



MEMORANDUM

August 16, 2013

TO: BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

FROM: STACY M. GOBER, BOARD SECRETARY

SUBJECT: SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – August 19, 2013

A Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Bethlehem Area School District will be held on *Monday, August 19, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of Northeast Middle School*, located at *1170 Fernwood Street, Bethlehem, PA*. The agenda is attached.

SMG:acv
Attachments
pc: Dr. Roy

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 – August 19, 2013

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Silent Meditation
4. Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors (30 minutes allowed)
5. Approval of Minutes/Regular and Committee
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

August 19, 2013

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Bethlehem Area School District was held on Monday, August 19, 2013, at 5:34 p.m. in the Auditorium at Northeast Middle School, 1170 Fernwood Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

President Faccinetto asked for the Roll Call by the Board Secretary:

ROLL CALL

Members present: Director Basilio Bonilla (arrived at 5:37 p.m. after roll call), Director William Burkhardt, Director Michele Cann, Director Irene Follweiler, Director Eugene McKeon, Director Aurea Ortiz, Director Shannon Patrick, Director Sudantha Vidanage (arrived at 5:37 p.m. after roll call) and President Michael 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those present.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

President Faccinetto requested a moment of Silent Meditation.

MOMENT OF
SILENT 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

None

President Faccinetto stated that there were no minutes to approve this evening.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES/REGULAR
AND COMMITTEE

President Faccinetto stated that he did not have anything to report.

PRESIDENT'S
COMMUNICATION

Dr. Roy stated that he did not have anything to report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

August 19, 2013

President Faccinnetto asked if anyone had any items under Unfinished Business. Seeing none, he moved on to Recommendations of the Administration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Faccinnetto asked for a motion to approve Agenda Item 1.

RECOMMENDATION OF
THE ADMINISTRATION

Director Follweiler made a motion to approve Agenda Item 1 and was seconded by Director McKeon.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ITEM 1

President Faccinnetto asked if there was any discussion regarding Agenda Item 1.

Director Follweiler asked if Dr. Roy could provide a brief update. Dr. Roy stated that all the cleaning remediation has been completed for the rooms at East Hills Middle School. Testing will follow and will await the test results. It is likely in these types of projects that some rooms will require additional cleaning pending the test results. We are approaching the \$80,000 limit at this point, and so there is a possibility that the Administration will have to come back to the Board in a subsequent meeting for a change order to complete additional cleaning with repeat testing until all clear. The work is ongoing, but the bulk of it is complete and awaiting test results.

Director McKeon asked Dr. Roy or Mr. Stein to explain how this occurred. Mr. Stein responded that it was first observed over a week ago. There were several dominos lined up that had to fall to create the condition, but he believes it comes back to the building being reoccupied when band camp kicked off two weeks ago. That area of the building had been unoccupied during the summer, and when the cooling system was turned on, there were rooms that were not being used and being cold and a wet week it created the conditions that we are currently dealing with. Director McKeon stated that there were summer activities in that building but doesn't know what areas were used, but it was utilized during the summer. Mr. Stein responded that yes there were summer activities there. It wasn't until a week after the band camp started that the building was reoccupied from that break when the other summer programs ended.

Director Vidanage stated a similar situation occurred in 2001 or 2002 at Freemansburg Elementary School and now here we are again. What did we learn to prevent this situation? Mr. Stein responded that since he was not here in 2001 or 2002, he does not know what we learned from that Freemansburg incident. He indicated that the District follows the EPA Tools for School guidelines in terms of what to look for and/or to prevent, and to create the conditions that are not conducive to creating the indoor air quality problems. These are being implemented throughout the District. There were several different things that got us in this position. We are trying to maintain the set points of 74 degrees of cooling, and by maintaining these set points and monitoring the humidity in the rooms. We are operating our central plant in a way to dehumidify as best as we can and not create the conditions that it would become a problem.

Director Burkhardt stated that we have had hot, humid, and then cool summers before. What is different in this one building in one wing and why not everywhere? Mr. Stein responded that some set points throughout the building had been manually adjusted down when the rooms were occupied, and when it was turned back on in that area for the band it brought in the outdoor air as if classrooms were occupied but were empty, and it did not dehumidify causing condensation on surfaces. Director Burkhardt asked if there was a way to prevent this in the future. Mr. Stein responded that they have been looking closely on how to address the issue and making sure everything is operating correctly to make sure we are not in this situation again.

August 19, 2013

Director Ortiz asked if East Hills is the only school that has this problem as of today, and are there any other schools? Will Board get any more surprises? Mr. Stein responded none that he is aware of.

