

GREATER NANTICOKE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District was held Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Greater Nanticoke Area Senior High School.

1.0 ROLL CALL

Mr. Prushinski called the Roll: PRESENT: Wiaterowski, Verazin, Tennesen, Prushinski, James, Beggs, Raineri, Shepanski, and Smith. Also present were Attorney Vito DeLuca, Dr. Ron Grevera, and Chuck from Al Melone's office.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wiaterowski, to accept the minutes of the following meeting(s).

2.1 Regular School Board Meeting/Executive Session—July 16, 2015

Upon voice vote, all present voted aye, Motion passes.

3.0 COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

There were no comments.

4.0 TREASURER REPORT

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by, Mr. James, to accept the Treasurer Report.

4.1 Treasurer Report

Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion passes.

5.0 PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mrs. Wiaterowski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the paying of bills.

5.1 General Account list of bills for July 2015: \$408,682.32(**Attachment**)

5.2 Family Center list of bills for July 2015: \$10,557.05 (**Attachment**)

Upon roll call, all present voted yes, Motion passes.

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6.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Meet the Teachers Programs – A “Meet the Teachers” Program will be held on August 27th from 5:00 – 7:00 at K.M. Smith. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child’s teacher and kindergarten and first grade students will know where to report the first day of school. The “Meet the Teacher Program” will be held on August 31st at Kennedy, the Elementary Center, and the High School from 1:00 – 3:00 and the “Meet the Teacher” Program will be held at the Educational Center from 1:00 – 3:00 on September 1st.

There will be a program in the Board Room on August 25th at 6:00 PM for families that send students to an out of district cyber-school. We will be opening our new cyber lab in the high school the first day of school. Students attending the Greater Nanticoke Area Cyber Program will have the opportunity to attend the cyber-lab full day or half day.

PSSA's – The Greater Nanticoke Area School District recently received our individual PSSA results. Statewide, the mathematics scores have been down significantly. We have several concerns with the new test. First and foremost, the test scores cannot be compared to previous years scores due to the fact that the test was based on the new PA Core Standards. Secondly, many of the mathematical concepts the students are studying, have been pushed down so early in the curriculum that my fear is students will not be able to grasp abstract concepts because this type of reasoning per Jean Piaget’s stages of cognitive development do not occur until after middle school. Additionally, here at Nanticoke Area, we had 35 students pass the Keystone Algebra I exam, but only five of the same students passed the 8th Grade PSSA. It is evident, that this year’s test was a problem for all school districts in the transition to the PA Common Core. I want to encourage both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as the Federal Government to make the change in ending high stakes testing. We can still hold our teachers accountable for what they do in the classroom by continued utilization of the Danielson Framework rather than high stakes testing as evidence by this year’s scores.

Webb’s Depth of knowledge – Due to our low test scores, I’m asking the board to approve an extra Act 80 Day which will be devoted to Webb’s Depth of Knowledge. The full Act 80 Day will be held on September 25th. Webb’s Depth of Knowledge is a process for systematically analyzing the alignment between standards and standardized assessments. The four levels of Webb’s Depth of Knowledge are: Recall and Reproduction, Skills and Concepts, Short-term Strategic Thinking, and Extended Thinking. Our September 25th Act 80 Day will focus on Grades 3-5 teachers and our November 19th in-service will focus on our high school teachers. With the implementation of the PA Common Core, it is more important now more than ever to get our students thinking at a higher level such as Short-term Strategic Thinking and Extended Thinking which is what the assessments are trying to accomplish.

Budget Impasse – We are starting our third month without a state budget. The Greater Nanticoke Area School District depends on over 60% of our revenue from the Commonwealth and to date have not seen any subsidy payments. As co-chair for management at the PA Health Trust, we will be asking for a deferment for the month of September so the districts will continue to have some cash flow to meet their financial obligations. GNA will be drawing down our fund balance and utilizing

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local taxes to meet our financial obligations but I must warn that drawing down the fund balance is not good for our school because we utilize it for interest for future revenue.

PASS Program – PASS stands for Parents and Student Success. This exciting pilot program is coming to the Greater Nanticoke Area School District this fall. The program is similar to what has been in place for the past decade in Lackawanna County Schools. We will have a Children and Youth Worker stationed in the district next year to work with our Truancy Officer to curb truancy in the district. Pending a second illegal absence, a SAIP (Student Attendance Improvement Plan) meeting will be triggered before charges are being filed at the magistrate. Our attendance rate did improve at the high school last year. The attendance rate went from 90.52% in 13-14 to 93.21% in 14-15. Students perform better in school when they are here. The focus of PASS is to identify inhibitors to school attendance and refer to the applicable social service agency early on to help eliminate truancy and increase student achievement in the long run.

There will be an Act 34 Hearing on September 10th at 6:30 PM in the High School Auditorium regarding the renovation and addition to Kennedy Elementary School prior to our 7:00 PM regularly scheduled board meeting.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8.0 BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT

Mr. Prushinski made a motion, seconded by, Mr. Smith, to approve the Secretary’s Report.

Upon voice vote, all present voted aye. Motion passes.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Athletics

Mr. James made a motion, seconded by, Mrs. Tennesen, to approve the Athletic report.

9.1.1 Athletic Report

9.1.2 Recommend approval to accept the resignation from Lindsay Thomas as Junior High Field Hockey Coach and appoint her as a volunteer coach.

9.1.3 Recommend approval to accept the resignation from Heather Kowalski as Girls Volleyball Asst. II Coach and appoint her as a volunteer coach and alternate scorekeeper.

9.1.4 Recommend approval to appoint the following 2015-2016 coaches:

(Note:Clearances on file)

a. Boys’ Volleyball Head Coach.....Deb Gavin

b. Boys’ Volleyball Assistant 1.....Jim Gavin

c. Boys’ Volleyball Timer.....Joyce Pietrzyk

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- d. Boys' Volleyball Volunteer.....John Pietrzyk
- e. Boys' Volleyball Volunteer.....Chrislyn Cabonilas
- f. Boys' Volleyball Volunteer.....Robert Burke
- g. Boys' Volleyball Volunteer.....Joe Shimko
- h. Boys' Volleyball Volunteer.....Jordan Williams
- i. Girls' Soccer Head Coach.....Rich Compton
- j. Girls' Soccer Asst. 1.....Dave Lane
- k. Girls' Volleyball Scorer/Vol.....Heather Kowalski
- l. Football Volunteer Coach.....Walter Szychowski
- m. Football Volunteer Coach.....Dean Myers
- n. Field Hockey Asst. II.....Kayla Reakes
- o. Softball Head Coach.....Ryan Stetz
- p. Softball Asst. I.....Leanne Harvey
- q. Softball Asst. II.....Leah Lavelle
- r. Softball Asst. III.....Nina Matzoni
- s. Softball Scorekeeper.....Bill Hischak
- t. Baseball Head Coach.....Dean Myers
- u. Baseball Asst. II.....Kevin Ward
- v. Baseball Asst. III.....Walt Szychowski
- w. Baseball Volunteer.....Ralph Piontkowski
- x. Field Hockey Volunteer.....Jen Harnischfeger

Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion passes.

9.2 Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Shepanski made a motion, seconded by, Mrs. Wiaterowski, to approve the Buildings and Grounds Report.

9.2.1 Building and Grounds Report

9.2.2 Recommend approval for the Newport Bidy Basketball, Inc. to use the K.M. Smith, Elementary, and Ed Center to run the Bidy Basketball program from October 2015 to March 2016. We would also need to use the Elementary Center Gym for sign-ups on 9/8, 9/9, and 9/13 from 6-8pm. Pending receipt of insurance.

9.2.3 MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A MAXIMUM PROJECT COST AND A MAXIMUM BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION DESCRIPTION, PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROPER NOTICE THEREOF.

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WHEREAS, the Greater Nanticoke Area School District (the "District") is a School District created and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the District has determined that certain new and expanded school facilities may be required for use of the pupils of this School District, and has authorized certain preliminary steps to be taken with regard to school projects, consisting of planning, designing, constructing, and furnishing the Kennedy Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended (the "School Code"), including amendments made pursuant to Act 34 of the 1973 ("Act 34"), requires that a public hearing be held prior to the construction, the entering into a contract to construct, or the entering into a contract to lease a new school building or a substantial addition to an existing school building; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors desires to authorize its Solicitor, Architect, Financial Consultant, and others to take certain actions with respect to these Projects; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to take certain action with respect to this Project, and to comply with Act 34 and the School Code; and

WHEREAS, the District has received from the Architect the estimated costs of this Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

