

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 in the High School Audion. Present were Directors Susan Baxter, Jack Dowling, Bryan Eichfeld, Edward Inghrim, Michael Karabin, Linda Leewright, Sandra Miller, Ralph Puerta and Mark Sivak. Also present was Monica McHale-Small, Superintendent, David Bonenberger, Board Secretary, and Mark Fitzgerald, District Solicitor.

- I. **Call to the Order** at 7:10pm – *Michael Karabin, President, presiding*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *David Bonenberger, Secretary*
9-present , 0-absent
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Inghrim, seconded by Director Miller moved to approve the Agenda. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no
- V. **Announcement of Executive Session** - None
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – Director Sivak seconded by Director Inghrim moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2017. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no
- VII. **Recognition** – None
- VIII. **Presentation**
 - A. 2017-18 Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School Budget – Mr. Adam Lazarchak
 - B. 2017-18 Colonial Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget – Mrs. Charlene Brennan
- IX. **Superintendent’s Report** – *Dr. Monica McHale-Small, Superintendent*
- X. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only**
 - R.Salmon – Parent of 2 children in SV, was part of the Inclusion Committee. He discussed an instance where a middle school student that recently had an Instagram post all about Hitler. He also noted that “Hate Speech” is not breaking the rules in the current District handbooks.
 - K.MacLean - Parent of 2 students, his son was the one that had the Confederate flag draped over him. His children constantly come home saying they were called the “N” word. He is worried that with Dr. McHale-Small leaving that the efforts to correct this will die.
 - L.Silverman-Solomon – Believes in freedom of speech and freedom of expression. There are already limits on freedom of expression; she feels that the Confederate flag is another one of the logical limits to freedom of expression.
 - E.Inghrim - He said that in no way he can ever say that the First Amendment has to go away. If you can’t deal with bigotry then it is your problem.

J.Pinckney – Agrees in the First Amendment, students should be able to pursue education in a carefree environment. He does have issues with the Confederate flag itself only when its intended use is for intimidation or a threat.

I.Torres – Does not feel that banning signs or symbols is the answer that does not teach the children how to deal with these situations. Feels we should respond with more compassion and open mindedness. Asked would these restrictions be enforced?

J.Clark-Diggs – Feels it is important to address all issues including LGBT. Children have a right to learn in an environment conducive for learning. She hopes that the board will make a decision that will make the parents proud.

S.MacLean – Her children are people too and they have the right to be protected when they come to school. Everyday her children come to school not knowing if they are going to be called names.

A.Rivers – When the Confederate flag is used in an inappropriate ways is an issue. Rules need to change with the times.

R.Barbera – Commented that her children were supposed to be part of the Spirit program. Feels we all need to come together with different cultures as the kids did on Spirit Day. Feels it's about resetting the kids.

XI. Presentation of Bills – David Bonenberger

- A. General Expenditure – \$230,400.42
- B. Cafeteria Expenditures – \$38,014.28
- C. Health Benefits – \$437,812.12
- D. Capital Projects – None

1. Approve the above presentation of bills.

Director Inghrim, seconded by Director Sivak moved to approve the Presentation of Bills.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

XII. Treasurer's Report - Edward Inghrim/David Bonenberger

- A. Cash Investment and Bond Activity
- B. Condensed Board Summary Report
- C. Capital Project Finance Report – None
- D. Budget Transfers – \$7,812.62
- E. Middle School Activity Report – February 28, 2017
- F. High School Activity Report – February 28, 2017

1. Approve the above Treasurer's Report.

Director Inghrim, seconded by Director Dowling moved to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

A. Education**A. Discussion of Inclusion/Equity Draft Action Plan**

Director Miller – Commented that they had to work hard as a community to make sure students and parents have a voice to share their concerns. It was important to see that this process move forward. Feels we should ban all forms of hate as part of the policy.

Director Karabin – Asked how are we going to stop this, we can write what we want but how will we stop this. The task force has put a lot of time into this issue, we need to move forward and get things done right. This will move forward even after Dr. McHale-Small is gone.

Director Eichfeld – This issue hit him hard, he didn't realize how much of this was going on in Saucon.

