

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

SPECIAL MEETING

March 16, 2011

Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room

8:00 p.m.

Minutes

- I. President Horace Cole called the meeting to order at 8:21 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Members present were: James Brunkard, Horace Cole, Robert Cooke, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Bet Hays, Audrey Hocker and Robert Huffman. William Searfoss was absent.
- III. School personnel present: Jennifer Agolino, Patricia Bader, Jean Benfante, Ann Marie Berardi, Tina Betencourt, Jessica Bilello, Angela Byrne, Anthony Calderone, Ann Catrillo, Ed Christian, Stephanie Clark, Lucianna Coke, Donna Conklin, Elizabeth English, Carol Geiges, Linda Gittens, Jill Greenwood, Heather Gress, Marjory Gullstrand, Sara Hendricks, Scott Hnasko, Eric Jacobson, Suzanne Lagace, Brooke K. Langan, Sharon Laverdure, Phil Lazowski, Olivia V. Lesoine, Craig Long, Kristin Lord, Joel Lowris, John Madas, Martina Matheis, Amanda McGee, Ed Mooney, Carrie Panepinto, Cynthia Pellington, Danny Phillips, Annelle Prefontaine, Susanne Rasely-Phillipps, Amanda Reiche, Patricia Rosado, Mary Sagan, Paul H. Schmid, Mary Shadle, Cherie Shearouse, Robert Shields, Amanda Signorello, Heather Skeldon, Jennifer Spece, Patricia Tiernan, Billie Trauschke, Catherine Van Winkle, Robin Walker, Thomas J. Williams Beth Wunschuh, Linda Wisneiski, Nadia Worobij, Ann Zanella and Lindsey Zimmerman. Also present was: Thomas Divronas, Solicitor.
- IV. Community members present: Andrews, Milagros Briggs, Sandra Deilzers, Roy Horton, Margie James, Erin Kichline, Michelle Mangiongot, Mike Meachem, Verona Meachem, Beth-Ann Miller, Chris Stanukencij and Marlene Yip.
- Media Guest Present: Chad Smith, Pocono Record

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve this agenda for March 16, 2011 (page 1), as submitted. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman and carried unanimously, 8-0.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE BOARD

- A. Mr. Cole announced that there was an Executive Session held this evening prior to this meeting to discuss negotiations and personnel items. Also, prior to this meeting, not knowing how many were going to be in attendance, they had the auditorium set up in case there was an overflow crowd. He stated that they would have moved the meeting over to the auditorium. Mr. Cole stated that the Regular School Board meeting will be on Monday, March 21, 2011, at this same location at 7:00 p.m.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- Agenda Items Only

- A. Mr. Meachem asked if the Fact Finding Report that the Board will be voting on this evening will be available to the public. Mr. Dirvonas stated that he would ask our labor counsel, John Audi, who is present here tonight, to respond to that question. Mr. John Audi stated that, by law, the Fact Finding Report cannot be disclosed until it is reported to the Labor Board whether there is an acceptance or rejection ten days from its issuance which will be tomorrow. He stated that it will be available for inspection after it is published by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to accept the resignation of Robert C. Huffman as Treasurer for the District for the balance of the 2010 – 2011 school year. This resignation is required in that Mr. Huffman has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board until the December 2011 reorganization meeting and is prohibited from serving both as a Board Member and as Treasurer. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and carried unanimously, 8-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by James Brunkard to appoint Donald Motts as Treasurer for the District for the balance of the 2010 – 2011 school year, effective immediately, to replace Robert C. Huffman who has resigned. The District shall pay the cost of the required bond. Mr. Motts shall serve without compensation, other than mileage and actual expenses. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman and carried unanimously, 8-0.

Ms. Hocker asked what is actual expenses. Mr. Cole asked Mr. Dirvonas what could be actual expenses. Mr. Dirvonas stated that it is any actual out-of-pocket expense that they might incur. Mr. Huffman said he did not have any but it is just in case he had to travel.

IX. ACTION ON FACT FINDING REPORT

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by James Brunkard to accept the Fact Finding Report of PLRB Fact Finder Robert C. Gifford as it relates to negotiations between the District and the East Stroudsburg Area Education Association for a successor collective bargaining agreement. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman. A roll call vote was taken and passed 7-0-1 abstention. James Brunkard, Horace Cole, Robert Cooke, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Bet Hays and Robert Huffman voted yes. Audrey Hocker abstained.

Ms. Hocker stated that she abstains from this vote only because she is looking at this at the last minute and she does not really know what it says. She stated that she has to abstain because she is not sure what she is voting for. Mr. Dirvonas asked if she will be signing an appropriate abstention memorandum. Ms. Hocker said, "If necessary, yes". Mr. Dirvonas asked the Board secretary to make sure that Ms. Hocker gets a copy of the abstention memorandum stating the reason that she stated on the record.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

Mr. Brunkard thanked everybody who participated in the process over this long time period that they have attempted to negotiate the contract. He stated that he especially wants to thank the administration. Mr. Gress stated that he would like to thank Mr. Brunkard, Mr. Freeman and Mr. Motts for their work on this as well as the teachers. He stated that he would like to personally thank the teachers for all of the work that they do in these tough economic times. He stated that we just want to move forward and educate the students as best that we can and make good use of each dollar from the taxpayers. Mr. Cole said, "Well said, Mr. Gress".

XI. ADJOURNMENT 8:31 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado
Board Secretary