

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Planning Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2008
Board Room – Trinity Hall
6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Dennis McWreath at 6:30 p.m.

Board members present: Thomas Bodnovich, Gerald Chambers, Henry Clemens, John Keisling, James Knapp, Dennis McWreath, Jeffrey Miller and Samuel Puglisi.

Absent: Jenifer Fetcko

Others present: Thomas Turnbaugh, Superintendent; Yvonne Weaver, Assistant Superintendent; James Shargots, Director of Fiscal Services/Board Secretary; Michael Brungo, solicitor; and Judy Walz, recording secretary.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Bodnovich asked that a discussion on the Sunshine Law be added under Old Business and a discussion on the budget be added under New Business. Mr. Keisling asked that the hiring policy, ability grouping and adding a gym class to the elementary schedule be discussed under New Business. Mr. McWreath asked that the recognition of students who participated in the Consortium programs and Mr. Dalton's athletic report be moved up on the agenda.

1. Motion by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Clemens to approve the agenda.
Motion carried; 1 opposed (Chambers).

Public Comment

Mr. Tom Lonich, South Strabane Township, spoke in support of adding Boys Lacrosse as a school sponsored sport. Dr. Turnbaugh indicated that the decision was still in the informational stage and that a decision would be made at a later date.

Pledge of Allegiance

Communications

Mr. Shargots reported that Dr. Turnbaugh had been in contact with Senator Stout's office concerning Gaming Revenues. It is estimated that the revenues will be collected by April and will result in a refund of approximately \$170 per household in the Trinity Area School District.

Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Bill Lists, Cafeteria Report, Extracurricular Account, High School Activities Account, Middle School Activities Account and Officials Account - ENCLOSURES 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 4F, 4G and 4H

Recognitions

High School teacher, Mary Ann Berty, introduced students who participated in the Consortium for Public Education programs, The Main Street Project and the No Child Left Behind hearings in Harrisburg. Students recognized included: Chrissy Costello, Travis Stolfer, Spencer Kilpatrick, Ian Killen, Matt Hancher, Kellyn Black, Hilary Patterson, Taylor Beros, Vanessa Rendine, Ashley Miller, Luren Dindak, Brittany Avolio, Ashley Aquilino, Curran McDowell and Hollan Puskarich.

Administrators/Supervisors' Reports

- A. Cost of Boys Lacrosse and Volleyball – ENCLOSURE 10A
- B. Fall Sport Report – ENCLOSURE 10B

Dr. Turnbaugh complimented the lacrosse team on their professionalism while listening to the comments of the board. He indicated that some concerns regarding the adding of lacrosse were field usage and declining student enrollment. All of these factors need to be considered before a decision is made.

Superintendent's Report

- A. Thomas F. Durkin, Valentour, English, Bodnar and Howell Architects reported on the status of Capital Improvement Projects and long term school building renovation planning-ENCLOSURE 7F. Mr. Durkin was asked to provide a timeline for completion of the projects at the March meeting.
- B. Dr. Turnbaugh reported that the administration had begun to assess the data regarding the students who attended full day kindergarten at Trinity South this year - ENCLOSURE 7A. He indicated that the preliminary data indicates that full day kindergarten has been beneficial to South students. Further data will be presented at next month's meeting. Mr. McWreath questioned how the full day program differs from the half- day program. Mr. Chambers asked for the full-day schedule from Trinity South. Mr. Keisling questioned the negative impact on the children who attended the full day session and asked that research regarding half-day versus full-day sessions be presented at the next meeting.
- C. Dr. Turnbaugh requested that any board member interested in attending the IU Convention on March 25 should contact his office. He also stated that Mr. Chambers had expressed an interest in serving on the IU 1 board and indicated that if anyone else was interested to let him know. -ENCLOSURE 7B
- D. Second Reading of new Policy 146 – Student Services– ENCLOSURE 6A
- E. The Forum for Western Pennsylvania School Superintendents. – ENCLOSURE 7C
- F. Regarding televising board meetings, Dr. Turnbaugh reported that none of the four townships have an agreement with Comcast, therefore the district would have to pay leased rates for airing the meetings. Mr. Shargots was asked to contact the supervisors of the townships concerning this matter.
- G. Dr. Turnbaugh discussed the resolution in opposition to High School Graduation Testing Requirements recently announced by the State Board of Education. Mr. Knapp spoke in support of passing the resolution opposing such testing.–ENCLOSURE 7D
- H. First reading of the following revised policies:
 - Policy 121 -Field Trips
 - Policy 122- Extracurricular Activities
 - Policy 123 – Interscholastic AthleticsENCLOSURE 7E

Assistant Superintendent's Report

- A. Curriculum Cycle Review-ENCLOSURE 8A
- B. High School Enrollment Report – ENCLOSURE 8B
- C. High School course offering changes 2008-09-ENCLOSURE 8C
- D. Story Stroll, a literature program for elementary students was presented by Mollie Deegan, fifth grade teacher, Trinity East; and Kelly Shaw, fourth grade teacher, Trinity East. Mrs. Deegan and Ms Shaw indicated that they would like to present this program for all of the elementary students in the District.

Business Manager's Report

- A. The Annual Audit report for the 2006-07 school year was presented by Mr. John Zivkovic of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP.
- B. Bids for the high school boiler.
- C. Intermediate Unit 1 Lease Agreement – 2007-08 –ENCLOSURE 9A
- D. Intermediate Unit 1 General Fund Budget -ENCLOSURE 9G
- E. PDE 3074(A) for the following:
 - Trinity West ballfield
 - Trinity High School renovations
 - Trinity Hall renovations
 - Electrical panel at Laboratory
- F. ComDoc Company will do a complete analysis of the district's copying costs. It was noted that the district has a contract with Ikon Corporation until November of 2009.
- G. LJS Development Corporation Tower proposal will be presented at the February 21, 2008 meeting. Mr. Knapp noted that USC was involved in a lawsuit after placing a tower on school property. Mr. Keisling voiced concerns regarding possible harmful effects from the tower.-ENCLOSURE 5B
- H. Nova Care Contract –ENCLOSURE 9B
- I. Western Area Career and Technology Center Budget 2008-09 – ENCLOSURE 9C
- J. Transportation Agreement – ENCLOSURE 9E
- K. Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for Amwell Township –ENCLOSURE 9F

Solicitor's Report

None

President's Report

Old Business:

Mr. McWreath stated that copies of the Enrollment Boundary Analysis used when redistricting took place were in the board packet. – ENCLOSURE 12B

Mr. Bodnovich questioned why some items on the Executive Session agenda were not on the regular agenda citing the Sunshine law.

New Business

Mr. Knapp reported on the Western Area Career and Technical Center Resolution regarding oil and gas production rights which will need board approval at the next meeting. – ENCLOSURE 12A

Mr. Bodnovich asked that the time of the budget meeting on March 11 be changed from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to accommodate schedules.

Mr. Keisling questioned the hiring policy, specifically, how applicants for teaching positions were solicited and the ranking process.

Mr. Keisling left the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Mr. McWreath eliminated items concerning the education committee and additional gym classes at the elementary level which had been placed on the agenda by Mr. Keisling.

Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned to an Executive Session at 10:20 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation with no action to follow.

James R. Shargots, Secretary
Trinity Area Board of Directors

JS/jw