MINUTES – Public Meeting of the Board of School Directors

I. Call to Order – Following the Act 34 hearing, which commenced at 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Kyle McKessy, President presided over the public monthly meeting of the Council Rock Board of School Directors. The public meeting was convened at 8:55 p.m. at the Chancellor Center, 30 N. Chancellor Street, Newtown, PA. The meeting was recorded by the Council Rock School District and was broadcast “live” in all five municipalities. The following individuals were present:

School Board
Mrs. Kyle McKessy, President
Mrs. Wendi Thomas, Vice President
Mr. Richard Abramson, Esquire
Dr. Paul Anagnostakos
Mr. Robert Donnelly (Absent)
Dr. Bill Foster
Mr. Jerold Grupp
Mrs. Bernadette Heenan
Mrs. Patricia C. Vaccaro-Sexton

Mark J. Klein, Esquire, Superintendent
Mrs. Charlotte I. Walter, CEOE, Secretary
Robert Cox, Esquire, Solicitor

Staff:
Mr. Barry Desko, Director of Secondary Education
Mrs. Joy McClendon, Director of Elementary Education
Mr. Robert Reinhart, Director of Business Affairs & Board Treasurer
Mr. David Bollinger, Director of Human Resources & Staff Development
Dr. Charles Lambert, Director of Special Services
Mr. Matt Frederickson, Director of Information Technology

II. Routine Actions

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Ted Cherney, a student from CRHS-North, the CRHS North ‘Mastersingers’ sang the National Anthem. They were led by Mr. Williams who spoke about their upcoming trip to Italy.

Superintendent’s Report – Mr. Klein reported that Council Rock School District has posted a draft of the proposed calendar for the 2012-13 school year on the front page of our website, www.crsd.org. This is a complicated calendar for a number of reasons and we invite your review and feedback. Council Rock has observed a practice over the past 8 years to open school after Labor Day when it falls on September 1, 2 and 3. This practice was established so that our community could reliably plan summer schedules as early as possible. School opens before Labor Day when it falls on September 5, 6 and 7. When Labor Day falls on September 4th, we look carefully at where other holidays fall in the school calendar to make the final determination on opening before or after Labor Day.

You will see that two teacher in-service days precede the opening for students in September. The placement of these in-service days is required by a recent appellate court case in Pennsylvania. The ruling effects Council Rock this year as we begin our obligations and legal requirement for collective bargaining with our Association. This is an obligation imposed on us by the courts, not a request made by our Associations. If there is a resolution to our bargaining in this school year, teacher in-service days may move to the last week of August and the beginning of the school year will be moved up by two days.

To accommodate a calendar that allows for a reasonable time to end school, the 2012-13 calendar changes the traditional Spring Break from a week to a Friday-Monday extended weekend. It also designates a half-day for students in May during primary election day.
As always, there are five (5) days built into the calendar for inclement weather. These are designated in June and create a range of closing between June 13 and June 20 – depending on the number of days used for school closings. With few options embedded into this calendar for alternative days, a particularly harsh winter could bring us even past June 20th – but we would endeavor to hold graduation during that week of June 17th.

We continue to work within the constraints outlined above and welcome community input. Parents planning vacations can depend, however, on a start of the 2012-13 school year occurring after Labor Day.

CREF - Mrs. MacGahan, Mrs. Scarpa, Mrs. Grupp and Ms. Molishus, representatives from Council Rock Education Foundation (CREF) came forward to accept a check from a representative from TD Bank in the amount of $6,240.00 from the Infinity program there. Community members were encouraged to join the Infinity Program at TD Bank.

9th Grade Sports Program – Mr. Klein explained that this was a difficult decision. During the summer a chore group of (5-6) individuals talked. We ran intramural basketball and will run modified programs in the Spring. Bob Rhoda and Ken Hone addressed the board and explained that they are working diligently on the 9th Grade Challenge for baseball and softball. They have formed CR Sports Foundation (crsf.crsd.org). This is a community output opportunity to form a partnership. So far, they have been impressed with the community partnership. They are aiming at pulling for all 9th grade sports. Mr. Klein explained that he is looking forward to working with these gentlemen.

Public Comment

Diana Nolan from Upper Makefield Township urged the board to consider meeting with P.A.R.E. members. She spoke that their membership wants a safe environment for students. Images can have an effect on our children.

Marilyn Scarpa wished a Happy Birthday to Mr. Abramson. Council Rock is an amazing and unique district. She wishes more community members would come out and help the district and contribute to CREF to benefit our students.

