COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL ROCK BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
May 5, 2016

The Council Rock Board of School Directors met in public session on May 5, 2016 at the Chancellor Center, 30 N. Chancellor Street, Newtown, PA. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**  
Mr. Andy Block, President  
Mrs. Denise Brooks  
Dr. Bill Foster  
Mr. Jerold Grupp  
Mrs. Kyle McKessy  
Mrs. Wendi Thomas  
Dr. Michael Thorwart  
Mr. Mark Byelich, Vice President

**ADMINISTRATORS:**  
Dr. Robert Fraser, Superintendent  
Mr. Barry Desko, Director of Secondary Education  
Dr. Charles Lambert, Director of Special Services  
Mr. Joseph MacClay, Director of Elementary Education  
Mr. Robert Reinhart, Director of Finance and Treasurer  
Mrs. M. Christine Trioli, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Matthew Frederickson, Director of Information Technology  
Mr. Doug Taylor, Director of Operational Services

**BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**  
Mr. Byelich

**OTHERS:**  
Approximately 25 persons from the public, staff and press

**SECRETARY:**  Ms. Kapua A. Rice  
**SOLICITOR:**  Robert Cox, Esq.

**Call to Order**  
The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m. by Mr. Block. The meeting was recorded by the Council Rock School District and was broadcast “live” in all five municipalities.

**Pledge of Allegiance**  
Mr. Block asked those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Adina Kelly.

The Rolling Hills Rock Starz sang the National Anthem, followed by Fight Song, conducted by Mrs. Cerra.

**Superintendent’s Report**  
Dr. Fraser reported on the following updates.

- The Facilities Committee meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 12, has been cancelled.
- The annual community budget forum will be held at The Chancellor Center on Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. The public will be able to comment on the 2016-2017 preliminary budget, including the proposed budgetary reductions and proposed tax increase of 2.4%. The forum will be televised on CRTV and on YouTube for public viewing.
- The Golden Wings Theatre Company will be presenting The Miracle Worker at CRHS-South on Thursday-Saturday (May 5 – May 7).
- Jazz Night festival begins at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, at Newtown Middle School. Students from elementary, middle and high school levels will be performing.
- CRHS-South’s Relay for Life team will be holding a car wash to raise money to support the American Cancer Society on Saturday, May 7, at Chick-fil-A in Newtown. The actual relay event is on Saturday, May 21.
• The CR District Art Show will be held Thursday-Saturday (May 12-14) at CRHS-South.

Public Comment
Nancy Carroll, Newtown, PA, is interested in reviewing the documentation on the Chromebook bids and the timeline for the rebid. She would also like to review the technology budget. She wondered what happened to the money that was in the budget to hire four integration specialists. These specialists were never hired last year. She is against having operation technology connectivity in seven out of ten elementary schools while the other three schools have to wait. She is opposed to any cuts in the technology budget. She also expressed her concern whether the new assistant superintendent will have the money in the budget to make these technology improvements. The District still does not have a five-year technology plan.

Emily Discavage, Holland, PA, is a senior at CRHS-South. She and other students at CR support Scott Lisher, Certified Athletic Trainer/Faculty Manager, for the athletic director position. There are other athletic directors who have no administrative role. She did not see the need to hire a person to serve as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director.

Items for Board Approval
• Contract with American Appraisal
Mrs. McKessy moved to approve the contract with American Appraisal to provide capital asset appraisal services at a cost not to exceed $18,000.00 in the first year and $1,000.00 to provide annual update services for each year thereafter. Mr. Tate seconded the motion.

Mr. Reinhart stated that the independent auditors recommended updating the District’s capital asset records by engaging a professional appraiser to obtain estimated historical costs of certain assets.

Hearing no objections, the Board approved said motion by unanimous consent. Note: Mr. Byelich was absent.

• Health Reimbursement Arrangement for Retirees
Mr. Grupp moved to approve the Health Reimbursement Agreements (HRA) with Mid America Administrative and Retirement Solutions, Inc. as Trust Administrator and American United Life as custodian, subject to audit. Dr. Thorwart seconded the motion.

Mr. Reinhart stated that severance payments are based on a daily rate for unused sick days. The employer will contribute the first $7,000 into the 403B plan with any remaining balance placed into a HRA. Participants will be able to earn interest on the money from year to year and do not have to pay any taxes as long as the funds are used for healthcare. The District also benefits since the District does not have to pay 7.65% in FICA taxes (Social Security and Medicare).

Hearing no objections, the Board approved said motion by unanimous consent. Note: Mr. Byelich was absent.

• Approval of Bids
  o Visual Art Supply and Equipment Bid #16-03
Dr. Foster moved to award Visual Art Supply and Equipment Bid #16-03 for the 2016-2017 school year to the #9 (nine) vendors as listed in the Total Low Acceptable Bid column at a total cost not to exceed $59,456.10, subject to audit. Mr. Grupp seconded the motion.
Discussion ensued on the quantities requested for certain items.

After further discussion, upon motion duly made by Dr. Thorwart and seconded by Dr. Foster, the Board agreed to table the motion pending further review of the bids by unanimous consent. *Note:* Mr. Byelich was absent.

- **Musical Instruments and Supplies Bid #16-10**
  Dr. Foster moved to award Musical Instruments and Supplies Bid #16-10 for the 2016-2017 school year to the #14 (fourteen) vendors as listed in the Total Low Acceptable Bid column at a total cost not to exceed $176,446.42, subject to audit. Mr. Grupp seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued on the pricing and quantities for certain items.

After further discussion, upon motion duly made by Mr. Grupp and seconded by Dr. Thorwart, the Board agreed to table the motion pending further review of the bids by a vote of 7 ayes, 1 nay, 0 abstains. Mrs. Brooks voted against. *Note:* Mr. Byelich was absent.

- **Approval of Bid Rejection – Tree and Stump Removal Bid #16-20**
  Mr. Tate moved to reject all bids for Tree and Stump Removal Bid #16-20. Dr. Thorwart seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor advised that due to confusion with the bidding requirements, he is recommending that the project be rebid.

Hearing no objections, the Board approved said motion by unanimous consent. *Note:* Mr. Byelich was absent.

- **Approval of Bid Rejection – Chromebooks**
  Dr. Thorwart moved to reject the bid for Chromebooks previously awarded at the April 21, 2016 meeting of the Board of School Directors because of an error in the documentation and pricing. Mr. Grupp seconded the motion.

Mr. Frederickson recommended that the bid for the Chromebooks be rejected and rebid.

Hearing no objections, the Board approved said motion by unanimous consent. *Note:* Mr. Byelich was absent.

- **Personnel Actions**
  Mrs. Thomas moved to approve the Personnel Actions attached hereto as Appendix A and by this reference incorporated as if set forth in full herein. Mrs. McKessy seconded the motion.

The Board approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstains. *Note:* Mr. Byelich was absent.

**Board Items**

- **Old Business**
  Dr. Foster suggested that the public/community be given an opportunity to voice their opinion and/or show their support for installing a track at each of the middle schools. Their perspective would be helpful for the future of this district.
• New Business:
  None.

Committee Reports
Academic Standards Committee: Mrs. Brooks reported that the Committee reviewed the textbooks which will be submitted for Board approval on May 19 at a cost of $290,000. The Committee also heard a presentation on world languages. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on June 2, 2016. A curriculum review of math will be discussed.

Facilities Committee: Mr. Grupp reported that the Committee meeting scheduled to be held on May 12, 2016 has been cancelled. Mr. Taylor should be contacted with any questions.

Finance Committee: Mrs. Thomas reported that the annual budget forum will be held at The Chancellor Center on May 11, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Policy Committee: Mr. Tate reported that he hopes to schedule a meeting in May.

MBIT Representative: Dr. Foster reported that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. He also advised that Middle Bucks Gardens is open to the public. The plants were grown by the students and are for sale.

Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22 Representative: Mrs. McKessy reported that the BCIU has not met since her last report. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on May 17, 2016.

Council Rock Education Foundation: In Mr. Byelich’s absence, Mrs. Brooks reported that the Trenton Thunder game for all alumni will be held on Thursday, May 12. At the May 19 School Board meeting, there will be a presentation of the CREF grant award winners for 2016-17.

Public Comment
Nancy Carroll, Newtown, PA, voiced her support for a track(s) that can be used by the students and community. A presentation should be posted/distributed on ListServ and the public should be asked for their feedback. She looks forward to a presentation and an announcement of when the discussion will be held.

Board Comment
Mr. Grupp asked Mr. Taylor to post the information about installing a track at the middle school(s) on the website.

In response to Mrs. Thomas inquiry, Dr. Frasier advised that he would follow-up with Ms. Emily Discavage with regard to the position of Assistant Principal/Athletic Director.

Dr. Foster commented on the power of knowledge, in particular, the book entitled “Give and Take”. The book pertains to pay and equity issues between men and women based on psychology research, how it impacts how organizations are designed, and how to negotiate a salary e.g. some people tend to do better when they imagine that they are negotiating for someone else.

Dr. Thorwart noted that the fences are up at Holland Middle School. He encouraged others to take a look at the work being done.
Mr. Grupp was impressed with the production of The Miracle Worker. The play brought in elements about living with a disability i.e. a sign language interpreter and narrators for the deaf and the blind.

**Solicitor’s Report**
Mr. Cox reported that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting on a personnel matter. The Board will meet again in executive session following the meeting on another personnel matter.

**Adjournment**
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kapua A. Rice
Secretary to the Board of School Directors
COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

May 5, 2016

I. ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

A. Retirements

1. Name: **Charles Cassady**
   Position: Assistant Principal
   Location: Council Rock High School South
   Effective: July 1, 2016

2. Name: **Alan Gamble**
   Position: Assistant Principal
   Location: Council Rock High School North
   Effective: July 1, 2016

3. Name: **Daniel Greenland**
   Position: Principal
   Location: Holland Middle School
   Effective: July 1, 2016