

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

**September 12, 2011**

**OPENING ITEMS**

**1.01 Call to Order**

A meeting of the Board of School Directors, Derry Township School District was held on Monday, September 12, 2011, in the District Office Board Room. Dr. Henry Donahue, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Donahue: First, I'd like to welcome the 2011-2012 Student Representatives, Mr. Zachary Cole and Mr. Stephen Haverstick. Welcome aboard.

Mr. Cole/Mr. Haverstick: Thank you very much.

**1.02 Roll Call**

<b>Directors Present:</b>	Mrs. Beulah Chabal Dr. Donna Cronin Dr. Henry Donahue Dr. Mary Beth Hagan Mr. Christopher Morelli Dr. William Parrish Mrs. Ellen Sheffey Mr. Charles Stover
<b>Excused:</b>	Mr. John Gräb
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Dr. Richard Faidley
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mr. Stephen Rineer
<b>Solicitor:</b>	Mr. Brian Jackson (Not Present)
<b>Student Representative:</b>	Mr. Zachary Cole Mr. Stephen Haverstick
<b>Press:</b>	Ms. Amanda Kahl                      THE SUN

**Representatives of the Administrative Staff:** Mr. Dan Tredinnick, Dr. Bernie Kepler, Mr. Joseph McFarland, Ms. Lynn Dell, Ms. Jackie Castleman, Ms. Lisa M. Sviben Miller, Mr. Ed Consalo, and Ms. Lori Dixon.

**Representatives of the Staff and Community:** Heidi Eby, Priscilla Stoner, Yvonne C. Lessard, Nicole Vasquezi, Tina Lenge, Katie McKinney-Gavazzi, Lauren Grubb, Judy Haverstick, Maryellen Sheehan, Adrea P. Abruzzo, Megan G. Hulse, Mark H. Shade, Julie Isaacson, Brian Shiflett, Julie A. Neal, Nancy Stein, Scott A. Stein, John Foley, Pat Leonard, Alex Jones, Peggy A. Donahue, Tara N. Valoczki, Bruce Hancock, Jonas Sheehan, Michael Angelo.

### **1.03 Flag Salute**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **2.01 Approval of the August 22, 2011 School Board Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Donahue: Due to the unfortunate turn of events this past week, the August 22, 2011 minutes will be presented at the September 26, 2011 Board meeting.

## **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

Dr. Donahue: I'd like to announce that the Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss labor relations and arbitrations and other matters that, for legal reasons, must be conducted in private.

Now I would like to ask Dr. Faidley to report on events of the last week with the flood and storm and so forth, Dr. Faidley.

Dr. Faidley: Thank you, Mr. President. As you all know, our District community was beset with significant rain and flooding issues last week that are still impacting our citizens in Derry Township. Whenever weather or other emergency issues occur, our first concern of course is maintaining the safety and well being of the children who are entrusted to us by parents and guardians. This is our duty under the *in loco parentis* standing that you entrust to us every day.

I draw your attention to the slides that are being presented, because if you weren't present in the area that your children were at, I think the slides will speak for

themselves. Keep in mind these pictures were taken after some of the waters had receded, but there was some significant flooding slides that I think you will find utterly amazing in terms of the amount of water.

At the same time, we recognize and embrace our role in being able to contribute to the safety of our citizens and community by working with Derry Township Police and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Officials. In the past, for example, that has involved our offering our facilities as potential emergency shelters, which we did at our middle schools this past week. In any weather incident or emergency, we are in constant communication with our Police Department and PEMA to do what we can to help. Sometimes helping means complying with directives issued by these entities that are designed for the benefit and safety of all. Living where we do, we are rather familiar with the concept of driving bans during particularly bad snow and ice storms. When those orders have been issued, we, of course, have complied with them by cancelling school and directing our employees to stay home.

We have been fortunate not to have had significant experience with the two other common forms of emergency protective action that can be issued: evacuation and shelter-in-place. Mandated evacuation is self-explanatory, and there were a number of our local communities that experienced these orders from local authorities last week. Shelter-in-place directives require more explanation. Shelter-in-place involves remaining in your house or inside any other location and not leaving such location for the duration of a particular situation. For example, in the event of an emergency, such as the release of hazardous material, an immediate evacuation may not be ordered, but an order may be issued to keep everyone at their current indoor location and off the roads -- both to allow law enforcement to address the situation without logistical traffic issues and to prevent people from outdoor exposure to harmful agents that have been dispersed into the air.

While we didn't have a release of hazardous material last week, there were a number of reports of potential gas leaks and, of course, on Thursday afternoon and into Friday, we had an ever growing number of roads that were closed or otherwise impassible because of flooding. Those water issues are what motivated our early dismissals this past week.

In the midst of this dismissal, we and a number of school districts received shelter-in-place orders from local law enforcement officials who were operating in tandem with Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). We received this order between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday and shortly after 2:00 p.m., 2:03 p.m. we had communicated the issuance of the order through our Connect-Ed messaging system.

We fully recognize that the timing of the issuance of this order relative to our dismissal presented several issues. Students that had been dismissed, but were still on their bus rides home, were returned to the shelter of the District buildings. These students were required to remain in the building until the shelter-in-place directive was rescinded. It was rescinded about two hours later. Parents who arrived at the District in that two hour

period of time were also requested to remain at the District. There was no doubt that this presented inconveniences to the people involved. There was also no doubt that our local community's general lack of familiarity with shelter-in-place orders created confusion and stress in an already confusing and stressful period. That said, we feel that good citizenship requires that in crisis situations we all honor the public safety directives that are issued.

We are very grateful that we were able to assist Derry Township Police with minimizing potential injuries and distraction of emergency resources by honoring their directive. We were able to use Connect-Ed to communicate every change almost instantaneously to parents and guardians. Our shelter-in-place period lasted only about two hours and most importantly all of our students returned home safely.

I also want to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to talk about some recent situations at our Early Childhood Center. Immediately after the storm, Ed Consalo and myself in conjunction with structural engineers walked our campus. Upon walking the campus, we noticed that there were some widened cracks in our building at the ECC. Upon the advice of, not only the structural engineers as well as the geo-technicians, this morning we met with them again, and upon their advice, we have relocated the students at the ECC – the kindergarten and first graders to our primary and intermediate elementary school where they continue the rest of their school day. Communication was sent out via Connect-Ed informing the community that our Early Childhood Center will be closed starting Tuesday through Friday as we continue to assess the situation and bring in additional personnel specialists to determine what is the actual cause of the settling of the building and the cracking along the building structure.

I will also note that we are in the process of relocating those kindergarten classrooms and first grade classrooms to other places within the District so that by Monday of next week, our students can continue their education in a safe environment until we can assess the damages to the ECC building.

There was at no point and time any imminent danger to any of the students or staff at the ECC. As a precaution and as a measure, we have decided that relocating the students is the best case at the present time. We are not sure, as I said, we are not sure to what extent this happened – whether it was settling in the foundation, whether it was something underneath the earth – that is why we have the geo-technicians coming in and the engineers to assess that. That's my report.

Dr. Donahue: Great. Thanks Dr. Faidley. I would also like to make a couple of comments. Many parents have let the Board know that the District's response to this very serious emergency resulting from the storm and flooding has been outstanding. By all accounts, the District was well prepared and the response well organized. Administrators, teachers, and staff all chipped in to help out working way past their normal quitting time. Fire and police response was also outstanding. The District did an excellent job in providing the community a Red Cross shelter location as Dr. Faidley alluded to. Communication during the emergency was excellent and parents and

students were kept well informed. While the children were being sheltered in place Wednesday, they were kept safe, well fed, and calm. I'm not sure I can say that about all the parents. Employees continued to work around the clock even as the flood waters were receding to make sure that all the buildings were safe for the students. Indeed, they continue to work diligently now to relocate some classes and reschedule extracurricular activities.

I would like to thank all employees of the District for their response to this unprecedented emergency. I would also like to thank those District students who volunteered their time to help clean up damaged homes around town. I think the soccer team was involved, were they not? They did an outstanding job – some of them have little coughs in their throats from the mold and stuff, but that will go away.

Finally, I would like to thank those parents who understood the severity of the situation, remained calm, and helped out the best they could. There was a great show of support, so thank you all.

Dr. Faidley: Mr. President, I just have one other thing to add, if I may. I'd like to thank the Derry Township Police Department, specifically Chief O'Rourke for his constant communication during what I know for him was an extremely business time as it was for us. His response time to phone calls and his proactive measures of communicating with me directly made our decisions much more timely and we had accurate information from him directly. I want to publicly thank him for all that he did to keep the children and the community in Derry Township safe.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you. Do any Board members have questions for Dr. Faidley at this time? You'll have time in your normal Board reports also. If not, then we'll move on.

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

Lauren Grubb: I'd like to just take a couple of minutes to share some of the concerns that I had that I had personally experienced at my time in the lobby of the primary elementary school on Wednesday.

I am a parent of three children in the Derry Township School District. I am here tonight in the spirit that Superintendent Dr. Faidley put on his message board on August 31 that he wrote on the School website. You stated, "one of the most important responsibilities as Superintendent is to foster an environment of free flowing civil and respectful communication amidst an air of spirited collaboration". You went to say, "where new ideas are encouraged and partnerships embraced." Let me begin by stating I understand what happened last Wednesday, September 7, was unprecedented and my comments are not intended to suggest that anyone is not attempting to act in good faith at all. Rather, my comments tonight are here to intend to highlight serious failures that I felt occurred notwithstanding anyone's intentions so that the Board and the

Administration can develop more effective policies and procedures to be followed in the event of a future emergency.

With that as my background, I offer the following: I arrived to get our daughters, one in the primary and one of the intermediate elementary school sometime in the neighborhood of about 12:55. There was a lengthy delay after I signed out the children, because I discovered at some point that I was there, after about 20 minutes, that the intercom system was not working. During an emergency, it is critical that staff continually confirm that the intercom system is working, because depending on the nature of the emergency, I am assuming communications to the classrooms are occurring when in fact they are not, could have serious consequences.

In addition, upon my arrival, it became apparent that there was confusion and no clear plan that was unfolding. Instead of being in charge of the situation, the Administration was reacting to the situation as it unfolded and not doing so according to the specific guidelines or any sort of procedures. In the middle of the confusion, without any clear explanation, everyone in the waiting office area of the lobby of the primary elementary school suddenly was advised that they were not permitted to leave the building – that they were issued a, what did you call it, the shelter-in-place.

I want to stress that contrary to certain news reports indicating that we were “advised to not leave the building,” I was verbally and physically restrained from leaving the building. I was very concerned for our 7<sup>th</sup> grader who was about to arrive home by bus to unknown conditions and the Administration dismissed this concern and my urgent plea to leave immediately with my other two children while I had an opportunity and a window that I knew I could get home safely in our very large SUV. The Administration offered the suggestion that I call her and let her know I was not allowed to leave the building. First, I was uncertain if we had power, (2) we live next to a creek bed and I had no way of knowing the stage that it was in at that point and time, (3) I had no clear idea of her whereabouts, and (4) her cell phone was going directly to her voicemail, which I then assumed that she now had a dead phone and it was not connecting.

Lastly, the Derry Township School Districts actions resulted in a completely, in my opinion, unacceptable situation where parents were held against their will, parents were prevented from seeing and having released to them their own children and, most importantly, the judgment of the District was inappropriately substituted for the judgment of parents as to what was best for them and their children. I would like to thank the Board again for your time, your consideration, and again, I offer my comments not in condemnation or criticism, but to only benefit all concerned in the event of a future emergency. Thank you.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you.

### **3.03 Student Representatives' Report**

Mr. Cole/Mr. Haverstick: We'd like to start off by saying that Steven and I are genuinely honored to represent the Derry Township student body and look forward to building rapport among the students, the School Board, and the community.

As the school year progresses, we will strive to provide successful representation of everyone's concerns. Thank you again and we look forward to this opportunity of working with you all.

Over the past few days, we've been sopping up water and doing things of that nature. Not too much in school.

Dr. Donahue: Excellent. Thank you very much and welcome again.

Mr. Cole/Mr. Haverstick: Thank you very much.

### **3.04 Finance Standing Committee Report**

Dr. Donahue: Today's Finance Standing Committee was postponed. The rescheduled date will be announced at a later date.

### **3.05 Time Study Ad-Hoc Committee Report**

Dr. Donahue: Last year some community members came to the Board and inquired as to, or made us familiar, with research that suggested start times for high school students were less than ideal given their sleep cycles. We convened a committee to investigate this concept. This is the summary, I'm going to give you a summary of the Executive report, which I believe is available or will be available online, correct?

In the fall of 2010, the Derry Township Board of School Directors created the Time Study Ad Hoc Committee, because we couldn't think of a better name for it, to investigate the research, rationale, and possibility of adjusting the secondary school start time to better align with adolescent sleep patterns. The Committee included two Board members, building principals from each level, the Athletic Director, three community representatives and the Assistant to the Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. Over several meetings, we reviewed numerous research and news articles regarding alternate start times at different high schools across the country. Just to summarize, it was a mixed bag of results. Some of the School Districts liked the change associated with the changes in start times and others didn't.

We also reviewed, and I'll go into that in a little more detail, we also reviewed evidence that suggested that there could be improvements in adolescents' alertness, mood and health with these changes in time. There is also clear evidence that adolescents have a

natural sleep pattern that involves going to sleep later and waking up later, however, we couldn't find any concrete data to confirm or deny causation between later start times and increased hours of sleep and affects on academic performance and depression due to lack of baseline data and control groups.

As I said, the committee reviewed various start times at different districts, most of which were in large urban areas where the districts are several high schools, therefore, it's easier to control what's going on in the high schools around you. Two districts in Pennsylvania have attempted this and we talked to those districts and found that the feedback, as I suggested, was distinctly mixed in that there are some very good experiences with the start time and some not so great experiences with the start time. Once again, this was all detailed in the executive summary.

One area that we focused on quite a bit was athletics. It was one of the areas that the committee spent a great deal of time discussing and had one of the largest systemic impacts from a late start time for secondary school. Mr. Elias surveyed all 32 school district in the Mid Penn conference and only one school noted that their district had even discussed a later start time and did not actually enact one.

If Derry Township decided to start secondary later, the District would only have control of athletic start times for approximately 50% of the games since those would be the home games, therefore, students and coaches would need to be pulled from classes for larger amounts of time. Part of problem we found was centered around athletics and scheduling athletic competition and taking coaches out of class for athletic competitions – approximately 50% of the coaches in our District are teachers.

Mr. Yarian, the Director of Transportation, provided information of the impact and implication of later secondary start time on transportation. As a public school, it's important to emphasize that Derry Township transports students to St. Joan of Arc and Hershey Christian School as well as to the Dauphin County Technical School, so a later start time would obviously affect those schools. If Derry Township changed start or end times for elementary and secondary schools, the District would be unable to participate in these shared services and would not be subsidized through the Pennsylvania Department of Education and potentially cost the District \$22,000 a year.

Mr. Hummel, Director of Food Service, did not identify any major impacts on food service.

We looked at the impact on families as far as child care – if high school students might be taking care of younger siblings came home later how that might negatively affect that family. We discussed how it might negatively affect after school employment by high school students. Also, Dr. Kepler surveyed area superintendents in the Capital Area Intermediate Unit. There are 17 districts represented and no one was interested in pursuing a later start time. We chose not to survey the community regarding this, because of cost, however, we did publish an article in the February edition of the District's Trojan Quest newsletter which went out to about 2,600 homes. Only 23

individuals clicked to download the article, usually about 300 to 500 people download articles on Trojan Quest.

After having these meetings and going through this data, we came up with the recommendation. The recommendation of the committee to the Board is that the majority of the committee felt that the change in bell schedules to start elementary, first, and secondary at later times is not a feasible endeavor at this time, however, the committee recommends that the District work with students and parents to reinforce the importance of regular sleep habits, so called sleep hygiene, and the detrimental effects on adolescent health and well being caused by continuous late night activities during the school year.

Are there any questions from the Board regarding this recommendation and this report?

Once again, will the whole report be on the website?

Mr. McFarland: Yes, it will. The plan was to have it up today, but the events of today superseded that.

Dr. Donahue: So if this issue is of interest to you, I encourage you to go to the webpage and read the full report or read the executive summary. I should emphasize that this will be something that we visit on occasion to see if it's something we would like to pursue, but we are recommending that we do not pursue it at this time.

Dr. Cronin: The summary states that we would not want to pursue changing the elementary and secondary flip flop, would you guys address maybe high school [not audible] and elementary second, just making everybody a little bit later or was it just flip flop or nothing.

Dr. Donahue: I believe we examined looking at everybody later was my recollection.

Mrs. Sheffey: I think what we found was that any improvements would require a minimum of 30 minutes. Was it 30 minute later start time?

Dr. Donahue: 45.

Mrs. Sheffey: 45 minutes.

Mr. McFarland: We did look at that as well. What happened is that would push everybody back later which would, with athletics, pull your coaches and students out of classes for even longer periods of time, because the instructional day would go later, but athletics would still have to go for their events.

Dr. Cronin: With the increased number of turf fields in the area, including our own, did we look at the percentage of games that are actually evening anyway. [not audible]

there is much less impact on the after school sports, because they are later or evenings now – at least half of the games, if not more, are in the evenings.

Mr. McFarland: Mr. Elias looked at that, but I don't have that information right in front of me.

Mr. Tredinnick: If I could just kindly remind the Board members to ensure the microphones are on and also to identify yourselves when speaking for ease of preparing the transcript.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you Dan. Any other questions?

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.01 Unfinished Business**

Michael Angelo: Is this for – can I ask a question here? I may have missed the boat on this, but I apologize. I was going to . . .

Dr. Donahue: You can't actually. You have to wait.

Michael Angelo: I can't?

Dr. Donahue: No, you can't. Sorry. There's another opportunity.

Michael Angelo: At the end you mean? Okay, alright. Thank you.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.01 Anticipated Agenda Items for September 26, 2011 Public School Board Meeting**

Dr. Donahue: The listed items will be on the agenda for the September 26, 2011 Public School meeting.

1. Approval of September 12, 2011 School Board Minutes
2. Approval of August 2011 Finance Report
3. Requests for Payment
4. Requests for the Use of Facilities
5. Personnel
6. Announcement of Staff Development Conferences

## 5.02 Approval of Overnight Field Trip/Excursion - Hershey Cross Country Team

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

<i>Group:</i>	Hershey Cross Country Team
<i>Number of Participating Students:</i>	16
<i>Grade Level:</i>	9-12
<i>Destination:</i>	Lehigh University
<i>Purpose:</i>	Invitational
<i>Depart:</i>	September 29, 2011
<i>Return:</i>	September 30, 2011
<i>Trip Leader:</i>	Al Fricke

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

Mrs. Chabal moved the Board approve the overnight field trip and was seconded by Dr. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Absent

Hagan – Yes

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

### MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Donahue: I neglected to mention that Mr. Gräb has an excused absence for this evening's meeting

## 5.03 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>	Hershey Youth Basketball Association
<i>Date/Time:</i>	September 19, October 3, October 17, November 7, November 21, December 5, December 19, 2011

	January 9, February 6, March 5, 2012
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	Middle School LGI
<i>Event:</i>	Board Meetings
<i>Fee:</i>	As per Lease Agreement
<i>Group:</i>	Senior Mens' Basketball
<i>Date/Time:</i>	Tuesday and Thursdays October 4, 2011 to October 4, 2012
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	Primary Elementary Gym
<i>Event:</i>	Senior Mens' Basketball
<i>Fee:</i>	None
<i>Group:</i>	Youth Wrestling
<i>Date/Time:</i>	Saturdays October 8, 2011, December 17, 2011, February 4, 2012, March 10, 2012 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
	Sundays October 9, 2011, December 18, 2011, February 5, 2012, March 11, 2012 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
	Snow Dates: Sundays October 16, 2011, January 15, 2012, February 12, 2012, March 18, 2012
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	High School Gym, Kitchen, Cafeteria
<i>Event:</i>	Tournaments
<i>Fee:</i>	As per Lease Agreement
<i>Group:</i>	Boys' Basketball
<i>Date/Time:</i>	November 5, 2011 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
<i>Requested Facility:</i>	High School and Middle School Gyms
<i>Event:</i>	Boys' Basketball Shoot-out
<i>Fee:</i>	As per Lease Agreement

Dr. Hagan moved the Board approve the requests and was seconded by Mrs. Sheffey.

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Absent

Hagan – Yes

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **5.04 Personnel - Resignations**

The Administration recommended the approval of the following resignations:

<b>Professional:</b>
<b>Horst, Vanessa</b> Part-time Art Long Term Substitute Teacher Middle School Reason: Personal Effective: 08/22/2011 (retroactive)
<b>Classified:</b>
<b>Moose, Geri</b> General Food Service Worker High School Reason: Personal Effective: 08/17/2011 (retroactive)

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

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Absent

Hagan – Yes

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

## **MOTION CARRIED**

**5.05 Personnel – General**

1.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following appointments:	
	<b>Classified:</b>	
	<p><b>Grobbelaar, Lyn Karen *</b> (replacing Deanna Morder)          Teachers' Aide          Primary School          Level B: 6.25 hours per day          Salary: \$12.52 per hour          Effective: 09/13/2011</p>	
	<p><b>Habecker, Dennis *</b> (replacing Janice Winter)          Bus Drive          District-wide  <b>Level A: 5.0 hours per day</b>  <b>Revised:</b> Salary: \$15.00 per hour          Effective: 08/25/2011 (retroactive)</p>	
	<p><b>Wolowicz, Kelly</b>          Substitute General Food Service Worker          District-wide          Salary: \$9.56 per hour          Effective: 09/13/2011</p>	
	<b>Reclassification of Classified Hours:</b>	
	<p><b>Cohle, Shaina *</b>          Teachers' Aide          Elementary School          From:          To:          Effective: 09/13/2011</p>	<p>Level B: 6.25 hours per day          Level B: 6.5 hours per day</p>
	<b>Transfer of Classified Staff:</b>	
	<p><b>Bowers, Kristi *</b>          From:          To:          Salary:          Effective:</p>	<p>Cafeteria Aide          Elementary School          Level A: 3.0 hours per day          Recess Aide (replacing Heather Simonetti)          Elementary School          Level A: 4.5 hours per day          \$13.38 per hour          09/19/2011</p>

	<b>Limited Service Contracts:</b>
	<p><b>Cole, Diana *</b>  Mentor to Richard Fried, Long-term Substitute Science Teacher  Middle School  Salary: \$1,053 (pending HEA Agreement)  Effective: 08/24/2011 (retroactive)</p>
	<p><b>Joyner, Matthew</b>  Volunteer Assistant Varsity Football Coach  High School  Effective: 09/13/2011 (pending receipt of Act 34 and 151 clearances)</p>
2.	The administration recommended the approval of the following request in accordance with District Policies 435:
	<p><b>Balanda, Lisa</b>  English Teacher  High School  Paid/Unpaid Family Medical Leave (up to 12 weeks)  Effective: 08/25/2011 to be used intermittently during a one-year cycle as necessary (retroactive)</p>
3.	The Administration recommended the approval of the following additions to the 2011-2012 Substitute Teacher List:
	<p><b>Alden, Nicole</b>  B.S. in Elementary Education from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania</p>
	<p><b>Longenecker, Samantha</b>  B.S. in Elementary Education from Messiah College</p>
	<p><b>Morgan, Kelly</b>  B.S. in Elementary Education from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania</p>
	<p><b>Pellington, Cathleen</b>  B.S. in Health and Physical Education from East Stroudsburg University</p>
	<p><b>Snyder, Joshua</b>  B.S. in English from Millersville University of Pennsylvania</p>
	<p><b>Spooner, Allison</b>  B.M. in Music from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania</p>
*	<b>This individual is currently an employee and/or volunteer. Clearances are on file.</b>

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

Roll Call Vote:

Chabal – Yes

Cronin – Yes

Donahue – Yes

Gräb – Absent

Hagan – Yes

Morelli – Yes

Parrish – Yes

Sheffey – Yes

Stover - Yes

8 Yes, 1 Absent

## **MOTION CARRIED**

## **DELEGATES REPORTS**

### **6.01 Dauphin County Technical School Report**

Mr. Morelli: The Technical School did meet on the 24<sup>th</sup>. I was not present, Mr. Gräb was, so we'll catch you next time.

### **6.02 Harrisburg Area Community College Report**

Dr. Cronin: When we meet later this month, I will provide a report.

### **6.03 Capital Area Intermediate Unit Report**

Mrs. Chabal: Our next meeting is September 23.

### **6.04 Derry Township Tax Collection Association Report**

Mr. Stover: The next Tax Association meeting is next Thursday, September 22. The next Dauphin County Tax Collection Committee meeting is next Wednesday, September 21.

The only thing I would add is that there were three business meetings set up for giving instructions to businesses in the county on how the EIT collection is going to work with Keystone Collection Group. Obviously with the weather, those meetings did not occur, and I'm not sure what kind of notification was put out as far as if the meetings were cancelled or, I, myself, don't even know when they are being rescheduled. I would just like to issue an apology that, obviously, with the weather those meetings were not able to be held and that we will get the new dates and post them. Dan, if we could, post that

we will be getting the rescheduled dates on our website and more information on that to follow. Thank you.

Dr. Donahue: Thanks Chuck. Any questions for Chuck?

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **7.01 School Community Information Report**

Mr. Tredinnick: Obviously, the weather conditions that we faced over the course of the last week have precipitated changes in many of the schedules for extracurricular activities, most notably athletics. For those folks who are looking to see when games are rescheduled, I encourage you, as always, to visit the District website for the most recent schedule. There were far too many updates to list them all, so the best bet is simply to click on the Athletic Schedule link and there you will see all the contests that are scheduled to come up.

Also on the subject of athletics, Hershey High School will be hosting an educational seminar for student athletes and their parents on Wednesday, September 21 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The intent of the seminar, which is being offered by Dynamite Sports, is to provide information for those student athletes who are interested in pursuing their athletic careers as they get to college. Information on the recruiting process will be provided to both student athletes and parents to hopefully make that transition a smoother one. As you know, we do have many student athletes from our high school go on to pursue both their academic and athletic careers in college and we believe this will be a service to our community.

Dr. Donahue: Thanks Dan. Are there any questions for Dan?

### **7.02 Board Members' Report**

Dr. Hagan: I'd like to say something. I wanted to thank the Administration and staff for everything that they've done during the recent flood. I was able to see firsthand in the school what a great job you guys did. I felt completely – I trusted my children to you and you brought them back to me safe and sound. I am just so thankful that my group was caught in that starting to walk, you got the new information, and you kept them. You kept them safe and I'm very grateful.

Mr. Stover: Often my wife reminds me that it's the little things in life that sometimes have the biggest impact. I would just like to tip my hat to Dr. Faidley. Many of you may or may not know that on the first day of school, Dr. Faidley made it into every classroom. In addition to that, he was also able to ride each of the two tier bus schedules. He rode in one of the buses. I think that goes a long way to the Administration and to our children that you are the face of our District. It certainly

impressed me. I think there are rumors going around town that you have a body double, because you've been seen showing up at numerous sports and extracurricular activities. It means a lot to us to have you visible in our District. I'd like to thank you.

Dr. Cronin: I just want to add my comments. I was out of town on Wednesday and had no clue that anything was going on and I received the Connect Ed messages on my phone and I think I knew more than some people in Derry Township who weren't at home getting their messages, so I actually served as a relay from Chicago to my neighbors to let them know where their kids were. My 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders were as happy as can be in the classroom. One classroom teacher e-mailed us and let us know that they were happy with popcorn and doing math something and I saw them later that night and they were no worse for the wear. I appreciate everybody's efforts.

Dr. Donahue: It's a testament to the power of popcorn. Thank you Donna. Anybody else?

### **7.03 Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Donahue: Dr. Faidley, do you have any additional comments?

Dr. Faidley: A couple of things. I want to, again, commend the staff in the District for, as Dr. Donahue stated earlier, for going above and beyond the call of duty in terms of many of our staff members, for those of you in the audience, chose even after the shelter-in-place was lifted chose to stay with students until the last student left our District and was picked up. Even some of those having children at their home and unknown damages occurring at their own home residence. I think that's a testament to the professionalism of our staff in the District.

I also want to commend Ed Consalo, the District Administration, specifically Greg Hummel, Director of Food Service for putting together an evening meal for over 1,600 people in a matter of about an hour and a half and the people stepping out to volunteer and assist with that.

We truly do live in a community and we truly do have a District where we educate every child every day, but even more important than that, we go above and beyond when it's necessary in matters of emergency to ensure the safety of our children. There are many things that we could improve upon. We will debrief with the emergency management folks in the county. We will also debrief as administrators and lessons learned – things we will improve, but I will never apologize for keeping children safe. That's my job and I do it in all seriousness. Thank you.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you Dr. Faidley.

## **7.04 Board President's Report**

No report.

## **RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS (Agenda and Non-Agenda Items)**

### **8.01 Recognition of Citizens (Agenda and Non-Agenda Items)**

Michael Angelo: Dr. Faidley, I also wanted to start off by thanking you. The old saying that a kind word never goes unnoticed, but it often goes unsaid. So, beyond the members of your Board here, I publicly wanted to thank you. By the way, Dr. Kepler, I thought you did a nice job with it as well.

The reason I showed up and I think I screwed up by coming here not knowing with the protocol was and I missed the boat on how this all works was that I wanted to say exactly what you just said. I'm glad to hear that you acknowledged it that, yeah there were some things that we could have done differently. When I first came in and sat down – I was driving 90 miles an hour down 322 to get here, I came and was like oh I hope I didn't miss it, and then I heard one person stand up and say a few words and then bang it's over. That was kind of the big deal, I think, why a lot of people came here and then we just had Lauren show up and that was like - whoa - did I miss something here. So I'm glad to hear you acknowledged it.

The only thing is and, again, I don't know the form of this, how this works, but I don't know if we'll have access to what some of those tweaks might be in hindsight. I know, I was, for the most part pretty happy. When I showed up, I had my son in there, I had some kids at home, the concern I expressed was, I said, hey I've got kids at home. They are by themselves. My wife's at the hospital. She can't get home. I need to get my kids out. With all due respect, I think they're safer with me than anybody else. Agree to disagree on that. All I wanted to know was can I do it and, if so, how do I do it? The only thing I heard was from the police officer who said, almost with a swagger, you're not getting your kid. I said, well, okay, could you maybe just explain a little more how this all works? Well, you're just not getting them. You can leave. You're not supposed to leave. If you do leave, I'm not going to tackle you, but you're not getting your kid. I said, well, maybe just a little more informed type of response would have been appreciated so when I does come time to, and when you stepped in the cafeteria, the way you handled it, you commanded everyone's attention. You did so with authority. People were listening to you. It was quick, you guys people to sign in, bang, here's the process line up. I thought it was great, but I think where people, I don't know if anybody here sensed any of this frustration. The frustration I had was the whole, like, what do we do? What do we do? No one knew what to do, so everybody's hanging around for an hour and a half. The people that you had – I mean a lot of it probably comes down to training and, you know, you're not prepared for these things, but I guess you wouldn't expect there's going to be, you know, this is written in stone – when this happens, boom boom boom. It hasn't happened before, but when it does, I think the

only thing that most people would appreciate would be just, and it's not like – hey, I know you have kids, but just a little more explanation – hey this is what we're recommending. The roads are bad. The roads are closed. We think they're safer here with us. It was more, hey can I get my child out of here? You're not getting your kid. It wasn't like and here's why. Just an explanation as to why and then, but if you wanted to, this would be the process. Again, you came in, you did a great job of clearing it up, it all ended well, so I thought it was great, but I think if we're sitting here, we're not ducking things under the rug. No one leaves here all frustrated, harumph, harumph, harumph, they didn't address this. No one wants to do that. Everyone wants to leave here saying they actually listened to me and they were not typing or texting when we were talking, but they were getting feedback and that's all we wanted to know is that you addressed it, people were heard, and you did that up to this point it wasn't said. I'm so glad to hear you say that, yeah, there were some things that we could have changed.

If I were to say one thing, it would be, when you do make those changes whatever they are, if you just make the public aware of it. I think that would be the thing that everybody would mostly appreciate. I was glad to hear Dr. Hagan that you recognized that and Mr. Stover as well, because truly Dr. Faidley, you did a great job and Dr. Kepler you were there by his side. I thought it was all run pretty darn well. There were certainly tweaks and if you say why are people frustrated and how do we create a little more continuity and people feeling good in the community about what's going on here, it's just the acknowledgment. It's acknowledging – we didn't do everything perfectly. We could have done some things better. We don't know what they are yet. We'll figure it out and when we do, we'll let you know. That's all everybody wants to here and that's all I have to say about that, so thank you guys very much and that's it.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you and I forgot to mention if we can keep our comments to three minutes please.

Katie McKinney-Gavazzi: I agree with what Mike had said. I understand that it was a very unusual day. We've never had a day like that before. I just wanted to address concerns I had, so that if this ever does happen in the future that we've looked into some things.

I, I don't know if I can ask questions, but I was wondering who issued the shelter-in-place. Was it the Police Department? Was it PEMA? Everybody?

Dr. Donahue: My understanding is that, well, first we generally don't answer questions, but this is an extraordinary circumstance, I think, so my understanding is that PEMA made that county-wide order.

Ms. McKinney-Gavazzi: Did they issue the lock down then?

Dr. Donahue: There was no lock down.

Ms. McKinney-Gavazzi: There was a lock down. We were told we were not allowed to leave. We couldn't have our children. I heard the words lock down from so many people. What concerned me the most is I was sitting, I luckily, some nice staff members got my children for me before they issued there are no children absolutely supposed to come out of the classrooms, but some nice staff members who before that was issued came and got them and delivered them to me in the cafeteria. But, we were on lock down, weren't allowed to leave and after, maybe, an hour and a half or so, I was in the hallway with a small group of parents and Mike you might have been there, but one of the police officers said – and you had said it before – you're not really supposed to leave, but I won't tackle you as parents, but you're not allowed to take your children. At that moment, there were parents getting texts from Township Supervisors, because we were all, at that point I was wondering, I live right across the street, why can't I just go home – you know – instead of staying here. Some people were getting texts from Township Board members and from – my husband called the District Office who issued a statement saying it was the Police Department who was issuing the lockdown. So my husband then called the Police Department who said, I don't know why we're getting all these calls from parents, we did not issue the lockdown. As soon as one parent said that she was getting texts about this and I went to the police, that is when were then allowed – the police said – who told you this? Then we told them and they went off in a corner and started talking and the next thing you know, they're down at the office, I believe, and the next thing you know, Dr. Faidley and the police come and say – now we advise you to stay, but you may leave. So it wasn't until we had parents texting out saying, can we legally be held here. It wasn't until then, until parents spoke up and said, the Police Department is saying – you may leave and you may leave with your child and I don't know why they're holding you there. So that was my question as to who issued the lockdown, because the Police Department was telling my husband and other people – they were not issuing it and we were allowed to leave. As soon as that was issued, as soon as parents spoke up, we were allowed to leave. So that was my question.

Dr. Donahue: So I think the answer [end of tape]

Ms. McKinney-Gavazzi: But why when parents – if PEMA issued a lockdown, then why did we speak up and say, well the police aren't holding us here and they said, at that point, okay, now you may go. I'm wondering what changed – the lockdown only changed when parents spoke up and said, the police say we can leave.

Male Voice: Coincidental.

Male Voice: Bernie, didn't you say that PEMA released the in-house, I don't remember the term, at approximately 4:00?

Dr. Faidley: Yes, I believe it was approximately 4:30?

Ms. McKinney-Gavazzi: What happened?

Dr. Faidley: The release.

Male Voice: PEMA rescinded the . . .

Dr. Faidley: Shelter-in-place.

Male Voice: The shelter in place order as the water rescinded so that may have corresponded with your time.

Ms. McKinney-Gavazzi: I don't think the water receded at that point.

Dr. Faidley: Let me provide some clarification – like I stated earlier, we can agree to disagree on the issue. The point was stated earlier we received notification from the Township Police that we were in shelter-in-place. We initiated that shelter-in-place until we were notified that it was no longer in effect and we began to dismiss kids. I stated it earlier and I'll state it again, if we had it to do over again, we would not make any decisions differently. We may improve upon how things happened, but I will not apologize. I will not apologize to the community for keeping our children safe. When you're dealing with a situation with 1,600 students keeping them safe, getting them fed, all of those particular types of things, we cannot spend valuable time dealing with individual one-at-a-time concerns. They are all important, but that particular time is not the time for that to occur. I will not apologize. We handled the situation. No children were hurt and everybody went home safe. I think we can move on to the next person.

Dr. Donahue: Thank you.

Pat Leonard: Mr. President, I am here as a Chief of the Hershey Volunteer Fire Department. I did have a lengthy, since I'm cut to three minutes, I'll start where our issues began.

Before the events unfolded to rescue mode, we were actually at the fire house talking about evacuation mode. We know there are areas in this Township that we are concerned about and any time we get thunderstorms in the area. We didn't have a chance to talk about evacuation mode once our first call for service came into place. It was strictly rescue mode. Approximately 12:20, one of my firefighters said, hey my daughter has to leave, they're getting our early. She takes three kids home. I'm going to have them come here and I'm going to make sure they get home safe. That's when it hit me that we're going to have kids driving on roads that have never seen what they're about to see. The evacuation portion, as I said earlier, of our discussions were about to go out the window at that moment, because we were dispatched immediately, shortly after that conversation. We were splitting crews, and I wrote this down so I wouldn't forget anything, we were splitting crews to maximize the amount of equipment we could put on the road. We were being dispatched on new calls for service in 5 minutes, and that's being very generous.

One of the other events was the reported occupied vehicle at the intersection of ? and Valley. Upon my arrival at the intersection, the resident was waving me down and shouted that there were kids in the car. Please keep in mind that this intersection has storm water drains on two of four corners. The vehicle was stuck in three to four feet of rushing water and it was rising quickly. One of my engines entered the water and pulled the children from the car. There wasn't time for introduction or pleasantries and I ordered the students to go to the porch of the lady that waved me down. At that moment, I truly believed that we're in serious trouble in the community still had kids on the road driving home and others that may be going home to empty homes. I made radio contact with the Derry Township Police Department to have the school shelter the kids in place and if possible get the buses back to the school.

As a public safety official, we have decided to do what we do for whatever reasons. I have to look at the big picture and make decisions on the fly. Sometimes you're right, sometimes you're wrong. To think that Little Johnny's going home to an adult family member in a house or Joey going home to an empty house. There was simply only time to make a decision and I felt it was right as a public official, a Township resident, and a parent.

My primary numbers show that we were involved in 21 water rescues. I can assure you that that number is very low. We were literally dropping people on dry ground, moving on to the next call, not having time to notify the dispatcher of the incident. We had and needed rescue boats for Hummelstown, South Hanover Township, Dauphin Borough, river rescue, New Cumberland river rescue, Carlisle Fire Department, Monroe Township, Cumberland County Fire Department. All their boats were in our Township and they were involved in swift water rescues. They were later supported by swift water rescue teams dispatched from Butler and Somerset counties. Our company was involved in some type of water related emergency needed boat assistance for 15 hours. While this was occurring, we were being dispatched for structure fires, and various issues throughout the Township.

I want to note two items of interest that certainly, I hope, settles, I just hope people think about these next few things. We remained on September 7 through September 11 at our station. We were continuously being visited by a large number of residents and businesses bringing food, drinks, leaving phone numbers, thank you cards, and kind words of thanks. On Friday, we finally had to support the crew to get some down time. We teamed up with a local restaurant and they provided us with a reserved area. When I went to dinner our waitress, who I was led to believe was a single mother of two, came over to our table and I quote, "I want to thank the Fire Company for making the decision to keep the children in school. I was in complete panic from where I lived known to have flooding issues. I knew they were with adults who cared for them and friends to play with and it was like lifting a very large boulder off my shoulders."

On Sunday, I finally had the opportunity to seek out that resident on Elm Avenue. I wanted to thank her, for she had no idea that I was about to thrust two teenage children to her care. During the visit, she advised me that those children were at her house until

10:30 p.m. and the young lady had called her numerous times over the weekend to stay in touch.

I can understand the frustrations of the parents, I believe that all involved, as we spoke a little earlier, all involved in the decisions need an opportunity to digest the entire event and make changes as and if they are needed. I applaud the school administration for heading my request as a Fire Chief, but more importantly a parent. We were truly fighting for the masses on Wednesday, September 7. My heart is heavy that we only had one fatality in this Township, but I have already stated that it is short of a miracle that we did not lose resident or visitors in this Township on September 7.

Thank you.

Dr. Donahue: Thanks for your comments Chief and thanks for your outstanding leadership. Are there any other citizens that would like to comment?

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **9.0 Adjournment**

Dr. Donahue: The next public School Board meeting will be held Monday, September 26, 2011 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room.

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 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stephen E. Rineer  
Secretary to the Board  
Approved at the September 26, 2011 meeting

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Dr. Henry Donahue  
President of the Board

LDM