

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

SPECIAL MEETING

June 21, 2012

Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

- I. **President, William Searfoss called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary, Patricia Rosado called the roll.**

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

School personnel present at the Administration Center Board Room: Michelle Arnold, Patricia Bader, Brian J. Borosh, Anthony Calderone, Ann Catrillo, Michael Catrillo, Adam L. Cole, Mary Conklin, Irene Duggins, Larry Dymond, Eric Forsyth, Jill Greenwood, Kim Holcomb, Lynda Hopkins, Kathy Kroll, Joseph Lalli, Sharon Laverdure, Jacilyn Leonard, Araina Maynard-Freed, Frederick Mill, Gary Morris, Kathleen Parrish, Annelle Prefontaine, Carolina Rodriguez, Patricia Rosado, Paul H. Schmid, Jim Shearouse, Kim Stevens, Thomas Williams and Linda Wisneiski. **Also present was: Thomas Dirvonas, Solicitor.**

- II. **Community members present at the Administration Center Board Room:** Audry Garrett, Kristen Herbst, Sharon Maly-Cramer, Anne Marie Pohlman, Robert Pohlman, Darryl Sabino, Melissa Smith, Gary Summers, Judy Summers, Hema Tagliaferri, Ruben Torres, Beverly White, Ray White and Sarah Wisneiski.

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve this agenda for June 21, 2012 (pages 1-4), as submitted. Motion was seconded by Marjorie James and passed 7-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE BOARD**

Mr. Searfoss announced that the next Regular School Board meeting is on July 16th at High School North – Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- Limited to Agenda Items**

- A. Mr. Bob Pohlman thanked everyone especially the teachers for what is happening this evening. He also thanked the public who were involved by writing letters to the Board and to the editor and doing their own research to rebut information coming out from the Superintendent. This has made the Board turnaround from its initial information from about four months ago when we were going to have a tremendous increase and now no increase. The Superintendent is here to be rehired but this year because of the pressures put on by the public on the Superintendent they received more information but normally it is hard to get information from administration. It seems that we have gotten away without using the fund balance, which is great. He said rumor is that the Board is going to offer the Superintendent a four-year term but he would suggest to offer her a one or two year contract and see how it goes. If the public gets more information in a year then offer her a three-year contract. Now that there will be no closing of schools but J. M. Hill will need its roof repaired to protect the students, he hopes this will not become a “money pit”.
- B. Mr. Gary Summers said that he sees that the Board is more than likely going to approve another roofing contract with Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. This is all above the Board because this is another master consortium

contract with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit. He suggested that they award another contractor because there has been some impropriety so before we rush into this thing, unless we have to absolutely award this contract, we should look at local vendors because their track record is not good.

- C. Ms. Hema Taglieferrri said she noticed her son's textbook who is going into second grade. The reading textbook was copyrighted in 2002; therefore it has not been updated for the last 10 years. She asked when will it be updated because the Science textbook was copyrighted in 2007 and she is not sure about the math textbook. Are we getting new textbooks for the new year starting in September 2012? Mrs. Laverdure said that the reading textbook could be 15 years old but the skills the children learn are taught by the teachers through lesson plans. If you go to the library some books are 20 years old. It is not about the year of the textbook but the content of the book. Mrs. Taglieferrri asked if we will get the textbooks renewed in the future. She thought the policy said textbooks are supposed to be replaced every 4 years. Mrs. Laverdure said it has been expanded and it depends on the rewrite of the curriculum itself which is more important than the textbook because we use it as a tool. Ms. Taglieferrri said maybe I can get more information of the plan because there are updated textbooks out there. Mrs. Laverdure said sure but textbook companies are there to make money but those stories are not outdated and what is most important is the way the teacher teaches the material. Ms. Taglieferrri asked if there is any way of comparing an old textbook to a new textbook to see what is lacking. Mrs. Laverdure asked Mrs. Duggins to give her sample sets. Mrs. Taglieferrri thanked Mr. Horton, Mr. Bradley and Mr. Meachem for taking off activity fees. Mr. Meachem said we all did that. Mrs. Taglieferrri said thank you for taking off activity fees and the drivers' education fee because this will help a lot of families.
- D. Mr. Larry Dymond said we are buying computers through the same consortium. Every year we do this, he prints from the internet where we can get a better price from Dell or Apple and does not know why we are doing it again this year.
- E. Ms. Darryl Sabino said she is here to ask the Board to take off the table, on their budget proposal, the removal of the teacher on special assignment at East Stroudsburg Elementary who is responsible of the discipline of 734 students on school and buses and organizes meetings with parents and staff. The school has three floors of building which has to be monitored every day. There is an emotional support group class that also has to be controlled and monitored every day. She said J. T. Lambert has 976 plus three administrators (Principals, 2 Assistant Principals). At Lehman, there are 816 students with two administrators (Principal and one administrator). East Stroudsburg Elementary has 734 and there is no way the building can run as smoothly as it does without the teacher on special assignment. She said savings will not be \$109,000 as stated because he will go back into the classroom so the savings to the district will be from the long term substitute amount. A teacher on special assignment is not a position that can be afforded to be taken away. She said she does not see how we feel the principal can run such a large building with a large population at East Stroudsburg Elementary.
- F. Mrs. Judy Summers said she is used to seeing all the Board members always present unless they are on a medical leave, etc. or that sort. Mr. Freeman has not been here since January for many meetings. Is the Board going to ask him to go elsewhere since he probably has personal issues that he cannot do his position? We should be fair to the people that attend these meetings. Mr. Searfoss said that Mr. Freeman has a death in the family so we are going to give him some compassion and little bit of leeway. Mrs. Summers said that is fine but he has been absent for many meetings.

VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS

A. Administrative Staff – Retention of Sharon S. Laverdure

(The following item(s) are to be deleted from the consensus motion at Board Member(s) request.)

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Michael Meachem that, pursuant to the requirement of Section 1073 (b) of the School Code and the directive of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Board confirm its intention to retain Sharon S. Laverdure for a further term as District Superintendent following the expiration of her current contract and commission on November 30, 2012. The term of such retention and conditions of employment shall be subject to further action by the Board. Motion was seconded by Eileen Featherman and carried unanimously, 8-0.

Mr. Gress said, for the record, it has to be a 3, 4 or 5 year contract for a Superintendent in Pennsylvania. Mr. Dirvonas said that this action is per the requirement of the Pennsylvania School Code. Mrs. Laverdure's contract expires on November 30, 2012; therefore, the Board is required at least 150 days prior to the expiration of that contract to indicate whether they intend to retain her for a further term or intend to look for further applicants. This does not set her final term or extension.

VII. FISCAL ITEMS

(The following item(s) are to be deleted from the consensus motion at Board Member(s) request.)

A. 2012-2013 Final General Fund Budget

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Cooke that the East Stroudsburg Area School District does hereby adopt its General Fund Budget for the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$140,236,000 and its Capital Reserve Fund Budget for the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$556,000 in the amounts and categories as set forth below and as posted and advertised in accordance with the law, the full budgets being filed with the school records and the Department of Education as required by law. The General Fund Budget includes funds from the state and federal governments in addition to the taxes hereinafter levied, after proper additions and amendments: Motion was seconded by Eileen Featherman. A roll call vote was taken and passed 7-1. Ronald Bradley, Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James and William Searfoss voted yes. Michael Meachem voted no.

2012-2013 FINAL BUDGET - GENERAL FUND			
<u>1000</u>	<u>Instruction</u>		
1100	Regular	49,406,323	
1200	Special	20,199,095	
1300	Vocational	2,970,328	
1400	Other	3,121,441	
	Subtotal – Instruction		75,697,187
<u>2000</u>	<u>Support Services</u>		
2100	Pupil Personnel	2,675,366	
2200	Instructional Staff	2,974,556	
2300	Administration	5,601,815	
2400	Pupil Health	1,627,871	
2500	Business Office	1,099,470	
2600	Operation & Maintenance	12,842,255	
2700	Transportation	10,773,109	
2800	Professional Services	4,218,966	
2900	Other Support Services	48,296	
	Subtotal - Support Services		41,861,704
<u>3000</u>	<u>Non-Instructional Services</u>		
3200	Student Activities	2,475,131	
3300	Community Services	173,071	
	Subtotal Non-Instructional Services		2,648,202
<u>5000</u>	<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</u>		
5100	Financing	19,653,044	
5200	Transfers to Funds	70,000	
5900	Budgetary Reserve	305,863	
	Subtotal - Other Financing Sources (Uses)		20,028,907
	TOTAL BUDGET - GENERAL FUND		140,236,000
2012-2013 FINAL BUDGET - CAPITAL RESERVE FUND			
<u>2000</u>	<u>Support Services</u>		
2600	Operation & Maintenance	17,000	

	Subtotal - Support Services		17,000
4000	<u>Facilities Construction & Improvement</u>		
4200	Site Improvements – Replacement	530,773	
4600	Building Improvement – Replacement	8,227	
	Subtotal - Support Services		539,000
	TOTAL BUDGET - CAPITAL RESERVE		556,000

(See pages 5-27)

B. 2012-2013 Tax Rates

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Roy Horton to approve the tax rates listed below for the 2012-2013 school year. These rates represent a 0% increase in tax in Monroe County and 0% increase in Pike County. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke. A roll call vote was taken and was carried unanimously, 8-0. Ronald Bradley Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James, Michael Meachem and William Searfoss voted yes.

- A. Be it resolved that a tax of 180.81 mills be levied on real estate in the Monroe County portion of the East Stroudsburg Area School District for the 2012-2013 school year; and
- B. Be it resolved that a tax of 128.94 mills be levied on real estate in the Pike County portion of the East Stroudsburg Area School District for the 2012-2013 school year; and
- C. Be it resolved that the 1% Earned Income Tax remain in effect be placed on all residents of the District for the 2012-2013 school year; and
- D. Be it resolved that the \$10.00 Occupational Privilege Tax remain in effect to be placed on all workers in the District for the 2012-2013 school year; and
- E. Be it resolved that the 1% Real Estate Transfer Tax remain in effect for the 2012-2013 school year.

C. 2012-2013 Homestead/Farmstead Resolution

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve the formal resolution as presented to the Board for the 2012-2013 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion. This will result in a maximum real estate tax reduction of \$393.80 for each approved homestead and farmstead within the School District for the 2012-2013 school year. Motion was seconded by Michael Meachem and was carried unanimously, 8-0.

(See pages 28-29)

Mr. Gress said, for the record, this is where the gaming money came from. Mrs. Bader said the gaming money is the same but more people applied.

D. North Campus Services Building Fire & Security System

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve the execution of a contract or contracts with Communication Systems Inc. ("CSI") in the total amount of \$45,230.00 for the purchase and installation of a fire and security system consisting of equipment, panel upgrade, remote annunciation, cameras, software and preventive maintenance and support at the North Campus Services Building. These purchases are pursuant to PEPPM Contract # 2012 and Costars Contract # 003-081. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress and passed 7-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

(See pages 30-43)

E. J. M. Hill Roof Restoration Project

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve the execution of a contract with Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. ("WTI") in the amount of \$206,816.07 for the renovation of the roof of the JM Hill Elementary School pursuant to the terms of the CSIU joint bid award (Contract # AEPA-009A-W500-PA) and the WTI Scope of Work letter dated March 12, 2012. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress.

Motion was made by Roy Horton to table the above mentioned motion. Motion was seconded by Michael Meachem. A roll call vote was taken and passed 5-3. Ronald Bradley, Robert Cooke, Roy Horton, Marjorie James and Michael Meachem voted yes. Eileen Featherman, Robert Gress and William Searfoss voted no.

(See pages 44-47)

F. Apple Lease

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve Lease Schedule # 015 to the Master Lease Purchase Agreement # 7387311 with Apple, Inc. in the amount of \$283,403.76 for desktop computers, laptops, servers, networking and related computer equipment per year for four (4) years for a total price of \$1,133,615.04 for the East Stroudsburg Elementary, Bushkill Elementary, Senior High School South and North school facilities, subject to final review by the Solicitor and Bond Counsel. Pricing is per the Chester County School District's Joint Purchasing Apple Bid 2011. Motion was seconded by Eileen Featherman.

Motion was made by Ronald Bradley to table the above mentioned motion. Motion was seconded by Michael Meachem. A roll call vote was taken and failed 2-6. Ronald Bradley and Michael Meachem voted yes. Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James and William Searfoss voted no.

Motion made by Robert Cooke and seconded by Eileen Featherman passed 7-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

(See pages 48-71)

G. HP Leases

1.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve Schedule Number 2996046043000004 to the existing Master Lease Purchase Agreement Number 2996046043 with Hewlett-Packard Financial Services Company in the amount of \$75,463.52 per year for four (4) years for a total price of \$301,854.08 for computer server and network equipment, licenses, warranties and service upgrades at the South and North Data Center Facilities, subject to final review by the Solicitor and Bond Counsel. Pricing is per PA-PEPPM 2011 and PA-COSTARS COMMONWEALTH OF PA 2011 (COSTARS-003-085) contracts. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and passed 7-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

(See pages 72-83)

2.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve Schedule Number 2996046043000005 to the existing Master Lease Purchase Agreement Number 2996046043 with Hewlett-Packard Financial Services Company in the amount of \$50,630.03 per year for four (4) years for a total price of \$202,520.12 for desktop personal computers, monitors, notebook PC's and related computer equipment, licenses, warranties and service upgrades for the East Stroudsburg Elementary, Bushkill Elementary, Senior High School South and North School facilities, subject to final review by the Solicitor and Bond Counsel. Pricing is per PA-PEPPM 2011 contract. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and passed 7-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

(See pages 84-101)

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

- A. Mr. Searfoss announced that the next Regular School Board meeting will be on July 16, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at High School North.
- B. Mr. James Shearouse asked to speak about the J.M. Hill roof renovation project. Mr. Dirvonas said it is up to the Board. Mrs. Laverdure said we will need some direction. Mr. Horton and Mr. Cooke, who previously voted in favor of the motion to table this agenda item, said they would like to hear more. Mr. Shearouse said that although Weatherproofing is an Ohio based company they bid the project out in Pennsylvania. Every roof project has been completed with Pennsylvania contractors. Mr. Searfoss asked if this work would have been done over the summer because if we don't then it would disrupt the students. Mr. Shearouse said it would have been completed by the end of August but the price is good through October. Mr. Meachem asked if he has references. Mr. Shearouse said he does. Mr. Meachem said he would like to look at them. Mr. Horton advised that he would like to rescind his motion to table. Mr. Dirvonas said we would need to have a motion and a second to reconsider.

VII. FISCAL ITEMS

E. J. M. Hill Roof Restoration Project

1.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Roy Horton to reconsider the motion to approve the execution of a contract with Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. ("WTI") in the amount of \$206,816.07 for the renovation of the roof of the JM Hill Elementary School pursuant to the terms of the CSIU joint bid award (Contract # AEPA-009A-W500-PA) and the WTI Scope of Work letter dated March 12, 2012. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke. A roll call vote was taken and passed 6-2. Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James and William Searfoss voted yes. Ronald Bradley and Michael Meachem voted no.

2.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Eileen Featherman to approve the execution of a contract with Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. ("WTI") in the amount of \$206,816.07 for the renovation of the roof of the JM Hill Elementary School pursuant to the terms of the CSIU joint bid award (Contract # AEPA-009A-W500-PA) and the WTI Scope of Work letter dated March 12, 2012 with a project completion date of August 26th and subject to a per diem liquidated damage clause as agreed to by the Superintendent and Solicitor. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and passed 7-0-1. Michael Meachem abstained.

Mr. Gress thanked Pat Bader for her hard work at the East Stroudsburg Area School District and wished her best of luck.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado,
Board Secretary