

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bethlehem Area School District was held on Monday, July 23, 2012, at 7:04 p.m. in the Dining Room at the Education Center, 1516 Sycamore Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

President Faccinetto called for the roll: MEMBERS PRESENT

Members present: Directors Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, Follweiler, McKeon, Ortiz, Patrick, Vidanage, and President Faccinetto - 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 Faccinetto requested a Moment of Silent Meditation. MOMENT OF SILENCE MEDITATION

President Faccinetto offered Courtesy of the Floor to visitors. Speakers are asked to come to the podium, stating their name and address. The first Courtesy of the Floor will pertain to matters on the board agenda. The second Courtesy of the Floor will deal with matters pertaining to school district business. Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes each unless extended at the discretion of the Board President. 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 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 wanted to speak at this time.

President Faccinetto stated there was an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues, and another Executive Session will follow the last committee meeting this evening and it will deal with personnel issues. PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Roy stated that there is a hand carry agenda item for municipal appeals (Item #5). Seventy five percent of our district's revenue comes from local property taxes and the percentages increased over time. Everyone agrees that the property tax is the most dominant source of funds for schools and contains many inequities. Most commonly it is heard the value of someone's home doesn't necessarily match their income or their ability to pay their property tax particularly for retired citizens. Property tax inequities are reduced when properties of residential and commercial properties are properly assessed. Due to long periods without countywide reassessments, inequities grow. Additionally, large, often commercial property owners with legal and financial resources to file assessment appeals are successful in reducing their property taxes, and a combination of the lack of countywide reassessments, along with certain well resourced property owners gaining lower property taxes enhances inequities. In the end, the district faces reduced property tax revenue as a result of the appeals and all the property owners pick up the burden when some properties are not accurately assessed. I am encouraging the Board's approval of this agenda item tonight. Citizens in the district feel confident that all property owners should pay their fair share. The Board in February approved a process to identify significant properties that are believed to be under assessed, and they are not paying their fair share. The agenda item tonight authorizes the district solicitor to initiate the municipal appeal often referred to as reverse appeals process. The properties affected are listed on the agenda. We believe the resolution of the appeals could result in \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 of additional property tax revenue. The budget that was approved in June, had we started this process a couple of years ago and had increased our revenue by \$2,000,000 per year, our tax increase this year, all things being held steady, would have been 3.3 percent rather 4.8 percent because of that additional revenue. We are hoping to benefit all the citizens of the district by making sure property owners are paying their fair share in generating additional revenue, which will help us, fund the district in the future. One correction on the agenda item, Turkey Hill C Store and Gas, the parcel ID record should read L6-16-4F-30214.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

President Faccinnetto asked if anyone had any Unfinished Business they would like to bring up at this time.

UNFINISHED
BUSINESS

There was none.

President Faccinnetto asked for a motion to approve the Recommendations of the Administration, Item 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
ADMINISTRATION

Director Bonilla made a motion, seconded by Director McKeon.

President Faccinnetto asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none, he asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE
ITEMS 1, 2, 3, 4, AND 5

Yes – Director Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, McKeon, Ortiz, Patrick, Vidanage, and President Faccinnetto. Director Follweiler – Yes, Item 1, 2, 3, 4; No, Item 5

Items 1, 2, 3, 4 – Motions pass 9-0

Item 5 – Motion passes 8-1

President Faccinnetto asked if there was any New or Miscellaneous Business to discuss.

NEW/
MISCELLANEOUS
BUSINESS

There was none.

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

COURTESY OF THE
FLOOR

Steven Antalics
737 Ridge Street
Bethlehem, PA

Mr. Antalics stated: There is a National Society known as American Society for Materials. Annually they have two MAC Camps. Lehigh University having a very powerful, material science program has been the host. One camp is for students, high school and middle school students, and the second camp is for teachers. Recently one just ended with teachers. I have interacted with some of them and after the weeklong program was over, they filled out a comment form. Some of the comments were: (1) It brought lots of hands on student activities into classroom for me; (2) The best program I have attended. Well supported and organized; (3) Bravo to ASM. They are master teachers and their host Lehigh; (4) A majority of the activities will be incorporated into my gifted program for fifth and sixth graders. Thank you; (5) This was the best weeklong workshop I have ever attended in my thirty years of teaching. Thank you for the dedication and enthusiasm; (6) It will help me make a better connection between theory and applications for my students; and (7) Great program. I will recommend it to my colleagues and I would love to attend every year. The list goes one. They were then asked to give it a grade from 0-5. The majority of the grades were 5 with some 5+. What bothered me and what my concern was when I looked at the list of schools that attended. One person was from Michigan; a number from New York State; a number from New Jersey; Vernon; Hunterdon NJ; Philadelphia; Nazareth; Union; Conestoga; Southern Lehigh; Milton; Dallas; Stewart Middle School; Bangor; Council Rock; Wilson West; East Stroudsburg; Mifflinburg; Red Line; Roberto Clemente Charter School. It was brought to my attention by some of these people that we didn't send anyone from the Bethlehem Area School District. Another comment was this, I've come to this workshop from Chambersburg, PA every year and it is a long drive for me. The other comment that was really embarrassing to me, being a Bethlehemite and member of the district here as a citizen, is that someone sarcastically said to me, I drove here from North Jersey and your teachers could have walked here.

It's a free program and from teachers in other school districts, in other states, it blew them away. It is a sad that the program didn't have the ability to blow any of the teachers from this school district away. What it did for them, the teachers, it gave them the ability by having laboratories, experiments they could participate in, to give them a way to incorporate into the curriculum, hands on rather than textbook science. Sad day for Bethlehem.

Kay Mulligan
1972 Kingsley Drive
Bethlehem, PA

Ms. Mulligan stated: I have been a resident of Bethlehem for the past 36 years. I recently became aware of a decision by this body to offer benefits to one employee who claimed to have a "legal same sex marriage" in another state. Such an action by the school board would be unprecedented and at the very least controversial. I sent an unanswered Right To Know request to the education office to express concerns about the expense of this new entitlement, and yes although initially we were talking about one specific case, who knows what flood gates may be opened to expand this to others. Statistics show that the number of such relationships, legal or non-legal, continues to increase every year. Certainly such marriages are not universally recognized. As the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are still governed by the defense of marriage act, defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Those choosing an alternate life style need to recognize their obligation to provide for their own needs and benefits and not rely on someone else to provide them. As a retired senior citizen, who is once again this year, faced with increasing school, city and county taxes we become the means to pay for benefit increases to school administrators and teachers without end while we sit with our fixed but in effect actually declining incomes. My husband's pension in real dollars is now worth only about 70 percent of what he retired on in 1997. Also, for those of us on social security, our government, bureaucrats in all their wisdom declared there were no increases in the cost of living, thus no increase in benefits in social security benefits over the past two years. I am told I should have a heart for those who choose an alternate life style. Yet there is no heart shown by the taxing agencies that want to be so generous to others by taxing retirees shrinking nest egg. I am the parent of three teachers. Yet I recognize that you and their responsibility comes first to teaching the students and not by trying to solve the social issues or by constantly increasing perks and benefits. We seniors certainly cannot afford all of your demands. Maybe it is time someone else starts making some sacrifices. I am also a grandmother and recently became a great grandmother. I want the students to be the primary interest of those in charge of them. I want them to be taught the basics at every level, so that they will be prepared at graduation, to go to college, or to find employment with the skills they learned. Please leave the social justice initiatives to community churches or community organizations. Please focus on the academic education of the students entrusted to you. Thank you very much.

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

Director Vidanage stated: I cannot stress enough the importance of materials, being a material scientist by profession. Everything that we have now, the research we did for the space program, starting with the mini computers, I have seen over and over again, students respond in any subject to the teacher if the teacher can relate to something that is happening in the outside world. I am disappointed that none of our teachers attended this specific symposium. We can see the changes in the students over and over again. When I substituted in schools, I explained to the students how you could relate what is happening in the outside world with the subject. We should instruct our teachers to take a practical approach to show the students the applications of what they are learning to help facilitate their interest.

Director Burkhardt asked Dr. Silva how our staff was notified about this conference.

Dr. Silva stated: As far as I know they were not. We participate with Lehigh's Professional Development Program and no one from Lehigh University notified me of this opportunity and apparently other key Lehigh Valley Schools were not in attendance either.

Director Burkhardt stated: Before we are indicted publicly I would hope that we would at least have an understanding of whether we were in fact notified.

Director Cann stated: I just wanted to let Mrs. Mulligan know that her Right To Know request is being handled legally and properly.

Dr. Roy stated: We have five days to respond, so we will send whatever materials there are within that five days.

Director Ortiz stated: In accordance with President Obama's Dream Act, how are we going to make sure our students are able to take advantage of this opportunity?

Dr. Roy stated: I don't know that we are doing anything right now.

Director Ortiz stated: It is a partial law by Executive Order.

