



Peters Township School

**MINUTES
PETERS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011
6:30 P.M. – DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICES**

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Ritter, President, called the special meeting of the Peters Township Board of School Directors to order at 6:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Present were: Mrs. Golembiewski, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Ritter, Mrs. Erenberg, Mr. McMurray, Mrs. Cuervo, Mr. Hvizdos and Mrs. Smith and Dr. Buzzatto.

Also present were Dr. Nina Zetty, Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Merante, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Solomon, Business Manager.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (15 minutes)

“Any parent, guardian, resident, or community group shall have the right to present a request, suggestion, or complaint concerning district personnel, programs, or operations of the district. At the same time, the Board has a duty to protect its staff from harassment. Consequently, the board does not and will not condone personal attacks directed toward district personnel. It is the Board’s intent to provide a fair and impartial manner for seeking appropriate remedies.

Any suggestions or complaints directed to individual Board members and/or the Board shall be referred to the superintendent and/or appropriate administrator for consideration and action. Personnel complaints directed toward an individual(s) are not subject for discussion or review at a public meeting of the Board of School Directors.”

(Peters Township School District Policy 1312)

- Mark Sanders of 460 Thompsonville Road, President of Peters Township Baseball Association spoke in support of the PV Athletic Field project as presented on the agenda.
- David Hoffman of 537 Justabout Rd, requested clarification regarding the staffing procedure for replacing teachers on leave. He questioned the validity of the 3.7 GPA requirements to be hired.
- Joe Femiani of 227 Gateshead Dr., spoke in support of the PV Athletic Project. Mr. Femiani outlined the history of the teams and participants at the high school since 1975; he stated how important this would be to our student athletes.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: Mrs. Sullivan requested that the Board not rustle their papers near the microphones as it makes it hard for those watching the Board meeting to hear.

NEW BUSINESS: None

I. BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel

Cindy Golembiewski

1. RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to employ Joyce Dahlstrom as the Assistant Supervisor of Buildings Grounds and Transportation, effective March 2, 2011 for an initial term of three years at an annual starting salary of \$52,000 (attachment).

- Mrs. Golembiewski moved approval of the Personnel Committee recommendation 1, seconded by Mrs. Cuervo

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

2. RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve the following as day-to-day substitute teacher for an extended period of time for the remainder of the 2010-11 school year, pending receipt of all compliance documents. Employees will not begin work within or for the District until documents are on file, except in special circumstances approved by the Superintendent (attachment).

Name: Annalese Weldy
Position: Mathematics 7-12
Assignment: High School
Effective: February 16, 2011
Replaces: Maura Palermo

- Mrs. Golembiewski moved approval of the Personnel Committee recommendation 2, seconded by Mrs. Cuervo

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

Buildings and Grounds

Lori Cuervo

- Mrs. Cuervo read into the minutes the following statement:

Before we get to the motions this evening. I would like to provide some background information for township residents with respect to the work the Buildings and Grounds Committee has done for the past year. I believe this is necessary as the Committee meetings are seldom televised, and it is important for residents to understand how we arrived tonight's motions.

Nearly one year ago the School District launched the Facilities and Enrollment committee. This Committee consisted of school district administration, teachers, and community residents. As part of the Committee's report, they recommended improvements and modifications to each of the school buildings as well as the athletic complexes.

The Building and Grounds Committee used this report as well as enrollment projections and classroom usage information as the basis for continuing its review of the school district's facilities. As a board, we prioritized our goals and determined that the PV Athletic Complex and the High School Campus were our top priorities for continued analysis at this time.

For many months, our Committee has worked with the administration and architects to review various improvements plans for both the PV Athletic Complex and the High School Campus. With respect to the PV Athletic Complex, many improvement plans were reviewed, including several designs and cost analysis. The design and cost structure presented tonight are the culmination of input from this board, the administration, community members, and architects.

As one might imagine, the task of analyzing the High School Campus and preparing an improvement plan is an onerous one. The administration and teachers have held numerous meetings to discuss modifying the High School Campus to deal with enrollment increases both now and in the future and to address 21st Century learning environments. A construction plan of this size is not something that happens every few years. Therefore, any modifications to the High School Campus must address our needs for many years to come. I want to assure you that the administration and our Committee are continuing to commit the resources necessary to develop a High School Campus improvement plan and hope to present it to you in the near future. Improvements to both the High School Campus and the PV Athletic Complex have a profound impact on our students. Nearly 1,500 students currently attend our High School, and current projections show this number increasing. In the Spring of 2010 and Fall of 2011, our athletic programs and marching band had over 1,150 participants. These students rely on the school district to provide them with the facilities needed for delivering an excellent education as well as the facilities required for athletics and performances, and improving these facilities cannot be delayed indefinitely. Providing these facilities while balancing the cost to the taxpayer is the daunting task of the School Board. And I know that none of us takes this task lightly.

So without further ado,

3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider a motion to authorize the administration to advertise for bids for the athletic field improvements at the Pleasant Valley Elementary School site, as presented; and further authorize the administration to work with the architect to secure necessary approvals from local and state agencies and assist in the development of the final specifications for competitive bidding (attachment). This project will be funded by the issuing of long term debt to be secured prior to the awarding of contracts.

