

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MAY 9, 2011

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bethlehem Area School District was held on Monday, May 9, 2011, following the Budget Hearing in the Auditorium of East Hills Middle School, 2005 Chester Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017. The Special Board Meeting began at 8:45 p.m.

SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING

President Cann called the roll by the Board Secretary:

MEMBERS
PRESENT

Members present: Directors Amato, Burkhardt, Cann, Faccinotto, Follweiler, McKeon, Ortiz, Leeson, Tenaglia - 9

Others present: Dr. Joseph Roy, Superintendent of Schools; Stacy Gober, 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 Cann requested a moment of silent meditation.

MOMENT OF
SILENCE

President Cann asked if anyone would like to speak at Courtesy of the Floor for agenda items. The agenda items are: the adoption of the budget, personnel items, the naming of lawn care services due to a company going out of business and to add the boiler replacement authorization, the catch basin and repairs in faculty parking lot overlay at Freedom High School and the UGI gas extension.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR
TO VISITORS

President Cann asked if anyone would like to address any of these topics. Seeing none, she moved on to Approval of the Minutes.

President Cann called for a motion for approval of the minutes for the March 24, 2011 - Budget Workshop and the April 4, 2011 – Board Facilities Committee Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director McKeon made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Director Follweiler.

MOTION TO ACCEPT
MINUTES

President Cann called for a voice vote to approve the minutes. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VOICE VOTE TO ACCEPT
MINUTES

Motion passes – 9-0

President Cann stated: She had no President's communications to share with the board.

PRESIDENTS
COMMUNICATIONS/
SPECIAL MEETINGS

Dr. Roy stated that he had nothing to report for the Superintendent's Report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Director McKeon stated: This statement is for the board itself. What I would like to see, and I know we had a ceremonial no vote on the Community College Budget, but then I read in the paper this week that the budget that they approved was their January budget prior to Governor Corbett making his recommendations. To a certain extent I took that as being a bit arrogant. I think what we should be doing as a board is contacting the other board members that are part of Community College as an effort to notify the Community College that they should try and restrict their spending to a 0 percent increase for next budget year. There is a total of eight districts, so I think we should, if the board agrees with me, go out and then notify the other school districts this is something they should consider too.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Cann stated: Before we have a motion, we had discussed adding on the UGI Gas extension, but was it also the boiler replacement itself.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Roy stated: I believe all three.

President Cann stated: The Freedom catch basin costs too.

President Cann asked for a motion to add those three items to the agenda?

MOTION TO ADD THREE
ITEMS TO AGENDA

1. Boiler replacement at Nitschmann
2. UGI Gas extension that relates to Nitschmann
3. Freedom Repairs.

Director Burkhardt made a motion to accept the three additional items on the agenda. Director Faccinnetto seconded the motion.

Director Tenaglia stated: I believe you have to number the three items and I would suggest that Nitschmann boiler be considered Item #6, Freedom Parking Lot be considered Item #7, and the Nitschmann UGI Agreement is being considered Item #8.

President Cann stated: That is fine.

Director Follweiler asked: President Cann to have the additional agenda items repeated for the record.

President Cann stated: Item #6 – Boiler replacement at Nitschmann, Item #7 – Freedom Parking, Item #8 – UGI Gas extension for Nitschmann.

President Cann asked for a motion to accept the Recommendations of the Administration (Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8). Director Faccinetto made a motion to accept the Recommendations of the Administration. Director Burkhardt seconded the motion.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

President Cann asked if anyone would like to pull any of these items for discussion.

Director Leeson stated: Since it is such a short list, I just have one question on item #2, if you like I will ask the question and we can just vote.

Director Leeson stated: I would just like to asked Director McKeon if had had gotten his questions answered on that issue.

Director McKeon stated: Yes

Director Leeson stated: You felt that they were adequately answered.

Director McKeon stated: It doesn't change my opinion.

President Cann asked if anyone needed to pull any other item.

Director Burkhardt stated: I would ask that we pull item #1 and vote on that separately.

President Cann asked for a roll call vote to accept Item #2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

ROLL CALL VOTE ITEMS 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, AND 8

The question was called with roll call as follows: Yea, Directors Amato, Burkhardt, Faccinetto, Ortiz, President Cann; Leeson – yea - 3,4,5,7, nay 2, 6, 8; Tenaglia – yea – 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, nay 6, 8; Follweiler – yea – 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, nay 6, 8; McKeon, yea 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 – nay – 2

All Motions Pass

Item #2 – motion passes 7-2

Item #6 and Item #8 – motion passes 6-3

Item #3, #4, #5, #7 – motion passes 9-0

President Cann asked if there was any discussion on Item #1 before they take the separate vote. (See page 6 or 26 for Discussion Item #1) DISCUSSION ITEM #1

President Cann asked for a roll call vote to accept Item #1 ROLL CALL VOTE ITEM #1

The question was called with roll call as follows: Yea – Directors Ortiz, Burkhardt, Faccinetto, McKeon, President Cann; Nay – Directors Tenaglia, Amato, Follweiler, Leeson.

Motion passes 5-4

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1. *Tentative Adoption of the 2011-2012 Bethlehem Area School District Budget*

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached Resolution to adopt the 2011-2012 Proposed Final Budget for the Bethlehem Area School District be approved as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEM #1

President Cann asked if there was any discussion on Item #1 before they take the separate vote.

Director Burkhardt stated: It continues to amaze me that we have made huge cuts in our district. I appreciated hearing from Mr. Stauffer and especially the counselor at Nitschmann Middle School. As I look at our budget, of the three systems that we are required by law to service, elementary, middle school and high schools. In my humble opinion, the level that has taken the biggest hit, is our middle schools. Everybody knows that kids in ages 12-13 and 14, that is probably the hardest three years that a youngster goes through. It is the age where they really make a decision about their buying into the system and in their investments and whether they are going to proceed on to high school as a positive experience. The need for teaming on those kids is critical. We are creating a scenario where a teacher of the core subjects, English, Social Studies, Math and Science are going to be seeing six sections of kids a day which will range anywhere from 150 to 180 students and English teachers teaching the basics of writing and getting kids ready for high school are going to see 150-180 students a day. How they will ever put forward a super professional program is beyond me. I understand why it has happened, and I am going to support our tentative budget, but truly if anything comes through from the state to help offset some of our costs, I would hope that, and it is a million dollar line item, it is 18 teachers and that is about a million dollars I believe, and I hope that we will look at that first and foremost. Without the teaming we are hurting the kids. Without the teaming we are giving our teachers at a time in kids lives where so many important decisions are being made especially as we get to our high school, it is going to be a sleeping giant. We won't see them initially, we won't see it next year, but when those kids enter our two high schools, those marginal kids, those kids who we worry about, are going to be even further behind then they are now and I worry very much about that and would hope that we would look at that seriously if in fact something, some miracle occurs and we end up with more revenue than we think we have. Thank you very much.

President Cann stated: Thank you Director Burkhardt. Point well taken.

ROLL CALL VOTE ITEM #1

President Cann asked for a roll call vote to accept Item #1

The question was called with roll call as follows: Yea – Directors Ortiz, Burkhardt, Faccinetto, McKeon, President Cann; Nay – Directors Tenaglia, Amato, Follweiler, Leeson.

Motion passes 5-4

**BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania**

**RESOLUTION-RE: 2011-2012 BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, a careful consideration of the estimated budget requirements of the Bethlehem Area School District for the fiscal year of 2011-2012 shows that a total of \$202,457,943 will be necessary to operate the public schools on an efficient basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The General Fund Budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year of the Bethlehem Area School District in the amount of \$202,457,943 is based on the following

- (a.) A 44.92 mill (or \$4.492 per \$100 of assessed valuation) tax on Northampton and Lehigh Counties taxable real estate in the school district.
- (b) A \$5 Resident Per Capita Tax, taxable on 18 year olds and over, based on Section 679 of the School Code of 1949.
- (c) The following taxes under Act 511 are:
 - (1) 1% Eamed Income Tax shared equally with the coterminous municipalities.
 - (2) 1% Realty Transfer Tax shared equally with the coteminous municipalities.
 - (3) \$5 Resident Per Capita Tax, taxable on 18 year olds and older.
 - (4) \$5 Local Services Tax.
 - (5) Business Privilege Tax at the rate of one and one-half mills on gross receipts.
 - (6) Mercantile License Tax at the rate of one mill on wholesale vendors or dealers and one and one-half mills on retail vendors or dealers.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION – May 9, 2011

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2. *Nomination***RECOMMENDATION:***A. Miscellaneous*

	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	SALARY
1.	Rayam, DeAnna	Coach – Head Girls Basketball Freedom, 2011-2012 school year	\$6,394.00 (new rate)

3. *Reassignment***RECOMMENDATION:***A. Noninstructional*

	NAME	FROM/TO	SALARY	EFFECTIVE
1.	McGee, Lawrence	From: Nitschmann C-1 Custodian To: Education Center C-2 Custodian	\$20.80 per hour	May 10, 2011

The administration's recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were considered together.

4. *Establishment of Sick Leave Bank*

INFORMATION:

The Teamsters Local No. 773 covering Clerical/Secretarial employees has requested the establishment of a sick leave bank for one employee. This request would permit bargaining unit members to give a selected number of their accumulated sick days to a fellow worker.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of School Directors authorizes the establishment of a sick leave bank for one secretary, as requested by the Teamsters Local No. 773 covering Clerical/Secretarial employees. This bank is to be used by one individual only, and any days not used by the individual will be returned to the person who donated them.

The administration's recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were considered together.

5. *Lawn Care Services for the Remaining 2010-2011 School Year and through January 31, 2012*

INFORMATION:

On March 16, 2009, the Board approved a three year contract with several vendors who met specifications for lawn care services. On April 26, 2011, Cherry Valley Lawn Care notified the district that the business was dissolved as of December 31, 2010. Cherry Valley Lawn Care was contracted to maintain lawns at five properties in the District. The administration contacted the next lowest priced vendor for each of those five properties to ascertain their availability to perform the work at the price submitted on March 11, 2009. Searock’s Lawn Care agreed to perform the additional work at their previously bid unit costs at four of the properties, while in-house personnel will be used to cut grass at one property. This change represents a cost increase of \$277 in total cost per cut for each the buildings.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of School Directors approves the following as the successful bidder for lawn care services for the remaining 2010-2011 school year and through January 31, 2012.

School	Vendor	Price Per Cut of Grass
Donegan	Searock’s Lawn Care	\$169
Fountain Hill	Searock’s Lawn Care	\$124
Marvine	Searock’s Lawn Care	\$189
Nitschmann	Searock’s Lawn Care	\$190
Broughal	BASD Maintenance	-

Cabinet Code: NF – Maintenance Department Contracted Services
Account Code: 10-2600414-000-000-000-NF-0000 Lawn Care
Remaining Balance: \$87,286.00

The administration’s recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were considered together.

6. *Authorization to Expend Bond Funds – Bids Opened May 5, 2011 – Boiler Replacement – Nitschmann Middle School*

INFORMATION:

Bids were received and publicly opened at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, May 5, 2011, for:

Boiler Replacement – Nitschmann Middle School

The bids have been tabulated and reviewed by the appropriate administrative and supervisory personnel. The recommendation of award is based upon the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (The Tabulation of Bids is attached.)

The Self-Certification Application for Non-Reimbursable Construction Projects were approved at the March 21, 2011, Regular Board Meeting. The administration and D'Huy Engineering, Inc. were authorized to prepare and solicit the specifications and solicit bids for this project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the administration be authorized to award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications as indicated on the attached Tabulation of Bids subject to proper execution of contract documents and performance bond as required in the bid specifications.

Boiler Replacement with Alternate 1 – Nitschmann Middle School

Tri-County Mechanical, Inc.
30 N. Keystone Ave.
Emmaus, PA 18049

\$489,000

Bond Fund: 30-4600450
Balance: \$650,000 Unencumbered

The administration's recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were considered together.

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Bid Opening: May 5, 2011

May 9, 2011

**TABULATION OF BIDS
FOR
NITSCHMANN MIDDLE SCHOOL BOILER REPLACEMENT**

	Blanski, Inc.	Deiter Bros.	HSA Mechanical	JBM Mechanical	Myco Mechanical	Super Heat, Inc.	Tri County Mechanical	Worth & Co.
Base Bid	\$562,500.00	No Bid	\$632,416.00	\$574,000.00	\$529,900.00	\$546,717.00	\$445,000.00	No Bid
Alt. 1 - Add cost to replace two vertical air handlers with new split system air handlers	\$52,500.00	No Bid	\$56,959.00	\$42,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$46,200.00	\$44,000.00	No Bid

BID AWARD

8 specifications mailed
6 bids received

7. *Award Bids Catch Basin Repairs and Faculty Parking Lot Overlay – Freedom High School*

INFORMATION:

Bids were received and publicly opened at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, May 5, 2011, for:

Catch Basin Repairs and Faculty Parking Lot Overlay – Freedom High School

The bids have been tabulated and reviewed by the appropriate administrative and supervisory personnel. The recommendation of award is based upon the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. (The Tabulation of Bids is attached.)

The Self-Certification Application for Non-Reimbursable Construction Projects were approved at the March 21, 2011, Regular Board Meeting. The administration and D’Huy Engineering, Inc. were authorized to prepare and solicit the specifications and solicit bids for this project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the administration be authorized to award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications as indicated on the attached Tabulation of Bids subject to proper execution of contract documents and performance bond as required in the bid specifications.

Catch Basin Repairs and Faculty Parking Lot Overlay – Freedom High School

Barker and Barker
1401 Easton Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18018

\$151,648.00

General Fund: 10-4600450
Balance: \$385,000 (2011-12 Budget)

The administration’s recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were considered together.

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Bid Opening: May 5, 2011

May 9, 2011

**TABULATION FOR BIDS
FOR
FREEDOM CATCH BASIN REPAIRS AND FACULTY PARKING OVERLAY**

	B. F. Brown & Co.	Barker & Barker	Bracalente Construction	Charles Herman, Inc.	Grace Industries	Lehigh Valley Site	Nimaris	Vollers Excavating	Wessner's Excavating
Base Bid	\$151,995.00	\$151,648.00	\$158,100.39	\$176,880.00	\$176,360.00	\$195,650.00	\$152,036.00	\$265,000.00	\$195,500.00

BID AWARD

9 specifications mailed
9 bids received

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION – May 9, 2011 **Pg. 7**

8. *UGI Gas Extension Agreement for Nitschmann Boiler Project*

INFORMATION:

At the March 21, 2011, Regular Board Meeting, authorization was given to bid the Nitschmann boiler project. In order to gain efficiency, it is necessary to extend gas service to the Nitschmann Middle School for operation of the boilers. The attached agreement with UGI Corporation identifies the terms and payments required for extending gas to Nitschmann Middle School at an estimated cost of \$61,260.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to approve the attached agreement with UGI.

Bond Fund: 30-4600450
Balance: \$650,000 Unencumbered

The administration's recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were considered together.

Service Extension Agreement

This service extension agreement ("Agreement") is entered into this ____ day of April, 2011 (the "Effective Date") by and between Bethlehem Area School District. (the "Customer") and UGI Utilities, Inc. ("UGI") (collectively the "Parties").

WHEREAS, the Customer is converting the oil boilers (the "Facilities") at the Nitschman Middle School located at 909 West Union Blvd. (the "Plant") in the City of Bethlehem, Northampton County, to natural gas, and

WHEREAS, UGI is willing, under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, to extend its natural gas distribution facilities to provide service to the Facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties agree as follows:

1. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, UGI shall install a sufficient length and size of gas main ("UGI Facilities") from a UGI gas main on Tenth Avenue in Bethlehem to the Plant.
2. In performing this work, UGI shall be responsible for and use commercially reasonable efforts to:
 - a. Obtain all necessary permits.
 - b. Install the UGI Facilities.
 - c. Backfill the trenched area to grade on Customer's property.
3. The Customer shall be responsible for and use commercially reasonable efforts to:

- a. Locate all underground utility lines (e.g., water, sewer, electric, telecommunications, oil) on Customer's property so that they do not interfere with the installation and maintenance of the UGI Facilities.
 - b. Provide, at no cost to UGI, a right-of-way for the approach main on Customer's property located at 909 West Union Blvd. Bethlehem.
 - c. Be responsible for the final restoration on customer's property from Genoa Street to the loading dock wall. In addition, the Customer shall be responsible for the restoration of sidewalks and paving on the customers property associated with the service and meter installation, including the fenced-in area of the meter location.
 - d. Provide payment of \$1,260 for the Metretek installation.
4. In consideration of UGI's commitments under this Agreement, Customer shall pay to UGI within fifteen (15) days of Customer signing this Agreement, a deposit of \$ 10,000 to cover engineering and permitting fees ("Deposit"). If Customer provides UGI with a notice to proceed by June 24, 2011, it shall pay to UGI a Contribution In Aid of Construction in the amount of \$50,000 ("CIAC"). If UGI does not receive a written notice to proceed and the CIAC from Customer by June 24, 2011, this Agreement shall automatically terminate unless mutually extended in writing by the Parties and UGI shall retain the Deposit. In the event Customer notifies UGI that it wishes to terminate the line extension after providing UGI with a notice to proceed, UGI may terminate this Agreement and shall refund the CIAC to Customer

less UGI's reasonably incurred costs through the date of notice of cancellation. All of the gas main and service shown on Exhibit A up to and including the gas meter and regulator, are and will remain the property and under the control of UGI.

5. The Parties agree that a gas delivery service agreement ("Service Agreement") shall be executed within thirty (30) days of the completion of the line extension and prior to gas flowing through the meter. Gas service to the Facilities will be rendered as follows and in accordance with all rules and regulation in UGI's Gas Service Tariff No. 5:
 - a. Interruptible Service
 - i. Minimum five (5) year agreement under Rate IS – DSO
 - ii. Contract minimum: 3,500 Mcf per year (take or pay)
 - iii. For the time period July 2011 through June 2012, the unit rate shall be \$2.50 per Mcf. Subsequently, the transportation rate for years two through five will be at the applicable rate negotiated for the Extended Term Pricing Agreement with the Bethlehem School District, but in no event shall that rate be less than \$2.50 per Mcf.
 - b. All natural gas delivered to UGI shall use non-UGI upstream pipeline capacity.
6. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements concerning the subject matter hereof. This

Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

7. The proposed schedule for this project is as follows. The Parties recognize that forces outside the Parties' control (e.g., including but not limited to weather) could adversely impact this schedule, but will use commercially reasonable efforts to hold to this schedule.

<u>Approximate Date</u>	<u>Milestone</u>
May 23,,2011	The Customer and UGI sign this Agreement
June 7, 2011	UGI management approves the project and Customer provides the Deposit.
June 24, 2011	The Customer provides notice to proceed and the CIAC.
July 5, 2011	UGI commences work.
July 29, 2011	UGI completes work
August 1, 2011	The Customer signs the IS service agreement and any other firm service agreements; UGI begins billing under Rate IS-DSO

MAY 9, 2011

ACCORDINGLY, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their
duly authorized representatives as of the day and year first above written.

UGI Utilities, Inc

|

Name: Allen R. Westbrook
Title: Vice President

Bethlehem Area School District

Name:
Title:

President Cann asked if there was any new or miscellaneous business

NEW/MISCELLANEOUS
BUSINESS

Director Amato stated: This has come up from Courtesy of the Floor; some of our board members have brought it up. I am talking about what a freeze would do in helping the budget for this year, and I would like to make a motion and I still haven't heard yes, no or indifferent. We have asked the questions again tonight, and we have had a few bargaining units that you have brought up that took a freeze or was part of a negotiated contracts but other school districts have talked to their professional staffs and some have come across with taking a freeze or a partial freeze. I would like to recommend that our administration meet with our BEA and talk about what can be done as far as a freeze or a partial freeze to help this budget.

MOTION FOR
ADMINISTRATION TO
MEET WITH BEA

Director Amato made a motion for the Administration to meet with the BEA to discuss a salary freeze or a partial salary freeze. The motion was seconded by Director Leeson.

Director Amato stated: I make a motion that we direct the BEA to discuss a freeze or a partial freeze to help our budget.

President Cann asked if there was any discussion on this and then we will see what the board wants to do. Any discussion on this motion.

President Cann stated: We will take a vote on the motion by Director Amato and seconded by Director Leeson to discuss with the Teachers Union about a pay freeze.

Mrs. Gober stated: What I wrote, as you said, it was to recommend that the administration meet with the BEA for a pay freeze or a partial pay freeze to help this budget.

Director Burkhardt asked: For what purpose? To lower taxes or to reinstate programs that we have cut? That is a critical issue in my mind.

Director Amato stated: Well if there is XX amount of dollars that can be saved with a freeze or a partial freeze, then it is up to this board to decide what they want to do with those dollars, do we put it back into some critical pieces of the budget that we have cut out or do we use it to keep at our 1.7

percent increase or take it to 0 percent. I mean you can find out what they would agree on if anything. Then this board needs to decide on how we are going to spend it.

President Cann stated: My problem with that is as you said Director Amato say there is some XX amount of money to be gained from that, then what happens next year, you are not going to take that same amount of pay freeze again next year, so then that is not sustainable budgeting.

Director Burkhardt stated: I'm not sure that we should be discussing this, it is a negotiation issue.

Director Amato stated: I made a simple motion that we sit down with the BEA, with our professional staff as other districts have done and ask if they could be part of the budgeting process in holding to a freeze. I have asked Mrs. Gober what that pay freeze would be in dollars,

Mrs. Gober stated: It was approximately \$2,000,000 at the time that we had negotiated the contract, following the revisions that were proposed in this budget, I do not know what that number looks like right now.

Dr. Roy stated: We have a lot few teachers right now.

Director Amato stated: What if you cut it in half? A millions dollars or even if you come out with a half a million dollars. Do you know what a half million dollars would do to help us with this budget?

President Cann stated: That would be for one year.

Director Amato stated: We're looking at this year. We don't know what we are going to be confronted with next year. We're looking at this year.

President Cann stated: I thought we were looking at sustainable budgeting? Does anyone else have anything to say?

Director Faccinetto stated: I have one comment and it is just my opinion, but I think other districts that sought a pay freeze, it was to keep jobs and not cut them. We have already cut them, so I would support it, if it were to restore programs, I will not support it, if it's to go to a 0 percent tax increase. I

don't think that is fair.

President Cann stated: Is there any more discussion before we take a vote.

Director Amato stated: Like I said whatever monies we would get, the board would decide what we want to do with that. Do we restore stuff that we've cut?

Director Faccinetto stated: To me that issue has to be dealt with first. If we can guarantee that first, then that is a thing to go and talk to the teachers about, but if they have no faith in us that we are just going to take it and lower taxes, then why would they agree to it.

Director Follweiler stated: It seems to me that the discussion that we're having right now is the discussion that Director Amato has motioned to have with the BEA. That a lot of the items we are bringing up in this discussion as Director McKeon pointed out is a negotiation discussion. So, I would move that we vote on the motion and allow the conversation. After the conversation, we would have a final decision.

Director Follweiler stated: I want to call the question for a vote on the motion and allow the conversation between the Administration and the BEA to take place.

President Cann asked for a roll call vote to allow the conversation between the administration and the BEA to take place.

The question was called with roll call as follows: Yea – Directors Amato, Faccinetto, Follweiler, Leeson, Tenaglia.
Nay – Directors Ortiz, Burkhardt, McKeon, President Cann
Motion passes – 5-4

President Cann stated: To be clear what this does is authorize the superintendent to have the discussion with the BEA.

Moving to Courtesy of the Floor.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Justin Ateman
319 East Locust Street
Bethlehem, PA

I just want to say how absolutely refreshing it was to hear

what Director Burkhardt had to say about the middle schools taking the biggest hit with this budget. The budget when I look at it and when I have gone through it is just very pro high school. It really screams high school, while our most at risk children stem from the elementary and the middle school levels. We are almost remediating our children by cutting out programs like SPARK, full day kindergarten and teaming, I mean, we're cutting teaming from the middle school but we have plans to incorporate it into our high school system. Those kids that are going into the high school system, if they didn't have the teaming in middle school, I am going to be honest, the teaming is not going to do anything for them in high school. They did not have that experience in middle school, they are not going to want it, and you already lost the students engagement. It is just upsetting to me to hear that that is what is going to happen, our middle schools, even this year I'm worried to see their PSSA scores because they have been doing outstanding but with that marker set higher and higher, it scares me to see the results for those PSSA's and with this teaming we're going to see the PSSA Scores go even lower because of the lack of relationship with the teachers. It is really going to affect our middle school success in the classroom and out of the classroom quite frankly. I don't know if the board is aware of this but Dr. Roy had an absolutely wonderful meeting with his superintendent student advisory and it gives students from Liberty and Freedom the opportunity to voice their opinions and our last meeting we actually spoke on the budget and a lot of kids had a very interesting perspectives and I think the board would love to hear a lot of that and that's something that I shedded a lot of light on at the last meeting, the tough cuts to the elementary school and the middle school level and it just really concerns me and I feel like Director Burkhardt said, if there is any extra money I mean the current budget just basically added 8 teachers back to the high school but took 18 out of the middle schools to cut the teaming, I am just really worried and concerned for our middle schools and I hope that we have a system in which we are going to keep those at risk children in the classroom. Thank you.

Jolene Vitalos
President BEA

I would like to reiterate to the board that Dr. Roy and I have been having open discussions since this budget has begun. With all do respect to the other bargaining units in this

MAY 9, 2011

Moving to Courtesy of the Floor.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Justin Ateman
319 East Locust Street
Bethlehem, PA

I just want to say how absolutely refreshing it was to hear what Director Burkhardt had to say about the middle schools taking the biggest hit with this budget. The budget when I look at it and when I have gone through it is just very pro high school. It really screams high school, while our most at risk children stem from the elementary and the middle school levels. We are almost remediating our children by cutting out programs like SPARK, full day kindergarten and teaming, I mean, we're cutting teaming from the middle school but we have plans to incorporate it into our high school system. Those kids that are going into the high school system, if they didn't have the teaming in middle school, I am going to be honest, the teaming is not going to do anything for them in high school. They did not have that experience in middle school, they are not going to want it, and you already lost the students engagement. It is just upsetting to me to hear that that is what is going to happen, our middle schools, even this year I'm worried to see their PSSA scores because they have been doing outstanding but with that marker set higher and higher, it scares me to see the results for those PSSA's and with this teaming we're going to see the PSSA Scores go even lower because of the lack of relationship with the teachers. It is really going to affect our middle school success in the classroom and out of the classroom quite frankly. I don't know if the board is aware of this but Dr. Roy had an absolutely wonderful meeting with his superintendent student advisory and it gives students from Liberty and Freedom the opportunity to voice their opinions and our last meeting we actually spoke on the budget and a lot of kids had a very interesting perspectives and I think the board would love to hear a lot of that and that's something that I shedded a lot of light on at the last meeting, the tough cuts to the elementary school and the middle school level and it just really concerns

Attest,

Stacy M. Gober
Board Secretary