

Council Rock School District
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Newtown, Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 3, 2008

MINUTES – Public Board Meeting

I. Call to Order – Richard Abramson, Esquire, President presided over the regular public monthly meeting of the Council Rock Board of School Directors. He convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Chancellor Center, 30 North Chancellor Street, Newtown, PA. The meeting was broadcast “live” in all municipalities. The following individuals were present:

School Board

Richard Abramson, Esquire - President
Dr. Paul Anagnostakos, Vice President
Mr. Christopher Ayoub
Mr. Robert Donnelly
Mr. Jerold Grupp (Absent)
Mrs. Bernadette Heenan
Mr. J. Dennis McMenamin
Mrs. Patricia Vaccaro-Sexton
Mrs. Susan Vicedomini

Mark J. Klein, Esquire, Superintendent
Mrs. Charlotte I. Walter, CEOE, Board Secretary
Mr. Derek Reid, Solicitor

Staff:

Mr. Barry Desko, Director of Secondary Education
Mrs. Joy McClendon, Director of Elementary Education
Mr. Robert Schoch, Director of Business Administration
Dr. Charles Lambert, Director of Special Services
Mr. David M. Bollinger, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Matthew Frederickson, Director of Information Technology
Mr. Thomas Schneider, Supervisor of Facilities

II. Routine Actions

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, Mrs. Walter called the roll call and reported that all board members were present with the exception of Mr. Grupp who was away on business. Prior to the pledge, students from Wrightstown Elementary School’s “Rockin’ Ravens” sang the National Anthem and another ensemble. They were led by Ms. Lauren Lopacki. They were congratulated for their fine efforts.

Ms. McCarthy, Principal from CRHS-North introduced the following Student Advisory Members: Kerry Long, 9th grade representative; Blaze DiPasquale, 10th grade representative; Brittany Reinard, 11th grade representative. Matt DePledge (12th grade) was absent due to an illness and Stephanie Foote (12th grade) was absent; she was on her senior trip to Florida. The first three individuals shared sports standings, special events, happenings, and excitement in their respective grade levels.

Mr. Abramson shared that his family accompanied the choir students to China. He congratulated Ms. McCarthy, Mr. McCall and all the staff for extending Council Rock’s recognition in China. This was a very courageous effort. There were six performances during their trip.

Superintendent’s Report- Mr. Klein shared the following:

1. Susan McCarthy spoke on the memories and excitement from the CRHS-North choir after returning from their visit to China. She explained that the Chinese were very welcoming. They thoroughly enjoyed the song written by a Newtown resident entitled “One World; One Dream” She reported that the Chinese

TV filmed this song. Mr. McCall was honored by Oliver Schofield from Kings Way International, who sponsored the trip, for his organization of each and every detail involved with this fabulous trip.

2. Bob Schoch - *'Energy Star Partner of the Year'* Award. Mr. Schoch shared the experience of traveling to Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, April 1st with four students, several maintenance personnel and administrators. Council Rock was proud to accept this award. The students were a wonderful reflection of Council Rock. Mr. Schoch shared a PowerPoint presentation of pictures and details involved with this award.

3. April is *Autism Awareness Month*. As a school community, we are working together this month to continue our mission this year to raise awareness on Autism. During this month, we are spreading information daily to staff and students on a daily basis including statistics about autism, literature, resources, web sites, and strategies. Tomorrow, we honor this month by calling for a dress in red day. Over the course of this month, schools are holding fundraisers for autism research, doing read alouds from the literature – fiction and non-fiction, and doing other community events – all with the goal to raise our awareness on Autism.

Public Comments –

John Rasiej from Wrightstown Township spoke as a representative from Newtown Arts Company sharing that they will be performing “Oklahoma” next week from Thursday, April 10th through Wednesday, April 16th at Newtown Theatre. He invited the public to attend this production. He reported that three Council Rock students; two who went to China with the CRHS-North choir and a student from Welch Elementary will be performing. The proceeds from this production will be used for scholarships.

Marilyn Scarpa, Vice President of Citizens for Education spoke relative to the number of students at both high schools who have recently registered to vote. A total of 195 students have been registered through the efforts of representatives from Citizens for Education.

III. Board Presentation/Discussion

- A). Board Policy #906 – Public Complaints (Attachment #1)
Mr. Klein explained that some highlighted changes have occurred since the last meeting. Due to these changes, this will still be considered the first reading. If acceptable, the final reading will be presented at the April 17th meeting.

The Federal Government requires this revision under the NCLB complaint procedure. The major part involves a provision which complies with the statute.

IV. Items for Board Approval

- A). Approval of Minutes – Mrs. Heenan moved, seconded by Dr. Anagnostakos, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the revised minutes of the board meetings of February 7, 2008 and February 21, 2008. (*These minutes were presented for approval at the March 27th meeting, however, some minor changes were required to the February 7th minutes, thus the delay in approval.*)
- B). Bond Issue (Attachment #5) – Mr. Schoch introduced Scott Shearer, Senior Managing Consultant from Public Financial Management Group who explained the financial update for the \$8.8 million dollar bond issue for capital expenses to include the Holland Elementary and Churchville Elementary Schools’ projects and other miscellaneous roof projects throughout the district. Many questions/discussion developed from Mr. Shearer’s presentation.

Following the discussion, Dr. Anagnostakos moved, seconded by Mr. Donnelly, passed with the following vote tally (6/2/1), for the approval of Public Financial Management to market an \$8.8 million bond issue for capital expenses to include the Holland Elementary and Churchville

Elementary Schools' projects, as contained in Attachment 5 to this agenda, at a cost not to exceed \$22,000.00.

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Abramson	Mr. Ayoub	Mr. Grupp
Dr. Anagnostakos	Mrs. Sexton	
Mr. Donnelly		
Mrs. Heenan		
Mr. McMenamin		
Mrs. Vicedomini		

- C). Approval of 2008 Graduation Date (Attachment #6)
Mr. Donnelly moved, seconded by Dr. Anagnostakos, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the Class of 2008 Graduation Date as Monday, June 16, 2008. The Council Rock High School-North graduation will take place at 4:00 p.m. and the Council Rock High School-South graduation will take place at 6:30 p.m. Rain date for CRHS-North will be Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

Mr. Klein reported this item will be posted on our web site.

- D) Settlement Agreement (Attachment #7)
Mr. McMenamin moved, seconded by Mrs. Heenan, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the **Anchor Fire Protection Company, Inc.** Settlement Agreement, as contained in attachment #7 to this agenda, at a cost not to exceed **\$55,000.00**, subject to audit.
- E). Newtown Township Land Development Waiver Agreement (Attachment #8)
Mrs. Vicedomini moved, seconded by Mr. Donnelly, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the Newtown Township Land Development Waiver Agreement as contained in Attachment #8 to this agenda.

Mrs. Sexton departed the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

V. Committee Reports

The following committee reports were presented:

- Academic Standards- Mrs. Vicedomini reported that at last meeting, the accomplishments of the 2007 graduates were shared. At the next meeting scheduled for April 9th at 12:30 p.m., discussion will continue on the textbook approvals.
- Facilities- Mr. Schneider reported on the Energy Management Program savings, the capital projects and the update of the facility design for Churchville and Holland Elementary Schools. The contracts were awarded at the March 27th meeting. He also gave an update on the renovations of the CRHS-North pool. He spoke of the demolition permit and now we are in receipt of the waiver for land development which will allow us to move forward with construction.

Mr. Schneider was questioned about the upgrading of facility entrances. He explained that he expects to put this item out to bid by the end of May, 2008.

- Finance – Mr. Donnelly reported that the March meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

- Policy – Mr. Abramson reported that the last meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m.
- MBIT – Mrs. Heenan reported that they are continuing their search for a new Executive Director.
- BCIU- No report.

VI. Solicitor's Report – Mr. Reid reviewed his report with the board members.

VII. Public Comments - None

VIII. Board Comments - None

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte I. Walter, CEOE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors