

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD AGENDA FOR GENERAL PURPOSES NOVEMBER 9, 2005**

**J. T. Lambert Intermediate - Auditorium
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

- I. President Horace Cole called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Patricia Farmer called the roll.
- II. Members present were: Christopher Baj, Horace Cole, Patrick Forney, Bet Hays, Robert Huffman, Donald Motts, Michal Peterson, William Searfoss, and William Zacharias.
- III. School Personnel Present: Douglas Arnold, Patricia Baughman, Theresa Benjamin, Mark A. Brown, Rita Canty, Irene Duggins, Patricia Farmer, Marie S. Guidry, Dr. Rachael R. Heath, Sharon Laverdure, Irene Livingston, Constance Lutjens, Deanna Mayers, Mary Ann Moore, Patricia Mulroy, Greg Naudascher, Lois Palio, Annelle Prefontaine, Ed Sargent, Jim Shearouse, Mike Silvoy, and Steve Zall. Also present was Thomas Dirvonas and Rebecca Craggs, Solicitors.
- IV. Media Guests present: Dan Berrett

Community members present: Joe Andershonis, Charlie Baughman, R. Daday, Devin Day, Bob Gress, R. David Heath Jr., Karen Malachowsky, Paul Malachowsky, Mike Meachem, Joan Nebel, Barbara Peters, Michelle Portnoff, Linda Potenzieri and Ronald Yates.
- V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by William Searfoss to approve this agenda for November 9, 2005 (pages 1-3), as submitted, with addendum items as presented, with the Board of Education reserving the right to add to the agenda and take further action on any items raised in executive session where immediate action on such items is considered to be in the best interest of the District. Motion was seconded by Christopher Baj and carried unanimously, 9-0.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Dr Heath recognized high school students Oliver Trojack and Dave Roberts, ITEC interns and thanked them for setting up the technology and assisting at this meeting.
- B. Dr. Heath recognized Trish Farmer and thanked her for filling in for Patricia Rosado who was unavailable due to a death in the family.
- C. Upon the request of Michal Peterson, Mr. Greg Christine gave a presentation regarding Monroe County Tax Claim Bureau's proposal to oversee delinquent school taxes (commenced at 7:15 pm, ended at 7:45 pm). The tax service has had a change in management and has made improvements in their handling of delinquent taxes. They have a new computer system that makes sharing information between all three offices more productive. They charge 9% on delinquent taxes, keep 5% and return to the district the delinquent tax plus 4%. Following the presentation was a question and answer period. Ms. Dawn Pugh from the Tax Claim Bureau also attended.
- D. Upon the request of two board members (Mr. Baj & Mr. Motts) Portnoff Associates gave an overview of their services that the district retained 3 years ago (commenced at 7:50 pm, ended at 8:25 pm). There were some initial problems with turnaround time for callers to receive their response, now they have shortened turnaround time to 3 days or less. They have added staff and have a more efficient way of locating land parcels. They have collected \$810,000 over the 3 years and have paid \$106,000 in court costs. Michal Peterson voiced concern over their high costs to the delinquent taxpayers. Mrs. Peterson passed a delinquent tax form to the Board, Superintendent and Business Manager.

- E. Middle Smithfield Renovations, presented by Dr. Heath. 92 new students at Middle to date and 61 withdrew. Their new student numbers are growing rapidly, we are in a "state of crisis". Dr. Heath is sending letters to all ESASD residents concerning rapid growth and asking residents to contact their legislators and voice their concerns and need for extra state/federal money. Four relocatables at Middle are 16 years old. Dr. Heath and Mr. Shearouse are suggesting a double POD that houses 6 classes plus a room for lunch/gym. Cost of POD 1.3 million.
- F. Mrs. Peterson indicated there were transportation problems. Dr. Heath agreed, not enough drivers and when drivers call in sick, there are many runs to cover. Dr. Heath presented a transportation chart to the Board, Looking into developing a "hot line" for parents to quickly share late bus information. Mrs. Laverdure stated they currently have a bus driver-training; course, it takes time to complete the process.
- G. Michal Peterson said she heard there were "issues" regarding a new club proposed at High School North for gays. Mrs. Peterson indicated she heard students were tearing down posters. Patricia Mulroy said students want to develop a new club, Gay/Straight Alliance. She says there is a need, she did not see any negativity, that the club is a proposal, they need to see if it will be well received by the students before it becomes an official club. The first meeting is this Friday, they have 2 teacher advisors. Other proposed clubs are a Christian Club and a Japanese Club. Mr. Arnold discussed the Gay/Straight is a nationally networked organization and is well received.

VII. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** -- Federal Programs, Title I, Title VI, Other Concerns

- A. Mr. Andershonis talked about the problems still with his delinquent tax bill. Portnoff assisted him.
- B. Karen Malachowsky said the walls of the proposed POD at Middle must have a silence barrier so as not to disturb classes. Next, she stated that PIAA academic practice ineligibility needs to be examined. Currently, academically ineligible students must go to practice, but cannot participate. She feels this is not good for the students. Mr. Douglas Arnold discussed Board Policy #122 that states these students can only condition; they cannot participate in team skills.
- C. Dale Santee of Architectural Studio said that galvanized pipe was approved at the time they installed it in our schools. Mr. Motts voiced concerns, asked if he would install galvanized pipes in his home.
- D. Devin Day stated that the school spent money on Board Docs and we are not using it properly. He checked the site today at 2:00 pm and there was nothing on line. Dr. Heath said it must be a mistake, the agenda should have been on line.
- E. Mike Meachem, parent, thanked administration for participating in their highly productive meeting on Saturday with the NAACP.
- F. **Mr. Robert Gress stated that the district is in crisis and heading for a catastrophe. He urged the board that if/since they are reappointing Portnoff they should write a clause into the contract to be paid 20 or 30% commission on the funds that Portnoff collects. It would have been some \$200,000 additional revenue to the district, using the numbers that were given this evening. Mr. Gress also asked that the naming of the new elementary school be delayed as the district does not even own the site and other names may arise.** He thanked Patrick Forney and Robert Huffman for their years of service as board members.

