

JANUARY 5, 2012

The Freedom Area School Board held their Agenda Board Meeting on January 5, 2012, in the Middle School Library. Vice President Barbara Heyman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, EST.

Board Members Present:

Lorraine Rocco
Scott Challis (Arrived 7:15 pm)
Bobbie Jo Elmer
Barbara Heyman
Mary Ann Petcovic
Dennis Sharpless
Harry Gilarno (Arrived at 7:05 pm)

Board Members Absent:

Mike Tibolet
Kathleen Schlegel

School Staff Present:

Ron Sofo, Superintendent
Noriene Plate, Business Manager
Robert Staub, High School Principal
Richard Edder, Principal, Middle School
Debra Baycura, Elementary Principal

Newspaper:

N/A

Solicitor

N/A

Guests: N/A

Minutes Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Elmer, to approve the following minutes:

Agenda/Regular Meeting December 8, 2011

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Heyman, Rocco, Elmer, and Petcovic. Motion carried – 5 Yeas.

Bills Motion by Rocco, seconded by Petcovic, to approve the second check run for payment of bills for the month of December 2011, in the amount of \$546,029.83. **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 – Sharpless, Rocco, Petcovic, Heyman, and Elmer. Motion carried – 5 Yeas.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Board Pictures School Board pictures scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 6:55 P.M will be postponed until further notice.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Release Time Motion by Rocco, seconded by Elmer, to approve release time, according to policy, for Superintendent to attend Creative Clash! The Future of Creativity, Technology and a New Innovation Community in Pittsburgh, Thursday, January 26, 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., The Carnegie Museum of Art-Pittsburgh, Cost \$45 registration fee.

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Rocco, Petcovic, Heyman, and Elmer. Motion carried – 5 Yeas.

Strategic Plan Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, updated the Board on discussion taking place with the Beaver County Superintendents suggesting that this may be the appropriate time to begin developing a strategic plan for the County to chart a course for excellence rather than waiting until it must be done. The Plan would include cost containment for the County as a whole.

Article Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, encouraged the Board to read the article titled “What Americans Keep Ignoring About Finland’s School Success” prior to the Regular Board Meeting in January. (Equity Versus Excellence)

Personnel Matters Executive Session

Note: Board Member Harry Gilarno arrived at 7:05 pm

FINANCE:

Budget Noriene Plate, Business Manager, discussed Governor Corbett's Press Release on Issuing a mid-year budget freeze saying the state budget will be released February 7th, a school district finance meeting will take place the following Thursday.

Health Insurance Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, discussed the need to identify a qualified broker to organize/compare proposals received for District Health Care insurance coverage.

Dr. Sofo, also discussed the Beaver County School Health Care Consortium Advisory Council meeting minutes of December 19, 2011, for possible action related to the calculation of the annual health care premium renewal rates. Dr. Sofo said that the consortium is currently looking at a 13% rate increase and is concerned that if the District goes independent it may affect the Consortium's annual increase. Freedom's experience is better than average in the County which could result in an increase to the Consortium's renewal premium rate.

Note: Board Member Scott Challis arrived at 7:15 pm.

Executive Session: Early Bird ESPA Negotiations
Non-Bargaining Unit Employment Contracts and Secretaries
Personnel Matter

EDUCATION:

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. **Special Education:**

- a. Confirm: Jessika Fontaine, High School Learning Support Teacher, Beaver County Career & Technology Center Visitation for Special Education Students, December 16, CCBC/CTC-Monaca, Cost Mileage
- b. Henry Podbielski, High School Learning Support Teacher, Career Fair Planning Committee Meeting, January 7, Panera's -Monaca, Cost Mileage
- c. Henry Podbielski, High School Learning Support Teacher, Beaver County Transition Fair, February 24, CCBC-Monaca, Cost Mileage

2. **Other:**

- a. Confirm: Tricia Schink, Elementary Math Coach, Knowledge of 4 Year Old Kindergarten Program, December 13, BVIU, Cost Mileage
- b. Confirm: Riverside Cyber Program, December 20, Riverside High School, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage:
 - i. Kristen Milanovich, High School Multimedia Teacher
 - ii. Ed Shephard, High School Math Teacher
- c. Wendy Vannoy, Middle School Math Coach, Math 24, January 11, Midland School District
- d. Pete Kappas, Middle School 8th Grade History Teacher, National Security Briefing for Teachers Tackling Global Threats: Challenges Facing National Security, February 14, Heinz History Center-Pittsburgh, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage
- e. Pete Kappas, Middle School Personal Finance Teacher, Economics of Sports, April 25, Conley Resort-Butler, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage

STUDENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL:

1. **Gifted:**

- a. Sara Miller, K-8 Gifted Coordinator, CLO Gallery of Heroes Performance, January 18, Beaver Falls Middle School, Cost Transportation

2. **Special Education:**

- a. Approve Freedom Area School District contribution of \$100 to help defray cost of Beaver County Transition Fair for students and parents, which is being held on Friday, February 24, at Community College of Beaver County.

- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Sub P-T Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve Kara Battalini as Conway Elementary Substitute part-time aide for months of January thru March 2012, based on a 5 hour and 45 minute workday, daily rate of \$59 (Clearances on File)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Sub Long Term Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve Dan Guerra as a long term substitute teacher for Dennis Partridge, High School Social Studies Teacher, effective January 3, 2012 thru end of school year, Daily Rate of \$95 (Clearances on File)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Chinese Sub Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Rocco, to approve Carrie Cooper as emergency Chinese Substitute Teacher effective approximately January 23 thru April 10, 2012 (Clearances on File)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

Note in Minutes:

Education Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 6:00 P.M., to review implementation of district operated Cyber Education Program to increase student holding power and open dialogue related to instruction and planning time.

OPERATIONS:

- Security Monitor Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Rocco, to approve Chris Glass, High School Security Monitor, from part day to full day until replacement for Dan Guerra is found.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- P-T Custodians Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Rocco, to approve the following as permanent part-time custodians (Clearances on File):
1. Arthur Brown, Big Knob Elementary School
2. Trina Martin, High School
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Selection Process Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, reported that the top four candidates for the Director of Buildings & Grounds position will be interviewed Friday, January 6th. The top candidate will be presented to the Board at the regular board meeting. There were a total of 50 applicants for the position.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR:

- Swim Coach Motion by Challis, seconded by Rocco, to approve Carrie Cooper as Head Varsity Boys' and Girls' Swim Coach, Salary according to contract - \$2,800
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Personnel Matter Executive Session

MEET AND DISCUSS:

- Personnel Matter Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Executive Session Motion by Rocco, seconded by Petcovic, for the Board to go into executive session at 7:28 pm, EST to discuss the following:
- ◆ Personnel Matter (Superintendent #D)
 - ◆ ESPA Negotiations (Finance #E)
 - ◆ Non-Bargaining Unit Contracts & Secretaries (Finance #F)
 - ◆ Personnel Matter (Finance #G)
 - ◆ Personnel Matter (Meet & Discuss #A)
 - ◆ Personnel Matter (Extra Curricular #)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Adjourn Executive Session Motion by Challis, seconded by Heyman, to adjourn executive session at 8:40 pm, EST.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Personnel Matter Motion by Heyman, seconded by Challis, to approve a stipend of \$4,000 be given to Robert Cercone, Chief Negotiator, for Bargaining Unit Contract Negotiations conducted for the Freedom Area School District.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Sharpless, Challis, Rocco, Petcovic, Gilarno, Heyman, and Elmer.
Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
- Adjourn Motion by Challis, seconded by Gilarno, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. - 7 Yeas. Adjourned at 8:41 p.m., E.S.T.

Submitted by:

Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary