



Committee of the Whole Meeting August 10, 2015 Minutes

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Paul Irvin, Rodney Jones, Bryan Naranjo, Melissa Readman, Thomas Wentzel and Glenn Yoder

Non-Voting Members in attendance were: Robert Hollister, Justin Johnson, Nadine Larkin and Keith Ramsey

Members not in attendance were: Jonathan Dahl, Dina Maio and Jennifer Zeiset

Staff/Public in attendance were: Several citizens of the community, staff members of the District, and a member of the press.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

President Yoder opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence/Reflection - Pledge of Allegiance

President Yoder led in a silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens Comments

At this time we will invite public comment on any topic that is within the Board's jurisdiction.

Chuck Trupe, East Earl Township

Mr. Trupe commented on the impact of tax increases that had occurred 25 years ago and thanked the Board for the slight tax increase the Board has issued during the last couple of years. He read several quotes to the Board, thanked the Board for serving the community and then said a prayer.

Coleen Davenport, New Holland

Mrs. Davenport thanked the Board for investing in her career at Eastern Lancaster County School District. She informed the Board that she came from Governor Mifflin to

ELANCO as a new teacher and was returning to Governor Mifflin now as an administrator. She was glad that she would still be a resident of the New Holland community with two sons continuing through the Eastern Lancaster County School District system.

The Board thanked Mrs. Davenport for her service and wished her the best.

Dr. Hollister thanked Mrs. Davenport for taking the time to come out.

Wolfram Andrews, East Earl Township

Dr. Andrews a local optometrist in New Holland came before the Board to present his concerns regarding the District endorsing a program from Modern Eyes Optical a business from outside the district selling eyeglasses to members of the school district and the community. Dr. Andrews questioned how the program got endorsed by the school district, feeling as though local tax paying businesses who have supported the school such as his and Dr. Owens of Owens Optometrics were not given the opportunity to participate in a partnership with the school. He requested that the Board revisit the situation and make some necessary adjustments.

Dr. Hollister personally apologized to Dr. Andrews indicating that it was never the intent of the District to ostracize our local businesses. He commented that Modern Eyes Optical approached the District with this offer and noted that in retrospect perhaps the District should have reached out to other businesses for comparisons. He noted that Modern Eyes has been partnering with many of the school districts in Lancaster County. Dr. Hollister commented that the District would be more careful going forward particularly advertising in the District Newsletter. Dr. Hollister made a note that both of the present optician businesses have donated time and glasses to the school district and community. He indicated that the District would certainly be more sensitive going forward in situations like these.

President Yoder thanked Dr. Andrews for bringing this issue to the Board's attention and informed him that the program was currently in place for this year, however, in the future they would take a closer look at what programs were implemented.

Dr. Hollister also included that he met with Mrs. Owens as a token of the District's appreciation, he extended to both businesses the offer of free banner advertising in the District stadium. These are usually sold for \$700 to our local businesses.

4. Approve Personnel Report

Mr. Wentzel made a motion to approve the personnel report. It was seconded by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (6-0; 3 absent)**

5. Property and Services

5.1 Authorize the Chief of Finance and Operations to sign the Non Public Transportation Contracts for 2015-16

The cost per student increases by the increase in the transportation formula, which for 2015-16 is .8%. The total cost may vary depending on number of students transported.

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board approved at the next Board meeting to authorize him to sign the Non Public Transportation contracts. He indicated that the total cost of the contracts were \$148,000. He also noted that the cost will fluctuate based on the number of students transporting.

5.2 Approval of Bus Drivers (Public and Nonpublic) and Bus Assistants for the 2015-16 School Year

Each year we are required to approve the listing of all contracted transportation drivers and bus assistants. A listing will be provided at the Board Meeting.

Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that every year they approved the list of bus drivers for the new school year. He indicated that all drivers provided their required documentation to drive for the district, including approved licenses and clearances. The list would be presented at the next Board meeting.

5.3 Approval to Renew the Agreement with Jani-King of Philadelphia, Inc. and to Authorize the Chief of Finance & Operations to Sign the Agreement

The cost remains fixed for the first 3 years of the agreement and a 2% increase in years 4 and 5.

Mr. Ramsey recommended the Board approve the renewal of the agreement with Jani-King of Philadelphia, Inc., the district's contracted custodial services. He noted the reason for having this contracted service presented several benefits to the District which include having a corporate presence that monitors the service monthly. Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that the company was proposing not increase for the first 3 years and then a 2% increase for the last two years of the contract. He also noted that currently there were not enough viable custodial contractors available for requesting bids, however, if there w

5.4 Information Items - Security Update

We are looking to equip the office secretaries with panic buttons in case of an emergency. Pricing is as follows:

- Equipment and installation = \$5,335 - Total for all schools
- Yearly monitoring fee = \$240 - Garden Spot Only

Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that the District would be investing in panic buttons for all school front office secretaries in the District. He indicated that the total cost for equipment for each office location was \$5,335. There would also be a \$240 monitoring fee.

Dr. Hollister commented that Chief Bowers of the New Holland Police Department favored the concept as additional security for the District.

6. Program

6.1 Approve New High School Courses for the 2015-2016 School Year.

New high school courses for the 2105-2016 school year. All courses are aligned with PA Core Standards and developed by the content teachers.

Course syllabus, units and outlines available under Program Information Items - July 2015 Board Meeting.

Principles of Science

- This first year science course will serve as a foundation for ninth grade students to understand the nature of scientific thinking. Students will explore fundamental principles in physics, chemistry and biology that exist in the world that surrounds them. Topics will include the basics of measurement, matter, atomic, interactions, energy, and ecology. These topics will be introduced to students through hands-on activities and scientific questioning, as well as data collection and analysis to develop scientific models that will deepen understanding of science concepts. This course will prepare students for the rigorous Science, Technology, Engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curricula they will face in the future.
 - Resources used throughout the course - online content (see course below for websites), and labs

STEM 9

- The STEM 9 course will focus on the application of engineering, science, math, and technology skills to solve complex, open-ended problems in a real-world content. Students will focus on the process of defining and solving a problem both individually as well as in small teams. Real world problems will be posed and students will have the opportunity to formulate a solution, design their product, and analyze their designs using math and science principles. Students will develop a global appreciation for alternative energy solutions and better understand how energy consumption affects the environment and economy.
 - See attached resources in Resource List for STEM 9 below

Leadership

- This course will cover a range of leadership topics from personal leadership to group leadership to group communication skills. This course is designed to help students develop their personal leadership skills and learn how to apply those skills when working in a group setting. Students will also learn how to communicate effectively in a group setting. Hands-on activities in the various Agriculture Department shops and labs will enhance classroom lessons. All students are required to join and encouraged to actively participate in the Grassland FFA Chapter. All students will also have a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project that they will work on throughout the semester.

- Texts

- *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers*, by Steven Covey
- *Fish!* by Stephen Lundin, Harry Paul, and John Christensen
- *Strengths Based Leadership: Great Leaders, Teams and Why People Follow?* by Tom Rath and Barry Conchie

Animal Science

- This course will cover a range of animal science topics. These topics will include small animals, animal nutrition, poultry science, animals in society, animal breeding and environmental impacts of animals.

Information in this course will be helpful to those wishing to take the veterinary science course or those who are wishing to enter into a career that involves animals. Hands-on activities in the various Agriculture Department shops and labs will enhance classroom lessons. All students are required to join and encourages to actively participate in the Grassland FFA Chapter. All students will also have a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project that they will work on throughout the semester.

- Texts

- *Animal Science: Biology and Technology*, by Robert Mikesell and MeeCee Baker
- *The Science of Animal Agriculture*, by Ray Herren
- *Modern Livestock and Poultry Production*, by James Gillespie

AP Environmental Science

- The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from

different areas of study. Yet there are several major unifying constructs, or themes, that cut across the many topics included in the study of environmental science.

- Texts
 - *Environmental Science for AP*, by Friedland and Relyea
 - *A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold
 - *Our Ecological Footprint*, by Wackernagel and Rees
- Resources
 - Science Lab Notebook, from Lab Aids

6.2 Approve New Texts for Two Agriculture Courses at the High School for the 2015-2016 School Year.

Two new texts are being requested for two existing Agricultural courses, Ag Science 2 and Horticulture for the 2105-2016 school year. A sample unit for each course is attached to this section below to show where the text weaves into the curriculum.

Ag Science 2 Course

- Text
 - *The Man Who Fed the World*, by Leon Hesser

Horticulture Course

- Text
 - *Flower Confidential*, by Amy Stewart

Dr. Larking informed the Board that they would be approving the additional courses and new text that Mr. Winters had presented at the July 20th Board meeting.

6.3 Information Items – None

7. Management

7.1 Action Items - None.

7.2 Information Item - Discussion regarding Homeschool Student participating in "For Credit Activities": Potential Solutions/Recommendations

Dr. Hollister reviewed with the Board the discussion of the request from the parent for their homeschooled student to participate in a credited course for Band. He introduced Mr. Sanger to the podium to present the Board with possible solutions and recommendations.

Mr. Sanger presented the pros and cons of the options being recommended by the Administration. Homeschool students would continue to be able to participate in after school activities. He commented that the credit would be removed from the required credited band course. Band would be more in line with how the school

handles the FFA and GSPA programs. The band course would be offered as an extra-curricular activity, however Garden Spot students would be allowed to take the class for credit as an elective. This would allow the opportunity for more variety in music courses offered as well in the high school. With the credit removed, this would allow for homeschool students to participate in the course.

The Board commented favorably to the change.

Dr. Hollister noted that the changes would not take effect until the 2016-2017 school year.

8. Announcements

Dr. Hollister reminded the Board that the opening day breakfast for teachers and staff in the District would be held, Tuesday, August 18th beginning at 7:20 a.m. and all Board members were invited to attend.

Dr. Hollister also indicated that he has distributed to the Board a copy of a statement written by Amy Morton regarding the anticipated drop PSSA test scores explaining where we were, why we got there and why we are where we are. He noted that the scores are not indictments of the school district or students, but rather perhaps PDE itself.

Dr. Hollister also informed the Board that as a Board, they were obligated to vote on the Slate of Candidates for Officers at PSBA. Mr. Johnson would be forwarding the email with a link that presents each candidate profile and their credentials.

Dr. Hollister announced that there would be an executive session after the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Wentzel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. with a second by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (6-0; 3 absent)**

Justin W. Johnson
School Board Secretary
June 8, 2015