

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

REORGANIZATION MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2011

Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room

5:00 p.m.

Minutes

- I. The Board Secretary, Patricia Rosado called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Presentation of Certificates of Election – Mr. Thomas Dirvonas, Solicitor, stated that he received from the County Board of Elections Office election certificates. He stated that he is not going to read them in detail but it is in the standard form. Mr. Dirvonas stated that he has a certificate for William Searfoss, Roy Horton, Ronald D. Bradley, Michael Mike Meachem, Marjorie James and Eileen H. Featherman. He stated that he has originals and will be given to the Board Secretary for inclusion in the records of the Board of Education. Mr. Dirvonas stated that in order for the new members to take office and assume their official duties, we are required to have them take the oath of office. He stated that he is glad to have the Honorable Judge Linda Wallach Miller present tonight again, after performing this duty for many years to administer the oath of office. Mr. Dirvonas stated that he believes that the newly elected and reelected Board members have a copy of that oath in front of them to sign after they take that oath and which Judge Miller will acknowledge so we can include in the records.

The Honorable Judge Linda Wallach Miller asked the elected and reelected Board members to stand, Mr. Searfoss, Mr. Horton, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Meachem, Ms. James and Ms. Featherman. She asked them to raise their right hand and repeat after her as follows:

I do solemnly swear that I will support obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity. Judge Miller congratulated and welcomed them to the East Stroudsburg Area School District School Board. She stated, “My good wishes and good luck go with you”. Judge Miller stated that public service is always an adventure. She said good luck and asked them to sign their oath and she will acknowledge them. Mr. Dirvonas stated that he would like to personally thank Judge Miller for coming here once again, after many many years that she has performed this function. He stated that probably fortunately for her but unfortunately for us, this will be one of her last public appearances, in that she will be retiring in January after many years of faithful service to the county and the court system. Judge Miller thanked him for the opportunity and said “Good Luck”.

- III. The Board Secretary, Patricia Rosado called the roll. Members present were: Ronald Bradley, Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James, Michael Meachem and William Searfoss. Also present were Thomas Dirvonas, Solicitor.
- IV. School Personnel Present: Michelle Arnold, Patricia Bader, Rick Carty, Maria Casciotta, Mike Catrillo, Larry Dymond, Joseph Formica, Eric Forsyth, Kim Holcomb, Lynda Hopkins, Marisela Horton, Kathy Kroll, Jay Kule, Sharon Laverdure, Frederick Mill, Annelle Prefontaine, Carolina Rodriguez, Patricia Rosado, Paul H. Schmid, Jim Shearouse, Kim Stevens, Oliver Trojak, Thomas J. Williams, Nadia Worobj and Steve Zall.

Community member presents: Fredrick Anelli, Angela Bradley, John Bradley, Beverly Brown, Jim Brunkard, Run Crenshaw, Sharone Glasco, Curtis Graham, Pat Graham, Diane Hinson, Matthew Horton, Robert C. Huffman, B. Michal Peterson and Judy Summers.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE BOARD

None

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VII. LIST OF ELECTED AND CERTIFIED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to approve the list of elected and certified School Board members. Motion was seconded by Michael Meachem and carried unanimously, 9-0.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Ronald Bradley	2015	21 Bridge Estates, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Robert Cooke	2013	20 Elm Court, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
Eileen Featherman	2015	259 East Broad Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
Douglas Freeman	2013	22 Tego Lake Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
Robert Gress	2013	36 Lions Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
Roy Horton	2015	164 The Glen, Tamiment, PA 18371
Marjorie James	2015	3 Kiwanis Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
Michael Meachem	2013	227 The Glen, Tamiment, PA 18371
William Searfoss	2015	154 East Broad Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

VIII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made William Searfoss to approve this agenda for December 5, 2011 (pages 1-4), as submitted. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress and passed 8-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

Mr. Meachem stated that in reviewing the agenda he sees no area where we address new business. He asked Mrs. Rosado if there is some protocol concerning the agenda and agenda items. Mr. Meachem stated that he would like to know what it is particularly with new business on how one would propose items to be included in this agenda. Mrs. Rosado stated that there is usually old business on the standard agenda and then there is announcements and information but she is not sure if that falls under new business. Mr. Meachem stated that he would like to make a motion to adjust this agenda to include new business.

Mr. Dirvonas stated that this is the Reorganization meeting. He stated that this meeting is established for a particular purpose and that is for the purpose of reorganization. Mr. Dirvonas stated, granted at a Regular meeting, there is leeway to add new business. He stated that this meeting is set for particular purposes, such as, elections of officers, scheduling of the meetings for the year, committee appointments and functions, so on and so forth. Mr. Meachem stated that he is unclear. He asked if Mr. Dirvonas is telling him that there could be within that content no need for new business. Mr. Meachem stated that at this point he understands his recommendation and he appreciates that but he makes a motion that we add to this agenda an item for new business because there is conceivable new business that would be contained in this reorganization process. Mr. Gress stated that he seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented here. Mr. Meachem stated that if he is not mistaken, he has a motion on the floor to amend the agenda to add the new business. He asked if there is second to that. Mr. Dirvonas asked Mr. Meachem if he intends to take action on that new business. Mr. Meachem said, "Yes". Mr. Dirvonas stated in that case if it is anything other than reorganization it cannot be done at this meeting. Mr. Meachem said it is considered reorganization. Mr. Dirvonas asked if there is a second to the motion. Mr. Meachem stated that since there is no second let's move on. Mr. Dirvonas stated that since there is no second, the motion dies for lack of a second.

IX. ELECTION OF TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

Nominations:

Michael Meachem nominated Douglas Freeman as Temporary President. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Michael Meachem motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by William Searfoss to appoint Douglas Freeman as Temporary President of the East Stroudsburg Area School District Board of Education to preside over the election of officers. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress and carried unanimously, 9-0

X. ELECTION -- PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nominations:

Michael Meachem nominated William Searfoss as President. Nomination was seconded by Marjorie James.

Ronald Bradley, Eileen Featherman, Roy Horton, Marjorie James, Michael Meachem and William Searfoss voted yes.

Robert Cooke, Douglas Freeman and Robert Gress voted no.

Eileen Featherman nominated Robert Cooke as President. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Robert Gress motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Roy Horton to appoint William Searfoss as President of the East Stroudsburg Area School District Board of Education for a one year term ending with the next reorganization meeting of the School Board in December 2012. Motion was seconded by Michael Meachem and passed 8-1. Robert Gress voted no.

XI. ELECTION -- VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nominations:

Michael Meachem nominated Michael Meachem as Vice President. Nomination was seconded by Ronald Bradley.

Ronald Bradley and Mike Meachem voted yes. Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James, and William Searfoss voted no.

Douglas Freeman nominated Robert Cooke as Vice President. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Eileen Featherman, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton and Marjorie James voted yes. Ronald Bradley, Robert Cooke, Michael Meachem and William Searfoss voted no.

Robert Cooke nominated Robert Gress. Nomination was seconded by Douglas Freeman.

Michael Meachem motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Eileen Featherman and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Roy Horton to appoint Robert Cooke as Vice President of the East Stroudsburg Area School District Board of Education for a one year term ending with the next reorganization meeting of the School Board in December 2012. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman and passed 8-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

XII. SCHEDULE OF DATES, TIMES & PLACES - 2012 REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve the dates and times of the regular meetings of the East Stroudsburg Area School District Board of Education, all to be held in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room, except as noted. Motion was seconded by Ronald Bradley.

