

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Greenville Area School District met in regular session Monday, September 21, 2015, at 7:05 p.m., in the lecture hall at Greenville High School. The following members were present: Charles Demarest, John Forbes, Lisa Holm, Laura Leskovac, Steve Lewis, Mary Reames, Richard Rossi, Howard Scott and President Dennis Webber.

Others present:                    Mark Ferrara, Superintendent  
   Michele A. Orahod, Board Secretary  
   Brian S. Tokar, Principal, Grades 10-11-12  
   Mark Hogue, Principal, Grades 7-8-9  
   Matt Dieter, Elementary Principal  
   Connie Timashenka, Special Education and Curriculum Director  
   Jodi Hibbard, Technology Director

Teachers present:                Four (4)  
Visitors present:                Fifty nine (59)  
News media present:            One (1)

President Webber led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

Kelly Hittle and Danielle Sepos discussed the collaborative United Way/GEA book drive activities and the successes of the program.

Rick Zilla presented the board with license plates designed and manufactured by his students with the new technology which was added to the department over the summer. Mr. Zilla thanked the board for their support in acquiring necessary upgrades to the department's facility and instructional equipment.

The following residents addressed the board regarding the motion to authorize the incurring of debt for capital improvements.

Fred Palmiter expressed his concerns on the impact of a tax increase to the retirees within the community.

Todd Jaussen suggested a referendum be placed on the ballot for citizens to vote for or against the tax increase.

John O'Malley reflected on his term on the board and his challenge to future boards to think outside the box.

Amy Hollowell discussed the fire department's recent referendum campaign and the communication between the school district and the public.

Ron Beil requested the board look at wants versus needs of the school district.

Christy Andrusky, a 2012 GHS graduate, suggested that the focus should be more on education than on things that are not needed.

Josh Stephens, Mayor-Borough of Greenville, spoke on behalf of his constituents who are employed in part-time jobs.

Dan McClain, prospective property owner and current business owner in the Borough, voiced his concerns over a tax increase on behalf of his customers.

Brian Scott addressed the board concerning declining student enrollment, lack of community involvement and plan design proposals posted on the District's website.

Linda Snyder supported the comments made by Reverend Jaussen.

Larry Redfoot questioned the bottom line, out the door cost of the project.

Gary Beatty expressed his concerns over the tax increase to rental property owners and borrowing funds before the project bids are known.

Lonnie Ferguson a retired resident of Greenville expressed concerns over the tax increase.

Darrell Kougher suggested a referendum be given more consideration given the uncertainty of the state budget or private donations.

Jamie Allison reiterated previous speakers' points on the voice of voters related to referendums in a small town setting and suggested the scope of the project and cost be made available to homeowners.

Joy Vargo acknowledged previous discussion on the project design and cost to homeowners.

Dave Ferguson expressed the need for a new gym.

Keith Martin discussed wants and needs of the school district as well as the demands placed on the gym system.

Sean Hall, a two year resident of Greenville, discussed the statistics and population of the district and possibility of future mergers and sharing of resources with other schools.

Dave Eaves spoke about his experience as a life-long resident of Greenville and the financial impact of a tax increase from a homeowner's perspective.

Kristy Brooks, business owner of Paxton's Lunch 143 Main St., discussed the stress already placed on downtown businesses due to the closure of Main St.

Mark Zuschlag addressed the board concerning district consolidation and increasing the tax base.

Bob Gruber spoke about the condition of Greenville and the lack of tax base which places additional financial burden on the townspeople.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No action was taken on the Minutes of the following Greenville Area School District meetings: Board Meeting of August 17, 2015, and Board Workshop of September 16, 2015 pending distribution to each board member.

#### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Moved by Mr. Demarest and seconded by Ms. Holm that the financial reports be approved as presented by the Board Secretary.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott, aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

Moved by Mr. Demarest and seconded by Mr. Scott that the Bills for Payment be approved as presented and that the Board Secretary be authorized to complete the necessary checks for payment.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs.

Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – RESIGNATIONS**

Moved by Mrs. Reames and seconded by Mr. Rossi that the following resignations be approved:

- Pam McCormick Cafeteria Associate effective 8/31/2015
- Kayla Conway Instructional Aide effective 9/11/2015
- Christopher Blatt Jr. High Track Coach effective 8/25/2015
- Alyssa Gargas 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade LS Teacher effective 9/16/2015

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL - EMPLOYMENT**

Moved by Mrs. Reames and seconded by Mr. Rossi that the following be approved:

- Fran Conover, Greenville, PA Part Time Custodian \$10.00 per hr  
Effective August 31, 2015

*Newly hired employees will be on a six-month probationary period. All employees are employees at will and can be terminated at any time and for any reason upon ten (10) days notice.*

- Amanda Gaus, Greenville, PA Trojanette Advisor, Pro-rated Level A

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – SUBSTITUTE POSITIONS**

Moved by Mr. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Demarest that the following substitutes be approved on an as needed basis effective immediately:

Teachers: Joshua Reddinger  
Charlotte Rodgers (School Nurse)

Non Traditional Guest Teachers: Frank Boyles  
Ralph Dorman  
Mindy Glover  
Jennifer Hawthorne  
Faith King  
Julie Kirila Craig  
Elizabeth Klingensmith  
Denise Malovich  
Joshua Myers  
Traci Thrasher

Aides: Melissa Schnupp  
Holly Balderelli (Pending Clearances)

Cafeteria: Chantelle Beilstein  
Heather Fischer

Custodians: Nicole Dickens (Pending Clearances)  
Joshua Spaltro effective 9/2/15  
Linda Valenzuela effective 9/3/2015

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – LEAVE WITHOUT PAY**

Moved by Mrs. Leskovac and seconded by Mr. Scott that the request from Bobbie Stefanowicz for leave without pay on April 4 - 6, 2016 be approved.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – SALARY/STEP ADJUSTMENT**

Moved by Mrs. Reames and seconded by Mr. Forbes that the salary of Beth L. Schaller, employed on June 15, 2015, be amended from Master's Step 16 to Master's +36 Step 12 upon further review of the employee's school service record.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE HAPPENING**

Moved by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Ms. Holm that the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Happening Retreat at Hempfield Park on September 24, 2015 be approved.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL - PSBA OFFICERS**

Moved by Mr. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Demarest to authorize that electronic votes be cast for the following PSBA officers who have been endorsed by the PSBA Leadership Development Committee.

**President-Elect**

- Mary Birks, Mt. Lebanon SD (Allegheny Co.)

**Vice President**

- Michael Faccinnetto, Bethlehem Area SD (Northampton Co.)

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – FEE WAIVER, USE OF FACILITIES**

Moved by Mrs. Reames and seconded by Mr. Rossi that the following request to waive rental fees for the use of facilities be approved:

Hempfield Fire Department      H.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor/Remedial Gym      November 28, 2015

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – 2015-2016 BASKETBALL BIDS**

Moved by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Mr. Scott that the attached 2015-2016 basketball bids be approved as shown as **Exhibit A**.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – 2015-2016 BUS CHANGE ADJUSTMENT**

Moved by Mr. Demarest and seconded by Ms. Holm that the request submitted by Frye, Inc. to make adjustments to the 2015-2016 bus schedule shown as **Exhibit B** be approved.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – BOARD POLICIES**

Moved by Mrs. Reames and seconded by Mr. Demarest that the following Board Policies be approved as shown as **Exhibit C**.

214 Class Rank  
004.1 Nepotism

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – NAMING RIGHTS SNYDER-STONE STADIUM**

Moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Reames that the following resolution and proposal establishing Snyder-Stone Stadium shown as **Exhibit D** be approved.

WHEREAS, the Board is grateful to Edgar J. Snyder and Robert E. Stone for taking on the important role of enriching our community through their service to the district and its football program; and

WHEREAS, the Board Policy No. 702.1 Naming Rights permits the recognition of individuals who have supported the district through distinguished effort by naming facilities or district-owned property in their honor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED BY AND SECONDED BY, that the Greenville Area School District Board of Directors offer the following:

The outdoor facility located at 19 Donation Road, Greenville, PA shall be named Edgar J. Snyder and Robert E. Stone Stadium and referred to from this point forward as SNYDER-STONE STADIUM, effective immediately.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – NONELECTORAL DEBT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Moved by Mr. Demarest and seconded by Mr. Rossi that the adoption of a resolution authorizing the incurring of nonelectoral debt for capital improvements, as presented to the Board in **Exhibit I** be approved.

Mary Reames discussed how the community is always able to pull together during difficult times. She

suggested we keep the plans for a new gym as a need rather than a want.

Lisa Holm expressed the importance of schools to a community's infrastructure and the priority to secure the buildings from potential threats or intruders.

Charlie Demarest stated that while he is sympathetic to taxpayers' thoughts he supports moving ahead with the renovations to Hempfield, the closing of East Elementary and added secured entrances and repairs at the High School.

Howard Scott discussed that safety and security were the focus of the discussion when the feasibility study began many months ago.

Laura Leskovac explained that many options have been presented during her two year tenure on the board and expressed her discomfort with the borrowing without a final design concept.

Rick Rossi discussed his desire to improve education of all students and the curriculum.

Steve Lewis explained his desire to move forward and to act responsibly on behalf of the community.

John Forbes shared his mother's words from an August, 1996 school board meeting concerning the previous renovation and his own thoughts at focusing on what is best for the students.

Dennis Webber explained the school district is one of the greatest strengths of our community. He discussed the advantage of capitalizing on historically low interest rates to help keep down the overall cost of the project. He also reviewed his discussions with HHSDR and Superintendent Homer concerning the 1998 renovation.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, nay; Mr. Lewis, nay; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES AGREEMENT  
HEMPFIELD ELEMENTARY & JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL**

Moved by Mr. Rossi and seconded by Mrs. Reames that the agreement between Greenville Area School District and HHSDR, Inc. Sharon, PA shown as **Exhibit E** be approved.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – HEMPFIELD ES 20 YR VARIANCE REQUEST**

Moved by Mr. Demarest and seconded by Mrs. Reames that the resolution requesting a variance from the Department of Education for alteration costs to Hempfield Elementary shown as **Exhibit F** be approved.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – SOILS ENGINEERING & GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES**

Moved by Mr. Demarest and seconded by Mr. Scott that the proposal submitted by GeoMechanics, Inc., Elizabeth, PA in the amount not to exceed \$40,695 as shown as **Exhibit G** be approved.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – HEMPFIELD ELEMENTARY ROOF**

Moved by Mr. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Scott that the Hempfield Elementary roof proposal dated September 14, 2015 submitted by The Garland Company shown as **Exhibit H** be approved.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – FOOTBALL FIELD FENCE**

Moved by Mr. Demarest and seconded by Mr. Scott that the fencing bid in the amount of \$7,270 submitted by G & J Fence, Transfer, PA to be approved.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – INDEPENDENT STUDIES AND COURSE STUDIES  
WITH LESS THAN TEN (10) STUDENTS**

Moved by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Ms. Holm that the independent studies and course studies with less than 10 students submitted by the high school be approved as shown as Exhibit J.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – CREATION OF GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM**

Moved by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Mrs. Leskovac that the Greenville Area School Board of Directors authorizes the creation of a PIAA sanctioned girls soccer program for the two (2) year PIAA cycle starting with the 2016/2017 season.

Be it further Moved by and seconded by that for this two-year cycle, the Soccer Boosters agree to contributing/raising the balance of the funds necessary to cover the expenses of the program; this amount is not to be less than \$12,000 year 1 and \$11,000 year 2. The Boosters agree to contribute these funds in two annual installments with the dates to be mutually agreed upon with the understanding that any non-utilized monies will be applied to the agreed upon funding of the second season.

Be it further Moved by and seconded by that after the two-year cycle, the Greenville Area School District may assume full responsibility for this program based on the financial conditions of the district.

Be it further Moved by and seconded by that the Greenville Area School District and administration will have sole discretion of running the soccer program; the booster organization will only be assisting in raising the funds to operate the program.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – CREATION OF GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
GIRLS SOCCER BOOSTERS ORGANIZATION**

Moved by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Ms. Holm that the creation of a Greenville High School Girls Soccer Boosters Club be approved in accordance with Support Group procedures as shown as **Exhibit K**.

Vote: Mr. Demarest, aye; Mr. Forbes, aye; Ms. Holm, aye; Mrs. Leskovac, aye; Mr. Lewis, aye; Mrs. Reames, aye; Mr. Rossi, aye; Mr. Scott; aye; and President Webber, aye. Motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Ferrara shared upcoming open house schedules and the Stewart Field grand opening festivities.

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

Brian Scott commented on the difficult position school directors are placed in when making decisions on behalf of students and residents of the community. "You reach a middle ground and comprise", he said.

Amy Hollowell addressed the board on Kindergarten class size.

Mr. Ferguson commented on the completion of the field project.

Mr. Ealy expressed concern for students' safety when running on East Ave.

Ms. Allison discussed grant writing opportunities to raise funds for physical education and wellness programs.

At 9:51 p.m. the board adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Mr. Scott that the meeting be adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

  
Michele A. Orahood  
Board Secretary