Dr. Roy stated: That applies to students who have grown up in the United States basically and can now obtain citizenship, which is the goal of the Dream Act. It was a recent decision. I can get information, and we'll get a plan to talk to you about it.

Director Ortiz stated: This law provides for these students to be able to go to college, to be able to get work permits. They are under an umbrella for approximately two years. So how can we help these students to continue on this path given by the President?

Dr. Roy stated: We need to make sure the students are aware of those opportunities.

Director Vidanage stated: Currently I am helping a student in high school in this area who came to this country because the parents came in because of the socio economic status from other countries. The day after he went to the lawyer and there is a 60-day period where the legal team gets to review, however, we should be prepared because now they will have a valid social security number, plus they will be coming to us to get help. The whole structure changes. Now they can apply to any school they want. Maybe our guidance counselors should be able to assist them in trying to give them the best possible information.

Director Follweiler stated: I just wanted to understand Director Ortiz's question. The executive order from the President versus passed by Congress is questionable at the federal level, what is a law and what is not. I think what Director Ortiz is asking is if this is in reality deemed a law, it is requiring us to educate children who with their parents coming here through other than legal means, they need to be educated. Are we to educate them past senior year?

Director Ortiz stated: The law as stated is an obligation if K-12. I am referring to kids in high school who are moving onto college. This law protects them into college and now they are able to ask for tuition and they are able to work and they are able to go on for a certain period of time, but it will be good for us to understand the law because it is going to effect school districts.

Director Follweiler stated: It is our policy as a district that guidance counselors guide any of the students that are in our schools to what their opportunities are after graduation.

Dr. Roy stated: Making sure students previous to the executive order would not have been eligible for social security number, work permits, financial aid and so forth and now if they are eligible that we let them know that they are eligible.

Director Vidanage stated: Also I think it is mainly from 16-30 that is affected. Another thing I would like to say is that these kids not get bullied. We need to enforce anti-bullying methods.

Director Ortiz stated: We have a bullying policy that covers all kids. My point is that we as the School Board need to understand what this law is and how it is going to effect the different departments that we have because there are going to be some costs involved. We have to understand that as well. At the

President Faccinetto asked if anyone had anything to discuss in the Open Forum. OPEN FORUM

Director Vidanage stated: I cannot stress enough the importance of materials, being a material scientist by profession. Everything that we have now, the research we did for the space program, starting with the mini computers, I have seen over and over again, students respond in any subject to the teacher if the teacher can relate to something that is happening in the outside world. I am disappointed that none of our teachers attended this specific symposium. We can see the changes in the students over and over again. When I substituted in schools, I explained to the students how you could relate what is happening in

Attest,

Stacy M. Gober
Secretary

SMG:pag

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

MISSION STATEMENT

The Bethlehem Area School District, in partnership with the home and community, is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in which each student will attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a productive citizen and lifelong learner in our technologically demanding and culturally diverse society.

A G E N D A
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – July 23, 2012

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Silent Meditation
4. Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors (30 minutes allowed)
5. Approval of Minutes/Committee Minutes
6. President's Communication/Special Meetings
7. Superintendent's Report/Federal Program Update
8. Unfinished Business
9. Recommendations of the Administration
10. New and Miscellaneous Business
11. Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors (30 minutes allowed)
12. Open Forum
13. Adjournment

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Recommendations of the Administration

July 23, 2012
Page

Item

1. Resignations	1
2. Leave of Absence	1
3. Nominations	2-3
4. Reassignments	4
5. Authorization to File Municipal Tax Assessment Appeals*	5

*Copies of this agenda item will be available at the Board Meeting on Monday evening.

1. Resignations

RECOMMENDATION:

A. Instructional

	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	REASON	EFFECTIVE
1.	Becker, Mary	District-wide Special Education Teacher	Retirement	June 12, 2012
2.	Ott, Jamie	Freedom English Teacher	Resignation	July 28, 2012
3.	Shea, Maura	Asa Packer/Hanover Librarian	Retirement	June 12, 2012

B. Noninstructional

	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	REASON	EFFECTIVE
1.	Hartranft, Thomas	Bus Driver	Resignation	To be determined
2.	Nelms, Samuel	Miller Heights (.5) Supplemental Custodian	Resignation	July 7, 2012
3.	Rosado, Germain	Freedom Supplemental Custodian	Resignation	June 19, 2012

Administrative Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were considered together. Item #1 motion passes 9-0. (Directors Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, Follweiler, McKeon, Ortiz, Patrick, Vidanage, and President Faccinnetto).

2. Leave of Absence

RECOMMENDATION:

A. Instructional

	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	REASON	EFFECTIVE
1.	Zahm, Gregory	Liberty Science Teacher	Sabbatical Leave of Absence for Study	August 22, 2012, until the end of the 2012-2013 school year

Administrative Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were considered together. Item #2 motion passes 9-0. (Directors Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, Follweiler, McKeon, Ortiz, Patrick, Vidanage, and President Faccinnetto).

3. *Nominations*

RECOMMENDATION:

The following instructional staff have been recalled effective August 22, 2012.

	EMPLOYEE	ASSIGNMENT	SALARY
1.	Wachinski, Jennifer	Fountain Hill, Grade 1 Teacher <i>Temporary Professional Employee</i>	\$48,511 Bachelor's +15, Step 7
2.	Wills, Thomas	Marvine, Grade 4 Teacher <i>Temporary Professional Employee</i>	\$45,219 Bachelor's, Step 4

A. *Instructional*

	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	SALARY	EFFECTIVE
1.	Brockel, Corinne	Liberty Chemistry Teacher <i>Temporary Professional Employee</i>	\$43,244 Bachelor's, Step 1	August 22, 2012
2.	Budge, Eric	Nitschmann Special Education, Learning Support Teacher <i>Long-term Substitute</i>	\$47,023 Master's, Step 2	August 22, 2012, <i>pending completion of paperwork</i>
3.	Podhyski, Garrett	East Hills Special Education, Learning Support Teacher <i>Temporary Professional Employee</i>	\$43,244 Bachelor's, Step 1	August 22, 2012
4.	Sanal, Ritish	Nitschmann Mathematics Teacher <i>Professional Employee</i>	\$53,803 Master's +30, Step 7	August 22, 2012

B. *Noninstructional*

	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	SALARY	EFFECTIVE
1.	Cruz Perez, Yajaira	Nitschmann General Kitchen Help, 3.5 hours daily, lunch	\$12.47 per hour	August 24, 2012
2.	De La Roche, Ana	Freedom General Kitchen Help, 3 hours daily, lunch	\$12.47 per hour	August 24, 2012

3. Nominations

RECOMMENDATION:

B. Noninstructional (continued)

	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	SALARY	EFFECTIVE
3.	Hartranft, Thomas	Assistant Supervisor of Transportation, Dispatch	\$50,575, prorated Noninstructional Meet and Discuss, Category E, Step 5	To be determined
4.	Maurer, Yvette	Spring Garden (.5) 0-3 Secretary/ Clerk, 10 months	\$14.29 per hour	August 3, 2012

C. Miscellaneous

The following athletic salaries are for the 2011-2012 school year and will be adjusted for the 2012-2013 school year.

	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	SALARY
1.	Thear, Robert	Freedom, Head Cross Country Coach	\$4,519
2.	Lynn, Melissa	Liberty, Head Girls Volleyball Coach	\$4,451
3.	Johnson, David	Liberty, (.5) Assistant Football Coach	\$2,670
4.	Meagher, Francis	Liberty, Assistant Football Coach	\$5,340
5.	Kittek, Erin	Nitschmann, Assistant Cheerleading Coach	\$1,335
6.	Houser, Melanie	Freedom Summer Guidance Counselor	Per diem rate, not to exceed 40 hours
7.	DiMaria, Martin	Summer School – Freemansburg Teacher	\$33.79 per hour
8.	Menendez, Evelyn	Summer School – Freemansburg Substitute Teacher Assistant	\$16.10 per hour
9.	Clymer, Jill Miller, Shannon	Summer School – Marvine Teachers	\$33.79 per hour
10.	Buchanan, Karen	Summer School – Northeast Teacher	\$33.79 per hour
11.	Rodriguez, Maureen Stom, Lori	Summer School – SPARK Teachers	\$33.79 per hour
12.	Menendez, Evelyn Pena, Jacquelyn	Summer School – SPARK Teacher Assistants	\$16.10 per hour

Administrative Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were considered together. Item #3 motion passes 9-0. (Directors Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, Follweiler, McKeon, Ortiz, Patrick, Vidanage, and President Faccinnetto).

4. *Reassignments*

RECOMMENDATION:

A. *Noninstructional*

	NAME	FROM/TO	SALARY	EFFECTIVE
1.	Kimminour, Amanda	From: Liberty, General Kitchen Help, 3.75 hours, lunch/ Spring Garden, 2 hours daily, breakfast To: Liberty, General Kitchen Help, 4.5 hours, lunch/ Spring Garden, 2 hours daily, breakfast	\$13.15 per hour	August 24, 2012
2.	Montoro, Jeanette	From: East Hills, General Kitchen Help, 3.75 hours, lunch/2 hours daily, breakfast To: East Hills, General Kitchen Help, 4.5 hours, lunch/2 hours daily, breakfast	\$13.15 per hour	August 24, 2012

Administrative Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were considered together. Item #4 motion passes 9-0. (Directors Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, Follweiler, McKeon, Ortiz, Patrick, Vidanage, and President Faccinnetto).

5. Authorize Filing of Municipal Tax Assessment Appeals

INFORMATION:

Since the February 2012 Board approval to work with Keystone Realty Advisors to take a proactive approach to real estate assessments, Keystone has been researching our tax parcels and has recommended for the board’s consideration following our solicitor’s review the following properties to be filed as municipal tax appeals presented by the school district. The timeline for submission of any appeal of property tax assessment to Northampton County is August 1 of each year.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of School Directors has reviewed the following parcels and authorizes the Solicitor to complete and file all necessary documents to Northampton County Revenue Appeals Board to appeal the assessed property value on the following real estate parcels:

<u>Tax Parcel ID</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Multiple (14 separate parcels) M8 9 22-2 0205, M8 9 22-3 0205, M8 9 22-3 0205, M8 9 22-4 0205, M8 9 22-4A 0205, M8 9 22-5 0205, M8 9 22-6 0205, M8 9 22-7 0205, M8 9 22-8 0205, M8 9 22-9 0205, M8 9 22-10 0205, M8 9 22-11 0205, M8 9 22-12 0205, M8 9 22-13 0205	Southmont Plaza, Morris Bethlehem Associates LP	Birkeland Pl and Southmont Way (Freemansburg Ave @ Hope Rd)
N8 2 5A 0205	CVS	1952 Wagner Drive
L6 16 4F-2 0214	CVS	6050 Sterner's Way
P6SW2B 9 8 0204	CVS	305 West 4th St
N7SW1B 6 1 0204 & 6 2 0204	Rite Aid	1781 Stefko Blvd
N6NW4 15 2G 0214	Walgreens	2240 Schoenersville Rd
M6SE3 8 8B 0204	Walgreens	2979 Linden St
L6 16 4F-2 0214	Turkey Hill C-Store & Gas	6020 Sterner's Way
N7NW4B 4 18A 0204	WAWA C-Store & Gas	2525 Easton Avenue
P6NE2C 1 1 0204	WAWA C-Store & Gas	741 Stefko Blvd
M5 7 2B-2 0214	WAWA C-Store m8m8& Gas	3300 Schoenersville Rd
M8 9 14-38A 0205	Courtyard by Marriot	2220 Emrick Blvd
M6 15 11B 0214	Hampton Inn & Suites	200 Gateway Drive
M6 15 11 0214	Best Western Plus & Conference Center	300 Gateway Drive
P6SE1A 8 1 0204	Comfort Inn & Suites	120 West 3rd St
P6NE1D 3 1 0204	Hyatt Place	45 West North St
M5 7 2-12 0214	Holiday Inn Express & Suites	3375 High Point Blvd
Q7 15A2B 0204	Holiday Inn Express & Suites	2201 Cherry Lane
M7-SW3252-0205	The Hills at Lehigh Valley	2140 Johnston Drive
Multiple M7-2-17 0204 , M7-2-17A 0204, M7-2-17B 0204	Meadows at Lehigh Valley LP	3342 East Blvd
Q7 8 2A 0204	Saucon View Apartments	1 Saucon View Drive
Q7 15A1 0204	Bethlehem Fields	2515 Cherry Lane
M6 25 5D 0214	Pointe North Apartments	4201 Harriet Lane
N6 11 3 0204 & N6 11 1 0204	Spring Garden Townhomes	1026 North Blvd
N6 19 4A 0214	Bridle Path Woods	400 Bridle Path Rd
N7 2 1D-1 0204 & N7 2 1D-1 0212	Lehigh Crossing Apartments	1416 Livingston St
Multiple M7SW4-1-1 0204, M7SW4 1 2-1 0204, M7SW4 10 6 0204, M7SW4 20 18 0204, M7SW4 20 19 0204, M7SW4-21-31 0204, M7SW4 22 1 0204	Sherwood Winding LLC	Johnston Dr, Linden St, East Blvd

Administrative Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were considered together. Item #5 motion passes 8-1. (Yes - Directors Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, McKeon, Ortiz, Patrick, Vidanage, and President Faccinnetto; No – Director Follweiler).