

NOVEMBER 10, 2011

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on October 13, 2011 in the Middle School Library. President Kathleen Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., E.S.T.

Board Members Present:

Lorraine Rocco
Scott Challis
Bobbie Jo Elmer
Harry Gilarno (Arrived 7:20 pm)
Greg Lehocky (Last Board Meeting)
Mary Ann Petcovic
Kathleen Schlegel

Board Members Absent:

Mike Tibolet
Barbara Heyman

School Staff Present:

Ron Sofo, Superintendent
Noriene Plate, Business Manager
Robert Staub, High School Principal
Richard Edder, Middle School Principal
Chad Yopp, Building & Grounds

Solicitor

Matt Hoffman, Esq.

Beaver County Times:

N/A

Guests: Bill Layton, Swim Coach and Swim Team Members; Sr. High School Students Zachary Wilson & Keith Braun

Bills Motion by Rocco, seconded by Elmer, to approve the first check run for payment of bills for November 2011, in the amount of \$417,216.83. **Copy of the bills is in each Board Member's packet and copy attached to the minutes in the minute book.**

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Petcovic, Lehocky, Challis, Rocco, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 6 Yeas

Cafeteria Report Motion by Rocco, seconded by Elmer, to approve the October 2011 Cafeteria Reports. **Copy of the report is in each Board Member's packet and copy attached to the minutes in the minute book.**

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Petcovic, Challis, Rocco, Lehocky, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.

Treasurer's Report Motion by Rocco, seconded by Elmer, to approve the October 2011 Treasurer's report. **Copy of the Treasurers' report is in each Board Member's packet and copy attached to minutes in the minute book.**

	<u>October 2011</u>
Money Market, Huntington Bank	\$ 9,636.66
General Fund, Huntington Bank	\$ 1,967,355.57
Payroll, Huntington Bank	\$ 2,700.60
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 674,339.43
Premier Savings – Huntington	\$ 4,085,721.31
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 3,089.86
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 90,024.24
PDSLAF - Capital Improvement	\$ 61,918.72
Huntington – Capital Improvement	\$ 1,980.38
Student Activity Account	\$ 51,086.31
Huntington – Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 265,954.17
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 1,291,608.63
PSDLAF CD – Capital Projects	\$ 3,524,000.00
PSDLAF General Fund	\$ 4,090,000.00

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Invitation:

BVIU 2011 Reorganization Meeting, Thursday, December 15, 5:45 P.M
Beaver County Career & Technology Center, RSVP to Sandy DiSante at sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us by Friday, December 2 (Guests of Board Members are welcome to attend, \$22 Per Guest)

NSBA Conference Motion by Rocco. seconded by Challis, to approve Board attendance at NSBA 72nd Annual Conference to be held in Boston on April 21 – April 23, 2012

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 6 Yeas.

Other:

December Reorganization Meeting and Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, December 8, 2011

Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):

1. Freedom Middle School Band, Middle School Band Room, 11/1 thru 11/21, and Auditorium, 12/7 and 12/13, 7th and 8th Grade Rehearsals
2. Spanish Club, High School Room 208, 10/26, Meeting for Trip to Spain
2. Freedom Area Community Task Force, High School Room 110, 11/2, Planning Meeting
3. Freedom High School Math League, High School Cafeteria, 2/6, Math League Competition
4. Freedom Junior Class, Practice Fields 10/31 thru 11/4, Stadium-Game 11/8, Powder Puff Fundraiser
5. Freedom Youth Wrestling, Middle School Student Center, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11/1 thru 2/28, Wrestling Practices
7. Courage for Life Foundation, High School Conference Room, 11/1, Board Meeting
8. F.A.S.T., Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, Mondays, 11/7 thru 1/23, Soccer Practices
9. Freedom Wrestlettes, High School Wrestling Mats, Mondays thru Thursdays, 11/3 thru End of Wrestling Season, Cheerleading Practices
10. Senior Project, High School Auditorium and Stage, 12/16, St. Jude Fundraiser
11. Senior Project, High School Cafeteria, 4/14, Tea Party for Charity
12. Freedom/New Sewickley Baseball Association, Middle School Entrance Hall, 1/17 and 1/23, Baseball Registration
13. Theatre Arts Classes, High School Auditorium, 11/3, Rehearsal
14. FAEA, High School Auditorium, 11/8, Association Meeting
15. Freedom Basketball Boosters, High School Gymnasium, 11/22, Alumni Game (Fundraiser)

PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Swim Program Coach Bill Layton, Varsity Swim Program, discussed continued use of the swimming pool, number of students currently enrolled in the program, and the need to rejuvenate the program for this year. Currently not enough students have come out to show interest in the program. Mr. Layton said he wants to go forward with the program and requested the pool be open again at some point. He said that he is trying to take the program to the next level and needs support more than ever to make the program successful for many years to come, we want to keep program intact and that he is willing to do anything to keep the program alive. Mr. Layton also said that there is a lot of support from USA swimming and that he would like to have them come in and do an assessment and help us get through the incurred expenses and with suggestions for pool and program. The swim team will be practicing with our swim coach and participating in meets with a reduced number of student participants, approximately eight at this time.

The school district supports the plan, initially developed May/June 2011 for the team to practice at the New Brighton pool and has all of its meets at away locations.

Cost to maintain the pool is over \$100,000 per year. District open to ideas.

Note: Board Member Harry Gilarno arrived at 7:20 pm

Playground The Big Knob Elementary School playground is now operational, thanks to the Lowe's grant received by the District.

ENCLOSURES:

- A. Basic Education Circular for approval of a Joint School (Superintendent's Report – Item C.)
- B. Strategies to Impact House Vote/Talking Points (Legislation – Item A.2.)
- C. Cyber Charter Reform Legislation, State Representative Mike Fleck (Legislation – Item B.)
- D. 2012-2013 District Budget Calendar (Finance – Item A.)
- E. Emergency Day-to-Day Substitute List Received from BVIU (Education – Item E.)
- F. List of Student Activity Account Signatures for Students and Activity Sponsor (Extra-Curricular – Item A.)
- G. In-Out Migration Report as of October 2011 – 1,520 (+6 from September 2011)
- H. Free-Reduced Lunch Report as of November 7, 2011 – District at 40.16%
- I. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of November 7, 2011 - Current Projected Annual Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$490,969.59; 41 Cyber/Charter Students, 14 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 55
- J. Storm Winter Forecasts for 2011-2012 (Snowfall and Temperature)
- K. BVIU School Board Notes for October 26, 2011 Meeting
- L. Article (*Available Upon Request*):
 - Baden Academy, Ambridge Face State Board

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Sofo reported on the following:

- A. 21st Century Initiative Progress Report (Gates Foundation / Grable Foundation / Pre-Service Teacher Preparation Programs/PreK-4)
- B. Crows Run Corridor Road Project Community Meeting, in sponsorship with Conway Borough, Monday, November 21, 7:00 P.M., Conway Borough Fire Hall – Congressman Jason Altmire scheduled to attend
- C. Reviewed options for approval of a Joint School (**Enclosure**)

LEGISLATION:

Superintendent Sofo reported on the following:

- A. Senate Passes Voucher Bill (Administrative Report):
 - 1. Senator Vogel's "NO" Vote in Support of Quality Public Education for All Students (Thank Him)
 - 2. Strategies to Impact House Vote/Talking Points (**Enclosure**)
 - 3. Potential District impact estimated at \$6,500 per student for tuition to private schools
- C. Cyber Charter Reform Legislation, State Representative Mike Fleck – Request All Beaver County Legislators to Co-Sponsor Bill (**Enclosure**)

Note in Minutes:

Articles:

- 1. Legislator urges schools to sue PA over education fund cut
- 2. Corbett's Right About Schools

FINANCE:

Calendar	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Gilarno, to approve the 2012-2013 School District Budget Calendar.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Service Agreement	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Gilarno, to approve curtailment of Services Agreement with Clear Choice Energy selecting the voluntary basis option (Administrative Report)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

BUCS Program	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Lehocky, to approve the BUCS Basic Program (Self-Insured Unemployment Program)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Budget Transfers	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Gilarno, to approve budget transfers of \$13,000: From: 10-1100-610 (4533) - Instructional Supplies To: 10-2270-329 (5392) - Professional Development – District Wide
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Teacher Contract	Executive Session: 2012-2015 Teacher Contract. Pending Solicitor and Superintendent review of final contract language and salary schedule.

Note in Minutes:

- Receipt of Crown Communication Appeals – Beaver County Confidentiality Agreement
- District request for proposals to bid district employee health care for 2012-2013 have been sent to:
 1. Aetna
 2. Cigna
 3. Health America
 4. Highmark
 5. United Healthcare
 6. UPMC
- Beaver County School Health Care Consortium Advisory Council meeting minutes of October 17, 2011

EDUCATION:

Released Time	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve released time according to Act 48:
---------------	--

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:

1. **Gifted:**
 - a. Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted Coordinator, Lego Mindstorm Workshop, December 13, BVIU
2. **Other:**
 - a. Keith Kovalic, High School Music Teacher, District 5 Honors Chorus, January 25 thru January 27, Greenville High School, Cost \$450 Registration Fee, Substitute, Lodging for Teacher-Approximately \$250 (Student Lodging Included in Registration Fee), Meals, Mileage

Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Retirement	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to accept the retirement of Dennis Partridge, High School Social Studies Teacher, effective January 31, 2012
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
PERC	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve a total of six (6) District Administrators and Teachers Attendance at 2012 PERC Teacher Job Fair, March 21, Monroeville Convention Center, Cost not to exceed \$600 – District won free registration voucher worth \$395.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Intern	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve Lance Swaney as a Counseling Intern thru Slippery Rock University for Spring 2012 (will be placed with Rita Kaplin, High School Guidance Counselor) (Pending Receipt of Act 151 Clearance)

Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Performance Fact	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve Mutiu Fagbayi, of Performance Fact, Inc., as Eye on the Goal Facilitator/Consultant for 2011-2013 School Years, total cost not to exceed \$16,000.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Day-To-Day Subs	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve emergency day-to-day substitute list received from the BVIU dated November 4, 2011 (Enclosure)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Homebound	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve homebound instruction, according to policy, for Middle School Student.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Unpaid days	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve request from Joy Crouch, Big Knob Elementary 2 nd Grade Teacher, for two unpaid days – November 29 and November 30, 2011 - According to Policy No. 439.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Application	Dr. Sofo, Superintendent reported that two questions are different between the State Application and the District's. Following discussion the following motion was made: Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to accept the State Standard Application for Professional Employees with appropriate addendum to add the two additional questions to our application. (Copy Attached)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Note in Minutes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District in receipt of 2011 Annual Yearly Progress Letters from Pennsylvania Department of Education – Freedom Area School District Made AYP, As Well As All Schools ● District Visit to Pittsburgh Public Schools Science & Technology High School, Thursday, November 17, 2011 ● PDE Special Education Audit Scheduled for November 15-16, 2011
<u>OPERATIONS:</u>	
Consortium	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve 2012-2013 participation in the Western Pennsylvania Gasoline/Diesel Fuel Consortium.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Substitutes	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to approve the following as substitute custodians: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kris Eldridge (Pending Receipt of Act 151 and Fingerprint Clearances) 2. Trina Martin (Pending Receipt of Clearances)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Resignation	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Lehocky, to accept the resignation of Carrie Knopp as Middle School Security Monitor effective November 18, 2011.

Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Applicants	Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, provided a Buildings and Grounds Director selection process progress report saying that there are a total of 50 applicants, 14 will be selected for first round of screenings. Dr. Sofo said that the majority of applicants lack supervisory experience, some have college degrees, applicants have a diverse field of skill sets. The first round of interviews will hopefully be completed by December.
VEBH	Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, reviewed the timeline to create a District Facilities Master Plan facilitated with District Architect VEBH. The goal is to have it completed by early April.
Monthly Report	Chad Yopp, Buildings and Grounds Director, provided the following monthly report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High School – Broken strobes for the alarm system in the gym have been repaired; Fire extinguisher boxes replaced in the gym ➤ Middle School – A/C repaired in the server room; auditorium light board was repaired by Pittsburgh Stage
<u>EXTRA CURRICULAR:</u>	
Signatures	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve list of Student Activity Account Signatures for students and activity sponsors. (List Enclosed)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Wrestling Coaches	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Gilarno, to approve the following Wrestling Coaches: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grant McCabe, Varsity Assistant – Salary \$2,400 (Pending Receipt of Clearances) 2. Larry Knopsnyder, Junior High Assistant – Salary \$2,000 (Pending Receipt of Clearances)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Basketball Coaches	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve the following Boys’ Basketball Coaches: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ryan Morgan, Varsity First Assistant – Salary \$2,250 (Pending Receipt of Updated Act 34 Clearance) 2. Chris Glass, Varsity Second Assistant – Salary \$1,800 (Clearances on File) 3. Detmar (Sonny) Starr, Middle School 8th Grade Coach – Salary \$1,750 (Pending Receipt of Updated Act 34 and 151 Clearances) 4. Paul Kisiday, Middle School 7th Grade Coach – Salary \$1,650 (Clearances on File)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Ticket Seller	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Gilarno, to approve Craig Atkison as ticket seller for Boys’ JV and Varsity Basketball Games, Salary According to Contract (Clearances on File).
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Uniforms	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve purchase of Wrestlerette Uniforms, Cost \$1,869 plus shipping.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Pole Vault Poles	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve sale of 3 Pole Vault Poles to Edinboro University in the amount of \$1,050

Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Protective Cage	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve installation of permanent discus protective cage, cost approximately \$5,800
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Release Time	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to approve release time, according to policy, for Dan O’Leary, Head Varsity Baseball Coach, and three (3) assistants, to attend 2012 PA Baseball Coaches Clinic, January 13 and January 14, Doubletree Hotel-Green Tree, Cost \$300 registration fee plus mileage.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Resignation	Motion by Lehocky, seconded by Challis, to accept the resignation of Gemma Williamson as Director of High School Musical for 2011-2012.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

MEET AND DISCUSS:

Student Discipline	Executive Session
--------------------	-------------------

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Challis, for the Board to go into executive session at 8:07 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Contract Negotiations (Finance # D) ❖ Student discipline (Meet & Discuss #A)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Adjourn Executive Session	Motion by Gilarno seconded by Lehocky, to adjourn executive session at 8:20 pm EST.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, Challis and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
CBA	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Petcovic, to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Freedom Area School Board and the Freedom Area Education Association, effective September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2015.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Gilarno, Elmer, Petcovic, Rocco, Schlegel, Lehocky, and Challis. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Adjourn	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. – 7 Yeas. Adjourned at 8:25 p.m., E.S.T.

Submitted by:

Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary