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Minutes of the
Board of School Directors
DERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hershey, PA 17033

October 13, 2008

OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District was held on Monday, October 13, 2008, in the District Office Board Room. Mr. Charles Stover, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call

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

Superintendent: Dr. Linda Brewer

Secretary: Mr. Stephen Rineer

Solicitor: Not Present

Student Representative: Andrew Rogers
Kathryn Collier

Press: Mr. Dave Hunt HERSHEY CHRONICLE
Mr. Drew Weidman THE SUN
Ms. Kira Schlechter PATRIOT NEWS

Representatives of the Administrative Staff: Mr. Dan Tredinnick, Dr. Cynthia Goldsworthy, Ms. Lynn Dell.

Representatives of the Staff and Community: Megan Hulse.

1.03 Flag Salute

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.01 Approval of September 22, 2008 School Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Malkoff and seconded by Dr. Parrish to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2008 Board meeting. All Board members present signified by a Yes vote.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

3.01 Announcement of Executive Session

Mr. Stover announced the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss matters related to personnel. All members of the Board were present.

3.02 Recognition of Citizens (Agenda Items)

None.

3.03 Standing Committee Report

General Services Standing Committee: Mr. Gräb gave the following report. "We had a rather "robust" agenda today. We looked at a feasibility study for the Hershey Middle School. Sue King, the principal, gave a very nice handout on enrollment projections, current issues affecting the Middle School, what might be necessary to maintain the current level of service, and some needs for the future."

"The present capacity of the Middle School is 815 students and there are 851 enrolled, so we are presently over capacity. The Middle School is projected to have an enrollment of 900 students in the year 2012, so we need to start working now to address those needs as they come up in the future. A couple of items were pointed out in particular: (1) the enrollment in special education in the Middle School is

increasing, which is going to place some additional needs, (2) there is no adaptive gym in the present Middle School as it exists, and (3) the cafeteria is somewhat inadequate. There are presently 3 lunches that start at 10:45 a.m.”

“We also had a presentation from Jackie Castleman from the Early Childhood Center. It’s present capacity is 535 and projecting enrollment through 2019, it does not appear to surpass 500. There is a possibility of establishing a full day kindergarten for selected students in the Early Childhood Center. That being the case, the Early Childhood Center presently has capacity to meet our needs in the future and the Middle School is somewhat lacking in capacity needs. We are anticipating sending out Requests For Proposal to different architectural firms to come in and look at our present existing Middle School building, which, if you remember, was built in 1960 as a high school and presently is not construed to meet the needs of what is called the “Middle School approach.””

“Mr. Consalo gave an update on the multipurpose field. It will be a green certified field and it will be the first green certified field in the state of Pennsylvania. There are some concerns at the Granada building, particularly the roof. We may need to redo the seams, which appears to be a 5 or 6 year plan. For those of you that came in this evening, you probably noticed the steps are in somewhat of a disarray out front and on the sides, so we’re hoping to replace the granite with concrete and it was suggested that perhaps we might be able to reuse the granite somewhere else. The door frames, some of which are original to the building, are beginning to rust, so we need to address that situation.”

“We had a rather long term discussion on two-tier versus three-tier bus runs and Mr. Yarian gave handouts as to some cost savings that would be involved with a two-tier versus a three-tier system. There would be the additional cost of school buses, so there are different things to weigh back and forth. We are hoping to have some focus groups with members of the community, because perhaps going from a two-tier to a three-tier, might create some push back from the community and we would like to hear and address their concerns. At a meeting prior to this year, we asked Mr. Yarian to look at the bus stops to see if the number could be diminished, and he has already eliminated about 50 bus stops. He created a criteria and is taking a sincere and deep look at the number of educational field trips and their aspect to the curriculum.”

Finance Committee: Mr. Barrett gave the following report. “I know everybody’s been glued to MSNBC or CNBC over the last two weeks and obviously everyone’s very familiar with the turmoil in the markets, the situation with the credit, and of course, the bail out and all those things have really caused some consternation. Just a few points on where we are right now from a financial standpoint as a District would be in order.”

“At this point in time, the District has about 28 million dollars and some change currently in PNC bank and those funds are collateralized. So, what does that mean to us? Of the District’s yearly budget of about 50 million dollars, there is currently over 50% of that in cash in the bank.”

“But you may ask, what is the District doing going forward, especially for the balance of this year in 2008 and 2009 and looking forward to 2009 and 2010. Currently, one of the things that is being done is really watching the cash flow very critically. The first quarter in 2008 and 2009 looks good, but there is a need to forecast the balance of that for this year in 2008 and 2009. There is also a need to formulate a forecast for 2009 and 2010, because there may be a lag of revenues, as well as expenses. Tied into that, one of the things that needed is to formulate an austerity plan or a contingency if our revenues deteriorate over time or if the economy begins to deteriorate. What does that really mean? That means that if there are some revenue issues, for example, if our transfer taxes fall off, if our EIT taxes are down, any place where we generate revenue through tax income. If those start to falter, if the economy falters, the District needs to have plans to be able to react. The Finance Committee is on top of that situation as well and that forecast will be formulated for plan year 2009 and 2010.”

“In addition, there needs to be a look at additional revenue generation. The Committee is always looking at those types of things, but they become more critical when the economy starts to falter. Also, of course, watching the fund balances as we move forward. But just as a point, these will be future agenda items for Finance Committee meetings coming up. To the Board, really thank Steve, because, once again, Steve always looks at those dollars as if they’re actually his and he’s watching them always very closely and thank you to the administration. I think we have a very well managed District and they’re always very prudent with funds.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 Unfinished Business

None.

NEW BUSINESS

5.01 Anticipated Agenda Items for the October 27, 2008 Public Meeting

The following items will be on the agenda for the October 27, 2008 Public Board Meeting for presentation or vote:

1.	Presentation -
2.	October 2008 Students of the Month
3.	Standing Committee Report - Finance
4.	Approval of October 13, 2008 Board Minutes
5.	Approval of September 2008 Finance Report (Mr. Rineer)

6.	Request for Payment (Mr. Rineer)
7.	GASB45 Valuation Services
8.	Acceptance of Gift - Hershey Little League - \$66,286
9.	Final Approval Foreign Excursion - Hershey Middle School - Montreal and Quebec City, Canada - January 2009
10.	Request for Field Trip/Excursion - Hershey High School Student Council - South Western Leadership Conference - November 2008 (Dr. Goldsworthy)
11.	Request for Field Trip/Excursion - Hershey High School Choir - Roxbury Trip - March 20-22, 2009 (Dr. Goldsworthy)
12.	Requests for the Use of Facilities (Mr. Elias)
13.	Personnel
14.	Announcement of Staff Development Conferences

5.02: Request for Payment - Multi-Purpose Athletic Fields

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

	Multi-Purpose Athletic Fields	
1.	Hayes Large Architect, LLP Bill No. 0809-001	\$48,000.00

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

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

5.03 Requests for the Use of School Facilities

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

<i>Group:</i>	Hershey Youth & Government Club
<i>Date/Time:</i>	November 15, 2008

	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	High School Cafeteria, Auditorium, Library, Office, Classrooms in the English and Social Studies Wings
<i>Event:</i>	Annual Youth & Government Convention
<i>Fee:</i>	Request Waiver
<i>Group:</i>	Hershey Lions Club
<i>Date/Time:</i>	March 15, 2009 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	High School Kitchen and Cafeteria
<i>Event:</i>	Annual Spaghetti Dinner
<i>Fee:</i>	As per Lease Agreement

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

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

5.04 Personnel – Resignations

The Administration recommended the approval of the following resignations:

Limited Service Contracts:
Drahovsky, David Assistant Middle School Boys' Basketball Coach Middle School Reason: Personal Effective: 10/13/08
Dundorf, Carol Science Department Coordinator Middle School Reason: Personal Effective: 09/29/08

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

Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

5.05 Personnel – General

1.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following appointments:
	Classified:
	Blazer, Stephanie Substitute Recess/Cafeteria Aide Elementary School Salary: \$9.16 per hour Effective: 10/14/08 (pending receipt of Act 114 clearance)
	Winter, Janet * REVISED: Substitute Bus Driver District-wide Salary: \$13.60 per hour REVISED: Effective: 10/06/08 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)
	Wood, Debbie (replacing Judy Keener) Part-time Secretary 10-Month Position Elementary School Level A: 4.0 hours per day Salary: \$14.54 per hour (no benefits) Effective: 10/27/08 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)
	Limited Service Contracts:
	Barnhart, Adam * Head 9th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach High School Level II, Group B, Step 22 Salary: \$4,154 Effective: 10/14/08 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)
	Dibeler, Ryan Assistant Middle School Boys' Basketball Coach Middle School Level III, Group B, Step 1 Salary: \$1,484

	Effective: 10/14/08 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)
	Dilger, Kimberly * Mentor to Melody Witwer, Learning Support Teacher Salary: \$1,000 Effective: Retroactive to 07/01/08
	Lemaster, Ann * Math Team Advisor Level I, Group J, Step 1 Salary: \$330 Effective: 10/14/08
	Tiscbein, Matt Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach High School Level II, Group B, Step 1 Salary: \$2,077 Effective: 10/14/08 (pending receipt of Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances)
2.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following request in accordance with District Policy 435:
	Owens, Renee English Teacher Middle School Family Medical Leave Act Effective: 10/13/08 to be used intermittently through 11/11/08
3.	The Administration recommended the approval of the Limited Service Contract List of coaches for the 2008-09 spring school year as attached:
4.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following additions to the 2008-2009 Substitute Teacher List: Deaven, Carol B.S. in Elementary Education from Temple University
	Maloskey, Michelle B.S. in Elementary Education from Pennsylvania State University
5.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following additions to the 2008-2009 Guest Teacher List: Ashe, Mallory Chambers, David Hyatt, Kathryn Laychock, Michelle Major, Laura Nissen, Dwight Russell, Matthew Vasquezi, Nicole
6.	As you know, at the May 12, 2008 meeting, the Board entered into an agreement, which among other things, extended Dr. Linda Brewer's term as Superintendent

for an additional three-year term from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. To facilitate Dr. Brewer's commission from the Department of Education, the Human Resources Committee recommended that the Board now formally reelect Dr. Brewer for the agreed additional three-year term.

*** This individual is currently an employee and/or volunteer. Clearances are on file.**

Mr. Barrett made a motion that Item 6 be separated out of Personnel and voted on individually and was seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Barrett made an additional motion that the Board consider the balance of the Personnel Items 1 through 5 and was seconded by Dr. Parrish.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Barrett moved the Board approve the request of voting on Items 1 through 5 and was seconded by Mrs. Chabal.

Mr. Stover mentioned that he is personally conflicted and would be abstaining from the vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Cronin – No

Malkoff – Yes

Stover - Abstain

7 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstention

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Barrett moved the Board approve the request of voting on Item 6 and was seconded by Mr. Malkoff.

Mr. Stover explained the reasoning of this motion: “As you know, at the May 12, 2008 meeting, the Board affirmed and then executed an agreement that extended Dr. Linda Brewer’s term as Superintendent for an additional three year term from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. Dr. Brewer’s initial certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education extends through June 30, 2009 based on her initial term of agreement. PDE only issues new or extended certifications in the last year of the current certification. So, although the District was well within it’s prerogative to enter a new agreement with Dr. Brewer in May 2008, or earlier if it had wished, it had to wait per PDE requirements to seek a new certification, until after the July 1, 2008 date. To facilitate Dr. Brewer’s commission from the Department of Education, we simply need to pass this secondary motion to formally reelect Dr. Brewer for the previously agreed additional three year term.

Roll Call Vote:

Barrett – Yes

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Yes

Malkoff – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

9 Yes

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATES REPORTS

6.01 Dauphin County Technical School Report

Mr. Gräb reported that the Dauphin County Technical School met on October 8, 2008. There was an update on the building project, and it is basically 99% complete. Unfortunately, there were an inordinate amount of change orders due to a variety of issues, but nonetheless, the project is coming in under budget. An open house is scheduled for November 6, 2008 from 6 until 9 p.m. The public is invited, and Mr. Gräb hoped that some Board members would be able to put that date on their calendar. The formal dedication will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Gräb reported some good news. Due to lower costs for the self-insured medical and prescription program, lower costs for salaries and benefits due to retirements, some cost savings from the new Honeywell system, and general operating systems, the Dauphin County Technical School finished over \$730,000 in the black. The Derry Township School District will be receiving \$34,509.54 in the form of a rebate check.

The normal consent agenda and supplemental consent agenda were approved. The support staff has formed a bargaining unit at the School and a negotiating team has been formed.

If there's a question as to why \$730,000 in the black and we only get \$34,000, it's based on attendance.

6.02 Derry Township Tax Collection Association Report

Mr. Malkoff reported that the Derry Township Tax Collection Association met on Thursday, September 25, 2008 and one of the key issues facing the Association now has to do with a new law that was passed by the Pennsylvania state legislature which requires the collection of earned income tax at the county level. This is going to basically involve forming a new organization. Every single school district and every single township will have representatives, basically representing every township and school district in Dauphin County, so another bureaucracy is being created unfortunately. We happen to be very fortunate in Derry Township, or have been in the past, in having our own tax collection agency. Most other school districts and townships use a tax collection agency that actually provides service to a variety of different school districts and tax collection agencies, so this will require some thinking about the future organization of our tax collection agency.

6.03 Harrisburg Area Community College Report

No report.

6.04 Capital Area Intermediate Unit Report

Mrs. Sheffey reported that the Capital Area Intermediate Unit met on September 25, 2008. The majority of the meeting was to discuss CASA the Capital Area School for the Arts. The school opened 8 years ago with an enrollment of 53 students and they currently have 151 students, so they have outgrown their current space and their current space is not ADA compliant. CASA is looking to lease 10,000 square feet on the first floor of Strawberry Square. Next month that will be brought for a vote, but a presentation was given on the services they provide. CASA sounds like a wonderful program. Last week they received the annual Theater Harrisburg award for its contribution to the arts. We have one student currently enrolled. A capital campaign is in the initial stages and will hopefully diminish the potential increases to expanding to Strawberry Square and then building out the space, so hopefully there won't be an increase in tuition. For members of the Finance Committee and Steve, a 403b plan third party administrator has been selected, which is Employer Administrative Services, Inc, and Kades-Margolis as the consulting company.

SPECIAL REPORTS

7.01 Announcement of Staff Development Conference

Richard Miller
AP Music Theory Conference
Philadelphia, PA
January 23-24, 2009
Expenses: \$785.00

7.02 Student Representatives' Report

Ms. Collier reported that the weekend of October 4th, the SATs were held at the High School and a lot of the students attended. She as well as many students thought it went well.

Mr. Rogers reported that homecoming weekend was the same weekend and was proud to say that the football team won. He also congratulated Ms. Collier on winning homecoming queen.

7.03 School and Community Information Report

Mr. Treddinick reported that while the students were out of school, the teachers had been hard at work at inservice. He made a note of the fact that a nationally recognized expert in reading fluency spent a great deal of time with the staff, Dr. Ken Ruzinsky from Kent State University. Although this was time off for many members of the school community, there was a lot of dedicated time spent by the instructional staff. It is important for everyone to know that there is a reason for inservice. It is not time off for our teachers and, in fact, ties in very closely with our Strategic Plan, where the importance of professional development is noted. Dr. Brewer and Dr. Goldsworthy have mentioned many times, given the relative youth of staff and the years of experience that many of them have, less than 5 years, the need for professional development is particularly important.

7.04 Board Members' Report

Mrs. Sheffey reported that the Curriculum Council met on October 6, 2008 and it was the first meeting of the year. All issues discussed were High School issues.

The first issue was the proposal of senior alternative physical education program. The program is being proposed for 2009/2010 allowing seniors who are carrying a full

academic schedule or have serious scheduling conflicts to take a senior alternative physical education program where they would be able to use varsity sports activities, dance activities, and other club sport activities in place of taking a regular PE class. It is the first review of this issue. Next month, the Council will be looking at it again and finalizing it, unless the Board has any issues or concerns.

The second issue was the proposal for 2009/2010 for an AP Human Geography course. It is human geography because it covers sociology and anthropology. It would be the first year a course like this is offered. The course is for juniors and seniors limited to one section for the first year. It builds directly on the 6th and 7 grade curriculum.

The third issue was textbook recommendations. The first was for an Accounting III program. The book considered for approval is *Entrepreneurship Ideas and Action*. Currently there are 20 students enrolled and it is a new course. The other textbook recommendation was a class many Board members will be excited to hear about: "Consumer Economics And Money Management". It will cover financial planning, banking, managing personal financing, and credit cards. It is a full year program, and is a new course for 2008/2009. There are 75 students enrolled. The book being considered for approval is *Consumer Education and Economics*.

Dr. Cronin asked what courses are required for the students to take before the new AP class.

Mrs. Sheffey responded that there is no prerequisite other than the course being for juniors and seniors.

Dr. Cronin: "Typically, there's a lead up to an AP course especially your sciences and your maths and even in your languages, you have to have reached a level of competency prior to taking and since this is a brand new curriculum, I guess perhaps there's nothing built into our curriculum that would lead up to it at this point."

Dr. Goldsworthy responded: "No."

Dr. Cronin: "It's pretty much a standalone. Is this, I'm assuming then that it's a course that the AP group has established so therefore, they're the people who make the decision as to whether or not there are requirements prior to and what they are."

Dr. Goldsworthy responded: "Yes."

Dr. Donahue asked: "What's the lead time in developing any AP course? How long from inception to recruiting a teacher?"

Dr. Goldsworthy responded: "The AP courses have a prescribed curriculum. Once you determine that you want to go that route, we use the AP curriculum. We have our teachers all within the last 3 to 4 years, every one of the teachers teaching an AP

course, has attended a conference around that particular AP course.”

Dr. Donahue questioned: “Do all the AP teachers for new AP courses come from the current faculty?”

Dr. Goldsworthy responded: “Yes.”

Dr. Donahue stated: “So, there’s no budget implication.”

Dr. Goldsworthy: “No. Typically not. Just the textbooks.”

7.05 Superintendent’s Report

No report.

7.06 Board President’s Report

No report.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS (Non-agenda Items)

8.01 Recognition of Citizens (Non-agenda Items)

Megan Hulse: “I was just wondering, we addressed the Board on the school calendar and having this weekend just spent 5 days at home with my children, a little bit too early in the school year for them personally, I was wondering how and when we can go about addressing next year’s school calendar, so we’re not behind the 8 ball like we were in the past if you have any input.”

Dr. Brewer: “We typically gear up in January to look at various calendars and show them to the Board. I recall that we have to have the calendar adopted late February, beginning of March. We go through this every year, knowing the input that is your concern and other’s concern and have difficult parameters to work around.”

Ms. Hulse: “I understand. The inservice days are important, but my question would be did we need to have 5 days, could we have had 4 days. I guess what bothered me was, I thought we had to be in accordance, if I was right at that last meeting, with other schools. It turned out that I drove by LD on Thursday and they were in session and CD was off Thursday, to my knowledge, and not off Friday ,so I guess I’m a little bit confused. Are you saying that we as the parents, have no input?”

Dr. Brewer: For this long weekend, today is a holiday and Thursday was a religious holiday that some of our constituents honor, so there are competing variables and

competing input. Thursday would have been one of those with religious holiday.”

Ms. Hulse: “Could we have made that an inservice day for the teachers? I think there’s ways to do this and what I see is, once again, is rigidness that you’re not willing to say, yes, we’d like to talk to the parents and see how it went. I took an informal poll today and people were just literally going crazy. It was just too early in the year. The kids, I could tell you, most of my children were ready to be back at school. Five days was too long. Again, I’m just asking a question. Is there any way parents, and if you tell me we need to poll people, you tell me what we need to do. Are you saying we have no input on the calendar or we do have input, that’s all I’m asking. Is there any way we can have any input, because I can walk away if we don’t. However, I find it unbelievable that we have no input. You can’t sit and openly discuss this with people whose children are involved. I don’t like to pull my children out of school to take vacations, so if I want to talk about that, how can I not even have a voice. It’s hard for me to understand.”

Dr. Parrish: “Actually Megan, you had a voice. This calendar was put together after an open work session last year. I’m just telling you that we’ve done this in the past. We’ve had a work session. It went on for two hours with parents here and this is the calendar, after that type of discussion you’re asking for, that came out of that meeting. So I don’t think you should feel that parents haven’t had a voice in this. Going forward this year, is your question can we do another work session about the calendar? That’s a Board decision, and I don’t see any reason that we can’t. We’ve done that in the past, but you shouldn’t feel that the calendar that you’re working under this year was done by a closed Board with no input.”

Ms. Hulse: “That’s fine. I understand.”

Dr. Parrish: “I think there were even two meetings, if I’m not mistaken.”

Ms. Hulse: “I accept that and I’m fine with that. But going forward, I would like to work forward.”

Board Member Response: “So how many meetings is it practical to have. It can’t be weekly in deciding the calendar, that’s one extreme. The other extreme is not getting any parent input which we haven’t done. So what’s practical, two meetings, three meetings. Do we know yet?”

Board Member Response: “I think a work session would be the most practical thing and that way we can discuss it in public.”

Board Member Response: “Do we have to remember every year to schedule a work session or is it something we can make automatic.”

Board Member Response: “A work session doesn’t allow community input, that’s just us discussing it in public, right?”

Board Member Response: "That's right."

Board Member Response: "If I recall, we've changed that. Typically it's usually an hour, but we've done that in the past where we've allowed public input and I would have no problem with that."

Board Member Response: "I think what we have to balance is getting as much public input as we can, but yet not making it onerous for the administration because it is something that's difficult to do. I don't think we can decide it tonight, but at some point we have to decide it."

Mr. Stover: "I think personally I would say that we would not set in stone that every year we're going to do a work session on the calendar. I know there is a ton of work that is put in to making all things fit together. Although, there are a lot of things that we would like to discuss with the public, we're not going to discuss every nuance of this calendar. You're going to have to take our word for it that we're looking and adjusting things as much as possible. I think, this year, if the Board feels that another work session would be in order to allow the public to speak, I'm all for it. So, we can put that on the calendar."

Dr. Parrish: "I think one problem you run into is the people we choose as friends and our kids are similar ages, often have a similar viewpoint of us. If we start polling our friends, it's really not a very accurate view of the cross section of the whole District. I think you have to be careful about that type of impression, because a lot of effort goes into this. Certainly, our Jewish families in town find that the Jewish holidays are very sacred and to remove them is sort of disrespectful. Today's a holiday that is a teacher's contractual holiday, so the push back would be: Why are my kids out of school Thursday and out of school Monday. If I just had Friday off we could do something out of town. That would be the pushback we would get from the opposite side of this, I can tell you right now. I think another work session to talk about some parameters are fine, but we're never going to make everybody happy."

Dr. Donahue: "I got a lot of very positive feedback. There were a lot of concerned parents and Dr. Brewer gave a presentation that really outlined, I thought, really nicely the limitations to the calendar. I saw a lot of parents come up to you, parents that were really quite concerned with the whole situation, and say they didn't realize it was that complicated, thanks a lot. As hard as that might be, I think we have to do something like that, almost do that every year, maybe a little more proactively than we did last year and maybe before the session or at the session."

Mr. Barrett: "I agree. You've done a lot of great presentations, but that was the one I think that really succinctly put everything on the table and said these are the reasons why. A lot of people don't really know that there are a lot of constraints you have contractually and I think that really pointed out those constraints really well."

Mr. Stover: "Maybe what we can do is, the meeting that we schedule the work session, if we could have a presentation in that meeting and then go into work session while it's all fresh."

Dr. Brewer: "We could do that in January."

Board Member Question: "Can you put online a tentative draft calendar before that work session meeting?"

Dr. Brewer: "Yes. In order to do that, what we'll have to do is work with the administrators. We might have a little bit of difficulty because we're in contract negotiations right now and we have certain days right now in this current calendar that are built in for teacher inservice, and I don't know quite how to account for that. As you know, we're always looking to have more time to have support of our teachers in training and how we do that will not have been worked out by the time this tentative calendar would have to be put out. Additionally, PDE is changing PSSA dates again, so it would be nice not to have to do the calendar in January. It would be nice to be able to wait for a couple months. I may come and ask you if we can waive our policy until we know when PSSA is going to happen or to see where we get in negotiations and then work with the Human Resources Standing Committee with a couple scenarios for calendars prior to putting one out for feedback. I could tell you in the 9 years I've been here, there have been tons of parent input, staff input, and Board input. There's only so much we can do within our constraints."

Mr. Barrett. "I think we've had a lot of public comment and I think it's a mischaracterization. I'd agree with that."

Dr. Cronin: "If you look at the calendar we could probably poll 10 people and have 10 difference scenarios, but I think the steps we're taking to at least let people be heard and acknowledge that there are different versions, maybe we'll try different things different years and not just go with the same thing all the time, but at least we're opening up a dialogue, which I think is great."

ADJOURNMENT

9.01 Adjournment

Mr. Stover announced the next Board meeting would be on Monday, October 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Board Room.

Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn, with a second by Dr. Cronin and, approved by unanimous voice vote by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. Rineer
Secretary to the Board
Approved at the October 27, 2008 meeting

Charles Stover
President of the Board

LDM