

JUNE 29, 2016

**HANOVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING**

MINUTES

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**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
June 29, 2016**

A Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held in the Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mr. Joseph Steininger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Joseph Steininger, President; Kevin Quaglia, Treasurer; Lorraine Heydt, Secretary; Frank Ciavarella, Jr. (via speaker phone), Evelyn R. Evans, John J. Mahle, Jr., Stacy McGovern and Joyce Potsko

ABSENT: Paul Holmgren, Vice-President

Lorraine Heydt, Secretary, stated a Quorum was established for the meeting.

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT:

Mr. Andrew Kuhl, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas R. Cipriano, Jr., Business Administrator; and a number of citizens.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Frank Ciavarella, seconded by Kevin Quaglia: To approve the following motions:

1. Approve the Wilkes-Barre Career and Technical Center Joint Operating Committee 2016-2017 Operating Budget.

2. Approve First Keystone Community Bank as an authorized Depository and authorize the Business Administrator to obtain the paperwork to open the necessary deposit account(s).

3. Accept quotation proposal from First Keystone Community Bank, Hanover Township, to issue a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN), in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The interest rate is fixed at .95%.

4. Authorize the acceptance of the proposal from LINK Computer Corporation for Elementary Schools Networking switches, cabling, and the related licenses. The total quote is \$182,453.00. Our net cost is approximately \$42,000 after E-rate reimbursement. This amount is included in the 2016-2017 General Fund Budget.

5. Authorize the advertising for the following bid:

Trash Hauling/Removal

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6. Shovlin Law Offices \$2,400.00
Attorney George Shovlin
May, 2016
Inv. #942

7. Approve the Hanover Area School District 2016-2017 Final General Fund Budget. Projected Revenues amount to \$27,496,470 and Projected Expenditures amount to \$27,346,470.

The stated millage rate is 17.5771, an increase of .4038 mill.
A copy of the Final General Fund Budget will be on display for the inspection of the general public in the District Administrative Office and on the Hanover Area School District website beginning July 6, 2016.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #7 ABOVE)

YES: Ciavarella, Evans (No on motion #1, yes for the rest), Heydt, Mahle, McGovern, Potsko, Quaglia, Steininger. NO: Evans (on Motion #1 only)
ABSENT: Holmgren ABSTAIN: None Chair declared the motions carried.

Mr. Frank Ciavarella, Board Member, stated it is a shame that the state puts the burden on the school boards, not only us, but the rest of the state, to raise taxes, and I hope the people realize that is where it comes from. We cut and made changes that we may not have liked, but we have to do what we have to do. But the big burden comes from the state not funding us our money. That is the reason that I voted yes. We did all that we could do as a school board. All the schools boards throughout the state of Pennsylvania are doing the same thing because they are in the same situation; and I think it is time that we start pointing our fingers at the state. That is why I voted yes.

Board President, Mr. Joseph Steininger, replied thank you Mr. Ciavarella.

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PERSONNEL:

It was moved by John Mahle, seconded by Stacy McGovern: To approve the following motions:

1. Accept, with regret, the retirement of Kelley Brozena, Elementary Teacher, effective at the end of the 2015-2016 School Year, as per the terms of the VESP Agreement.

2. Approve Jeff Urbanski as Per-Diem Cleaner at a rate of \$7.50/hour, effective June 30, 2016, pending receipt of proper paperwork.

3. Accept the resignation of Christine Wickiser, Paraprofessional, effective June 5, 2016.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #3 ABOVE)

YES: Ciavarella, Evans, Heydt, Mahle, McGovern, Potsko, Quaglia, Steininger.
NO: None ABSENT: Holmgren ABSTAIN: None Chair declared the motions carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Andrew Kuhl, Superintendent, stated I just wanted to make everyone aware of the recent progress in the district. I would like to read a letter that was posted to our website recently; it is addressed to Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff and Community Residents:

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As you may be aware from recent news reports, there has been broad regional and national concern regarding institutional water quality, which has prompted us to test the water in all our school district buildings. As a precaution and out of abundance of care for our students and staff, in April, our district took the proactive step of testing the water sources in each of our school buildings for lead concentrations.

Water samples were taken from 32 locations in all five of the district buildings. The samples were tested through the Kirby Memorial Health Center, a certified lab that follows protocols set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

We are pleased to inform you that in all 32 samples, no lead was detected. There is nothing that we take more seriously than the well being of our students and staff. The Board of Education and Administration of Hanover Area pledges to keep the health and safety of our children our top priority.

Thank you.

STATEMENT ON THE 2016-2017 FINAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

Board President, Mr. Joseph Steininger, stated we all echo Mr. Ciavarella's comments on the budget situation and at this time I would like to have our Business Administrator, Mr. Thomas Cipriano, on behalf of the Board, make a statement.

Mr. Thomas Cipriano, Business Administrator, stated we do echo what Mr. Ciavarella said because the budget that we present tonight is the result of many tough decisions that the Board and Administration had to make because of the failure of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to fund our school district, and the school districts around the state, adequately and fairly, leaving our local taxpayers, in our case, Hanover Area School District, to fund this unfairly high percentage of the budget. We are encouraged, going forward, that the basic education formula, now law, begins to fund our school district in a fair and equitable way. That said it has been verified and reported that

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it will take twenty years of increased funding from the state, just to get us where we should be right now. I have four examples of unfunded mandates that I will hand out to the reporters this evening, but in particular, we are talking about a Special Education situation where we are going to get an additional \$39,000 this coming year, in special education funding. This current year we got \$1.280 million this year, and our special education costs were a little over \$5 million. I can give you many more examples but one thing we will say is this Board worked hard to get an increase of .4038, down from the .5838 which they were able to go up, based on the index this year and the .4038 for the public means; the average assessed home value in the Hanover Area School District is \$71,900; this will mean an increase of \$29.03 to the home valued at \$71,900. A home valued at \$100,000 will mean an increase of \$40.38 per year. And if you divide these increases on a monthly basis, the \$29.03 comes down to \$2.42 per month and the \$40.38 comes down to \$3.37 per month. Thank you.

Board President, Mr. Joseph Steininger, replied thank you Mr. Cipriano.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. John Mahle, Board Member, thanked Mr. Frank Ciavarella for taking the time and calling in this evening, because he is on vacation.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

No one wished to be recognized at this Special School Board Meeting.

