

NO: XIII
Minutes of the
Board of School Directors
DERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hershey, PA 17033

February 9, 2009

OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District was held on Monday, February 9, 2009, in the District Office Board Room. Mrs. Beulah Chabal, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call

Directors Present: Mr. Christopher Barrett
Mrs. Beulah Chabal
Dr. Donna Cronin
Dr. Henry Donahue
Mr. John Gräb
Mr. Alan Malkoff
Dr. William Parrish
Mrs. Ellen Sheffey
Mr. Charles Stover

Superintendent: Dr. Linda Brewer

Secretary: Mr. Stephen Rineer

Solicitor: Not Present

Student Representative: Kathryn Collier
Andrew Rogers

Press: Mr. Drew I. Weidman THE SUN
Ms. Monica von Dobeneck PATRIOT-NEWS

Representatives of the Administrative Staff: Mr. Dan Tredinnick, Dr. Bernie Kepler, Dr. Cynthia Goldsworthy, Mr. Michael Murphy, and Ms. Sue King.

Representatives of the Staff and Community: Ed Uravic, Karen E. Green, Denise

A. Gross, Cathy Ferster, Larry C. Klink, Greg Simmons, Christopher Stine, Cindy Hertz, AnnMarie Schupper, Susan M. Foxx, Beth Woranko, John Confer, Michelle Allen, Michael A. Bruno.

1.03 Flag Salute

Mr. Barrett led those gathered in the Salute to the American Flag.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.01 Approval of January 26, 2009 School Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett and seconded by Mr. Stover to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 School Board meeting. All Board members signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

3.01 Announcement of Executive Session

Mrs. Chabal announced the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss matters related to personnel. All Board members were present.

3.02 Announcement of Working Session

Mrs. Chabal announced that at the conclusion of tonight's meeting, the Board would convene in a public working session. The Board will discuss the school calendar.

3.03 Recognition of Citizens (Agenda Items)

None.

3.04 Standing Committee Report

Mr. Barrett reported that the District is continuing to study options for safely and effectively implementing a transportation system with one bus run for grades 6-12 and another for K-5. No decision on implementing a new bus system is imminent. The District administration does not intend to make a final recommendation to the Board of School Directors until additional options for traffic flow in and around

campus and school start times have been evaluated. The Board will consider the purchase of 5 new buses at its February 23 meeting; that purchase will be needed regardless of whether a new system is implemented for 2009-10 or the current one is maintained for another year.

The District's current three-tier system (one run for each building) was developed at time when the District enrolled 1,000 fewer students and before major development projects in the Township slowed commute times. Buses increasingly cannot meet their schedules due to increased traffic congestion. Added benefits from a change to a two-tier system could include increased instruction time for the high school, fuel savings, and more efficient and timely dismissals at each building.

Related to the decision regarding the two or three-tiered bus system is the process of choosing an architect. To date, the General Services Committee has met with 6 architectural firms and has narrowed that to two finalists. In addition to the highest priority task of the Hershey Middle School addition, we have also asked the architects to give us a proposal that would solve the traffic flow issues on campus to implement a two-tiered bus system.

3.05 Presentation - Department of Defense - National Guard Employee Support Award

Denise Gross, Assistant Chairperson of the South Central PA Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and the Reserve (ESGR) presented a commendation to the District for its human resources policies which recognize the importance of guard and reserve service. ESGR is a Department of Defense organization established to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers.

3.06 Presentation - Secondary Grading and Reporting

Mrs. King and Mr. Murphy presented information regarding the secondary grading and reporting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 Unfinished Business

None.

4.02 Resolution to Raise the Exemption of Earned Income for Local Services Tax

**LOCAL SERVICES TAX
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Derry Township School District seeks to comport with 53 P.S. § 6924.301.1 et seq., which addresses the Local Services Tax (LST), and

WHEREAS, for the benefit and efficiency of its taxpayers and its resident employers, the District seeks to align its exemptions for the LST with those of Derry Township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following exemptions from the LST shall obtain effective January 1, 2009:

Any person whose total income from all sources is less than twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) per annum;

Any person who has served in any war or armed conflict in which the United States was engaged and is honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service if, as a result of military service, the person is blind, paraplegic or a double or quadruple amputee or has a service-connected disability declared by the Veterans Administration to be a total and permanent disability;

Any person who serves as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces and is called to active duty at any time during the taxable year.

Dr. Cronin moved the Board approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Malkoff.

Mr. Barrett noted that he would vote yes on the resolution with some reservations.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes
Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes
Gräb – Yes
Malkoff – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Yes
Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barrett requested that since Agenda Items 5.02, 5.03, and 5.04 all dealt with overnight trips that they be considered as one motion.

Mr. Barrett moved the Board approve the consolidation of Items 5.02, 5.03, and 5.04 as one and was seconded by Dr. Parrish.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Cronin –Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

5.02 Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursion - High School Choir - Region V Choir Festival - Kutztown, PA

<i>Group:</i>	High School Choir
<i>Destination:</i>	Kutztown High School Kutztown, PA
<i>Purpose:</i>	Participate and Compete in Region V Choir Festival
<i>From:</i>	February 19, 2009
<i>Until:</i>	February 21, 2009
<i>Trip Leader:</i>	Joe Farrell

The District reserves the right to cancel the excursion based on events that could pose a heightened safety or security risk.

5.03 Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursion - High School Bands - District Jazz Band (PMEA) - Kennard Dale High School, Fawn Grove, PA

<i>Group:</i>	High School Bands
<i>Destination:</i>	Kennard Dale High School, Fawn Grove, PA
<i>Purpose:</i>	Participate and Compete in District Jazz Band (PMEA)
<i>From:</i>	March 26, 2009
<i>Until:</i>	March 28, 2009
<i>Trip Leader:</i>	Richard Miller

The District reserves the right to cancel the excursion based on events that could pose a heightened safety or security risk.

5.04 Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursion - High School Music Department - MENC All Eastern Honors Festival - Providence, RI

<i>Group:</i>	High School Music Department
<i>Destination:</i>	Providence, Rhode Island
<i>Purpose:</i>	Music Educators National Conference All Eastern Honors Festival
<i>From:</i>	March 11, 2009
<i>Until:</i>	March 15, 2009
<i>Trip Leader:</i>	Greg Woodbridge, Joe Farrell

The District reserves the right to cancel the excursion based on events that could pose a heightened safety or security risk.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes
Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes
Gräb – No
Malkoff – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Yes
Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 No

MOTION CARRIED

5.05 Requests for the Use of School Facilities

The Administration recommended the approval of the Requests for the Use of Facilities:

<i>Group:</i>	Hershey Youth Soccer
<i>Date/Time:</i>	February 28, 2009 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	Middle School Cafeteria
<i>Event:</i>	Soccer Registration
<i>Fee:</i>	As per Lease Agreement

Mr. Barrett moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Stover.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

5.06 Personnel – Resignations

The Administration recommended the approval of the following resignations:

Classified:
Johnson, Scott Substitute Bus Driver District-wide Reason: Personal Effective: 02/02/09
Rapp, Robin Substitute Bus Driver District-wide Reason: Personal Effective: 01/26/09

Dr. Cronin moved the Board approve the resignations and was seconded by Dr. Parrish.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

5.07 Personnel – General

1.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following appointments:
	Classified:
	<p>Boyd, Kathy J. Substitute Bus Driver District-wide Salary: \$13.60 per hour Effective: 02/10/09 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)</p>
	Limited Service Contracts:
	<p>Boyer, Allen * Computer Coordinator Elementary School Level I, Group A, Step 3 Salary: \$1,813.50 Effective: Retroactive to 08/25/08 to 01/16/09 (1 semester)</p>
	<p>Daily, Robert * (replacing Jayme Potts) Assistant Track and Field Coach Middle School Level III, Group C, Step 20 Salary: \$2,506 Effective: 03/02/09</p>
	<p>DeLiberty, Bill * Volunteer Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach Middle School Effective: 03/02/09</p>
	<p>Erb, Jarryd * Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach Middle School Level III, Group C, Step 1 Salary: \$1,319 Effective: 03/02/09</p>
	<p>Guydo, Keith * (replacing Kimberly Kicielinski) Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach High School Level II, Group C, Step 4 Salary: \$2,031 Effective: 03/02/09</p>
	<p>Hertz, Amanda Volunteer Assistant Varsity Girls' Softball Coach High School Effective: 03/02/09 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)</p>
	Knowles, Greg *

	Mentor to Leah Yingling, Middle School Foreign Language Long-term Substitute Salary: \$500 Effective: Retroactive to 01/19/09
2.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following request in accordance with the District Policies 435 & 439:
	Bender, Kristin Grade 1 Long-term Substitute Teacher Early Childhood Center Paid/Unpaid Childbearing/rearing Leave Effective: On or about 03/14/09 for a period of 6 weeks
3.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following additions to the 2008-2009 Substitute Teacher List:
	Comry, Adena B.S. in Elementary Education from Lebanon Valley College
	Lohoeffer, Julia B.S. in Elementary Education from Shippensburg University
4.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following additions to the 2008-2009 Guest Teacher List:
	Bookwalter, Michael Chaplick, Janice Gingras, Mary Jane Leonzo, Kathy Lehman, Linda
	<i>* This individual is currently an employee and/or volunteer. Clearances are on file.</i>

Dr. Cronin moved the Board approve the personnel recommendations and was seconded by Mr. Barrett.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATES REPORTS

6.01 Dauphin County Technical School Report

Mr. Gräb reported that the next meeting of the Dauphin County Technical School would take place on February 11, 2009.

6.02 Derry Township Tax Collection Association Report

Mr. Malkoff reported that the next meeting of the Derry Township Tax Collection Association would be on February 26, 2009.

6.03 Harrisburg Area Community College Report

No report.

6.04 Capital Area Intermediate Unit Report

No report.

SPECIAL REPORTS

7.01 Announcement of Staff Development Conference

Tracie Dawson, Melissa Friel, Jane Zimmerman Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners - School Health is the Heart of Education State College, PA March 20-22, 2009 Expenses: \$225.00
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7.02 Student Representatives' Report

Mr. Rogers noted this is a busy time of the year for students with activities, but there were no major students issues.

7.03 School and Community Information Report

Mr. Tredinnick reported that numerous District teachers and a group of eighth grade students were making presentations as part of the statewide Pennsylvania

Educational Technology Expo, highlighting many of the innovative ways the District integrated technology and technology-assisted learning into classroom practice. He also noted the Hershey High School German Club was sponsoring a Valentine's for Veterans reception February 12 in the high school library.

7.04 Board Members' Report

Mr. Malkoff reported that this year's High School musical would be *The Sound of Music*. Performances will be held on March 5, 6, and 7, 2009. He encouraged everyone to attend.

7.05 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brewer presented a one page summary followed by an explanation by month showing where the District falls with the rest of the county, all 6 school Districts as well as the Dauphin County Technical School, because that is always one of the District's considerations.

Dr. Brewer: This information is all by way of the dialogue that we will have with you because the vote on the calendar will be on the next Board meeting. What we're doing at this Board meeting is giving you the input and parameters we use to develop this calendar.

First of all, we have to talk about the mandates and the contractual obligations. Student instructional days are 180 to 181 and our faculty days which are also contractual are 190 and 3 extra days for new staff orientation. There are a total 9 in-service days that are built in contractually to the calendar and a mandatory teacher work day between the semesters in January.

Ms. Collier mentioned that PSSA testing is underway. The PSSA testing for next year is even more compacted. We have retests in 12th grade for the 11th grade that are being taken right now. The reading and math is concentrated in the month of April and writing and science, which is now an additional test that we give, is all concentrated and takes up the whole month of April, except for the very beginning of April which is Easter. Of course, there are the make up days for those that miss the testing.

As well as the mandates and the contractual obligations, we have some things that are very high priorities and some are non-negotiable in developing the school calendar. Time on task is extremely important, particularly right before the PSSA. If you look at the calendar and see that most of March, we are proposing that we are in school and in April we're out of school for the Spring/Easter holiday. Otherwise, we're planning to be in school because of the time on task immediately prior to the PSSA.

Quality in-service for faculty is very necessary. We have very high expectations for our staff. We have a lot of demands and with those high expectations must go high support and we consider quality in-service for faculty to be high support.

We have a number of federal and religious holidays that are listed. I won't read them to you, but those are parameters to which we adhere.

When you look at all that, here's the blank calendar. Now, look at the calendar when we fill all that has been discussed. There's not a lot of room for the negotiation. We can start a little earlier in August, or we can stay a little later in June. In fact, one of my colleagues in the neighboring school District did attempt to put a calendar together that started school after Labor Day, which is unusually late. Labor Day is on September 7th for the next school year. School would not have been over until June 25 under that scenario. They're not doing that either by the way. But, when you look at the number of days that are in here for instruction which is in white, and then you look in gray for some of the parameters that we set for you, including holidays, including conferences and PSSA, there's not a lot of room for maneuverability in that calendar.

Added complexities include that we do our best to coordinate within our contractual arrangements with 6 county school Districts and the Technical School. We have had better luck this year than normal, because we were able to schedule the contractual day we have between semesters on Martin Luther King's Day next year. That day is January 18 and the students can be out school, but the teachers can be in school and that can be their mandatory work day. We have 24 school Districts within the IU that offer special education classes and we have students in those classes. We attempt to coordinate within our county, as much as possible. Sports schedule are another consideration. I also want to add that we have a liberal absence policy.

Educational trip requests are spread out throughout the year. If we would try to have a break that was going to be a consensus that the community would like, it would be impossible. The educational trips last year are listed. Now, where's the pattern? Do we want to go for October or November or January or March? One thing I will tell you about January is the number of trips may be inordinately high because we actually don't have the farm show included. If we had the farm show included, it would be off the scale. One of my colleagues is actually putting in a farm show day as a day that all the kids are off and then asking that people agree their kids only go on that day. Because it's local event there is a lot of attendance. When would we do it, if we were going to do some kind of a holiday?

One of our concerns is, under No Child Left Behind, attendance must be at 98%. One year, we were very close to that, I think we were at 92%. We had to make it one of our Strategic Plan goals that our students' attendance would remain at least 92%. Now, we can argue that there are different things going on than you might find in some other school Districts in that hopefully our students are out on educationally

enriching trips when they're not here. Nevertheless, we have to stay within that range. Some of the attendance last year was at 95.3%, so we started doing a little bit better that year.

What we're proposing is this calendar. One difference is that we would bring the new teachers in for new teacher orientation August 18, 19, and 20, which would give them a break of a couple days to do what they will to get their classrooms ready. We're adding another in-service day for all our teachers on August 26, 27, 28. We front loaded another day for the current days and 6 days for the new teachers and school would start August 31. That's unusually late because Labor Day is unusually late. We've kept in for this proposal something we've been doing for a while, which means that we would go to school August 31st through September 3rd and then on Friday before Labor Day, it would be a long weekend. We like that for our little ones. The younger students are exhausted after being in school a whole week and we like that transition. It gives them two weeks in a row that they're not in school every day for 5 days. Going through the calendar, September 28 will be another day for in-service and it also happens to be Yom Kippur. Columbus day is another in-service day. I won't read all this for you.

Some of you asked about Thanksgiving and whether or not it was necessary for us to be out of school on Thanksgiving Monday. We have it in there because all the other Districts do. If you look on the one sheet that we gave you, everybody is out on that day, so if we were in, our special needs and Technical School students would not be going to school, so we have that in the calendar.

I think that's all I need to highlight for you, other than with this proposed schedule, graduation and last day of school would be June 9, which is roughly comparable to our neighbors. We would finish up our in-service days 2 days after that.

7.06 Board President's Report

Since we will be discussing the calendar, we will be taking comments from the audience on our non-agenda items since it wasn't specifically on our agenda items. Certainly, when we gavel down to do our work session, any questions that we may have for Dr. Brewer concerning the calendar will be made at that time. I am next up for giving a report and I have no report.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS (Non-agenda Items)

8.01 Recognition of Citizens (Non-agenda Items)

Mrs. Chabal: If you have some comments that you would like to make on the calendar, because it wasn't specifically on the agenda, we would love very much for you to make those comments now. From a procedural standpoint, what we will do is,

we will officially close this particular meeting, have Board photo right after that, take just a couple minutes break, and then hold our public work session on the calendar. At that time, questions and concerns that the Board has will be spoken about publicly amongst ourselves and to Dr. Brewer. We certainly hope that you stay and listen to that, because I think it will give you more information on what we're doing and typically during work sessions we don't necessarily take questions, but certainly if there is a question or concern you have not had answered, we would certainly love to hear from you. Hopefully, we will have gone through and by listening to us will be answered any questions, because we may have some of the same questions that you have. Certainly at this time if anyone would like to come to the microphone and ask a questions or voice a concern over what we're about to talk about in our work session, please come ahead.

Michael Bruno: I want to speak of the issue before the Board about adjusting the transportation to the school and what that might mean for the school start time. If someone else wanted to discuss something about the calendar, I could yield to them first, but this is also a topic that I've written to the Board on in the past and some of you may have seen that correspondence.

I would like to urge the Board to strongly consider avoiding any movement of the school start time to being earlier, particularly for the high school students. Any action the Board might consider that would move the school start time to be later is something I would strongly favor. The reason is, there is considerable evidence, and I've brought a few papers, for the members to look at, that students do much better when they are not sleep deprived: cognitively, behaviorally, in terms of their learning, in terms of their health. That evidence is very solid. It's been published in journals. The unique characteristic of the adolescent, the high school student, is that their biological circadian rhythm is different from those of us who've reached a higher level of senescence. In particular, it's just not practical for them to obtain restful sleep by going to bed earlier. My wife and I can happily fall asleep at 9:30 at night and sleep soundly. That just doesn't work for teenagers. That means when you have very early start times, you'll have sleep deprived students and that will have tremendous consequences in terms of their risk of obesity, mental health issues, and most importantly cognitive learning issues.

Has a move toward a later start time been tried? Well, yes it has. In fact the Minneapolis School District involving over 12,000 high school students moved their start time from, I believe it was 7:15 to 8:40, and this was a dramatic and bold experiment and it was conducted partially under the auspices of the University of Minnesota. The results were very favorable, and it was published in the National Association of School Psychologists Bulletin Volume 86. I have a copy of that for you. Of course, that kind of move met with tremendous opposition from the community. It was a big change. Change is scary, but the results were very clearly beneficial for the students and I brought that report for the Board.

That is really all I have to say, I would like you to seriously consider any actions that would be feasible to move the high school start time later and avoid any action that might move the high school start time, that bell time, any earlier.

Thank you very much.

Mrs. Chabal: Thank you very much and we appreciate the information.

Mr. Stover: I'd just like to make a comment that in order to do that, we'd have to convince our 6 other Districts plus the Technical School to do that as well, otherwise, it's virtually impossible.

Mrs. Chabal: Yes, we are interlocked very closely and some of the outliers that, in some instances may hamstring us from those decisions, are outside of our purview.

Dr. Brewer: One clarification we want to make, I don't think I kept the file here and I don't know if someone from General Services did, but...

Mrs. Chabal: It was not a very large differential.

Dr. Brewer: The middle school students are the ones that are affected. For example, what Mr. Yarian did for us was he started to show us the current high school, current middle school and the proposed two tier system. For example, here's Bus 2. Currently, the outlier high school student is picked up at 6:15 a.m. and the current middle school student is picked up at 7:25. Under the proposed system, the high school student, instead of being picked up at 6:15 a.m., would be picked up at 7:02 a.m., but the middle school student would be picked up earlier. Some examples are even more dramatic. Another example, high school Bus 6, these aren't current buses, these are buses that would be assigned. Current outlier high school is picked up at 6:11 a.m., current middle school 7:21 a.m. Under the proposed two tier system, both would be picked up at 6:17 a.m.

One of the things that Mr. Yarian said to us was that these are always worse case scenarios, because as soon as school is in session and there's some knowledge of how many of the high schools are not coming on the bus, then it is adjusted. However, there are three things we were hearing from you and from the community. One was the middle school and high school kids being on the bus together and the concerns about that. Second, was traffic flow problems in and around the buildings, and third, the fact that particularly with the middle school students, most of the start times would be dramatically earlier. The third item would be the most difficult to do something about. We have some things underway that are going to be traffic flow steady, so I think we're going to be able to bring a good solution to you. I believe that we can handle the safety issues. It's much more norm than not, that middle and high school students are on a bus together.

But here's the problem. We need to figure this out to do a two tiered system because our three tiered system is so antiquated. It reflects when we had student body of about 1,000 less students. It reflects when we did not have the outlier suburban communities that are outside of the town, and it reflects a time when Hershey was much less congested than it is now. We did not start looking at this because of cost, though it saves just a little bit of money, not a lot. It's primarily because of safety that our bus drivers are feeling a great deal of urgency in getting around to their stops three times, so we need to continue to work on this and I'm anxious to see that research. I'm sure it's accurate because if it's in the School Psych Review, that's a very good magazine.

Mrs. Chabal: Dr. Brewer, what is currently is the turn around time. Is it 35 minutes from the time that a bus leaves that it's supposed to complete? I think right now, if my memory serves me right, it's somewhere in the 35 minute window that, as an example the high school buses had to get out, pick up the high school kids, drop them off, turn around and start picking up middle school. We can't get to the grocery store doing that, much less putting kids on and off and everything else. So, that is one of the issues that's really driving this decision.

Dr. Brewer: I will say that the decision is not imminent, because we were seeking input. The fact that buses are on for purchase for next time is something that we can be nimble with because those buses can be used as the replacement buses for our current replacement schedule. The only way, if we do go to a two tiered system, we could keep our buses that we were going to replace would be because there wouldn't be as many miles and wear and tear on them. That is the reason it is included does not signal a decision has been made. What will help us with the decision as far as traffic flow is looking at some solutions that our chosen architect, which has not been chosen yet, would help us with.

Mrs. Chabal: Those of you who have been visiting with us over the years know that some of these decisions are not knee jerk. It takes a lot of time, a lot of contemplation and a lot of information to get this done. You'll be hearing about this and, as Dr. Brewer said, it's not imminent, but it's certainly top of mind and a lot of work. Thank you for your research. There's so much that goes into this and there are some things, as Dr. Brewer mentioned that we are dealing with, including multiple uses within our school Districts.

Dr. Brewer: I'd like to say one more thing. I think it came across in the press as if it were a done deal. It was not a done deal. In fact, we had a session with parents toward the end of January and it wasn't as well attended as I would have liked. There were about 24-25 people there and some very good suggestions were presented. I know that we've had subsequent suggestions via e-mail that we're entertaining.

Dr. Donahue had a process question. Maybe I'm wrong, but if there was a change in the bus system and we changed the start time, that would be part of the calendar, would it not?

Dr. Brewer: What would signal going to a two tiered system, which would not be a slide of hands, we certainly would say, is you would be voting on a new start time.

Dr. Donahue: So start time is separate from calendar?

Dr. Brewer: That's right, and it's policy.

Michelle Allen: I have a 9th grade student and I have a daughter who graduated in 2002, so I'm familiar with the various schedules in the different age groups. I'm here basically to support what Dr. Bruno presented. I too have extensive amounts of research and I spent literally hours to just highlight a few facts for you tonight. It's not personal opinion, it's well documented research over time. I also spoke with a pediatric sleep specialist/neurologist here in central Pennsylvania and he said that most children of high school age, if you brought them into the sleep clinic, would show up sleep deprived and fairly seriously so. Just a few facts, I want to share. The average adolescent needs 9 hours and 15 minutes of sleep per night. Let's suppose you get on the bus at 6:45 a.m. I'm going to be liberal and say you get up at 5:30 a.m. To get those 9 hours of sleep, you've got to go to bed at 9:15 p.m. at night. If you have high school children, you know that until a child gets home from school, does their homework, God forbid they have a million activities and maybe have a part time job, they're not going to be in bed at 9:15 p.m. at night. If they were in bed at 9:15 p.m. at night, more than likely it would not be efficient sleep because when the melatonin is released in the brain to make efficient sleep is more like 11:00 p.m. for kids from 11 through 18 years of age. You were mentioning about middle school age, children ages 11 through 14 have one sleep need verses mid to late adolescent. They are basically two different issues when looking at sleep hygiene and things like that. A lot of this information is indexed into the Tanner Stages of Development, which is a biological sexual development model.

My last point really is, like Dr. Bruno said, there's increase in new disorders, decreased self esteem, lower academic achievement, decreased immune system, illnesses and things like this because they're sleep deprived. I'd like to think of Derry Township as a progressive school District and that's why I'm willing to pay the taxes and that's why I want to live here and send my children to school here. What it also means is, I think we could increase their academic achievement. While it's very good as you see in the newspaper, we can make it even better possibly by having a schedule that was more friendly to their own biological clock. I think that's something that should be considered. In addition to the Minnesota School District, there's another school District in Florida also who made a move like that with satisfactory results. I can get that research as well.

The last thing I would say is that some of our at-risk kids, kids from lower socio-economic status, kids that have to work, kids that have household responsibilities for siblings, things like that, those are the ones who suffer the most from these early hours, because they get the least amount of sleep. These are things to consider when looking at the start time for school. I think the later the better definitely for high school students.

9.01 Adjournment

Mrs. Chabal announced the next Board meeting would be held Monday, February 23, 2009 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the District Board Room.

Dr. Cronin moved to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Stover and, approved by unanimous voice vote by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. Rineer
Secretary to the Board
Approved at the February 23, 2009 meeting

Beulah Chabal
President of the Board

LDM