

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of School Directors Meeting
June 2, 2009

The June 2, 2009, Boyertown Area School District Board of School Directors meeting was convened by President Robert Haas at 7:00 PM in the Boyertown Area School District Education Center.

CALL TO ORDER

The following members were present:

ROLL CALL

John R. Crossley	Robert J. Haas	John C. Roth
Linda A. Curry	Barbara W. Hartford	Gwendolyn W. Semmens
Ruth A. Dierolf	Joseph M. Nichols	Albert E. Turchanik

The following member was absent: None

Everyone participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America and a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
MOMENT OF SILENCE

No Previous Executive Session was announced.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF
PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE
SESSIONS

Mr. Haas asked if there were any members of the audience that would like to address the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Donna Usavage spoke about the budget workshop minutes of April 21, 2009.

The minutes for the Board of School Directors meeting of May 26, 2009, were presented to the Board for approval. The minutes were amended under treasurer's report section to read "a Board member commented on a \$10,000 budget transfer for psychiatric evaluations" and under the board comments section to add information from Senator O'Pake's letter concerning the fifteen year solution to the retirement liability situation. Motion moved by Mrs. Dierolf, second by Mr. Crossley. Motion to accept the minutes of May 26, 2009, Board of School Directors meeting, as amended, carries: Yea: Crossley, Curry, Hartford, Nichols, Roth, Semmens, Turchanik, Dierolf, Haas. Nay: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Secretary's Report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No Solicitor's Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

High-performing schools focus on having quality employees in all positions in the District. The District recognized and honored the eighteen employees who are retiring after giving many years of quality service in the Boyertown Area School District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Robin Rosenberry, Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resources, recognized the following retiring employees:

RECOGNITION OF
RETIREES

Michael Hanley	Nancy Pringle	Delores Weiss
David Marshall	David Reider	

Dr. Morgan announced the retirement of Gwendolyn Malecki, Assistant Principal at Boyertown Area Senior High.

Barbara Bigler, Boyertown Area Educational Association President, recognized the following professionals retiring with a combined 333 ½ years of service to Boyertown:

Connie Buckwalter	Gayle Kramer	Donna Peterman
Kathryn Galtere	Nina Landis	Denise Slifer
Margaret Harner	Susan LeClair	Ann Wagner
Linda Heffner	Pamela McLaughlin	Gail Wolfgang

Budget workshops were held on April 21, 2009, and May 11, 2009. The minutes from each of the budget workshops were not formally approved. Administration recommends the approval of the minutes as presented.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET
WORKSHOP MINUTES

Motion moved by Mrs. Semmens, second by Mrs. Hartford. Motion to approve the Budget Workshop Minutes of the April 21, 2009, and May 11, 2009 meetings, carries: Yea: Crossley, Curry, Hartford, Nichols, Roth, Semmens, Turchanik, Dierolf, Haas. Nay: None.

In accordance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006 and the Pennsylvania School Code, the Boyertown Area School District must adopt a budget and establish the various tax rates for the upcoming year. The proposed final budget was adopted on April 30, 2009. This year, the Board passed a resolution certifying that the District's tax increase would be below the published Act 1 Index and the average proposed tax increase associated with the 2009-2010 budget is zero percent. The following final budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year was determined through budget workshops with the Board of School Directors and is submitted for approval.

FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010
FINAL BUDGET AND TAX
LEVY APPROVAL

Revenue

Function	General Fund	Other Funds	Total Budget
LOCAL REVENUE	57,029,894	54,951	57,084,845
STATE REVENUE	25,170,008	737,380	25,907,388
FEDERAL REVENUE		3,782,912	3,782,912
<u>OTHER REVENUE</u>	<u>80,000</u>		<u>80,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	82,279,902	4,575,243	86,855,145

Expenditures

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total Budget
REGULAR ED.	34,343,361	952,526	35,295,887
SPECIAL ED.	8,988,093	2,290,226	11,278,319
VOCATION ED.	1,600,933		1,600,933
OTHER ED PROG.	558,348	225,487	783,835
ADULT ED.	12,535		12,535
PUPIL SERVICES	2,354,668		2,354,668
MEDIA SERVICES	4,046,471	249,620	4,296,091
ADMINISTRATION	5,388,546		5,388,546
MEDICAL SERVICES	851,923		851,923
BUSINESS SERVICES	1,008,070		1,008,070
BUILDING OPER.	7,371,940		7,371,940
TRANSPORTATION	5,027,117	108,564	5,135,681
CENTRAL SERVICES	1,171,018	5,241	1,176,259
OTHER SERVICES	90,176		90,176
STUDENT ACTIVITIES	1,042,902		1,042,902
COMMUNITY SERVICE	28,797		28,797
DEBT SERVICE	7,145,004		7,145,004
FUND TRANSFERS	1,000,000		1,000,000
<u>BUDGETARY RESERVE</u>	<u>250,000</u>	<u>743,579</u>	<u>993,579</u>
TOTAL EXP. BUDGET	82,279,902	4,575,243	86,855,145

Approves the levy of taxes as follows:

Under Section 679, Pennsylvania School Code, Per Capita Tax of \$5.00

Under Section 511, Pennsylvania School Code, 1% Real Estate Transfer Tax (.5% District, .5% Municipality), 1% Earned Income Tax (.5% District, .5% Municipality), \$10 Occupational Privilege Tax (\$5 District, \$5 Municipality), \$10 Per Capita Tax (\$5 District, \$5 Municipality).

The preliminary real estate millage for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is projected at:

Berks County	20.02
Montgomery County	19.66

Motion moved by Mrs. Hartford, second by Mrs. Dierolf.

Mr. Szablowski presented a brief summary of the 2009-2010 budget to the School Board.

Mrs. Curry questioned how the Federal Stimulus IDEA Funds (IDEA-ARRA) were addressed in the budget. Mr. Szablowski explained the expenditures for the IDEA-ARRA were budgeted over two years with revenue in the first year deferred to cover the second year expenses.

Mr. Turchanik asked questions on the homestead/farmstead application process.

Mrs. Hartford commented on the tax history and the average tax increase per year of approximately 2% in comparison to other school districts. Mrs. Hartford explained that she believes a zero percent tax increase is not fiscally responsible for the future. Mrs. Hartford asked why there is confusion after 18 budget meetings. Mrs. Hartford supported the April 6, 2009, budget which had a 2.8% tax increase and a Pennsylvania School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) contribution rate of 7.13%, which would address the 2012-2013 spike. Mrs. Hartford stated she will vote for the budget because the Board needs to move on and get bills out.

Mr. Haas stated that there were contributions from many people in developing the budget. The PSERS contribution was a concern, but said other government entities have deficits to address.

Mrs. Semmens also supported the April 6, 2009, version of the budget and stated that the Board must be responsible to taxpayers for future tax increases. Mrs. Semmens would normally vote no because of lack of fiscal responsibility but thanked administration and will support the budget although she expressed frustration with the process.

Mr. Nichols stated that tax increases are frustrating for taxpayers and supports the proposed zero percent budget. The PSERS future liability will be addressed in the future.

Mrs. Dierolf expressed her concern about of the economy, with people losing jobs and benefits. Mrs. Dierolf questioned the information supplied to her in reference to the Information Technology department. Mrs. Dierolf questioned the budget effect of the four year math proposal. Dr. Morgan explained that no additional staff would be required until the senior year of the incoming ninth graders. Mrs. Dierolf stated that due to phone calls from constituents asking her to vote no, she cannot support the proposed budget.

Mr. Turchanik recapped several objections he expressed at previous budget meetings and stated it is a pay now or pay later scenario. Mr. Turchanik believes that while people are losing jobs there are no sacrifices in this budget and stated it is business as usual.

Mr. Haas conceded that a lot of time was spent developing the budget and that no budget pleases everyone, but stated that this budget addressed most peoples concerns.

Mr. Turchanik stated his concern with the budget and suggested monitoring expenditures to reduce costs. Mrs. Dierolf favored the idea.

Mrs. Hartford tried to clarify the Information Technology staff member justification.

Mr. Crossley called for a vote.

Motion to approve the final 2009-2010 budget as presented above, carries: Yea: Crossley, Hartford, Nichols, Semmens, Haas. Nay: Curry, Roth, Turchanik, Dierolf.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has certified that, pursuant to Special Session Act 1 of 2006, it will distribute funds during the 2009-2010 school year to the Boyertown Area School District for property tax relief. The Department's certification indicates it will give the District \$1,790,399.50 with payment in August 2009 and October 2009. The Berks and Montgomery County Assessors' offices have certified, as required by Act 1, the specific properties within the District that have been approved as Homesteads and Farmsteads within the District. Within those certifications, there are 11,635 approved Homesteads and 144 approved Farmsteads. The District is required to designate the Homestead exclusion and to designate the Farmstead exclusion no later than the last day prior to the beginning of the year for which the exclusions will apply, and for budget year 2009-2010 that date will be June 30, 2009. The Homestead exclusion and the Farmstead exclusion set by the District are each fixed dollar amounts that may not exceed one-half the median assessment on approved Homestead properties within the District as of the date of the County's certification and shall only apply to calculation of District property taxes. The Farmstead exclusion may be equal to or less than the Homestead exclusion, but may not be greater than the Homestead exclusion.

Motion moved by Mr. Crossley, second by Mrs. Hartford. Motion to resolve on behalf of the District's approved Homestead and Farmstead owners and the Board accepts all property tax reduction allocations offered to the District pursuant to Act 1 and declares it will not seek to reject any such funds as permitted under Act 1, Chapter 9. In order to utilize, as directed in Act 1, the Certified Funds for property tax relief, the District resolves to set the maximum property tax reductions for its approved Homestead and Farmstead properties at \$7,603 for Berks County and \$7,742 for Montgomery County. In the 2009-2010 school year, the real estate tax rate for the District is 20.02 mills in Berks County and 19.66 mills in Montgomery County. Using the District's millage rates, converting the maximum tax reduction for Homesteads yields a \$152.21 Homestead exclusion and Farmstead exclusion. Where the Assessor has approved a property as both a Homestead and Farmstead, the property will receive multiple exclusions, however, whether eligible for multiple exclusions or not, no property may exclude an amount from its assessment greater than the assessed value of the property. The exclusions will apply to tax notices issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills. Any property which loses its approval as a Homestead or Farmstead after the beginning of the District's budget year, shall be taxed from that point at the full assessed value without exclusion, and shall receive an interim tax bill reflecting the balance due, carries: Yea: Crossley, Curry, Hartford, Nichols, Roth, Semmens, Turchanik, Dierolf, Haas. Nay: None.

The Board of School Directors has held meetings in both school buildings and in the Education Center. The meetings for the second semester of the 2008-2009 school year were all held at the Education Center. There has been some discussion about moving all the Board meetings for the 2009-2010 school year to the Education Center.

Motion moved by Mrs. Curry, second by Mr. Crossley. There was discussion on the advantages and importance of having meetings in the school buildings. Motion to approve that the 2009-2010 Board of School Directors' meetings be held at the Education Center, does not carry: Yea: Curry, Turchanik, Dierolf, Haas. Nay: Crossley, Hartford, Nichols, Roth, Semmens.

The Board's practice is to approve trips taken by students that require overnight stays.

Approximately 18 students from several elementary schools and both junior high schools have been selected by the American Choral Director's Association to perform at the All State Honor Choir. The event will be held at State College, Pennsylvania on August 1-2, 2009. Teachers-in-charge – Jeffrey Brunner and Jamie Cullipher.

1976
HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
APPROVAL

BOARD OF SCHOOL
DIRECTORS' MEETING
LOCATION

STUDENT OVERNIGHT
TRIPS APPROVAL

District expenses

Chaperone Registration and Housing (\$319. each).....	\$638.00
Transportation (school van/fuel estimate).....	\$134.74
Total District Expenses	\$772.74

Non District Expenses

Registration and Housing (\$172/student).....	\$3,096.00
Total Non District Expenses.....	\$3,096.00

Motion moved by Mr. Crossley, second by Mrs. Hartford. A board member was concerned about parents providing the transportation for the event and if there was any liability involved for the school district with this arrangement. Motion to approve the above overnight student trip: Yea: Crossley, Curry, Hartford, Nichols, Roth, Semmens, Turchanik, Dierolf, Haas. Nay: None.

The Boyertown Area School District Food Service Department has been furnishing daily lunches for the Perkiomen Valley Academy (PVA) for a number of years. Administration requests approval to enter into a service contract with PVA, to provide lunch service for the 2009-2010 school year. The price per lunch is \$2.70 for an estimated 40 daily lunches for 170 school days, totaling \$18,360.

PERKIOMEN VALLEY
ACADEMY FOOD SERVICE
CONTRACT

Motion moved by Mrs. Hartford, second by Mrs. Dierolf. Board members asked if the food service department is making a profit with this lunch service contract. Motion to authorize and approve the contract with Perkiomen Valley Academy for the Boyertown Food Service Department to provide lunch service for the 2009-2010 school year, carries: Yea: Crossley, Curry, Hartford, Nichols, Roth, Semmens, Turchanik, Dierolf, Haas. Nay: None.

The Facilities Engineer produced the specifications for the repaving of the Colebrookdale Elementary School parking lot and added addendums for the paving of the north driveway entrance of the Support Services Building and the Colebrookdale playground area, identified as Alternate #1 and #2 respectively. Bids were received and opened on May 21, 2009. Bids have been reviewed and Administration recommends the award of the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, EJB Paving & Materials Co., Reading, PA with bid prices as follows:

BID AWARD
COLEBROOKDALE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARKING LOT
SUPPORT SERVICES
BUILDING ENTRANCE
COLEBROOKDALE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND AREA

Base Bid	\$ 73,205
Alternate #1	\$ 11,900
Alternate #2	\$ 29,650
Total	\$114,755

The cost of the repaving project will be funded through the Capital Projects Fund.

Motion moved by Mrs. Semmens, second by Mrs. Curry. Board members commented on the bids being lower than expected and that bidding several projects together certainly saved dollars. Motion to approve the bid for the repaving of the Colebrookdale Elementary School parking lot, Alternate #1, and Alternate #2 and award the contracted work as specified in the bid specifications to the EJB Paving and Materials Co., Reading, PA at the total bid price of \$114,755 with the repaving project being funded through the Capital Projects Fund, carries: Yea: Crossley, Curry, Hartford, Nichols, Roth, Semmens, Turchanik, Dierolf, Haas. Nay: None.

The following are the low bids for each respective category for the 2009-2010 school year that must be Board approved prior to award.

Tech Ed Supplies

Brodhead-Garret Company, Mansfield, OH	\$ 86.59
Kelvin, Farmingdale, NY	\$ 275.00

BID AWARDS
TECH ED SUPPLIES
GENERAL SUPPLIES
AUDIO VISUAL SUPPLIES

Kurtz Brothers, Clearfield, PA	\$ 497.93
Metco Supply, Inc., Leechburg, PA	\$ 2,403.26
Midwest Tech. Products, Sioux City, IA	\$ 2,122.95
O'Shea Lumber Company, Glen Rock, PA	\$ 945.00
Paxton Patterson, Chicago, IL	\$ 618.95
Pitsco, Pittsburg, KS	\$ 317.13
Retco Alloy, Elk Grove Village, IL	\$ 1,322.49
Satco Supply, St. Paul, MN	\$ 1,952.99
The Art Store Inc., Kutztown, PA	\$ 1,957.46
Valley Litho Supply, Rice Lake, WI	\$ 541.82
TOTAL	\$13,041.57

General Supplies

Elgin School Supply Co. Inc., Chico, CA	\$ 383.07
Kurtz Brothers, Clearfield, PA	\$13,736.08
Office Basics, Inc, Boothwyn, PA	\$ 9,755.04
Pyramid School Products, Tampa, FL	\$ 9,425.83
School Specialty, Appleton, WI	\$ 5,661.50
The Art Store Inc., Kutztown, PA	\$ 6,016.80
Wrigley's Office Supply, Douglassville, PA	\$ 590.74
TOTAL	\$45,569.06

Audio Visual Supplies

Impex Micro, Basking Ridge, NJ	\$ 1,589.39
Pyramid School Products, Tampa, FL	\$ 494.28
TOTAL	\$ 2,083.67

Motion moved by Mrs. Semmens, second by Mr. Crossley. Motion to approve the award of the above stated bids for the 2009-2010 school year, carries: Yea: Crossley, Curry, Hartford, Nichols, Roth, Semmens, Turchanik, Dierolf, Haas. Nay: None.

The Board of School Directors will be asked to approve additional elementary science textbooks per the Pennsylvania School Code, Article VIII, Section 803 and in accordance with the information presented in the preliminary budget. The texts are on display at the Education Center in the office of Dr. Karen Beerer, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and are available for public review. The textbooks are:

McGraw Hill/Wright Group Content Essentials for Science ©2009,
Classroom Sets for grades 1-6; each classroom set includes 24 soft
cover student books, 1 teacher guide, 1 CD-ROM and 1 blackline
masters book.

The Administration will be asking for the approval at the June 16, 2009, meeting. Board members inquired about the cost and number of books being purchased.

The Board of School Directors considered the following notices of resignation:

Classified:

Elizabeth A. Lepre

Position: Paraprofessional – Learning Support Aide (6.5 hrs/day)
School: Gilbertsville Elementary
Effective: May 29, 2009

Kristina L. Schneider

Position: Paraprofessional – Autistic Support Aide (6.5 hrs/day)
School: Washington Elementary
Effective: June 12, 2009

TEXTBOOKS
ELEMENTARY SCIENCE
BOOKS ON DISPLAY
PENDING APPROVAL

PERSONNEL
RESIGNATIONS

Mrs. Dierolf expressed her concern about the future and current economic factors.

Mr. Haas suggested a draft letter be circulated to Board members and presented at the June 16, 2009, Board meeting. Mr. Haas said deferring payment over fifteen years is not an option. Dr. Morgan stated a draft letter will be completed to meet the suggested date.

Mrs. Semmens thanked Mr. Haas for reading Senator O'Pake's letter.

Mr. Turchanik suggested the Board must respond to the contribution rate issue or go along with the status quo, which is not acceptable.

Mrs. Hartford said she voted yes to accept the budget as presented on April 30, 2009, to move the budget process forward, however, she was not in favor of zero percent increase. Mrs. Hartford does not feel it is fiscally responsible given the history of tax increases being under the consumer price index in the past four years. A zero percent budget puts the District in a hole when considering future economic concerns.

Mr. Roth noted he voted no because he felt there was room in the budget for additional cuts. Mr. Roth stated the school district needs to continue to try and save money. Mr. Roth made a motion to direct Dr. Morgan to reorganize and reduce one central administration staff member in the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Turchanik seconded the motion.

Mr. Haas asked if there were any members of the audience that would like to address the Board on the motion.

No Public Comment.

Mrs. Hartford asked for clarification as to whether the reorganization and reduction of central administration staff was to save on budget dollars or an effectiveness issue.

Mr. Roth stated he believes a reduction in staff will not negatively impact the students and that the current level of service can be delivered with one less staff member in the central office.

Mrs. Semmens noted Dr. Morgan was hired to promote student achievement and progress is being realized under the current arrangement. Mrs. Semmens stated her concern that this suggestion would eventually impact student performance. Dr. Morgan implemented a program and staff to carry out the necessary duties and Mrs. Semmens cannot support the proposed action. Mrs. Semmens stated that employees and students would be negatively impacted by this suggestion.

Dr. Morgan stated he received a charge when hired and he felt it his obligation to make the necessary personnel moves to achieve the success the Board wanted from the superintendent position. Dr. Morgan noted he restructured and eliminated a position from the central administration staff when he first started to help accomplish the student achievement goals. Dr. Morgan strongly disagreed with the motion to reduce the central office staff. Students are achieving at a higher level. Mr. Sultanik was consulted as to the legal ramifications.

Mr. Sultanik referenced the PA School Code and stated there are limitations as to how staff can be reduced. First, the personnel designations must be considered. The central office positions are the Superintendent, two Assistant Superintendents, Human Resources Director, Staff Development Director, and Business Manager. The Human Resources Director and Business Manager are not considered professional positions and could be removed although the Business Manager does have a term as Board Secretary. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents are commissioned officers. The Staff Development position is a professional position but would require a substantial decline in enrollment or a district reorganization approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to improve education as reasons to reduce staff. The only option to reduce

MOTION TO
REORGANIZE AND
REDUCE CENTRAL
ADMINISTRATION STAFF

staff without the above stated two reasons would be the Human Resources Director.

Mr. Haas asked if there were any changes to the motion after the legal opinion had been shared. There were no suggested changes.

Mr. Crossley moved to table the motion, second by Mrs. Hartford. Motion to table the motion to direct Dr. Morgan to reorganize and reduce one central administration staff member in the 2009-2010 school year, carries: Yea: Crossley, Hartford, Nichols, Semmens, Haas. Nay: Curry, Roth, Turchanik, Dierolf.

MOTION TO TABLE
CENTRAL
ADMINISTRATION STAFF
REORGANIZATION AND
REDUCTION

Mr. Crossley stated that at the board meeting of March 28, 2006, the vote was six to three in favor of approving a transportation agreement for a three year term with two one-year options which was considerably more costly than the lowest received proposal. The contract is currently being renegotiated. Several of the terms of the agreement were discussed, including the added term of the extension. The cost of the proposed service would be zero percent increase the first two years and three percent increases year three through five. Mr. Crossley suggested allowing other providers a chance to submit proposals based on the new provisions.

Mrs. Semmens has received positive comments from the public on students having exemplary behavior at the prom, which made her proud of the students. Mrs. Semmens said she voted yes for the budget even though she feels a zero percent increase budget is not fiscally responsible and that she preferred the budget presented on April 6, 2009. Mrs. Semmens said she was approached by a senior citizen who missed the children's performances during the televised Board meetings.

Mr. Nichols requested the school district organization chart be given to the Board with the Central Administrators duties defined. Mr. Nichols stated he was the driver for a field trip with Junior High East honor students and they were very well-behaved.

Mr. Haas stated he attended the sports banquet and was given the opportunity to address the athletes. Mr. Haas stated his concerns about time concerns and the return to the buildings for meetings related to the effectiveness of the meetings.

Mr. Haas asked if there were any members of the audience that would like to address the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

No Public Comment.

Mr. Haas announced the following Board of School Directors public meetings:

June 8, 2009	Policy Committee	Education Center	6:30 PM
June 10, 2009	Facilities Committee	Education Center	9:00 AM
June 11, 2009	Graduation	Memorial Stadium	7:00 PM
June 15, 2009	Personnel Committee	Education Center	5:00 PM
June 16, 2009	Board of School Directors	Education Center	7:00 PM
July 14, 2009	Board of School Directors	Education Center	7:00 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Mr. Haas announced the Board would be going into executive session.

There being no other business for consideration by the Board of School Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM, moved by Mrs. Semmens, second by Mr. Crossley.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Szablowski, Board Secretary