

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 June 4, 2009 Special Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

President Linda A. Martin called the meeting to order with a quorum present as indicated in the roll call below.

II. FLAG SALUTE

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		
 <u>Others Present</u>		
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. REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Employee Concessions for 2009-2010 Budget

Dr. Andrejko commented on the joint statement between the QCSD, QCEA, the Administrators and the Supervisors/Technology groups and the concessions they agreed upon to give back to the community. She explained that the agreement was overwhelmingly approved and involved a long process that began in early spring. Budget discussions will be held later in the meeting.

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION (Possible Executive Session)

A. PERSONNEL

President Martin read the June 4, 2009 JOINT STATEMENT with QCSD, QCEA, Administrators, and the Supervisors/Technology Group that detailed concessions offered by the employee groups for the 2009-2010 budget which will restore cuts to the final budget.

1. EMPLOYEE CONCESSIONS FOR 2009-2010 BUDGET

Administration and the Board Committee recommend approval of the Tentative Agreement between the Quakertown Community Education Association (QCEA) and the Quakertown Community School District dated May 20, 2009, and the Administration recommends approval of the Letters of Agreement between the District and the Administrators and the Supervisors/Technology Groups. These employee groups overwhelmingly agreed to make concessions to reduce personnel costs by approximately \$700,000 in the 2009-2010 budget. Concessions vary based on the individual agreement, but include a combination of delays of negotiated salary increases, additional employee contribution to the cost of health benefits, and reduction of negotiated performance incentives.

May I have a motion to approve the Tentative Agreement and Letters of Agreement as presented.

Motion: Paul R. Stepanoff

Second: Nancy B. Tirjan

Discussion: Board members thanked the employee groups for their give back and for recognizing the need and responding to the board and the community. The negotiation committee was recognized and President Martin expressed pride for the school district and offered a chance for the teachers to speak to the board at this time.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Kelly L. Van Valkenburgh	Aye
	Nancy B. Tirjan	Aye
	Paul R. Stepanoff	Aye
	Zane R. Stauffer	Aye
	Kathy Mosley	Aye
	George Dager	Aye
	Manuel Alfonso	Aye
	Dean Wackerman	Aye

Result: Linda A. Martin Aye
Motion passed unanimously

Mrs. Tirjan acknowledged the administration and the principals for their effort.

Mr. Stepanoff acknowledged Ms. Edwards for her leadership in the process.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Mosley opened up the discussion on the use of the give-back funds and how to adjust the proposed budget to the final budget. Dr. Andrejko reviewed the major cost areas of the budget comparing 2008-2009 to 2009-2010 and presented a three-year budget projection. Ms. Lenz explained the three year projection and the assumptions for 2010-11 and 2011-12, and explained that the index for next year is estimated to be 1.5% compared with this year's 4.1%. She noted that tax increases would be necessary next year to make up for cuts and revenue loss this year. Ms. Lenz noted the anticipated increase in the retirement cost to the district and recommends the board set aside funds now for the future.

Some board members expressed concern for next year's budget with the cuts made this year and noted that next year's deficit will need to be covered by referendum in order to pass the budget.

Dr. Andrejko presented three different scenarios of tax increases to demonstrate to the board how much the increase would impact the taxpayers.

Ms. Lenz directed the board to a memo in their packet that answers the board members questions from the May 28 board meeting.

Discussion ensued on the impact of each of the three scenarios for the final budget. A proposal was made to ask the Ad-hoc School Finance Committee to research the tax study commission on Act 72 that was voted down two years ago to help senior citizens with tax relief.

Ms. Lenz explained that the EIT decreased 2 ½% this year.

Mr. Stauffer would support an increase of 2 ½ mills. He thanked the employees for their concessions and the administration for developing the budget and realizes that a zero tax increase is not possible. Discussion continued on the tax increase needed to balance the budget. Mrs. Van Valkenburgh clarified that to get out of the red it would take a 2.73% tax increase which relates to 3.43 increase in mills. She asked if there is support from the board to go with one of the scenarios.

Dr. Andrejko noted that every dollar represents part of the school district's expenses. She reviewed the scenarios again.

- Scenario #3 is 2.73% budget millage increase gets us to the bottom of yellow list (restores the red items). Cost to average taxpayer is \$90
- Scenario #2 is 3.62% budget millage increase gets us to the bottom of the yellow cut list and includes employee concessions and restores positions. Cost to average taxpayer is \$119

- Scenario #1 is 5.65% budget millage increase gets us to the bottom of the green list includes employee concessions, hold yellow in reserve to \$981,200, cost to average taxpayer is \$186.

Discussion continued on how to save for future years. The impact to the budget of the three scenarios was clarified to ensure that all board members understand what each scenario represents to the budget.

Dr. Andrejko explained the cut lists were put in priority order by the budget committees and each scenario represents cuts in prioritized order. She noted that the final decision is for the board and that the budget committees anticipated a line drawn somewhere through the yellow list to reflect the tax increase. She also expressed concern with not increasing more this year to save for future years since some items on the lists were deferred, not cut.

Mr. Stepanoff would support the 2.73% increase.

President Martin polled the board for scenario #1, #2 or #3.

Name	Scenario
Zane R. Stauffer	3
George Dager	3
Nancy B. Tirjan	2
Manuel Alfonso	3
Dean Wackerman	3
Kelly Van Valkenburgh	3
Kathy Mosley	2
Paul R. Stepanoff	3
Linda A. Martin	n/a

The board favors scenario #3 with a 2.73% budget millage increase with an average cost to the taxpayer of \$90.

9:00 PM. Mrs. Martin called for a 5 minute break.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maureen Montoney, Quakertown Borough speaking on behalf of QESPA explained that the support union voted against further concessions due to the fact that they lost positions and other positions were furloughed. They already lost 15% of their working force with cuts already imposed, and therefore, believe they have already contributed as much as they could endure. She handed out a list of their concessions to the board.

Linda Pasqua-Blaisse, Haycock Township noted that the taxpayer group does not represent all residents in Haycock. She noted that our students are our future and asked the board to come together to work for our community.

Joyce King, Milford Township thanked the employees for their concessions and believes that sports should be a higher priority than closing Haycock Elementary school

and asked the board to conduct themselves with dignity and respect. She asked the board to think outside the box to increase revenue.

Mrs. Martin noted that Dr. Andrejko provided some “out of the box thinking” by creating a new cyber school and alternative school.

Helen Kondracki, Haycock Township commented on eliminating non-mandated positions and on the increase in taxes.

Beth Nichols, Milford Township addressed the board regarding the future of our community and that the students should be the highest priority.

Karen Quinn, Milford Township thanked the employee groups for their concessions and asked the board to vote to maintain programs and show respect for each other.

Ed Mathewson, Richland Township, president of QMPO, addressed the board regarding the band uniforms and the level of pre-determined cuts to the band program. The booster clubs have stepped up their efforts to fund the band program at the request of Dr. Andrejko and asked the board to do what they can for the music program.

Bob Smith, Milford Township addressed the email sent by Paul R. Stepanoff to the taxpayers group. He wants all our students to get a quality education and wants the tax money to be used wisely.

Dr. John Young, Haycock Township addressed the board regarding the budget and the decrease in salaries and the Regency Manor Bus Stop. He read a poem that he wrote.

Roe Cabbage, Richland Township addressed the board regarding the importance of community and the music program for our students and asked the board to plan for the future.

Pasquale Noto, Haycock Township handed out a copy of a letter written by a board member and an email that corrected the misinformation.

Inta Gulbis, Haycock Township asked the board to represent the community and commented on the budget, the concession and the cost of medical insurance.

Majorie Rullman, Milford Township asked the board to look at all the expenses and not to cut support staff.

President Martin explained that the administrators also made concessions.

Board discussion ensued on the three scenarios and the use of fund balance to restore budget cuts. Ms. Lenz cautioned using fund balance to pay for operations. It was noted that 6 members agreed to scenario #3. The board discussed long term considerations and encouraged the community to oppose Senate Bill 850 which would reduce the amount of money coming from the stimulus package and to contact their legislatures. Mr. Alfonso suggested that music and athletic after school programs be given higher priority and the cost would be offset by cutting programs/activities during class hours. Some board members feel they already compromised by

agreeing to scenario #3. President Martin announced that the final budget can be prepared using the figures from scenario #3.

Ms. Edwards explained that she has contacted each employee affected by the board's decisions.

Mrs. Tirjan expressed concern for the parents of Haycock Elementary school and explained the history of QCSD and how small elementary schools were closed and mentioned the idea of purchasing land and holding it for the future.

A. DATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS CALENDARS.

Thursday, June 11, 2009	7:00 PM	Regular Voting Meeting Senior High School
MONDAY, June 15, 2009	7:00 PM	Class of 2009 – Commencement Stabler Arena, Lehigh University
Thursday, June 25, 2009	7:00 PM	Regular Voting Meeting Senior High School

President Martin asked Mr. Christopher Roth, QCEA representative to the negotiating committee, to thank all members of his association and the administrator for their concessions.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion:	Kelly L. Van Valkenburgh
Second:	Manuel Alfonso
Result:	Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM

Linda A. Martin, Board President

Alice K. Bishop, Board Secretary