

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALMERTON, PA.
January 17, 2017

BOARD MINUTES

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD AT 6:00 P.M. TODAY, JANUARY 17, 2017 CONCERNING PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS AND ON JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 5:00 P.M. CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS.

The regular scheduled meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Office. President Myers presided.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Recker, Haas, Debski, Myers, Gildner, Harry, Smale, Scherer and Yeakel
Absent: None

OTHER ATTENDANCE

Scot Engler - Superintendent, Deb Scheckler – Board Secretary, Attorney David Conn – Solicitor, Ryan Kish – Business Manager

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Recorded the consolidation deed

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- PA Senate pushing votes for property tax elimination in February
- A tax shift. Personal tax will rise from 3% to 4% and include most food and clothing
- Most taxpayers could be paying more in those additional taxes than their property taxes, with most money funneled to the Philly and Pittsburgh schools
- School programs would be faced with cuts or additional debt would have to be incurred through voter referendum
- This would alter public education statewide and take control out of hands of the board and taxpayers and give it to the state
- If this passes soon, it will affect next year’s budget

OLD BUSINESS:

Director Harry

- Does not agree with the salary for the HR position

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Director Gildner moved, seconded by Director Smale that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School District approve the following consent agenda.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

MINUTES

Approve the minutes from the December 6, 2016, December 13, 2016 and January 3, 2017 meetings. (attachments on file)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Approve the financial reports listed below: (attachments on file)

- TREASURER’S REPORTS
- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
- BUDGET TRANSFERS
- GRANTS

SINGLE AUDIT REPORT

Accept the Single Audit Report dated June 30, 2016 as presented by Gorman & Associates, P.C

CC TAX COMMITTEE DELEGATE

Reappoint Delegate and alternate delegate to the Carbon County Tax Collection Committee

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EXTRA CURRICULAR POSITIONS

Approve the following extracurricular positions for the 2016-2017 school year:

Michael Englert	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	Volunteer
Tom Pasquariello	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	Volunteer
Austin Cseh	½ Assistant Track Coach	Stipend pending contract negotiations
Michael Martinez	Volunteer Track Coach	Volunteer
Jen Danzeisen	Head Tennis Coach	Stipend pending contract negotiations

RESIGNATION

Accept the resignation of Vicki J. Kistler from the substitute list as of December 16, 2016

REFUND PENALTY

Refund the penalty amount of Ms. Christine McGuire's Real Estate Tax bill, ID 42A-48-Q103.01, in the amount of \$643.31.

TUITION RE-IMBURSEMENT

Approve the attached tuition reimbursement

DONATIONS

Accept the donation for the Palmerton High School Girls' Basketball Program in memory of Geno Roberts from Jeffrey and Debra Lutz

Accept the donation from the Aetna Foundation in the amount of \$120.00 by an anonymous Aetna-affiliated donor

TAX COLLECTOR COMPENSATION RESOLUTION

Approve the attached Tax Collector Compensation Resolution. (attachment on file)

End of Consent Agenda

LCCC BUDGETS

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Scherer that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School approve the 2017-2018 Operating Budget in the amount of \$142,669 and the Capital Budget in the amount of \$55,024 for the Lehigh Carbon Community College

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried

CHANGE ORDER

Director Smale moved, seconded by Director Gildner that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School approve Change Order Number 001, Ace Electric, Inc, Project #1043615.003. Various items listed increasing the contract sum. The Contract Sum will be increased by this Change Order in the amount of \$91,919.25

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried

INFORMATION ITEMS: (attachments on file)

- Enrollment, December 31, 2016
- State Ethics Forms
- LCCC Board Meeting Minutes , December 1, 2016
- LCCC President's Desk Newsletter, January 2017
- Single Audit Report, fiscal year ended June 30, 2016
- Board Member Listing
- Board Summary

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Nick Lobach – PHS Senior

- Questions on the strike

Ben Winn

- Strike – Supports teachers and union's proposal

Joshua Krebs

- Encourages further negotiations between both sides

Jason Behler

- Encourages negotiations without the attorney
- Questions on the strike and the agreements

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Ken Sutton

- Encourages negotiations
- Support of teachers
- Comments against Board

Kris Hoffner

- Encourages the negotiations between the Board President and the President of the teachers' union

Anne Cronk

- Encourages the continuation of negotiations without Mr. Audi
- In Support of the teachers

Audrey Larvey

- Thanked the Board for passing the LCCC budget
- Questions to the Board about the future of the District
- The five Ws as questions to the Board

Shane Negley

- Pro teacher – Comments on the website are tearing the community apart
- Commended the community for the support to the teachers
- Comments against Attorney Audi

Tracey Downing

- Question about striking for less money
- Encourages negotiations

John Isles – PHS Senior

- Support of the teachers

Tiffani Christman

- Questions to the Board about the negotiation committee

Jennifer Ortiz

- Credits the teachers for students doing so well
- Supports the teachers and a fair contract
- Questions about the negotiations

Amy Negley

- Update from the Palmerton Area Education Association
- Thanked everyone in the community for their support

Kelli George

- Questions about lack of negotiations
- Commended the strong community commitment

Susan Debski

- Went through an impasse like this in the past
- Explained the legal issues that the Board members go through
- Explained the Board's responsibilities and duties
- Board cannot defend themselves from misinformation

Attorney Conn - answered public's questions

- Both sides have lead negotiators and both should be present
- All along a third party could attend
- Strike notice has prohibited that process
- The last time there were negotiations. The mediator asked both sides to reconsider
- The Board agreed but the union left the meeting and refused
- Negotiations
- Committee consists of only three people
- At a public meeting all board members can be present

ADJOURNMENT

Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Debski that the Board of Directors of the Palmerton Area School District adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Scheckler
Board Secretary