. Mangano, Ms. Mundy, and Dr. Young reported on student achievement in the school district.

Board Discussion

Mrs. Malamis thanked everyone who got the tax increase below 7%. Mrs. Malamis also thanked Dr. Boccuti for attending the meeting of special education parents.

Liaison Reports

Mrs. Wahlgren reported on the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology budget.

Public Discussion

- Parent - question on whether the High School offers the A.C.T.'s to students.
- Melvin Band - question on early retirement.

- statement that in his opinion the school district can hire teachers with experience from urban areas at a lower cost.

Glenn Preiss - recognized Janet Augenblick whose retirement was accepted.

Karen Voorhees - statements in recognition of Janet Augenblick.

Chris Flynn - question on status of communication with O.C.R.
- question on five year plan for field hockey.
- request that committee meetings start on time or notify public if meeting is to be late.

Marilyn Koblan - request for Board to support girls' lacrosse.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elefante, seconded by Mr. Nally, the Board of School Directors voted to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Hogg, Director of Business & Finance
Board Secretary