

**CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 18, 2010**

The Canon-McMillan Regular School Board Meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by the President, Mr. Pihakis, at the Canon-McMillan Administration Building, 1 North Jefferson Avenue, Canonsburg, PA.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mr. Pihakis announced that the Board had met in executive session prior to the meeting for personnel and legal matters. Mr. Pihakis asked that if anyone was recording or filming the meeting, they give their name and address. There was no response.

**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. Jim McCune, Solicitor  
Ms. Sharon Avbel, Board Secretary  
Ms. Madison Palyas, Student Representative  
Ms. Mara Womer, Student Representative

**Agenda Approval**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Link to approve the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens Speak**

No citizens addressed the Board on agenda items.

**General Items for Consideration and Bills for Ratification and Approval**

Mr. Malwitz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman-Monaco that the Board approve the following minutes, treasurer's reports, wage tax reports, and bills for ratification and approval:

Regular Meeting of the Board, September 20, 2010  
Committee Meeting of the Board, September 27, 2010  
Committee Meeting of the Board, October 5, 2010

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WAGE TAX REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 2010	Current Collections	Year to Date	Budgeted 2010-11	% of Expected
Canonsburg Borough	\$24,484.20	\$24,484.20	\$360,000	6.8%
North Strabane Twp.	73,034.05	73,034.05	1,440,000	5.1%
Cecil Township	22,690.27	22,690.27	1,300,000	1.8%

Bills For Ratification:

FOR SEPTEMBER, 2010

General Fund \$3,643,291.46

Athletic Fund 8,080.00

Bills for Approval:

FOR OCTOBER, 2010

General Fund \$463,705.06

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

Mr. Zupancic spoke about the many issues and good educational materials discussed and distributed at the PSBA Conference in Hershey. He stated that PSBA had changed their governance structure. The highlight of the conference was the Governance Policy Council where PSBA adopts policy recommendations for the year. The only thing dropped from the platform was any decision to ban or regulate swaps. The vote to ban swaps failed. There were more than 30 student presentations at the Educational Excellence Fair. Mr. Zupancic's favorite was an apprentice style competition by Ephrata High School done as a fundraiser for charity. Mr. Pihakis added that there was a lot of discussion about school district construction and labor rates. PSBA supports the platform to lift the prevailing wage mandates for school construction.

### **Student Representative Reports**

The students introduced themselves and told the Board about their future endeavors. Approximately 900 students attended the Homecoming dance with the proceeds to help the senior class with the prom. All the fire departments participated in the Homecoming parade. The girls attended a Highmark Caring Luncheon at Heinz Field. Nick Catalano received a full scholarship to the University of North Carolina for wrestling. The child care pre-school program started on October 11<sup>th</sup> and the fall play will be "The Arabian Nights" which will be held on November 4 and 6. Caring Day will be on November 18 and everyone is asked to wear blue that day. Last week at the Mingo Classic the girls cross country team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and the boys placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Today at the Washington County meet and girls placed 1<sup>st</sup> and the boys placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

#### **Resignations**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Link that the Board accept the

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resignation of Irene DeJohn from her position as a 3.5 hour cafeteria worker at North Strabane Intermediate effective September 16, 2010.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Appointments**

Ms. Link made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman-Monaco that the Board approve the following appointments and other recommendations:

1. approve the following cafeteria workers:
  - a. change Alicia Long from a 2.25 hour cafeteria worker at First Street Elementary to a 2.5 hour cafeteria worker at North Strabane Intermediate effective September 27, 2010.
  - b. change Janie Senay Peyatt from a 2.25 hour cafeteria worker at Muse Elementary to a 3.25 hour cafeteria worker at the same school effective September 27, 2010.
  - c. change Dawn Mayberry from a 3 hour cafeteria worker at Borland Manor Elementary to a 3.5 hour cafeteria worker at North Strabane Intermediate effective October 11, 2010. Ms. Mayberry returned to her 3 hour position at Borland Manor on October 15, 2010.
  - d. hire Jennifer Felton as a 2.25 hour cafeteria worker at Muse Elementary effective October 11, 2010.
  - e. hire Margaret Clemons-Davis as a 2.25 hour cafeteria worker at First Street Elementary effective October 11, 2010.
  - f. change Jill Wales from a 3.25 hour cafeteria worker at First Street Elementary to a 3.5 cafeteria worker at North Strabane Intermediate effective October 21, 2010.
2. approve the following extra-curricular positions at the contracted rate contingent upon receipt and successful review of all required employment documentation:

James Kochanski	Head Boys Tennis Coach	\$3,342
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3. appoint Doug Kotar as a volunteer softball coach.
4. approve the Addendum to the Professional and Support Staff Substitute List, dated October, 2010.
5. approve the memorandum of understanding with the Canon-McMillan Education Association regarding an involuntary transfer.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Student Trips**

Ms. Link made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scarmazzi that the Board approve the following student trips:

1. the Thespian Troupe to attend the PA State Thespian Conference on December 2-4, 2010 at Connellsville Area High School. There will be no cost to the school district.
2. the Canonsburg Middle School Symphonic Band to perform at the P.M.E.A.

