



**Monday, January 6, 2014**  
**Education Center, Edgeboro Room**

**Agenda**

**Board Curriculum Committee Meeting – Dr. Silva**

1. Courtesy of the Floor (15 minutes allowed)
2. Budget Development Highlights for the 2014-2015 School Year
3. Agenda Items for January 27, 2014, Regular Board Meeting
  - A. Impact Aid, Section 8003
  - B. Safe Schools Initiative Targeted Grant
4. Courtesy of the Floor (15 minutes allowed)
5. Open Forum

**BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD CURRICULUM COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014**

Mr. Basilio Bonilla, Curriculum Committee Chairperson of the Board of School Directors, called the meeting of the Board Curriculum Committee to order at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2014, at the Education Center. Present were School Directors Michele Cann, Michael Faccinetto, Gene McKeon, Craig Neiman, Roy Ortiz, Shannon Patrick, Angela Sinkler, Sudantha Vidanage. Also present were Dr. Joseph J. Roy, Superintendent, Dr. Jack Silva, Assistant Superintendent for Education, Stacy Gober, Assistant to the Superintendent for Finance, and representatives from the press.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR** - None

*The following items were discussed:*

### **Budget Development Highlights for the 2014-15 School Year**

The Board was presented with a PowerPoint presentation recapping the financial challenges of past years and highlighting the goals for the coming budget year. The slides provided the timelines for the budget process, as well as the conditions and projections the administration will be using to reach the final budget adoption.

Mrs. Gober, Dr. Silva and Dr. Roy each gave an overview of the District's priorities—driven by the BASD Roadmap 2.0 and state mandates. The BASD's 2014-2015 District Budget is in the very early stages of development. Many issues surrounding the district such as State funding, local revenues, Charter School Reform, and PSERS legislation will affect the outcome of the final budget adoption.

Mrs. Gober explained structural budget issues facing the BASD and districts across the Commonwealth.

In 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, harsh budget cuts were necessary to balance the BASD budget— forcing dramatic cuts of staff and programs. With cautious spending practices and more efficient monitoring of all District programs and initiatives, the administration has been able to both “sustain” and “restore” many personnel and programs—although not all. The district continues to feel the loss of student supports from cuts made in previous years.

Looking forward, the administration identified the most costly and problematic areas to the preliminary 2014-2015 budget. Mandated retirement contributions to PSERS (+ 27.11% to \$4.4 million) and charter school tuition costs (+48.65% to \$6.7 million) will grow dramatically, while BASD-controlled expenditures will increase by only 3.14% or \$6.1 million

The administration also added a slide showing how much a “mill” affects BASD programs and staffing. In essence, the value of \$1 million; a 1/3 tax mill covering approximately 12 new teachers, 2/3 of sports and activities, 12 new buses, and 833 laptops.

To conclude Dr. Roy, Dr. Silva, Mrs. Gober, and the remaining administrative staff will begin working diligently on the budget development for 2014-15 by collecting data, reviewing projections, and meeting with student, parent, community, and teacher focus groups to identify and prioritize assets and priorities. Throughout the process, the Board will be informed of the administrations recommendations and plans.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

The following agenda items were presented to the committee and will be included in the January 27, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Agenda:

- **Impact Aid, Section 8003**  
This item is submitted annually to seek approval for funds used to assist with the cost of providing educational programs for children from federally supported housing and/or students who have a parent on active duty in the US Armed Services.
  
- **Safe Schools Initiative Targeted Grant**  
Approval is sought to apply for grant funds in the amount of \$25,000 to supplement costs for security cameras at Freedom High School and the initiation of a restorative practices program at the four middle schools.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR - None**

**OPEN FORUM - None**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

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Charisse M. Pfeiffer, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Education