Mr. Freeman asked if the motion can be changed to reflect December 3, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Horton seconded the addendum to the Motion and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Mr. Meachem made a motion to move the following meetings to be held at the North campus. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton. A roll call vote was taken and motion was defeated 4-5. Ronald Bradley, Robert Cooke, Roy Horton and Michael Meachem voted yes. Eileen Featherman, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Marjorie James and William Searfoss voted no.

March	19,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
May	21,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
July	16,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
September	17,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
November	19,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium

Ms. Searfoss made a motion to move the following meetings to be held at the North campus. Mr. Horton seconded the motion and passed 8-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

May	21,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
July	16,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
September	17,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
November	19,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve the dates and times of the regular meetings of the East Stroudsburg Area School District Board of Education, with the two amendments. Motion was seconded by Ronald Bradley and carried unanimously, 9-0.

January	23,	2012	--	7:00 PM in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room
February	27,	2012	--	7:00 PM in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room
March	19,	2012	--	7:00 PM in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room
April	16,	2012	--	7:00 PM in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room
May	21,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
June	18,	2012	--	7:00 PM in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room
July	16,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
August	20,	2012	--	7:00 PM in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room
September	17,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
October	15,	2012	--	7:00 PM in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room
November	19,	2012	--	7:00 PM at High School North – Auditorium
December	3,	2012	--	5:30 PM (Reorganization – in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room – 1 st Monday in December)
December	17,	2012	--	7:00 PM in the Carl T. Secor Administration Center Board Room

XIII. ELECTIONS -- MONROE CAREER AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE

1.

Nominations:

Robert Cooke nominated Robert Gress to complete James Brunkard's term on the Monroe Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee from December 2011 – December 2012. Nomination was seconded by Douglas Freeman.

Ronald Bradley nominated Marjorie James to complete James Brunkard's term on the Monroe Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee from December 2011 – December 2012. Nomination was seconded by Roy Horton.

Robert Gress stated that he would like to withdraw if Marjorie James would like to serve and he would be glad to serve as an alternate. Marjorie James stated that she will withdraw to allow Robert Gress to serve.

Michael Meachem stated that he would like to postpone any action on the Monroe Career & Technical Institute (MCTI) until this body creates an ad hoc committee to address the funding formula and the amount that this district contributes to the MCTI JOC relative to the number of students that are enrolled in that program. Mr. Meachem made a motion to suspend any activity on MCTI until we put together a committee to decide how we are going to go about addressing this issue. He stated that this is an issue that has been discussed, ad nauseam, for ten years and the only thing that ever happens is discussion. Mr. Meachem stated that the fact is that a committee needs to be formed and that committee needs to be formed to evaluate how we, as the East Stroudsburg Area School District intend to seek out the necessary redress for our rate of contribution for that program. He stated that his understanding is that it was brought before the JOC and one school, correct him if he is wrong, that is paying the least did not want to entertain the issue. Mr. Meachem stated that, at this point, he would propose that we postpone any further discussion about MCTI until we get together a committee that is going to sit down and figure out how we, as a Board, is hoping to address equity in that funding formula.

Mr. Dirvonas stated that this is in the form of a motion to postpone action. He stated that it needs a second and it is not debatable. Mr. Dirvonas stated, however, if such a committee is being suggested and it is not appointed, we will have a vacancy in this particular position for next Monday's MCTI JOC meeting. Mr. Dirvonas asked if there was a second on this motion to postpone action. Mr. Dirvonas stated that the motion dies for lack of a second.

Mr. Searfoss stated that there were two names submitted but they want to withdraw their names. Mr. Gress stated that he would step back for Marjorie James. Marjorie James stated that she will step back. Mr. Searfoss stated that there are two spots available. Mr. Searfoss asked if we need to close the nominations. Mr. Dirvonas stated that if Mrs. James does not want to complete the first motion then she might want to complete the second. Mr. Gress stated that Douglas Freeman is not aware that we are voting on his motion, too. Mr. Dirvonas stated that there are two motions. He stated that the first one is for a one-year term and the second one if for a three-year term. Mr. Gress stated that the first motion is to replace James Brunkard. Mr. Searfoss stated that the second motion is for a three-year term. Mr. Searfoss asked Mrs. James if she is withdrawing. Mrs. James said, "Yes". Mr. Searfoss asked Mr. Gress if he is willing to serve. Mr. Gress said, "Yes".

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to appoint Robert Gress to complete James Brunkard's term on the Monroe Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee from December 2011 – December 2012. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and passed, 7-1-1. Ronald Bradley voted no. Mike Meachem abstained.

Mr. Gress stated to Mr. Meachem that the funding formula issue will not go away and will be brought to the forefront at the next meeting. Mr. Meachem stated that he is in support of the fact that Mr. Gress is going to be there but the bottom line is that they have been talking about this for ten years and what happens is during Christmas or Easter, they say let's just talk about the MCTI. Mr. Gress stated that they will also discuss the budget but they can discuss this during Executive Session. He stated that this issue will not go away.

2.

Nominations:

Robert Gress nominated Douglas Freeman to serve as a member of the Monroe Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee for the term of December 2011 through December 2014. Nomination was seconded by Robert Cooke.

Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James and William Searfoss voted yes. Ronald Bradley and Michael Meachem voted no.

Ronald Bradley nominated Michael Meachem as a member of the Monroe Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee for the term of December 2011 through December 2014. Nomination was seconded by Roy Horton.

Eileen Featherman motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Gress to appoint Douglas Freeman as a member of the Monroe Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee for the term of December 2011 through December 2014. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and passed 7-2. Ronald Bradley and Michael Meachem voted no.

Present Members: James Brunkard Current Term Expires December 2012
Robert Cooke Current Term Expires December 2013
Douglas Freeman Current Term Expires December 2011

XIV. ELECTION -- MONROE CAREER AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE ALTERNATES

Nominations:

Eileen Featherman nominated Roy Horton as an alternate member to serve on the Monroe Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee for the term ending December 2012. Nomination was seconded by Marjorie James.

Douglas Freeman nominated William Searfoss as an alternate member to serve on the Monroe Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee for the term ending December 2012. Nomination was seconded by Roy Horton.

Douglas Freeman motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to appoint Roy Horton and William Searfoss as alternate members to serve on the Monroe Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee for the term ending December 2012. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Present Members: Robert Gress and Robert Huffman

XV. ELECTION -- MONROE CAREER AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE SCHOOL AUTHORITY

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Gress to appoint Mark Lichty as a member of the Monroe Career and Technical Institute School Authority for the term of January 2012 through December 2016. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and passed 7-1-1. Ronald Bradley voted no. Michael Meachem abstained.

Present Members: Robert Huffman Current Term Expires December 2015
Mark Lichty Current Term Expires December 2011

Mr. Bradley asked who Mark Lichty is because he would like to know who he is voting for especially for this long period of time.

Mr. Meachem made a motion to postpone this vote until they find out what the job description is and get a history of what the person has done in this job. He stated that at this point, he is looking in the audience and he does not see Mr. Lichty and he cannot vote on what he would presume is an important position. Mr. Meachem stated that they do not have a job description or know what Mr. Lichty has done. Mr. Searfoss asked if there is a second to this motion. Mr. Bradley seconded the motion. Mr. Searfoss stated that there cannot be any discussion and called for the vote. The motion failed 2-7. Ronald Bradley and Michael Meachem voted yes.

Mr. Bradley stated that he would still like information on this individual, since some Board members know who he is but he doesn't. He stated that he thinks it is an important position that needs to be looked into. Mr. Bradley stated that he is not in favor of carte blanche and he does not understand what is going on here. He stated that he thinks the requests have been reasonable and they concern the children who they are here to represent. Mr. Bradley stated that he does not want anything shoved down his throat. Mr. Gress stated that the new individuals need to meet with the Superintendent to understand what all these authorities do. He stated that Mr. Lichty is a long standing member of the community, attorney and a business man. Mr. Gress stated that they don't meet all the time. He stated that the Superintendent, Business Office or Mr. Dirvonas can tell them the processes, which these individuals are and what they do. Mr. Bradley stated that he must

take exception because he got his packet late, excuses is not withstanding, but the bottom line is that none of this information on this individual or other individuals are in his packet. He stated that he would like a clear understanding of what is going on before he votes on anything. Mr. Bradley stated that he does not want anything being shoved down his throat because he does not appreciate it and he does not like it.

Mr. Meachem stated that he appreciates what Mr. Gress said and he understands that the authorities do great things and there are people from the community who are upstanding and are wonderful people, but the bottom line is that with the next motion they received an outline of the job description for the PSBA Liaison. He stated that they received a lot of things that were explained to them exactly what was entailed with that position. Mr. Meachem stated that he does not have to look to the Superintendent because they are elected to represent the public interest. He stated that the person who prepared the agenda should have made sure to make that material available to them if in fact this is as an important position and this is the reorganization meeting where it is going to happen and he respects how great Mr. Litchy is in the community but he is not here tonight.

Mrs. Featherman nominated herself to serve on the MCTI Joint Operating Committee. Mr. Meachem seconded the motion. Mr. Dirvonas stated that we already have a first and a second by Mr. Gress and Mr. Cooke for the original motion and asked if they are willing to withdraw that motion since Mrs. Featherman is willing to serve. Mrs. Laverdure stated that she does not believe that a standing Board member can serve in the Joint Authority position. Mr. Dirvonas stated that he is not sure if she can or cannot serve.

Mr. Bradley stated that since we are not sure of what the perimeters are of those positions we should, like Mr. Meachem said, hold off on this position until we have had the opportunity to look at the information pertaining to these individuals. He stated that he would love for Mrs. Featherman to be put into this position because as fair as she is, he thinks she would do a tremendous job. Mr. Bradley stated that if we are saying that she cannot be as a present Board member, then we need to look at this situation because it will have an impact on our community for the next four years. He stated that he is not in favor of white washes.

Mr. Dirvonas stated that he would suggest that the impact is probably not as substantial as everyone is assuming here. He stated that the basic function of authority in the past has been with regards to financings. Mr. Bradley stated, "All the more reason". Mr. Dirvonas stated that in the past the school district has had an authority which was in place for the purpose of obtaining financing and that financing typically was through trust indentures. He stated that trust indentures have not been prevalent in Pennsylvania for some 30-40 years. Mr. Dirvonas stated that the authority set up is basically being maintained in case there is a need for authority financing as opposed to general obligation bond financing or general obligation note financing. He stated that he does not believe that this district, any other district in the County or the MCTI have had any authority financing for probably 40 years. Mr. Dirvonas stated that it is basically, not to downgrade the position, a figure head position in case that becomes necessary at some point. Mr. Meachem stated that he restates his objection. He stated that, in fact, if it is a figurehead position that is not that important, based upon vagueries ifs ands and buts, the fact is that we don't need to vote on it. Mr. Meachem stated more importantly, if in fact... Mr. Gress called for the vote.

XVI. APPOINTMENT -- PSBA LIAISON

Mrs. Featherman asked Mr. Cooke if he would like to continue to serve. Robert Cooke declined from continuing to serve.

Nominations:

Michael Meachem nominated Michael Meachem as the 2012 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Chairperson. Nomination dies for lack of a second.

Roy Horton nominated Eileen Featherman as the 2012 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Chairperson. Nomination was seconded by Marjorie James.

Robert Cooke motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to appoint Eileen Featherman as the 2012 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Chairperson. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Present Chairperson: Robert Cooke

(See page 5)

XVII. APPOINTMENT - COLONIAL I.U. #20 BOARD

Nominations:

Ronald Bradley nominated Ronald Bradley to complete Audrey Hocker's term on the Colonial I.U. #20 Board from December 5, 2011 – June 30, 2013. Nomination was seconded by Michael Meachem.

