

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

SPECIAL MEETING

June 4, 2012

High School South - Auditorium

5:30 p.m.

Minutes

- I. President William Searfoss called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Members present were:** Ronald Bradley (arrived at 6:10 p.m. Did not participate), Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James (arrived at 5:33 p.m.), Michael Meachem and William Searfoss.
- III. **School personnel present:** Sarah Adams, Susan Andrews, Michelle Arnold, Patricia Bader, Vicky Bader, David A. Baker, Anne Banks, Maria Bartolotta, Mary J. Bianchi, Elizabeth Blundetto, Brian Borosh, John Burrus, Maryann Caprioli, Maria Casciotta, Ann Catrillo, Michael Catrillo, Patricia Chestnut, Stephanie Clark, Adam L. Cole, Mary Conklin, Sue Czahor, Dawn Dailey, Theresa Dehart, Robert Dilliplane, Patti-Jo Dolph, Ashley Dreisbach, Susan Dunleavy, Larry Dymond, Elizabeth English, Karen Fattorusso, Jane Fetherman, John Fetherman, Charlene Fonash, Tammy Fuchs, Cathy Gallagher, Geoffrey Gambill, Carol Geiges, Lori Giaquinto, Claudia Gonda, George Gonda, Jill Greenwood, Heather Gress, Erin Gurry, Kevin Hatcher, Susan Hegarty, Vicki Heitzman, Gina Hennings, Heather Henritzy, Kim Holcomb, Lynda Hopkins, James Johnston, Sally Jones, Eric Kerstetter, Constance Kishbaugh, Michelle Krajewski, Kathy Kroll, Ronald Labar, Suzanne Lagace, Sharon Laverdure, Jason Leap, Donna Lehmann-Deming, Jacilyn Leonard, Lorrie Litts, Irene C. Livingston, Elhannan Lloyd Keller, Kaitlin Lopez, Kristin Lord, Carol Masi, Araina Maynard-Freed, Theresa McGovern, Bonnie McHugh, Patricia Milenkowic, Patricia Miller, Nannette Molloy, Mary Ann Moore, Anna Nicoletta, Nicole Nietz, Letitia O'Malley, Cindy Opitz, Carrie Panepinto, Rose Perkins, Joanne Peters, Mary Poloway, Amanda Reiche, Carolina Rodriguez, Maria Rogers, Patricia Rosado, Jamie L. Ryno, Sharon Sanita, Vicki Sayer, Paul H. Schmid, Diane Schmidt, Catherine Schoenherr, James Shearouse, Charlene Siska, Rose Skidmore, Donna Smith, Jennifer Spece, Laureen Spering, Wanda Staples, Kim Stevens, Richard Stine, Susan Streisel, Deanna Sutton, Jo Ann Tritto, Oliver Trojak, Catherine Tynemouth, Maggie Vitale, Timothy Wagner, Laura Weeks, Corinne Weseloh, Thomas Williams, Mary Winkler, Linda Wisneiski, Laura Witcraft, Nadia Worobij, Sally Yorke-Viney, Lisa Zabriskie and Steve Zall. Also present was: Thomas Dirvonas, Solicitor.
- IV. **Community members present:** Brian Ace, Scott Amori, George Andrews, Elizabeth Arrigali, Mary Arrigali, Cindy Baldwin, Miguel Bisbus, J. Blundex, Gregory Bompane, Kate Breges, Patricia Breges, Chris Brooks, Elena Brooks, Erica Brooks, Beverly Brown, James Brunkard, Tara Caplette, Rob Casello, Gail Corey, Ethan Cramer, John Cramer, Seth Cramer, Karen Cruz, Kerrie Curtis, David Czahor, Suzanne Dello Russo, Sarah Depaolo, Tom Depaolo, Bradley Dreier, Audry Garrett, Astrid Goicoechea, Parrish Hartman, Michelle Hoffman, Robert C. Hoffman, Robert Jankowski, Adam Janus, Susan Jorstad, Amna Khawaja, Crystal Klinger, Barbara Lewis, Katherine Lichtenstein, Bonnie Maher, Joe Mahoney, Sharon Maly-Cramer, Zachary Martin, Margaret Muth, Carol Nevil, Fikriye Ozgun, Danielle Park, Prapti Patel, Michal Peterson, Anne Pohlman, Bob Pohlman, Jeff Poloway, Lily Quarterman, Shari Rivera, Nancy Rubilotta, Rich Rubilotta, Ed Rweht, Donald Ryno, Jennifer Serowick, Sapphire Serrano, Wendy Sheevan, Melissa Smith, Robert Smith, Robert Smith, Alison Stewart, Karen Strobel, Jeff Sullivan, Gary Summers, Judy Summers, Hema Tagliaferri, Jason Trump, Christina Vitale, Kelly R. Weaver, Robert Weseloh, Beverly White, Ray White, Alicia Witcraft, Greg Yeager, Gregory Yeager, Linda Yeager, Madelyn Yeager, Deborah Yohey and Emily Zabriskie.

Dean Benner, Rohrer Bus Sales

Media: Christina Tatu – Pocono Record
WNEP

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Robert Cooke to approve this agenda for June 4, 2012 (pages 1-2), as submitted. Motion was seconded by Roy Horton and passed 6-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE BOARD

None

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- Limited to Agenda Items other than the school closing. There will be no further public participation on the school closing issue, in that this issue was the subject of a public hearing on March 2, 2012 and there was a three month period following the hearing during which residents and taxpayers were able to submit written comments.

- A. Mrs. Ann Catrillo, spoke as the East Stroudsburg Education Association (ESEA) President and said that in the East Stroudsburg Area School District the ESEA Association has created a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is up for vote this evening. She said the MOU states that the teaching staff will take a one year pay and tuition reimbursement freeze giving the district a substantial savings, which allows the School Board to balance the budget with a 0% tax increase and do this without closing an elementary school.
- B. Mr. Bob Pohlman said he appreciates what teachers have done and some think that teachers get paid too much and benefits are too high but he does not think the teachers had to do what they did in the MOU. He said Mr. Searfoss spontaneously reduced the tax burden from 2.4% to 1.5% on the slight of hand and the district has \$35 million in reserve even though some has been said is dedicated but he thinks there is enough money there to not have students pay a participation fee, money not to close school and money for teachers to continue in their salary and steps that they would have gotten next year.
- C. Mr. Dean Benner, Rohrer Bus Sales, said that he was thankful to bid for buses but the specs were proprietary specs that their competitor met but his company didn't. He said the propriety specs claimed that there were 30 things that they could not meet but there really wasn't. They have been making buses for 96 years and their buses are safe. The matter was the specs and Rohrer not meeting them. They would have saved the district a considerable amount of money. Communication has been poor and he had a hard time speaking to someone at the district although they did do a bus demonstration in the district. He would like an opportunity to sell us his buses and save the district money.

VIII. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the East Stroudsburg Area Education Association related to cost savings for the 2012-2013 school year, and to express the Board of Education's appreciation to the members of the East Stroudsburg Area Education Association for their willingness to work cooperatively in the best interests of the school district and those whom it serves. Motion was seconded by Eileen Featherman. A roll call vote was taken and passed 7-1. Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James and William Searfoss voted yes. Michael Meachem voted no.

IX. SCHOOL CLOSING

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to close neither the J.M. Hill Elementary School nor the Smithfield Elementary School for the 2012-2013 school year. Motion was seconded by Marjorie James. A roll call vote was taken and passed 7-0-1 abstention. Robert Cooke, Eileen Featherman, Douglas Freeman, Robert Gress, Roy Horton, Marjorie James and Williams Searfoss voted yes. Michael Meachem abstained.

X. FISCAL ITEMS

A. Bus Bids

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to reject the bid of Rohrer Bus Sales for the purchase and buy back of District buses for the 2012-2013 school year due to the bid being incomplete and/or due to the bid being non-responsive in that it does not meet the specifications in a number of areas considered to be of concern to the District. Motion was seconded by Robert Cooke and passed 6-2. Marjorie James and Michael Meachem voted no.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to accept the bid of Wolfington Body Co., Inc. for the purchase and buy back of twenty-one (21) 72-passenger buses for the 2012-2013 school year at a net cost to the District of \$1,147,650, subject to mileage allowances. Motion was seconded by Eileen Featherman and passed 6-2. Marjorie James and Michael Meachem voted no.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Douglas Freeman to extend a fourth year of the current bus buy back contract with Wolfington Body Co., for six 29-30 passenger and three 12/3 wheelchair special education buses and to be sold back on June 30, 2013 for an annual mileage allowance of 19,000 miles. Motion was seconded by Robert Gress and passed 7-1. Michael Meachem voted no.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

- A. Mr. Searfoss informed everyone that there will be a Special Board meeting on June 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Center Board Room for the approval of the 2012-2013 school year final budget.

XII. ADJOURNMENT 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado,
Board Secretary