

**December 10, 2015**

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on December 19, 2015, in the Middle School Library. The Business portion of the meeting began at 7:30 pm. Reorganization of the Board of Directors was held beginning at 7:00 pm.

**Board Members Present:**

Alan Colorito  
Harry Gilarno  
Dawn Greene  
Gerald Inman  
Julie Leindecker  
Lori Pail  
Mary Ann Petcovic  
Lorraine Rocco  
Jennifer Sayre

**Board Members Absent:**

**School Staff Present:**

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent  
Noriene Plate, Business Manager  
Misty Slavic, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
William Deal, Principal, High School  
Richard Edder, Principal, Elementary School  
Ryan Smith, Assistant Principal, High School  
John Rosa, Athletic Director and Faculty Member  
Scott Smith, Construction Representative/Clerk of Services  
Gary Mortimer, Director, Buildings & Grounds

**Solicitor:**

Matthew Hoffman

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board and Audience listened to an array of beautiful Christmas Carols presented by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Members led by Keith Kovalic, Band/Chorus Director.

Congratulations to Freedom Area High School Senior Louis Dubovi for being recognized as an outstanding DECA Student and for receiving a \$1,000 Philadelphia 76ers Scholarship.

Presentation to High School Student Destiny Ebert for her Artwork that was voted for District's 2015 Holiday Card.

Freedom Area High School H.O.P.E. for November 2015 was presented by Principal Bill Deal

- H.O.P.E. Award (Theme – “Challenges Me To Become a Better Student”):
  - Jessika Fontaine, Learning Support Teacher

Invitation:

BVIU 2015 Reorganization Meeting, Tuesday, December 15, 5:45 P.M., Beaver County Career & Technology Center

Other:

1. Holiday Events:
  - High School:
    - Band, Jazz Band and Chorus Concert  
Thursday, December 17 – 7:00 P.M.
  - Middle School:
    - Band and Chorus Concert  
Tuesday, December 15 – 7:00 P.M.
    - Christmas Dance – Holiday Hop  
Friday, December 11 – 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
2. January 2016 Board Meeting to be held on January 14

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

**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

1. Beth Herzog, New Sewickley Township, said her son, a junior this year, has the opportunity to go to Florida in the spring with the baseball team. Herzog requested the ability to sell advertisement as a fund raiser for the team’s Florida trip.

Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, advised the request will be presented at an upcoming policy committee meeting in January at which time Mrs. Herzog will be notified of the outcome.

2. Jackie Rose, New Sewickley Township, discussed the Boys Soccer team and Coach Morgan’s resignation.

Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, advised that we do not comment on personnel matters during open sessions but confirmed that Coach Morgan resigned his position of Boys Soccer Coach and that his resignation will be accepted this evening. Specifics cannot be discussed in open session.

3. Jared Boyd, New Sewickley Township, discussed Coach Morgan’s resignation.

NOTE: Board Member Harry Gilarno left the meeting at 7:45 pm

4. Vince Rose and Ed Eisenbrown, New Sewickley Township, discussed Coach Morgan’s resignation.

### MINUTES

Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Pail, to approve the minutes of November 5 and November 12, 2015.

Roll Call    Yea Votes – Colorito, Inman, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, Gilarno, Leindecker,  
Vote            and Greene. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

### ENCLOSURES

- A.    Use of School Facilities Schedule (According to Policy) (Communications, Item D.)
- B.    Free-Reduced Lunch Report as of December 10, 2015 – District at 48.21%
- C.    Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of December 1, 2015 – Current Projected Annual Cost for 2015-2016 School Year \$808,332.08; 40 Cyber/Charter Students, 32 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 72
- D.    BVIU School Board Notes for November 18, 2015 Meeting
- E.    Revised Budget Calendar (Finance, Item A.)
- F.    December 2015 Budget Transfers (Finance, Item F.)
- G.    Proposed Preliminary 2016-2017 Budget (Finance, Item G.)

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Fuller, Superintendent, reported on the following:

**- State Budget** - We still do not have a budget. It does appear that there is movement in the House to remove Rep. Turzai from power, giving hope to the budget process. However, we still have nothing concrete. As you know, not having a state budget makes it very difficult to both operate the district and to plan for next school year's budget, a preliminary proposed version of which you will be asked to approve this evening.

