

**CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

The Canon-McMillan Regular School Board Meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by the President, Mr. Romano, at the Canon-McMillan Administration Building, 1 North Jefferson Avenue, Canonsburg, PA.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken.

Robert Malwitz	P	Adam Galambos	P	Joe Zupancic	P
Kathleen Smith	P	Manuel Pihakis	P	Nick Cianelli	P
Debbie Link	A	Laura Grossman	P	Jay Romano	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  
Dr. Dawn Nicolaus, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Michael Lucas, Solicitor  
Ms. Sharon Avbel, Board Secretary  
Ms. Maria Silvestros, Student Representative  
Ms. Alexis Pozonsky, Student Representative

**Agenda Approval**

Mr. Malwitz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pihakis to approve the agenda.

The motion carried with all present voting aye with the exception of Mr. Cianelli who voted nay.

**Presentations**

Dr. McCracken presented Nick Cianelli, Adam Galambos, Jay Romano and Kathy Smith with a token of appreciation for their service to the district and the community.

Kevin Hayes of the Hayes Design Group thanked the Board for being hired to conduct the feasibility study. He then reviewed what had been done to date and his six key goals for the feasibility study. The tentative schedule includes a presentation(s) to the Board in January or February and development of a consensus vision for the district in March and April. The completion of the feasibility study is anticipated for May.

Ms. Smith asked that the community input that was gathered for the last study be taken into consideration.

Mr. Galambos asked how long before a new school could be finished. The worst case scenario would be three years. A stadium renovation could be done in about a year.

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Ms. Link joined the meeting by speakerphone at 7:28 P.M.

**Items for Consideration**

Mr. Pihakis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Malwitz that the Board approve the following minutes, treasurer’s report, and wage tax reports:

- Committee Meeting of the Board, October 12, 2009
- Pre-Board Agenda Meeting, October 12, 2009
- Regular Meeting of the Board, October 19, 2009
- Special Meeting of the Board, November 5, 2009
- Pre-Board Agenda Meeting, November 9, 2009

WAGE TAX REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 2009	Current Collections	Year to Date	Budgeted 2009-10	% of Expected
Canonsburg Borough	\$12,402.92	\$27,587.76	\$300,000	9.2%
North Strabane Twp.	–	30,649.52	1,400,000	2.2%
Cecil Township	120,104.51	144,586.56	1,300,000	11.1%

The motion carried with all present voting aye with the exception of Mr. Cianelli who voted nay.

**Bills for Ratification and Approval**

Mr. Galambos made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cianelli that the Board approve the following bills for ratification and approval:

Bills For Ratification:

FOR OCTOBER, 2009

General Fund	\$3,189,533.99
Athletic Fund	9,197.50

Bills for Approval:

FOR NOVEMBER, 2009

General Fund	\$3,427,481.24
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The motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Transfers**

Ms. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Galambos that the Board approve the following budget transfers:

FOR NOVEMBER, 2009

Budget Transfers Requiring Board Approval <u>Prior</u> to Transfer .....	\$1,000.00
Budget Transfers Requiring Board Ratification <u>Subsequent</u> to Transfer ..	\$37,405.00

The motion carried unanimously.

**Student Representative Reports**

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The students introduced themselves and told the Board about their after high school plans. The fall play "Alice in Wonderland" was held last week. "Footloose" will be the spring musical. Student council will be holding a fall raffle, a hoagie sale and a bake sale with the proceeds going to the Santa Fund. The Big Mac Band will be holding a "Pasta and Performance" night on November 21.

**Citizens Speak**

The following citizens addressed the Board:

Karen Harr	47 Pacers Ridge Drive	Thanked outgoing board members
Fred Lombardo	133 O'Hare Road	Thanked board also and had high school concerns

***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

**Resignations**

Mr. Pihakis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Smith that the Board accept the following extra-curricular resignations:

Jack Smarslak	Assistant varsity baseball coach
Justin White	Assistant varsity baseball coach

The motion carried unanimously.

**Assistant High School Principal**

Ms. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Galambos that the Board hire Michael Hall as an assistant high school principal (260 day Act 93 position) at an annual salary of \$71,644 effective December 1, 2009.

Mr. Cianelli commented on the fact that the posting was only done internally. On a roll call vote the motion carried with all present voting aye with the exception of Mr. Cianelli and Mr. Romano who voted nay.

**Appointments**

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

1. appoint the following mentors:

Jennifer Weiss	for Cara Mia Szarmach
Sally Gribbin	for Julie Duvall
2. hire Lauren Petris as a special education paraprofessional at Canonsburg Middle School at the contracted rate effective November 19, 2009.
3. hire Frank Thompson as a 4 hour custodian at Muse Elementary at the contracted rate effective November 9, 2009.
4. change the status of the following cafeteria workers effective November 16, 2009:
  - a. change Barb Jones from a 4 hour cafeteria worker at the High School to a 5 hour cafeteria worker at the same school.

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- b. change Joan Long from a 4 hour cafeteria worker at the High School to a 4.75 hour cafeteria worker at the same school.
  - c. change Heather Kotar from a 3.75 hour cafeteria worker at the High School to a 4.25 hour cafeteria worker at the same school.
  - d. change Karen Smith from a 3.5 hour cafeteria worker at the High School to a 3.75 hour cafeteria worker at the same school.
5. approve the following extra-curricular positions at the contracted rate:  
Paul Rush                      Co-director of spring middle school musical  
Jodi Cassell                    Co-director of spring middle school musical
  6. approve the Addendum to the Professional and Support Staff Substitute List, dated November, 2009.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Policy 304.1 Nepotism**

Mr. Pihakis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Smith that the Board approve the revision to policy 304.1 Nepotism.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Canonsburg Library Representatives**

The terms on the Greater Canonsburg Library Board of Directors for Darla Bowman-Monaco and Maureen Thompson are due to expire on December 31, 2009. Mr. Cianelli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Galambos that the Board appoint Maureen Thompson for another three year term on the Greater Canonsburg Library Board of Directors and also appoint Kathy Smith for a three year term.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Audit Response**

Mr. Pihakis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Malwitz that the Board approve the following resolution:  
Be it resolved that the Board of School Directors of the Canon-McMillan School District adopts and approves the response and the Corrective Action Plan in response to the Auditor General's LEA Audit Report.

Ms. Smith stated that she still lacks accurate information from this past fiscal year and requested that the auditors be asked to expedite the completion of the audit. She asked what part of the audit is not finished and asked Ms. Mansmann why.

*Ms. Link's call was disconnected at 7:51 P.M.*

Ms. Smith asked for a statement from our solicitor regarding the lateness of the audit being unacceptable. Ms. Mansmann stated that the AFR is on the website so that information is available.

*Ms. Link rejoined the meeting by speakerphone at 7:53 P.M.*

Mr. Pihakis stated that the auditor told him that they didn't get the information from the district that they needed. It was suggested that the auditor needs to let the

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Board know who they didn't get information from.

Mr. Cianelli stated that he wants to see the audit before the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and have the opportunity to come up with questions. He asked Dr. McCracken to contact Cypher & Cypher.

*Ms. Grossman left the meeting at 7:58 P.M.*

Mr. Galambos suggested a revision to the audit response.

Mr. Cianelli stated that the incorrect budgeting of special education and transportation caused the problem that we are talking about. Also contributing were a very expensive teachers' contract and pension increases in 2001. He then highlighted increases put into the last teachers' contract. He also stated that the district had started the corrective action prior to the auditor general's findings.

Mr. Zupancic asked for a clarification of Mr. Galambos's change. Mr. Galambos stated that at the end of #4 of the corrective action plan "approved by the Board of School Directors on June 22, 2009" should be added.

Mr. Lucas suggested that the motion be split into a motion to approve the Corrective Action Plan and a motion to approve the Audit Response. Mr. Pihakis and Mr. Malwitz withdrew their original motions.

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pihakis that the Board approve the Corrective Action Plan.

The motion carried with all present voting aye with the exception of Mr. Cianelli who voted nay.

Mr. Malwitz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Zupancic that the Board approve the Audit Response including Mr. Galombos's change.

On a roll call vote the motion failed with Ms. Link, Mr. Pihakis, Mr. Zupancic, and Mr. Malwitz voting aye and Mr. Galambos, Ms. Smith, Mr. Cianelli, and Mr. Romano voting nay.

**Contracted Carriers**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Smith that the Board approve the following contracted carriers for the 2009-10 school year:

GG & C Bus Company, Inc.	to DePaul Institute	\$149.35/day	
GG & C Bus Company, Inc.	to Western PA School for the Blind	\$225.00/day	
Matthews Bus Company	to St. Thomas More, Bishop Canevin, Our Lady of		Gr ace & Jub ilee Ch rist ian, St. Kat her ine

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Mr. Romano asked why we weren't using our own busses for some of the runs to our own schools.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Agreement with Canon-McMillan Education Association**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Malwitz that the Board accept the fact-finder's report regarding the agreement with the Canon-McMillan Education Association as submitted.

Mr. Cianelli asked Ms. Mansmann if she had costed out the contract and then asked the same of Dr. McCracken. He questioned how the Board could vote on the contract without that information. They would be doing what was done in the past and put the district in the same position again.

Mr. Galambos stated that he had costed out the contract; it would cost \$5 million more over the three years of the contract.

Mr. Cianelli then mentioned that there will be additional costs to cover pensions. He distributed information on PSERS contribution rates.

On a roll call vote the motion failed with Ms. Link, Mr. Zupancic, Mr. Malwitz and Mr. Romano voting aye and Mr. Pihakis, Mr. Galambos, Ms. Smith and Mr. Cianelli voting nay.

### **Recognition**

The Board recognized the following:

The boys and girls cross country teams both won the 2009 Washington County Team Championships on October 19, 2009. This was the first County championship for the girls team in many years, but the 4<sup>th</sup> invitational championship for the girls team this year. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> invitational championship this year for the boys and the 5<sup>th</sup> County Championship in a row.

First Street Elementary and South Central Elementary have both been recognized with Title I National Distinguished Awards.

At the WPIAL Championships held on October 29<sup>th</sup>, three members of the boys cross country team qualified for the PIAA state meet: Travis Arrigoni, Nick Gibson, and Austin Dunn.

PSBA honored long-term school directors and their volunteer service to local communities at the recent PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference. Manuel Pihakis and Kathleen Smith were both recognized for 8 years of school board service.

### **Information**

1. Greg Taranto and Mark Abbondanza will be conducting a presentation for the Three Rivers Education Technology Conference on November 12<sup>th</sup> entitled, "Academic Social Networking: Purpose and Guidelines." The presenters will provide an overview of social networking in the academic setting and provide the audience with guidelines, a student contract and an administrative regulation for incorporating academic social networking.
2. Several CMSD administrators have been chosen to present "The Virtual Walkthrough" to the PASCD (Pennsylvania Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development) in Hershey on November 23. The administrators, both elementary and secondary, will present instructional and administrative ideas that

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we incorporate into our district dealing with online avenues that increase student achievement.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Romano adjourned the meeting at 8:37 P.M.

*Sharon L. Awbel*

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Board Secretary