

NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes
December 19, 2016

Per Policy 006.2 all Board of School Directors meetings are audio recorded.

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 Upper Elementary School LGI Room on Monday, December 19, 2016. Mr. Dougherty, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Dougherty introduced Mrs. Halyna Reh's Spanish class to lead members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

The Secretary called roll:

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

Members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. Yanni, Dr. Cortellessa, Mr. Lechman, Mr. Malone, Mrs. Marton, Dr. McKenna, Mr. Radaszkiewicz, Mr. Rehr, Mr. Rivera, Mr. Seier, Mr. Silver

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

NONE

V. Acceptance of Minutes

- A. Upon a motion made by Mr. Cowell, seconded by Mrs. Deussing, the Board voted to accept the November 14, 2016 Minutes of the Regular Meeting and the December 5, 2016 Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the Board of School Directors. *

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 9 – 0 with 0 absent and 0 abstentions.

VI. Student Reports

The following students reported on activities at their schools.

- High School – Anthony Lagana, Kaylee Tao
- Middle School – Erin Firth and Meghan Siano
- Upper Elementary School – Isha Mukherjee and Liam Ross

VII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Yanni reported on the following items:

- Our district was named to College Board AP Honor Roll due to AP courses we offer and students maintaining high achievement.
- Students are engaged in STEAM programs with the maker space initiative, and we have been working collaboratively with our Education Fund to provide these opportunities.
- The Intelligencer recently recognized several of our students for great sportsmanship.
- A motion on the agenda will allow creation of an ad hoc committee for No Place for Hate initiative. Representation will include multiple stakeholders across the district and the community.

VIII. Board Appointments

- A. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Weisbrot, seconded by Mrs. Deussing, the Board voted to approve the following committees/chairs and representative/liaison appointments for 2017:

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

Motion passed 9 – 0 with 0 absent and 0 abstentions.

- Athletics/Student Activities Committee
Chair: Mrs. Weisbrot
Member: Mrs. Gormley
- Curriculum Advisory Committee
Chair: Mrs. Keyes
Member: Mrs. Deussing
- Facilities Committee
Chair: Mr. Capriotti
Member: Mr. Dougherty
- Finance Committee
Chair: Mr. Dougherty
Members: Mr. Cowell, Mrs. Povacz
- Policy/Human Resources Committee
Chair: Mrs. Deussing
Members: Mr. Cowell, Mrs. Keyes
- Special Education Committee
Chair: Mrs. Gormley
Member: Mrs. Weisbrot
- Mrs. Weisbrot as representative to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22.
- Mr. Capriotti as representative to the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.
- Mr. Dougherty as liaison to the Pennsylvania Schools Boards Association.
- Mr. Cowell, Mrs. Gormley, Mrs. Keyes as Negotiation Team.

IX. Board Committee Reports

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

- A. Finance (Mr. Dougherty, Committee Chair)
- B. Facilities (Mr. Capriotti, Committee Chair)
- C. Policy and Human Resources (Mrs. Deussing, Committee Chair)
- D. Special Education (Mrs. Gormley, Committee Chair)
- E. Curriculum Advisory (Mrs. Keyes, Committee Chair)
- F. Athletics/Student Activities (Mrs. Weisbrot, Committee Chair)

X. Liaison Reports

- A. Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Mrs. Weisbrot) – No report.
- B. Pennsylvania School Board Association (Mr. Dougherty) – No report.
- C. Middle Bucks Institute of Technology (Mr. Capriotti) – No report.

XI. Old Business

- A. Presentation and/or Discussion Items
NONE

XII. New Business

- A. Presentation and/or Discussion Items

- Auditors' Report June 30, 2016 – Mr. Bill Hamilton and Mrs. Karianne Tomosky – Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.

Mr. Hamilton and Mrs. Tomosky provided an overview of the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2016. The result of the audit was an unmodified opinion which is a reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement. They reviewed highlights of the statement of net position and the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance.

- 2017-2018 Proposed Preliminary Budget Presentation – Dr. Yanni and Mr. Lechman

Dr. Yanni and Mr. Lechman provided a presentation of the proposed preliminary budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The proposed preliminary budget includes expenditures of \$40,967,905 funded by revenues of \$40,051,994 and utilizes \$915,911 of fund balance to balance the budget. This is the first version of the budget that will continue to be worked on and revised until it is final approved in June. All budget documents and the budget presentation can be found on the district website for further information.

Mrs. Keyes left the meeting during this presentation.

- B. Board Discussion (Agenda Items Only)

- Mr. Capriotti asked about the Conflict of Interest policy and the procedure. Abstention must occur during a conflict of interest and written statement of disclosure must be included with the board minutes if an abstention occurs as a result of a financial conflict.
- Mr. Capriotti commented on the Athletics and Student Activities items including the 5k run and Twitter feeds for athletic events.
- Mr. Cowell asked about benefits for part-time staff.

- Mr. Dougherty asked about Item 7a, and if student activities trips cost the district money. The cost to the district is only for substitutes for any staff that must attend the trip.
- Mr. Cowell asked about insurance risks for student activities trips. Under PA Law the district is immune from suits for negligent custody/supervision.

C. Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

- Mr. Band commented on Item 7a that at the Athletics and Student Activities Committee there was no formal recommendation for the trip.

D. Board Comment (Agenda Items Only)

- Mr. Cowell asked if there is any district expense for student activities trips.
- Mr. Dougherty questioned the need for student activity trips traveling great distances when there are options geographically closer.

E. Action Items (* Indicates attachment)

1. Finance

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, seconded by Mrs. Weisbrot, the Board voted as follows on Finance Items 1a-1h:

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

Motion passed 8 – 0 with 1 absent and 0 abstentions.

- a. Approve the Resolution Authorizing Proposed Preliminary Budget Display and Advertising. *
- b. Accept the Auditors' Report for the year ended June 30, 2016. *
- c. Approve the Treasurer's Report for October, 2016. *
- d. Approve and ratify the following list of bills totaling \$2,636,802.62. *

2016-2017 Capital Project Checks Between Meetings for Ratification
 Check Number – 30229
 Totaling - \$89,635.50

2016-2017 General Fund Checks Between Meetings for Ratification
 Check Numbers – 10045454 to 10045464
 Totaling - \$158,685.34

2016-2017 Capital Project Checks for Approval
 Check Numbers – 30230 to 30236
 Totaling - \$1,159,797.71

2016-2017 General Fund Checks for Approval
 Check Numbers – 10045465 to 10045659
 Totaling - \$425,195.93

2016-2017 Wire Transfers Between Meetings for Ratification
 Totaling - \$803,488.14

- e. Approve the submission of PlanCon Part H, Project Financing, for the New Hope-Solebury High School/Middle School Project (PDE #3833) to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. *
 - f. Approve the submission of PlanCon Part I, Interim Reporting, for the New Hope-Solebury High School/Middle School Project (PDE #3833) to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. *
 - g. Approve the attached Homestead/Farmstead District Agreement 2016-2017 with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit for the completion of the Homestead Notice requirement at a cost of approximately \$1,000. *
 - h. Approve the attached Agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams.*
2. Facilities

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, seconded by Mrs. Weisbrot, the Board voted as follows on Finance Item 2a:

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

Motion passed 8 – 0 with 1 absent and 0 abstentions.

- a. Approve the Facility Use Fee Schedule, effective July 1, 2017. *

3. Personnel

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

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

Motion passed 8 – 0 with 1 absent and 0 abstentions.

a. Accept the following retirements/resignations:

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Venzie, Susan <i>Retirement with Super Maximum</i>	Administrative Assistant- Payroll	1/11/17
Copeland-Walsh, Katherine	Instructional Assistant MS	11/22/16
Rohn, Suzan	Director of Human Resources	1/6/17
Kaminski, Dennis	Evening Custodian Operations	12/16/16

b. Approve the following leaves:

LEAVES	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Abt, Theresa	Special Education Teacher UES	Extended 6/19/15-3/31/17
Elrath, Jessica	Special Education Teacher UES	Extended 4/8/16-6/13/17

c. Ratify/approve the following appointments, contingent upon satisfying all requirements of law and district policy:

APPOINTMENTS	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE	SALARY	BENEFITS
Kopp, Jill-Arcangela	Instructional Assistant HS	Resignation- Taylor	11/28/16	\$14.66/hr Year 0	Yes
Bach, Shannon	Non-Instructional Assistant – 4 hrs./day LES	Transfer-Buchler	12/5/16	\$14.62/hr. Year 0	No
Boyd, Thomas	Mathematics Teacher HS LTS	Leave-Rutledge	1/30/17- 6/13/17	\$48,455 (prorated) B, Step 01	Yes
Laff, Amy	Special Education teacher UES LTS	Leave-Abt	Extended 8/23/16- 4/3/17	No change	No change
McNabb, Joanne	Cafeteria Worker	As needed	12/1/16	\$11.29/hr.	No

	Substitute Food Services			Year 0	
Miller, Jacqueline	Special Education Teacher UES LTS	Leave-Elrath	Extended 8/23/16- 6/13/17	No change	Yes
Kaminski, Dennis	Custodian - Substitute Operations	As needed	12/17/16	\$18.09/hr. Year 2	No
Schroeder, Elizabeth	Non-Instructional Assistant Part-time - 4 hrs./day LES LTS	Transfer-Buchler	End Date Changed 8/29/16- 12/5/16 (was 1/20/17)	N/A	No

- d. Approve the following Extra Duty Responsibility (EDR) contracts for the 2016-2017 school year:

Name	Extra Duty Responsibility	Stipend
Mary Schwander	Webmaster - HS	\$1,850.00
ATHLETICS		
Andy Krasna	Basketball Varsity Girls	\$5,840.00
Rick Fedele	Basketball Varsity Boys	\$5,840.00
Glen Ockenhouse	Basketball JV Boys	\$4,282.00
Mark Finkelstein	Basketball 7th Grade Girls	\$1,654.00
Michael Jones	Basketball 7th grade Boys	\$1,654.00
Rory Yerkes	Basketball 8th grade Girls	\$1,801.00
Bruce Liberatore	Basketball 8th Grade Boys	\$1,801.00
Erin Moss	Track & Field JV	\$2,385.00
Scott Kunkel	Track & Field Varsity Winter	\$5,006.00
Irv Miller	Wrestling Varsity	\$5,840.00
Igor Lupisella	Wrestling JV	\$4,282.00
Shelly Wigler	Competitive Cheer Varsity (Rescind-low participation)	-\$5,006.00
ELEMENTARY		
Mara Hess	LES Jump Rope Club	\$270.00
	TOTAL:	\$37,499.00
	RUNNING TOTAL:	\$255,415.30

4. Policy

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Gormley, seconded by Mrs. Weisbrot, the Board voted as follows on Policy Items 4a-4b, and 4d:

Mr. Capriotti	Yes
Mr. Cowell	Yes
Mrs. Deussing	Yes
Mrs. Gormley	Yes
Mrs. Keyes	Absent

Mr. McDonough	Yes
Mrs. Povacz	Yes
Mrs. Weisbrot	Yes
Mr. Dougherty	Yes

Motion passed 8 – 0 with 1 absent and 0 abstentions.

- a. Approve the proposed list of Board and Committee Meeting Dates. *
- b. Adopt the following Board Policies on a second reading: *

Board Policies

336 – Professional Necessity Leave

810.2 – Transportation-Audio/Video Recording

827 – Conflict of Interest

- c. Affirm the first reading of the following Policies:

255 – Gender Expansive and Transgender Students

613 – Cooperative Purchasing

- d. Authorize the Superintendent to solicit applications for the development of an Ad Hoc Committee focused on diversity and inclusion, with a focus on acceptance and respect, to commence in January 2017.

5. Special Education
NONE

6. Curriculum and Instruction
NONE

7. Athletics and Student Activities

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Gormley, seconded by Mrs. Deussing, the Board voted unanimously to separate out the student trips into three motions.

- a.(1) Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, seconded by Mrs. Weisbrot, the Board voted as follows to approve a student overnight trip for the High School Ski Club to Killington, Vermont, February 24-26, 2017:

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

Mr. Dougherty Yes

Motion passed 8 – 0 with 1 absent and 0 abstentions.

a.(2) Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, seconded by Mrs. Gormley, the Board voted as follows to approve a student overnight trip for the Middle School Student Council LEAD Conference, Washington, D.C., February 3-5, 2017:

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

Motion passed 8 – 0 with 1 absent and 0 abstentions.

a.(3) Upon a motion made by Mrs. Weisbrot, seconded by Mrs. Deussing, the Board voted as follows to approve a student overnight trip for Music Students to Prague, Czechia, Salzburg, Austria, and Munich, Germany, November 24-30, 2017:

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

Motion passed 7 – 1 with 1 absent and 0 abstentions.

XIII. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

- The following attendees commented regarding Mr. McDonough's FaceBook post, position on the Board, and consequences: Parker Meili, Coco Brown, Chris Brown, Theresa Elias, Peter Meyer, Wendy Blevins, Pier Giacalone, Marcus Elizondo, Dennis Mankin, Melvin Band, Hope Blaythorne, Coskun Tasoluk
- Pier Giacalone commented on the budget presentation.

XIV. Board Discussion

- Mr. Cowell commented that the audience has a misconception about the authority of the Board which is to approve policies on how to govern schools. The Board does not have the authority from the state to discipline board members. Dr. Yanni explained board operating guidelines versus policy. Attorney O'Donoghue explained further the authority of the Board under the school code.
- Mr. Dougherty made a statement on behalf of the School Board that the Board does not condone statements made by Mr. McDonough on FaceBook, which do not reflect the perspective of the Board. The Board reaffirms to the entire community and students that the district is a safe, secure, and inclusive learning environment. Moving forward the incident will be used as an opportunity to review policies and determine how the Board can reinforce its commitment to providing a safe, secure, and inclusive learning environment for all students.
- Mr. McDonough made a statement as to looking at ways to address this issue on three levels.
 - Administrative
 - Review policy
 - Coordinator of non-discrimination
 - School / Building Based
 - Identify safe spaces
 - Encourage and promote school clubs
 - Encourage development and publicize training
 - Outside the schools
 - Encourage health curriculum
 - Access to community based providers.
- Mr. Dougherty commented on the swift action by the administration and the Board; Dr. Yanni introduced the ADL Program "No Place for Hate" and produced a transgender policy, and Mrs. Deussing reviewed policy affecting directors.
- Mr. Cowell commented on the referendum process in order to raise the taxes more than the index allows.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of School Directors will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Elementary School LGI Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lechman
Board Secretary

Date