

# MINUTES REMAIN UNOFFICIAL

## NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT November 16, 2015

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held in the District Office Conference Room on Monday, November 16, 2015. Mr. Harraka, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and announced the meeting was being audio recorded. The Upper Elementary School flute section 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. Kearney, Mr. Kelley, Mrs. Keyes, Mrs. Weisbrot

Members absent: Mr. Hayden

Administrators present: Dr. Boccuti, Dr. Cortellessa, Mr. Hansel, Mr. Lechman, Mr. Lieberman, Mr. Malone, Mr. Radaszkiewicz, Mr. Rivera, Mr. Silver, Dr. Gianni

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

### **Approve Additions/Deletions/Modifications to Agenda**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Weisbrot, seconded by Mrs. Deussing, the Board voted to add a motion to the agenda to approve an Addendum with Source4Teachers and voted to delete the Soil Testing motion from the agenda.

### **Board Discussion**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Student Reports**

Students Mia Chuma and Jacob Stein reported on activities at the Upper Elementary School.

Students Elsie Jones and Valentina Waschbush reported on activities at the Middle School.

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

## **Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Report**

Dr. Boccuti and Dr. Yanni presented their report which is attached and made a part of the permanent minute book. Dr. Boccuti recognized outgoing board members with a plaque.

Mr. Harraka acknowledged and congratulated Dr. Boccuti on his 8-1/2 year tenure as Superintendent with the district.

Mr. Harraka congratulated Dr. Yanni on receiving his doctorate a few weeks ago.

## **Board Committee and Liaison Reports**

**Community Engagement Committee:** No report. The next meeting will be scheduled in the new year.

**Curriculum Advisory Committee:** No report. The next meeting will be scheduled in the new year.

**Facilities Committees:** Mr. Adar reported the following items were discussed at the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Campus Revitalization Project – Soil testing, PlanCon D, and PlanCon E
- Mr. Hansel updated on campus items in general
- Next meeting will be scheduled in the new year

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Dougherty reported the following items were discussed at the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Moody's rating – Aa1 approved
- December pricing of bond
- Reviewed audit – nearly complete
- Presentation of fiscal dashboard
- Timeline review for current budget
- Subcommittee – forming to look at non-labor related expenses on the budget
  - Go forward – members of community know we have reviewed every aspect of the budget.
  - Looking for volunteers to participate
- Increase meetings to every 2 weeks
  - Alternate with finance committee and subcommittee

**Policy Committee:** No report. The scheduled meeting was canceled due to no policy items.

**Special Education Committee:** No report. The next meeting will be scheduled in the new year.

**Bucks County Intermediate Units:** No report. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2015.

**Middle Bucks Institute of Technology:** No report.

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

## **New Business**

### **Discussion/Information Items**

#### **- Preliminary Student Data Overview**

Dr. Yanni presented the preliminary student data.

Clarifying questions were asked by Mr. Adar

Dr. Yanni and principals are reviewing data and identifying areas of improvements and how we are delivering the curriculum.

- HS – students must pass Keystone test as a graduation requirement
- Next Steps
  - Universal Design for Learning – accelerate access to the curriculum for ALL students
  - Refine data analysis protocols
  - Revisit focus on formative assessment
  - Redefine professional learning time – professional learning communities

#### **- PlanCon D and PlanCon E**

Mr. Godshall explained PlanCon D and PlanCon E and advised that his request for a motion on the soil testing costs was an error and these costs are included in his costs.

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

Mr. Kearney asked about savings estimate for retirement incentive.

Mr. Lechman explained the savings.

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

Mr. Band questioned/commented about the following items:

- Retirement Savings – What is used for savings calculations?
- Clarified information presented on the survey and that it was not included in minutes; 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.

- Asked many questions regarding the hiring of Mr. Malone
- Voting on moving forward on 28.5M construction project
- Securing locker rooms – Nothing says that a teacher must be present in the locker rooms

Mr. Harraka asked Dr. Yanni to expand on hiring of Mr. Malone.

Mr. Kelley left at 7:21 and returned at 7:23

Dr. Yanni provided the following information:

- 51 applications were received – many did not have correct credentials
- 34 had credentials
- 10 were considered in first round
- Mr. Dougherty and Mrs. Keyes were on the interview team
- IU did not assist with the search

## **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 October 19, 2015 Minutes of the Regular Meeting the Board of School Directors including clarifications made by Mr. Band.

### **B. Finance**

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

1. Approve the Treasurer's Reports for September, 2015.
2. Approve and ratify the following list of bills totaling \$1,037,899.89.

2015-2016 General Fund Checks Between Meetings for Ratification  
Check Numbers – 10043079 to 10043088  
Totaling - \$145,894.02

2015-2016 Capital Projects Checks for Approval  
Check Numbers – 301024 to 301026  
Totaling - \$308,187.13

2015-2016 Officials Checks for Approval  
Check Numbers – 10043089 to 10043129  
Totaling – \$2,990.00

2015-2016 General Fund Checks for Approval  
 Check Numbers – 10043130 to 10043283  
 Totaling - \$580,828.74

3. Approve the following educational services agreement in the form presented to the Board:
  - New Hope Academy, Student No. 5016923183, for the 2015-2016 school year, in the amount of \$34,900.00.

**C. Personnel**

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

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

RESIGNATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Reilly, Maureen	Registered Nurse Part-time UES/LES	10/27/15
Matt, Gregory	Evening Custodian Operations	11/20/15

LEAVES	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Given, Katie	Elementary Teacher – Kindergarten LES	<b>Revised</b> 6/19/15-4/8/16
Ortiz, Gina	Health/PE Teacher LES/UES	<b>Revised</b> 5/7/15-6/15/16
Abt, Theresa	Special Education Teacher Grade 3 UES	<b>Extended</b> 6/19/15-6/15/16
Whyte, Jennifer	Mathematics Teacher Grade 6 MS	<b>Extended</b> 6/19/15-6/15/16
Wisniewski, Nancy	Special Education Teacher Grade 7 MS	<b>Approx.</b> 10/30/15-12/16/15

REASSIGNMENTS/ TRANSFERS	FROM	TO	EFFECTIVE	SALARY
Malone, Charles M.	High School Principal (Act 93 Administrator)	Director of Elementary and Secondary Education (Act 93 Administrator) **	TBD	\$151,971

\*\* This position replaces the Assistant Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development

APPOINTMENTS	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE	SALARY	BENEFITS
Horn, Jennifer	Elementary Teacher- Kindergarten LES LTS	Leave-Given	<b>Extended</b> 8/25/15- 4/11/16	\$53,046 (prorated) B, Step 2	Yes
Hess, Mara	Full-time (1.0) Elementary Health/PE Teacher LES/UES LTS	Leave-Ortiz	<b>Extended</b> 5/7/15-6/15/16	No Change	Yes
Goldstein, Ellen	Part-time (.5) Health/PE Teacher HS LTS	Leave- Ortiz/Hess	<b>Extended</b> 8/25/15- 6/15/16	No Change	Yes (prorated)
Laff, Amy	Special Education Teacher – Grade 3 UES LTS	Leave-Abt	<b>Extended</b> 8/31/15- 6/15/16	No Change	Yes
Boyd, Thomas	Mathematics Teacher – Grade 6 MS LTS	Leave- Whyte	<b>Extended</b> 8/25/15- 6/15/16	No Change	Yes
Genner, Nelianne	Special Education Teacher – Grades 6/7 MS LTS	Leave- Wisniewski & Morrash	TBD	\$57,942 (prorated) M, Step 1	Yes
Stack, Kelly	Guidance Counselor UES LTS	Leave- McGinniss	12/7/15-5/2/16	\$51,959 (prorated) M, Step 01	Yes

2. Approve the following EDR contracts for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>EDR ACTIVITY</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Robert Gaffney	Mentor (Faeder)	\$684.00
Jordan Brennan	Drama Club Choreographer	\$2,585.00
<b><u>Athletics</u></b>		
Diana Dececco	Track & Field Winter	\$4,956.00
Rick Fedele	Basketball Varsity Boys	\$5,782.00
Kevin Jarrett	Wrestling JV	\$4,240.00

Val Jopling	Girls Volleyball JV	\$3,325.00
Andy Krasna	Basketball Varsity Girls	\$5,782.00
Jesse Krasna	Basketball JV Girls	\$4,240.00
Irv Miller	Wrestling Varsity	\$5,782.00
Glen Ockenhouse	Basketball JV Boys	\$4,240.00
Yona Rose	Basketball 8th Grade Girls	\$1,783.00
Rory Yerkes	Basketball 7th Grade Girls	\$1,638.00
Brittany McBride	Competitive Cheer Varsity -Winter	\$4,956.00

3. Approve the Retirement Incentive Memorandum of Understanding between the New Hope-Solebury School District and the New Hope-Solebury Education Association.
4. Approve the contract addendum between the New Hope-Solebury School District and Source4Teachers, LLC for the district's use of the SAMS system to fill daily substitute nursing vacancies.

#### **D. Policy & Program**

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

1. Approve an overnight trip for members of the High School Ski Club to Killington, Vermont from February 19-21, 2016.
2. Approve the following Student Activity Proposals on a probationary one-year period with no stipend: Public Safety Club and Investment Club.
3. Approve a revised Memorandum of Understanding with Middle Bucks Institute of Technology concerning procedures for matters of litigation.

#### **E. Plant & Equipment**

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

1. Approve and authorize the submission of PlanCon Part D, "Project Accounting Based on Estimates," and PlanCon Part E, "Design Development," for the New Hope-Solebury High School/Middle School Project (PDE #3833) to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for review and approval.

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

Mr. Singer commented that Dr. Boccuti and board members are:

- Leaving school district #2 in state and last year #3
- Wishes the next board as much luck to keep district as great as it is.
- Thanked everyone.

Mary Beth Brookshaw, President NHSESP

- Kids reported on American Education Week
- On Wed Nov 18 we celebrate education support professionals; would like to honor and thank education support professionals who keep our students:
  - Healthy – Nurses, Food Service Staff
  - Engaged – Instructional Assistants
  - Supported – All
  - Challenged – Instructional Assistants
- Every education support professional plays a role in educating the whole child

Mr. Band

- Stated he is presenting facts regarding Dr. Boccuti; high academic achievement means nothing if student safety is compromised
  - Check safety of physical plant
  - Radon – turned up positive in 5 rooms
  - Report by the Dougherty Construction and Rigging Company detailed situations in HS auditorium, such as the lines supporting drapes
  - Tennis courts – cracks filled with sands exacerbated situation
  - Silicon dust – dangerous situation in art room

Mark Cowell

- Superintendent – can't keep finger on everything going on in district
- Wished Dr. Boccuti success in future

**Board Discussion**

Mrs. Deussing – honor to serve with outgoing board members.

Mr. Adar – Served on board for 4 years. Pleasure serving as VP under Mr. Harraka. Serving with others was a pleasure. Collectively, 4 years have accomplished a great deal

- Acknowledged Dr. Boccuti tenure of 8 years served; thanked him for his service to community
- Thanked Dr. Yanni for taking new challenge and the next era
- Welcome to all new administrators – including most recent tonight Mr. Malone

Mr. Harraka – Agreed with Mr. Adar

- Honor to serve on board and board president
- Wished colleagues in audience best of luck
- Personal and professional sacrifice
- Receive little compliments and be criticized but great civic duty
- Congrats to Mr. Malone



Mrs. Weisbrot

- Thanked Dr. Boccuti – Board made donation to Education Fund in Dr. Boccuti's honor

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Harraka adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lechman  
Board Secretary