

## NOVEMBER 12, 2015

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on November 12, 2015, in the Elementary School Cafeteria. Vice President Petcovic called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### Board Members Present:

Alan Colorito  
Harry Gilarno (Arrived 7:10)  
Dawn Greene  
Lori Pail  
Mary Ann Petcovic  
Lorraine Rocco  
Jennifer Sayre  
Dennis Sharpless

### Board Members Absent:

Barbara Heyman (Ill)

### School Staff Present:

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent  
Noriene Plate, Business Manager  
Misty Slavic, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
William Deal, Principal, High School  
Ryan Smith, Assistant Principal, High School  
John Rosa, Athletic Director and Faculty Member

### Solicitor:

Mathew Hoffman

**GUESTS:** Public sign-in sheet attached to the minutes in the minute book

**NOTE:** Senior High students were in attendance to observe a School Board meeting to fulfill Graduation requirements

Executive session held prior to the meeting for personnel matters.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The District is in receipt of a letter from Sally Jo Smith of New Sewickley Twp. Troop 444 acknowledging Freedom Graduate David Matthew Trella for receiving the Eagle Scout Award

Freedom Area High School H.O.P.E. and Student of the Month Awards for September and October 2015 are as follows (Administrative Report):

- October H.O.P.E. Award (Theme – “Thinks Outside the Box”):
  - Maria Porter, Social Studies Teacher
- September Student of the Month Award (Theme – “Kindness and Compassion”)
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:
    - Boy - Aaron Scheider

- Girl - Grace Hutchison
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:
  - Boy - J.J. Wrhen
  - Girl - Tara Carr
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:
  - Boy - Tommy Frisco
  - Girl - Zoey Winterhalter
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade:
  - Boy - Jake Kiefer
  - Girl - Kaitlyn Lore
- October Student of the Month Award (Theme “Positive Attitude to Peers and School”):
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:
    - Boy - Levi Bonzo
    - Girl - Lara Pavlick
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
    - Boy - Noah Trombetto
    - Girl - Paige Rizzi
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
    - Boy - Shane Everette
    - Girl - Rachel DeCesaris
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade
    - Boy - Carrick Skuse
    - Girl - Kassandra Depoppe

Invitation:

BVIU 2015 Reorganization Meeting, Tuesday, December 15, 5:45 P.M., Beaver County Career & Technology Center, RSVP to Sandy DiSante at [sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us](mailto:sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us) by Wednesday, November 25 (Guests of Board Members are welcome to attend, \$23 per guest) (Enclosure) (Handout 11-5-15)

Other:

Motion by Rocco, seconded by Sayre, to approve the following representatives for the BVIU/CTC:

- i. Beaver Valley Joint School Committee for New Horizon School, Annual Term - Representative – Mary Ann Petcovic; Alternate – Lorraine Rocco)
- ii. PSBA/BVIU Legislative Action Council, Annual Term - Representative – Barbara Heyman; Alternate – Mary Ann Petcovic)
- iii. CTC Authority Board, Five Year Term - Representative – Wanda Murray)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Colorito, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Sharpless, Petcovic, and Greene.

Vote Motion carried – 7 Yeas

December 2015 Reorganization and Board Meetings to be held on Thursday, December 10

Use of School Facilities Schedule (According to Policy) (Enclosure)

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Jennifer Fessler, New Sewickley Township, requested Board consideration for the soccer team to use the gym for soccer practice for the 6 (six) and (7) seven year old players. Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, will verify that the gym space is available and will follow up with Mrs. Fessler.

**MINUTES**

Motion by Colorito, seconded by Greene, to approve the minutes of October 1 and October 8, 2015.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Colorito, Sharpless, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, and Greene.  
Vote Motion carried – 7 Yeas

Note: Board Member Harry Gilarno arrived at 7:10 PM

**ENCLOSURES**

- A. Information Memo on BVIU 2015 Reorganization Meeting (Handout 11-5-15)
- B. Use of School Facilities Schedule (According to Policy)
- C. Free-Reduced Lunch Report as of November 11, 2015 – District at 47.13%
- D. List of Student Activity Account Signatures for Students and Activity Sponsors (Extra-Curricular – Item F)
- E. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of November 4, 2015 – Current Projected Annual Cost for 2015-2016 School Year \$824,397.06; 40 Cyber/Charter Students, 34 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students – 74
- F. BVIU School Board Notes for October 28, 2015 Meeting
- G. Amended and Restated Freedom Area School District Cafeteria Plan (Finance – Item H)
- H. October 22, 2015 Budget Transfers (Finance- Item F)

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, reported on the following:

State Budget Update: Gov. Wolf and legislative leaders have announced that they have reached agreement on what is being called a "tentative framework" for a new state budget. They hope to have the details worked out so that a budget bill can be on the Governor's desk for signature before Thanksgiving, but there are still a lot of details to be worked out.

The agreement calls for an increase in basic subsidy for public education of \$350 million, with an additional \$50 million increase for special education. The Governor was originally requesting \$400 million for basic education and \$100 million for special education. The special education funding will be driven out to districts using the funding formula that was put in place last year. There has been no determination as to how the \$350 million in basic education funding will be driven out to districts.

The bill also includes a 1.25% hike in sales tax, moving that from 6% to 7.25% (8.25% in Allegheny County). This would generate \$2 billion to be used for property tax relief. Again, there is no agreement on how these funds will be driven out.

There will also likely be pension reform for future employees tied to the bill. This will likely be a hybrid plan that includes components of both a defined benefit plan and a 401(k)-style defined contribution plan.

The other important component of the plan is that the Senate is looking to vote on SB 76 - the "Property Tax Independence Act" - that eliminates property tax and shifts the funding of public schools to a variety of other taxing mechanisms, including sales tax and personal income tax. This bill the potential to be very damaging to public schools because it will completely shift the funding of our schools to the state, taking away any local effort or responsibility, but also making schools subject to the political whims of those in Harrisburg.

2016 Board Meeting Calendar: The proposed meeting schedule for our 2016 Board meetings is at your place. As discussed, the proposed schedule takes us to a one meeting a month schedule. We will always have the ability to advertise and schedule additional meetings, as needed. With the exception of March and April, the meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of the month. Let me know if there are any questions or conflict. We will be prepared to approve it in December. Mrs. Leindecker and Mr. Inman will also have an opportunity to review the schedule prior to next month's meeting.

2015 Holiday Cards: The candidates for our district holiday card are at your place, along with a ballot. The Board was asked to review the options and return the ballot to Dr. Fuller this evening. This year's candidates were created by students from the high school. We will ask the winning entry to join us at next month's meeting.

#### FINANCE:

Motion to approve the following Finance items was made by Pail, seconded by Greene, and unanimously approved through consent agenda: **(Copies of items CA:1 – CA:6 are attached to the minutes in the minute book)**

CA:1 Bills in the amount of \$629,285.35 (Second Check Run for October 2015)

CA:2 Bills in the amount of \$557,724.34 (First Check Run for November 2015)

CA:3 Primary Center Construction payments in the amount of \$198,885.76 (First check run for November 2015) as approved by VEBH Architects and S. P. Smith Construction (Handout 11-5-15 Scott Smith)

CA:4 October 2015 Treasurer's Report:

	<u>October 2015</u>
Wesbanko - Money Market	\$ 5,086,184.44
Wesbanko - Payroll	\$ 1,099.78
Wesbanko- General Checking Account	\$ 147,293.59
PA Treasury Invest	\$ 1,423,609.19
PSDLAF – Regular Account	\$ 0.00
PSDLAF Max - General Fund	\$ 1,885,108.88
PSDLAF Term – General Fund	\$ 0.00
Wesbanko General Fund – CD	\$ 251,875.51
PA Treasury-Invest Capital Projects	\$ 958,950.89
PSDLAF Max – Capital Projects	\$ 30,951.39
Wesbanko – Student Activity Account	\$ 51,958.32
Wesbanko Bodkin Scholarship - CD	\$ 201,402.44
Wesbanko Bodkin Scholarship	\$ 26,598.59
PSDLAF MAX – 2014 Construction Fund	\$ 0.00
PSDLAF – 2014 Construction Fund	\$ 662,595.25
Wesbanko - Capital Projects Checking	\$ 105,806.79
Wesbanko - Capital Projects – CD	\$ 202,113.90

CA:5 October 2015 Cafeteria Reports

CA:6 Budget Transfers (Enclosure)

CA:7 Resolution Authorizing Proposed Preliminary Budget Display and Advertising and Authorizing Referendum Exception

CA:8 Revision of Freedom Area School District Cafeteria Plan as Amended and Restated effective January 2016

CA:9 Request for Exoneration of Real Estate Taxes in the Amount of \$2,228.13

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, and Sharpless.  
Vote Motion carried – 8 Yeas

### EDUCATION:

Motion to approve the following Education items was made by Greene, seconded by Colorito, and unanimously approved through consent agenda according to Act 48:

CA:1 Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Math, Science Partnership:

- a. Brandi Burger, High School Science Teacher, Math and Science Collaborative Biology Teacher Network, November 17, AIU Homestead, Cost Substitute plus Mileage

2. Other:

- a. Rita Kaplin, High School Guidance Counselor, Planning for the Future-

Transition Resources, Tools and Community Mapping, December 4, PaTTAN King of Prussia, Cost Mileage

- b. Glade Run Lutheran Services Tour, November 17, Cost substitute (Abakah, Miklas and Seymour), Will use school van:
  - i. Rita Kaplin, High School Guidance Counselor
  - ii. Ellen Hill, High School Career Coach/Office Aide
  - iii. Yvonne Abakah, High School Learning Support Teacher
  - iv. George Miklas, High School Learning Support Teacher
  - v. Cara Seymour, High School Learning Support Teacher
- c. RENEW Facilitator Training, November 18, PaTTAN Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage:
  - i. Misty Slavic, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
  - ii. William Deal, High School Principal
- d. Disciplining Students with Behavioral Issues, February 12, Crowne Plaza-Pittsburgh, Cost registration fee plus mileage:
  - i. Misty Slavic, Director of Special Education
  - ii. Ryan Smith, High School Assistant Principal
- e. Marian Leo, Special Education Secretary, 2015-2016 Penn Data/Child Count meetings, Various Dates, BVIU, No Cost to District

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:

- 1. Gifted:
  - a. Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted, plus 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Thinking Class (11 Students), 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Propaganda, November 24, Dutch Ridge Elementary, Cost Transportation
- 2. Other:
  - a. Kaylee Haggerty, High School Arts/Industrial Arts Teacher, New York City – Visual Arts Trip, March 23 - March 26, 2016, Cost Substitute (Students will miss two (2) days of school)
  - b. Rita Kaplin, High School Guidance Counselor, and Students TBD:
    - i. Orientation Tour, December 18, BCCTC, Cost Transportation
    - ii. Orientation, Half Day Visit, February 4 (Back-Up Snow Date February 11), BCCTC, cost transportation
  - c. Beth Majors, High School Business/Technology Teacher:
    - i. Prepare for DECA Competition, November 14, Pittsburgh Art Institute, Will use school van
    - ii. Career Day with Philadelphia Sixers, November 18-19, Philadelphia, cost substitute
    - iii. PA DECA Planning and Board Meeting, December 4-6, Hershey, cost substitute
    - iv. District II DECA Career Development Conference, December 14, Sheraton-Moon Twp., cost substitute, conference fees, and transportation

CA:2 Candra Smith as Middle School Instructional Aide, Retroactive to October 21, 2015 (Pending Act 114 Clearance, Physical and TB Test/Statement)

CA:3 Maternity Leave for Chantelle McKim, Middle School English Teacher,

beginning approximately November 13, 2015 thru January 12, 2016 followed by FMLA, According to Policy, Beginning Approximately January 13 thru April 5, 2016

- CA:4 Resignation from Alexandra Javens, Middle School Instructional Aide, effective November, 7, 2015
- CA:5 The Following Elementary Learning Support Aides:
1. Andrea Tame, Grades 3 and 4 (Clearances on File)
  2. Emily Evans, Grades K through 2<sup>nd</sup> (Pending Act 168)
- CA:6 Request from Cindy Zeigler, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, for five (5) unpaid days, December 14-18 (According to Policy 439)
- CA:7 Request from Freedom Area Educational Association to offer Voluntary Sick Bank for one (1) Elementary Teacher

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Gilarno, Rocco, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, and Sharpless.  
Vote Motion carried – 8 Yeas

### OPERATIONS:

Motion to approve the following Operations items was made by Gilarno, seconded by Sayre, and unanimously approved through consent agenda:

- CA:1 Unpaid Medical Leave of Absence, According to Policy, for Arthur Brown, Part-Time Custodian, effective October 21, 2015 through November 13, 2015
- CA:2 Participation in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's School Chemical Cleanout Campaign, December 14, BVIU, Cost Mileage:
- i. William Deal, High School Principal
  - ii. Gary Mortimer, Director of Buildings and Grounds
- CA:3 Three Year Agreement (2015-2018) with Skywatch Weather Center to provide winter Storm Warning Services, Cost \$550 per year
- CA:4 Beth Roncevich as Food Service Substitute, retroactive to November 10, 2015 (Pending Act 168 Disclosure Release Form)
- CA:5 James Lema as Permanent Part-Time Custodian, effective November 16, 2015 (Clearances on File)
- CA:6 Amanda Krampy as High School Part-Time Administrative Assistant, Salary \$10 per Hour, effective November 16, 2015 (Clearances on File)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Sayre, Gilarno, Rocco, Colorito, Sharpless, Pail, and Petcovic.  
Vote Motion carried – 8 Yeas

### FACILITIES MASTER PLAN:

- A. In Scott Smith's absence Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, reported that the Primes continue to work on the punch list. No final date for completion at this time.

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR:**

Motion to approve the following Extra-Curricular items was made by Sharpless, seconded by Sayre, and unanimously approved through consent agenda:

- CA:1 The following as Independent Gymnasts for the 2015-2016 Season, reimbursement of documented expenses up to \$300 per student:
1. Jenna Engel
  2. Haley Baldinger
- CA:2 Brad Baldwin as Head Middle School Girls Volleyball Coach, Salary According to Contract (Clearances on File)
- CA:3 Released Time, According to Policy, for Dan O'Leary, Head Baseball Coach, plus three (3) Assistant Coaches, to attend 2016 Pennsylvania Baseball Coaches' Clinic, January 15-16, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Green Tree, Cost \$320 Registration Fee
- CA:4 Released Time, According to Policy, for Jim Covert, Head Wrestling Coach, Wrestling Staff and Team, to attend:
1. Southmoreland Holiday Classics Tournament, December 29-30, Alverton, PA Cost Registration Fees and use of School vans (Boosters to cover Lodging and Meals)
  2. West Branch Wrestling Tournament, January 29-30, Morrisdale, PA, Cost Registration Fees and Use of School Vans (Boosters to Cover Lodging and Meals)
- CA:5 Brian Wargo as High School Science Club Sponsor (Clearances on File)
- CA:6 List of Student Activity Account Signatures for Students and Activity Sponsors (Enclosure)
- CA:7 The Following Resignations:
1. Rob Kaufman, Middle School Softball Coach, effective November 1
  2. Greg Sherman, High School Football Announcer, effective October 30
- CA:8 Rob Kaufman as Volunteer Middle School Softball Coach (Clearances on File)
- CA:9 Corey Cochran as Middle School Boys Basketball Coach, Salary According to Contract (Pending Act 151 Clearance)
- CA:10 Sydney Kaercher as Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, Salary According to Contract (Pending Acts 151 and 114 Clearances)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, and Sharpless.  
Vote Motion carried – 8 Yeas

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by Greene, seconded by Gilarno, for the Board to adjourn the Business Meeting and go into Executive Session at 7:25 pm, EST, for personnel matters.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Gilarno, Rocco, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, and Sharpless.  
Vote Motion carried – 8 Yeas



Motion by Sayre, seconded by Sharpless, for the Board to go out of Executive Session at 8:06 pm, EST.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, and Sharpless.  
Vote Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Motion by Sharpless, seconded by Greene, to approve three one-year contracts for Athletic Director John Rosa subject to a performance evaluation annually.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Petcovic, Colorito, and Sharpless.  
Vote No Votes – Pail, and Sayre. Motion carried – 6 Yeas

Motion by Greene, seconded by Gilarno, for the Board to go back into Executive Session at 8:12 pm, EST.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, and Sharpless.  
Vote Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Motion by Sayre, seconded by Sharpless, for the Board to go out of Executive Session at 8:35 pm, EST.

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, and Sharpless.  
Vote Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Note: No action taken

Adjourn Motion by Greene, seconded by Sharpless, to adjourn. All members voting Yea.  
8 Yeas. Adjourned at 8:35 pm, EST.

Signed by:

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Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary