

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

**March 10, 2008**

**OPENING ITEMS**

**1.01 Call to Order**

A meeting of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District was held on Monday, March 10, 2008, in the District Office Board Room. Mr. Charles Stover, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 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

**Student Representative:** Miss Kaitlyn Shank

**Press:** Mr. Dave Hunt                      HERSHEY CHRONICLE  
Mr. Drew Weidman                    THE SUN  
Mr. Daniel Victor                      PATRIOT NEWS

**Representatives of the Administrative Staff:** Mrs. Cynthia Goldsworthy, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mr. Dan Tredinnick, Mr. Joe McFarland, Mr. Mike Murphy Mr. Al Harding, and Mrs. Lori Dixon

**Representatives of the Staff and Community:** Bunny Hottenstein, Christine Long, Megan Hulse, Bruce Stanley, Anne Stanley, Tani Miller, Connor Donahue, Denise

Grudi, Lucas Grudi, Rhett Hintze, Melissa Hintze, Marc Painter, Patti McKeney, Andrew Chocloe and Jing Zhou.

### **1.03 Flag Salute**

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

### **2.01 Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett and seconded by Mrs. Chabal to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2008 board meeting. All board members present signified by a Yes vote.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **3.01 Announcement of Executive Session**

Mr. Stover announced all members of the board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss matters related to personnel.

### **3.02 Announcement of Executive Session**

Mr. Stover announced the board would conduct a public working session at the conclusion of the agenda for the purposes of discussing graduation competency assessments.

### **3.03 Music in Our Schools Month Recognition**

Elementary cello students performed for the board in recognition of Music In Our Schools Month.

### **3.04 Recognition of Citizens (Agenda Items)**

None

### **3.05 Standing Committee Report**

Mr. Barrett reported the Finance Standing Committee met prior to the meeting to discuss possible refinancing options, including the possibility of including rolling funding for the elementary school HVAC capital improvement project. He indicated Mr. Lou

Verdelli of RBC Capital Markets was present to provide a detailed presentation to the board.

### **3.06 Presentation – Refinancing Options**

Mr. Lou Verdelli of RBC Capital Markets provided a detailed presentation to the board on the current status of interest rates for municipal bonds. He discussed options for combining multiple outstanding debts of the district into one and the potential to borrow an additional \$1.8 million for the elementary school HVAC project as part of debt consolidation. He noted those steps would provide cost savings for the district over the long term.

Mr. Barrett noted he believed it would be advantageous to borrow the money needed for the elementary school dehumidification project rather than taking the money out of reserves.

### **3.07 Presentation – TIME Program**

Mr. Painter and Mr. Harding provided a presentation to the board about the integration of technology-assisted instruction across grade levels throughout the district. Examples of how technology was being utilized by teachers including using blogs for writing assignments and social network sites for students to discuss and collaborate on assignments outside the classroom.

Dr. Cronin inquired about the steps taken to ensure cyber security for students and the limiting of access to inappropriate sites. Mr. Harding explained steps the district used to block access to inappropriate content on school computers.

Mrs. Chabal led a discussion about the informal writing styles often associated with text messaging and blogs. She emphasized the need for teachers to continue to require appropriate formal writing assignments.

Mrs. Sheffey asked how the district might be able to evaluate the impact of technology-assisted instruction on performance and achievement. Dr. Brewer indicated the PSAAs and other standards-based testing would be one measure. She added student use of technology such as on-line collaboration outside the classroom results in additional time being spent on tasks. Conventional wisdom suggests that should translate into greater grasp of information.

## **5.01 Anticipated Agenda Items**

The following items are anticipated to be brought before the board at its March 25 public meeting:

Students of the Month - February 2008 (Mr. Murphy & Mr. Tredinnick)

Joint Policy and General Services Standing Committee Report  
Presentation -Energy Savings Opportunities (Mr. Consalo)  
Approval of March 10, 2008 Minutes  
Approval of January 2008 Finance Report (Mr. Rineer)  
Budget Transfer (Mr. Rineer)  
Request for Payments (Mr. Rineer)  
Authorization for Financing Team to proceed with refunding program  
Approval of Employee Assistance Program (EAP)  
First Reading of Policies - 30 Day Review:

- 003 Functions
- 003.1 Communications
- 004 Membership
- 005 Organization

Final Approval - High School Students to France - June 7 - June 21, 2008  
Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursion - Roxbury Township, NJ - High School  
Choirs (Retroactive)  
Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursion - Kalamazoo, Michigan - High School  
National Powerlifting Meet - Student Funded  
Preliminary Approval - Foreign Excursion - Showtime England - November 20 - 28,  
2009 - High School Students (Mr. Michaels)  
Approval of 2008-09 Capital Area Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget (Mr.  
Rineer)  
Approval of 2008-09 Dauphin County Technical School Proposed Budget (Mr.  
Rineer)  
Revision of Derry Township Tax Collection Association Earned Income Tax Rules  
and Regulations (Mr. Rineer)  
Request for the Use of Facilities (Mr. Elias)  
Personnel (Mr. Michaels)  
Announcement of Staff Development Conferences (Mr. Michaels)

## **5.02 Personnel - Resignations**

The Administration recommended the approval of the following resignations:

### **Professional:**

#### **Bechtold, Jamie**

Grade 5 Teacher

Elementary School

Reason: Personal

Effective: 06/06/08 (revised date)

**Cirillo, Althea**

Learning Support Teacher

High School

Reason: Retirement

Effective: At the end of the 2007-08 school year and not later than 06/30/08

**Horn, Joan**

Instructional Support Teacher

Elementary School

Reason: Retirement

Effective: At the end of the 2007-08 school year and not later than 06/30/08

**Classified:**

**Limited Service Contract:**

**Collier, Robin**

Assistant Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Coach

High School

Reason: Personal

Effective: 01/15/08

Mr. Malkoff moved the board accept the resignations and was seconded by Dr. Cronin. All board members voted in favor of the motion on a voice vote.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5.03 Personnel - General**

The Administration recommended the approval of the following appointments:

**Classified:**

**Deal, Patricia**

Substitute Recess/Cafeteria Aide

Elementary School

Salary: \$8.89 per hour

Effective: to be determined (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)

**Dunkle, Kathy**

Substitute Recess/Cafeteria Aide

Elementary School

Salary: \$8.89 per hour

Effective: 02/26/08 (pending receipt of Act 151 and 114 clearances)

**Homick, Carol \***

Substitute Library Aide

District-wide

Salary: \$9.65 per hour

Effective: 02/26/08

**Guiglianotti, Barbara**

Substitute Recess/Cafeteria Aide

Elementary School

Salary: \$8.89 per hour

Effective: 02/26/08 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

Substitute Nurse Assistant

District-wide

Salary: \$19.20 per hour

Effective: 02/26/08 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

**Quaid, Tonya** (replacing Denise Grudi)

Recess Aide

Elementary School

Level A, 4.5 hours per day

Salary: \$10.19 per hour

Effective: 02/26/08

**Solovey, Kelly**

Substitute Recess/Cafeteria Aide

Elementary School

Salary: \$8.89 per hour

Effective: 02/26/08 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)

**Limited Service Contract:**

**Kicielinski, Kimberly \*** (replacing Edward Romano Jr.)

Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach

High School

Level II, Group C, Step 2

Salary: \$1,819

Effective: 02/26/08

**Robino, Laura \*** (replacing Robin Collier)

Assistant Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Coach

High School

Level II, Group D, Step 4

Salary: \$1,754

Effective: 02/26/08

2. The Administration gave notice that the following teacher has completed a successful term of three years of employment with a satisfactory evaluation for the district and will receive tenure as a teacher in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

**Lang, Ashley**

Learning Support Teacher, Elementary School

3. The Administration recommended the approval of the following addition to the **Substitute List** for the 2007-08 school year.

**Rowland, Leanne**

B.S. in Elementary Education from West Chester University

4. The Administration recommended the approval of the following addition to the **Guest Teacher List** for the 2007-08 school year.

**Kreiger, Danielle**

**Marotta, Hillary**

5. The Administration recommended the approval of the following addition to the **Substitute List** for the 2008-09 school year.

**Pegg, Elizabeth \***

M.A. in Teaching and Curriculum from Penn State University

Mrs. Chabal moved to accept the recommendation; Dr. Parrish seconded the motion. All board members voted in the affirmative during a roll call vote.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6.01 Dauphin County Technical School Report**

Mr. Gräb reported 14 students and four adults from the school traveled to Biloxi to assist with rebuilding efforts as a learning and humanitarian experience.

**6.02 Derry Township Tax Collection Association Report**

Mr. Malkoff noted he had been elected as Vice President of the Association.

### **6.03 Harrisburg Area Community College Report**

Dr. Donahue reported the board met February 27 and he anticipates HACC's budget to be presented to supporting school districts in April.

### **6.04 Capital Area Intermediate Unit Report**

Mrs. Sheffey reported four of six fees charged to the district by the CAIU should decrease in the next budget year.

### **7.01 Announcement of Staff Development Conferences**

The Administration reported the following staff development conference:

Elizabeth Blosky, Dana Ermold, Linda Krayeski  
Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program  
State College, PA  
March 9 - 11, 2008 (Retroactive)  
Expenses: \$452.00 (each)

Nicole Fisher  
Magna Carta and the World of King John  
Pennsylvania State University  
March 28-29, 2008  
Expenses: \$553.00

### **7.02 Student Representative's Report**

Miss Shank reported students were concerned by rumors that extra credit projects would be eliminated starting with the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Goldsworthy explained the administration was actively reviewing best practices for grading, including – but not limited to the appropriate use of extra credit.

### **7.03 School and Community Information Report**

Mr. Tredinnick reported the Hershey High School Memory Team captured the national team time. He also informed the board the high school's yearbook was recognized with an award of excellence.

### **7.04 Board Member Reports**

None

## **7.05 Superintendent's Report**

None

## **7.06 Board President's Report**

Mr. Stover reported on February 29, 2008, there was a joint meeting held to discuss the Derry Township Amusement Tax agreement. At the meeting were representatives from Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co., the Township of Derry, and the Derry Township School District.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin the dialogue between the entities and discuss how the fifty-year Amusement Tax agreement, which was signed in 1998, has performed during its first ten year cycle.

The parties engaged in open and frank discussions regarding the application of the tax and the ongoing needs of each entity. The School District and the Township acknowledged the cooperation that has existed between the public entities and HE&R – both as a financial contributor and as a community partner. HE&R was educated on new and ongoing financial obligations of the public entities, and the challenges they face from a revenue generation perspective.

It was agreed that it was of the utmost importance to make the discussions between the entities clear and transparent to the public. To further that end, the public entities requested HE&R produce a full public accounting for all its tax payments to the Township and School District over the past 10 years, and HE&R agreed.

It was further agreed that the next meeting between the entities would involve the accounting representatives of each entity to go over the tax payments and how those payments have been allocated over the last 10 years.

It is expected that the next general meeting on Amusement Tax will occur shortly after the financial analysis has been complete.

## **8.01 Recognition of Citizens (Non-agenda Items)**

None

## **9.01 Adjournment**

Mrs. Chabal moved to adjourn, with a second by Dr. Cronin and, approved by unanimous voice vote by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

## 10.1 Working Session

Dr. Brewer, Mrs. Goldsworthy, and Mr. Murphy led a discussion on a state proposal to enact a graduation competency assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stephen E. Rineer  
Secretary to the Board  
Approved at the March 25, 2008 meeting

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Charles Stover  
President of the Board

SR:dbt