

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
September 6, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held in the Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School, on Thursday, September 6, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, John J. Mahle, Jr.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: John J. Mahle, Jr., President; Anthony Gagliardi, Vice-President; Evelyn Evans, Secretary; David J. Evans, Peter M. Halesey, Lorraine Heydt, David A. Shipula and Frank J. Sorokach.

ABSENT: Anthony Spinozza

Evelyn Evans, Secretary, stated a Quorum was established.

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT:

Mr. Anthony Podczasy, Superintendent; Mr. Joseph P. Kochuba, Business Administrator; Attorney Joseph J. Van Jura, Solicitor; and a number of citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved by Frank Sorokach, seconded by David Evans: To approve the following minutes:

Board of Education Regular Meeting

August 9, 2007

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

BOARD VOTE: YES: D. Evans, E. Evans, Gagliardi, Halesey, Heydt, Mahle, Shipula, Sorokach. NO: None. ABSENT: Spinozza. Chair declared the motion carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

It was moved by Frank Sorokach, seconded by David Evans: To approve the following report:

Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 Board of School Directors Regular Meeting of Wednesday, June 27, 2007.

Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 Board of School Directors Reorganization Meeting of Wednesday, June 27, 2007.

BOARD VOTE: YES: D. Evans, E. Evans, Gagliardi, Halesey, Heydt, Mahle, Shipula, Sorokach. NO: None. ABSENT: Spinozza. Chair declared the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Anthony Podczasy, Superintendent, reported its September and school is back in session. The fall sports season is in full swing. I would like to personally thank everyone for their cooperation in making the opening of schools a smooth one. Our elementary schools are in the process of holding their "Back to School Nights" where the parents meet the teachers and learn about classroom procedures and curriculum. Last night I attended "Back to School Night" at Lee Park Elementary and on August 24th I had the pleasure of attending the Kindergarten Orientation at the Hanover Green Kindergarten Center. Next week, Tuesday, September 11th, Lyndwood will hold their "Back to School Night" and on Wednesday, September 12th, is Memorial Elementary's "Back to School Night". The Junior/Senior High School will hold their "Meet the Teachers Night" on Thursday, September 13th. Homecoming starts the week of October 1st and the Bonfire and Pep Rally will be on Thursday, October 4th. The "Homecoming Parade" and game is on Friday, October 5th, against Wyoming Area. Friday, October 5th is an Act 80 Day with no school for the students and a full In-Service Day for the teachers.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

This evening I am proud to recognize several individuals who didn't begin the school year with us this year because they have retired. We would like to let them know that we appreciate their hard work and dedication to the District. The School Board would like to present to each retiree individually, a Resolution and a lifetime pass for all district events so they can visit with us often. And just as sports have their "Hall of Fame", these teachers will now have their own plaque on the Hanover Area's "Wall of Fame" for retired educators, which is located just outside the Board Room. When I call your name, would you please come up:

<i>Karen Baranoski</i>	<i>34 years of service</i>
<i>Paulette Ricketts</i>	<i>34 years of service</i>
<i>Claire Stephens</i>	<i>34 years of service</i>

The other retired teacher who could not be here this evening is:

<i>Leslie Brezinski</i>	<i>33 years of service</i>
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Now I would like to recognize two individuals who were chosen to receive our 2006-2007 "Excellence in Teaching" awards. These individuals have gone the extra mile for students. They exemplify the characteristics of a true professional:

<i>Marie Guesto</i>	<i>Secondary</i>
<i>Paul Martinez</i>	<i>Elementary</i>

In closing, I would like to wish all of our honored guests best wishes, and especially our retirees a long and healthy retirement.

Mr. President, that concludes the Superintendent's Report.

It was moved by David Shipula, seconded by David Evans: To accept the Report of the Superintendent.

BOARD VOTE: YES: D. Evans, E. Evans, Gagliardi, Halesey, Heydt, Mahle, Shipula, Sorokach. NO: None. ABSENT: Spinozza. Chair declared the motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

It was moved by Peter Halesey, seconded by Anthony Gagliardi: To approve the following motions:

1. Approve from the Department of Education the following Federal Programs Consolidated Applications for the 2007-2008 school year:

Project 090080180	Dual Enrollment Grant	\$23,096
Project 77108	Educational Asst. Program	\$68,532
Project 100080180	Safe/Drug Free Schools	\$13,289
Project 00908	PA Accountability Block Grant	\$359,226
Project SSS08	Science It's Elementary	Funds managed by PDE

2. Approve the "Agreement for Prevention/Education Services" for the 2007-2008 school year between the Hanover Area School District and Wyoming Valley Drug & Alcohol Drug Services. (Exhibit G-2)

3. Approve Letter of Agreement, Appendix A between the Hanover Area School District and the Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc. for the 2007-2008 school year. (Exhibit G-3)

4. Approve agreement with Geisinger Health System to provide physician coverage needs for athletics and the student body according to Exhibit G-4 and a contract to be approved by the solicitor.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #4 ABOVE) YES:
D. Evans, E. Evans, Gagliardi, Halesey, Heydt, Mahle, Shipula, Sorokach.
NO: None. **ABSENT:** Spinozza. Chair declared the motions carried.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Frank Sorokach, seconded by Evelyn Evans: To approve the following motions:

1. Approve payment of the following Capital Projects Requisitions, as per Exhibit F-1:

Requisition #2007-2008-5-B

American Asphalt Paving Company	Crack Sealing and Overlay to Existing Tennis Court	\$74,046.00
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Requisition #2007-2008-6-B

CM3 Building Solutions	Energy Conservation Project	\$417,288.00
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2. Approve payment of the following legal fee: (Exhibit F-2)

Professional Services Rendered

Attorney Joseph Van Jura (for the period August 1, 2007 through August 29, 2007)	\$ 3,315.20
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3. Approve the budgeted donation of \$2,000.00, to Osterhout Free Library of Wilkes-Barre. (Exhibit F-3)

4. Approve the Financial Reports as listed below:

a. Data Processing	DP-1 to DP-10
b. Food Service Fund	FS-1 to FS-5
c. General Fund	GF-1 to GF-62
d. Junior/Senior High School Activity Fund	JS-1 to JS-5
e. P.S.D.L.A.F. Account	PS-1 to PS-6
f. Real Estate Escrow Account	RE-1
g. E.S.E.A. Title I Account/Federal Projects Account/ State Grants Account	FP-1 to FP-11
h. <u>OTHER FINANCIAL REPORTS:</u> William H. & Ruth W. Young Scholarship Fund	SC-1 to SC-6

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

5. Approve Limited Termite Service Warranty Agreement with Ehrlich Pest Control for a three (3) year agreement (August, 2007 to July, 2010) in the amount of \$2,251.88, for Hanover Area Memorial Elementary School. (Exhibit F-7)

6. Award the Bid for the Sale of a 1990 Chevrolet 8-cylinder pick-up truck with a western plow in "as is" condition, to L.A.G. Transport and Recovery, Inc., in the bid amount of \$1,620.00. (Exhibit F-8)

7. Acknowledge the donation to the High School Activity Fund, from the Luzerne County Solid Waste Management Department, in the amount of \$750.00, in appreciation for the districts assistance to the 2007 Summer Recycling Programs. (Exhibit F-9)

8. Approve Resolution No. 9-6-2007, abating all prior and delinquent school taxes for 223 Chestnut Street, Sugar Notch, PIN #J9SW1007006, which is now owned by Sugar Notch Borough, as per Exhibit F-10.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #8 ABOVE) YES:
D. Evans, E. Evans, Gagliardi, Halesy, Heydt, Mahle, Shipula, Sorokach.
NO: None. **ABSENT:** Spinozza. Chair declared the motions carried.

