

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
 BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

<p>A Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bethlehem Area School District was held on Thursday, March 29, 2012, at 5:50 p.m. in the Auditorium of East Hills Middle School, 2005 Chester Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017.</p>	<p>SPECIAL BOARD MEETING</p>
<p>President Faccinetto called for the roll:</p>	<p>ROLL CALL</p>
<p>Members present: Directors Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, Follweiler, McKeon, Patrick, Vidanage, and President Faccinetto. Eight members present. Absent was Director Ortiz.</p>	<p>MEMBERS PRESENT</p>
<p>Others present: Dr. Joseph Roy, Superintendent of Schools; Stacy Gober, Board Secretary; administrators; members of the press; and other interested citizens and staff members.</p>	<p>OTHERS PRESENT</p>
<p>At this point of the meeting, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p>	<p>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>
<p>President Faccinetto requested a moment of Silent Meditation.</p>	<p>SILENT MEDITATION</p>
<p>President Faccinetto 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 and is for agenda items only. The second Courtesy of the Floor will be for any district concerns or business. 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.</p>	<p>COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS</p>
<p>No one wanted to speak at this time at the meeting.</p>	
<p>President Faccinetto indicated that there were no Minutes for approval this evening.</p>	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p>

President Faccinnetto stated that the Board had an Executive Session after the Regular Board Meeting on March 19, 2012, regarding negotiations. PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Roy indicated that he had nothing to report this evening. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

President Faccinnetto asked the Board if there was any Unfinished Business. Seeing none, he moved on to the Recommendation of the Administration. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Faccinnetto asked for a motion to approve agenda Item 1 this evening which is the Agreement Between the Board of School Directors and Noninstructional Meet and Discuss Employees. Director Follweiler made a motion, seconded by Director Bonilla. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION

DISCUSSION ITEM #1, PAGE 1 DISCUSSION ITEM #1

The question was called with roll call as follows: Yea – Directors Patrick, Vidanage, Bonilla, Burkhardt, and President Faccinnetto. No – Director Cann and Follweiler. Abstain – Director McKeon ROLL CALL VOTE ITEM 1

Motion passes 5-2-1.

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION – March 29, 2012

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1. *Agreement Between Board of School Directors and Noninstructional Meet and Discuss Employees*

INFORMATION:

The Agreement between the Board of School Directors and the Noninstructional Meet and Discuss personnel expired on June 30, 2010. A proposed Agreement for July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013, has been reviewed with the Board of School Directors.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of School Directors approves the Noninstructional Meet and Discuss Agreement for July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013.

DISCUSSION ITEM #1

President Faccinnetto asked if there was any discussion regarding this item.

Director McKeon indicated that he would be abstaining this evening from voting on this item as he has a family member who is part of this agreement. He also wanted to verify if everyone gets some increase or does it vary like teachers do? Mr. Giordano responded yes, other than those changing categories and those getting longevity.

Seeing no other discussion, President Faccinnetto asked for a roll call for Item 1.

The question was called with roll call as follows: Yea – Directors Patrick, Vidanage, Bonilla, Burkhardt, and President Faccinnetto. No – Director Cann and Follweiler. Abstain – Director McKeon

Motion passes 5-2-1.

President Faccinnetto asked if there was any new or Miscellaneous Business. Seeing none, he moved to Courtesy of the Floor.

NEW/
MISCELLANEOUS
BUSINESS

President Faccinnetto asked if anyone would like to speak at Courtesy of the Floor.

COURTESY OF THE
FLOOR

Justin Parambo, Director of Governmental Affairs with the Lehigh Valley Association of Realtors. He came this evening to address the article that appeared in the newspapers regarding the reverse property tax appraisals. The association wants to go on record this evening and start some open dialogue where he would like to have communication with Board members and the Superintendent that realtors believe that all property tax assessments should be fair, realistic, and equitable. The Lehigh Valley Association of Realtors opposes spot reassessments as they feel this unfairly targets homes as well as commercial properties. In the Pennsylvania Constitution, it clearly states that all taxes must be uniformed on the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax. The realtors feel that this creates disincentive for future economic development and breaks down the fairness of the tax code. They also feel that this could be cost prohibitive to corporate authorities, as well as the School Board, where if corporations further appeal or move to take these claims to court it could cost the Board further revenues down the road. They have worked in the past with Saucon Valley and Allentown School Districts to really identify that spot reassessment were not the solution, and they would like to have dialogue that just as Lehigh County has just engaged in wide reassessments, and they feel that is the proper motion to really have equity across the tax base. The association does recognize that as long as our system of government uses real estate as the basis upon which to pay for school services, government officials have the responsibility to make it fair. So, they would like to have further dialogue with the Board, as well as the superintendent, and he thanked them for their time this evening.

Dr. Roy responded asking the gentleman to leave his information with Dr. Silva, and Dr. Roy would be in contact with him to schedule a meeting.

President Faccinnetto asked if anyone had anything to discuss in Open Forum.

OPEN FORUM

None.

President Faccinnetto asked for a motion for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Follweiler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Director Bonilla. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

President Faccinetto indicated that they would wait until 6:00 p.m. to begin the Budget Workshop.

Attest,

Stacy M. Gober
Secretary

SMG:pag/dlm