

# White Township Board of Education Minutes

## February 23, 2009

### **Members Present**

The regular meeting of the White Township Board of Education was held on the above date with the following members in attendance: Mr. Gary Meddaugh, Mr. Steve Muscat, Mr. Dave Rader, Mr. Nelson Abrams, Mrs. Chanda Collom, Mr. Frank Panetta, Mrs. Anna Skoog, Dr. John Fritz arrived at 7:34 p.m. and Mr. Ron Buckenmyer arrived at 7:50 p.m. Mrs. Linda Heilman, CSA and Mrs. Donnamarie Palmiere, SBA were also present. There were fourteen members of the public.

### **Open Public Meetings Act**

Mr. Meddaugh opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and stated that the meeting had been duly advertised and the public properly notified through notification to The Star Gazette, The Express-Times and the White Township Municipal Clerk in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Muscat and seconded by Mr. Panetta to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 Regular meeting.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. Collom to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2009 Budget Meeting.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion Carried

Dr. Fritz arrives at 7:34 p.m.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Open Public Comment**

Mr. Mackey commented on the Spanish curriculum and how he was concerned that the children are not prepared for high school. The Board told Mr. Mackey that Mrs. Heilman will look into it. He also commented on the Instant Alert system and wanted to know why parents are not always informed of situations that have occurred, especially about a van that tied to abduct a child several years ago in a neighboring town. Mrs. Wortmann and Mrs. Toth commented on a situation that happened recently in the school and were told that the appropriate measures had been taken and it did not pose a safety issue at any time. Officer Reilly suggested that the next time an incident occurs, maybe a letter could be sent home to assure parents that their children are safe.

Mr. Ron Buckenmyer arrived at 7:50 P.M.

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### Committee Reports

**Personnel Committee** – Mr. Buckenmyer reported that an Executive Session is needed to discuss a grievance.

**Transportation** – Mr. Muscat reported there was a bus accident on Rt. 31 while it was transporting White Township High School students to Belvidere High School. Fortunately, no one was injured and the bus drivers were notified to keep the last seats empty if the bus was not full. He also noted that a letter was sent home to parents regarding the incident.

**Policy** – No report.

**Finance** – The following dates have been scheduled for budget workshop meetings: Monday, March 16, 2009 and the Public Hearing on the proposed budget will be held on March 30, 2009. Meetings will be held in the White Township Consolidated School at 7:30. The public is encouraged to attend.

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. Skoog to approve Monday, March 30, 2009 as the date for the public hearing on the proposed 2009-2010 budget. It will take place at 7:30 in the White Township School gym and the public is encouraged to attend.

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

**Curriculum** – No report.

**Buildings & Grounds** –

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mr. Abrams to approve DRG (Design Resource Group) to proceed with the window replacement project.

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

**Public Relations** – Mrs. Skoog reported that the newsletter had gone out.

**Special Services** -No report.

**Planning/Expansion** – No report.

**BHS** – Mr. Rader informed the Board that Belvidere is planning some capital improvements, including their final roof repair. They are also planning on purchasing a new piano for the high school and a fire alarm panel. The proposed budget has a 0% tax increase. They are looking into the potential of a new track project which would cost

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approximately \$15,000 to the board. Volunteers and donations would absorb most of the cost.

**Planning Board** – No report.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

None.

### **CSA REPORT**

#### **ITEM #1 – DISTRICT ENROLLMENT (2/17/2009)**

Enrollment January 20, 2009	399
Transferred In	1
Transferred Out	1
Enrollment February 17, 2009	399

#### **ITEM #2 – CLASSROOM ENROLLMENT (1/20/2009)**

Kdg-AM – Williams	17 (1)
Kdg-PM – Williams	13
LLD K-2 – Werner	4
LLD 3-5 – Rosano	5
LLD 6-8 - Sypniewski	6
Grade 1 – May	17
Grade 1 – Rohaly	16 (1)
Grade 2 – Barofski	19 (2)
Grade 2 – Marsh	24
Grade 3 – Bellfy	18
Grade 3 – Brundage	17
Grade 3 – Fleming	15 (2)
Grade 4 - DeCesare	19
Grade 4 – Giffels	19
Grade 5 - Bowers	19
Grade 5 – Hawk	16 (3)
Grade 6 - Hutchison	17 (3)
Grade 6 - Nobile	20
Grade 6 - Wheatley	19
Grade 7 - LaBar	22
Grade 7 - Mulligan	21 (2)
Grade 8 - Fraunfelter	19
Grade 8 - Skirbst	18 (1)
Grade 8 - White	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>399</b>

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## ITEM #3 – DISTRICT ATTENDANCE (12/30/08)

Total Days Possible	6771.0
Total Days Present	6390.0
Total Days Absent	381.0
Average Daily Enrollment	398.29
Average Daily Attendance	375.88
Student Rate of Attendance	94.37%

## ITEM #4 – BELVIDERE HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (1/30/09)

	General Ed	Special Education	
Grade 9	45	5	
Grade 10	35	11	
Grade 11	39	9	
Grade 12	35	7	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>(186)</b>

## ITEM #5 - SPECIAL SERVICES PLACEMENTS (2/18/09)

Belvidere Preschool	1
Allamuchy Township School	1
Greenwich Township Preschool	1
Harmony Township Preschool	5
Hope Township Preschool	6
Hunterdon Learning Center	1
Knowlton Twp. Pre-School	2
Midland School	1
Special Children's School	1
Somerset Hills	1
Warren County Spec. Services	
Franklin Township	2
Warren Tech	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

## ITEM #6 – WARREN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL (2/18/09)

Grade 12	4
Grade 11	8
Grade 10	6
Grade 9	13
Total	31

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### ITEM #7 – ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENTS

The Chief School Administrator recommended acceptance of the following retirements, effective June 30, 2009:

Mr. John Idenden  
Mrs. Judith Williams

A motion was made by Mr. Muscat and seconded by Mrs. Skoog to accept the following retirements, effective June 30, 2009, with regrets and best wishes for a happy retirement:

Mr. John Idenden  
Mrs. Judith Williams

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### ITEM #8 – APPROVAL TO HIRE AIDE

The Chief School Administrator and Child Study Team recommended hiring Miss Jessica Lenahan as a part time preschool disabilities aide at the hourly rate of \$10.17 (Step 1-2, Non-degreed Aide) in keeping with the current negotiated agreement between the White Township Board of Education and the White Township Education Association. Miss Lenahan will be employed for 3 hours per day, five days per week.

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mr. Abrams to hire Miss Jessica Lenahan as a part time preschool disabilities aide at the hourly rate of \$10.17 (Step 1-2, Non-degreed Aide) in keeping with the current negotiated agreement between the White Township Board of Education and the White Township Education Association. Miss Lenahan will be employed for 3 hours per day, five days per week.

#### ROLL CALL:

Gary Meddaugh – Aye  
Nelson Abrams– Aye  
Steve Muscat – Aye  
Anne Skoog – Aye  
John Fritz – Aye  
Dave Rader - Aye  
Chanda Collom – Aye  
Frank Panetta – Aye  
Ron Buckenmyer – Aye

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

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### **ITEM #9A – APPROVAL OF JUMP START POSITIONS**

The Chief School Administrator recommended approval of Mrs. Joan Williams and Miss Shannon O’Neil as Jump Start staff members at stipends of \$1,619 each (Years 1, 2 & 3) in accordance with the current negotiated agreement between the White Township Board of Education and the White Township Education Association. Stipends will be prorated over remaining school year. (These positions are grant-funded.)

A motion was made by Mr. Buckenmyer and seconded by Mr. Abrams to approve Mrs. Joan Williams and Miss Shannon O’Neil as Jump Start staff members at stipends of \$1,619 each (Years 1, 2 & 3) in accordance with the current negotiated agreement between the White Township Board of Education and the White Township Education Association. Stipends will be prorated over remaining school year. (These positions are grant-funded.)

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### **ITEM #9B – SCHOOL BOARD VOTING HOURS**

The Chief School Administrator and Board Secretary requested that the Board designate polling hours for the April 21, 2009 school election. Voting hours are normally between 2:00 and 9:00 PM, but the Board has the option of cutting hours down to 5:00-9:00 PM. [Poll workers are paid at \$14.29 per hour. There are six districts with four workers each (24) for a total cost of \$342.96 per hour.]

A motion was made by Mr. Muscat and seconded by Mrs. Skoog to designate polling hours for the April 21, 2009 school election. Voting hours are normally between 2:00 and 9:00 PM, but the Board has the option of cutting hours down to 5:00-9:00 PM. [Poll workers are paid at \$14.29 per hour. There are six districts with four workers each (24) for a total cost of \$342.96 per hour.]

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### **ITEM #10 – APPROVAL TO HOLD “KID VOTE”**

The Chief School Administrator recommended approval of “Kid Vote” to be held during voting hours on April 21, 2009. Volunteers from the school staff will man “Kid Vote.”

A motion was made by Mrs. Skoog and seconded by Mrs. Collom to approve “Kid Vote” to be held during voting hours on April 21, 2009. Volunteers from the school staff will man “Kid Vote.”

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### **ITEM #11 – APPROVAL OF SHORTENED SESSION**

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The Chief School Administrator recommended approval of March 20, 2009, as a shortened session for students (1:30 dismissal), so that teachers may continue professional development activities.

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mr. Rader to approve March 20, 2009 as a shortened session for students (1:30 dismissal), so that teachers may continue professional development activities.

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### **ITEM #12 – APPROVAL OF ART SHOW DATE**

The Chief School Administrator recommended approval of Thursday, May 7, 2009, from 7:00-9:00 PM as the date and time for the school art show.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skoog and seconded by Mr. Abrams to approve Thursday, May 7, 2009, from 7:00-9:00 PM as the date and time for the school art show.

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### **ITEM #13 – PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL REPORT CARD 2007-2008**

The Chief School Administrator presented the 2007-2008 school report card.

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mrs. Skoog to accept the 2007-2008 School Report Card.

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

## **ADDENDUM TO THE CSA REPORT**

### **1A. APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE**

The Chief School Administrator recommended approval of Mrs. Therese Steinhart of White Township as a substitute school nurse and classroom teacher for the 2008-2009 school year.

A motion was made Mr. Buckenmyer and seconded by Mr. Muscat to approve Mrs. Therese Steinhart of White Township as a substitute school nurse and classroom teacher for the 2008-2009 school year.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Gary Meddaugh – Aye

Nelson Abrams– Aye

Steve Muscat – Aye

Anne Skoog – Aye

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John Fritz – Aye  
Dave Rader - Aye  
Chanda Collom – Aye  
Frank Panetta – Aye  
Ron Buckenmyer – Aye

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### **2A. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP**

The Chief School Administrator requested permission to attend the “Setting the Context for the 2009 Standards Revision Project: Workshop Series with Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Project Consultant,” as recommended by the Department of Education. Workshops will be held on February 17 and May 19, 2009, at the FEA Conference Center in Monroe Township and will cost \$340.00 (or \$195.00 each).

A motion was made by Mr. Muscat and seconded by Mr. Abrams to grant permission for the Chief School Administrator to attend the “Setting the Context for the 2009 Standards Revision Project: Workshop Series with Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Project Consultant,” as recommended by the Department of Education. Workshops will be held on February 17 and May 19, 2009, at the FEA Conference Center in Monroe Township and will cost \$340.00 (or \$195.00 each).

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### **ACCEPTANCE OF CSA REPORT & ADDENDUM TO THE CSA REPORT**

Accept the report of the Chief School Administrator and the addendum to the CSA report into the Board Minutes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Collom and seconded by Mr. Abrams to accept the report of the Chief School Administrator and the Addendum into the Board Minutes.

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

Attachments: 2007-2008 School Report Card  
Retirement letters

### **Open Public Comment**

Mr. Abrams mentioned that he has been asked when school will open in September, before or after Labor Day. Mrs. Heilman informed the Board that the calendar committee was working on it and it should be ready for approval at the next board meeting. Mr. Mackey wanted to thank the members of the Board for serving on the Board.

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### Executive Session

A motion was made by Mrs. Skoog and seconded by Mrs. Collom to go into Executive Session at 9:16p.m. to discuss a grievance issue.

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. Skoog to resume into Regular Session at 9:28p.m.

Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0 Motion carried

### PAYMENT OF BILLS:

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. Collom to approve the payment of the bills for February 2009 in the amount of \$773,381.61.

Ayes –9 Nays – 0, Abstentions –0 Motion carried

### FINANCIAL REPORTS:

January, 2009

- A.) Board Secretary's Report
- B.) Treasurer's Report
- C.) Budget Certification
- D.) Budget Transfers

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mr. Muscat to approve the January, 2009 Treasurer's Report, the January, 2009 Board Secretary's Report and Budget Certification.

Ayes –9 Nays – 0, Abstentions –0 Motion carried

### BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION:

5 members of the public stayed for this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Palmiere and Mr. Meddaugh gave a synopsis of the budget and highlighted the major factors that have impacted the 2009-2010 budget. A few points were brought up to try and save the district some money and they will be looked into. The main factor is the change in the ratable due to the DSM lawsuit.

### APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY BASE BUDGET PENDING COUNTY APPROVAL

The Chief School Administrator, the Business Administrator, and the Finance Committee recommended approval of the proposed 2009-2010 school district budget for submission to County Office:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$ 8,526,955	\$ 6,383,939

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Special Revenue Fund	\$ 120,000	-0-
Debt Service Fund	\$ 372,900	\$ 322,900

**Total Base Budget            \$ 9,019,855                            \$ 6,706,839**

- **State Aid is based on 08-09 Figures**
- **Debt Service Aid is estimated**

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. Collom to approve the preliminary proposed 2009-2010 school district budget for submission to County Office:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$ 8,526,955	\$ 6,383,939
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 120,000	-0-
Debt Service Fund	\$ 372,900	\$ 322,900
<b>Total Base Budget</b>	<b>\$ 9,019,855</b>	<b>\$ 6,706,839</b>

- **State Aid is based on 08-09 Figures**
- **Debt Service Aid is estimated**

Ayes –9 Nays – 0, Abstentions –0 Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. Collom to hold a Special Budget Meeting on March 16, 2009 at the White Township Consolidated School in Room 461 at 7:30p.m.

Ayes –9 Nays – 0, Abstentions –0 Motion carried

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mrs. Collom to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Ayes –9, Nays – 0, Abstentions - 0 Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Palmiere,  
Board Secretary

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