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by David Evans, seconded by Anthony Gagliardi: To approve the following motions:

1. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Justine M. Vukson, Secondary Spanish Teacher. (Exhibit P-1)

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

2. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Carl Jaslar, Custodian, effective July 25, 2007. (Exhibit P-2)

3. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Mary C. Stinson, Health Room Assistant. (Exhibit P-3)

4. Accept, with regret, the retirement of Jack Griffiths, Assistant Elementary Principal, effective March 8, 2008. (Exhibit P-4)

5. Accept, with regret, the retirement of Dennis Puhalla, Assistant Elementary Principal, effective June 30, 2008. (Exhibit P-5)

6. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Larry Clemons, Cleaner, effective September 5, 2007. (Exhibit P-6)

7. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Debra Pac, Enabler, effective August 21, 2007. (Exhibit P-7)

8. Appoint/re-appoint the following Extra Curricular personnel, as recommended by the Athletic Director, for the 2007-2008 school year:

Kimberly Kunec	Jr. High Cross Country	\$2,087
William Kunec	Asst. Jr. High Cross Country	\$750
Robert Mackunis	Jr. High Field Hockey	\$1,700

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

9. Approve tenure for the following Professional Employees:
Ann Marie Ashton
Erica Centak
Nicole Hummer
Maureen Kayrish
Elizabeth Kunec
Benjamin Murphy
Sharon Pericci
April Wrubel

10. Approve the Substitute Teacher List for the 2007-2008 school year.
(Exhibit P-10)

11. Approve for payroll purposes the Professional salaries as per the existing
HAEA Contract. (Exhibit P-11)

12. Appoint the following Substitute Per-diem Instructional/Personal Care
Aides for the 2007-2008 school year:
Anne M. Makarewicz
Judith A. McGavin
Lynn R. Vitale

13. Approve Deborah Yatko, Secondary Learning Support Teacher to take
October 4th and October 5th, 2007 as Unpaid Days. (Exhibit P-13)

14. Approve Selina McHugh as Substitute Per-diem Cleaner for the 2007-
2008 school year.

15. Approve the following Mentor Teachers for the 2007-2008 school year at a
stipend of \$250:

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

Maura Casey	Susan Pointek
Amanda Evans	Susan Pointek
Brian Keating	Amy Hummer
Marisa Langan	Joette Anthony
Loni Morgan	Heather Balasavage
Pamela Quaglia	Michelle Kotchick
Nicole Kotula	Ryan Purdy
Jeffrey DeRocco	Christine Shipula

16. Appoint Nicole M. Kotula as Secondary Spanish Teacher at a salary of B, Step 1, and \$34,196.

17. Appoint Renee Benavage as Secondary Educational Assistance Program Instructor at a salary M, Step 1, \$40,480. (Salary to be supported by the 2007-2008 Educational Assistance Program Grant)

18. Approve engagement with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin Law Firm with respect to Special Education issue. (Exhibit P-18)

19. Appoint Louis Thomas to Cleaner Position #2A (4 hours) at the Junior-Senior High School at a salary of \$7.50/hour, no benefits, as per the HAESP Contract.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #19 ABOVE) YES: D. Evans, E. Evans, Gagliardi, Halesy, Heydt, Mahle, Shipula (yes on all motions except #15), Sorokach. **NO:** None **ABSENT:** Spinozza. **ABSTAIN:** Shipula (on motion #15 only). Chair declared the motions carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

NEW BUSINESS:

None

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Mrs. Donna Brenner, a homeowner and parent of an autistic student, stated I am all for including our learning support students in the classroom environment with the regular education students. Two classes are being conducted at the same time in the same room. My first question is, are these Learning Support teachers qualified to be teaching learning support on their own if the need be that these children can't keep up with the regular education children; and my next question is, if they are being conducted at the same time, how is the Learning Support teacher handling this? You have, probably, a maximum of 25 students in a regular classroom. Then you have the learning support students who can't keep up with the regular curricular activities, that is why they are in learning support. My next question is, why wasn't the parents notified about these inclusive classes? If this was set in place the first day of school, someone should have sent a letter to the parents explaining to them why this was done.

Mr. Podczasy, Superintendent, replied all of your questions can be answered by the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Deborah Popson.

Mrs. Popson stated all of our Learning Support teachers are highly qualified by the state. Mrs. Popson also informed Mrs. Brenner that the Learning Support teachers must do assessments on all their students to check their progress in this inclusive program.

Mrs. Lisa Shepley also remarked that the parents should have been notified about their child being put into the inclusive program.

Mrs. Popson notified the parents that she will hold a meeting next week for all parents of autistic students to inform them of the changes in the Learning Support Program and to answer all questions they may have. She encouraged all parents to attend this meeting.

Mr. James Mullen from the Sugar Notch Borough Council thanked the School Board for approving the Resolution abating all prior and delinquent school taxes for 223 Chestnut Street, Sugar Notch, which is now owned by the Sugar Notch Borough.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

Mr. Joseph J. Carey, Sr., also thanked the School Board for having the tractor trailers removed from the Hanover Area Memorial Elementary School parking lot. He also asked if all new teachers must have FBI fingerprinting clearances.

Mr. Podczaszy replied all new employees, including cleaners and coaches, need an FBI clearance.

Mr. Carey then asked how much money in the budget is decided for each sport, for supplies and coaches' salaries?

President John Mahle replied it depends on the length of the season and the number of students in the sports.

David Fisher, Secondary Principal, stated the number of coaches needed for each sport depends on the number of students in the sport. He said the sports' Booster Clubs also pay for some of the expenses and they do a fine job. He also stated the football helmets alone cost approximately \$200.00 each. No student has ever been turned away from participating in any school sports. The School District does not cut corners on the safety of their players. Our playing fields are in excellent shape.

Mr. David Evans replied the football helmets must be checked and certified to be in good shape, for the safety of our football players.

Mr. Wildes, Representing the Hanover Area Mini-Hawks, also commented that he wanted everyone to know that no one in the Mini-Hawks started the editorial in the newspaper regarding the use of the football field. We are currently playing our home games on that field. The School Board was kind enough to sit down with the Mini-Hawks, along with the athletic department and maintenance department, and worked out a lot of stuff. I just wanted to clarify that. If anyone has any questions, they can call me.

President Mahle stated I met with Mr. Wildes up at the field, on my own time, and what we figured out was keep politics out of the Mini programs. Don't get the kids involved. And that is what seems to be happening. Thank you, Mr. Wildes.

Mr. Frank Ciavarella, Jr., questioned the selection of a coach that was hired at the Board Meeting. He also questioned the approval of the engagement with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman and Goggin Law Firm under Personnel motion #18.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

Attorney Joseph Van Jura, Solicitor, replied this law firm has been handling a special education matter for the School District on behalf of the Insurance Company, for quite some time. Their contract expired, so we had to approve a renewal engagement letter to continue their services.

Mr. Ciavarella, Jr., also asked, regarding Financial motion #6, did the Board re-advertise for the Sale of the 1990 Chevrolet 8-cylinder pick-up truck, because at the Board Meeting last month, the only bid received was rejected?

Attorney Van Jura replied, after the meeting last month, the School District received notification from L.A.G. Transport and Recovery that they submitted a bid to the District, but it was never received. I was contacted for my advice on this matter. I informed the District not to re-bid the truck, ask the company to make us an offer. They offered to purchase the vehicle for \$1,620.00.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Board of Education Work Session	Tuesday, October 9, 2007
Board of Education Regular Meeting	Thursday, October 11, 2007

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Peter Halesey, seconded by Anthony Gagliardi: To adjourn the Regular School Board Meeting at 7:40 P.M.

BOARD VOTE: YES: D. Evans, E. Evans, Gagliardi, Halesey, Heydt, Mahle, Shipula, Sorokach. NO: None. ABSENT: Spinozza. Chair declared the motion carried.

ATTEST: _____, Secretary
Evelyn Evans
Hanover Area School Board

