

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

SPECIAL MEETING

May 8, 2012

Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

I. President William Searfoss called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Members present were: Ronald Bradley, Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Roy Horton, Marjorie James, Michael Meachem and William Searfoss. Douglas Freeman and Robert Gress were absent.

School personnel present: Patricia Bader, Anthony Calderone, Larry Dymond, Constance Kishbaugh, Sharon Laverdure, Kathy Parrish, John Rosado, Patricia Rosado and Rose Skidmore. Also present was: Thomas Dirvonas, Solicitor.

III. Community members present: Betty A. Cook, Laurie Favini, Deserie Gomez, Dylan Gomez, Kristen Herbst, Charles Matthews, Chieyen Meachem, Verona Meachem, Gary Summers and Judy Summers.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve this agenda for May 8, 2012 (page 1), as submitted. Motion was seconded by Eileen Featherman and carried unanimously, 7-0.

V. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**-- An executive session was held on May 4, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. and tonight at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE BOARD

A. Mr. Meachem submitted a written document setting forth his comments regarding the term "impasse" and requested that it be included with the minutes.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

VIII. PERSONNEL ITEM – CONSIDERATION OF FACT FINDER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to accept the April 30, 2012 Report and Recommendations of the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board Fact Finder regarding the collective bargaining impasse between the District and the East Stroudsburg Area Educational Support Personnel Association. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke. A roll call vote was taken and failed 3-4. Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman and William Searfoss voted yes. Ronald Bradley, Roy Horton, Marjorie James and Michael Meachem voted no.

Mr. Meachem asked that the motion be amended to remove the word "impasse". Mr. Bradley seconded it. Mr. Searfoss asked the maker and the seconder of this motion if they were in agreement with removing the word "impasse" from the motion. Mrs. Featherman and Mr. Cooke said, "No", whereupon the main motion was voted upon and defeated.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

None

X. ADJOURNMENT 7:14 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia L. Rosado,
Board Secretary

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen

For those who are unaware I was elected in November of 2011 and actually became a member of this Board on December 6, 2011 and during that process I was appointed to the Contract Negotiations Committee assigned to our Support Worker's Union.

This evening there is a Motion on the Agenda that includes the language

... regarding the collective bargaining impasse between the District and the east Stroudsburg Area Support Personnel Association

As is my understanding the word impasse has the following meaning:

impasse (æm'pɑ:s, 'æmpɑ:s, ɪm'pɑ:s, 'ɪmpɑ:s)

— *n*

a situation in which progress is blocked; an insurmountable difficulty; stalemate; deadlock

[C19: from French; see im- , pass]

As is my understanding, in order to have reached an impasse there would had to have been negotiations. In appointing a New Negotiations Committee I see there being no obligation to continue the negotiations from the point where they'd ceased, rather as it was a New Team, the process should have started a new, providing the New members the opportunity to actually speak with members of the Support Workers Union. I as a member of the Negotiations Team was never afforded that opportunity and further I have offered no recommendations nor was I consulted before the matter was referred to fact finding.

To the Support Workers in attendance I am concerned and should the matter be explored further I would in no way avoid subpoena.

While the discussions surrounding negotiations in Executive Session are bound by confidentiality, I have been advised the process by which these ~~proceeds~~ ^{proceedings} have been conducted are not therefore I provide this statement as a part of the record and I shall make it available to the Public accordingly.

Submitted



Mike Meachem

May 8, 2012