Lee Sheppard from Wrightstown Township spoke about how opinions turn into facts. There are two sides to every issue. Listen to each other. He encouraged more community members to get involved.

Larry Boyle spoke about his concern over the R-rated movies. This puts pressure on young women today. Why are you continuing to condone these movies? You do not know how these movies are portrayed.

Nancy Carroll from Newtown Borough expressed her concern over using the real facts referencing Goodnoe Elementary renovations. She also spoke with concern over the insecure entrances at Sol Feinstone Elementary School.

III. Discussion – Proposed 2012-2013 Calendar

Parents and community members were encouraged to look over the proposed calendar for 2012-2013 and if they have questions/concerns, please contact administration.

IV. Items for Board Approval

A). Approval of Bucks Co. Intermediate Unit No. 22 Program & Services & Instructional Materials and Research Services Budget for the 2012-2013 school year

Mrs. Thomas moved, seconded by Mrs. Heenan, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22 Program & Services and Instructional Materials & Research Services Budget for the 2012-2013 school year as noted in the above-noted attachments.

B). Bucks County Consortium RWAN Proposal

The administration recommends the approval of the Bucks County Consortium RWAN proposal. The renewal is for the period of five years and renews our Internet, Internet 2, and PAIUNET Access as organized
and administered through the Bucks County IU. We have been operating under a similar contract for the past five years. This new contract represents an annual savings of approximately $8,300 per year.

Mr. Grupp moved, seconded by Dr. Anagnostakos, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the Bucks County RWAN Network Services Agreement, at an annual cost not to exceed $48,428.88, as outlined in the above-noted attachments, subject to audit.

C). Champions AM Kindergarten Care

The administration recommends the approval of the Amendment to the Knowledge Learning Center Agreement (Champions) for an AM Enrichment Kindergarten Program to be offered at two sites in the school district (Maureen Welch Elementary & Newtown Elementary).

Following an extensive discussion, Mr. Abramson moved, seconded by Dr. Anagnostakos, passed with Mrs. Sexton being the sole “nay” vote, for the approval of the Amendment to the Knowledge Learning Center (Champions) Agreement for delivery of an AM Enrichment Kindergarten Program as set forth in the above-noted attachment.

D). Environmental Consultant

The administration recommends the approval of the three-year agreement with the Environmental Consultant Spotts, Stevens and McCoy for services to include compliance with asbestos reporting and other federal regulations.

Mrs. Heenan moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, passed by unanimous consent, for approval of the Agreement with Spotts, Stevens and McCoy Environmental Consultant as contained in the above-noted attachment(s) at a total cost not to exceed $49,775 for a 3-year period, subject to audit.

E). Transfer and Conveyance Agreement

Dr. Anagnostakos moved, seconded by Mr. Grupp, passed by unanimous consent, for the approval of the Agreement with Tuscarora School District for the transfer and conveyance of the Churchville Elementary School construction modular as outlined in the above attachment at a cost of $1.00.

F). Agreement for Removal of Electronic Waste

The administration recommends the approval of the Collection of the Electronic Waste Agreement with E-Waste Experts, Inc. for the responsible disposal of electronic waste as discussed at the January 26th Facilities Committee meeting.

Dr. Foster moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the Agreement with E-Waste Experts, Inc. for the responsible disposal of electronic waste at no cost to Council Rock School District.

V. Committee Reports

Academic Standards – Mrs. Thomas reported at the last meeting, the committee reviewed the elementary reading program that has been piloted for the past 3 years. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Bucks Co. Intermediate Unit – Mrs. Sexton reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m. @ BCIU.

Finance – Mr. Reinhart gave an overview of debt issue & layered debt in regard to the budget.
Facilities - Mr. Taylor explained that at the last meeting on January 26th, discussion took place on the energy program, the Act 34 hearing and the meeting with Newtown Township Planning Commission. Also, other items discussed was the chiller cooler and heater @ Holland Middle School; irrigation system at CRHS-South, sanitary repairs at CRHS-North and the disposal of electronic waste. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd at the Chancellor Center.

V1. Public Comment
None

VII. Board Comments

Mrs. Thomas announced that the North/South basketball game is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on 2/3/12.

The staff music instrumental recital will be held on February 7th at 7:30 p.m. Community members were encouraged to attend.

Mr. Grupp proudly spoke of the wonderful talent that’s displayed in Council Rock and spoke of the money that is collected to offer scholarships.

VIII. Solicitor’s Report

Mr. Reid reported that on January 26th there was an executive session for the purpose of discussion of collective bargaining. Following tonight’s meeting, there will be another executive session for discussion of potential litigation.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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