

**NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**October 19, 2015**

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held in the District Office Conference Room on Monday, October 19, 2015. Mr. Harraka, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced the meeting was being audio recorded. Ms. Lengyel's and Ms. Gutta's classes led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary then called roll.

Members present: Mr. Adar, Mrs. Deussing, Mr. Dougherty, Mr. Harraka, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Kelley, Mrs. Keyes

Members absent: Mrs. Weisbrot

Administrators present: Dr. Boccuti, Dr. Cortellessa, Mr. Hansel, Mr. Lechman, Mr. Malone, Mr. Radaszkiewicz, Ms. Rohn, Mr. Silver, Mr. Yanni

An Executive Sessions was held prior to this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

**Student Report**

Students Hunter Kouchi and Sarah Deussing reported on activities at the Middle School.

Mrs. Deussing left the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Student Hannah Singer and Briana McGarry reported on activities at the High School.

**Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Report**

Dr. Boccuti and Mr. Yanni presented their report which is attached and made a part of the permanent minute book.

## **Board Committee and Liaison Reports**

**Community Engagement Committee:** No report.

**Curriculum Advisory Committee:** Mrs. Keyes reported on the September 24 meeting; the meeting focused on data review with the recent information for PSSA and Keystone assessments; the Committee discussed using the data for school improvement; new instructional programming was discussed for all schools; teacher leaders provided updates. The next meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2015.

**Facilities Committees:** No report. The next meeting is November 4, 2015.

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Dougherty discussed the September 17 meeting; the Committee discussed the “new” money for the Campus Revitalization Project as presented by Mr. Bamber of PFM; the district is well positioned to enter the market in November when pricing will be optimal; the difference is that Moody’s places a lot of emphasis on fund balance and to the extent that we have drawn on fund balance, it could change our borrowing and our rating; Mr. Lechman rolled out the new fiscal dashboard to the Committee; Mr. Lechman and Mr. Yanni reported there is a hard budget freeze for all non-essential expenditures and that going forward the district will employ a “needs based” and/or zero-based budgeting approach; Mr. Kearney proposed a subcommittee to the Finance Committee that would look at non-personnel expenditures. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2015.

**Policy Committee:** No report. The next meeting is November 18, 2015.

**Special Education Committee:** No report.

**Bucks County Intermediate Units:** No report.

**Middle Bucks Institute of Technology:** Mr. Hayden reported that MBIT has a dental program with most of the training in-house, except up to this point actually providing services to actual patients; going forward, they have identified two dentists who will provide their services pro bono to the program and will be able to offer services to patients; care will be provided at a reduced rate to members of the community that would like to use these services; an additional update concerns an old farmhouse on site that is presenting a safety risk with an analysis completed to determine whether to demolish vs. renovate the building; it was determined it would be fiscally responsible to demolish the building, which has no historical value; the Board voted to demolish the building.

**Pennsylvania School Boards Association:** No report.

## **Old Business**

### **Discussion/Information Item**

#### **- Campus Revitalization Project Schedule Update**

Mr. Haller/D'Huy Engineering reported they are reviewing the design/development plans provided by Godshall Kane and as well as doing a budget estimate. Mr. Haller discussed the pre-bid meetings and the bid advertising dates; they anticipate receiving bids around May 5 and making a recommendation to the Board around May 11 for project approval. The construction phase would conclude around August 2018 (26-27 month project).

Mr. Godshall added that after meetings with the school administration, we are back on track with the design and development.

Mr. Adar asked about going back to Borough Council.

Mr. Godshall indicated that they are looking at the December Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Hayden asked about posting publicly the modifications to the design.

Mr. Godshall and Mr. Yanni confirmed they would do so.

## **New Business**

### **Board Discussion (Agenda Items Only)**

Mr. Kearney asked about the cost of sabbaticals for professional development.

Mr. Yanni responded about the cost savings.

Mr. Kearney asked about leaves mid-year being best practice.

Mr. Yanni responded that it happens all the time with sabbaticals, child rearing leaves, etc., and that there is a transition period for the incoming/outgoing teachers.

