

NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes
January 25, 2016

I. Call to Order and Announcement of Executive Session

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held in the Stephen J. Buck Theater on Monday, January 25, 2016. Mr. Cowell, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cowell led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

The Secretary called roll:

Members present: Mr. Cowell, Mr. Capriotti, Mrs. Deussing, Mr. Dougherty, Mrs. Gormley, Mrs. Keyes, Mr. McDonough, Mrs. Povacz, Mrs. Weisbrot

Members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. Cortellessa, Mr. Hansel, Mr. Lechman, Dr. McKenna, Mr. Lieberman, Mr. Radaszkiewicz, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Rohn, Mr. Seier, Dr. Gianni

Mr. Cowell asked the Superintendent to address rumors relative to closing the LES, adding modular rooms to the UES, and stopping the Campus Revitalization Project.

Dr. Gianni stated that in order to close a school, we would have to engage in a process requiring public hearings and public meetings; he assured the public a decision to close the Lower Elementary School is largely enrollment driven and we are not there; any type of substantive discussions like that would be made in public with proper notice; he assured the public that his recommendation as Superintendent would be to never have modular classrooms for safety and security reasons and for the betterment of students and staff; stated the motion on the agenda is not to curtail the Campus Revitalization Project but to review the project, looking at the funds already drawn.

Mr. Cowell asked the Business Administrator questions relative to the debt service budget for the project and the general fund budget, which drives the educational program and is where

we have a shortfall. Mr. Lechman stated the shortfall is \$4.1 million. Mr. Lechman discussed the Act 1 Index of 2.4% this year which generates approximately \$630,000 and with the preliminary budget to be voted on tonight we are asking to Board to apply for exceptions which would generate an estimated for \$450,000, for a total of \$1,080,000. The net effect is approximately a \$3 million shortfall.

Discussion then centered on the use of fund balance and if we covered the shortfall with fund balance, it would leave approximately \$800,000 in fund balance. We would need to increase revenue and/or decrease expenses to make up the \$3 million.

Dr. Yanni discussed that on October 2 the unpopular decision was made to freeze the budget for nonessential spending and probably by the February or March Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Lechman will be able to give us his projection of how much money we will save by enacting the freeze; at the request of Finance Committee members, we have developed a Budget Gap Closure Subcommittee which will look at revenue options; work is being done to start closing the gap.

Mr. Cowell stated that this was brought up to give a sense of why new board members are asking for another look at Campus Revitalization Project.

Dr. Yanni stated the project was scaled down from a \$35 million to a \$28.5 million project.

IV. Additions, Deletions, and/or Modifications to the Agenda

- Remove Comprehensive Plan Presentation by Ms. JoAnn Perotti of the BCIU; due to personal circumstances, Ms. Perotti could not attend the meeting.
- Add Mr. Marcus Peckman and Mr. Jeffrey Kearney to Budget Gap Subcommittee.

V. Acceptance of Minutes from December 21, 2015

- A. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, seconded by Mr. Capriotti, the Board voted unanimously to accept the attached December 21, 2015 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

VI. Student Reports

- A. High School - Hannah Singer and Briana McGarry reported on activities at the High School.
- B. Middle School – No report.
- C. Upper Elementary School – No report.

VII. Superintendent's Report

- Recognized Mr. Hansel and the Operations Department for efforts with the snow storm.
- January is School Board Director Appreciation Month and expressed thanks to board members for volunteering their services.
- Recognized schools for various community service projects.
- Reported on STEM Challenge.

- Introduced new High School Principal Mr. Stephen Seier.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

Committee chairs reported on meetings; draft minutes are posted to the district website.

- A. Finance (Mrs. Povacz, Committee Chair)
- B. Facilities (Mr. Capriotti, Committee Chair)
- C. Personnel (Mr. McDonough, Committee Chair)
- D. Policy (Mr. McDonough, Committee Chair)
- E. Special Education (Mrs. Gormley, Committee Chair)
- F. Curriculum Advisory (Mrs. Keyes, Committee Chair)
- G. Athletics/Student Activities (Mrs. Weisbrot, Committee Chair)

IX. Liaison Reports

- A. Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Mrs. Weisbrot)
 - 1. Presentations on Launch of HeadStart Program and Every Student Succeeds.
- B. Pennsylvania School Board Association (Mr. Cowell) – No report.
- C. Middle Bucks Institute of Technology (Mr. Capriotti) – No report.

X. Old Business

- A. Presentation and/or Discussion Items
NONE

XI. New Business

- A. Presentation and/or Discussion Items
NONE
- B. Board Discussion (Agenda Items Only)
 - Mrs. Deussing asked Mr. Capriotti to clarify discussions at the Facilities Committee meeting; questioned what it means to conduct a comprehensive review – does this mean stop the project or continue on and look for guidance and be prudent.
 - Mr. Capriotti talked about debt service and suggested looking at a 12M project and how the project scales from there; never suggested closing the LES.
 - Mr. Dougherty discussed Facilities Agenda Item A.
 - Mrs. Gormley provided an update on Facilities Agenda Item A.
 - Mrs. Povacz noted that in her recollection of the Facilities meeting she has no note of closing the LES; asked to keep emotion in check and work as a team and with the community.
 - Mrs. Deussing asked what the resolution means.
 - Mr. Capriotti stated the resolution on the agenda to have a Comprehensive Review of the project is trying to capture an a la carte costs; e.g., LGI, Infrastructure, etc.

- Mrs. Deussing stated that then we are not approving to stop the project tomorrow, wait till the architect comes back, look at the list, rescale the whole project, and then start all over again.
- Mr. Capriotti stated it is not a motion to stop the project.

Dr. Yanni recognized Mrs. McBride, Mr. Snyder, and Mrs. Quaranta who are retiring this year.

Mrs. Deussing recognized Mr. Snyder as a phenomenal teacher.

C. Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

- Mr. Shah asked about cost of borrowing money and how we will close the gap in our budget without raising taxes.
- Mr. Singer commented about the physical plant not living up to the achievements of the district; the project was a compromise across the board.
- Mrs. Menz commented about a proposed new road near the Upper Elementary School not being safe.
- Community member commented that main concerns are safety, security, and health for the children; the longer we delay the process, the longer our children are put at risk for health, safety, and security.
- Community member commented it's naïve to think that taxes won't go up; clarified the School Board makes the decision to raise taxes; commented there are opportunities if the Board wants to do fundraising.
- Mr. Band commented about reading the rumors on social media which for the most part were false; suggested audio taping every public meeting so that people can hear what is said at committee meetings; asked how we got to where we are today when Mr. Hogg predicted we were on a slippery slope.
- Community member commented he was disturbed by the indignation of the new board; commented we need to have capital improvements in the school district.
- Student Hannah Singer commented the School Board's responsibility is to help the district meet new heights; with approval of the renovation, can bring the physical space up to par with the academics; comments about inadequate facilities.
- Mrs. Elser commented she was at the Facilities meeting where it was mentioned twice that we had to close the Lower Elementary School.
- Students commented about facility problems.
- Mrs. Riggioni commented about facility problems.
- Mrs. Miller commented board members are not against fixing up the school; they care about the school, the kids, and their education; it is not a conspiracy.
- Community member commented we should not short change ourselves.
- Mr. John O'Hara, President of the NHSEA, commented his concerns are safety of all; concerns about not putting off construction for another year.
- Mr. Buck commented that he moved here because of the unique school system; you cannot fill structural funding gaps by slacking capital investment.
- Mr. Adar thanked the Board for their work; commented the cliff was predicted; agreed with previous speaker; stated the Board voted for the project because

previous boards kicked the can down the road; stated the previous board did stop and re-examine the project and determined to move forward.

- Community member asked for better communication and agreed with taping meetings.

D. Action Items

1. Finance

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Povacz, seconded by Mr. Capriotti, the Board voted as follows on Finance Items 1a-e:

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Capriotti	Yes
Mrs. Deussing	Yes
Mr. Dougherty	Yes
Mrs. Gormley	Yes
Mrs. Keyes	Yes
Mr. McDonough	Yes
Mrs. Povacz	Yes
Mrs. Weisbrot	Yes
Mr. Cowell	Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

- a. Approve the attached Treasurer's Report for November, 2015.

- b. Approve and ratify the following list of bills totaling \$955,191.04.

2015-2016 General Fund Checks Between Meetings for Ratification
Check Numbers – 10043525 to 10043532
Totaling - \$69,831.85

2015-2016 Capital Projects Checks for Approval
Check Numbers – 301036 to 301039
Totaling - \$184,473.57

2015-2016 Officials Checks for Approval
Check Numbers – 10043533 to 10043573
Totaling - \$3,354.00

2015-2016 General Fund Checks for Approval
Check Numbers – 10043574 to 10043720
Totaling - \$697,531.62

c. Approve the following list of budgetary transfers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Budget Transfer - Summary Sheet										
January 25, 2016 - Board Meeting										
Transfer From	Account	Object	Object Description	Amount	Transfer To	Account	Object	Object Description	Amount	Reason
ELEM PHYS ED/HEALTH	1011001000140000	648	ED SOFTWARE	\$ 50.00	PHYS ED - GRADE SIX	1011001000140008	648	ED SOFTWARE	\$ 50.00	Purchase not budgeted
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1011003000000000	562	CHARTER SCHOOL TUITION	\$ 36,000.00	HIGH SCHOOL	1011003000000000	562	CHARTER SCHOOL TUITION	\$ 36,000.00	Charter School Funds Budgeted in Wrong Account
HIGH SCHOOL	1011003000000000	610	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$ 989.00	HS PHYS ED/HEALTH	1011003000140000	751	NONCAPITAL EQUIPMENT	\$ 989.00	Replace Damaged equipment for safety reasons - essential to enhance and maintain the current physical education program
SOCIAL STUDIES - 7/8	1011003000190008	640	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$ 1,208.00	SOCIAL STUDIES - 7/8	1011003000190008	390	CONT SERVICE	\$ 1,208.00	Teacher Curriculum underbudgeted
ES LRNG SUPP	1012411000000001	757	NON CAPITAL TECH EQUIP	\$ 38.00	ES LRNG SUPP	1012411000000001	610	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$ 38.00	Overspent Line Item by August
ES LRNG SUPP	1012411000000001	757	NON CAPITAL TECH EQUIP	\$ 27.00	ES LRNG SUPP	1012411000000001	640	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$ 27.00	Overspent Line Item by August
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1011003000000000	562	CHARTER SCHOOL TUITION	\$ 7,600.00	HS LRNG SUPP	1012413000000001	562	CHARTER SCHOOL TUITION	\$ 7,600.00	Tuition Budgeted in IU Special Education Account
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION	1014420000000001	569	TUITION- OTHER	\$ 39,745.00	OTH SPEC ED	1012900000000001	569	TUITION- OTHER	\$ 39,745.00	Costs Budgeted in Wrong Account
OTHER SPEC ED	1012900000000001	322	PROFESSIONAL SER-I.U.	\$ 49,500.00	OTH SPEC ED	1012900000000001	390	CONT SERVICE	\$ 49,500.00	Tuition Budgeted in IU Special Education Account
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION	1014420000000001	569	TUITION- OTHER	\$ 37,945.00	OTH SPEC ED	1012900000000001	569	TUITION- OTHER	\$ 37,945.00	Tuition Budgeted in IU Special Education Account
OTHER SPEC ED	1012900000000001	322	PROFESSIONAL SER-I.U.	\$ 82,055.00	OTH SPEC ED	1012900000000001	569	TUITION- OTHER	\$ 82,055.00	Costs Budgeted in Wrong Account
PUPIL SVCS	1021100000000001	640	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$ 560.00	PUPIL SVCS	1021100000000001	648	ED SOFTWARE	\$ 560.00	Lexia Learning higher than budgeted
CURR DEV	1022600000000000	640	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$ 11,900.00	HIGH SCH. ATTENDANCE	1021303000000000	618	ADMIN SOFTWARE	\$ 11,900.00	Sungard Student Software Underbudgeted
PSYCH	1021400000000001	610	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$ 690.00	PSYCH	1021400000000001	648	ED SOFTWARE	\$ 690.00	BrainTrain Software purchase - Higher than budget
LEGAL SERVICES	1023500000000006	330	OTHER PROFESSIONAL	\$ 3,900.00	SCH BOARD	1023100000000007	330	OTHER PROFESSIONAL	\$ 3,900.00	Audit Costs Higher than Budget
LEGAL SERVICES	1023500000000006	330	OTHER PROFESSIONAL	\$ 1,000.00	SCH BOARD	1023100000000007	330	OTHER PROFESSIONAL	\$ 1,000.00	Superintendent Search Costs
LEGAL SERVICES	1023500000000006	330	OTHER PROFESSIONAL	\$ 20,100.00	SCH BOARD	1023100000000007	525	BONDING INSURANCES	\$ 20,100.00	District Insurance Costs Underbudgeted
LEGAL SERVICES	1023500000000006	330	OTHER PROFESSIONAL	\$ 3,556.00	SCH BOARD	1023100000000007	820	CLAIMS AND JUDGEMENTS	\$ 3,556.00	Settlement Agreement
HUMAN RES	1023400000000006	610	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$ 35.00	HUMAN RES	1023400000000006	618	ADMIN SOFTWARE	\$ 35.00	Netchemia Software - Higher than budget
COPY CTR	1025400000000007	610	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$ 10,000.00	COPY CTR	1025400000000007	390	CONT SERVICE	\$ 26,050.00	Copy Center Costs Underbudgeted - Unclear Contract
INFORMATION MGMT	1022400000000002	757	NON CAPITAL TECH EQUIP	\$ 16,050.00						
CUSTODIAL SERVICES	1026200000000003	423	BOTTLED GAS	\$ 9,000.00	CUSTODIAL SERVICES	1026200000000003	424	WATER/SEWAGE	\$ 9,000.00	Water/Sewage Costs partially budgeted in wrong account
CUSTODIAL SERVICES	1026200000000003	421	NATURAL GAS	\$ 10,000.00	CUSTODIAL SERVICES	1026200000000003	538	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 20,000.00	Telecom Costs Underbudgeted
CUSTODIAL SERVICES	1026200000000003	422	ELECTRICITY	\$ 10,000.00						
TRANSPORTATION FUEL	1027000000000003	513	CONTRACTED CARRIER	\$ 10,000.00	NONPUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	1027500000000003	513	CONTRACTED CARRIER	\$ 10,000.00	Agreement with Parents to Transport not budgeted
CURR DEV	1022600000000000	640	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$ 7,050.00	CENT SVCS	1028000000000002	618	ADMIN SOFTWARE	\$ 7,050.00	Financial Software Underbudgeted
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS	1032503000000005	130	PROF WAGES	\$ 5,500.00	HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS	1032503000000005	390	CONT SERVICE	\$ 5,500.00	One Soccer coach paid via a vendor as a contracted service for entire tenure

d. Approve the attached resolution Adopting the 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget and Authorizing the Filing for Referendum Exceptions.

e. Authorize the administration to execute the attached Service Agreement with U. S. Employee Benefits Services Group for ACA reporting at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

2. Facilities

Upon a motion made by Mr. Capriotti, seconded by Mrs. Povacz, the Board voted as follows on Facilities Item 2a:

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Capriotti Yes
 Mrs. Deussing No
 Mr. Dougherty No
 Mrs. Gormley No
 Mrs. Keyes No
 Mr. McDonough No
 Mrs. Povacz Yes
 Mrs. Weisbrot No
 Mr. Cowell Yes

Motion did not pass (3-6).

- a. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Campus Revitalization Project and provide further direction to the architect and construction manager regarding the project.

3. Personnel

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDonough, seconded by Mrs. Deussing, the Board voted as follows on Personnel Items 3a-e:

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Capriotti Yes
 Mrs. Deussing Yes
 Mr. Dougherty Yes
 Mrs. Gormley Yes
 Mrs. Keyes Yes
 Mr. McDonough Yes
 Mrs. Povacz Yes
 Mrs. Weisbrot Yes
 Mr. Cowell Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

- a. Approve the following retirements/resignations:

RETIREMENTS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
McBride, Joyce	Non-Instructional Assistant MS	1/22/16
Snyder, William <i>Retirement with Supermax and Incentive</i>	Elementary Teacher LES	6/30/16
Quaranta, Rosemarie <i>Retirement with Supermax and Incentive</i>	Family/Consumer Sciences Teacher MS	6/30/16

RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Thomas, Todd	Security Officer	1/22/16

b. Approve the following leaves:

LEAVES	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Ryan, Stefanie	Chemistry Teacher HS	Revised 12/16/15-2/15/16
Elrath, Jessica	Special Education Teacher UES	Approximately 4/14/16-6/15/16

c. Approve the following reassignments/transfers:

REASSIGNMENTS/ TRANSFERS	FROM	TO	EFFECTIVE	SALARY	BENEFITS
Boyd, Thomas	Mathematics Teacher Grade 6 LTS	Mathematics Teacher HS LTS(Leave-Rutledge)	1/25/16-6/15/16	No Change	No change
Kelter, Saskia	Cafeteria Worker Substitute	Cafeteria Worker Part-time 5 hrs./day, 5 days/wk. (Permanent)	1/19/16	\$11.91/hr. Year 2	No
Kaminski, Dennis	Evening Custodian Per Diem	Evening Custodian LTS	1/25/16-6/15/16	\$17.69/hr. Year 2	Yes

d. Approve the following appointments, contingent upon satisfying all requirements of law and district policy:

APPOINTMENTS	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE	SALARY	BENEFITS
Kopp, Mark	Instructional Assistant UES LTS	Student Need	Extended 10/19/15-6/15/16	\$14.34/hr.	Yes (effective 1/14/16)
Donohue, Katelyn	Chemistry Teacher HS LTS	Leave-Ryan	Revised 12/21/15-2/16/16	No Change	No
Young, Casey	Mathematics Teacher Grade 6 LTS	Leave-Whyte	Extended 8/25/15-6/15/16	No Change	No Change
Lewis, Jan	Cafeteria Worker Substitute	As needed	1/19/16	\$11.91/hr. Year 2	No
Reilly, Gretchen	Cafeteria Worker Substitute	As needed	2/8/16	\$11.91/hr. Year 2	No

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Extra Duty Responsibility</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Robert Gaffney	Mentor (Faeder)	\$684.00
Amanda Jones	Mentor (Laff) - prorated	\$342.00
Jackie Kalidonis	Mentor (Horn) - prorated	\$273.60

Leo Macdonald	Mentor (Donohue) – prorated	\$342.00
Kerilyn Walker	Mentor (Goldstein) – prorated	\$342.00
Tom Marrone	Webmaster – LES	\$1832.00
Robin Kilroy	Webmaster – UES	\$1832.00
Craig Smith	Webmaster – MS	\$1832.00
Mary Schwander	Webmaster – HS	\$1832.00
Tom Marrone	Tech Support – LES	\$1825.00
Kevin Sasala	Tech Support – UES	\$1825.00
Craig Smith	Tech Support – MS	\$1825.00
<u>Middle School</u>		
Andrew Ordovery	Odyssey of the Mind (split)	\$589.50
Lisa Meehan	Odyssey of the Mind (split)	\$589.50
<u>Lower Elementary School</u>		
Sharon Rader	Cyber Club	\$712.00
Mara Hess	Jump Rope Club	\$267.00
<u>Athletics</u>		
Paul Keating	Basketball 7 th Grade Boys	\$1638.00
<u>Correction to Stipend</u>		
Mike Kephart	MS Stage Manager	\$640.00

4. Policy

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDonough, seconded by Mrs. Weisbrot, the Board voted as follows on Policy Items 4a-c:

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Capriotti	Yes
Mrs. Deussing	Yes
Mr. Dougherty	Yes
Mrs. Gormley	Yes
Mrs. Keyes	Yes
Mr. McDonough	Yes
Mrs. Povacz	Yes
Mrs. Weisbrot	Yes
Mr. Cowell	Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

- a. Approve an overnight trip for members of the Senior Class to Orlando, Florida, from June 2-5, 2016 per the attached proposal, at no cost to the district.
- b. Approve the first reading of the following attached Board Operating Guidelines and Policies:
 - 004—Membership
 - 005—Organization
 - 011—Principles for Governance and Leadership
 - 115—Career and Technical Education

- 317—Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
- 806—Child Abuse
- 819—Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response
- 824—Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
- 916—Volunteers

c. Approve the attached Board Committee Membership list for 2016.

- 5. Special Education
NONE
- 6. Curriculum and Instruction
NONE
- 7. Athletics and Student Activities
NONE

XII. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

- Mr. Band commented about the silica dust in art room, accident reports, and safety.

XIII. Board Discussion

- Mr. Cowell asked the Board to authorize him to reach out to political bodies in New Hope and Solebury to have a joint committee of sub members of their bodies to talk about shared services.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Povacz, seconded by Mr. Dougherty, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Cowell to reach out to New Hope Borough and Solebury Township to have a joint subcommittee to discuss shared services.

XIV. Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Povacz, seconded by Mr. Dougherty, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lechman
Board Secretary