

**CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2011**

The Canon-McMillan Regular School Board Meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by the President, Ms. Link, at the Canon-McMillan Administration Building, 1 North Jefferson Avenue, Canonsburg, PA.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Ms. Link announced that the Board had met in executive session prior to the meeting for personnel matters.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken.

Robert Malwitz	P	Darla Bowman-Monaco	P	Joe Zupancic	P
Zeffie Carroll	P	Manuel Pihakis	P	Paul Scarmazzi	P
Debbie Link	P	Laura Grossman	P	Eric Kline	P

In addition to Board Members, the following non-members were present:

Dr. Helen McCracken, Superintendent  
Mr. Michael Daniels, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Ms. Joni Mansmann, Director of Business and Finance  
Ms. Grace Lani, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. James McCune, Solicitor  
Ms. Sharon Avbel, Board Secretary  
Ms. Mara Womer, Student Representative  
Ms. Madison Palyas, Student Representative

**Agenda Approval**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman-Monaco to approve the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens Speak**

No citizens addressed the Board on agenda items.

**General Items for Consideration**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Grossman that the Board approve the following minutes, correction of minutes, treasurer's reports, wage tax reports, bills for ratification and approval, and budget transfers:

Committee Meeting of the Board, November 12, 2010  
Regular Meeting of the Board, November 15, 2010  
Reorganization/Board Meeting of the Board, December 6, 2010  
Committee Meeting of the Board, December 8, 2010  
Committee Meeting of the Board, December 13, 2010  
Special Meeting of the Board, December 13, 2010

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Committee Meeting of the Board, January 3, 2011  
Pre-Board Agenda Meeting, January 10, 2011

Correction of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of November 1, 2010 shall be amended to reflect the administrative recommendation to terminate the swap agreement and issue fixed rate bonds.

WAGE TAX REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2010	Current Collections	Year to Date	Budgeted 2010-11	% of Expected
Canonsburg Borough	\$9,028.69	\$48,438.30	\$360,000	13.5%
North Strabane Township	151,466.37	291,478.17	1,440,000	20.2%
Cecil Township	167,122.44	283,766.43	1,300,000	21.8%

WAGE TAX REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 2010	Current Collections	Year to Date	Budgeted 2010-11	% of Expected
Canonsburg Borough	\$32,023.06	\$80,461.36	\$360,000	22.4%
North Strabane Township	99,166.09	390,644.26	1,440,000	27.1%
Cecil Township	39,047.45	322,813.88	1,300,000	24.8%

Bills for Ratification:

FOR NOVEMBER, 2010

General Fund	\$3,838,105.21
Athletic Fund	14,911.41
Cafeteria Fund	184,864.89

FOR DECEMBER, 2010

General Fund	\$4,757,649.07
Athletic Fund	4,440.63
Cafeteria Fund	246,419.68

Bills for Approval:

FOR DECEMBER, 2010

General Fund	\$479,579.00
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FOR JANUARY, 2011

General Fund	\$282,882.98
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Budget Transfers:

FOR NOVEMBER, 2010

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Budget Transfers Requiring Board Approval Prior to Transfer .....\$6,485.  
Budget Transfers Requiring Board Ratification Subsequent to Transfer ...\$10,250.

FOR DECEMBER, 2010

Budget Transfers Requiring Board Approval Prior to Transfer .....\$215.  
Budget Transfers Requiring Board Ratification Subsequent to Transfer ...\$44,423.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Student Representative Reports**

The students reported that research is being done for their graduation projects; benchmark testing is continuing in grades 9-11, and study skills are being offered after school for six weeks. Ms. Geist's class raised the most money (\$920) during change day for the Santa Fund. Chelsea Banks was the overall winner in the Talent Show and will compete at Trinity on January 29 in Washington's Got Talent. The upcoming spring musical is "Beauty and the Beast" and it will be held on March 10-12. The Prom Fashion Show will be on March 27.

The boys basketball team is 7-7, 3-3 in section play; the girls basketball team is 7-5, 3-2 in section play. Canon-McMillan won the PowerAde Wrestling Tournament; indoor track has had one meet so far. The girls swimming/diving team is 5-1 and the boys team is 4-2.

### **Committee Reports**

Mr. Pihakis attended the Washington County Tax Collection meeting as the alternate since Mr. Zupancic could not attend. Two issues were discussed: 1) who would be responsible to collect the delinquent taxes? and 2) who would collect gas industry employees earned income tax when they are living out of state? Also, the company which will be doing the collecting seems to have a little higher percentage for the delinquent tax and who would get that money needs decided.

### ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

#### **Resignations**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Malwitz that the Board accept the following extra-curricular resignations:

Ed Martin	Middle school assistant track coach
Emily Mahoney	JV tennis coach

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Appointments**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Malwitz that the Board approve the following appointments:

1. hire Laverne Gibbs as a 2 hour cafeteria worker at First Street Elementary at the contracted rate effective December 20, 2010.
2. appoint Deborah Krebs as a mentor for Kimberly Johovich.

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3. approve the following extra-curricular positions at the contracted rate contingent upon receipt and successful review of all required employment documentation:

Eric Berthoud	Middle school chess club sponsor	\$ 464
Dennis Cole	Head middle school wrestling coach	\$2,833

4. approve the Addendum to the Professional and Support Staff Substitute List, dated January, 2011.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Assistant High School Principal**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Grossman that the Board hire Stephanie McHugh as an assistant high school principal (Act 93, 260 day position) at an annual salary of \$71,644 effective February 1, 2011.

On a roll call vote, the motion failed with Mr. Kline, Mr. Scarmazzi, Mr. Pihakis, Ms. Bowman-Monaco, and Ms. Carroll voting nay and Mr. Malwitz, Ms. Grossman, Mr. Zupancic and Ms. Link voting aye.

Mr. Zupancic stated that this person was the unanimous candidate of the administration and the personnel committee and he urged the Board to think of the education at the High School. He then asked what the next step would be; is the process to start over? He reminded the Board that there are currently two open positions at the High School. Mr. Zupancic asked that the will of the Board be made clear to the administration so that the duration of the opening was known. He asked if the position would be open until the summer. A verbal response from the majority of the Board indicated their desire to leave the position open until the end of the year. Dr. McCracken stated that legal advice had been given to the Board regarding filling the position from two different legal sources and also stated that it is the administration's recommendation to fill the position. She stated that there could be legal ramifications if this isn't done. Dr. McCracken stated that the will of the Board is misguided.

### **Stipulated Adjudication**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scarmazzi that the Board approve the discipline recommendation for Student C on the basis of a Stipulated Adjudication.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Special Counsel**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Malwitz that the Board appoint Bruce D. Campbell as special counsel at the cost of \$195 per hour.

On a roll call vote, the motion failed with Mr. Kline, Mr. Scarmazzi, Mr. Pihakis, Ms. Bowman-Monaco, and Ms. Carroll voting nay and Mr. Malwitz, Ms. Grossman, Mr. Zupancic and Ms. Link voting aye.

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Ms. Bowman-Monaco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kline that the Board appoint Paul Walsh as special counsel.

The solicitor was asked if this motion could be made at this time. He asked for a few minutes to review the issue and the meeting was continued with this issue unresolved at this point. (This issue is continued later in these minutes.)

**Donation**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman-Monaco that the Board accept the donation of \$270 for the Wylandville library in the memory of Linda Cannon.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Audit**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman-Monaco that the Board accept the financial audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 as presented by Cypher & Cypher on December 13, 2010.

The motion carried unanimously.

**PowerAde Funds**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pihakis that the Board approve the school district to utilize \$4,130 of PowerAde funds to assist in the purchase of athletic chairs to be used for athletics and other school events at the middle school and high school. The check will be issued to the appropriate vendor. This is a one time only expenditure.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Book Break Reading Club**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman-Monaco that the Board approve an additional high school club: Book Break Reading Club.

The motion carried unanimously.

**PlanCon K for 2010 Issue**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pihakis that the Board approve PlanCon Part K: Project Refinancing for the 2010 Bond Issue.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Recognition**

The Board recognized the following:

Hannah Price, a fourth grader, won the Borland Manor Thanksgiving Essay contest.

Alex Paulina, an eighth grade student at Canonsburg Middle School, has received the honor of being selected as one of the nation's top youth football players and was selected to participate in the 2011 FBU Youth All-American Bowl in San Antonio,

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Texas played on January 9, 2011. In addition to his athletic ability, Alex is a role model off the field with making the honor roll and his superb behavior.

First Street Elementary has been approved for a Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge grant in the amount of \$8,312 for the following program: "Wii Get It: Exercise!" The program will incorporate the Wii and its fitness applications into the school in order to increase each student's physical activity by an additional 45 minutes per week and provide teachers and students with the opportunity to make healthy decisions in regard to exercise.

January is School Director Recognition Month in honor of those that volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of public education in our community.

### **Budget Preview Presentation**

Ms. Mansmann distributed three items to the Board: Budget Work Papers, Preliminary Budget Recommendation, and PDE 2028 - Preliminary General Fund Budget. She asked the Board members to read the handouts and let her know if they have any questions prior to the January 31<sup>st</sup> committee meeting. PASBO has stated there will be challenges with State funding information this year. They suggested using the 2008-09 revenue figures and that is what Ms. Mansmann used to develop the preliminary budget. She has read she won't receive actual preliminary numbers from the State until at least March. The budget which the Board will be asked to adopt at the February 14 special meeting will be highly preliminary. In the event the State revenue numbers do not improve, the school district needs to reserve the ability to apply to the State for PDE exceptions. The index is a maximum of 1.7% without exceptions. Thus the preliminary budget includes a 5.97 mill increase.

The preliminary budget is \$63,347,285 which represents a 3% increase over last year's final budget. The good news is that the health care rates have already been received and they are only increasing by 4.5%. This year's budget is on target as far as expenditures. A spike in the PSERS contributions could be another problem. Also tax appeals are affecting future budgets.

Mr. Kline asked if the district was receiving wage tax from gas workers who are renting in the district. Mr. Zupancic stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor for tax collections, Keystone, will need to look into this issue. Ms. Mansmann will research this further. Mr. Scarmazzi asked about the most recent communications from Range Resources. Dr. McCracken stated that Range had given the district a form lease and Mr. Lucas had suggested doing an RFP. Mr. Lucas will need to give the Board an update on this issue.

Mr. Pihakis asked Ms. Mansmann if a meeting could be set up with Mr. Zubasic of PNC before next Tuesday. Ms. Mansmann will call Mr. Zubasic and try to set that up for Monday or Tuesday next week. The committee meeting will need to be advertised.

Mr. Kline also asked that a policy committee meeting be held soon. He will talk to the other members of the committee and let Ms. Avbel know the date and time

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so that an advertisement can be done.

**Special Counsel Continued**

The Board now revisited the issue of special counsel. Mr. McCune stated the Board could consider the second motion for different special counsel. The Board can take action and then it could be ratified at the next meeting if necessary. An objection can be made to the motion. Mr. Malwitz objected. There was discussion that this motion violates district policy regarding the amending of the agenda. After further discussion it was decided that names of counsel would be referred to the special counsel committee (Mr. Scarmazzi, Mr. Kline, and Ms. Bowman-Monaco). Mr. Zupancic stated that this makes no sense and is a recipe for disaster. Dr. McCracken stated that she believed the Board was making a mistake and that, although their actions might serve her as an individual, they would not be in the district's best interests. Mr. Pihakis asked who hires counsel. Mr. Zupancic expressed concern that the Board members would be sued.

**Citizens Speak**

No citizens addressed the Board.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Link adjourned the meeting at 8:18 P.M.

*Sharon L. Arbel*

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Board Secretary