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state conference in Hershey on April 14-15, 2011.

As by practice, if the Secretary of Homeland Defense declares a Code Red, any previously approved trips are cancelled. The Superintendent has the authority to cancel trips regardless of Code Red status to preserve the welfare and safety of our students and staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Textbook Approvals**

Ms. Bowman-Monaco made a motion, seconded by Ms. Link that the Board approve the following textbooks:

Environmental Science by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, copyright 2008, for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade environmental science

Earth Science, Geology, the Environment, and the Universe by McGraw-Hill Companies, copyright 2008, for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade astronomy and geology.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Additional Fundraisers**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Link that the Board approve additional fundraisers for the elementary schools, the varsity cheerleaders, and the CM times.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **PlanCon**

Mr. Scarmazzi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kline to amend the motion to add that it be subject to the auditor providing an opinion letter with a current date or providing a letter of explanation stating why that could not be done.

The motion to amend carried unanimously.

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Link that the Board approve the revised PlanCon Part J, Project Accounting Based on Final Costs, for the Canon-McMillan High School and North Strabane Intermediate School projects subject to the auditor providing an opinion letter with a current date or providing a letter of explanation stating why that could not be done.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of PDE Form 3074**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman-Monaco that the Board approve PDE Form 3074c, Non-Reimbursable work not subject to advertising or bidding, related to emergency work performed on the Cecil Elementary chimney and all expenditures and payment related thereto.

Mr. Kline asked if it had been determined if staff costs could be included in the expenditures. He was told that it hadn't been determined as of yet, but the board would

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be informed of the decision. Mr. Pihakis added that the state had waived the need for the students at the school to make up the day. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Tax Appeal Settlements**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Carroll that the Board approve the proposed tax appeals settlement to not exceed a revenue loss of \$11,441.79 and to approve the revised tax appeal settlement of 4 properties previously voted on at the April 19, 2010 meeting in the amount of \$4,843.68. The amount was modified through a court appeal process to be \$5,357.11.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Swap Resolution**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman-Monaco that the Board approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

TO AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT (THE "DISTRICT") TO CONSIDER VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR A PLAN OF PUBLIC FINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISTRICT'S OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES B OF 2001 (THE "2001B BONDS") AND THE ISDA MASTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DATED AS OF JUNE 21, 2004 (THE "ISDA MASTER AGREEMENT").

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of School Directors (the "Board") of the District hereby authorizes the Superintendent and Business Manager of the District with assistance of its independent advisor, Public Financial Management, Inc. to review and tabulate proposals for a plan of public finance that includes the following options:

Option 1: The District will proceed with the ISDA Master Agreement and issue variable rate bonds to refund the 2001B Bonds;

Option 2: The District terminates the ISDA Master Agreement, issues fixed rate bonds to refund the 2001B Bonds and the termination payments of the ISDA Master Agreement; or

Option 3: The District enters into a combination of the two above options or any other relevant options.

The District's Bond Counsel, Reed Smith LLP, in consultation with the District Solicitor is directed to review all documents related to these options to advertise a

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special meeting of this Board to occur on November 1, 2010 for the purpose of deliberating, discussing and taking action upon the approval of the options set forth above.

Mr. Kline stated that he could not attend on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Mansmann explained the timelines and Mr. Kline agreed to phone in for the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Contracted Carriers**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Malwitz that the Board approve the following contracted carriers for the 2010-11 school year:

Matthews Bus Company to Children's Institute, Hillcrest Christian & St. Thomas More, Achieva Workshop, Washington Alternative, Chartiers Houston High/Middle School Vo Tech, South Central/Borland Manor, Hillcrest Christian, Wesley Spectrum, Our Lady of Grace & Jubilee Christian, St. Katherine Drexel, St. Thomas More, T.E.C., Three Hierarchs, Canon-McMillan Middle School, First Love, Mon Valley, Canon-McMillan High/South Central/ Borland Manor, St. Anthony, South Central, Canon-McMillan High/Middle School, Borland Manor, Seton LaSalle, Wesley Highland, Hills-Hendersonville, Hills/Cecil, Bishop Canevin, Laboratory, Pathfinder, W.P.S.D., Muse Elementary, North Strabane Intermediate School, Holy Family, Watson Educational Center, South Central, Homeless North Strabane Intermediate, South Central, Transformational Learning Center, Washington Park, Vo Tech, Borland Manor & Middle School, Watson Cyber School, South Central, Borland Manor/Cecil/Hills, Vo Tech \$8,135 per day

Mr. Kline mentioned that at the last transportation meeting there was a question about reviewing each individual run to decide if any could be handled internally. Ms. Mansmann stated that the director of transportation had planned to present that information at the next transportation committee meeting. Ms. Bowman-Monaco asked if these contracts could be changed or cancelled once they had been approved and Ms. Mansmann indicated that she felt that district had some latitude to do that since runs were constantly changing due to student needs. Mr. Kline stated that he would have liked to have this information before tonight's meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion carried with all present voting aye, with the exception of Mr. Kline and Ms. Bowman-Monaco who voted nay.