Mrs. Keyes asked about the timing of sabbaticals.

Mr. Kearney commented it strikes him as odd to do a sabbatical for a distance-learning course; maybe this should go to the Policy Committee as a best practice.

Mr. Yanni responded that sabbaticals are governed by PA School Code.

Mr. Kearney responded that we should be able to govern by board policy how to implement sabbaticals.

Mr. Yanni agreed to a certain extent.

Mr. Adar asked about the Bayada Home Health Care contract.

Mr. Lieberman stated this is an additional support for nursing services, especially with regard to class trips.

### **Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)**

Mr. Cowell congratulated Mr. Yanni on being appointed Superintendent; commented about the superintendent's contract pertaining to approving days, disability insurance, termination, and evaluation tool being subjective.

Mr. Band commented that the Board should want the answers to Mr. Cowell's comments before they vote; commented about the BCIU process, whether it was a nationwide search; only 18 candidates applied and only 5 made the grade and that the BCIU dropped the ball; questioned how many of the 18 candidates had experience as superintendents; commented that there were over 60 candidates for the high school principal's job where the final interview was open to the public, with the opportunity to question the final two candidates – that is transparency; stated the public was shut out of the process for superintendent; asked who were the two members of the Board that were present other than the four committee members; if there were a violation of the Sunshine Law, asked what was the BCIU involvement; commented Mr. Yanni's contract for five years is usually reserved for someone who has already proven himself with previous years as a superintendent; stated Cherry Hill had 40 candidates for a superintendent's job.

Mrs. Thompson commented about cost of sabbaticals and whether it is in best interest of students to hire someone with less experience.

Mrs. Nichols, Middle School Teacher, addressed the sabbatical discussion and distance learning; stated she received her Masters degree through distance learning and that the rigor and grit that goes into those courses is equal to anything she has taken in the classroom; pointed out that we have some phenomenal young teachers that couldn't be better for the children, and that while it could be a detriment, a lot of times it is not.

Mrs. Learmonth commented she is appalled at the politics in the school district and the search process for the superintendent; commented about Dr. Boccuti's contract being slipped in before a new board took office; commented we are doing the same thing this time; commented we have no leadership and that the contract for five years is appalling; commented the candidate does not have the experience to warrant a five-year contract.

Mrs. Elefante commented about a wonderfully engaged community and thanked the Board members for their service; thanked Dr. Boccuti for his service to the community; thanked the leadership of the Board; commented that she knows Mr. Yanni and was on the interview committee when Mr. Yanni was selected for employment with the district; commented about Mr. Yanni's passion for students and education; commented that sometimes the best candidate is the one right in front of you and

commended the Board for moving Mr. Yanni forward; commended the five-year contract and Mr. Yanni's commitment.

Dr. Daley commented about sabbatical timing and aligning to students' best interests; commented about no transparency for the superintendent search; commented that Board should not make a long-term commitment for five years but make a committed for a shorter term and to get everyone behind him.

Mr. Harraka asked Mrs. Keyes to comment about the superintendent process and the issues raised by the public.

Mrs. Keyes stated a search committee was formed which looked at options for facilitating the search; the committee decided to partner with the BCIU since they successfully worked with other school districts in Bucks County; reviewed the protocol with regard to hiring a superintendent and felt it extremely important to involve stakeholders at the beginning of the search to collect data to help drive the process rather than to put it at the end; commented there were over 190 participants in the survey to parents, staff, and community members; the data helped the committee formulate search questions and rubrics; eighteen high-quality candidates applied and they narrowed it down to five candidates; five candidates were interviewed and then the committee narrowed it down to the top two candidates; the committee opened the interviews to all board members; six board members participated in the interview process including Mr. Adar and Mr. Kelly; they felt Mr. Yanni was the strongest candidate with a strong vision for the district; the reasons for the five-year contract was to provide stability to the school district and retain a high quality individual.

Mr. Adar stated that the Pennsylvania School Code allows for either a three-year or a five-year contract; commented the process run for our school district was the exact same process utilized for the last seven hires of superintendents in Bucks County.

Mr. Harraka addressed the issue of the Board being overly political, lack of transparency, and conspiracies; commented he has been President for two years and on the Board for four years and that not once has he ever advanced any issue on a personal agenda basis; commented that everyone wants a seat at the table when it comes to making decisions but no one wants the burden of the personal and professional sacrifices that are needed to do it; commented they try to collaborate with the stakeholders of the community but that the Board is elected to make the decisions; stated that to suggest that they are doing something unethical, political, or to advance a personal agenda item is offensive; suggested those who want to be part of the decision making should run for election.

Mrs. Deussing returned to the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

## **Agenda Action Items**

### **A. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mrs. Deussing, the Board voted to approve the September 21, 2015 Minutes of the Regular Meeting the Board of School Directors.

### **B. Finance**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Keyes, seconded by Mrs. Dougherty, the Board voted as follows:

1. Approve the Treasurer's Reports for July and August, 2015.
2. Approve and ratify the following list of bills totaling \$753,148.13.  
  
2015-2016 General Fund Checks Between Meetings for Ratification  
Check Numbers – 10042826 to 10042844  
Totaling - \$79,256.47  
  
2015-2016 Capital Projects Checks for Approval  
Check Numbers – 301021 to 301023  
Totaling - \$26,933.42  
  
2015-2016 Officials Checks for Approval  
Check Numbers – 10042845 to 10042899  
Totaling – \$4,777.00  
  
2015-2016 General Fund Checks for Approval  
Check Numbers – 10042900 to 10043078  
Totaling - \$642,181.24
3. Authorize the administration to execute a contract with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc., to provide substitute RN nursing services as needed, at a rate of \$49.95/hr. (minimum 4 hours) effective October 12, 2015 through August 31, 2016.
4. Approve the following educational services agreements in the form presented to the Board:
  - Cambridge School, Student No. 917061924, for the 2015-2016 school year effective September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016, in the amount of \$44,598.
  - New Road School of Somerset, Student No. 5234420825, effective for the 2015-2016 school year beginning September 2, 2015, in the amount of \$45,145.80.

- Cambridge School, Student No. 5647886469, for the 2015-2016 school year beginning September 9, 2015, in the amount of \$47,598.
- The Midland School, Student No. 6186021793, for the 2015-2016 school year beginning July 1, 2015, in the amount of \$57,443.40.
- New Road School, Student No. 1292909773, for the 2015-2016 school year beginning July 1, 2015, in the amount of \$52,670.10.

### **C. Personnel**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Adar, seconded by Mrs. Keyes, the Board voted as follows:

1. Pursuant to Section 1073 of the Public School Code, the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Steven M. Yanni as District Superintendent for a term to commence December 1, 2015 and end on November 30, 2020. It is further recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Employment Contract between the District and Mr. Yanni in the form presented.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

Mr. Adar	Yes
Mrs. Deussing	Yes
Mr. Dougherty	Yes
Mr. Harraka	Yes
Mr. Hayden	Yes
Mr. Kearney	Yes
Mr. Kelley	Yes
Mrs. Keyes	Yes

Mr. Harraka stated that Mrs. Weisbrot asked him to inform the public that had she been in attendance, she would have voted in favor of the contract.

Motion passed.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, seconded by Mrs. Keyes, the Board voted as follows:

2. Ratify/approve the following personnel actions, contingent upon meeting all requirements of law and district policy:

RESIGNATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Erb, Joseph	Instructional Assistant MS	9/28/15
Voorhees, Deborah	Cafeteria Worker/Cashier	10/8/15

LEAVES	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Hasher, Beth	Administrative Assistant to Principal MS	11/21/15-1/3/16
Korn, Andrea	Special Education Teacher HS	<b>Revised</b> 10/12/15-1/22/16
Korn, Andrea <i>Compensated Professional Leave*</i>	Special Education Teacher HS	1/25/16-6/15/16
Rutledge, Brian <i>Compensated Professional Leave*</i>	Mathematics Teacher HS	1/25/16-6/15/16

REASSIGNMENTS/ TRANSFERS	FROM	TO	EFFECTIVE	SALARY
Rosenthal, Tanya	Cafeteria Worker Per diem	Cafeteria Worker Part time (2.25 hrs/day)	10/19/15	\$14.12/hour Year 7

APPOINTMENTS	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE	SALARY	BENEFITS
Lawson, Nancy	Cafeteria Worker Per Diem	Substitute	8/29/15	\$11.04/hr.	No
Rosenthal, Tanya	Cafeteria Worker Per Diem	Substitute	8/28/15	\$11.04/hr.	No
Altomare, Sheila	Registered Nurse Per Diem	Substitute	8/28/15	\$22.00/hr.	No
Messina, Mary	Non-Instructional Assistant – 4 hours MS LTS	Leave – McBride	10/5/15-1/4/16	\$1527/hr.	No
Companioni, Emilio	Instructional Assistant MS	Resignation - Erb	10/7/15	\$14.34/hour Year 0	Yes
Faeder, Jeffery	Special Education Teacher HS LTS	Leave – Korn	10/19/15- 6/15/16	\$55,791 (prorated) M+12, Step 0	Yes
Gallagher, Angelina	Registered Nurse Per Diem	Substitute	10/20/15	\$22.00./hr.	No



Pawlikowski, Kathryn	Registered Nurse Per Diem	Substitute	10/20/15	\$22.00./hr.	No
Kopp, Mark	Instructional Assistant UES	Student Need	10/19/15- 11/23/15	\$14.34/hour	No

3. It is recommended that the Board of School Directors approved the following EDR contracts for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>EDR ACTIVITY</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Ginny Brennan	Dramatics	\$1,424.00
Kevin Sasala	Talent Show (split)	\$356.00
Tom Marrone	Talent Show (split)	\$356.00
Emily VanPraag	Chorus 4th & 5th grade	\$826.00
Emily VanPraag	4th grade chorus "Naturals"	\$445.00
Peter Nelson	ES Basketball	\$1,051.00
Peter Nelson	ES Flag Football	\$1,051.00
Peter Nelson	ES Floor Hockey	\$525.00
Peter Nelson	ES Floor Hockey	\$525.00
Peter Nelson	ES Soccer	\$525.00
Peter Nelson	ES Soccer	\$525.00
Suzanne Redfield	Safety Patrol (split)	\$297.00
Stacey Haferl	Safety Patrol (split)	\$297.00
Donna Burns	School Store (split)	\$187.50
Mark Conway	School Store (split)	\$187.50
Christine Demore	Student Council (split)	\$320.00
Michelle Reynolds	Student Council (split)	\$320.00
Leanne Iannacone	Reading Olympics (split)	\$148.50
Jennifer Loving	Reading Olympics (split)	\$148.50
Jim DiTulio	Rope Jumping Club	\$267.00
Robin Kilroy	Garden Club	\$679.00
Amanda Jones	Homework Club	\$1,221.00
Laurie Gale	Newspaper/Yearbook (split)	\$635.50
Robin Kilroy	Newspaper/Yearbook (split)	\$635.50
John O'Hara	HS Ski Club	\$801.00
Ed Young	Drama Set Construction	\$2,160.00

**D. Policy & Program**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mrs. Deussing, the Board voted as follows:

1. Approve an overnight trip for members of the Middle School Student Council to attend the LEAD Conference in Washington, D.C. from January 29-31, 2016.
2. Approve an overnight spring break trip for varsity and junior varsity baseball players to Vero Beach, Florida, from March 20-25, 2016.

**Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**

Mrs. Povacz commented about tone and that the Board is not listening to the community; stated Mr. Harraka's tone is appalling.

Mr. Band commented about the Pennsylvania Youth Survey; contrary to what is stated in the survey, there are several questions in Section X that will compromise the confidentiality of the students; there are questions that focus and profile students of Hispanic and Latino background more so than any other group.

**Board Discussion**

None

**Adjournment**

Mr. Harraka adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lechman  
Board Secretary