VIII. **PERSONNEL ITEMS**

A. **Professional Staff**

(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 Christopher Baj to approve Theresa Benjamin as Teacher on Special Assignment at High School South effective November 29, 2005 through a date concurrent to the effective date of the replacement for the High School South Assistant Principal vacant position, with an additional daily stipend of \$20.00. Motion was seconded by William Searfoss and carried unanimously, 9-0.

(See page 4)

B. Extra Responsibility Positions

(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 Christopher Baj to approve the rescissions and appointments according to the 2005-2010 contractual agreement between the East Stroudsburg Area School District and the East Stroudsburg Education Association. Motion was seconded by Donald Motts and carried unanimously, 9-0.

1. Rescissions

Name	Position Held
a. Sansosti, Michael	Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach at Lehman Intermediate
b. Semon, Paul	Boys' Basketball Assistant Coach at Lehman Intermediate

(See pages 5-6)

2. Appointments for the 2005-2006 School Year

	Name	Position	Salary
a.	Corbo, Leonard	Boys' Basketball Assistant Coach at Lehman Intermediate	\$1,803.00
b.	Kleinle, Heather	Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach at Lehman Intermediate	\$1,803.00
c.	Malosh, John	Girls' Basketball Head Coach at Lehman Intermediate	\$2,601.00

IX. FISCAL ITEMS

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

A. Waiver of Use of Facilities Fees

(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 Christopher Baj to approve the requests received to waive the use of facilities fees listed, conditioned upon the donation of all tuition fees received to the United Way of Monroe County and the submission of an updated and current insurance. Motion was seconded by Robert Huffman and carried, 8-1. Donald Motts voted No.

1. Nam's Taekwondo Center
 - Teaching Taekwondo - Martial Arts Classes
 - Middle Smithfield Elementary Gymnasium
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays or Mondays and Wednesdays during the 2005-2006 school year.

(See pages 7-9)

B. Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council

(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 Christopher Baj to approve membership in the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council, Lewisburg, PA. Membership will enable the District to participate in the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment and services. Cost of membership is \$150.00 for fuel oil, and \$250.00 per year plus 1.5% of purchases for equipment, materials and supplies. Motion was seconded by Donald Motts and carried unanimously, 9-0.

(See pages 10-20)

C. Engineering Services Contract with F. X. Browne , Inc.

(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 Horace Cole to table the motion to approve the engineering services contract with F. X. Browne, Inc. for the Brodhead Creek Streambank Stabilization based upon a proposal dated November 1, 2005, in the amount of \$57,300.00. Motion was seconded by William Searfoss and carried unanimously, 9-0.

(See pages 21-27)

D. Architectural Services Contract With The Architectural Studio

(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 Robert Huffman to approve the architectural services contract with The Architectural Studio for the design of an addition to the Middle Smithfield Elementary School. The addition will be in the form of an 8,000 square foot pod, using the J. T. Lambert pod as a prototype. The estimated cost of this addition is approximately \$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000, with architectural fees at a maximum of 5.5% of construction cost, plus site approvals on a time and materials basis and reimbursable expenses at cost. Motion was seconded by Patrick Forney and carried, 8-1. William Searfoss voted no.

(See pages 28-29)

E. Appointment of Delinquent Tax Collection Agency

(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 Bet Hays to approve the Monroe County Tax Bureau as the agency responsible for collection of East Stroudsburg Area School District delinquent School taxes for the period beginning 2005. Motion was seconded by Michal Peterson. A roll call vote was taken. Motion was defeated 4-5. Christopher Baj, Horace Cole, Robert Huffman, Donald Motts and William Searfoss voted No.

F. Appointment of Portnoff Law Associates, LTD

(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 William Searfoss to appoint Portnoff Law Associates, LTD as the agency responsible for collection of East Stroudsburg Area School District delinquent school taxes for the 2005-2006 school year and to approve the revised Amendment to Agreement and revised Resolution Approving Collection Procedures and Adopting Schedule of Attorney Fees as presented. Approval of this recommendation will constitute rescission of the prior action of the Board terminating the current Portnoff Agreement as of December 31, 2005. Motion was seconded by Donald Motts. A roll call vote was taken. Motion was passed 6-3. Patrick Forney, Bet Hays and Michal Peterson voted No.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSES
November 9, 2005
J. T. Lambert Intermediate School – Auditorium**

7:00 p.m.

Addendum

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Christopher Baj to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2005 meeting of the Grievance Committee. Motion was seconded by William Zacharias and carried unanimously, 9-0.

XI. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE DECISIONS

A. Rita Canty’s Grievance

(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 Robert Huffman to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Committee to deny the grievance of Rita Canty dated September 24, 2005. Motion was seconded by William Zacharias and carried unanimously, 9-0.

B. Annie Johnson’s Grievance

(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 William Zacharias to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Committee to deny the grievance of Annie Johnson dated September 13, 2005. Motion was seconded by Donald Motts and carried unanimously, 9-0.

IX. **FISCAL ITEMS**

G. **Name of the New Elementary School**

(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 William Searfoss to table the recommendation to approve the name of the new elementary school on Route 447 as the Terra Greens Elementary School. Motion was seconded by Christopher Baj and carried, 6-1. William Zacharias voted no. Patrick Forney and Robert Huffman left.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT 10:10 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Farmer
Acting Secretary