**Special Counsel**

Ms. Bowman-Monaco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kline that the Board hire Richard DiSalle as special counsel at the cost of \$200 per hour.

Mr. Zupancic stated he would have rather had a local attorney selected. On a roll call vote, the motion carried with all present voting aye, with the exception of Mr. Malwitz and Mr. Zupancic who voted nay.

**Donation**

Mr. Zupancic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kline that the Board accept a donation in the amount of \$550 from the Hall of Honor Recipients to offset expenses such as cost of banquet, plaques and associated supplies.

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Mr. Pihakis stated that the presentation was very successful on Friday night. The banquet will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the High School. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Recognition**

The Board recognized the following:

Board member Joe Zupancic has been appointed to the National School Boards Association's Federal Relations Network for a two-year term beginning in January 2011.

Congratulations to two former 4<sup>th</sup> grade students of Mrs. Betty Bellicini at Wylandville Elementary School: Catherine Jicomelli and Aaron Smith, who have been named winners in the 2010 Pennsylvania School Bus Safety Contest. Catherine has been selected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner for Division 4, and Aaron has been selected as the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner for our division. The principal, teacher, and students have been invited to attend an awards ceremony in Harrisburg on October 18<sup>th</sup> which includes a Capitol Rotunda tour.

Frederic Forrester and Melissa Harbert have been named National Merit Finalists for 2011. These students will continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships.

Six High School students have been named "Commended Students" in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program: Luke Burtch, Ashley Currey, Emily Falascino, Kaleen Hayes, Kamakshi Sharma and Cody Whited. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2011 competition by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Canon-McMillan School District has been awarded the 2010 California University of PA Technology Education Ambassador Award due to the district's progressive technology education program and commitment to the profession by encouraging our graduates to attend Cal U to pursue technology education degrees.

Jon McCrory is the 2010 recipient of the California University of PA Technology Education Lifetime Achievement Award based on his decades of dedication to the profession. The award will be presented at the Alumni Reception at this year's TEAP Conference.

25 students at Canon-McMillan School District have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams. Christine Gorman and Grant Strimel qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Five students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Christine Gorman, Renee Lani, Annie Preaux, Joshua Snyder, and Grant Strimel.

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Seven students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Nicholas Anderegg, Frederic Forrester, Samit Ghelani, Kaleen Hayes, Daniel Kramer, Alexis Pozonsky, and Nathan Vargo. The following 13 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher: Trevor Allen, Cynthia Bober, Melinda Buker, Luke Burtch, Addison Galambos, Melissa Harbert, Henry Itani, Brian Mezerski, Jonathan Naser, Carol Newark, Justin Rosenthal, Matthew Rozak, and Nicholas Schnur.

Jim Gillespie is to be recognized for his unselfish assistance during the emergency at Cecil Elementary regarding the damage to the 40 foot chimney that was struck by lightning. Because of Mr. Gillespie's knowledge, professional relationships and willingness to devote time to our children's safety, our situation was facilitated and remedied faster than would have been possible otherwise. Our sincerest thanks to him especially on behalf of our students!

Canonsburg Middle School was selected as this month's *Teams in Action* school for *Middle Ground* magazine. Mrs. Wright (7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts teacher) and Mr. Kuharcik (former 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts teacher) should be recognized for co-writing and contributing a piece of literature that will benefit their teaching peers.

Canonsburg Middle school has been selected to be visited by the Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch State Team. The team reviewed thirteen applications and will visit those schools which best reflected the vision and criteria to be on the road toward becoming an exemplary middle school. Schools are selected that others will identify with and be willing to learn from and use as a basis for initiating reform at their own school.

**Information**

The following students will be the Board representatives for 2010-11: Madison Palyas, Brianna Sharkady, Addison Galambos, and Mara Womer.

**Citizens Speak**

The following citizens addressed the Board:

Adam Palyas	Taylor Drive, Canonsburg	Bullying article
David Bober	1031 Fifth Street, Canonsburg	Cecil annexed property
Nick Cianelli	301 Spruce Street, Canonsburg	Hiring of teacher and citizens speak policy
Bill Angotti	Canonsburg	High School principal and state of facilities

**Other**

1. Ms. Grossman mentioned that Mr. Rush had asked that she attend the PMEA events in Hershey and she had agreed. She also stated that the middle school is to be visited by the Schools to Watch state team and she will be involved in this also.
2. Fred Lombardo asked if the swap meeting would be a public meeting and he was told that it would be. He also asked if standards could be put in place for the independent advisers to be used. When asked why the special counsel was hired, he was told it was for personnel.

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**Adjournment**

Mr. Pihakis adjourned the meeting at 7:51 P.M.

*Sharon L. Abel*

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Board Secretary