

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Special Meeting  
March 18, 2008  
Trinity South Elementary School  
6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis McWreath at 6:00 p.m. followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance.

Board members present: Thomas Bodnovich, Gerald Chambers, Henry Clemens, Jenifer Fetcko, John Keisling, Dennis McWreath and Samuel Puglisi.

Board members absent: James Knapp and Jeffrey Miller

Others present: Thomas Turnbaugh, Superintendent; Yvonne Weaver, Assistant Superintendent; James Shargots, Director of Fiscal Services/Board Secretary , and Judy Walz, recording secretary, Amwell Township Supervisors Larry Headley, Wayne Armstrong and Ed Barale. Also present were elementary principals David Rankin, Gloria Nalepka and Charles Braden.

Welcome and Comments – Dr. Turnbaugh welcomed all who were in attendance. He reported on how the meeting came to be scheduled and indicated that closing Trinity South Elementary had never been discussed at a public board meeting. He noted the problem with pyrite at the Trinity South site as well as the administrations' concern over declining enrollment in the district. He stressed that the meeting was informational only, that the information presented was as accurate as was available to date, and that public hearings must be held in order to close a building.

Scott Putnam, PBSJ Engineers reported on his firm's continuous monitoring of repairs at Trinity South. Tom Durkin, Valentour, English, Bodnar & Howell Architects discussed repairs completed at Trinity South as well as anticipated projects that would need to be done. Mr. Kuzman, Director of Facilities, reported on the status of the sewer line. He indicated that the district had a local firm inspect the line which showed that the line was in the same condition as it had been two years ago. He noted that there had been no problems with flow to date. - ENCLOSURE 1

Mr. Shargots, Business Manager, reported on construction costs to date and estimates for projected spending on repairs. He noted that \$1,920,467 had been spent to date and that \$1,957,812 was estimated to be spent in the future for a total of \$3,878,279. Dr. Turnbaugh noted that no repairs need to be completed for the 2008-09 school year.

Mrs. Weaver, Assistant Superintendent, presented a variety of educational grade assignment options in the event the Board should decide to close Trinity South. Those options include moving all fifth grades to the middle school, all eighth grades to the high school and combinations of utilizing the three elementary buildings for grades K – 4. Her report included the possibility of full day kindergarten, as well as half day sessions. She also included the option of leaving the grade assignments as they are with four elementary buildings servicing grades K-5, middle school 6-8 and high school 9-12. Mrs. Weaver indicated that her report only considered the capacity of the buildings and did not take into consideration transportation or other concerns. She noted the administration's concern for some of the educational opportunities and age appropriateness of some of the options. She also indicated that no recommendation has been made to the board as of this date.

Mr. Headley, Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Barale, Amwell Township Supervisors presented their projection for the future of Amwell Township. They noted that Amwell is the largest township in the district and felt that it would be the next community to develop in this area.

#### Board Comments and Questions –

- Mr. Bodnovich questioned the growth of the township due to lack of sewage and water.
- Mr. Keisling noted that no decision had been made regarding closing the elementary building. He indicated his belief that it is more important to concentrate on what goes on in the classroom rather than the construction of a new building.
- Mr. Clemens commented that he did not feel any decision would be made right away and that all options would be considered before a decision was made.
- Mr. Chambers indicated that he would not support closing Trinity South
- Mr. McWreath noted that his children and grandchildren attended the Amwell Township schools and he was not sure what his vote would be.
- Mrs. Fetcko pointed out that all of the information is very preliminary and thanked all of the residents for their comments. She said all options must be reviewed in the future.

#### Public Comments and Questions

Residents commenting were:

- Christy Polanna, Amwell Township
- Mike Williamson, Canton Township
- Janet White, Amwell Township
- Colleen Benard, Canton Township
- Carol Miller, North Franklin Township
- Debbie McWreath, Amwell Township
- Erin Dinch, North Franklin Township
- Kevin Emerick, Amwell Township
- David Blendik, Dividing Ridge Road
- Stacey Rush, South Strabane Township
- Adam Taylor, Amwell Township
- Brian Bowser, Amwell Township
- Linda Sienkel, Canton Township
- Karen Cox, South Strabane Township
- Miles Glotfelty, Amwell Township
- Tamara Salvatori, South Strabane Township
- Barbara Barnhart, Amwell Township
- Bea Beabout, Amwell Township
- Bob McGowan, North Franklin Township
- Lynn King, North Franklin Township

Adjournment – Dr. Turnbaugh encouraged all residents to attend the board meetings which would deal with Trinity South. Mr. McWreath thanked all in attendance and indicated that board agendas would be posted on the district website the morning of the meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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James R. Shargots, Secretary  
Trinity Area Board of Directors

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