

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

September 27, 2010

OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District was held on Monday, September 27, 2010, in the District Office Board Room. Dr. William Parrish, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call

Directors Present: Mrs. Beulah Chabal
Dr. Donna Cronin
Dr. Henry Donahue
Mr. John Gräb
Mr. Chris Morelli
Dr. William Parrish
Mrs. Ellen Sheffey
Mr. Charles Stover

Excused: Dr. Mary Beth Hagan

Superintendent: Dr. Linda Brewer

Secretary: Mr. Stephen Rineer

Solicitor: Brian F. Jackson (Not Present)

Student Representative: Emma Witwer

Press: Mr. Drew J. Weidman THE SUN
Mr. Nick Malawskey THE PATRIOT-NEWS

Representatives of the Administrative Staff: Mr. Dan Tredinnick, Dr. Bernie Kepler, and Mr. Al Harding.

Representatives of the Staff and Community: Bunny Hottenstein, Brad Dorrance, Ann Dorrance, Corinne Gibilterra, John Sivley, Brian Shiflett, Seth Freibers, Passion Harris Wilson, Joel Hammer, Tara Valoczki, Pat Prichard, Dorothy Krazek-Lehman,

Christian Cassidy-Amstutz, Robert Bacchatz, Julie A. Neal, Bonnie Pugliese, Tyler Pugliese, Dylan Devenyi, Junior Lambright, Lou Ann Fisher, David E. Fisher, Diane Leonard, Debbie Finger, Susan Foxx, Clara Layser, Jennifer M. Savid-Lewis, Linda Kelly, Tracy Devenyi, Bruce Hancock, Alayne M. Helmas, Josephine Allen, Michael D. Kreamer, Cindy Wilfong, Michael A. Bruno, Michelle Allen, D. Kodavatiganti, and Lynne Shaprio

Dr. Parrish: I'd like to announce that Dr. Hagan is ill and has an excused absence.

1.03 Flag Salute

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.01 Approval of September 13, 2010 School Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Chabal and seconded by Mr. Morelli to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2010 School Board meeting.

All Board members present signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

3.01 Announcement of Executive Session

Dr. Parrish: I'd like to announce that the Board did meet this evening in Executive Session to discuss matters of legal issues.

3.02 Recognition of Citizens (Agenda Items)

None.

3.03 Student Representatives' Report

Dr. Parrish: Mr. Tredinnick, I think we have some new Student Representatives. We welcome them if you'd like to make an introduction and we'll accept their report.

Mr. Tredinnick: Thank you, Mr. President. Since this is the first meeting of the school year that we have a student representative, I'd thought we'd take a moment to introduce her and her colleague who was not able to be with us this evening.

I'll start by saying that by adding these two young ladies to your Board, you've effectively doubled the media contingent that we have that normally covers us. Both Emma Witwer and Meredith Royer are involved in the Broadcaster. They're also both members of the National Honor Society. Meredith couldn't be with us here this evening, but she is very active in the Student Council. Emma, outside of her many school activities is also very active in her church. So, without any further ado, I'll let Emma elaborate on that and any other comments that she may have for you.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you. Welcome, Emma.

Miss Witwer: Thank you. My name is Emma as said. Speaking for Meredith since she can't be here today and speaking for myself, we're both very excited to be the Student Representatives at the School Board meetings. We're looking forward to a great year and we're glad we could be here.

Dr. Parrish: Welcome. We welcome you and look forward to your comments. It's always fun. The guys that we had last year left pretty big shoes for you to fill. They were pretty quick to offer their opinion and we really appreciate that.

Miss Witwer: Thank you.

Dr. Parrish: Any other comments for our students?

3.04 Standing Committee Report

Dr. Parrish: The Finance Committee did meet tonight, Mrs. Sheffey, do you have a report?

Mrs. Sheffey: Yes, I do. We met today. We started by discussing the state index which was released in early September. The state index for Derry Township is 1.4%. It is the lowest it has ever been. It's actually slightly less than half of what we received last year. That 1.4% equates to \$443,000 that we would be able to raise our property taxes by.

Backing up, it's very early for us to be discussing the budget at this process, but because of Act 1 and because the index is so low, we began discussions tonight. We realize that there are very few knowns right now. The only knowns we have our debt service, which fortunately will be down by \$100,000 for next year's budget, which is good news and then the state index of 1.4%. We have many more unknowns. One of our unknowns is PSERs. This is something we talked about extensively last year. Right now, the PSERs rate is projected to increase to approximately 10%, I don't have it in front of me right now, which is double what we're currently paying. That increase alone is \$600,000, which exceeds our indexed amount of \$440,000. It's a projected number. PSERs will meet in December. That number may change. It may go down, it may go up, but at this point, we have to assume it will be the 10%.

Another unknown are all of our contracts. Our HESPA contract is currently expired. They are working without a contract. HEA and Act 93 will expire in June of 2011. We don't know what kind of salary increases would be negotiated, so it's a huge unknown, especially when you consider that 67% of our budget is comprised of personnel. Healthcare is another unknown. So far, we're ahead of budget, but last year we were ahead of budget at this point in time and at the end of the year, we had a lot of claims come in.

We also know from last year's budget presentation that there were many needs that were put off last year and we're not sure we'll be to put them off again next year. I believe there were six positions in last year's budget that were raised. Middle School guidance counselor was one, I think Business Tech teacher in the high school. I think K through 12 math specialist, so a lot of needs that were identified last year and we put off until next year, not sure if we're still going to have those needs.

We kind of got a little off topic as we talked about all of these unknowns and all of these needs, we started talking about reviewing class size – something that when you look at 67% of your budget being personnel, it's something that we really will have to consider. It was raised last year and we said we're not ready yet, but this year we may have to have some more discussions about it.

We looked quickly at our capital improvement budget. The first glance at that is \$1.1 million dollars, but it needs to be reviewed by General Services. The bulk of this includes four new buses. We did not rotate out buses last year, because of expanding to the two tier, so we have many buses with well over 120,000 miles. Since it's time to change them out, and it also included radios – transferring our radios to a broadband or some sort of change which would be \$150,000. General Services will review that. They'll come back to the Finance Committee and, hopefully, it will be a smaller number.

We reviewed the unaudited fund balance. It's projected to be \$9.5 million dollars by the end of this year, which is down approximately \$2 million dollars from two years ago, which our last audited figure. That's mainly due to last year making the decision to fund our capital improvement by using our reserves. Also, I believe we used our reserves to fund a little bit of the PSERs increase.

We looked then, lastly, at the budget calendar. Given all of these unknowns and given the small revenues we would be able to increase through the property tax state index of 1.4%, we started to look at exceptions that would allow us to exceed the 1.4% without having to go to voter referendum. We narrowed it down. There are three areas where we believe we could pursue an index exception. The areas are special education, PSERs which I mentioned earlier, and maintenance of revenue. We, the Finance Committee, have recommended that we pursue an index exception. We are not convinced at this point that we would need to act on that, but if we don't pursue it and six months from now we decide we do need to act on that, the door is closed. We're going to pursue it, just keep the door open and consider it, at this point, a contingency.

Lastly, Chuck had mentioned that Communications Committee met last week and they are going to put together some kind of presentation for the public basic Budget 101 and explaining the index and the process we'll be following. I think that was everything. Any questions?

Dr. Parrish: Any questions for Ellen?

Dr. Donahue: Question. Does our fund balance influence our ability to invoke any of the exceptions?

Mrs. Sheffey: Not the three exceptions we listed. There were some and we took them off the table. For example, construction, but in order to get an exception for constructions you have to spend your fund balance down to zero. So, these three that I mentioned are the only ones that we think are worth pursuing.

Dr. Donahue: Thanks.

Dr. Parrish: Questions?

Mrs. Chabal: I would ask Ellen to clarify generally, not only for the Board, but also for the audience, because the number sounds very high, but the fund balance as it sits equates to "x" numbers of days of being able to function. I think that needs to be made clear that we're not sitting on a very large fund balance. We're sitting on a balance that would only get us through, what? And maybe that's a Steve question.

Mrs. Sheffey: Well, I can just clarify that \$9 million dollars, a portion of it is set aside for designations. So, of that, approximately \$2 million is a stabilization fund for PSERs. We know somewhere down the line that's projected to go up to almost 30% from our current 5%, so we have a reserve for that. We have another \$500,000 designated for a health fund stabilization. Then, \$3.5 million dollars of that is a capital reserve fund and so \$2.4 million is really all that's available as undesignated. Steve, I don't believe that would get us through more than a month.

Mr. Rineer: No, it's about \$50 million dollars. At 52 weeks a year, we spend about a million a week. A total of \$2.5 million dollars unreserved undesignated ends up lasting about 2 ½ weeks. Makes me nervous.

Dr. Parrish: I think it's obvious we've got a challenging budget to do. When you look at the PSERs increase and just the contractual increases in salary that we'll be looking at one way or another far exceeds what will be allowed in the increase. We're going to have to make some tough decisions this year.

Mrs. Sheffey: Actually, thanks for mentioning that, that was one thing I'd forgotten. We did talk a little bit about how as we look towards next year, any of these new needs we're looking to fund that we really need to be considering a reallocation of our current

resources. If we really believe in, for example, technology is one of the new needs that was presented to us, we need to find money in our current expenditure budget to cover that.

Dr. Parrish: Okay. Any other comments?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 Unfinished Business

None.

NEW BUSINESS

5.01 Approval of Finance Report for August 2010

1.	The Treasurer's Report for the month ending August 31, 2010 was summarized as follows:	
	• General Fund Revenues	\$8,920,048
	• General Fund Expenditures	2,759,897
	• Balance of Cash Plus Investments (Includes \$4,546,485 Capital Reserve)	18,345,822
2.	The listed schedule of investment transactions for the period beginning August 1, 2010 through August 31, 2010 totaled interest earnings of \$4,685 comprised of the following:	
	• General Fund	\$100
	• Money Market	2,991
	• Capital Reserve	1,594
	• PA Local Government Investment Trust	0
	The average interest rate for August 2010 was .37%	

3.	The August 2010 expenditures for the paid bills for all funds totaled \$2,304,648 excluding net payroll, retirement contributions, and debt service.	
4.	The September 2010 expenditures for the unpaid bills for all funds totaled \$1,340,425	
5.	The estimated expenditures of the General Fund for the month of September 2010 were in the following amounts:	
	• Operating Expenses	\$900,000
	• Utilities	134,100
	• Net Payroll	1,190,000
	• Employer Provided Insurance	330,600
	• Payroll Deductions	590,000
	• Employer Payroll Taxes (FICA/RET)	372,000
	• Debt Service	<u>3,699,921</u>
	Total Estimated Expenditures	\$7,216,621

Mr. Rineer: I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Stover moved the Board approve the Finance Report and was seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue –Yes

Gräb – Yes

Hagan – Absent

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.02 Requests for Payment - Construction Projects

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

	Multi-Purpose Practice/Playing Fields:	
1.	A-Turf Invoice No. AT-317 PA#3	\$25,000.00
	Parking Lot Improvements:	
2.	Handwerk (General Contractor) Application No. 3	1,118,177.28
3.	Fullerton (Electrical) Application No. 3	92,394.36
4.	Trans Associates Invoice No. 23402	1,621.00
5.	Hayes Large Architect LLP Bill No. 1008-038 1,350.63 Bill No. 1008-039 (CS Davidson) <u>1,007.11</u>	2,357.74
6.	Township of Derry Invoice No. 72365-5	1,532.50
	Middle School Expansion:	
7.	ECI (General Contractor) Application No. 3	289,752.68
8.	A.H. Moyer (HVAC) Application No. 3	240,430.50
9.	G Bass (Plumbing) Application No. 3	19,194.31
10.	Guy M. Cooper, Inc. (Fire Systems) Application No. 3	24,204.60
11.	Leer Electric (Electrical) Application No. 3	53,019.83

12.	SchraderGroup Architecture, LLC Invoice No. 00820	1,640.26
	Elementary School/LGI:	
13.	East Coast Contracting (General Contractor) Application No. 9477-02	56,804.40
14.	PSQ, Inc. (Electrical) Invoice No. 745	6,229.80

Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mrs. Sheffey.

Dr. Parrish: Any questions? These are all within the scope of the budget for this project?

Mr. Rineer: That's correct.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue –Yes

Gräb – Yes

Hagan – Absent

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.03 Approval of Wouch Maloney & Co.

The Administration recommended the accounting firm of Wouch, Maloney & Co., L.L.P. to assist the Derry Township School District in the review and, if required, auditing of financial information and records relating to the receipt of tax revenues.

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

Mr. Gräb: Thank you, Mr. President. I find myself conflicted on this issue and will be abstaining.

Dr. Parrish: Okay, thank you.

Mrs. Chabal: Mr. President, I too will be abstaining for the same reason.

Mr. Morelli: Mr. President, I will also be abstaining.

Dr. Parrish: Any other comments?

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Abstain

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Abstain

Hagan – Absent

Morelli – Abstain

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

5 Yes, 1 Absent, 3 Abstention

MOTION CARRIED

5.04 Approval of Compensation Waiver - Construction and Stormwater Easements - A2126984

The Administration recommended the Board approve a waiver of compensation estimated to be in the amount of Eight Hundred Thirty-six Dollars (\$836), that would otherwise be payable by Derry Township to the School District for the acquisition of the proposed temporary construction and permanent stormwater easements depicted on the attached exhibit.

Mrs. Sheffey moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Morelli.

Mrs. Sheffey: Can we combine 5.04 to 5.06? They are all similar. Aren't they all?

Dr. Brewer: Yes you can if you make a motion to do so and then I'll just mention the amounts of the other two.

Dr. Parrish: Maybe we can do that. Lin, would you like to then – I'll make a motion that we combine these. Can I have a second to that motion?

Mrs. Sheffey: Second.

Dr. Parrish: Second by Mrs. Sheffey. Any discussion or concern about combining these. These are three votes, correct?

Mrs. Sheffey: Yes.

Dr. Parrish: Any discussion about combining these three? They all pertain to the exact same waiver. If not, Mr. Rineer, we probably ought to do a roll call vote on that motion.

Mr. Rineer: Correct.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Hagan – Absent

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Donahue –Yes

Morelli – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Parrish: May I accept a motion to accept the waiver as outlined in 5.04, 5.05, and 5.06 and presented by Dr. Brewer?

5.04 Approval of Compensation Waiver - Construction and Stormwater Easements - A2126984

The Administration recommended the Board approve a waiver of compensation estimated to be in the amount of Eight Hundred Thirty-six Dollars (\$836), that would otherwise be payable by Derry Township to the School District for the acquisition of the proposed temporary construction and permanent stormwater easements depicted on the attached exhibit.

5.05 Approval of Compensation Waiver - Construction and Stormwater Easements - A2126985

The Administration recommended the Board approve a waiver of compensation estimated to be in the amount of Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-five Dollars (\$4,945), that would otherwise be payable by Derry Township to the School District for the acquisition of the proposed temporary construction and permanent stormwater easements depicted on the attached exhibit.

5.06 Approval of Compensation Waiver - Construction and Stormwater Easements - A2126990

The Administration recommended the Board approve a waiver of compensation estimated to be in the amount of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-two Dollars (\$9,552), that would otherwise be payable by Derry Township to the School District for the acquisition of the proposed temporary construction and permanent stormwater easements depicted on the attached exhibit.

Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Dr. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Hagan – Absent

Sheffey – Yes

Donahue –Yes

Morelli – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.07 Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursions - Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Ensemble Festivals 2010-2011 School Year

The District recommended the approval of the proposed overnight field trip/excursions as listed for the 2010-2011 school year. The District reserves the right to cancel the excursions based on events that could pose a heightened safety or security risk.

Festival	Dates	Location	Approximate Cost Per Student	Anticipated Number of Students Attending	Total Cost Per Festival
District Choir	Jan. 14-15, 2011	Annville-Cleona School District	\$90	8	\$720
District Orchestra	Jan. 28-29, 2011	Central Dauphin HS	\$90	7	\$630
District Band	Feb. 10-12, 2011	TBD (possibly Mechanicsburg)	\$90	13	\$1,170
Regional Choir	Feb. 24-26, 2011	Parkland HS	\$90	4	\$360
Regional Orchestra	March 10-12, 2011	Manheim Twp. HS	\$90	4	\$360
Regional Band	March 24-26, 2011	North Schuylkill HS	\$90	6	\$540
All-State Choir	April 13-15, 2011	Hershey Lodge and Convention Center	\$350	2	\$700
All-State Orchestra	April 13-15, 2011	Hershey Lodge and Convention Center	\$350	2	\$700
All-State Band	April 13-15, 2011	Hershey Lodge and Convention Center	\$350	2	\$700
All-Eastern	March 31-April 3, 2011	Baltimore, MD	\$300	1	\$300
Total Estimated Cost:					\$6,180

Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Gräb.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes
 Cronin – Yes
 Donahue –Yes

Gräb – Yes
 Hagan – Absent
 Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes
 Sheffey – Yes
 Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.08 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>	Derry Township Police Department
<i>Date/Time:</i>	October 3, 2010 5:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	Middle School Cafeteria Area and LGI
<i>Event:</i>	Law Enforcement Traffic Post Staff Check-in Area for Hershey Half Marathon to Benefit the Children's Miracle Network
<i>Fee:</i>	None
<i>Group:</i>	Men's Senior Basketball
<i>Date/Time:</i>	Tuesday and Thursdays October 7 2010 to October 3, 2011 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	Elementary Gym
<i>Event:</i>	Men's Senior Basketball Games/Exercise
<i>Fee:</i>	None

Dr. Cronin moved the Board approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Morelli.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Hagan – Absent

Sheffey – Yes

Donahue –Yes

Morelli – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.09 Personnel - Resignation

The Administration recommended the approval of the following resignation:

Professional:

Fastrich, Gregory
 Health/PE Teacher
 High School
 Reason: Personal
 Effective: 09/17/2010 (retroactive)

Mrs. Sheffey moved the Board approve the resignation and was seconded by Dr. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:		
Chabal – Yes	Gräb – Yes	Parrish – Yes
Cronin – Yes	Hagan – Absent	Sheffey – Yes
Donahue –Yes	Morelli – Yes	Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

5.10 Personnel – General

1.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following appointments:
	Professional:
	Lelek, Gregory * (replacing Gregory Fastrich) Health/PE Teacher High School Long Term Substitute Bachelors, Step 1 Salary: \$40,281.25 (pro-rated) Effective: 09/17/2010 through the end of the 2010-2011 school year (retroactive)
	Classified:
	Gardyas, Judy (replacing Jeanne Warren) Nurse Assistant Middle and High Schools Level A: 5.0 hours per day Salary: \$20.563 per hour (pending HESPA contract) Effective: 10/14/2010 (pending receipt of Act 151 clearance)
	Transfer of Classified Staff:
	Wingert, Kathleen * From: 2nd Shift Custodian Middle School To: Day Shift Custodian (replacing Daniel Paine) Middle School Full-time, 8.0 hours per day

	Salary: \$15.147 per hour (pending HESPA contract) Effective: 09/13/2010 (retroactive)
2.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following request in accordance with District Policy 435:
	Balanda, Lisa English Teacher High School Paid/Unpaid Family Medical Leave (up to 12 weeks) Effective: 09/14/2010 to be used intermittently during a done-year cycle as necessary (retroactive)
3.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following requests in accordance with District Policies 435 & 439:
	Ehrhorn, Nicole Grade 2 Teacher Elementary School Paid/Unpaid Childbearing/rearing Leave Effective: On or about 02/14/2011 through 04/26/2011
	Gehman, Allison Grade 4 Teacher Elementary School Paid/Unpaid Childbearing/rearing Leave Effective: On or about 12/27/2010 through 03/21/2011
4.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following request in accordance with District Policy 535:
	Koons, Larry General Food Service Worker Elementary School Paid/Unpaid Family Medical Leave (up to 12 weeks) Effective: 08/27/2010 (retroactive)
5.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following additions to the 2010-2011 Substitute Teacher List:
	Daugherty, Melinda B.S. in Elementary Education from Pennsylvania State University
	Eisenhart, William M.S. in Science Education from Mansfield University
	Nafzinger, Jenna B.S. in Elementary Education from Pennsylvania State University
	O'Toole-Goldman, Maureen B.S. in Nursing from Northeastern University (pending receipt of transcripts)
	Pyle, Sean B.S. in Social Studies from Millersville University of Pennsylvania

	Roach, Anne M.E. in Elementary Education from American Intercontinental University
	Roush, Nicole M.S. in Science Education from Lebanon Valley College
6.	The Administration recommended the approval of the Guest Teacher List for the 2010-2011 school year as attached:
	* <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. Morelli.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue –Yes

Gräb – Yes

Hagan – Absent

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATES REPORTS

6.01 Dauphin County Technical School Report

Mr. Gräb: The Dauphin County Technical School did meet last Wednesday. We find ourselves in the same position that the Derry Township School District is. We're starting to begin our budget process. As a result of that, at the end of last year there was a positive variance in both revenue and expenditures and the Joint Operating Committee voted to put "x" number of dollars of that amount of money which was left over in a PSERS rate stabilization fund. The remaining amount will be dispersed back to the school districts. The school district taking the largest hit on that will be the Central Dauphin School District. They are the ones that initiated the vote. Derry Township's portion is extremely small.

Dr. Parrish: I can imagine. Questions for John or Chris?

Mr. Morelli: John, wasn't there a cap on that amount if it exceeded that cap, then it would all go back.

Mr. Gräb: From what I understand, there was not a cap on it. There was a little over \$350,000 left and they decided to take \$150,000 of that amount and place it in the PSERS rate stabilization fund. The remaining \$200,000 plus would be returned on a pro rated basis back to the school districts.

Mr. Rineer: Mr. Gräb? The check arrived today. It was \$14,000 and change.

6.02 Derry Township Tax Collection Association Report

Mr. Stover: The Derry Township Tax Association did not meet on this past Thursday due to lack of agenda items. Our next meeting is October 21st.

The Dauphin County Tax Collection Committee met on September 15. We had 90% of our delegates in attendance. We voted to make Berkheimer our EIT county collection agency. We will be putting together a contract for them. We already know it will be a three year contract, but we will have an out ability clause each year. The three years is the lock in, the most competitive price, but if we're not happy with their service, we can end each of those years.

The most important thing pressing for us right now is that by November 1, our Tax Association must elect either to opt in early or to opt in at the regular time for Berkheimer to take over our EIT collections which would be January 1, 2012. Our Association meeting on October 21 will be to decide on that. We're still waiting for some of the clarifications about what all that means, so I can't really give you too much information on that, but probably at the next meeting we'll have some discussion about that.

I think that's it for now.

Dr. Parrish: Questions for Chuck? So, we can opt out of that agreement if we're not happy on an annual basis, even though we're locked in for three?

Mr. Stover: The Committee as a whole would have to vote to do that.

Dr. Parrish: Okay.

6.03 Harrisburg Area Community College Report

Dr. Donahue: Nothing to report.

6.04 Capital Area Intermediate Unit Report

Mrs. Chabal: They met, however, I was out of town, so I have nothing to report.

SPECIAL REPORTS

7.01 Announcement of Staff Development Conferences

Wendy Peiffer, Leann Snyder National Council Teachers of Mathematics Conference and Exposition Baltimore, MD October 14-15, 2010 Expenses: \$359.00 (each)
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Kelly Stewart American Occupational Therapy Association Specialty Conference - Autism Baltimore, MD December 3-4, 2010 Expenses: \$720.00

7.02 School and Community Information Report

Mr. Tredinnick: Thank you, Mr. President. Although our students have been back in school now for a month, it's back to school time for some parents. Our Back to School nights have been ongoing at the high school and the middle school very successfully and in the early part of October we'll be having the Back to School nights at the Early Childhood Center, the primary and the intermediate. It's a good opportunity for parents to get an opportunity to see the work that's already been going on in the school and to get a feel for the classroom and the curriculum that their children will be experiencing throughout the year.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you. Any questions for Dan?

7.03 Board Members' Report

Dr. Donahue: I have a report of the Curriculum Council that met September 13. I'll just go over it very briefly. As far as old business, we discussed implementation of common core academic standards, which is mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and has to occur by the 2012-2013 school year. We're already in a good position for realignment as we've been incorporating these common core standards already, so we'll have no trouble meeting the Department of Education guideline.

As far as high school updates, we're incorporating the essentials of math and reading courses using Math Navigator. These are math courses for remediation, correct? And we have the same for math as well as reading comprehensive fluency phonics.

We discussed the high school restructuring update was discussed and bottom line from the high school restructuring is that there will be an executive summary or white paper,

whichever you'd like to call it, coming from Mr. Murphy's office explaining where we are with the restructuring and what are some options going forward.

There was an update on the middle school advisory, which is working very well. We're focusing on principles such as character which align with the District's focus on resiliency.

Elementary updates: the core reading program and the implementation of the trimester system. The standard base report card has been realigned for trimester and it is allowing teachers more time to determine the needs of each student when they're assessing their progress.

For 2010-2011, the Curriculum review focused on language arts, foreign language, and student services. That's all I had for the Curriculum Council if there were other points by Donna or other members.

Unrelated to that, I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind people that the Board and administrators have created an ad hoc committee to focus on, among other things, principally school start times in light of emerging evidence regarding sleep patterns in adolescents. We are requesting that members of the community be members of that ad hoc committee, so if you go online to our website you can access an application form if you are interested in taking part in this committee. I think there's maybe three days left before our deadline, so if anybody in the community is interested or knows of somebody that is interested, please ask them to get involved. Thank you.

Dr. Cronin: I'd just like to report on the Communications Committee and Dan, feel free to add in anything that I miss. We met on Friday and one of the first things we talked about was our website. Dan has this fancy counting mechanism that we subscribe to that lets us track the number of hits on our website. Our number definitely increased once school began after a low trend during the summer. We're not as high as we were in the peak months of last year, but we're certainly trending upward. We started a Twitter, I don't know anything about Twitter, so I don't really know the verbiage to use, but we're now on Twitter and we have just under 100 individuals signed up. We'll continue that initiative for about a year and decide whether or not it's a viable venue for communication or not. We're continuing to allow folks to opt in for the Trojan Quest and other initiatives, I believe Ellen already touched on that, is for our webpage we're going to make sure that in the front we have a Budget 101 section so people can find out concurrently with what's going on in the budget in a more proactive way and the same with the restructuring. We don't have anything yet, because there's been no proposal made, but as discussions are initiated, as round tables are formed, as communication is made, we'll make sure that's on the webpage in a prominent area so people are informed. Overall, we want to make sure we increase our proactive communications. Dan, anything else?

Dr. Parrish: Any questions for Donna?

7.04 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brewer: No report.

7.05 Board President's Report

Dr. Parrish: I have no official report, but I will make a plea though on behalf of my wife. Those of you who have had seniors who have graduated and participated in the after grad party at the Plaza. It's a wonderful event. They're now recruiting people to become involved to carry this forward and all the help that anybody can give is very much appreciated. You can feel free to call her and she would welcome your phone call. It's a big event, and even if you don't have juniors or seniors, it's really nice if you get the parents of younger children involved. It is a great event. I think many of you have had children who've gone through that and it's a great way to finish the school year.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS (Non-Agenda Items)

8.01 Recognition of Citizens

Dr. Parrish: I'd like to start by saying that I know that, or I think that many of you are here to talk about or make comments on school restructuring. I know that I spoke to several people yesterday at church about this and their concerns. I think that's one of the things that makes this School District as strong as it is – it's parental involvement. We welcome that. I think a couple of things might be helpful. As a matter of Board procedure, you'll note, many of you have been here, I think last year or the year before, we started establishing a work session that works a little differently than this meeting. In this meeting, anybody who would like to comment on any item for that matter, including school restructuring can do so, but it's not a time that we'll engage you in conversation or discussion. We establish work groups that were created to do just that. There is a work group scheduled for October 25, I believe, that will be an open forum in which discussion can certainly go back and forth. I think it's safe to say that any school restructuring that's being discussed would not be implemented before the 2012 school year, so we're two years away. It's very early in this. Frankly, from talking to people at church yesterday, it seemed like a lot of people knew much more about this than I did. We welcome your comments if you'd like to make those tonight, but I think if you keep in mind that it's very early on in this process like other things we've done and we'll have a better opportunity to fully discuss this in a more open fashion on October 25.

Mrs. Chabal: May I remind you Mr. President that our work sessions are discussion among the Board members.

Dr. Parrish: Yes, but there is open discussion.

Mrs. Chabal: There's open discussion among the Board members.

Dr. Parrish: Right.

Mrs. Chabal: You made it sound as though there was open discussion between . . .

Dr. Parrish: But, it's usually stimulated by questions from the audience.

Mrs. Chabal: It is, no, I'm just making sure that they understand that's not a dialogue issue/opportunity.

Dr. Parrish: Right. So, with that said, we'll certainly open the floor to comments from our citizens on any non-agenda item. If you would just state your name and address when you come to the microphone, thank you.

Corrine Gibilterra: School Board, thank you for giving us this opportunity, and Dr. Kepler, I appreciate your invitation and willingness for me to come. My name is Corrine Gibilterra. I'm the proud parent of four children and that is such a wonderful thing, because at one point, I had a child in each of the schools. Mr. McFarland, you remember me during those days. I didn't look this pulled together. If I had sweatpants on and sneakers, it was a good thing. Last year, I started to hear words called master schedule change. My students were coming home with that. I was hearing it from teachers. As I heard that, I just blew it off, because I'm a very busy person.

This year, I got the honor of being the Hershey Choral parent, which is a wonderful opportunity and it also gave me an opportunity to spend a little bit more time with some teachers, a little bit more time with some students. As I spoke with them, the term master schedule change happened again. I said, "What does this mean?" Why is everyone so upset about this? I got a couple of explanations and I said, well, I need to call Mr. Murphy. So, I called Murphy on the 14th and left a message for him and was surprised that before 24 hours, he called me back. We had a long conversation concerning his master schedule change that he was looking to propose for November of this year and put in action before next year, so the 2011-2012 school year. Part of that master schedule change that he's looking at would be the elimination of one of the electives, which was what I was hearing a lot about from the students. When you eliminate an elective, there are a lot of other things that happen to go along with that and basically they get longer block schedule and get core classes, some longer extension of that. It does change the frame of your master schedule.

Being a parent of a student and having some resources that a lot of other parents don't have, I called my aunt who is a principal of a Central Pennsylvania School District who is also a mentor for principals in the Central Pennsylvania area and say, this is what I'm hearing, what does it mean? She said exactly what Mrs. Schaeffer said, there's financial issues in Derry Township. Then I called a college chancellor that was president of the middle states for two years in a row and also on Reagan's, Clinton's,

and Bush's education council and said, how would the schedule change impact your viewing of the student and their education in the high school? Because he was my father, he was very candid in what he said. He said that, Derry Township's having some financial issues. But, I don't think that any of these master schedule changes that have been proposed would benefit the students and it would not be something I'd be interested in having. My grandchildren go under.

Now, there are a lot of different things that you can hear about the master schedule change. One core issue that you're going to hear is that there's an elimination of a course in order to accommodate the standard sessions for core classes. You've talked about part of it in this meeting which is the remediation program which is the initial part of this master schedule change. That does fall in underneath this also. As I talked to Mr. Murphy about this, you will hear some of the same things of the elimination of study hall, which there are pros and cons to. But, what you'll also distinctly hear time line in which he was looking at this. That was very concerning to me.

So, I contacted some parents, because when I talked to my friends and other parents and told them about the schedule change that was being proposed, a look of shock came over all their faces because none of them had heard about it before. I'm here representing the parents and just to let you know that we are very concerned. We'd like to express that concern. We'd like to be involved in that. We have done some research and just some of the background of some of the proposed changes such as the block scheduling and things like that and would like to have some input into that.

Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you for your comments. Lin, for the 25th meeting, will we have a general presentation based on Mike's white paper about where we're at and where we're going and what your timeline is?

Dr. Brewer: Do you have the sequence? One of the things that we needed was direction from the Board. I understand that there are concepts swirling around, none of which have been definitively set. I kind of furrowed my brow when I heard November of this year, because that's simply not accurate. We haven't had a chance to speak with you and get your input and there is a proposal that we work through with Mr. Murphy after we met and discussed last week about whether or not you want to hear about this proposal in Curriculum Standing Committee or as a committee of the whole. Knowing that it's such a complicated issue that we would need to set up some separate meetings as a committee of the whole. You gave us the direction that you wanted to go through Curriculum Standing Committee and I believe that meeting's next week. October 11. The sequence will be that as we talked with you last week, Mr. Murphy is going to write a white paper and we're going to give you an outline of that white paper in the October 11 Curriculum Standing Committee so that he can get some guidance from you about all the salient points that we think you should have and you think that we should have. One of which would have to do with possible scheduling matters, master schedule if you would, certainly that's the not the only consideration.

I would like to say that this issue of restructuring has been a part of the strategic planning since 2007. It's an incorrect assumption that it's a matter of finances. This has been a goal of the Strategic Plan for some time to make sure that we're meeting the needs of all kids. That being said, throughout 2009-2010, when we started discussing this with the teachers and I think that's where some of this dialogue is coming to students and coming to parents. There has been a dialogue with department heads and key stake holders in the high school and quite frankly, I think it's been a lot of robust heated kind of conversation where the high school leadership has been trying to build a consensus among teachers about where they want to go. There's been a lot of professional development in the last year and going on in to this year about how to infuse technology into the classroom and how to do critical thinking, how to do targeted instructional strategies and so on. There's been a lot of professional development that has gone on. This is really a four year process. The first year, 2009-2010, being professional development, the second year, this year, being the dialogue that now needs to take place with you and now we have also, with feedback from you, are going to do a lot of parent advisory kinds of meetings where parents will be invited, roundtables I guess you would call them, throughout the course of this year Mr. Murphy will be inviting, I would say not more than 20 parents at a time so that there can be a good exchange of idea. Final determinations on what will be until the fall of 2011-2012 for implementation in 2012-2013. To the extent that the dialogue and the concerns have gotten ahead of what you know about this process, this is the process that we're going to implement so that there can be that kind of exchange of ideas.

Mr. Stover: When will Mike's white paper hit the website?

Dr. Brewer: Not until after October 11, certainly, but before October 25, because the sequence will be that he's already got a lot of information and we want to provide it to you in a succinct manner, but we also want to make sure it encompasses all the frequently asked questions, all the concerns, so we want to make sure since you gave us the direction to put this through Curriculum Standing Committee that Curriculum Standing Committee sees the annotated outline of the white paper which won't happen until the 11th. He very quickly will need to, from the 11th to the 25th, so we can get it in your hands, get it done. That was a long answer.

Dr. Parrish: That was a good answer. So, essentially, the next 12 months is when this policy will be vetted and developed, so we're really a year out and just want to put everybody at ease. No decisions have been made. There's nothing going to come down the pike. I'm not sure where Mike got the November thing for the implementation or the adoption. Hopefully, that's helpful for everybody and hopefully everybody will be able to attend the 25th meeting in October.

Dr. Cronin: Can I just clarify something? The October 11 Curriculum Council, is that open to the public?

Dr. Brewer: Yes.

Dr. Cronin: Okay and that's when Mr. Murphy will first be presenting whatever he has to present.

Mrs. Chabal: Excuse me one second. I would like to say that I'm quite actually quite pleased that not only are each of you here, but what it indicates is that the system is working, because it has been a long term process. When you start dialoguing at a level that was needed and there will always be misunderstandings. We all know what the whisper down a lane looks like, but my point is that when Mr. Murphy or any administrator starts dialoguing with teachers and teachers start dialoguing back, and teachers start dialoguing with parents, it does start discussions. I actually look at that as a very healthy thing. I think that it's important that we maintain that transparency. Yes, I think that obviously there have been some, or maybe there may have been some misunderstandings or there are some concerns going forward. I think we are here to learn the reason and we're here to talk about those kinds of things. I see this is as a very healthy, sometimes drawn out, but very healthy dialogue, so I'm very happy. I believe my fellow Board members are very happy to see, not only the number of people here today on this topic, because it is important. It's the underpinning of a School District. I'm very happy. I think it's a very healthy thing that we're doing here. I am appreciative of your appearance and I'm appreciative and I know having been here almost 8 years that there will be people who agree and disagree with one another, not only within your ranks, but perhaps in ours as well, but it will be healthy and it will be done respectfully and I'm sure that the dialogue will cover the bases that need to be covered so at the end of the day what is a majority decision. As an example, if I'm in that minority, at least I will be satisfied that the points have been met and heard, so thank you all.

Julie Neal: Is it my understanding then at this point, we are looking at changing the schedule, but what's in discussion is how that schedule will be changed? Is that a wrong assumption?

Dr. Parrish: Lin, you have to comment, because this hasn't come to us as a full Board yet, so I look pretty silly.

Dr. Brewer: I would say that in order to increase certain classes a certain amount of minutes, there has to be some give and take. My understanding is that there are various solutions and they've been talked about. I'm going to get way off what I know if I go further than that. That will be the dialogue. I'm thinking back about why Mr. Murphy may have said by November. We have said to the administrators that, if we accelerate the budget process and if we have any kind of new personnel to be hired because of some kind of new initiative, that had to happen early. Whether or not restructuring, we don't know what the financial implications are yet, it depends on what the solution is and what we decide on class size and so forth. I'm not sure I've answered your question.

Ms. Neal: It's just a yes or no. Are we restructuring or is this just a discussion about the possibility of restructuring because that's two totally different things.

Dr. Parrish: I personally think the plan is to restructure. I think that, and tell me if I'm wrong, but it's safe to say that the white paper that Mike will present to us next month will frame the discussion. The discussion will go, pluses and minuses, point by point on what has been discussed among the teachers and the faculty in the last year, but certainly nothing has been decided.

Dr. Brewer: And it's not imminent.

Dr. Donahue: To some degree, we've restructured already. I mean, some parts of the restructuring is the way . . .

Dr. Brewer: Well, the middle school for example.

Dr. Donahue: Right. And the way the teachers and the administrators are trained in the educational process is part of the restructuring.

Ms. Neal: So the decision of restructuring has been made.

Dr. Kepler: I can jump in and say. It is a process. It's something that we do each and every day. When you think of education, thinking of it as a triangle, curriculum on side, instruction, and assessment and looking at all three of those is a big picture. Looking at 21st century skills and what do the learners need when they leave us as Hershey High School graduates entering the college world and then a career or the work environment. Schedule is part of that, but it's just one component. The overall umbrella of what's changed since this industrial model of education was created that has been slow to change and what do we need to do to better prepare our graduates.

Ms. Neal: My other question is and I'm asking these questions so that as it does go down the chain there's accurate information, so it's not a defensive mechanism, it's these are what I'm hearing so I would like answers. Is this also a change being made because there's a concern that the test scores have gone down and this is a method of teaching to help improve those scores?

Dr. Parrish: This is part of the Strategic Plan from 2007 to move forward. I think as Bernie said, we react to those types of things constantly. There is restructuring going on every day. What I picked up is that most people are worried about the time restructuring and we're going to lose electives. That has not been decided, so if that's what you're asking, I think that's under discussion, but I don't think anything is firmly . . .

Dr. Brewer: Oh, it has not been decided and you know, one of the things that I should specify for the Board is what decisions do you make and what decisions are dialogue. If an elective would be discontinued, that's a vote for you. If we have a change in the bell schedule, that's a vote for you. If we change some teaching methodology, that's not a

vote for you, that's a discussion item. If we're cutting an elective or if we're changing the bell schedule, that is governance matter. We have not brought that to the Board.

Ms. Neal: Okay. Good. I know that we talked about the discussions that will be occurring October 11 and October 25. Those are not the timeframes that we are able to discuss, correct? Now is.

Dr. Parrish: This isn't a discussion, really. I'm letting this get way out of hand to be honest with you as it is, it should be a time for comment, but I'm trying to help you and answer some of your questions. At the Curriculum Committee meeting, do you plan to open up discussion to citizens I guess is the question.

Dr. Donahue: What I heard, this is just what I'm learning now, what I heard is that maybe those two times aren't the best discussion times. The better discussion times are the roundtables. I think this is where it's really really important for people to focus on the website and e-mails if you get the Trojan Quest thing and it's going to take some work on the part of everybody to make time to come to these meetings, because we clearly want input from the community on this, but as was suggested, it can't be 100 people talking about different studies, it has to be – they'll be a number of them and maybe somebody will come to all of them, but we hope to have 10 to 20 at each one.

Dr. Brewer: Dr. Donahue, that said, I agree with Mrs. Chabal that to have public comment at the non-agenda time to completely understand your hopes and your concerns is also appropriate. So, this is totally appropriate for you to say what your concerns are.

Ms. Neal: Thank you.

Dr. Donahue: As far as the Curriculum Council, we've received several e-mails and those have been summarized and they have a lot of the same questions you've asked and a lot more. They have been summarized and forwarded to Mr. Murphy. Our desire of asking for this white paper is so you wait, as a committee, have a little patience, see this thing and say, okay, they've answered this, this, this. I don't like their answer to this, so I'm going to talk to them about it, but I like their answer to rest of the stuff, so I don't have to worry about that anymore. Hopefully, this white paper will make the whole process a little more efficient so we can focus on where people's real concerns are and make some progress.

Ms. Neal: Alright and then I just have a comment from my son. I have several and then I'll e-mail them to you all, but I'll just read the one from my son and this is in concerns of the language and music being changed.

At the risk of sounding cheesy, the language and music department at Hershey High School has literally changed my life. Both programs gave me new college level experience that has been extremely helpful here at college. I have been at language department at Derry Township School District 6th grade and Spanish and because of

this amazing program, I was given the opportunity to go abroad to Ecuador with the Medical Center and to help children with heart defects. The trip infinitely widened my world view and also helped me in my decision to become a double major in Biology and Spanish and eventually become a doctor. While the trip helped me academically, it made me extremely thankful for the amazing country I live in and how lucky I am to have everything that I do. The trip has been instrumental in shaping who I am and I would have never had that opportunity without the language program. Also, the language program prepared me greatly for the AP test on which I scored a 4 as a result. I am halfway to a double major in Spanish as a freshman at the highest level of Spanish I can take being my first year here. I am also greatly indebted to the music department at Hershey High School. I was a member of Cantabile chorus for my last three years of high school and was a choir officer during my senior year. This choir has left an indelible mark on my life by teaching me valuable lessons. Because of that choir and the tutelage of Mr. Farrell, I've become a much more outgoing and confident person. And if I do say so myself, my voice has definitely improved since I started. Also being a choir officer taught me valuable lessons such as leadership, organization, and how to communicate ideas to my peers. These two incredible programs have made me the person I am today and without them, I would have never been able to thrive as much as I am now.

I'm sorry I'm crying, but I remember him in middle school being so, sort of, bullied and picked on. It was music that changed it for him and then the Spanish and that trip to Ecuador. He came back almost completely fluent. The first thing he said when he came home for Homecoming when he saw the Spanish teacher was I can't thank you enough for the Spanish that you gave me, because I'm so far above. He said, I'm going to have a double major before you know it, because of the education that I received from you. She cried and he cried and it was beautiful. So, when I started reading that some of these electives could be changed, it makes me emotional, because I still have children to bring up through this. He just can't say enough as to what these programs have done for him.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you Julie. Any other comments?

Brian Shiflett: Good evening. My name is Brian Shiflett. My daughter and son are freshman and senior at Hershey High School. This is their third academic year in the District. We moved from Loudoun County, Virginia. The public schools there – excellent school district, much like here at Hershey and Derry Township. Interestingly, the school district in Loudoun County, they want to block schedule – 4 periods a day, 89 minutes apiece. They have an A day and a B day, so it's like 8 different periods across two days. Their start times are inverted from Derry Township, so elementary school kids on the bus at 7:10 in the morning and high schoolers are pulling up in the parking lot at 8:55. So, it's been really an interesting experience for us to see both sides of this scheduling issue and also from an 89 minute period down to a 43 minute period this year in high school. That experience, one of the conclusions I draw from that experience is, well it's really important just to have excellent teachers. I think an excellent teacher can be effective in both environments. Obviously, we have to have

teachers who are skilled at rousing kids at 7:38 in the morning here. Loudon County's teachers have to be excellent at figuring out to be moving around along during an 89 minute block period. I think those are probably some of the issues, especially in regard to the period length that this District will have to wrangle with and work with the instructional staff.

My comments tonight, other than maybe just volunteering my students for their perspective when we get down to that point. I question the collaborative communication that's gone on with the parents. I was very shocked this year to see how fast this issue has sort of snowballed. Going back to Back to School night, parents, even some teachers, saying this is a done deal. Students coming home from school say, Hey mom, guess what? Next year we're going to have 55 minute classes. So, try to do some research. Actually, Mrs. Gibilterra said that she called Mr. Murphy and he told her it's going to be implemented next year. I looked on the website saying this is a hot issue, there must be something out there. The only thing I found was the minutes from the Board meeting that says that Dr. Cronin asked when was this to be implemented and Mr. Murphy replied that we were looking to have this in place for the 2011-2012 academic year. So, as parents, what are we to expect? This is what has been communicated to us. We need information. We need correct, timely information. In this world of today, and Mr. Murphy's talking about how the world's changed and we need to meet the educational needs, information passes in the community in 30 minutes or less – twitter, e-mail blasts, it goes really fast. Likewise, the administration has to be aware of what the perception is of what the, not only the School Board, but the administration is attempted to do. I think there's been a big disconnect here. I think Mr. Murphy needs to understand that this issue has gotten out of the control. The perception issue has gotten out of control. He needs to manage it. He needs to manage it by effectively communicating with the parent community, the community in general, and his teachers – right? And teachers to students and just explain what is going on? What will happen? What's the process? How will the community be involved? It's not too hard. I think a lot of us here are in the 21st century working world and we know how that's changed over the last 20 years. We have to manage through influence. We just can't tell subordinates what to do anymore. We have to influence hundreds, if not thousands, of people on a daily basis. We have to be able to share information effectively. I think if the administration wants to teach our students, the next generation how to be effective in doing these things, the administration's going to have to learn how to do it themselves. I challenge the administration to manage this issue properly and communicate with us effectively and you'll get great feedback from us. We know we won't agree on every point, but I think one point that me and a lot of other folks can agree upon is that this is not been effectively communicated to the community. Thank you very much for your time.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you for your comments. Any other comments?

Jennifer Davis-Lewis: I was just jotting notes down and I do have some concerns. One, the idea – I came out because I hadn't heard anything about this except someone talking about that there was going to be block scheduling. Having been a former

educator, I don't feel block scheduling is a great tool with this generation unfortunately. You do have to have some very creative teachers. Not that we don't have those in this District. We have some amazing teachers, but I think that having students sit or stay in one subject area for such a long period of time can be actually a detriment to their education. The idea of taking away an extra elective, to me, isn't a good idea in that we want to make sure that our students are well rounded and educated, not just in math, science, social studies, and your foreign language, but also having the opportunity to take that art class or be involved in band and choir. If you are on the football team, most of the time you are required then to take your weight training class, there's your elective. You don't get to have then, maybe that football player who wants to take, maybe an extra English class or something of that nature. I think those are things that do concern me. Having had one child already graduate, now attending medical school, triple major, Spanish, Biology, and International Studies, he felt that he was very well prepared from this District and the way that you provided that education. I have one student now who is a sophomore and I will say he definitely uses the study hall. He's busy and having that study hall is helpful for him to make sure that he is staying on top of his grades. If that is taken away, because I'm not going to have him not take his engineering drawing class that he really enjoys or another elective that he will find that he will enjoy as well, it makes it very challenging to keep him as a well rounded individual who wants to love to learn. When you start having these 80 to 90 minute periods, I think that is a stressor. Also, if it's changing every other day, I think studies will show that having a foreign language every day, I mean, I'm a proponent who feels that foreign language should be started in kindergarten. But, I think you need to have it every day, because that's the only way you do become fluent. If you are not going to have that experience on a daily basis, you will not be as fluent. There's a lot of other things I have, but I just wanted to put that out there and look forward to hearing more information. Thank you.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you. Other comments.

Susan Foxx: I've been following this for a year. A year ago when it was being kind of hinted at, I went to every BAT meeting at the high school and would ask a question, where do we stand? We're working on it, we're working on it. Mr. Murphy made a presentation last June, very general, I got up and asked, when are we going to know what it really looks like? Then, I met with Mr. Murphy over the summer. That's when I was told there would be an elimination of an elective and that when asked, my husband and I both met with him. When asked, how far along in the process were we? About 75%. So, the fact that you're getting this kind of reaction is because it looked like it was imminent.

I'm sure a lot of people here can talk about what's going to happen when you eliminate an elective. All the things that students will lose. I'll let all these folks talk about that, but what I want the Board to really think about is, what's going to be gained? Basically, there is no research out there that says if you extend a class by 10 minutes, you will have any effect on student achievement, PSSAs, or teaching these 21st century skills. It just doesn't exist. The teaching/learning process is too complicated to think that all we

have to do is add 10 minutes and we're going to see these marvelous results. I think that's a really strong thing to consider. What do you lose? What are you going to gain? I don't think you can predict with any certainty gains from this particular change.

I know it's also been suggested that we're a group of people that don't like change. Well, I think we do like change, we just don't like this change. Thank you.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you.

Michael Bruno: I want to thank you all for your comments and the discussion of this and for allowing so much time and dialogue to take place. I think some of the speakers have talked about this, have touched on it, the idea of cutting back electives really touched every student in some way. This is not just an issue for the kids studying music or the kids doing weightlifting or mechanical drawing or journalism or any single issue. This is really something that touches everyone. The loss of electives would be a huge blow and I think that the Board and certainly the administration is under a lot of pressure. You have a lot of masters, a lot of mandates. If something needs to give, we need to think about that in a creative way, because a loss of electives would be too much to give up to serve those other needs and other masters. There must be some other creative solution that we can come up with. Certainly there is a need to remediate those who are struggling, but we also have large District, such as ours, that offers something for everything and needs to also help the high achieving students. They need to have opportunities to distinguish themselves and to develop themselves and to learn that they have competencies to become multiple majors and do things that they might not have considered before. I think electives have been a vehicle that allows them to do that. Whether they develop leadership as a result of being in chorus, not an expected outcome. Whether their organization and management skills from being a student in journalism or discipline from being in the weight lifting elective, or really getting your life together because you have a study hall and now you can finally get 4 hours of sleep at night. Whatever it is [not audible] almost a population of super selective schools. We have a number of kids, Chris Waybill went to Duke last year, these are schools that accept maybe 8% or 10% at most of the applicants. They are looking for kids that have distinguished themselves above and beyond their GPA and test scores. The Fulton class of 1,300 and have 13,000 kids that have perfect GPAs and perfect SAT scores, they need something else to try to make that decision. For our high achieving population of students, they are able to get that edge through our elective programs. I would urge the Board no matter what you do, no matter what we solve the main problems, address the pressures, comply with the mandates, we need to find some creative solution other than putting the electives on the chopping block. I would look forward to having any opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions or any forum that this would come up. Thank you very much.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you Mike. Any other citizens?

Clara Laysen: I basically have three points I'd like to make. First of all, when we first heard about this at Back to School night, I was one of those with my mouth hanging

open. I'm not understanding. We have three children, two who have graduated through Hershey and another who is in the 9th grade. Our middle son excelled beautifully because of his education at Derry Township. He graduated from Messiah College a year early.

Another point I want to make is there seems to be the question is Derry Township having financial needs. Part of this comes from the fact that we are [not audible] for the middle school. We do not replace teachers in the elementary school when they retire and the area is growing, so it certainly can't be that we're losing a number of children. I'm scratching my head. But I'm also hearing that our schools are down. Again, I have 3 children, one who excelled, two have learning disabilities. I wish I would have pushed them more to get better help when we first saw it and our second daughter who is dyslexic. She struggled from Day 1. She was tested through Derry Township and we were told sorry you're going to wait until she fails and the teacher just shrugged her shoulders. We got her tested by a doctor. She is the one who diagnosed our daughter with deficit dyslexia. We were told that either Derry Township would help her or try to send her to another school that could. Derry Township picked up the pieces and she, finally, in 4th grade, received the help she needed, but she was so far behind that in 4th grade she went back to 2nd grade math and reading. She is struggling, she's working hard. Her test PSSA test scores have been awful from Day 1, but she is a hard worker and determined. If she had received the help she needed in elementary, maybe she wouldn't be in the [not audible] math course, maybe she would have a better self esteem issue, maybe some of the money that's being spent in the high school to help the kids [not audible] if that money had been spent and helped in the scheduling, in the teachers, in all these issues. Why are we putting the emphasis in high school right now?

Ms. Laysen made additional comments regarding school politics.

I would ask you to please reconsider some of these issues. Thank you.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you.

Lynne Shapiro: Thanks for your time tonight. I think we all really appreciate that. I just want to make a couple of quick points. When I think about this School District, I think about athletes, musicians, artists, dancers, computer heads, kids who are great at languages. We have varying levels of achievers. We're all across the board. Derry Township, and I think a lot of it is due to the elective programs and the way it's set up is a Township of individuals. Although people would probably like to look into our community and think we're all the same, I think we all know that we're not when you live in this community. I think our School District has always fostered the individual in each one of our students. I think as parents of students in this system and graduates, we are proud of that. I think our students are proud of it. I just wanted to make that point that it does take away a lot if there are changes to the elective program.

Out of the mouths of babes, I just wanted to read my daughter, who is a sophomore in college now, did send a letter to all of you and I just want to highlight a couple of points that she made:

She says electives are an absolutely essential component of a well rounded education. My university, which is George Mason University, outside of DC, along with so many others has begun to place equal emphasis on the numbers aspect of incoming freshman apps, SAT scores, GPA, class rank, etc. and the personal aspect, emphasizing extracurricular activities and school electives.

Sarah is a tour guide in her school. She says she is required to stress this on every single tour. On their application, students are actually given the option of leaving off standardized test scores, because they are so interested in the well rounded individual.

As we know our School District in general, but in particular the high school, we're preparing kids to get into college to be successful in college and eventually be prepared for life.

Just a couple other points from Sarah's letter:

You may argue that extracurricular activities can be pursued outside of the school day. While this is true, working daily within a large ensemble in a high school environment, not only promotes group adaptability and gives student leadership opportunities, but the constant exposure may help students realize a passion for the arts or something else in addition to another academic subject. I am a prime example of this. I loved music more than anything else in the world, but having the flexibility to take a course psychology my senior year helped me discover an additional passion for the social sciences and mental processes. In addition to my love for performing, I am studying psychology with the hopes of pursuing a career in music therapy someday. Without the space in my schedule for extra electives, I never would have realized that.

Just one more point and I'm done. The elective courses offered at Hershey High School are not irrelevant or effortless courses. They are mentally stimulating supplements to the academic classes offered. Students do not spend time in these classes goofing off or having free time. They are focused and learning information that is likely to accompany what they are learning in their other subjects. The time and energy spent in these classes is not wasted and will remain with the students forever. Thank you very much.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you Lynne.

Male Voice: As heavily involved students here at the high school as well as the Presidents of two clubs in the high school, recipients of this possible change. We have one question and that is, is there a plan to consult the students of Hershey High School being that this will affect them, us, more than anybody else in this room.

Dr. Parrish: I would think so, yes. I would imagine Mr. Murphy and the administration will have a roundtable including students. Is that safe to say?

Dr. Brewer: Oh, yes.

Male Voice: I'd also like to add that there is a lot of discussion among students about this issue.

Male Voice: I'd just like to say something real quick about the music program, which I've been part of. Twenty-five percent of this high school is involved in the music program. There's a huge amount of us. A lot of us also want to pursue careers in other things like computer science for example. You know that taking a foreign language is also very important to an effective college application. With this new possible schedule, that doesn't leave room for music anymore. A lot of us will be forced to make choice on that. I know, myself personally and a lot of my fellow students don't want to have to make that choice, because we love the music program. We know there are certain courses that we will have to take and certain electives that we may have to take for our career choices. Our orchestra last year was chosen as one of the best orchestras in the State to go to the PMEA conference in Pittsburgh to perform, which is a huge honor. I don't think we should talk about this lightly – sacrificing the greatness of that program for something like this.

Dr. Parrish: Thanks guys. I appreciate your comments.

Male Voice: I appreciate your time.

Josephine Allen: I just moved here in June. I've graduated two highschoolers out of Montgomery County, Maryland. We had a block schedule. I just want to put this out to everyone so that we're not comparing apples and oranges. They succeeded very well with a block schedule in their school. However, they had very very few requirements compared to the State of Pennsylvania so that they could fit it many electives and AP courses and had total flexibility in their schedule, because they had so many less requirements and because it's a larger District. A lot of their requirements were offered in the summertime, so you could take it online or you could take a summer class to meet those requirements. Thank you.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you very much. Any others? This has certainly been helpful, we appreciate the comments.

Dr. Cronin: Can I make a comment as a parent? I just want to make a comment, because now that I have a junior this year when he had to make his course selections, we were actually faced with hard decisions already even given the amount of time we have in the school day. I think there's probably 75% to 80% of folks who, by the time they get to their upper years, face these decisions. I'm worried about having to go through that in an even more stringent way. Right now, my son goes to school at 7:00 in the morning for health class several days a week, because he doesn't have time for

health. He also has alternative gym, because he doesn't have room for gym. He doesn't have a study hall. He's doing an internship program, which as many people said, is not a core curriculum item, but it's the one thing that every day when he comes home, he talks about something that he learned in that course. I think over 10 years of school, he's never done that. He's not a very vocal person, but this is something that is already impacting him in just a couple weeks of school. He did have to make a choice not to take an AP course. So, three things couldn't fit on his schedule already, so my concern is that it would be even heightened. I'm hoping as we go through this process, we hear of other personal examples of how this will impact individual students and also try to be creative as Dr. Bruno stated. If we have an ends that we're trying to meet or a solution or have a problem that we want to solve, we need to be creative to make sure that we don't cause students to have to make choices that will have an impact later on. I appreciate all the input that I know we're going get during these roundtables from parents and students. Unless I had seen this myself, I never would have – I got the note this summer – 7:00 health are you kidding me? I wasn't even aware of how tight the schedule was already. Alternative gym – had no idea that would be something that we needed to do. So, in any case, just my two cents. Thank you.

Dr. Parrish: Thank you. Any other comments?

Mr. Morelli: Just real quick. We talked tonight about a couple of issues. One of the things being communications. I'll be real quick so you guys can say something if you want to. I just want to make it clear that this meeting is open to the public. We meet twice a month and we always have comments at the beginning on agenda items and comments tonight at the end on non-agenda items. We have certain committees that are also open to the public – the Finance Committee and this year the budget process, which pretty much began today. It's going to be very interesting. If you want to be in the loop early, start tonight like you are on issues like finance and curriculum and everything else we deal with.

The answer to how you can help yourselves stay in the loop is a lot of ways. You can come here two Monday nights a month, but check the internet, check the website, check Twitter. I think we even have a Facebook page, don't we? If we don't we'll probably get one soon. I do my best to send out the agenda for these meetings. They don't come out until the Friday before, so I can't give you two weeks' notice, but if you want to give me your e-mail, I'll stick you on my mailing list. Board Docs has all the meetings, it has the past meeting minutes. Once again, we have these meetings, we have committee meetings, and they're all open to the public with the exception of the HR Committee meeting. The working sessions we talked about, again, they will be in this room whether it's after a regular meeting. They'll be announced. It will be on Board Docs and whether you can make comments then or not, you can still listen. At the end of the day, if you use the e-mail for the Board that's on our website, it goes to everyone of us and the administrators. I'm in the phone book, but please e-mail me first, cause my wife didn't run for School Board, I did. But, please, we can only make the best decisions up here with the information we have. We get it from the educators. None of us up here are career educators. We get it from the financial professional and we get it

from the public. We want it from the public. So, if you have any questions, please continue to ask. Thank you.

John Sivley: I would just like to speak to the issue of parent involvement. When the issue of roundtable discussions was raised, you were talking about 20 parents at a time. This issue started a firestorm and I think there needs to be an area in terms of involving more than 20 parents at a time so that all of us can feel heard. We realize the decision is yours, but we really would like to be a part, at least in terms of input of this process and to have roundtables of 20 parents, I don't think cuts it.

Dr. Parrish: Well, certainly, there will be multiples of those. I think that one thing you have to consider though when you get into larger groups of 100 or 150, you can't have this type of dialogue very effectively. I think the small groups may serve that purpose. Remember the Curriculum Committee will be discussing this on an ongoing basis. If you follow that schedule as Chris said, certainly you're welcome to be there for those meetings and give your input or any citizen is.

Dr. Brewer: Dr. Parrish? My suggestion because I did have roundtables the first year I was Superintendent to get a feel for the community is Mike should put out a general all call. Who would like to participate? If you have 300, you divide that by 20 and then you do that many. I think that we need to know what is the energy to sit and discuss this and that's the way to do it.

Dr. Donahue: I just want to, I don't want to beat a dead horse, but emphasize that, I know people go home and they forget about looking at the website and they talk amongst each other, but they don't tell each other look at the website. If you can get people to start looking at the website, you'll find out about these things, because if Mr. Murphy's call for people who are interested in roundtables and we get 10 people responding, that's going to be problematic for us obviously, so we need to have like, if we could get 500 people, that's be fantastic, but you have to, you know, go to the website.

Dr. Parrish: Any other comments?

ADJOURNMENT

9.01 Adjournment

Dr. Donahue: The next public school board meeting will be held Monday October 11, 2010 starting at 7 p.m. in the District office board room. I'll entertain a motion for adjournment.

Dr. Cronin moved to adjourn, with a second by Mrs. Chabal and, approved by unanimous voice vote by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. Rineer
Secretary to the Board
Approved at the October 11, 2010 meeting

Dr. William Parrish
President of the Board

LDM