

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MARCH 11, 2009

A Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Bethlehem Area School District was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 6:06 p.m. in the Dining Room at the Education Center, 1516 Sycamore Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

SPECIAL  
MEETING

The Board Secretary called the roll:

MEMBERS  
PRESENT

Members present: Directors Amato, Cann, Dexter, Haytmanek (arrived at 6:20 p.m.), McKeon, Tenaglia and Leeson – 7. Members absent: Director Follweiler – 1.

Others present: Dr. Joseph A. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools; Stanley J. Majewski, Jr., Board Secretary; administrators, members of the press, and other interested citizens and staff members.

OTHERS  
PRESENT

At this point of the meeting, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

President Leeson requested a moment of silent meditation.

SILENT  
MEDITATION

President Leeson offered courtesy of the floor to visitors. Speakers are asked to come to the podium, stating their name and address. Public comment in the first session is limited to 30 minutes. Speakers are limited to three minutes each. The board requests that, when possible, all individuals supporting a like position on a topic select a speaker to present their views to avoid repetition. If that is not possible, all are welcome to speak. As per school board policy, generally, speakers are limited to taxpayers, residents, or employees of this school district. At the conclusion of the regular school board meeting, another block of time will be allocated for public comment. At that time, the same rules will apply. It is asked that speakers observe proper decorum, without personal attacks towards a specific individual or individuals. It is not the custom for the board to enter into a dialogue at these meetings about concerns. However, the board does listen with care to issues raised. Speakers will receive responses, in some form, by the administration.

COURTESY  
OF THE  
FLOOR TO  
VISITORS

No one wished to address the Board of School Directors.

There were no board or committee minutes submitted for approval.

APPROVAL  
OF MINUTES

President Leeson noted that she attended an earlier meeting to review financial information with Mr. Shearer, Mr. Damgaard, Dr. Lewis, and Mr. Majewski. She stated that she asked Directors Tenaglia and McKeon to join them to assist with additional comments. She thought the board received some information about the proposals. She said that they would be approving an authority, which would be meeting on Monday, March 16 to address two financial transactions, which would be occurring very quickly.

Dr. Lewis stated that he spoke with Mr. Damgaard and Mr. Shearer, who asked that the board look at the timeline on the green document. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to explain the processes to those in attendance. He said there would be accompanying draft resolutions and reminded everyone that they were drafts and changes would be made. Dr. Lewis stated that the draft would be 98 percent complete on Friday and it would be forwarded to the board, with the possibility of a hand carry on Monday. He explained that the first draft was the extension of the existing authority, which was researched by Mr. Majewski, in addition to Attorney Damgaard. The second resolution was for approval of the general obligation note series of 2009 to refund to the Shippensburg Borough Authority. In essence, it was the approval of a new bond issue to refund a prior one. The third recommendation was for a resolution, which would approve the transfer of the fixed payer swap and constant maturity swap from the 2007 Shippensburg issue to the newly established authority. The final document was for the approval of a consolidated issue of up to \$100,000,000, to refund the West Cornwall issue, which was the 2003 general obligation note. It would essentially refund it through a fixed rate issue. He added that the recommendations were initial drafts. Dr. Lewis explained that when they would meet in executive session on Monday, Attorney Damgaard and Mr. Shearer would meet with the authority and they would then conduct their first meeting, elect officers, review responsibilities, and pass resolutions to accept the various resolutions that the board of school directors would be approving that evening. They would come together at 7 p.m. with the hope that all of the necessary steps would be jointly accomplished between the bond authority and the board of school directors. He referred to the timeline, which was back ended to May 25, which was a deadline on getting new bonds to market and taking care of the issues. It was designed to save annualized costs for the district. He pointed out that there would be a draft of every district issue and the obligations over the length and term of the issues, which was an accompanying document that must be filed with the various state agencies.

President Leeson reviewed that the West Cornwall issue was being transferred because they found an opportunity where they could move from a variable into a fixed rate. In order to do so, they had to terminate the swaps. The termination fee and the remaining principle owed on the bond issue would be made into fixed issue. The question, which needed to be discussed, was if they wanted to add any additional costs associated with the completion of the Broughal project into the new fixed rate bond issue.

President Leeson noted that it was a relatively small amount which could be added to save additional fees. She noted that their liquidity provider, Dexia, would no longer be able to provide their services, so there was a need to find a liquidity provider. The district had a bank note that would back the issue from Wachovia/Wells Fargo, but, in order to do it, they needed to transfer everything. They were reissuing the Bethlehem Area School District Authority, which would then save the district an estimated \$20,000 in fees on one issue.

Director Tenaglia reminded the board and public that the West Cornwall issue was necessitated by the notification from Dexia that they would no longer provide services after May of the current year. He believed that the district had received official notification from Dexia that effective January 2010, they would no longer serve as the liquidity provider for Shippensburg, which was why they were now refinancing and restructuring the debt issued under the Shippensburg Authority. They were not issuing new swaps but transferring the existing structure into the authority.

President Leeson commented that, in essence, there was no new money being provided to the district, unless they chose to add a small amount of money in order to complete the Broughal Middle School project. She brought attention to page 13 and 18, which had the fee structures listed for the two issuances. She pointed out that they were estimated costs. She thought that Mr. Shearer tried to be as upfront as possible in sharing the range of exact costs. She said that everything was somewhat tentative in consideration of the volatile market.

Director Dexter noted the fee of \$18,680 for the solicitor and \$37,361 for bond counsel. She recalled that years ago she mentioned to Mr. Majewski that she wanted to negotiate for their own solicitor to do its review on an hourly basis rather than a percentage basis. It was her understanding that the work involved by their solicitor was not as expensive as the work done by bond counsel nor did it bear the liability and degree of knowledge. She inquired about the possibility of a reduction in fees and requested that the district go back to their solicitor and request hourly billing.

Dr. Lewis commented that the discussion had ensued relative to a couple of areas. He did not want to call it a placeholder, but he did not disagree that the local solicitor's involvement on the issues was not 50 percent of the work that the bond counsel did.

President Leeson conveyed that they would look into the request of an hourly rate or reduced fee in that area and would have a report on it on Monday. She said that she also requested that Mr. Shearer to be available to explain some of the fees at that meeting.

Director Dexter stated that they discussed the possibility of adding additional fees and recalled the cost of the demolition for Broughal Middle School was approximately \$2,000,000. She inquired if it was the amount being considered to add to the bond.

Dr. Lewis responded that the completion dollars were closer to \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000. He recalled that they borrowed \$110,000,000 collectively, when they knew they might need as much as \$115,000,000 to \$116,000,000.

Mr. Majewski stated that for the projects at Freedom, Liberty, and Broughal, there were three borrowing units with the first being \$110,000,000 and was broken into \$55,000,000 in January 2005 and \$55,000,000 in January 2007. An additional \$40,000,000 was settled on in September of 2007 for a total of \$150,000,000.

Dr. Lewis added that the estimate to complete those three projects was slightly higher, but he recalled that Mr. Majewski deliberately stated that they should not borrow and have excess, but borrow with the knowledge that they would need to go back to market.

Mr. Majewski explained that as he had reported in the past, they would probably need approximately \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000. He said that he obtained an updated draw schedule and looked at receipts. If they factored in current costs, including some that could be potentially put off onto stimulus dollars, it showed that they would have a deficit of approximately \$5,400,000. He explained that it might be lower, depending on the stimulus money, which could be applied to some of the costs and could lower it to somewhere closer to \$4,500,000.

President Leeson stated that she understood that the Freedom project came in under budget.

Mr. Majewski replied that the data would have to be obtained from Mr. Fazil. He knew the project came in slightly lower and the Liberty project came in slightly higher. The combined total was about where they needed to be with the budget. The Broughal project came in excess of what they originally had budgeted.

President Leeson commented that they did not see any change orders for the Broughal project.

Mr. Majewski said that when the Broughal project went out to bid, it was a time when commodities were extremely high with the cost of steel, concrete, and almost every commodity being so much higher than what was originally budgeted and therefore affected the cost of the construction project. In addition, commercial building activity was very active so some of the bids were probably not as sharp as they might have experienced with the Northeast Middle School project.

President Leeson recalled that they kept a 15 percent contingency and also noted that they did not have change orders at Broughal and if so, they were minimal. She asked if there was a 15 percent contingency remaining from the Broughal project.

Mr. Majewski replied that when he did the drawdown calculation, it did not include any additional contingency money. Where they were at the present time was based upon the actual costs as the bids were let and as the construction progressed. He added that if they needed to use contingency money, it would have been closer to six million dollars, but it was not needed to the degree it was budgeted.

Dr. Lewis added that it was not 15 percent because it would have been \$7,500,000 on the Broughal project. He recalled it to be \$1,500,000 to \$1,600,000, which would have been 3 to 5 percent.

Mr. Majewski believed there were lumped fees included as miscellaneous fees, such as the additional electricity, gas, and some of the lines, which were run. He agreed with Dr. Lewis in that the contingency came in somewhere around \$1,500,000 as part of the project.

Dr. Lewis agreed that it was not dipped into in any great measure so that money might be available as well.

President Leeson commented that she recalled that the bid came in significantly lower than what they had estimated on the Liberty project.

Mr. Majewski replied that he was not sure that it came in significantly lower but came in lower. There was a need to use all of the contingency funds for the Liberty project, which would have made it slightly more expensive than what was budgeted. He noted that the total between Liberty and Freedom was approximately \$95,000,000, which was anticipated for both projects.

Director Dexter asked if the stated figure of \$5,500,000 included demolition.

Mr. Majewski replied that the figure of \$5,400,000 for completion included demolition.

Director Dexter asked if there were any cost savings realized once the economy took a dive. She said that she knew they were still bidding out some aspects related to Broughal in the present year.

Mr. Majewski said that the vast majority of costs for Broughal were bid and not adjusted after they were provided and approved.

Director Dexter asked if the question they were asking was if they wanted to add the \$5,400,000.

President Leeson stated that there was a second piece to it, which was the demolition of the Northeast building. She added that they had the opportunity to put it in now and save fees but they also might have the opportunity when they did another issuance as they moved other money into fixed rate. She shared that Mr. Shearer thought that next fall would probably be the next time they would be doing it. She reviewed that they had two opportunities, but if they did it at the same time they were doing the restructuring, they had the opportunity to at least save the fees.

Director Tenaglia asked if she was referring to fall of 2009.

Dr. Lewis brought attention to the 9-month cycle on the Northeast demolition because it would have to go through the bid process.

Mr. Majewski stated that based upon the drawdown schedule, it appeared that they would run out of available cash by the end of June, so the timing of getting the money with the present financing would be ideal.

Director Tenaglia asked if he was still anticipating the need for a TRAN (Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note) issue.

Mr. Majewski replied that he did not do that calculation, however, with the deficit fund balance, it would be more likely that the cash for the general operating account would be separate and it would be highly likely that it would be required.

Director Tenaglia inquired if he had a figure.

Mr. Majewski replied that he did not do the projections.

Director Dexter stated that some of the fees were set by percentages and asked how they realized the savings.

President Leeson said that they did not realize savings in the percentage areas but would realize savings in the fees associated with bond counsel and financial advisor.

Dr. Lewis referred to the underwriter's discount and bond insurance fees and noted that they were associated with a percentage of the borrowed amount. The balance of the fees would be the ones which could be adjusted.