The Governor has said that he will not sign any budget that does not include reforms to the retirement system. Given that we are 162 days into this fight, it is clear that the Governor has decided that he is going to fight for a budget that he feels is right, even if it costs him the next election.

**- ESEA** - The ESEA of 1969 - more commonly known as the No Child Left Behind act - was finally reauthorized this week. The new version of the act is called the "Every Student Succeeds Act". It is now on the way to President Obama's desk for signature, which is expected before the end of the month. The overview is that, while the Act still requires testing of students in grades 3-8 and once in high school, there is significantly more flexibility given to states in all areas of education. This reauthorization is seen as a clear win for states and for public education, as it

significantly reduces the role of the federal government in the operation of our schools and in the areas of testing and accountability.

**- Update on Staff Clearances** - The legislature changed the law regarding the requirement for clearances for all staff members and volunteers that are in direct contact with children. The new law requires that all individuals have updated clearances on file before the end of December 2015 in order to maintain their position. We have been working diligently with our staff over the course of the last year to get their clearances updated, sending reminders and providing trainings. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, each person who has not turned in updated clearances received a personal visit from me. At that time we had 115 folks who needed at least one clearance update. As of today, there are still 31 employees who need at least one updated clearance. The vast majority of those are coaches of sports who are out of season. Additionally, many of those 31 have reported that their clearances are in process. Our plan is to send a very strong reminder to those who have not submitted updated clearances tomorrow. They will be reminded of the requirements of the law and informed that if they do not submit their updated clearances as required by law, they will not be permitted to have contact with students when we return to school in January. They will be directed to report to Central Office, where an informal hearing will be held on January 4th. If the clearances are not provided, they may be subject to immediate suspension without compensation. If they continue to fail to supply the updated clearances, they may be subject to dismissal from employment. It is our hope that all employees will have the appropriate clearances updated, but we are subject to the law and will take the actions necessary, especially since the district has been very proactive in providing reminders and resources to assist in completing this process in a timely manner over the course of the last year.

NOTE: Board Member Harry Gilarno returned at 8:00 PM

Request from BVIU to Appoint/Approve a Representative to the PSBA/BVIU Legislative Action Council, Annual Term.

Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Gilarno, to appoint Dawn Greene as Representative to the PSBA/BVIU Legislative Action Council, Annual Term.

Roll Call    Yea Votes – Colorito, Inman, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, Gilarno, Leindecker,  
Vote            and Greene. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

Motion by Rocco, seconded by Gilarno, to approve Jeffrey Fuller, Superintendent, to attend the Northwest Pennsylvania Superintendents' Summit, Grove City, April 22, 2016, Cost Mileage.

Roll Call    Yea Votes – Colorito, Inman, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, Gilarno, Leindecker,  
Vote            and Greene. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

#### **FINANCE:**

Motion to approve the following Finance items was made by Rocco, 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 Revised Budget Calendar (Enclosure)
- CA:2 Bills in the amount of \$576,150.83 (Second Check Run for November 2015)
- CA:3 Bills in the amount of \$370,215.47 (First Check Run for December 2015)
- CA:4 Primary Center Construction Payment(s) in the amount of \$446,301.54 (First Check Run for December 2015); as approved by VEBH Architects and S. P. Smith Construction (Handout 12-10-15 – Scott Smith)
- CA:5 '98 Bond Interest Payment of \$47,916.25
- CA:6 December 2015 Budget Transfers (Enclosure)
- CA:7 Proposed Preliminary 2016-2017 Budget (Enclosure) (Administrative Report)
- CA:8 Identity Protection Services through AllClear for All Individuals that are insured through the District's Highmark Group Health Plans beginning January 1, 2016 at no cost to the District or Employee
- CA:9 Final Capital Project Payment of \$8,921 to PSBA for the Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP), additional amount is due to project change orders

Roll Call Yea Votes – Colorito, Inman, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, Gilarno, Leindecker,  
Vote and Greene. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

**EDUCATION:**

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

CA:1 Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

1. Gifted:

- a. Robo Matter Curriculum Pilot Meeting, December 11, K.L. Gates Building, Pittsburgh, Cost Substitute (Badamo Only) plus Mileage:
  - i. Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted
  - ii. Tom Hickey, Technology Coordinator
  - iii. Dave Badamo, Middle School Technology Teacher

2. Other:

- a. Confirm: Beaver Falls Classroom Technology Visitation, December 9, Beaver Falls, No Cost to District:
  - i. William Deal, High School Principal
  - ii. Frank Hernandez, Middle School Principal
  - iii. Marie Dohanich, Director of Technology
- b. Peter Kappas, Middle School History Teacher, US Neutrality and World War II, January 7, Heinz History Center, Cost Substitute plus Mileage
- c. Tiffany Beckwith, Middle School Computer Applications Teacher, Robert Morris University Education Conference, March 14, Moon Township, Cost Substitute, Registration Fee plus Mileage
- d. Emily Mather, K-6 Instructional Coach, Text Dependent Analysis Online Workshop, Online (Hosted by BVIU), January 11-25, Cost Registration Fee
- e. Misty Slavic, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Pete & C (Pennsylvania

- Educational Technology Expo and Conference), Hershey, February 21-24, Cost Registration Fee, Lodging, Meals, Tolls plus Mileage
- f. Valerie Marburger, High School Technology Teacher, PTI Teacher workshop, January 11, Robinson Twp., Cost Substitute plus Mileage

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:

- 1. Gifted:
  - a. Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted:
    - i. Confirm: Lego Competition, December 4, BVIU, Cost Transportation
    - ii. TSA TEAMS Competition, March 4, BVIU, Will Use School Van
    - iii. K'Nex Design Challenge, March 22, Penn State Beaver, Cost Substitute, Will Use School Van
- 2. Other:
  - a. Keith Kovalic, High School Music Teacher/Band Director:
    - i. Confirm: PMEA District 5 Honors Band, December 3-5, Westminster College, Cost \$150 Registration Fee plus Substitute
    - ii. PMEA District 5 Chorus, February 3-5, Laurel High School, Cost \$328 Registration Fee (Includes Lodging for Students), Substitute plus Lodging
    - iii. PMEA District 5 Band, January 28-30, New Castle High School, Cost Registration Fee (Includes Lodging for Students), Substitute plus Lodging
  - b. Beth Majors, High School Business/Technology Teacher, Manufacturing of Robot, Veka Inc.-Fombell, December 9, 15, 16 and January 6,7,13,14, No Cost to District (Will Use School Van)
  - c. Michelle Koutsourais, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher, Math Counts Practice Competition, January 8, Cost Substitute, Registration Fee plus Transportation
  - d. Henry Podbielski, High School Career Coach, DECA Conference, December 14, Moon Twp., No Cost to District

CA:2 Acceptance of \$500 Gift from Alumnus C.J. Arbes, Esquire, FAHS Class of 1961

CA:3 Linda Hahn as Middle School Instructional Aide, 5.75 hours per day, (5) five days per week. Salary \$11.60 per hour, Retroactive to December 1, 2015 (Clearances on File)

CA:3 The Following High School Aide Transfers:

- 1. Kaylynn Hill, Student Aide to Learning Support Instructional Aide
- 2. Brandace Coney, Learning Support Instructional Aide to Cyber Aide

CA:4 The following Student Teachers from Slippery Rock University:

- 1. Paige Simmons, to be placed with Erica Davids, Kindergarten Teacher (January 19-March 11) and Jennifer Glover, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Teacher (March 15-May 5) (Clearances on File)
- 2. Victoria Moore, to be placed with Joy Crouch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher (January 19-March 11) and Ken McLaughlin, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Teacher (March 15-May 5) (Clearances on File)

CA:5 Heidi Mann, Student Teacher from Geneva College, to be placed with Ed Shephard, High School Math Teacher, from March 14 through April 29, 2016 (Pending Receipt of Clearances)

CA:6 Individual Student Enrollment Agreement with Wesley Spectrum for (1) one student for

the 2015-2016 Academic Year, enrollment date December 8, 2015, daily rate \$268  
 CA:7 Resignation from Amy Gloekner, Elementary Learning Support Aide, effective  
 December 22, 2015

Roll Call Yea Votes – Colorito, Inman, Rocco, Pail, Sayre, Petcovic, Gilarno, Leindecker,  
 Vote and Greene. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

### OPERATIONS:

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

CA:1 Termination of lawn mowing agreement with Kem-R-Lawns

CA:2 Resignation from Ken Caplinger, Custodial Substitute, effective December 1, 2015

CA:3 Annette Chesnoski as Part-Time Administrative Assistant to the Director of Buildings and Grounds, 12 month position, salary \$12.50 per hour (Pending Act 151 Clearance)

CA:4 PTI Intern to work in IT Department for eleven (11) weeks at a contracted rate of \$11 per hour, not to exceed \$5000 (Budgeted) (Administrative Report)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Sayre, Gilarno, Rocco, Colorito, Inman, Pail, Petcovic  
 Vote and Leindecker. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

Gary Mortimer, Director of Buildings & Grounds, provided the following monthly report:

#### **General information:**

- The Auto dialer systems were installed at all three schools. Upon an electrical outage on the main campus Director will be notified by phone. Testing of the systems has been schedule for the week December 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **High School:**

- At the High School, a bus lane has been added along with signage in front of the school at the request of Mr. Deal and Officer Liberty.
- Repairs and installation of new post and gate for the High School student parking lot.
- Roof top 13 repairs to the burner circuit along with several exhaust fan repairs.

#### **Middle School:**

- Service completed on the Middle School compressor which operates the Pneumatic control system. New belts, contactor kit, etc...
- Repairs to the Pneumatic zone control system for the administration area has been completed and tested.

#### **Elementary School:**

- Currently working with contractors to address control issues, air balancing of roof top 3, and chemical treatment of the Hvac system.

### FACILITIES MASTER PLAN:

Scott Smith, Construction Representative, gave a construction progress update saying progress is being made and the contractors are close to completion. Still working on the punch list items. Contractors are coming in over the Christmas holiday to work.

Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Petcovic, to approve change orders totaling \$3,833 for additional front entrance signage letters (\$1,046) and core drilling to prepare for the installation of the ornamental fence on top of the wall and concrete curbs at playground (2,786.78).

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Sayre, Gilarno, Rocco, Colorito, Inman, Pail, Petcovic  
Vote and Leindecker. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

John Rosa, Athletic Director, provided the following monthly report:

#### 1) WINTER SPORT UPDATES

Boys Basketball – 15 Players, the team is 1-1

Girls Basketball – 14 Players, the team is 2-1, Freedom Tip Off Champs

Varsity Wrestling – 16 Wrestlers, the team is 1-0

Winter Cheer – 9 Cheerleaders

MS Boys Basketball (8) – 12 Players, the team is 1-0

MS Boys Basketball (7) – 15 Players, the team is 1-0

JH Wrestling – 4 wrestlers, the team is 1-0

#### 2) PIAA Enrollment Classification Report (**Attached to the minutes in the minute book**)

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

CA:1 The following Coaches:

1. Franzee Barlamas, Assistant Boys Basketball, Salary According to Contract (Pending Act 34 Employment Clearance)
2. Adam Wakefield, Volunteer Wrestling (Pending Act 114 Clearance, Physical and TB Test/Statement)
3. LaRoi Johnson, Boys Basketball, Salary According to Contract (Pending Physical and TB Test/Statement)
4. Steve Slowinski, Volunteer Boys Basketball, (Pending Act 114 Clearance)
5. Mark Cefola, Middle School Boys Basketball, Salary According to Contract (Clearances on File)

Roll Call Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, Leindecker  
Vote and Inman. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

NOTE: As the Board was to accept Soccer Coach Craig Morgan's resignation he approached the Board to say he is pulling his resignation as Boys Soccer Coach and would like to continue in the coaching position.



**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Petcovic, for the Board to adjourn the Business Meeting and go into Executive Session at 8:45 pm for personnel matters.

Roll Call    Yea Votes – Greene, Gilarno, Rocco, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, Leindecker,  
Vote            and Inman. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Leindecker, for the Board to go out of Executive Session at 10:05 pm.

Roll Call    Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Petcovic, Sayre, Pail, Colorito, Leindecker,  
Vote            and Inman. Motion carried – 9 Yeas

Note: No action was taken to approve the resignation of Craig Morgan, Varsity Boys Soccer Coach.

Motion by Colorito, seconded by Gilarno, to open up and post the Boys Soccer Coach position.

Roll Call    Yea Votes – Greene, Rocco, Gilarno, Petcovic, Sayre, Inman, and Colorito.  
Vote            No Votes – Pail and Leindecker. Motion carried – 7 Yeas

Adjourn    Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Petcovic, to adjourn. All members voting Yea.  
9 Yeas. Adjourned at 10:12 pm, EST.

Signed by:

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Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary