

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

March 21, 2011

OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District was held on Monday, March 21, 2011, in the District Office Board Room. Dr. Henry Donahue, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call

Directors Present: Mrs. Beulah Chabal
Dr. Henry Donahue
Mr. John Gräb
Dr. Mary Beth Hagan
Mr. Christopher Morelli
Dr. William Parrish

Excused: Dr. Donna Cronin
Mrs. Ellen Sheffey
Mr. Charles Stover

Acting Superintendent: Dr. Bernie Kepler

Secretary: Mr. Stephen Rineer

Solicitor: Mr. Brian Jackson (Not Present)

Student Representative: Miss Emma Witwer

Press: Ms. Elizabeth Kotz THE PATRIOT NEWS

Representatives of the Administrative Staff: Mr. Dan Tredinnick, Mr. Joseph McFarland, Mr. Ed Consalo, and Ms. Lynn Dell.

Representatives of the Staff and Community: Maryellen Sheehan, Bruce Hancock, Bunny Hottenstein, Heidi Eby, Brian Shiflett, David E. Fisher, Anne Newman, Zachary Cole, Kathy Marschka, Chen Zhuang, and Susan Foxx.

Dr. Donahue: Please note that Dr. Cronin and Mrs. Sheffey and Mr. Stover have excused absences.

1.03 Flag Salute

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.01 Approval of the March 7, 2011 School Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Chabal and seconded by Dr. Parrish to approve the minutes of March 7, 2011 School Board meeting.

All Board members present signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

3.01 Recognition of Music in Our Schools Month

Dr. Donahue: Ms. Miller has brought a special treat – our elementary string performers and they will perform some music for us.

Ms. Miller: Before we perform for you, I asked to do this performance this year for a couple of reasons. First of all, we haven't performed for you in two or three years now, I believe, and so I always enjoy bringing a small group of string players here. Second of all, we recently opened our new classroom at the elementary school, our new large group instruction room, which one of the main purposes of that room is for music rehearsal. This allows myself and our elementary school band director to rehearse at the same time so that we don't have to have separate rehearsals. We can pull all of our kids at one time. It gives a little more instruction time back to our classroom teachers, and in general, the room is a joy to work in. The students love it. We love it. I can speak softly and the students can hear me. We can hear each other and work on ensemble skills. It's just a beautiful facility in which to work. I invite anyone to come in and I would be happy to give you a tour. It is a lovely place to work. We're enjoying having a stereo system in the room for which we can play recordings for the students. I will say it has greatly increased what I can do with my students, and I'm still learning

different ways to use the rooms. I have some more storage space. We have two large storage closets in which we store our large instruments and we know that that's had a pretty good effect on our school cellos with how we turn the temperature down in our buildings on weekends now, the really bitter cold weather – it took a little of a toll on my cellos. I would come in every Monday morning and find loose bridges and things like that, but in the new room, my regular classroom is on an outside wall, and I think it gets a lot of cold wind and that, but the new room, the storage closet in the new room, things are much better with that. That's a little added benefit, but mostly it's just a very joyful place to make music and a joyful place to learn music, so we thank you for your support in that facility.

I'm going to ask my students to introduce themselves and they are going to tell you what instrument they play. While you watch the students perform, I ask that you keep in mind that this is a small percentage. This is students in the equivalent of about three lesson groups of students. I have about 40 lesson groups worth of students. I think my program has started the year for the last two years with over 170 string students. So, behind the students that are performing for you are many many many more students who could be standing in front of you if we had enough space to do so.

So let's start over here. Go ahead and introduce yourself.

Each child introduced themselves and what instrument they play.

Ms. Miller: Okay and without further ado, we're going to perform two short pieces for you this evening. The first piece is called "Scoley's Wheel". It is a Scottish piece. I chose this piece, our international fair was two Fridays ago, and one of the students in our orchestra, his father came in and he ran the Scottish table, and that kind of got me thinking that this would be a nice piece to play. When we learn tunes like this, we learn them in different layers. We learn them by ear. They did not get the music for these tunes right away. They asked for it, but I didn't give it to them, because we wanted to develop their hearing and develop their ability to hear the melodies. At this point in time, we're going to perform the melodies. In our second tune, Ian Banning is also going to play; we're going to add a bass line. He actually wrote this bass line. We learned a little bit about chords and so it is actually his original bass line. The second tune is called "Old Joe Clark." Both are fiddle tunes. I mentioned that "Scoley's Wheel" is Scottish in origin, "Old Joe Clark" is, there are a couple different sources. We believe that it is mainly an Appalachian fiddle tune from our own country.

Please keep in mind these are works in progress. We're not quite to where we want them, we have two more parts to add to each tune before our May concert, but you do get to hear where we're at in the middle of this process.

Once again, we'd like to thank our Board members, we'd like to thank our administrators, and a special group of people I'd like to thank who really are the people who make this happen more so than anyone is our parents. Thank you parents. You really are the most important part when it comes to your child's music education. I often

tell parents that if your child is interested in soccer ball, you don't just buy them a soccer ball and throw it in the backyard and wait and see if they're interested in it. You buy them a soccer ball and you take them to soccer. You sign them up for youth soccer. When it comes to instruments, I know that sometimes the instruments get pushed behind the couch or they get pushed in closets and we forget to practice, and I suspect that most of the time it's mom and dad or grandma's or aunts and uncles who say, hey can I hear you play your instrument. It's amazing the difference that makes. We live in a day when kids are busy, when parents are busy, and the fact that we can still find time for music in our schools and we can still find time for music in our lives never ceases to amaze me. I have a pretty wonderful job that I'm very grateful for. It is a joy to work with these students every day, so thank you.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you, Mrs. Miller. That was fantastic.

3.02 Announcement of Executive Session

Dr. Donahue: I'd like to announce that the Board met in Executive Session on March 12, 15, 16, 17, and 21 of 2011 for a review of Superintendent applications, candidate interviews, and prior to this meeting, to discuss employee issues.

3.03 Recognition of Citizens (Agenda Items)

None.

3.04 Student Representatives' Report (Miss Royer & Miss Witwer)

Miss Witwer: A lot has happened. PSSAs have started and spring sports have started. On March 12, the Navy band came to the Hershey High School and they had a performance which was phenomenal, so as a band member, I was required to go and a lot of community members showed up, so I think people really liked that. Today was a student blood drive at the school. Every year, students donate blood to the Pennsylvania Blood Bank, so that when on today. Then this past weekend, swimming had a very successful weekend at states. Both boys and girls won the state championships. David Nolan, Kyle Ruddle, Sean Grier, and Jeff Young broke a national record in the 200 free style. Sam Surfus, Meaghan Raab, Yurie Nakano, and Katelyn Miller broke another national record in the 400 free style. David Nolan broke multiple national records. Meaghan Raab broke multiple state records, and another girls' relay team broke another state record, so it was a very successful weekend for swimming. It's been an eventful past couple of weeks.

Dr. Donahue: Great. Thank you very much.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 Unfinished Business

None.

NEW BUSINESS

5.01 Approval of Finance Report for February 2011

1.	The Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 28, 2011 was summarized as follows:	
	• General Fund Revenues	\$1,266,694
	• General Fund Expenditures	3,655,972
	• Balance of Cash Plus Investments (Includes \$4,753,054 Capital Reserve)	24,524,699
2.	The listed schedule of investment transactions for the period beginning February 1, 2011 through February 28, 2011 had total interest earnings of \$5,694 comprised of the following:	
	• General Fund	\$48
	• Money Market	4,580
	• Capital Reserve	1,066
	• PA Local Government Investment Trust	0
	The average interest rate for February 2011 was 0.32%	
3.	The February 2011 expenditures for the paid bills for all funds totaled \$2,197,892 excluding net payroll, retirement contributions, and debt service.	
4.	The March 2011 expenditures for the unpaid bills for all funds totaled \$1,265,971	

5.	The estimated expenditures of the General Fund for the month of March 2011 were in the following amounts:	
	• Operating Expenses	\$1,000,000
	• Utilities	141,400
	• Net Payroll (2 Pays)	1,260,000
	• Employer Provided Insurance	385,500
	• Payroll Deductions	610,000
	• Employer Payroll Taxes (FICA/RET)	480,000
	• Debt Service	<u>457,254</u>
	Total Estimated Expenditures	\$4,334,154

Mr. Rineer: I'd be pleased to answer any questions about the Finance Report.

Dr. Donahue: Any questions for Mr. Rineer?

Dr. Hagan moved the Board approve the Finance Report and was seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.02 Budget Transfers

Section 687 (d) of the Public School Code provides: The Board of School Directors shall have the power to authorize the transfer of any unencumbered balance, or any portion thereof, from one class of expenditures or item, to another, but such action shall be taken only during the last nine (9) months of the Fiscal Year."

The Administration recommended the Board authorize the March 2011 budget transfers.

Dr. Parrish moved the Board approve the budget transfers and was seconded by Dr. Hagan.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
 Cronin – Absent
 Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
 Hagan – Yes
 Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
 Sheffey – Absent
 Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.03 Requests for Payment - Construction Projects

The Administration recommended the approval of the following invoices as reviewed and approved by Mr. Consalo:

Elementary School/LGI:		
1.	East Coast Contracting (General Contractor) Application No: 9477-08	22,316.71
2.	Hayes Large Architect LLP Bill No: 1102-040	1,755.82
Middle School Expansion:		
3.	eci Construction LLC (General Contractor) Application No: 10	94,109.92
4.	A.H. Moyer (HVAC) Application No: 9	30,433.25
5.	G Bass (Plumbing) Application No: 8	4,874.16
6.	Guy M. Cooper, Inc. (Fire Systems) Application No: 8	2,533.95
7.	Leer Electric (Electrical) Application No: 9	47,375.29

8.	SchraderGroup Architecture, LLC Invoice No: 896 Invoice No: 897	1,640.26 <u>15,000.00</u>	17,640.26
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Mr. Gräb moved the Board approve the payments and was seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.04 Approval of 2011-2012 Capital Area Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget

The Administration recommended the approval of the 2011-2012 Capital Area Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget. Derry Township School District’s contribution to the General Operating Budget is \$51,280.91.

Mr. Rineer: This is an increase over the 2010-2011 operating budget of \$50,572.89.

Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the CAIU 2001/2012 general operating budget and was seconded by Dr. Hagan.

Mrs. Chabal: Yes, this is actually the preliminary budget and so they’re working on that. It should have been on our agenda in December. It sort of fell through the cracks, so here it is.

Dr. Donahue: Was that my fault?

Mrs. Chabal: No.

Dr. Donahue: Any other discussion?

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.05 Approval of Athletic Training Coverage Agreement

The Administration recommended the Board approve and ratify the Athletic Training Agreement with Drayer Physical Therapy Institute, LLC. Under the Agreement, the District will pay Drayer \$32,000.00 to provide a full-time certified athletic trainer for the High School and a part-time certified athletic trainer for the Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year.

Dr. Parrish moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Dr. Hagan.

Dr. Parrish: I'd think we just ought to take time to thank Drayer again for doing this. They've provided this coverage for several years and if you do the numbers, this is significantly less than what it would cost the District to go out and hire one and a half athletic trainers, so thanks to the Drayer Group for continuing their support.

Dr. Donahue: Thanks, Bill.

Mr. Morelli: Just one quick comment. Mr. Varney does a great job. I've seen him with the kids at the high school and the middle school. As far as I can tell, the parents really appreciate the work he does at the events when the kids are hurt, especially when it comes to concussions. He's the man. Nobody goes back in if he doesn't want them going back in, so they do do a very good job.

Dr. Donahue: Great. Thank you, Chris. Any other discussion?

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.06 Approval of GASB 45 Valuation Services

The Administration recommended the acceptance of an agreement with the Pennsylvania Trust to perform actuarial services as of June 30, 2011 as required by Government Accounting Standards Board Pronouncement Number 45. Actuarial services will be performed by Conrad Siegel Actuaries at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.00.

Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the agreement and was seconded by Dr. Parrish.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Absent

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Hagan – Yes

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Absent

Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.07 Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursion - Youth & Government - April 2011

The Administration recommended the approval of the overnight field trip/excursion as listed:

<i>Group:</i>	Youth & Government
<i>Number of Participating Students:</i>	27
<i>Grade Level:</i>	9-12
<i>Destination:</i>	Harrisburg, PA
<i>Purpose:</i>	Youth and Government Model Legislature Convention
<i>Depart:</i>	April 15, 2011
<i>Return:</i>	April 17, 2011
<i>Trip Leader:</i>	Pete Steelman

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

Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the overnight field trip excursion and was seconded by Mr. Morelli.

Roll Call Vote:
Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.08 Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursion - High School Orchestra - November 2011

The Administration recommended the approval of the overnight field trip/excursion as listed:

<i>Group:</i>	High School Orchestra
<i>Number of Participating Students:</i>	Up to 80
<i>Grade Level:</i>	9-12
<i>Destination:</i>	Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL
<i>Purpose:</i>	Workshop on Performing Film Music in Disney Studio and Soundtrack
<i>Depart:</i>	November 25, 2011
<i>Return:</i>	November 29, 2011
<i>Trip Leader:</i>	Gregory Woodbridge

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

Mr. Gräb moved the Board approve the overnight field trip and was seconded by Dr. Hagan.

Dr. Hagan: Just wanted to confirm if there is any cost to the District or was this paid by the students themselves through the booster club?

Dr. Kepler: Yes, this is a student funded field trip or overnight excursion.

Dr. Hagan: Thanks.

Dr. Donahue: Thanks Mary Beth. Thanks, Bernie.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.09 Requests for the Use of School Facilities

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

<i>Group:</i>	St. Joan of Arc Track Team
<i>Date/Time:</i>	March 22 through May 20, 2011 Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
	Monday, Wednesday, Thursdays 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	Cinder Track by Elementary School
<i>Event:</i>	Practice and Meets
<i>Fee:</i>	None
<i>Group:</i>	Hershey High School Bands for Symphony Orchestra
<i>Date/Time:</i>	March 31, 2011 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	High School Band Room, Auditorium
<i>Event:</i>	Rehearsal
<i>Fee:</i>	None
<i>Group:</i>	Hershey Youth Football Association
<i>Date/Time:</i>	May 31, June 1, 2, 3, 7, 2011 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	ECC Gym and MPR
<i>Event:</i>	Youth Cheerleading Tryouts and Registration
<i>Fee:</i>	None

<i>Group:</i>	Girls' Basketball
<i>Date/Time:</i>	June 8 through July 20, 2011 Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	Middle School Gym
<i>Event:</i>	Games
<i>Fee:</i>	None
<i>Group:</i>	Hershey Youth Field Hockey Association
<i>Date/Time:</i>	June 20 through 23, 2011 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
	Rain Date: June 24, 2011 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	High School Grass Field Hockey Field
<i>Event:</i>	Summer Camp
<i>Fee:</i>	None
<i>Group:</i>	Pennsylvania Jazz Teaching Workshop with John Gabriele
<i>Date/Time:</i>	June 27 through June 30, 2011 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	Middle School Auditorium, Cafeteria, Band Room, Music Room
<i>Event:</i>	Workshop of Music Educators
<i>Fee:</i>	None

Dr. Parrish moved the Board approve the requests and was seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.10 Personnel – Resignations

Dr. Kepler: Prior to presenting the resignations, I would like to speak very quickly about Rose Witmer. Rose has been a long standing head cook at our elementary school and is saying it's time to retire. We wish Rose a long and healthy retirement and thank her for her many many years of service to our students.

So with that said, the Administration recommended the approval of the following resignations:

Classified:
Nelson, Patricia Recess Aide Elementary School Reason: Resignation Effective: 03/25/2011
Witmer, Rose Head Cook Elementary School Reason: Retirement Effective: 05/27/2011

Dr. Hagan moved the Board approve the resignations and was seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.11 Personnel – General

1.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following appointments:
	Classified:
	Godfrey, Phyllisann Substitute Teachers' Aide District-wide Salary: \$10.65 per hour

	Effective: 03/22/2011 (pending receipt of Act 34 and 151 clearances)
	<p>Rusbult, Jessica Substitute Teachers' Aide District-wide Salary: \$10.65 per hour Effective: 03/22/2011</p>
	<p>Witmer, Rose * Substitute General Food Service Worker District-wide Salary: \$9.28 per hour Effective: 05/27/2011</p>
	Limited Service Contracts:
	<p>Belles, Diane * Varsity Assistant Boys' Tennis Coach High School Revised: Level II, Group F, Step 7 Revised: Salary: \$1,581 Effective: 03/08/2011 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)</p>
	<p>Martin, Michael Volunteer Varsity Assistant Boys' Lacrosse Coach High School Effective: 03/22/2011 (pending receipt of Act 151 clearance)</p>
2.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following request in accordance with District Policy 435:
	<p>Taylor, William * Health/PE Teacher Elementary School Paid/Unpaid Family Medical Leave Effective: 03/01/2011 through 03/28/2011 (retroactive)</p>
3.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following requests in accordance with District Policy 535:
	<p>Bedleyoung, Dawn * General Food Service Worker High School Extension of Paid/Unpaid Family Medical Leave Effective: 03/14/2011 through 03/29/2011 (retroactive)</p>

	Morelli, Vicent * Bus Driver District-wide Paid/Unpaid Family Medical Leave Effective: 01/04/2011 through the end of the 2010-2011 school year (retroactive)
4.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following addition to the 2010-2011 Substitute Teacher List:
	Fisher, Linda B.S. in Elementary Education from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
5.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following addition to the 2010-2011 Guest Teacher List:
	Felty-Michaelson, Kristen
*	This individual is currently an employee and/or volunteer. Clearances are on file.

Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the personnel recommendations and was seconded by Dr. Parrish.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
Cronin – Absent
Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes
Hagan – Yes
Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
Sheffey – Absent
Stover - Absent

6 Yes, 3 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATES REPORTS

6.01 Dauphin County Technical School Report

Mr. Gräb: Yes, both Mr. Morelli and I may be participating this evening. At the Dauphin County Technical School meeting, a group of 14 Dauphin County Technical students who journeyed to Austell, Georgia to do construction work following a flood presented. A number of students came away with new impressions of how easy it is to work with one another regardless of the backgrounds from which they came. They were all very thankful for the help they were able to give the family for whom they worked. Several adults went along with them; Mr. Brightbill was the primary construction trade teacher and Mr. Keith Oellig, who is a member of the Joint Operating Committee. I think the two

adults, from the pictures I've seen, did more observing than they worked, but that goes with age.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you, Mr. Morelli do you have anything to add?

Mr. Morelli: We were also presented with a graduate survey of class of 2008 and 2010. I have a copy of it if anyone would want to look through it.

Dr. Donahue: Great. Thanks. Are there any questions for John or Chris? Thank you.

6.02 Harrisburg Area Community College Report

Dr. Donahue: Dr. Cronin has an excused absence; do you have anything to update us on Dr. Kepler?

Dr. Kepler: I do, Dr. Donahue. In Dr. Cronin's stead last week, I was able to attend the HACC Board of Delegates meeting which the administration at HACC as well as four of their Board of Trustees were able to attend as well for continued budget dialogue on the HACC Harrisburg campus. I'm pleased to report that the leadership from HACC Board of Trustees are dialoguing about the superintendents' and delegates' request for immediate tuition relief for the upcoming school year. Most specifically, a delegate made motion to formally request that 30% reduction. It was seconded and approved as a formal request. At the April meeting, HACC leadership will be back with their final budget update in response to that request. So, it has remained cordial conversations and has been good dialogue.

Dr. Donahue: Great. Any questions for Bernie? I think, given my experience with HACC, this is actually excellent progress. At least they are listening, maybe. Listening if not hearing. Thanks, Bernie.

6.03 Capital Area Intermediate Unit Report

Mrs. Chabal: The meeting is Thursday morning, so the first Board meeting of next month, I will have a report for you.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you. Any questions?

6.04 Derry Township Tax Collection Association Report

Dr. Donahue: Both Mr. Stover and Mrs. Sheffey have an excused absence. Are there any other Board members that would like to comment on the Derry Township Tax Collection Association report? Probably not.

Mr. Rineer: I can comment. There was no meeting of the Derry Township Tax Collection Association last month. There was a meeting of the Dauphin County Act 32 committee. What was decided, according to Mr. Stover, was a rejection of the Berkheimer Associates contract and ongoing negotiations with Keystone Tax Organization from western Pennsylvania to collect the earned income tax beginning in 2012.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you. Any questions for Steve?

SPECIAL REPORTS

7.01 School Community Information Report

Mr. Tredinnick: Thank you Mr. President. Actually since we had such a fine report from our student delegate, that's covered a lot of the items, so I appreciate you saving me a little wear and tear this evening.

Two items I did just want to cover briefly – a reminder that the Drugs 101 event will be hosted on Wednesday, the 30th. Now, registration for that event closed on the 15th, however, any Board members who are available, I'm sure we would welcome you to attend. There is an opportunity there for you, and I think that would be a good event for all those in the community who will have the opportunity to learn a lot.

Just a brief report on yesterday's Taste of Hershey, which is, of course, the Trojan Foundation's largest fundraising effort. I'm pleased to report I'm still counting money, so that's a good thing. I believe that we'll have done fairly well considering the economy and the effect it has had on some of our usual corporate sponsors and, in fact, some of the restaurants who typically participate. So, while we didn't necessarily make as much money as we have in the heyday, I believe we had a very respectful event and, more importantly, I think everyone who attended had a very good time.

Dr. Donahue: Thanks, Dan. I know several Board members, several members of the audience were at the Taste of Hershey and it was really a fantastic event. The food was really good and it was very well attended I thought.

Dr. Kepler: Dr. Donahue, if you don't mind. If I could just say some thank you's, because as Dan mentioned the event is a Trojan Foundation event. First of all, staff at HE&R, without them we wouldn't be able to pull that off. At the Lodge, they do a great job, but for our folks here, the work that Dan puts in and many many meetings, he's the driving force here at the District. Al Harding, Greg Hummel, and Ed Consalo also a great deal of effort in seeing that all of our items are shipped over and returned and they give up their Sunday afternoon, and I want to thank them for that.

Dr. Donahue: Great. Thank you, Bernie.

7.02 Board Members' Report

Mr. Morelli: Just a quick question. I attended the Race to Nowhere movie a few weeks ago and two things stood out. One was they made mention that there are some studies out there that say you shouldn't give homework to K through 5 students. One of the other things they mentioned was the fact that some of these other countries that do quite well, as well as we do, if not better, actually give less homework at all the levels. I was wondering if the District, since the movie obviously, has had any conversations or dialogue with the administrative team, teachers?

Mr. McFarland: Actually, prior to the movie last year, we started looking at the whole idea of homework. In the elementary school, part of it is reading, which is generally assigned for kids to read each evening, but it goes 10 minutes per grade level, so you can figure that out up to 50 minutes maximum. Generally, in the elementary school, that's some math practice and some reading and possibly some spelling work, but not a whole lot. We have been dialoguing about that at the middle and high school especially, trying to look at meaningful homework. The research does somewhat support meaningful homework in secondary, but we are looking at that as well.

Dr. Kepler: To add to what Mr. McFarland said, some of our discussions are what to do next. Is opportunity lost if we do not do Phase 2 and begin dialogue further? I know at the high school there is some dialogue taking place in some internal roundtables if you will. We're talking administratively about the need for our entire faculty to view that movie and looking at that as a possibility for opening day inservice next summer being it's still August, not next fall. We do realize that there is a need to continue and capitalize upon the momentum that that initial viewing provided to us.

Mr. McFarland: And I know Mr. Murphy at the BAT meeting this past month spoke about setting up some parent evening sessions to dialogue further as far as next steps.

Mr. Morelli: Thank you.

Dr. Donahue: I thought that was a great movie and I encourage anybody that hasn't seen it to see it. My wife and I have thought of watching it with our kids, but we're concerned about the no homework section so we might fast forward some of that part. Not that no homework is bad, I just don't want to get it in their head.

7.03 Acting Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kepler: I actually have three items to update you on this evening. The first of which speaks to some follow up from public comment at our last meeting regarding the 635 accounts or food budget for the School District. I went through the 2009-2010 expenditures through the 635 accounts and just wanted to give you some general features or aspects to the expenditures in food.

Student events from senior awards breakfast, underclass awards breakfasts, many times we have student tours or interviews, students coming in for teacher interview lessons, etc., there's food. Commencement – food, playoffs for athletic teams when they're staying away, I know, for example, the swimming team this past weekend food is provided, meals are provided. Two afterschool programs for TEAM and MASH, 8th grade breakfast, 8th grade lunch, all those things that our students or even at events when we have Back to School night and there are snacks for parents and students that attend. Those line items comprise about \$25,000 in cost. Moving forward to some teacher-based items when we look at induction programming for new staff in the summer, opening day inservice, continental breakfast before an inservice, any other trainings, there's a hodgepodge of things without going into line item by line item, but that puts you at \$18,000 as an 2009-2010 expenditure. Other items that were special, some annual events, some just particular to last year – the H1N1 clinics had staff stay until 8:00 or 9:00 at night straight through and had no time for a break. We fed them as they came to work the H1N1 clinic. The Athletic Hall of Fame banquet was a \$5,000 line item in and of itself, but there's also revenue that comes in on that as an offset. Those types of things comprise \$12,000 to \$14,000 to give you an idea of a lot of the expenditures in that area, but it's not, as I said to Joe, I know I'm overweight, but I'm not enjoying all those meals. That was just a synopsis of our expenditures in food.

The second item also relates to budget and I want to share with the Board and the public tonight that, as you know, back on March 7, 2011, the Act 93 administrative contract was approved that provided 20 administrators and 12 administrative support personnel positions with a 1% wage increase. However, that was coupled with an increase in employee healthcare contribution. At the time of the adoption of this two year agreement, the administration and the Board had taken into consideration that the Commonwealth would be reducing state basic education funding to the 2008 level. Our District had planned for this. In fact, our budgeting process began in September and we had our budget at the point of basically being balanced on March 7. Well, another day that will live in infamy in the Commonwealth – March 8, 2011 and Governor Corbett's budget release had a much greater impact to our District budget than we originally anticipated. Due to the negative fiscal impact that the Governor's proposed budget has on Derry Township School District, I'm pleased to share with you tonight that the Act 93 employees have agreed to forego our wage increase for 2011-2012. [Not audible] wanted to do what we could to help students and taxpayers. It's a savings of approximately \$16,000 to the School District across those 32 employees, but we believe this is a sacrifice worth making if it can help preserve programs and quality education for our students. We present that to you tonight from the Act 93 team.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you, Bernie.

Dr. Kepler: And then finally, I have an overall budget update for you that kind of is a precursor to April 4 Finance Committee. The Commonwealth's proposed budget, and I say proposed as we hope there are some changes, has had a significant impact on us. As Finance Chair, Ellen Sheffey and I were able to visit with Representative Payne last

week and had great dialogue about the impact to us. He's taken some thoughts back to the Capitol, not that he can guarantee us anything, but we felt very heard and thanked him for his time. Ultimately, the impacts we're seeing are, as I said earlier, in September we had heard that there would be no increase in basic ed funding, in fact taking it back to 2008 levels. We planned for that. What we didn't anticipate was a total depletion of the account [not audible] grant, which is \$174,000 line item in this year's budget, \$150,000 line item in cyber reimbursement that was depleted in the Governor's proposed budget, and not talked about much, Social Security impact. In the Governor's budget, there is a provision that's not readily apparent that any school district that has an aid ratio of .5 or less will no longer be reimbursed Social Security payment of 50%. It will actually be reimbursed at your aid ratio for any employee hired after 1994. Our aid ratio is .29, so from .5 to .29 and that is a \$328,000 impact that, again, I'll emphasize, is not readily talked about or seen in the press as of yet. Overall, what that does to us is taken what was once a pretty closely balanced budget at 3.1% and potentially with little pain at 1.4% has put us in a position where we need to begin dialoguing very specifically about our priorities and expenditures. With a 1.4% increase, as we sit today is a 1.052 million dollar deficit at a 3.1% tax hike, that's a \$513,000 deficit. Each of those numbers for all intents and purposes could be reduced \$300,000 when we consider our budgetary reserve. So a 1.4% millage increase we're basically at a \$752,000 deficit, so clearly some work to do and we'll continue to plug away with that and on April 4 Finance Committee meeting we will have some great dialogue.

Mr. Rineer: I just attended the conference the Pennsylvania Association of School Board Officials last week in Pittsburg and not to be a rumor monger, but the rumors are that this will be the last year for exceptions, that Governor Corbett has taken aim on allowing any further exceptions for retirement costs or special ed for the 2011-2012 year. That's a very sobering rumor if it's true.

Dr. Donahue: Thanks Bernie, thanks Steve.

Mr. Gräb: Steve are there any rumors out there that the legislature is going to make an attempt to address some of their errors of the past?

Mr. Rineer: The short answer is no. I have heard one third hand rumor, but it is so remote that I'm afraid to mention it. What I heard last week was that Governor Corbett has taken aim on the exceptions and this might be the last year for it. This might be the last opportunity to exercise the exceptions.

Mr. Gräb: The only reason why I asked the question is we didn't dig the hole, but we're asked to fill it.

Mr. Rineer: We are indeed. I can appreciate the notice for the Act 1 index. I can appreciate the allowance of exceptions. The fundamental reason for that was decreased and declining state subsidies. The school districts having no recourse but to raise the real estate millage, the only tax that they can have any meaningful impact on and the response to raising the real estate taxes by the school districts is through the

Act 1. So there's not a school district in the state that is not in very difficult position for the 2011-2012 budget.

Mr. Gräb: I would encourage our administrative team and all citizens in Derry Township to contact our state legislature and our state senator, because not only is the Governor's budget creating problems, but the PSERS pension that was reduced about nine or ten years ago seems to be the driving force right now behind the difficulties that are going to face us in the future. If we're not [not audible] along with the idea of vouchers is to put the public education system out of business within five or ten years.

Mr. Rineer: There were rumors to that effect.

Mr. Gräb: Thank you, Dr. Donahue.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you, John. Any other comments?

7.04 Board President's Report

Dr. Donahue: I have a couple items. First of all, on behalf of the school and the community at large, I want to thank our administrators for the individual sacrifice they are making for the collective good of this school community. The Act 93 contract the Board approved March 7 was austere to begin with, which as Bernie mentioned, a 1% base salary increase that was somewhat offset by an increased employee contribution to healthcare. In agreeing to those terms, administrators signaled they understood the fiscal challenge facing the District and they were willing to help be part of the solution. So, for these folks to now take things a step further and voluntarily forego any pay increases speaks volumes to me as a School Board member and a parent and a taxpayer. Our administration is really taking leadership in this issue. To preserve quality education all belts need to be tightened, potentially at the program level as well. The Board will be engaging in some very critical dialogue over the next few months about tough decisions that need to be made. Our administrators are serving as models in that regard having already made the difficult decision to freeze their own paychecks. On behalf of the Board we thank each and every one of you.

The other item I'd like to report on is the superintendent's search. After narrowing down the search to six absolutely outstanding candidates, the Board has selected two finalists. The finalists are Dr. Richard Faidley, who is Associate Superintendent for Yuma Union High School District in Arizona and Dr. Paul Healey, who is Superintendent of Bermudian Springs School District in Adams County in Central Pennsylvania. There is more detail on each one of these candidates on our web page. There will be a community forum on March 31 at which time community members will be able to ask questions of the two finalist candidates.

Second, I'd like to thank Dr. Kepler for his outstanding job he's been doing and continues to do as evidenced in his leadership in the Act 93 agreement during his

tenure as Acting Superintendent. We hope and trust and that he'll continue to play a leadership role in the transition to our next superintendent.

With that, I'll take any questions or comments on either one of those two issues?

Mr. Morelli: Just a quick comment. I believe on the web page you can also submit your questions if you can't be there that evening.

Dr. Donahue: That's correct.

Mr. Morelli: If you get one that says test 1, 2, 3, I was just making sure Dan got it.

Mr. Gräb: Did we announce a date for that?

Dr. Donahue: March 31 at 6:30 in the middle school auditorium.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS (Non-Agenda Items)

8.01 Recognition of Citizens (Non-Agenda Items)

Dr. Donahue: At the last meeting there was discussion as to whether this should be agenda and non-agenda and the Board was under the general agreement that it should be, unfortunately, we have to change that in the policies before we do that, but we did think that was not a bad idea. For tonight, we'll try to stick to non-agenda items if there's anybody.

Brian Shiflett: I want to revisit the one to one computer initiative that we discussed at the working session on March 7. Given the budget situation, I kind of feel that we're not going to do anything but tread water on this, that's my prediction, but a couple of things that I want to point out. During that work session and my review of past work sessions on this topic, when we talk about a one to one initiative that means, in my mind, that every student receives a laptop or whatever the piece of technology is. One thing I have not seen addressed very well is how do we take care of students who may have disabilities, such as sight disabilities, hearing disabilities, other special needs where the applications, the tools have to be tailored to meet their disabilities. I just don't want any dialogue on this, I just want to make sure that as we think about this going forward that we make sure this is a one to one to initiative, not a one to most initiative. Because if we assume that everybody can use the applications as is, I think we open ourselves up for legal challenges by people in the community.

Also, I think, just from a personal standpoint, I know my one student has a teacher who is on the one to one initiative committee who seems to miss a lot of instructional time going to committee meetings every month and it just happens to be my child's class and she really needs that teacher there, so it would be nice to get some direction to that committee so that they can either stop what they're doing or continue because it seems

like they're losing instructional time working on this one to one initiative. It's not going to go anywhere for next year, that is no more additional classrooms being funded, then I think we should probably put the teachers back in the classrooms and put that in hiatus.

Last thing I'd like to say is I want to congratulate the District on the work they've done on the budget so far. I think reading the news around the Commonwealth, I think the administration, Mr. Rineer, have done an excellent job preparing the school Board and the Finance Committee with the data they need to plan the budget. There were surprises in there, but all in all I think it was pretty well projected. It seems like everybody's taking pot shots at Derry Township right now in the press, like, you know as far as, it seems like when you're in the best position, please are going to take pot shots at you and not to say that some of those aren't, I think some of those are easy targets, but I do want to just not be the person to take the pot shot at you all as a member of the community, but say thank you for good job you've done preparing the Board for this next fiscal year. Thank you.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you very much. Other citizens?

ADJOURNMENT

9.01 Adjournment

Dr. Donahue: The next public school Board meeting will be held Monday, April 4, 2011 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room – that's here.

Mrs. Chabal moved to adjourn, with a second by Dr. Hagan and, approved by unanimous voice vote by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. Rineer
Secretary to the Board
Approved at the April 4, 2011 meeting

Dr. Henry Donahue
President of the Board

LDM