MOTION:

Mrs. Cuervo moved approval of the Buildings and Grounds Committee recommendation 3, seconded by Mrs. Golembiewski

- Mr. Hvizdos read the following statement into the minutes:

The process to approve this new facility started over a year ago. It started during our last goal setting meeting where we agreed and directed the superintendent and her staff to create a plan to upgrade and turf the field in this district. After the evidence was gathered and presented to us we now have an opportunity to move our athletic programs forward and give our children a better chance to compete and develop. I would ask the board as they consider their vote to ignore the fact that it is an election year and vote to do what is best for our children. We cannot sit here and do nothing and wait for the economy to fully recover and interest rates to go back up. We have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of a lot of our students. We should support the decisions we make in a planning session. We should see the big picture and work together. The future is now, the need is now, and the time for your decision is now. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference.

- Mrs Sullivan requested a review of all building walk-throughs prior to proceeding with future plans for the High School as well as the 5 year plan for the February 28th meeting.
- Mrs. Cuervos stated that the board was provided with the results of the building walk-throughs and a summary that Dr. Zetty had presented in December for the 5 year plan. Mrs. Cuervo stated that these are being rolled into the budget planning process. Additionally Dr. Zetty stated that the board will be getting more updates as the sub-committees move forward and they will be on the Buildings and Grounds agenda for the February 28th meeting.
- Mrs. Smith stated that at the December Buildings and Grounds meeting the board received a Capital project financing overview and questioned how we would go about financing this project.
- Mr. Solomon stated that several alternatives for borrowing money were discussed for a variety of projects as estimated by the architect. The Board was provided with the annual repayment costs for 4 million, 5 million and 10 million. Mr. Solomon also stated that he did not know which combination of borrowing the District would pursue.
- Dr. Buzzatto stated that he cannot support this project because he does not have the information regarding the big picture. Dr. Buzzatto also stated that he felt that certain groups such as the Dance Team, Wrestling and Cheerleading needs have been overlooked. He also stated that the District cannot afford these projects. Dr. Buzzatto further stated that this project will affect the educational program but does not address any educational needs.

- Mrs. Cuervo stated that as part of the High School analysis that has been ongoing, we have been addressing other athletics and activities groups within our schools. The High School Campus analysis also includes the needs of theatre, band, basketball, and other indoor gym activities. It also includes the cheerleaders and dance team. Mrs. Cuervo would like to assure the Board that the Buildings and Grounds committee is not ignoring these groups. She informed the Board that they will be seeing an analysis as part of the High School campus project.
- Mrs. Golembiewski stated that she feels the District has not kept pace with the Athletic needs over the past 15 years but feels that this is important to the district and the community.
- Mr. McMurray stated that he would like to see the entire committee report regarding the High School improvements and see how the budget will end up for the year and stated that he cannot support this project at this time.
- Mrs. Smith stated that she would like to see the big picture for the District going into the future. She stated that she would like to know what else the District going to do going forward as far as academics, other facilities and stated that she cannot support this motion at this time.
- Mrs. Ritter requested a roll call vote

Mrs. Golembiewski voted yes
 Mrs. Erenberg voted yes
 Mrs. Smith voted no
 Mr. Hvizdos voted yes
 Mrs. Ritter voted yes

Mrs. Cuervo voted yes
 Dr. Buzzatto voted no
 Mr. McMurray voted no
 Mrs. Sullivan voted yes

MOTION CARRIED
(6-3)

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to approve PDE 3074 for a non-reimbursable construction project for the upper athletic fields at Pleasant Valley Elementary School for a total estimated cost of \$2,505,000 (attachment).

MOTION:

Mrs. Cuervo moved approval of the Buildings and Grounds Committee recommendation for the approval of PDE 3074, seconded by Mrs. Golembiewski

- Mrs. Ritter requested a roll call vote

Mrs. Golembiewski voted yes
 Mrs. Erenberg voted yes
 Mrs. Smith voted no
 Mr. Hvizdos voted yes
 Mrs. Ritter voted yes

Mrs. Cuervo voted yes
 Dr. Buzzatto voted no
 Mr. McMurray voted no
 Mrs. Sullivan voted yes

MOTION CARRIED
(6-3)

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a motion to enter into an agreement with HHSDR Architects for the purpose of designing, preparing specifications and monitoring the athletic field improvements including turf, concessions, bleachers, parking, and lighting for fee of 6% of the final construction cost (attachment).

MOTION:

Mrs. Cuervo moved approval of the Buildings and Grounds Committee recommendation for the approval to enter into an agreement with HHSDR, seconded by Mrs. Golembiewski

- Mrs. Sullivan questioned the cost for HHSDR specifically the impact change orders will have on the fee.
- Dr. Buzzatto suggested a limit on the change orders
- Mr. Solomon state that the District has never exceeded 1% of the project, but the District has never done a project this small. He reminded the Board that orders cannot be processed without Board approval.

MOTION CARRIED

(6-3)

Dr. Buzzatto voted no Mrs. Smith voted no Mr. McMurray voted no

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS (15 minutes): None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

March 9, 2011 Closed Personnel 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

March 16, 2011 Closed Personnel 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

Mrs. Sullivan moved for adjournment at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Golembiewski

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(9-0)

Board Secretary

Board President