Director Puerta – Would like to see a policy against racial or ethnic intimidation. Would rather focus on actions we are experiencing.

Director Dowling – Thanked all the people for their comments and that we will fix it.

B. Personnel

1. Approve the following transfer effective the 2017-18 school year. There is no change in salary.
Amy Pulli – from MS Special Education to 6th Grade Mathematics
2. Approve the following co-curricular volunteer advisor and new club beginning with the 2016-17 school year.
Middle School
Lauren Sakasitz – Gay Straight Alliance Club
3. Approve Eric Cooper as a Full Time Custodian with salary and benefits per the current Support Professionals contract effective May 1, 2017. He is replacing Rose Glass, who recently retired.
4. Approve the utilization of the services of new hires for substitute work in the district who meet the requirements of the position and possess all statutory clearances in advance of board action due to the need for such coverage. The administration shall bring such hires to the board for ratification at the earliest possible school board meeting.
5. Approve Zacharie Grim as a Substitute Custodian at an hourly rate of \$10.39, no benefits, on a “call as needed” basis, effective March 29, 2017.
6. Approve the retirement of Robert Marzec, custodian, effective April 13, 2017.

7. Approve the following 2017-18 Fall coach. (*New coaches are italicized.*)

Boys' Soccer

Timothy Houghton – Head Coach – \$5,174

8. Approve the attached conference/travel requests.

Director Miller, seconded by Director Sivak moved to approve the Personnel Items #1-8.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

C. Facilities

No Reports or Recommendations

D. Finance

2017-2018 Budget Timeline for the 2016-2017 School Year

May 31, 2017 - *District Deadline* to adopt the 2017-18 proposed final budget and upload the signed Certification of Use of PDE-2028 into the Consolidated Financial Reporting System application.

June 10, 2017 (20 days prior to final budget adoption deadline) – *District Deadline* to make the 2017-18 Proposed Final Budget available for public inspection on PDE-2028.

June 20, 2017 (10 days prior to final budget adoption deadline) – *District Deadline* to offer public notice of its intent to adopt the 2017-18 final budget.

June 30, 2017 (annual deadline) – *District Deadline* to adopt the 2017-18 final budget.

B. Discussion of 2017-18 Budget

Director Miller asked if at the next meeting they could discuss staff retirements and staffing,

1. Approve the Northampton Community College Budget for 2017-2018 in the total amount of \$6,378,645.00. Saucon Valley's portion is \$285,480.00 which represents a 1.88% increase from 2016-2017.

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

2. Authorize the Administration to work with PFM Financial Management Advisors, as Financial Advisor; and Rhoads & Simon, LLP, as Bond Counsel in conjunction with the issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of funding the School District's capital projects as shown in Option 1 and the refinancing of the School District's General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2010 via a competitive dual track process.

Director Inghrim, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Finance Item #2.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

E. Community Outreach

The next meeting of the Saucon Valley Partnership is scheduled for May 10, 2017 at 7 pm at Saucon Valley School District.

F. Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School – Jack Dowling and Bryan Eichfeld
Director Miller asked about BAVTS construction update. Director Eichfeld said it is tabled at this point.

G. Colonial Intermediate Unit – Sandra Miller

H. PSBA – Mark Sivak and Sandra Miller

I. Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce – Jack Dowling

J. Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation – Sandra Miller

K. Northampton Community College – Susan Baxter

L. New Business

Director Karabin said there was a discussion with Dr. Brennen regarding search for new superintendent and to set up a meeting in late May for stakeholders.

M. Old Business

Director Baxter asked about legal issues on banning symbols like the Confederate flag.

XIII. Citizen’s Inquiries and Comments –

P.Mumau – When he went to school he had consequences for doing something wrong. Do we have anti-bullying signs around the schools?

XIV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

March 28, 2017 – 7 pm – Business Meeting – Audion

April 11, 2017 – 7 pm – Business Meeting – Audion

April 25, 2017 – 7 pm – Business Meeting – Audion

XV. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

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

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

9:00PM

ATTEST: _____
Secretary President