President Leeson commented that to some degree, the fees were limited. Dr. Lewis added that they might choose to take a longer term with a larger amount of money. They would probably look at a 20-year issue on a smaller amount of money as opposed to a 25-year issue.

Director Dexter questioned if they were asking for a decision tonight.

Dr. Lewis replied that they were asking for the board to at least authorize them to draft it. They would have the opportunity to approve or disapprove an issuance. He added that before the numbers were crafted for filings, they wanted to have a hard number so they were asking if they would approve it on Monday.

President Leeson said that the estimate was for \$90,000,000 but they were asking for authorization for up to \$100,000,000. If they needed to discount the issuance, they would probably have to borrow more on a discount basis, but they would do it if they could get a lower percentage. The bottom line was that there was an attempt to find the best way to pay the least amount of money throughout the term of the loan. In order to do that, they might borrow more than \$90,000,000. Presently, they had a \$10,000,000 cushion and if they put \$6,000,000 onto it, they were getting close to the ceiling. If they added the demolition of Northeast Middle School in addition to Broughal Middle School, they would be getting over a comfortable position on the \$100,000,000. They would then want them to authorize more than the \$100,000,000. The question they needed to answer was if they wanted to leave the ceiling at \$100,000,000, which could be done with the inclusion of the Broughal Middle School expenses. If they wanted to include the demolition of Northeast Middle School, the ceiling needed to be raised on the issuance and the decision was needed tonight.

Dr. Lewis agreed and said the number of \$105,000,000 was stated as the cushion.

Mr. Majewski said that part of the urgency indicated was that there was a need to advertise tomorrow so a figure was needed in order to establish the maximum.

Director Cann asked if they needed all the money presently for the projects or could it wait until the fall.

President Leeson responded that it was felt that it was strictly the board's decision with no recommendation on that issue.

Dr. Lewis commented that at the time Mr. Majewski did not have the draw down, but as they heard, June would be the critical point for the Broughal Middle School funds.

Director Cann inquired about Northeast Middle School.

Dr. Lewis replied that Northeast was open because the school district has not yet designed the demolition bid specifications and therefore has not awarded the demolition contract.

Director Cann asked if they could wait until fall.

Dr. Lewis said there was a minimum of 9 months lead-time needed before demolition could begin and if they made the decision too late, they might be commencing demolition in the middle of winter.

President Leeson pointed out that they could not demolish Northeast Middle School during the summer and it would have to be next year anyway.

Director McKeon commented that they did not know the cost of borrowing money in the fall, noting that it could be higher or lower. He thought they definitely had to include Broughal in the offering because of the drawdown constraints.

President Leeson recommended they add Broughal but keep it at \$100,000,000. She said they could wait to see how much money was needed for Broughal because presently they did not know what was being received through the stimulus package.

Director Dexter referred to the district policy, which prohibited them from taking action on a new proposal and they had to allow ample time for full consideration before board meetings. Any new proposals should be laid on the table or deferred until the next meeting. She understood that they would not be approving the financing, but they were asking for the direction to prepare documents. It could be that they were significantly into the proposal and she did not want to bounce it on the two board members not present at the last minute without the notice.

Dr. Lewis stated that there would not be any change in the document but they would just inform him that what was presented tonight would be the ceiling.

President Leeson thought the documents stayed the same but the change was in the approval of up to \$100,000,000, which would then be changed to \$105,000,000. She reminded the board that none of it was to be approved tonight and could be reviewed for questions until Monday. The question was if they wanted to change the number.

Director Tenaglia explained that Mr. Shearer's point was because of how they ultimately structured the debt offering, whether premium or discount bonds; the number should be related to the net proceeds to the district and allow him the flexibility to back into it so that given the most favorable structure of the debt, it might mean that they would go above the \$100,000,000. If they capped it at \$100,000,000 in total issuance, then the district might end up with less net proceeds than calculated.

President Leeson recalled that Mr. Shearer stated that he was still comfortable with incorporating Broughal. If Northeast was included, it made him uncomfortable and they would need to go a bit higher.

Director McKeon reviewed \$100,000,000 included the Broughal Middle School demolition and completion, but the \$105,000,000 would probably cover the old Northeast Middle School, in addition to the other two items.

Director Cann suggested they approve it to go up to \$105,000,000 and if they decided they did not want to include the Northeast demolition, there would be no harm.

Director Tenaglia commented that it was another suggestion to do a shelf offering and that they authorize the greater amount and when it was time for the actual issuance, they wouldn't issue the full amount and only did a partial.

Director Dexter asked if they could afford more debt. She noted that she was aware that it was being taken out over time, but she did not know how the payments would compare with what they had at the present time.

Mr. Majewski stated that they would not know the answer until the bonds were priced. He added that it depended upon where the market was at the time.

President Leeson said that the decisions made on Monday would probably be the last time and afterward, Scott Shearer would go with the action.

Dr. Lewis commented on Director Dexter's question and referred to pages 10 and 11. He explained that it was purely a hypothetical graph based upon market conditions. On page 10, it showed what settled out the \$72,000,000 issue. The difference was revealed in column 13. To answer her question, there was some early relief. Page 11 showed the \$6,000,000 option for Broughal. The local annual effort was a flat-line distribution over a 20-year period and could be crafted in anyway that Mr. Shearer was directed to do so. It could be front-loaded or back-end-loaded. As it was flat-loaded, it was the exposure to the far right annually. To answer her question, they would have somewhat going out, a little more money to borrow the \$6,000,000.

Director Dexter said she was not ready to state that she thought it was a good idea and expressed that she needed to study it. She added that there was 60 pages of a documents and charts.

Dr. Lewis stated that they were not asking for a hard decision this evening.

Director Dexter asked why they did not have a presentation from their financial advisor.

Dr. Lewis responded that he asked if he could meet with select board members today and did not know if he had another commitment. He added that he brought bond counsel with him.

President Leeson stated that when she received the documents, she felt that the board needed to also see them, which was why they were seeing them at present so there would be opportunity before Monday to ask questions. She agreed with Director Dexter in that they were quickly given a lot of information.

Director Dexter pointed out that it did not explain itself. The information needed to be explained by the financial advisors that were hired by the district to guide them through and to get out of the mess. She understood that she was invited to the meeting today and did not attend, but she was not the only board member. Each one of them needed the information. She felt that they did not need it to be translated or summarized, but they needed it directly from the sources.

Dr. Lewis replied that he respected her need to have the information and to have time to review it. They were not asking to approve anything tonight but were asking for an answer to Mr. Shearer's and Mr. Damgaard's question, which was to approve \$100,000,000 or \$105,000,000. It was not a decision as to what to knock down or rebuild. He said that Directors Tenaglia, McKeon, and Leeson were present for his question.

President Leeson stated that it was her recommendation to presently keep it at \$100,000,000 and it would include some money to cushion if they ended up not discounting. If they had stimulus money from Broughal, they would have a little cushion and would still have the opportunity to add money to other issuances. She asked Mr. Majewski if it was possible to take their deficit and put it into the financing.

Mr. Majewski replied that it would not be possible because it was their operating costs and it could not combined with financing that would be designed to provide funding for projects. In addition, if they took out additional debt, it did not do anything to erase the fund balance, because it established a greater liability payable on their books. It provided cash, but it did not erase the deficit.

Dr. Lewis requested the board's direction on the matter.

President Leeson polled the board as to the consideration of the financial transaction.

Director Haytmanek agreed, stating that President Leeson's suggestion seemed reasonable.

Director Tenaglia recommended the amount of \$105,000,000.

Director Dexter abstained from voting, expressing that she was outraged that there was not a presentation for the entire board. She said that they did not have information that informed good decision making tonight.

BOARD CONSENSUS –  
FINANCIAL  
TRANSACTION

Director Amato recommended \$105,000,000.

Director Cann agreed with President Leeson's suggestion of \$100,000,000.

Director McKeon recommended the amount of \$105,000,000.

President Leeson announced that there were three votes for \$105,000,000 and three votes for \$100,000,000.

Director Haytmanek expressed that President Leeson suggested the amount of \$100,000,000 figure after attending today's meeting.

Dr. Lewis noted that two other people at the earlier meeting had suggested \$105,000,000.

Director Haytmanek stated that he would go to \$105,000,000 to lock it in.

President Leeson concluded that the amount then would be \$105,000,000.

President Leeson also communicated that she understood that a bill was being introduced at the state level for the consolidation of districts.

Dr. Lewis reported that they had been working for the past 48 hours on the stimulus package. He noted that, this evening, reporters had questioned him about it. He explained that they were not confident enough to commit to any numbers or dollar signs because he and Mr. Majewski were still tearing it apart. He noted that he received email midday from Dr. Zahorchak with the proposed distribution. The questions surrounded what would be categorical. He stated that the preponderance of the stimulus money coming into the state was clearly going to the schools within the Commonwealth, which was what the governor announced today during a webinar. He explained that they received a checklist, which gave some clarity as to what the money could be used for, but did not specify the amount, which was still being deciphered. He was optimistic that there would be funds to be used for Broughal Middle School, special education, and some for technology. He concluded that they would keep the board advised regarding information received.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Director Amato inquired if they would be told how the funds, including the percentage, would be spent.

Dr. Lewis replied affirmatively, but in certain categories. He noted that in special education, any of the categories that Mr. Majewski and Mr. Agretto were reviewing at the present time, would be covered. In the Title II-D, the dollars were relegated to technology expenditures. He explained that while it was not a large sum, it could be applied to some Broughal Middle School cabling issues and because Broughal was a Title I School, it was their estimation that it could be applied to items such as equipment or other needs.

The state fiscal stabilization funds (SFSF money) could be used for modernization so Broughal would qualify with regard to some of the items discussed over the last several weeks. He summarized that some of the funding might be restricted, such as the PA Pact money, with 20 percent to existing programs and 80 percent to additional services for children. Dr. Lewis pointed out that they wanted a definite dollar amount regarding how much could be spent categorically and how much was unrestricted.

Director Dexter addressed Dr. Lewis, asking how they would be informed as to the restrictions for each category and how did he intend to approach the board about how he would want to spend it.

Dr. Lewis commented that there was a recently published manual for the state stimulus monies, but it did not have any amounts. He stated that it had the grandiose state amount of \$218,000,000,000. The email from the secretary of education revealed what Bethlehem had, but it was not divided across the categories, which they understood. He said they would share what was available, what was categorical, and then they would make recommendations. Dr. Lewis reviewed that it was two-year money so there was a clear recommendation in the secretary's letter that certain things were better funded. It was not advised to bring in more staff if, after two years, they did not think they could sustain it once the money was no longer available. They might consider the infrastructure, professional development, technology, or capital improvements because those areas were more one-time expenditures.

Director Dexter inquired how he would intend to handle it in the district.

Dr. Lewis replied that they would bring cabinet together, make recommendations, discuss it with the board, and the board would make the ultimate funding decision.

Director Dexter questioned the timeline.

Dr. Lewis responded that as soon as they received it, they would be approaching the board. He added that some of it would be coming out early and there would be a drawdown, which meant they could begin to submit as soon as it was received.

Director Tenaglia asked if the other amounts they saw were considered null and void.

Dr. Lewis asked if he referred to the governor's proposed budget.

Director Tenaglia replied that there were specific district-by-district allocations in the proposed stimulus.

MARCH 11, 2009

Dr. Lewis commented that they were not defined at the present time. For example, there was a definite increase in basic subsidy from what was previously seen, and part of it was going to be some stimulus money placed in the ARRA distribution, which would be different.

President Leeson stated that she knew he did not have the details but she hoped they would have more information by Monday and he would share it at that time.

Dr. Lewis responded that if he received more information by tomorrow, he would include it in the packet.

President Leeson suggested asking Mr. Shearer and Mr. Damgaard to give a presentation prior to the vote on Monday so board members had the opportunity to read through the material and ask questions.

UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS

Dr. Lewis presented the following recommendations of the administration:

RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE  
ADMINISTRATION

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**1. *Appointments to the Bethlehem Area School District Authority***

**INFORMATION:**

The district needs to re-establish membership on the Bethlehem Area School District Authority for the purpose of borrowing needs that require the use of an authority. The BASD Authority was previously established and remains on the books. As such, it can be used as the organizational structure. Our bond counsel has reviewed the process and recommends the re-establishment of membership and use of the authority. Additionally, the authority would maintain a more local control and remove the need to use outside authorities like the Shippensburg Authority which is currently used. A savings in fees would also be realized.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of School Directors appoints the following to the Bethlehem Area School District Authority:

	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Deborah Watlington	March 2014
Michael Albarell	March 2013
David Arner	March 2012
Herman Webber	March 2011
Luke Cunningham	March 2010

The administration's recommendations 1 and 2 were considered together.

## 2. *Conference/Staff Trip Attendance*

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the following conference for staff be approved:

March 16-17, 2009

36th Annual Conference on Dyslexia and Related Learning Disabilities

New York, New York

\$1,358.29  
Federal/Title I

Director Tenaglia stated that he and Dr. Lewis had a conversation about the conference. He requested that he explain the information that was presented to the board, which was not part of the public agenda, as it related to Title I in their requirements.

Dr. Lewis agreed, stating that the conference was tied to a Title I requirement relative to a non-public school. The conference was supporting two parents from the non-public system as required by Title I, for dyslexia related learning disabilities and was not a district staff member or parent. He explained that they were required to support the non-public schools regarding Title I.

Director Dexter asked if they were required to approve a request if a parent in one of their Title I schools asked to attend the same conference.

Dr. Lewis replied that they did approve some Title I conferences for district parents, but basically approved the minimum to meet the requirement.

Mrs. Cintrón agreed and commented that Title I had a required amount set aside for parental activities or conference attendance. They were required to spend a percentage of the Title I grant on the parent activities.

Director Dexter stated that it did not specify how much would be spent on conferences versus an activity such as a promotional party for a PTA or an after-school family night.

Mrs. Cintrón responded that it could be all of the above.

Director Cann inquired if it was a requirement for two parents of one child to attend a conference.

Dr. Lewis replied that it was within the budgetary limits for non-public schools, so they gave them the latitude to select whom they wanted to send to the conferences. He commented that they had “x” amount of dollars, which they could spend on parent involvement and participation, and it was what was chosen.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION – March 11, 2009

### 2. *Conference/Staff Trip Attendance (continued)*

Directors Haytmanek and Tenaglia moved the administration's recommendations 1 and 2. The question was called with roll call as follows: Yea, Directors Haytmanek, McKeon, Tenaglia, Amato, Cann, Dexter (with the exception of Item 2 – no), and Leeson.

ROLL CALL –  
ITEMS 1 and 2

Item 1 passed 7 – 0.

Item 2 passed 6 – 1.

The administration's recommendations 1 and 2 were considered together.

MARCH 11, 2009

President Leeson announced that there was no new or miscellaneous business to address.

NEW AND  
MISCELLANEOUS  
BUSINESS

No one wished to address the Board of School Directors.

COURTESY  
OF THE FLOOR  
TO VISITORS

President Leeson requested a motion for adjournment. Directors Tenaglia and McKeon moved to adjourn the meeting, which carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest,

Stanley J. Majewski, Jr.  
Board Secretary

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