President Faccinnetto called for a roll call vote for Agenda Item 1.

Yes – Directors Vidanage, Bonilla, Burkhardt, Cann, Follweiler, McKeon, Ortiz, Patrick and President Faccinnetto.

ROLL CALL VOTE ITEM
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Motion passes 9-0

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

NEW OR
MISCELLANEOUS
BUSINESS

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

COURTESY OF THE
FLOOR

Mrs. Judith Dexter (1866 Homestead Avenue, Bethlehem) – Mrs. Dexter spoke about the process for the selection of an architect and whether the Board will take a consensus tonight. The Board is aware that no one in the public has been advised of the proposals. If the Board is sincere to invite public input in the selection of the architect or plan that would be suitable for Nitschmann, then the Board needs to take a step back and truly invite the public to participate. What the public might have to say might be nothing at all, but it might be something significant. You might have professionals in the areas, workers who worked on Broughal Middle School or other buildings that the current participating architects have done. She feels it is important to invite public participation. What you are about to do is embark on a \$54 million project or higher, and she does not feel any current Board members have any expertise in architecture. There are other people that could provide insight of certain architects, design features, and the usage of the building. Has anyone asked the band/orchestra director or the athletic director if the design will suit his or her needs? The public does not know the names of the finalists or their proposals. She did a Right-To-Know request, which was delivered to her this evening and hasn't been able to review. If the Board takes a consensus tonight, it is unlikely to change it. Any input from the public would have to be very strong to change the Board's decision even if not a final vote. If the Board takes a consensus tonight, she will take this as a sign that this Board is not really interested in the opinion of the public. This is a huge undertaking and why wouldn't you want public input?

President Faccinnetto asked if there was any item to be discussed under Open Forum.

OPEN FORUM

None

President Faccinnetto asked for a motion for Adjournment. Director Bonilla made a motion and was seconded by Director Patrick. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The architect interviews followed beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the chorus room for the Nitschmann Middle School Project.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest,

Stacy M. Gober
Board Secretary

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1. Emergency Mold Remediation East Hills Middle School

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1. *Emergency Mold Remediation East Hills Middle School*

INFORMATION:

On Tuesday, August 13, suspected mold growth on hard surfaces in several classrooms at East Hills Middle School was reported. The facilities department along with D’Huy Engineering investigated and found high humidity levels throughout the east wing and several west wing classrooms. Dehumidifiers and air scrubbers were placed in affected classrooms to lower the humidity levels and improve the indoor air quality. Based on the initial investigation, the cooling plant operation was adjusted to reduce the high humidity levels and prevent further mold growth.

In consultation with the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) that conducts the district’s annual indoor air quality testing, a remediation plan was developed to clean all affected rooms and restore the indoor air quality to acceptable levels. The scope of work includes damp wiping all non-porous surfaces with a hospital grade disinfectant including all furniture, walls and floors. All porous surfaces will be cleaned using a HEPA filter equipped vacuum including all ceilings, books and carpets. The bid requested an all-inclusive hourly rate to perform the remediation incorporating all contractor costs including prevailing wage labor, cleaning supplies, equipment, overhead and profit.

All rooms will be visually inspected and tested by the CIH after remediation has been completed. Upon receipt of acceptable air sampling results, staff will be allowed to reoccupy affected classrooms. The CIH is an independent third party working directly for the district and not the contractor. Costs associated with the CIH are not included in this bid.

Bids were mailed to three (3) vendors with three (3) bids received at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2013. The bids have been tabulated and reviewed by the appropriate administrative and supervisory personnel.

	Hourly Rate Technician or Laborer	Hourly Rate Supervisor	Ability to Meet the Schedule
ACM Associates, Inc.	\$ 96.00	\$ 140.00	No
Sargent Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 87.00	\$ 88.50	Yes
Total Wrecking & Environmental, LLC	\$125.00	\$ 145.00	No

Due to the emergency nature of the work required to complete all remediation and testing prior to the return of teachers on Wednesday, August 21, the successful bidder commenced work on Friday, August 16, 2013.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of School Directors award the bid for mold remediation in approximately twenty-eight (28) classrooms at East Hills Middle School under the emergency provisions of PA School Code §24 PS 7-751 to Sargent Enterprises, Inc. at a rate of \$87.00/hour for an initial amount not to exceed \$80,000 in accordance with bid documents.

**Account Code and Account Title: General Fund 2600-431 Repairs & Maintenance Services of Buildings
Account Balance: \$ 306,900.48**

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Motion passes 9-0