Robert Gress nominated Eileen Featherman to complete Audrey Hocker's term on the Colonial I.U. #20 Board from December 5, 2011 – June 30, 2013 as the 2012 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Chairperson. Nomination was seconded by Robert Cooke.

Robert Cooke motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Michael Meachem to appoint Ronald Bradley to complete Audrey Hocker's term on the Colonial I.U. #20 Board from December 5, 2011 – June 30, 2013. Motion was seconded by Ronald Bradley and failed 3-6. Ronald Bradley, Michael Meachem and William Searfoss voted yes.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Gress to appoint Eileen Featherman to complete Audrey Hocker's term on the Colonial I.U. #20 Board from December 5, 2011 – June 30, 2013. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman and passed 8-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

XVIII. APPOINTMENT – TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve the formal resolution as presented to the Board to appoint the Business Manager as the tax collection committee voting delegate and the Assistant Business Manager as the alternate. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman and passed 8-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

(See page 6)

Mr. Meachem stated that while he read the resolution, he wants to understand why the Board is appointing someone other than one of them to sit on this committee.

Mr. Gress stated that it is mainly because the Business Manager knows about the taxing numbers of the district. He stated that they understand fully the implication of things and as of now, the committee, pretty much, has done their duty as far as what needs to be done with the Centralized Tax Bureau and whatever Act that was passed two years ago. Mr. Gress stated, subsequently, it is a per functionary thing that they have to meet so many times a year to set a tax collector for the school district for earned income tax only. He stated that the committee meets generally during the day, the Business Managers are available and most school districts appoint their Business Managers, because they are the Chief Financial Officer of the county, fully understanding the income. Mr. Gress stated that pretty much all their work has been done and Berkheimer was picked for all the school districts in the County. He stated that this is why and about two years ago, they spoke about this ad nauseam when Mr. Meachem had concerns when we appointed our Business Manager. Mr. Meachem stated that again he thinks if he is not mistaken, when he spoke about it this day, he spoke about the delegation of duties. He stated that the way he read the resolution and the research that he did, there are decisions that the Business Manager would be making in that capacity that will not necessarily go by the Board and he has concerns with this.

XIX. COMMITTEES

Mr. Searfoss asked if there is a maximum amount of members that can be appointed to the committee. Mr. Dirvonas stated there can be three members appointed but four may be ideally.

Nominations:

Roy Horton nominated Marjorie James to be appointed as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Nomination was seconded by Douglas Freeman.

Douglas Freeman nominated Robert Gress to be reappointed as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Nomination was seconded by Marjorie James.

Ronald Bradley nominated Ronald Bradley to be appointed as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Nomination was seconded by Michael Meachem.

Marjorie James nominated Roy Horton to be appointed as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Nomination was seconded by Douglas Freeman.

Michael Meachem nominated Michael Meachem to be appointed as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Nomination was seconded by Roy Horton.

Douglas Freeman motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Mr. Searfoss asked if they have to pick four members. Mr. Dirvonas stated that since no one else wants to be part of this committee, they can have the five members, since this committee is different from the Negotiations Committee.

1.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to appoint/reappoint Marjorie James, Robert Gress, Ronald Bradley, Roy Horton and Michael Meachem as members of the Budget Advisory Committee. Motion was seconded by Michael Meachem and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Present Members: James Brunkard, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Audrey Hocker, Donald Motts and William Searfoss.

Mr. Gress stated that it is important that all Board members attend these meetings because years ago there were four Board members on the committee and when he first got on, the Budget Advisory Committee hid expenditures that should have been in the budget to avoid a tax increase. He stated that this was a shock to him when this occurred. Mr. Gress stated that at that time, it was a tied vote and two Board members convinced the old Business Manager not to put expenditures in the budget so they wouldn't raise taxes. He stated that he can give them more information if they want. Mr. Gress stated that all Board members should attend so they can hear the discussions that go on at the meetings.

2.

Nominations:

Douglas Freeman nominated Robert Cooke to be appointed as a member of the Property/Facilities Committee. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Eileen Featherman nominated Robert Gress to be appointed as a member of the Property/Facilities Committee. Nomination was seconded by Robert Cooke.

Robert Gress nominated Eileen Featherman to be appointed as a member of the Property/Facilities Committee. Nomination was seconded by Douglas Freeman.

Douglas Freeman nominated Roy Horton to be appointed as a member of the Property/Facilities Committee. Nomination was seconded by Marjorie James.

Ronald Bradley nominated Ronald Bradley to be appointed as a member of the Property/Facilities Committee. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Eileen Featherman motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Eileen Featherman declined from serving.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to appoint/reappoint Robert Cooke, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, and Ronald Bradley as members of the Property/Facilities Committee. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress.

Present Members: James Brunkard, Robert Cooke, Robert Gress, Audrey Hocker and Donald Motts

Mr. Gress stated that it is important to attend and pay attention when they attend. He stated that they talk about many things in depth and they are researched thoroughly. Mrs. Bader stated that the next Property/Facilities Committee meeting is this, Thursday (12/8/11) at 5:30 p.m. in the East Stroudsburg Elementary Library.

3.

Nominations:

Robert Cooke nominated Douglas Freeman to be appointed as a member of the Negotiation Committee – Support Staff. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Mr. Horton stated that he declines for obvious reasons.

Mr. Dirvonas stated that we are in the middle of negotiations; therefore, whoever is appointed will have to jump in it right away. He stated that it is not a long term learning experience.

Michael Meachem nominated Michael Meachem to be appointed as a member of the Negotiation Committee – Support Staff. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress. Mr. Meachem asked if they will get an update on the process. Mrs. Laverdure stated that he will be apprised of where they are right now.

Roy Horton nominated Marjorie James to be appointed as a member of the Negotiation Committee – Support Staff. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Eileen Featherman motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to appoint/reappoint Douglas Freeman, Michael Meachem and Marjorie James as members of the Negotiation Committee – Support Staff. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Present Members: James Brunkard, Horace Cole and Douglas Freeman

4.

Nominations:

Eileen Featherman nominated William Searfoss to be appointed as a member of the Policy Committee. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Douglas Freeman nominated Roy Horton to be appointed as a member of the Policy Committee. Nomination was seconded by Robert Gress.

Ronald Bradley nominated Michael Meachem to be appointed as a member of the Policy Committee. Nomination was seconded by Douglas Freeman.

Eileen Featherman motioned to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Douglas Freeman and carried unanimously, 9-0.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to appoint/reappoint William Searfoss, Roy Horton and Michael Meachem as members of the Policy Committee. Motion was seconded by Ronald Bradley and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Present Members: Audrey Hocker and William Searfoss

Mr. Meachem stated that he has a point of information before we end the agenda while we are still on committees. He stated that this is where his concern about new business came up. Mr. Meachem stated that one of the things that he happens to know is that this Board does not have a Finance Committee or an Audit Committee. He stated that he would

like to make a motion that we create a Finance and Audit Committee because of the things that Mr. Gress talked about earlier this evening, about the fact that expenditures were hidden and that there was some sort of backdoor deal that went on there. Mr. Meachem stated that the fact is that someone needs to be making sure that the public interest is being protected. He stated that it goes so far as to say that several years ago, when the previous Business Manager was in place, we brought in a group of people, he believes it was the National Management Associates, and one of their recommendations about their observation was that this Board does not currently have a Finance or Audit Committee. He stated that one of their recommendations was: (Mr. Meachem read)

It is recommended that the School Board appoint a Finance Committee and establish powers and duties. The duties of the Finance Committee could include various responsibilities associated with the audit of the district's financial statements, budget development and the Business Office oversight.

Mr. Meachem stated that he believes this is something that we should have; therefore, he made a motion that since we are on the committees, that we create a Financial and Audit committee.

Mr. Dirvonas stated that I would suggest that this is not on the agenda. Mr. Searfoss stated that he was going to say that Point of Order is that this is not on the agenda. Mr. Dirvonas stated that, typically, if you want to open up the agenda, you can do that. He stated that he thinks the idea or the suggestion is one that bares merit but he would suggest that it would more appropriately be placed upon the agenda for one of the regular monthly meetings and the Board can have discussion at that point and, if necessary, have a committee appointed. Mr. Dirvonas stated that, in certain circumstances, the President of the Board has the authority to appoint certain committees. He stated that he would think that maybe if this is something that Mr. Meachem has additional information, he can get it to the Board so it can be discussed at the meeting on December 19th. Mr. Dirvonas stated that he is certainly not saying this is not a good idea. Mr. Searfoss stated that this is something that he would not want to be caught on here and now. He stated that he wants to see something that they can look at so they can understand, ask questions and/or discuss. Mr. Searfoss stated that he was going to ask for the Point of Order of this before forming a committee. Mr. Dirvonas stated that he would suggest that this would be appropriate for the Regular Board meeting.

Mr. Meachem asked Mrs. Rosado if she is in possession of the National Management Associates report because if that is the case, he just has an excerpt of the report that he received in some awkward way many years ago that he spoke to the Board about. He stated that if she can provide the whole report to the Board members, so they can actually see and make an informed decision based upon this professional recommendation that was made about this absent committee that we are going to look into as New Business in a different meeting. He stated that this would be a big help. Mr. Meachem asked if this report is in her possession. Mrs. Rosado stated that she can give the Board a copy of the report. Mr. Gress stated to make sure that it is the right report and not the bogus one that was received by Mike somehow. Mr. Gress stated that the Policy Committee can come up with a recommendation but we will talk about this on December 19th.

XX. ANNOUNCEMENT/INFORMATION

Mr. Gress stated that the only thing he has is that they received information about vouchers and charters. He stated that he has been saying this for months and years, that it is important for the public to call their Representatives and Senators to oppose this. Mr. Gress stated that some Senators are saying that that this will not affect our dollars, when in fact it will. He stated that it will take public tax dollars, shifting them to the larger inner city schools which is fine but it is our dollars that we don't get now but we will send million of dollars to those districts. Mr. Gress stated that one Senator who refused to get back to him, announced that he is not running now. Mr. Gress stated that he emailed all the Senators, including the Chairman of the Education Committee and after 4-5 emails he refused to email him back. He stated that when he called the Senator's office to ask for a response, they told him that he will not respond because he is not one of their constituents. Mr. Gress stated that this is what the Chairman of the Education Committee told him, as a School Board member. He stated that it is important to call our representatives in our district and they are Rosemary Brown, Mike Peifer and Mario Scavello to make sure they oppose this voucher legislation because it will eventually creep into our district and take our tax dollars. Mr. Gress stated that if people want to send their kids to a private school that is fine but public dollars should not go to pay for private schools. He stated that it is simple and against the Constitution and everyone should read it. Mr. Gress stated that it is important to email them to vote against it because it is not only simple, but illegal.

Mrs. Laverdure stated that she received with short notice, information about a meeting at the Pocono Mountain School District Administration Center, where they have invited School Board members/Directors as well as the Liaisons to discuss these issues as well. She stated that it will take place tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at the Pocono Mountain School District Administration Center.

- XXI. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** -- There will be an Executive Session immediately following the Reorganization meeting for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel.
- XXII. **ADJOURNMENT** 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado
Board Secretary