

DRAFT – NOT APPROVED BY THE BOARD

QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Quakertown Community Senior High School
600 Park Avenue, Quakertown, PA 18951

Minutes of the May 28, 2009 Regular Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

II. FLAG SALUTE

President Linda A. Martin called the meeting to order with a quorum present as indicated in the roll call below and announced that an Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss student matters and personnel issues.

III. ROLL CALL:

<u>Board of School Directors</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mrs. Linda A. Martin, President	X	
Mr. Dean Wackerman, Vice President		X
Mr. Manuel Alfonso	X	
Mr. George Dager	X	
Mrs. Kathy Mosley	X	
Mr. Zane Stauffer	X	
Mr. Paul R. Stepanoff	X	
Mrs. Nancy B. Tirjan	X	
Mrs. Kelly L. Van Valkenburgh	X	
Dr. Lisa Andrejko, Superintendent (Non-voting Member)		
Mrs. Alice K. Bishop, Non-Member Secretary		

Others Present

Ms. Nancianne Edwards, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Christopher Harrington, Director of Technology, Assessment and Data Analysis
Ms. Sylvia C. Lenz, Business Administrator/Treasurer
Mrs. Katherine Metrick, Assistant Superintendent

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May I have a motion to approve the minutes of the revised May 7 and May 12, 2009 meetings of the Board of School Directors of the Quakertown Community School District.

Motion: Nancy B. Tirjan
Second: George Dager
Discussion: Mrs. Martin explained that the May 7 revised minutes note that a letter from Mrs. Laboski, requesting an apology from Paul R. Stepanoff for inaccurate remarks made in a newspaper article, was read to the board.
Result: Motion passed unanimously

V. REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Classrooms for the 21st Century Open House

Dr. Andrejko reported on the recent Classrooms for the 21st Century Open House sponsored by the Quakertown Community Education Foundation. Paul Clymer, Education Chair for the PA House of Representatives attended the open house and a representative from Pennsylvania Department of Education. Corporate donations were received from QNB and Levy Bus Company (in memory of Mrs. Betty Levy). An engraved plaque will be installed on a Smartboard for each of their contributions. Dr. Andrejko thanked the board members who attended.

High School Program

Ms. Anita Serge, Mr. Michael James, Mr. Kyle Longacre, Mrs. Karen Shanton, and Mr. Michael Zackon, high school administrators presented “Tomorrow, Today” and the changes that have been made in the high school curriculum to align with the student achievement goals in the school district’s Strategic Plan. Mr. James presented a preview of the new QCSD “Infinity Cyber Academy”. The new “Options Academy” will include computer based and direct instruction to provide opportunity for truant students and prevent drop outs. Mr. James explained that the summer program will include grades 9-12.

8:00 PM Manuel Alfonso left the meeting

8:05 PM Dean Wackerman arrived at the meeting

8:06 PM Manuel Alfonso returned to the meeting

Mr. Longacre and Mr. Zackon presented the proposed Freshman Center and High School schedules.

Mrs. Tirjan noted the energy and passion demonstrated by the high school administration in their presentation.

Discussion continued on the advantages and disadvantages of the new high school schedule and the goals and targets for the new programs. The board is concerned about the transition for the students and the support they will be offered.

AD-HOC FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Mosley reported on the May 14 meeting. Information for Senior Citizens to apply for reduced real estate taxes is posted on the school district website and the paperwork is due June 30, 2009. Mrs. Mosley read a letter drafted by the committee regarding the stimulus funding for school districts to be sent to all members of the House education committee and appropriations committee and to Congressman Patrick Murphy. She handed out a petition for the community to sign to defeat senate bill 850 and to adopt a budget that increases funding for the school district. The next committee meeting will be held June 16, 7:00 PM.

AD-HOC POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Tirjan reported that Mr. Alfonso has stepped down from the policy committee. She asked him to re-consider. Mr. Galante presented a DRAFT censure policy to the committee with the 1st reading of the censure policy at tonight's meeting. Mr. Galante explained that the draft has been reviewed by the solicitor. The next committee meeting will be held June 4, 7:30 AM.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Alfonso reported on the May 18 meeting which was held to discuss the 2007-2008 audit report. The independent auditors presented a clean report with no findings to the committee and administration. Mr. Stauffer congratulated Ms. Lenz for the report. They recommended a policy be created on fund balance and will refer that to the policy committee.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Tirjan reported on the May 13 committee meeting where it was decided to provide hard copies of the QCommunique (QC) to senior citizens without internet access. Ms. Ricki Stein and Mrs. Bishop delivered 200 copies of the QC to six locations in the Quakertown community. The next committee meeting will be held June 10, 8:00 AM.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mrs. Van Valkenburgh reported on the Bucks-Mont regional legislative meeting on May 13, 2009. She reminded board members that items for the legislative platform are due by June 30.

Manuel Alfonso left the meeting

QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Mrs. Van Valkenburgh reported that the next meeting will be held June 4, 3:45 PM in St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital conference room.

VI. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION (Possible Executive Session)

A. PUBLIC COMMENT (on agenda items)

B. FISCAL CONSENT AGENDA

1. CHANGE ORDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STUDENT TOILET ROOMS AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES AT MILFORD COMMONS

The Business Services Department is recommending the approval of four change orders, one for each prime contractor currently doing the renovation of the District Offices at Milford Commons, for the construction of two toilet rooms in the southeast section of the building. These toilet rooms will be used by the students attending the newly created Alternative Education program located in the building. The total estimated cost for all four prime contractors is \$51,240. Funds would be used from the existing 2004 A Bond Fund.

May I have a motion to approve the above resolution.

Motion: Kelly L. Van Valkenburgh
Second: Dean Wackerman
Result: Motion passed unanimously

Mrs. Tirjan left the meeting.

C. PERSONNEL

1. REQUEST FOR UNPAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Jolene Miga – Supervisor – Request for Unpaid Family Medical Leave -
Effective: April 23, 2009, April 24, 2009, April 27, 2009, April 28, 2009, April 29, 2009, April 30, 2009, May 4, 2009, May 5, 2009 and May 6, 2009

2. REQUEST FOR FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

- a. Robbie DiStefano – Teacher – Request for Family Medical Leave –
Effective: April 28, 2009 to June 18, 2009
- b. Peach Draper – Teacher – Request for Family Medical Leave – Effective:
March 23, 2009 to June 15, 2009
- c. Katie Hoffman – Teacher – Request for Family Medical Leave – Effective:
April 6, 2009 to June 1, 2009
- d. Jennifer Bubser – Teacher – Request for Family Medical Leave – Effective:
April 3, 2009 to June 18, 2009
- e. Kelly Esposito – Teacher – Request for Family Medical Leave – Effective:
August 26, 2009 to November 18, 2009

3. REQUEST FOR UNPAID CHILD-REARING LEAVE

Kelly Esposito – Teacher – Request for Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave –
Effective: November 18, 2009 to June 17, 2010

4. RETIREMENT

Caroline E. Palmer – Part-time Food Service Worker – Effective: June 18, 2009

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the terms and conditions of any applicable agreements which are ratified or affirmed herewith, the Quakertown Community School district approves the personnel items as presented. May I have a motion to adopt the above resolution and approve the personnel items as recommended.

Motion: Kelly L. Van Valkenburgh
Second: Kathy Mosley
Result: Motion passed unanimously

D. POLICY AND PROGRAMS

1. APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

We are requesting the Board approve settlement agreements prepared by our solicitor for a special education student # 10707 in the amount of \$20,020.00 and a special education student #10709 in the amount of \$20,020.00.

2. STUDENT DISCIPLINARY MATTER - RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the action of the Administration of the Quakertown Community School District in the determination of the appropriate discipline related to Student No. 12738 is hereby accepted and that the Agreement dated May 20, 2009, in this matter is hereby ratified in all respects as the action of the Board of School Directors of the Quakertown Community School District.

May I have a motion to adopt the above resolution as recommended.

Motion: Paul R. Stepanoff
Second: Kathy Mosley
Result: Motion passed unanimously

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION

1st Reading Policy

- a) #113.1 PUPILS, Positive Behavior Supports
- b) #009 LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES, Censure

Dr. Andrejko noted that the change in the PUPIL policy is a result of the special ed audit.

Mrs. Tirjan returned to the meeting

Mr. Alfonso returned to the meeting

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Stepanoff asked about the increase in two specific budget line items for the 2009-2010 proposed budget. Ms. Lenz explained those figures are from the preliminary budget and not in the proposed budget. She will look into the increase in the staff services budget.

Board discussion continued on the community's ability to pay and the comparison of real estate taxes with surrounding school districts. Ms. Lenz explained that assessed value is a comparable tool and is defined by the county. Dr. Andrejko reminded the board that PDE aid ratio also considers the wealth of a community using assessed value and earned income tax (EIT). Mrs. Tirjan suggested the ad-hoc school finance committee work on a comparison of surrounding school districts using aid ratio.

The board asked Ms. Lenz to research the reason for the increase to the Staff Services budget and how much overtime was paid for the past two years.

President Martin noted that Ms. Lenz should not spend time on the water shut offs in various municipalities or the comparison of millage rates to surrounding school districts.

The board called a special meeting for Thursday, June 4, 2009, 7:00 PM in the high school cafeteria to present additional information on the budget.

Mrs. Tirjan announced the QHS Alumni Association is having a program on Saturday, June 20, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Quakertown Elementary School. Tours will be given of Quakertown Elementary School and the High School. All Quakertown High School alumni are invited to attend.

Mr. Stepanoff acknowledged and congratulated the staff and crew for the musical *South Pacific*.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Donnelly thanked Dr. Robert Leight for his guidance in the past and asked the board to note the importance of athletics and band involvement in the lives of our students.

Joyce King, Milford Township asked the board to consider the importance of band, athletics and extra-curricular activities.

Jill Best, Richland Township commented on a recent newspaper article about board members and administration.

Larry Erwin, Milford Township addressed the board in appreciation of the high school program and thanked the members of the board for their service and asked them to demonstrate leadership and negotiate within the board and concentrate on what needs to be done for the students, taxpayers and the teachers.

Beth Nichols, Milford Township asked the board to consider the students' opportunities as their highest priority.

Marisa Hadley, 9th Grader from Richland Township presented a petition to the board signed by 650 students not to cut sports.

Robert Basile, QHS Junior, Milford Township addressed the board regarding the importance of maintaining athletics in the school district.

Karen Quinn, Milford Township handed out information and addressed the board on the importance of music, band, and sports involvement for students.

Dr. John Young, Haycock Township addressed the board regarding the Regency Manor bus stop, the high real estate taxes, and teacher salaries.

Julie Fagan, Haycock Township addressed the board regarding high taxes, teacher's salaries, district spending and recent accusations against board members.

Pasquale Noto, Haycock Township commented on the tabled at-large motion.

Katie Hirfler, Richland Township clarified the issue of water shut-offs in Richland Township and that data should not be considered as an accurate measure of the community's ability to pay taxes.

Maureen Montoney, Quakertown Borough addressed the board regarding the quality of life in Quakertown and asked the board to analyze their motivations on cutting budget items. She asked the board to work with the administration and the community for a solution.

Helen Kondracki, Haycock Township addressed the board about fiscal responsibility and thanked Mr. Stepanoff and Mr. Alfonso for their service to the board.

DATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS CALENDARS

Thursday	June 4, 2009 7:00 pm	Senior High School Cafeteria Regular Voting Meeting
Thursday	June 11, 2009 7:00 pm	Senior High School Cafeteria Regular Voting Meeting
Monday	June 15, 2009 7:00 pm	Graduation, Class of 2009 Stabler Arena, Lehigh University

Thursday June 25, 2009 7:00 pm Senior High School Cafeteria
Regular Voting Meeting

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Kelly L. Van Valkenburgh
Second: Kathy Mosley
Result: Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:25
PM.

Linda A. Martin, Board President

Alice K. Bishop, Board Secretary