

Freedom Area School District



Administrative Offices

1701 EIGHTH AVENUE
FREEDOM, PENNSYLVANIA 15042

RONALD SOFO, Ph.D.
Superintendent

NORIE PLATE
Business Manager

LORRAINE J. ROCCO
School Board Secretary

724 / 775-7644
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Board of Directors Meeting "Students Are the Center of the Decision Making Process" October 13, 2011

Approve Bills \$307,900.37 (First Check Run for October)

Approve September 2011 Treasurer's Report

Approve September 2011 Cafeteria Report

Approved 10-6-11: Approve Minutes of September 8 and September 15, 2011

Approved 10-6-11: Approve Bills \$523,536.47 (Second Check Run for September)

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Open School Communications: Positive and Constructive Comments Between School Board Members, Administrators and Community:
 1. a. 2011 Distinguished Service Award from the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Presented to:
 - Barbara Heyman, 32 Years of Service
 - Lorraine Rocco, 32 Years of Service
 - Mary Ann Petcovic, 28 Years of Service
 - b. Certificate of Appreciation to School Director Kathy Schlegel for Eight (8) Years Honor Roll of School Board Service on Behalf of Freedom Area School District and Pennsylvania School Boards Association
Board Reception to Commence at 6:30 P.M. for Honored Board Members
 2. Accept Contribution of United States Flag From New Sewickley Township Recreation Board for Big Knob Elementary School
- B. Invitation:
 1. Making the Grade Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Effective Teaching (Statewide Videoconference Event), Tuesday, November 1, 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M., BVIU, RSVP by Friday, October 14, to Sandy DiSante at sdisante@freedom.k12.pa.us

COMMUNICATIONS (CONT'D):

2. Vegas Night, Hosted by Freedom Football Boosters, to Benefit Freedom High School Football Players and Cheerleaders, Saturday, November 12, 7:00 P.M., Conway Fire Hall
 3. NSBA 72nd Annual Conference to be Held in Boston on the Dates of April 21 – April 23, 2012
- C. Other:
1. **November 2011 Board Meetings to be Held on November 3 and November 10; December 2011 Reorganization and Board Meetings to be Held on Thursday, December 8**
- D. Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):
1. Freedom Area Drama Club, High School Auditorium, Student Center Extending to Auditorium, Cafeteria, Hallways and Lobby, 10/12, 10/19, 10/27 (Prep Work for Haunted House), 10/28 and 10/29 (Haunted House)
 2. Freedom High School Varsity Baseball, High School Gym, Sundays, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, Youth Baseball Clinics (Senior Projects)
 3. Freedom Band Boosters, High School Cafeteria, 10/25, Senior Cake
 4. Freedom ESPA, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 10/8, Meeting
 5. Freedom Marching Band, Middle School Band Room, 10/29, Preparation for Football Game
 6. Freedom Varsity Basketball Boosters, High School Cafeteria, 10/5, Meeting
 7. Skybacher Ministries, Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, Wednesdays, 11/9 thru 2/29, Basketball Practices
 8. F.A.S.T., Big Knob Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, Wednesdays, 11/2 thru 4/11, Soccer Practices
 9. Freedom Girls' Volleyball, High School Cafeteria, 10/13, Volleyball Banquet
 10. Freedom Youth Wrestling, High School Gym and Cafeteria, 12/17 and 12/18, Wrestling Tournaments
 11. Freedom ESPA, Middle School Cafeteria, Meeting

PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

(Formal Request – 10 Minutes) / Informal Request – 5 Minutes)

- A. Pennsylvania School Boards Association Requests District Superintendent Participation in Statewide Media Campaign, "Stand Up for Public Education"

ENCLOSURES:

- A. Beaver County/Freedom Enrollment Data and Trends (**Superintendent's Report – Item A.**):
 - 1. 2011-2012 Composite Third Day Enrollments for Public Schools, Total 22,965
 - 2. **41 Year History of Third Day Enrollment 1971-1972 thru 2011-2012, From 48,536 to 22,965 (Freedom Area School District From 3,097 to 1,520)**
 - 3. County-Wide Summary by Grade Levels 1992-1993 to 2011-2012
 - 4. **Charter School Third Day Enrollments by District and Grade Level 2004-2005 to 2011-2012, From 344 to 996 (Freedom Area School District From 14 to 35)**
 - 5. 2011-2012 Total Third Day Student Enrollments for All Charter Schools for Beaver County School Districts – Total 996
 - 6. 2011-2012 Summary of Charter School Enrollments by Grade Level and by District
 - 7. History of Local Charter School Growth
 - 8. 2011-2012 Home Schoolers by Grade Level and School District
 - 9. Ten, Twenty and Thirty Year Third Day Enrollment Data Analysis
 - 10. Baden Academy Charter School Encouraged by New State Ruling
 - 11. Districts Create Cyber Options
 - 12. PA Cyber Building STEM High School
- B. State Verified Spring 2011 Student PSSA Scores for Math and Reading (**Superintendent's Report – Item B.**)
- C. Pennsylvania Education Law Center Analysis of Proposed Charter School Reform Bills (SB 904 and HB 1348) (**Legislation – Item B.**)
- D. Memo Requesting Extending Elementary Nursing Coverage 4.5 Hours Weekly Commencing November 1, 2011 (**Operations – Item C.**)
- E. List of Student Activity Account Signatures for Students and Activity Sponsors (**Extra-Curricular – Item C.**)
- F. In/Out Migration Report as of September 2011 - 1,514 (-6 From Third Day Enrollment)
- G. Free/Reduced Lunch Report as of October 11, 2011 – District at 39.38%
- H. **Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of October 11, 2011 - Current Projected Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$423,601.85; 35 Cyber/Charter Students, 12 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 47**
- I. Survey of Solicitors' Compensation Packages Provided by BVIU
- J. Composite Summary of BVIU Programs & Budgets for 2011-2012 School Year
- K. BVIU School Board Notes for September 28, 2011 Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- A. Implications for District Facilities/Programs/Rightsizing:
 - 1. District/County Enrollment Data and Trends (**Enclosures**)
 - 2. Baden Academy Charter School Encouraged by New State Ruling (**Enclosure**) – State Appeals Hearing October 25, 2011
 - 3. Districts Create Cyber Options (**Enclosure**)
 - 4. PA Cyber Building STEM High School (**Enclosure**)
 - 5. Visit to Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy – November 17, 2011
- B. State Verified Spring 2011 Student PSSA Scores for Math and Reading (**Enclosure**); Review Pennsylvania's Annual Yearly Progress School Data Website – www.freedomareaschools.org
- C. 21st Century Promise Initiative (**Progress Report**)
- D. Approve Release Time, According to Policy, to Visit Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy (Grades 6-12), Thursday, November 17, Oakland, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage:
 - i. Ron Sofo, Superintendent
 - ii. Rusty Staub, High School Principal
 - iii. Rich Edder, Middle School Principal
 - iv. Dave Badamo, Middle School Technology Teacher
 - v. Tom Hickey, High School Technology Teacher
 - vi. Chris Bennett, High School Guidance Counselor
- E. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Release Time, According to Policy, for Superintendent to Attend:
 - 1. Development of PA School Report Card Website, Monday, October 3, 10:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M., AIU-Homestead (**Administrative Report**)
 - 2. Regional Arts Education Day 2011 for Administrators, Monday, October 10, 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M., South Fayette Township School District
 - 3. eMetric Online Tool Workshop, Friday, October 14, 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M., PaTTAN-Pittsburgh
 - 4. Fall 2011 Network Connections, Thursday, October 27, 8:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M., Carnegie Science Center-Pittsburgh

LEGISLATION:

- A. Review Beaver County Times Article on Charter Schools/Voucher Position Paper
- B. Pennsylvania Education Law Center Analysis of Proposed Charter School Reform Bills (SB 904 and HB 1348) (**Enclosure**)
- C. Prevailing Wage Bills, HB 709 and HB 1191 (Mandate Relief)

FINANCE:

- A. Approve Real Estate Tax Exemption for Applicant Approved by Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission for Real Estate Tax Exemption (Permanent Disability and Financial Need Determined):
 - 4 Barton Drive, Freedom – Total \$968 at Face (Parcel No. 69-018-0408-000-1)
- B. Beaver County Health Care Consortium Meeting of September 19, 2011 and Meeting With Blackhawk Area School District Concerning Self-Funded Health Care With UPMC (**Administrative Report**)
- C. Update on Status of Crown Communications, Inc. Tax Appeal (**Solicitor's Report**) (**Executive Session**)
- D. Early Bird Negotiations (**Executive Session**)
- E. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Keystone Municipal Collections as the Exclusive Collector of Delinquent Earned Income Taxes Accrued or Due to be Filed and Paid by Taxpayer thru Tax Year 2011(**Administrative Report**) (**Signatures Required**)
- F. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Resolution Establishing Reasonable Costs of Collection for Delinquent Taxes and Imposing the Cost of Such Collection Upon the Delinquent Taxpayer (**Administrative Report**) (**Signatures Required**)
- G. **10-6-11:** Discuss Better Unemployment Compensation Program (BUCS) for Unemployment Compensation Insurance (**Administrative Report**)

Note in Minutes:

- H. Beaver County School Health Care Consortium Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2011
- I. Beaver County School Health Insurance Consortium Report for September 2011

EDUCATION:

- A. Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. **Other:**

- a. **Confirm:** Staying Healthy in the Arts, October 10, Beaver Falls High School, \$15 Registration Fee Plus Mileage:
 - i. Sarah Rusnak, Elementary Art Teacher
 - ii. Meredith Obaker, Elementary Music Long-Term Substitute Teacher
- b. **Confirm:** Sara Heiman, High School Librarian, Beaver County Librarians Meeting, October 10, Beaver High School, Cost Mileage
- c. **Confirm:** Tiffany Beckwith, High School Family/Consumer Science Teacher, October 10, "What's New in FCS"?, New Brighton High School, Cost Mileage

EDUCATION (CONT'D):

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:

1. Gifted:

- a. Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted Coordinator:
 - i. Academic Games' Competitions for 2011-2012, Location Varies, Cost \$4 Per Student, Per Game
 - ii. Faraday Lecture 2011, November 15, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall-Oakland, Cost Transportation
 - iii. Drama Day, December 14, Beaver Falls High School
 - iv. RoboCup Competition, March 8, Ambridge High School
- B. Approve Annual Wallops Island, Virginia, Marine Science Consortium Field Trip on the Dates of Wednesday, May 23 thru Saturday, May 26, 2012 – No Cost to District
- C. Approve Another School District's Participation in the Wallops Island, Virginia, Marine Science Consortium Field Trip to Defray Overall Cost (School District's Students Will be Responsible for All Costs and Will Provide Their Own Chaperones)
- D. Approve Additional Clerical Support to Assist in Preparing Materials for Middle States Accreditation Visit Tentatively Scheduled for April 30 thru May 3, 2012 – Cost \$2,000 Stipend (Payable from PDE Project 720 Credential Funds)
- E. Approve Donation of \$1,000 in Grant Money Received from Walmart (Cranberry Township Store) for Middle School Teachers to Use at Their Discretion
- F. Approve Annual Request from Freedom Area Community Task Force for \$1,500 Donation of Support for Task Force Activities, Including Project Graduation
- G. Progress on Establishing Active "Student Voice" Within Freedom Area High School Related to Student Academic Engagement, School Spirit and Safety
(Administrative Report)

Note in Minutes:

- H. High School Parent Conference Day to be Held on Monday, October 10, 2011
- I. Board of Trustees for CCBC Initiating New Program to Better Inform Local School Boards on District Student Enrollment Trends at CCBC
- J. Pennsylvania Department of Education Press Release: "More than 100 Entities Sign Up to Participate in Teacher and Principal Evaluation Pilot Program"
- K. **Funds Will Be Needed to Facilitate Eye on the Goal Professional Development Data Summits for 2011-2012 School Year - Amount \$ _____, Payable From _____**

EDUCATION (CONT'D):

Following Items Approved at October 6, 2011 Board Meeting:

- L. Approve Released Time According to Act 48:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. **Special Education:**

- a. **Approved 10-6-11:** Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTII) Meeting, September 29, January 25, April 3, BVIU, Cost Mileage:
 - i. Debra Baycura, Special Education Director/Elementary Principal
 - ii. Gene Feliciani, School Psychologist
- b. **Approved 10-6-11:** Crisis Prevention Intervention Team Training, November 2 and November 3, BVIU, Cost \$35 Registration Fee, Substitute, Mileage:
 - i. Rich Edder, Middle School Principal
 - ii. Gene Feliciani, School Psychologist
 - iii. Randy Perkins, Middle School Guidance Counselor
 - iv. Susie Suleski, Middle School Guidance Counselor
 - v. Jim Culler, Middle School 7th Grade Teacher
 - vi. Ken McLaughlin, Middle School 7th/8th Grade Learning Support Teacher
 - vii. Lisa Moore, Middle School 6th Grade Teacher
 - viii. Angela Post, Middle School 7th Grade Math Teacher
 - ix. Amanda Swiontek, Middle School 6th Grade Teacher
 - x. Shanda Wyatt, Middle School 5th/6th Grade Learning Support Teacher
- c. **Approved 10-6-11:** Henry Podbielski, High School Learning Support Teacher, 2011-2012 Beaver County Career Day Planning Committee Meetings, Panera Bread-Monaca, Cost Mileage

2. **Gifted:**

- a. **Approved 10-6-11:** Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted Coordinator, Acceleration: Making Well-Informed Decisions, March 13, Carnegie Mellon University, Cost \$75 Registration Fee Plus Mileage

3. **Math, Science Partnership:**

- a. **Approved 10-6-11:** Community of Practice-Math and Science Positive Practices, October 13 and October 14, Big Knob/Conway Elementary Schools, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage:
 - i. Debbie Baycura, Elementary Principal
 - ii. Linda Haffner, Big Knob Elementary 4th Grade Teacher
 - iii. Sherry Perry, Elementary Science Coach/Lead Teacher
 - iv. Amy Shultz, Substitute Math Coach/Conway Elementary 4th Grade Teacher

EDUCATION (CONT'D):

- b. **Approved 10-6-11:** Community of Practice-Math and Science Teaching Practices, October 27, November 3, December 2, January 24, February 9, February 22, BVIU, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage:
 - i. Debbie Baycura, Elementary Principal
 - ii. Linda Haffner, Big Knob Elementary 4th Grade Teacher
 - iii. Sherry Perry, Elementary Science Coach/Lead Teacher
 - iv. Amy Shultz, Substitute Math Coach/Conway Elementary 4th Grade Teacher
- 4. **Other:**
 - a. **Approved 10-6-11:** Matt Scala, Technology Director, Training Session for Reporting Special Education Data Through PennData and PIMS, September 29, PaTTAN-Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage
 - b. **Approved 10-6-11:** Rich Heisler, Middle School 8th Grade Science Teacher, 2011-2012 Future City Competition Orientation, September 30, Carnegie Science Center, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage
 - c. **Approved 10-6-11:** Darlene Corris, High School Assistant Principal, AEDY Fall Conference, October 13, PA Federation of Teachers Building-Pittsburgh, Cost Mileage
 - d. **Approved 10-6-11:** Susie Suleski, Middle School Guidance Counselor, SAP Coordination Meetings for 2011-2012, The Prevention Network-Baden, Cost Mileage
 - e. **Approved 10-6-11:** Beaver County Counselors' Meetings for 2011-2012, Location Varies, Cost Mileage:
 - i. Rita Kaplin, High School Guidance Counselor
 - ii. Susie Suleski, Middle School Guidance Counselor
 - iii. Randy Perkins, Middle School Guidance Counselor
 - f. **Approved 10-6-11:** Three Rivers Educational Technology Conference, November 16, Regional Learning Center-Cranberry Woods, Cost \$99 Registration Fee, Substitute, Mileage:
 - i. Brandi Burger, High School Biology Teacher
 - ii. Frank Hernandez, High School History Teacher
 - iii. Becky Russell, High School English Teacher

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:

- 1. **Other:**
 - a. **Approved 10-6-11:** Beaver County Honors Band, November 2 and November 3, Ambridge Area High School, Cost \$900 Registration Fee, Substitute (November 3 Only), Transportation:
 - i. Keith Kovalic, High School Band Director
 - ii. Rob James, Middle School Band Director

EDUCATION (CONT'D):

- M. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve the Following as Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher:
 - 1. Marianne Malloy (**Clearances on File**)
 - 2. Janet Zigerell (**Clearances on File**)
- N. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Sherry Perry as K-8 Science Coach for 2011-2012 School Year, Salary \$2,000

OPERATIONS:

- A. Approve Transfer of Donna Dunning, School Nurse Aide (LPN), to Elementary Buildings Effective November 1, 2011
- B. Approve Beth Calahan as School Nurse Aide (RN) for Middle/High Schools and Conway Elementary Effective November 1, 2011 (**Clearances on File, Pending Receipt of New Employee Drug Screening**)
- C. Consider Extending Elementary Nursing Coverage:
 - 1. 30 Minutes Per Day (Start Time 8:30 A.M.) for Big Knob Elementary, October 17 thru October 31, 2011 - Approximate Cost \$79
 - 2. 4.5 Hours Weekly Commencing November 1, 2011 for 27 Weeks, Approximate Cost (Including Benefits) - \$2,620 (**Administrative Report**) (**Enclosure**)
- D. Approve Annual Request from Health Career Club to Sponsor Red Cross Blood Drive, Tuesday, December 13, High School, 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. - Open to Faculty, Staff and Students 16 Years and Older
- E. Approve Request from Big Knob Elementary School to Place an Abitibi Paper Retriever Bin on Site (**Administrative Report**)
- F. Approve Resolution for District Participation in BVIU 2012-2013 Joint Purchasing Program, Cost \$600 (**Signatures Required**)
- G. Approve Debra Green as Cafeteria Substitute for Food Service Department (**Clearances on File**)
- H. Approve Reduction in One (1) Full-Time Custodial Position (**Administrative Report**)
- I. Review Initial Energy Savings Related to Four (4) Day Summer Work Week/Pool Closing (Electricity - \$19,110; Natural Gas - \$1,097)
- J. Initial Response to District Letter Concerning Safety of Freedom Area School District Students (**Administrative Report**)
- K. 15 MPH Speed Limit on Middle/High School Campus (**Administrative Report**)
- L. Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Selection Process (50 Applicants) (**Administrative Report**)
- M. Columbia Gas Proposed New Gas Regulator Site / Easement Agreement With Solicitor's Revisions (**Solicitor's Report**)

OPERATIONS (CONT'D):

- N. Approve Agreement With VEBH Architects, PC as District Architect (**Solicitor's Report**)
- O. Approve Land Survey for Big Knob Elementary School per VEBH Architects Recommendation (**Administrative Report**)
- P. Changes to Background Check Law Under Act 24 and PDE Form to Report Arrests and Convictions of Offenses (**Solicitor's Report**)
- Q. Buildings and Grounds Director Monthly Report
- R. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Release Time, According to Policy, for Carrie Knopp, Middle School Security Monitor, to Attend Student Assistance Program Fall Training, October 4-5 and October 11-12, The Prevention Network-Baden, Cost \$300 Registration Fee Plus Mileage
- S. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Release Time, According to Policy, for Bonnie Adams, School Nurse, to Attend Assessment Skills Simulation and Education for the School Setting, October 10, Keystone Simulation Center-Potter Township, Cost \$60 Registration Fee Plus Mileage
- T. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Release Time, According to Policy, for Noriene Plate, Business Manager, or Linda Eldridge, Payroll Coordinator, to Attend ProSoft and Harris School Solutions Introductory Meeting, October 14, 1:00 P.M., Four Points by Sheraton-Warrendale, Cost Mileage
- U. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Lori Bohach from Substitute to Permanent Part-Time Position for Food Service Department (**Clearances on File**)
- V. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Amy Ray as Food Service Department Substitute (**Clearances on File**)

Note in Minutes:

- W. Receipt of PDE E-Mail Concerning Transportation of Students Attending Charter Schools
- X. Notice to Public Officials by PennDOT for Display of Plans Pertaining to Dunlap Hill Road Bridge Project, September 16 to October 17, 2011, New Sewickley Township Building
- Y. Food Facility Inspection Report (Dated September 29, 2011) by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for Conway Elementary School, Status – In Compliance

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

- A. Approve Three One-Year Contracts for the Following Head Coaches:
 - 1. Ed Shephard, Cross Country - Salary \$3,122 (**Clearances on File**)
 - 2. John Mohrbacher, Girls' Soccer - Salary \$3,300 (**Clearances on File**)
 - 3. Jim Covert, Wrestling - Salary \$4,700 (**Clearances on File**)
- B. Accept Resignation of Jonathan Lopic as Boys' Varsity Head Basketball Coach

EXTRA-CURRICULAR (CONT'D):

- C. Approve Request to Close Following High School Student Activities
(Administrative Report):
 - 1. JWUW Club
 - 2. TLC Club
- D. Approve List of Student Activity Account Signatures for Students and Activity Sponsors **(Enclosure)**
- E. Athletic Director Monthly Report
- F. Personnel Matters **(Executive Session)**
- G. **Approved 10-6-11:** Accept Resignation of Patty Donaldson as Boys' Basketball Ticket Seller
- H. **Approved 10-6-11:** Approve Patty Donaldson as Supervisor for Boys' High School Basketball Games **(Clearances on File)**

POLICY:

Open

MEET AND DISCUSS:

- A. Student Disciplinary Matter **(Executive Session)**