1. The Board hereby approves a maximum project cost for the Kennedy Elementary School Project of \$9,117,000 and a maximum building construction cost for the Kennedy Elementary School Project of \$5,600,700.
2. A public hearing for the purpose of informing the public generally of the Project and to receive public comment shall be held in the Auditorium of the Greater Nanticoke Area Senior High School, 425 Kosciuszko Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634, on Thursday, September 10, 2015, beginning at 6:30 p.m., prevailing time.
3. A description of the Project shall be made available to the public at least twenty (20) days prior to the hearing.
4. The description shall be mailed to the news media in sufficient time for release not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing.
5. A notice of hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the School District at least twenty (20) days prior to the hearing. The notice is attached hereto and made a part hereof as if set forth in its entirety.

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6. The notice of hearing shall advise residents how they may gain agenda time, submit written testimony, or both.

7. This School District hereby authorizes Vito J. DeLuca, Solicitor of this School District, to perform such acts on behalf of this School District as may be necessary in connection with these Projects.

8. This School District hereby authorizes the firm known as EI Associates, Architect for these Projects; to perform such acts on behalf of the School District as may be necessary in connection with these Projects.

9. This School District hereby authorizes the firm of PNC Capital Markets LLC, as Financial Consultant, to perform such acts on behalf of the School District as may be necessary in connection with these Projects.

10. This School District further authorizes the engagement of a court stenographer to transcribe the Act 34 Public Hearing proceedings, consistent with the intent of this Resolution.

11. The Superintendent, the proper officers of the Board of School Directors, the Solicitor, the Project Architect, and the Financial Consultant are authorized and directed to take such other actions, obtain such approvals, and execute such documents as may be necessary, desired, or required to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

9.2.4 Recommend approval to purchase a John Deere Z9770R Commercial ZTrak Tractor at a cost of \$14,196.62. *(Note: PA State Contracted Price)*
(Attachment)

9.2.5 Recommend approval to accept the quote from John Deere Landscapes to purchase a water reel at the cost of \$9,419.02. *(Note: Costar state contracted price)* **(Attachment)**

Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion passes.

9.3 Education

Mr. Prushinski made a motion, seconded by, Mr. James, to approve the Education Report.

9.3.1 Recommend approval to adopt student handbooks for the 2015-2016 school year.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion passes.

9.4 Finance

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by, Mrs. Tennesen, to approve the Finance Report.

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- 9.4.1 Recommend approval of the attached list for credit reimbursements.
(Attachment)
- 9.4.2 Recommend approval of the attached list for increment increases.
(Attachment)
- 9.4.3 MOVE, that the Board approve settlement of a matter concerning a special education student the terms of the written settlement agreement to include compensatory education in the amount of \$10,000.00 and reimbursement of \$5,000.00 in attorney's fees.
- 9.4.4 Recommend approval of P.R.O.S. Rehabilitation, Inc. to provide (PT) physical therapy and (OT) occupational therapy at the contracted rate of \$65.00 per hour and a certified physical therapy assistant (COTA) and certified occupational therapy assistant (PTA) at a rate of \$45.00 per hour.
(Attachment)
- 9.4.5 Motion to refund Robert P. Jr. and Kristine Snyder of 188 Middle Rd., Nanticoke, PA 18634 school real estate taxes for 2014 in the amount of \$257.94. **(Attachment)**
- 9.4.6 Motion to refund Plymouth Twp. 2014 school real estate taxes for the following: **(Attachment)**
- a. Charles and Janice Casey.....\$39.35
1615 W. Mountain Rd.; Plymouth, PA 18651
 - b. Charles and Deborah Atherton, Jr.....\$36.68
45 Atherton Rd. Hunlock Twp.; PA 18621
- 9.4.7 Ratify the approval of the Agreement with Eastern Insurance for Sports and Student Accident Insurance for 2015-2016 school year. *Cost: \$13,097*
(Attachment)
- 9.4.8 Recommend approval to donate \$5,000 to the Mill Memorial Library.
- 9.4.9 Recommend approval to raise the teacher substitute pay to \$95.00 per day and \$115.00 after the 20th day.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes except Mr. Raineri voted No to # 9.4.1 and No to 9.4.2 and Yes to all the rest. Motion passes.

9.5 Negotiations

9.6. Personnel

Mr. Prushinski made a motion, seconded by, Mrs. Wiaterowski, to approve the Personnel Report.

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- 9.6.1 Recommend approval of all applications. (**Attachment**)
- 9.6.2 Recommend approval of the attached list of field trips, conferences and requests. (**Attachment**)
- 9.6.3 Recommend approval to appoint Carla Katra as a cafeteria worker at the rate and hours stipulated in the Support Staff Contract.
- 9.6.4 Recommend approval to post and advertise an instructional aide position. (*Note: Funded by Title 1*)
- 9.6.5 Recommend approval to post and advertise six (6) special education aide positions.
- 9.6.6 Recommend approval to appoint the following Head Teachers:
 - a. Ed Center.....Jennifer Daniels
 - b. K.M. Smith.....Ryan Amos
 - c. Elem Center.....Ami Stelma (V. Bartle)
- 9.6.7 Recommend approval to appoint Susan Healey as a special ed aide at the rate and hours stipulated in the Support Staff Contract.
- 9.6.8 Recommend approval to appoint Diane Kivler as a Business Office Secretary (Accts. Payable/Purchasing) at the rate and hours stipulated in the Support Staff Contract.
- 9.6.9 Recommend the Board to accept the verbal resignation from Sharon Julius, crossing guard.
- 9.6.10 Recommend approval to appoint the following extra-curricular position for the 2015-2016 school year:
 - a. Band Director.....Brad Bunnell
- 9.6.11 Recommend approval to accept the resignation from Stacie Trudnak, special ed. aide, effective August 18, 2015.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes except for # 9.6.6 all voted NO. Motion made by Mr. Prushinski, seconded by Mrs. Wiaterowski, to appoint Valerie Bartle as Elem Center head teacher. All voted Yes to the motion to appoint Valerie Bartle. Mr. James also abstained from # 9.6.8. Motion passes.

9.7 Policy

Mr. Prushinski made a motion, seconded by, Mrs. Wiaterowski, to approve the Policy Report.

- 9.7.1 Recommend that the Board accept the **Third and Final** reading of the Greater Nanticoke Area Policy adding No. 816; Use of Audio and Video Monitoring Equipment. (**Attachment**)

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9.7.2 Recommend that the Board accept the **Third and Final** reading of the Greater Nanticoke Area Policy changes made to No. 204 adding Cyber Service Attendance Requirements. (**Attachment**)

9.7.3 Recommend approval to amend the 2015-2016 school calendar to add September 25th, 2015 as a full Act 80 day.

Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion passes.

9.8 Safety

9.9 Transportation

Mr. Beggs made a motion, seconded by, Mr. James, to approve the Transportation Report.

9.9.1 Recommend approval of Famtec Surveillance to provide cameras for buses in the amount of \$15,405. (**Attachment**) (Note: Cost includes installation)

9.9.2 Recommend approval for the posting of bus numbers, stops, and pick up times on the GNA Website. This information will be removed after the start of school.

9.9.3 Recommend approval of the list of *tentative* bus stops for the 2015-2016 school year. **Attachment**

9.9.4 Recommend approval of the contracts for the private contractors for the 2015-2016 school year. Private contractors are:

- a. Michael Shusta **Attachment**
- b. Cragle Bus Service **Attachment**
- c. Antoinette Bonk **Attachment**

Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion passes.

10.0 TABLED ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

11.0 I.U. UPDATE

12.0 WILKES BARRE CTC UPDATE

13.0 SOLICITOR'S REPORT

14.0 COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS

Nicole Mackiewicz: Thanked Frank Grevera and maintenance for getting the field ready for the Jr. Trojans.

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Mayor Rich Wiaterowski: Thanked the Board, Frank Grevera and staff for helping with the Big Bang held on July 5th.

Ann Marie Coughlin: Question concerning the cheerleaders not attending the football game at Susquehanna. Board assured her that it was resolved and they will be attending.

Hank Marks: Was surprised that Nanticoke City was listed as the second worst city in PA. Hazleton was number 7, thought they would be lower than Nanticoke. Spoke about new buildings that have been added to the City. Discussion between the Mayor and Mr. Marks needed to be stopped by Mr. Verazin. He also thanked Frank Grevera for all the money he has saved the district over the years and said he was instrumental in getting Mr. Grevera to apply at GNA.

15.0 ADJOURN:

Mr. James made a motion, seconded by, Mr. Shepanski to adjourn the meeting.
Upon voice vote, all present voted aye. Motion passes.

Note: No audio was available for this meeting due to a technical problem.