

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 in the Campus Audion. Present were Directors Charles Bartolet, Susan Baxter, Edward Inghrim, Michael Karabin, Sandra Miller, Lachlan Peeke, Ralph Puerta, Sharon Stack, and George Torrella. Also present were Sandra G. Fellin, Ed.D., Superintendent, and David Bonenberger, Board Secretary.

An Executive Session for the purpose of personnel, negotiations, and legal matters was held prior to the board meeting.

- I. Call to the Order – *Mr. Ralph Puerta, President, presiding*
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Recording of Attendance – *Mr. David Bonenberger, Secretary*
9-present, 0-absent
- IV. Announcement of Executive Sessions –
February 10, 2009 – Personnel, Negotiations, and Legal
- V. Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2009

Director Bartolet, seconded by Director Inghrim, moved to approve the Minutes of January 27, 2009. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.
- VI. Recognition
- VII. Presentation – General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2009
Jamie Doyle, *Public Financial Management* and Jens Damgaard, *Rhoads & Sinon, LLP*
- VIII. Superintendent's Report – *Dr. Sandra Fellin, Superintendent*
- IX. Citizens' Comments – Agenda Items Only – *Visitors should state their name and address.*
 - G. Grassi – commented on a “no tax increase” year for the district;
 - B. Krause – commented on support for cheerleading;
 - K. Trimble - questioned future action after arbitration decision;
 - B. Gross – questioned binding arbitration resulting in same decisions;
 - B. Krause – questioned potential impact of strike days after rejecting arbitration;
 - K. Intini – questioned difference in numbers from board vs. teachers;
 - K. Trimble – commented on arbitration report relating to the current economy;
 - S. Ross – commented on consideration of long-term effects and future affordability;

X. Presentation of Bills – *David Bonenberger*

A. General Expenditures - \$403,376.92

Director Peeke, seconded by Director Miller, moved to approve the Presentation of Bills. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

XI. Treasurer's Report – *Edward Inghrim/David Bonenberger*

XII. Motion to Approve Agenda

Director Baxter, seconded by Director Peeke, moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Personnel Item #12 and Finance Item #3, Arbitrator's Decision. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

A. *Education*

1. Approve July 6th – 30th as the dates for K-12 Summer Learning Academy.

Director Peeke, seconded by Director Karabin, moved to approve Education Item 1. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

B. *Personnel*

1. Approved the attached conference/travel request.

Director Bartolet, seconded by Director Inghrim, moved to approve Personnel Item 1. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

2. Approve the following 2008-2009 substitutes:

Katherine Blanas - Elementary
Gail DeGruccio – Elementary
Kimberlie Gartner - Elementary
Kris Hovis – Elementary
Linda Keller – Elementary and Special Education
Brooke Markle – Math
Shana Snyder - Elementary

3. Approve the evaluation of Dr. Sandra Fellin, Superintendent, and base salary increase of 3.8% for the 2009 calendar year.

Director Inghrim, seconded by Director Miller, moved to approve Personnel Item 3. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

4. Approve the 2009 middle school intramural swim program beginning March 17th and ending April 30th with a total of 35 participants. Approve Kathleen Wagner as Program Director at a salary of \$798 and Philip Russell as Assistant Program Director at a salary of \$798. Salaries are according to the current professional contract.
5. Approve the sabbatical request for Patti Deutsch, Elementary School Counselor, for the 2009-2010 fall semester.
6. Approve Glenn Snyder as spring Head Varsity Baseball Coach at the salary of \$5,148. Salary is according to the current professional contract.
7. Approve Karen MacCauley as a Middle School Instructional Assistant with a salary of \$13.49 per hour and benefits per the terms of the Educational Support Staff Agreement. (Ms. MacCauley is filling the open position after the resignation of Cora Sipe)
8. Approve the first requests for time off without pay for:

Judith Korpics, Middle School Cafeteria Employee, requests time off without pay on March 19 and 20, 2009. *(She is using personal days for March 16, 17, and 18, 2009)*

Claudia Gemgnani, Elementary Instructional Assistant, requests time off without pay on April 16 and 17, 2009. *(She is using personal days for April 14 and 15, 2009)*
9. Approve Cathaleen Kimmerly as an addition to the substitute listings for Non-Instructional Assistants, Secretarial/Clerical, and Food Service employees, to be paid \$9.70 per hour for the Assistant and Clerical positions, and \$9.52 for the Food Service position, no benefits, effective immediately.

10. Approve the following professional appointment effective February 11, 2009. Salary is based on the 2007-2008 contract and is subject to change following the approval of the 2008-2009 contract.

Michael Sakelarides as 2nd grade elementary teacher at a salary of \$39,878 (Bachelors, Step 1). Mr. Sakelarides is replacing Allison Korner who recently resigned.

11. Approve the following long-term substitute. Salary is based on the 2007-2008 contract and is subject to change following the approval of the 2008-2009 contract.

Katie Eichman as 2nd grade long-term substitute for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year. Ms. Eichman's salary will be \$39,878 (Bachelors, Step 1) prorated. She is replacing Stacey Anthony who is on sabbatical leave until the end of the current school year.

12. Approve a motion for the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District to reject the Arbitrator's Report for non-binding arbitration between the District and the Saucon Valley Education Association.

Director Puerta, seconded by Director Miller, moved to approve Personnel Item 12. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

Director Inghrim, seconded by Director Miller, moved to approve Personnel Items 2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, and 11. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

C. *Facilities*

1. Declare a tennis racquet stringing machine as surplus district equipment.

Director Peeke, seconded by Director Miller, moved to approve Facilities Item 1. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

D. Finance

Items/Projects for Discussion and Possible Resolution

- A. 2009-2010 Budget Timeline for 2008-2009 School Year
- B. Budget Discussion
- C. County Appeal – Real Estate Taxes Appraisal

2009-2010 Budget Timeline for 2008-2009 School Year	
January 29, 2009 <i>(110 days prior to primary election)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> to have 2009-2010 Proposed Preliminary Budget available for public inspection; or adopt a Resolution not to raise the rate of any tax by more than its index.
February 3, 2009 <i>(5 days after Resolution adoption)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> to submit adopted Resolution and proposed tax rate increases to the Department of Education.
February 8, 2009 <i>(10 days prior to Preliminary Budget adoption deadline)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> to give public notice of intent to adopt the 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget unless a Resolution was adopted indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax by more than its index.
February 13, 2009 <i>(10 days after receipt of Resolution)</i>	<i>Department of Education Deadline</i> to notify districts that adopted a Resolution whether the 2009-2010 proposed tax rates are equal to or less than their index.
February 18, 2009 <i>(90 days prior to primary election)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> to adopt the 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget unless a Resolution was adopted.
February 23, 2009 <i>(85 days prior to primary election)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> to submit 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget containing proposed tax rate increases to the Department of Education.
February 26, 2009 <i>(1 week prior to filing of request for referendum exception)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> to publish notice in newspaper of intent to file petition with the Court of Common Pleas or to request approval from the Department of Education for a referendum exception.
March 5, 2009 <i>(75 days prior to primary election)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> to seek approval from Court of Common Pleas or the Department of Education for referendum exceptions requiring their approval.
March 20, 2009 <i>(60 days prior to primary election)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> to submit referendum question seeking voter approval of tax rate increase in excess of index to the County Board of Elections, unless request for referendum exception has been submitted to the Court of Common Pleas or the Department of Education. <i>If the school district's proposed tax rate increase would exceed their Index even if all of its referendum exception requests were approved, and if it intends to submit a referendum question for that part of the tax rate increase, it must do so by this date.</i>
March 25, 2009 <i>(55 days prior to primary election)</i>	<i>Deadline for Court of Common Pleas or Department of Education</i> to issue ruling on school district's petition for referendum exception.
March 30, 2009 <i>F(50 days prior to primary election)</i>	<i>District Deadline</i> , if the Court of Common Pleas or Department of Education denies all or part of the school district's request for referendum exception, to submit to the County Board of Elections a referendum question seeking voter approval of tax rate increase in excess of index for the portion of the referendum exception request denied.

1. Approve the attached Resolution pertaining to the school district's proposed General Obligation Bonds Series of 2009.

Director Inghrim, seconded by Director Miller, moved to approve Finance Item 1. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

2. Approve the authorization for Berkheimer Associates to receive the appropriate earned income tax information from the Department of Revenue as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and Section 356 Agreement

Director Peeke, seconded by Director Stack, moved to approve Finance Item 2. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

3. Approve the payment of \$312 to pay for appraisals of real estate taxes per the County Appeal.

Director Inghrim, seconded by Director Torrella, moved to approve Finance Item 3. Vote: 6-yes, 3-no (Bartolet, Peeke, Stack)

E. *Community Outreach*

1. The next meeting of the Saucon Valley Partnership is scheduled February 11, 2009 at 7 pm at Lower Saucon Township.

F. Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School – Lachlan Peeke/Sharon Stack
(Meetings are first Tuesday of every month)

G. Colonial Intermediate Unit – Susan Baxter
(Meetings are fourth Wednesday of every month)

H. PSBA – Susan Baxter/Sandra Miller

I. Northampton Community College – Charles Bartolet
(Meetings are first Thursday of every month)

J. Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce – Michael Karabin

K. New Business

XIII. Solicitor’s Report

XIV. Citizen’s Inquiries and Comments – *Visitors should state their name and address.*

XV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~ February 24, 2009 – 7:30 pm – Business Meeting
High School Audion

March 10, 2009 – 7:30 pm – Business Meeting
High School Audion

XVI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Director Bartolet, seconded by Director Miller, moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no.

Time: 9:04PM

ATTEST: _____
Secretary

President