

MARCH 8, 2012

The Freedom Area School Board held their Regular Board Meeting on March 8, 2012 in the Middle School Library. President Kathleen Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., E.S.T.

Board Members Present:

Lorraine Rocco
Scott Challis
Dennis Sharpless
Harry Gilarno
Barbara Heyman
Mary Ann Petcovic
Kathleen Schlegel
Mike Tibolet

Board Members Absent:

Bobbie Jo Elmer

School Staff Present:

Ron Sofo, Superintendent
Noriene Plate, Business Manager
Robert Staub, High School Principal
Richard Edder, Middle School Principal
Debra Baycura, Elementary Principal
John Rosa, Faculty & AD
Bonnie Adams, School Nurse
Gary Mortimer, Maintenance

Solicitor

Matt Hoffman, Esq.

Guests: Student Reporters: Sarah Choflet & Emily Bittner, New Sewickley Twp; Members of the girls' basketball team and parents, those speaking are: John Kaercher, Melissa Kaercher, Sydney Kaercher, Freedom, Crissy Nadzam, Leanna Barlamas, Deb Shvach, Conway; Deanna Drobka, Mark Drobka Zelienople; Anna Shvach, Courtney Susan, Conway; Lexie Challis, Carle Arbes, Shya Moon, Freedom

Bills Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to approve the first check run for payment of bills for March 2012, in the amount of \$266,645.17. **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 – Challis, Tibolet, Gilarno, Sharpless, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Cafeteria Report Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to approve the February 2012 Cafeteria Report. **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 – Challis, Tibolet, Sharpless, Gilarno, Petcovic, Rocco, Heyman, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.

Capital Improvement Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to approve the Capital Improvement Check run for March 2012 in the amount of \$3,000.00. **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 – Tibolet, Challis, Gilarno, Sharpless, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

Presentation:

Mrs. Adams, Cheerleader Sponsor and school nurse reported that approximately 30-40 girls will be trying out for Cheerleading. Ms. Adams is requesting the number of Cheerleaders be increased to a maximum of 20 for the 2012-2013 school year. New uniforms are scheduled to be ordered this year, \$2,600 is in the budget. In order to increase the number or participants, a change in bi-laws is required.

Motion by Heyman, seconded by Gilarno, to increase the number of Cheerleaders from 15 to up to 20 Cheerleaders and to change the bi-laws to reflect this change.

Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Gilarno, Sharpless, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, and Schlegel. Motion carried – 8 Yeas

PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Girls' Basketball	Girls Basketball players and parents attended the Board Meeting to provide input on the High School Girls' Basketball Coaching position. As a result, the Board went into Executive Session due to this being a personnel matter.
Executive Session	Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, for the Board to go into executive session at 7:09 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss the Girls' Basketball Coaching position.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
Adjourn Executive Session	Motion by Sharpless, seconded by Gilarno, to adjourn executive session at 7:45 p.m. EST.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.

Note: No action taken on the Girls' basketball coaching position following executive session. President Schlegel advised participating parents and students that the Board will need to deliberate on the issue and will respond at the April Board meeting.

The Board then went back into Executive Session to discuss an unrelated student matter.

Executive Session	Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, for the Board to go into executive session at 7:50 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss a student matter.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
Adjourn Executive Session	Motion by Sharpless, seconded by Gilarno, to adjourn executive session at 8:05 pm EST.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Swim Coach	The District is in receipt of an e-mail from Carrie Cooper, Varsity Swim Coach, thanking the School Board for making it possible for Freedom Area School District to have a Swim Season
<u>Other:</u>	<p>The District is in receipt of the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ From Paul Hoback, Jr., Beaver Area School Board President, concerning secession of Economy Borough from Ambridge Area School District ◆ From Economy Borough resident concerning secession of Economy Borough from Ambridge Area School District ◆ April 2012 Board Meetings to be held on April 12 and April 19
Times Article	<p>Beaver County Times article posted March 5, 2012 – “Freedom May Close Two Elementary Schools” (Link has been placed on the District website, main page)</p> <p>Use of School Facilities (Schedule According to Policy):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Prevention Network, High School Classroom, Tuesdays, 2/14 thru 5/22, Driver's Education 2. Freshman Class, High School Gym, 5/7, Harlem Wizard Fundraiser 3. Freedom Girls' Basketball, Middle School Gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3/1 thru 5/30, Open Gym/Conditioning 4. Drill Team, High School Cafeteria, 4/17 thru 4/20, Tryouts 5. Big Knob PTA, Football Field and Press Box, 5/5 (Rain Date 5/12), Elementary Olympics 6. Freedom Task Force, High School Auditorium, 6/5, Baccalaureate Service 7. Freedom Baseball Boosters, High School Cafeteria or Available Classroom, 3/13, 4/3, 4/17, 5/15, Meetings

8. The Red Barn Players, 4/25 thru 4/28, High School Auditorium, Rehearsals and Performance (Senior Project)
9. Conway PTA, Middle School Auditorium, 3/26 thru 3/28, Conway Elementary Talent Show
10. Freedom Area Wrestling, High School Gym and Wrestling Room, 6/25 thru 6/28, Youth Wrestling Camp (Senior Project)
11. Girls' Basketball, Middle School Gym, 2/27 thru 6/7, One-Day Per Week Practices
12. Skybacher Ministries, Middle School Gym, 6/11 through 6/14. Conway Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 7/9 through 7/12, Basketball Camp
13. Freedom Area Jr. & Sr. High School Track and Field, Concession Stand, 3/13, 3/20, 3/26, 3.30, 4/3, 4/12, 4/13, 4/30, 5/4, Track Meets
14. Conway Elementary Staff, 5/2, Story Walk for Students
15. Freedom Youth Baseball, Middle School Gym, 3/13 through 3/15 and 3/19 through 3/23, Player Evaluations and Practice
16. Freedom Area High School Cheerleaders, High School Student Center and Cafeteria, 3/19 through 3/22, Tryouts
17. Freedom Band Boosters, High School Cafeteria, 3/15, Distribution of Fundraiser

ENCLOSURES:

- A. E-Mail from Paul Hoback, Jr., Beaver Area School Board President, Concerning Secession of Economy Borough from Ambridge Area School District (Communications – Item B.1)
- B. PSBA 60 Second Speak Up Poll Results – State Support for adequately funded Public education (Legislation – Item A)
- C. Status report on Governor's 2012-2013 Budget (Finance – Item A)
- D. Summary of Cyber Education Committee Meeting Held on February 28, 2012 (Education – Item E)
- E. Policy Nos. 203 and 210.1 (Policy – Item A)
- F. In-Out Migration Report as of February 2012 1,520 (-8 from January 2012)
- G. Free-Reduced Lunch Report as of February 29, 2012 – District at 41.16%
- H. Cyber/Charter School Enrollment as of March 2, 2012 - Current Projected Annual Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$483,489.92; 39 Cyber/Charter students, 14 Brick and Mortar Students – Total No. of Students - 53; 4 Year Old Program Enrollment 3 - Current Projected Annual Cost for 2011-2012 School Year \$25,910.67
- I. Articles:
 - Economy May Seek Freedom From Ambridge (Times)
 - Employees Accept Wage Freeze (Times)
 - Twilight of the Lecture (Harvard Magazine)
- J. BVIU School Board Notes for February 22, 2012 Meeting
- K. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Articles (*Available Upon Request*):
 - Sleep, Perchance to Learn
 - Not Concerned About Budget Cuts to Public Education?

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Sofo reported on the following:

- ◆ 21st Century Promise Initiative
- ◆ PSBA February 2012 School Advocacy Leadership Conference
- ◆ Public Broadcasting System Television News story that aired Thursday, February 23, 2012. Note: Interested community members can access the news story on Freedom's Web site.
- ◆ The Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools article (Jamie Vollmer) (Handout).
- ◆ Personnel Matters (Executive Session)

LEGISLATION:

AYP

Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, provided an update of the PSBA 60 Second Speak Up Poll Results — State Support for Adequately Funded Public Education. **Copy of the Poll results attached to the minutes in the minute book.**

Note in Minutes:

- ◆ Representative Jim Christiana appointed to House Education Committee

FINANCE:

State Budget	Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, provided a status report on the Governor's 2012-2013 Budget saying there will no longer be a formula to determine bussing reimbursement since it will now be in one lump sum contained in a block grant; there will be less money to run the local school districts; formulas with predictability have been taken away; and pension contributions that are controlled by the State, a system that has been under funding the program the last 15-20 years.
Copiers	Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to approve District leasing of copiers on state contract and to approve a new lease agreement.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Tibolet, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
BVIU Budget	Approval of the BVIU 2012-2013 General Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,205,588 (Decrease of \$93,627 from 2011-2012 Budget – No Increase to District) will be held for the April Agenda meeting.

Note in Minutes:

- ◆ New electricity rates supplier FirstEnergy thru August 2014 – Current weighted rate \$5.91/KWH, New blended weighted rate \$5.48/KWH – Estimated annual savings of \$12,000
- ◆ Letter received from Pennsylvania Department of Education informing District Performance Audit Report for Years Ended June 30, 2006 and 2005 has been approved as being Substantially in Compliance With Management Directive 325.10 and Other Relevant Commonwealth Policy
- ◆ The Buncher Company intends to request LERTA extension for Tri County Partners, L.P.
- ◆ BVIU 2012-2013 General Operating Budget Defeated at February 22, 2012 Board Meeting
- ◆ Beaver County School Health Insurance Consortium report for January 2012

EDUCATION:

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

1. Other

- a. Margie Anderson, School Nurse, Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners Annual Education Conference, April 14 and April 15 (Saturday/Sunday), State College, Cost \$225 Registration Fee Only
- b. On-Line Elementary Cyber School Programs, March 8, BVIU, Cost Substitute Plus Mileage:
 - i. Courtney Anderson, Conway Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher
 - ii. Kris McCowin, Big Knob Elementary 1st Grade Teacher

Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
Retirement	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to accept the retirement of Roslyn Ionta, High School Social Studies Teacher, effective June 10, 2012.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
Principal Selection	Dr. Sofo, Superintendent, provided an update on the High School/Elementary Principal selection process saying there were 49 applicants in total – a significant number of the candidates want to considered for both positions. There were four internal candidates.
Accreditation Visit	Dr. Staub, High School Principal reported that the Middle States Association High School Accreditation visit has been moved to the fall due to the lack of sufficient evaluators.

Membership	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve the 2012-2013 Membership to Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools for Freedom Area High School, Cost \$900 .
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Tibolet, Challis, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
Cyber Education	<p>Dr. Sofu, Superintendent, provided a summary of the first district wide Cyber Education Committee meeting held on February 28, 2012. As a result, the following "next steps" were agreed to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee identified appropriate purposes for cyber education and appropriate roles of teachers at each grade level • The Committee has recommended that each grade level sub-committee (E,MS,HS) work towards meeting on the next Act 80 day which is Friday, March 9th, to address each sub-committee's identified next steps as follows: <p><u>ELEMENTARY:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Elementary needs to reach out to parents who currently have students enrolled in cyber education programs to determine why they selected the cyber option for their elementary children. o Elementary team also needs to see an elementary cyber education program in action. <p><u>MIDDLE SCHOOL:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Middle School team needs to see a middle school cyber education program in action. <p><u>HIGH SCHOOL:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o High School team's next steps include identifying implementation timelines with appropriate practices and procedures for their 2012-13 cyber education program. Dr. Sofu said the committee is off to a good start.
Cyber Summer School	Motion by Petcovic, seconded by Heyman, to approve District Student Academic Cyber Summer School, June thru August 2012. No cost to the District.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Tibolet, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
Pre-School Provider	Dr. Sofu, Superintendent, introduced Dawn Greene, Director of Little Sprouts, a Pre-School/Daycare Provider, saying exploratory discussions have taken place with Ms. Green to explore options to provide a pre K daycare program at Freedom using Tiny Tots as the provider. The intent would be to partner with a quality pre school for a win win program offering allowing the district to offer families an option to cyber elsewhere. At this time only preliminary discussions are taking place.
STEAM/TEAMS	Dr. Sofu, Superintendent, discussed the intent to modify District's Grades 7-12 Technology Education Curriculum to prepare students for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Careers (STEAM/TEAMS). A survey will be submitted to high school and middle school students to determine their interests, then key faculty will be identified to determine how to arrange courses, training, etc. to repackage how we do what we do. Students will be asked to apply themselves more meaningfully.
2012-2013 School Calendar	Dr. Sofu, Superintendent, reported that the Draft 2012-2013 School Calendar will be ready for approval at the April board meeting. Currently being reviewed by District faculty. Dr. Sofu's recommendation is to keep the calendar as outlined in the Draft.
<u>Note in Minutes:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Public Testimony to the House Education Committee Concerning Cyber Charter Schools held on February 15, 2012 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OPERATIONS:</u></p>
Bids	Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Rocco, to approve Catalog Discount Bids (See Folder)

- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Tibolet, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
- CPU's Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Tibolet, to approve disposal of computer CPU's (See Folder)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Tibolet, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
- Equipment Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Rocco, to approve disposal of Equipment (See Folder)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Tibolet, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
- Membership Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Challis, to approve Membership in NSBA BuyBoard Purchasing Network (National Discount Procurement Initiative of NSBA), No cost to the District (Signature Required)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Tibolet, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
- Vehicle Purchase Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Rocco, to approve purchase of a 2012 Ford E-150 XL Wagon, Cost \$21,996 (State Contract Pricing)
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Tibolet, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
- Retirement Motion by Gilarno, seconded by Rocco, to accept retirement of Barbara Shodd, High School Head Cook, effective end of 2011-2012 School Year.
- Roll Call Vote Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Tibolet, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 8 Yeas.
- Feedback Preliminary Feedback from the March 5, 2012 Community Meeting concerning the District's Facilities Master Plan was positive, participants expressed honest opinions, were interested, and concerned. Safety for the children on consolidated bus runs was a concern. Discussion also included closing one of our buildings, the Baden Charter school, cost impact, changes in taxes. Most importantly, they said that whatever the decision, make the change only if we can substantially improve things for the students. Discussion on finances will follow.
- Buildings & Grounds Gary Mortimer, Maintenance, provided the monthly building & grounds report saying:
- ◆ High School – Water meter replacement will occur on March 12; spring filter changing of all RTU units has been started; preparation has begun for the March play production of the Music Man; General plumbing and electrical repairs completed.
 - ◆ Middle School – Work continued with the HVAC control system; boiler repairs completed, general maintenance repairs.
 - ◆ Big Knob – DEP meeting scheduled for March 9th to start the waiver process for the well water testing, quarterly test required this year; General maintenance repairs
- Conway – General plumbing, electrical, and mechanical repairs
- Personnel Matter Executive Session
- Note in Minutes:
- ◆ Food Facility Inspection Report (Dated February 28, 2012) by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for Big Knob Elementary School, Status – In Compliance
 - ◆ Spring Bus Evaluation Drill will be conducted on Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Note Board Member Mike Tibolet left the meeting at 9:02 pm

EXTRA CURRICULAR:

Cheerleading Asst.	Motion by Challis, seconded by Heyman, to approve Brandi Ward as Volunteer Varsity Cheerleading Assistant (Clearances on File)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Consultant	Motion by Challis, seconded by Gilarno, to approve Consulting Agreement with Alan Guandolo for Freedom Area Varsity Football Program at \$25/hour not to exceed 100 hours. (Pending Receipt of Clearances) (Signatures Required)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Club Changes	An overview will be provided at the April meeting on the proposed club and sponsorship changes (Administrative Report)
Basketball Coach	Contract Renewal for Current Head Varsity Girls’ Basketball Coach (Executive Session)

POLICY:

Revised Policies	Motion by Rocco, seconded by Gilarno, to approve the following revised policies as marked, plus add new language designated in bold type (Copy placed in the minute book): 1. Policy No. 203, Immunizations and Communicable Diseases 2. Policy No. 210.1, Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

MEET AND DISCUSS:

Act 93 Meeting	Review Highlights from Act 93 Meet and Discuss meeting on February 16, 2012 (Executive Session)
Level III Response	Determine Board’s Level III Response (Executive Session)
Student Discipline	Student Disciplinary Matter (Executive Session)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session	Motion by Challis, seconded by Sharpless, for the Board to go into executive session at 9:12 p.m. E.S.T. to discuss the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Level II Grievance Response (Meet & Discuss #B) ❖ Personnel Matter – District Organizational Chart (Superintendent #E) ❖ Personnel Matter (Education K) ❖ Personnel Matter (Operations #I) ❖ Student Disciplinary Matter (Meet & Discuss #C) ❖ Review highlights from Act 93 Meet and Discuss Meeting held on February 16, 2012 (Meet & Discuss #A) ❖ Contract Renewal for Current Head Varsity Girls’ Basketball Coach (Extra Curricular #E)
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Challis, Petcovic, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.
Adjourn Executive Session	Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to adjourn executive session at 10:15 pm EST.
Roll Call Vote	Yea Votes – Petcovic, Challis, Heyman, Rocco, Schlegel, Sharpless, and Gilarno. Motion carried – 7 Yeas.

Note: Superintendent Ron Sofo submitted to the Board his letter of resignation effective June 15, 2012.

Adjourn Motion by Heyman, seconded by Petcovic, to adjourn. All members voting Yea. – 7 Yeas. Adjourned at 10:30 p.m., E.S.T.

Submitted by:

Lorraine Rocco, Board Secretary