

**NORTH HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
WORK SESSION/LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014
NORTH HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL LGI ROOM
nhsd.net**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Arlene Bender, Thomas Kelly, Joseph Muha, Annette Giovengo Nolish, Louis Nudi, Kathy Reid, Edward Wielgus and Michael Yeomans.

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jeff Meyer

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Patrick Mannarino, Dr. Marilyn Cain, Dr. Jeff Taylor, Dr. Johannah Vanatta, David Hall, Valerie Mengine, Amanda Hartle and Kris Kaufmann.

PERSONS SIGNING THE REGISTER

Barbara Averell, 442 Bascom Avenue, Ross Township, PA
Helen (Dee) Spade, 104 Wanker Drive, Ross Township, PA
John Poremski, Jr., 217 Nina Road, Ross Township, PA
Doug Hunt, 16 Ocenas Avenue, Ross Township, PA
Tammy Hunter, 112 Drexel Lane, Ross Township, PA
Nicole Ferrance, 110 Wanker Drive, Ross Township, PA
Robin Mullin, 315 Jacks Run Road, Ross Township, PA
Patrick Mullin, 315 Jacks Run Road, Ross Township, PA
Jason Purring, 108 Upper Drive, Ross Township, PA
Heather & Matthew Immekus, 130 Hetherton Drive, Ross Township, PA
Jerry Fabiszewski, 444 Bascom Avenue, Ross Township, PA
Jerry O'Brien, 101 Sally Ann Drive, Ross Township, PA
Fred Anderson, 93 Crestvale Road, Ross Township, PA
Ralph & Christine Blakeley, 420 Bascom Avenue, Ross Township, PA

CALL TO ORDER

The Work Session was called to order by Mr. Wielgus at 7:02 p.m. There was a moment of silence and a salute to the flag. Mr. Wielgus announced that an Executive Session had taken place this evening from 5:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues. In attendance this evening were Board members Arlene Bender, Thomas Kelly, Joseph Muha, Annette Giovengo Nolish, Louis Nudi, Kathy Reid, Edward Wielgus and Michael Yeomans as well as Dr. Patrick Mannarino, Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Dr. Johannah Vanatta, Valerie Mengine, and Lori Rieger.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Wielgus congratulated Mr. Pat Bauer, Sr. on his retirement as the President of the West View/Ross Athletic Association after many years of tireless dedication to the association, and on behalf of the Board, thanked Pat for his many years of service to the community.

Mrs. Reid congratulated 2012 graduate, Chris Jamison for moving on to the live round of NBC's "The Voice". She also congratulated senior student representative, Jake Bruder for a very successful football season and for being named WPXI Player of the Week. Finally Mrs. Reid mentioned that during her trip to the PSBA Conference in Hershey, she encountered a vendor who was promoting an amazing Math Program. When she told the vendor that she was from North Hills School District, he informed her that

his program was already in our schools; it was purchased by our PTAs and donated for use in our schools. Mrs. Reid wished to thank the PTAs for supporting our students.

Dr. Nolish congratulated the North Hills bands for their successful season and applauded them for the great performance at the Annual Stadium Review, which was held at the North Hills Middle School on Wednesday, November 5, 2014.

Mrs. Bender thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the PSBA School Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA which was held in October. She stated it was a wonderful learning opportunity as well as a way to collaborate with fellow Board members from across the state. She also congratulated the North Hills Rock Orchestra for their amazing performance at the PSBA Conference Student Showcase. Our students' performance and behavior made her proud.

Mr. Kelly gave a "shout out" to the North Hills Symphonic Choir for their performance with the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland. The song selections were particularly difficult and beautiful and Mr. Kelly congratulated the students and their director, Mr. Shawn Cloonan.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Jon Thomas, of Thomas & Williamson addressed the Board to update them on the progress of the Middle School air conditioning and flooring project. He also discussed the Change Orders that were on the agenda for Board approval.

AGENDA ITEMS:

SUPPORT SERVICES

1. **Change Order Approval** – Change orders for the Middle School HVAC project. These change orders have been reviewed by and recommended by the District's Construction Managers, Thomas & Williamson Project Management.
2. **Contract – The Design Alliance Architects** – A request for the Board to award a contract to The Design Alliance to prepare a conceptual design for the high school library.

A motion was made by Mr. Nudi and seconded by Dr. Nolish to add Support Services Items 1 and 2 to the Legislative Meeting Agenda for approval.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

1. **Presentation:** Dr. Kevin Deitrick, Director of Athletics & Activities provided a review of the Fall Sports Season to the Board.
2. **Varsity Baseball Spring Training Trip to Myrtle Beach, SC – March 18-23, 2015** – A request for the Board to approve the North Hills Baseball spring training trip to Myrtle Beach, SC in March 2015.
3. **North Hills Softball Spring Training Trip to Orlando, Florida – March 11-15, 2015** – A request for the Board to approve the North Hills Softball spring training trip to Orlando, Florida in March 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reid and seconded by Mr. Yeomans to include Athletics & Activities Items 2 and 3 on the Legislative Meeting Agenda for approval.

EDUCATION

1. Presentation: Superintendent Dr. Patrick Mannarino provided the District's School Performance Profile Data that just came live by the PA Department of Education earlier in the day. Dr. Mannarino stated that he couldn't be prouder of the principals, teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication for our students' achievement and growth. He stated that since the state had just released the scores that afternoon, he was just providing a snapshot of the results. Dr. Taylor will provide the Board with a complete update of the results at the December 2nd Board Meeting.

Due to Dr. Vanatta's laryngitis, Dr. Mannarino provided an update to the Board regarding Middle School STEAM: Re-envisioning Middle School Electives. Currently Middle School electives are Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology Education and Art. This re-envisioning is a pulling together of the current offerings into an engineering based program which is the height of our Technology Education program at the high school. This is a very important component of the Pillars in Education along with the transformation of our high school and middle school libraries and the 1:1 Initiative.

2. **Capstone Interactive E-book Grant Award** – This is a request for the Board to approve the \$1,000 matching fund grant award to Elizabeth Spicer for Capstone Interactive E-books.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bender and seconded by Mrs. Reid to include Education Item 2 on the Legislative Meeting Agenda for approval.

TECHNOLOGY

None

A. W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER

None

PERSONNEL

****ACTION ITEMS**

RESIGNATIONS

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mr. Muha and unanimously passed to **approve Resignations**, as per document 1, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Susan Donaldson – resignation as a secretary in the middle school effective November 5, 2014.

Victoria Hernandez – resignation as a safety patrol sponsor at McIntyre Elementary school effective October 6, 2014

Valerie Perelman – resignation as a substitute teacher effective October 16, 2014

Stephanie Assisi – resignation as a substitute paraprofessional effective October 22, 2014

Resignations of the following lunchroom playground aides effective August 26, 2014:

Lisa Binder
Georgine Guerriero
Rosina Kreider
Brenda MacFarland

Linda McCann
Darlene Newman
Marisha Riddle
Lisa Scholze
Shelley Schutzman
Leslie Straub
Nicole White
Jill Zwick

APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish, seconded by Mr. Muha and unanimously passed to **approve Appointments**, as per document 2, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Karen Grumski – long-term substitute biology teacher at the high school at the pro-rated annual salary of \$31,000, effective October 28, 2014 through the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Megan Witherell – long-term substitute grade 6 teacher at Ross Elementary at the pro-rated annual salary of \$30,000, effective November 5, 2014 through approximately February 9, 2015.

Sean White – boys' basketball varsity assistant coach at the salary of \$4,089 effective November 17, 2014.

Michael Miller – Community Swim Program swim instructor at the rate of \$7.25/hour effective with the 2014-15 school year.

Katelyn Weihrauch – computer technician at West View Elementary at the rate of \$11.85/hour effective October 31, 2014.

Cynthia Moore – custodian at the middle school at the rate of \$12.64/hour effective November 5, 2014.

Kimberly Fitzgerald – custodian at the high school at the rate of \$12.64/hour effective November 10, 2014.

Karen Furguele – child care worker at Ross Elementary at the rate of \$13.95/hour effective November 5, 2014.

Ryan Graziani – homebound instructor at the rate of \$36/hour effective for the 2014-15 school year.

Mark Timko – homebound instructor at the rate of \$36/hour effective for the 2014-15 school year.

Joseph LoCastro – long-term substitute paraprofessional at the high school at the rate of \$10/hour effective October 7, 2014.

Jessica Burke – long-term substitute teaching assistant at the middle school at the rate of \$95/day effective October 28, 2014 through the end of the 2014-15 school year.

The following substitutes were appointed:

Joseph Snyder	Substitute Custodian	effective October 14, 2014
Susan Neugebauer	Substitute Food Service Worker	effective October 16, 2014
Ericka Yoder	Emergency Certified Sub. Teacher	effective October 17, 2014
Kaila O'Malley	Substitute Teacher	effective October 20, 2014
Melanie Ward	Substitute Teacher	effective October 23, 2014
Deborah McFarlane	Emergency Certified Sub. Teacher	effective October 27, 2014

Kristine Guenther	Substitute Clerk	effective October 27, 2014
Diane Ponticel	Emergency Certified Sub. Teacher	effective October 29, 2014
Morgan Hess	Substitute Teacher	effective November 3, 2014

Non-Action Items:

- 3. Changes of Status**
- 4. Job Description – Team Leader**

A motion was made by Dr. Nolish and seconded by Mrs. Bender to include Personnel Items 3 and 4 on the Legislative Meeting agenda for approval.

POLICY

None

COMMUNITY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

None

FINANCE

- 1. General Fund Bills**
- 2. Construction Fund Bills**
- 3. Budget Transfers**
- 4. Payroll for the Month of October 2014 in the amount of \$2,837,291.87**

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Bender to include Finance Items 1 through 4 on the Legislative Meeting Agenda for approval.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Dee Spade addressed the Board about her concerns regarding the potential sale of the Seville Elementary School building. She contends there will be a population growth of elementary aged children which would cause the district to build a new school building if Seville is sold. She believes the Board is not considering the impact this would have on the neighborhood's property values as well as the potential tax burden of building a new school.

Mr. John Poremski agreed with Mrs. Spade.
Mr. Doug Hunt agreed with Mrs. Spade.

Ms. Tammy Hunter is concerned who the district is selling the building to and what type of neighbors they might be.

Ms. Nicole Ferrence stated that Pressley Ridge has a location 2.8 miles from the Seville building and she stated that Pressley Ridge is a non-exempt organization and they don't pay taxes. She is not opposed to selling the building to someone who would pay taxes.

Mr. Pat Mullin agreed with Mrs. Spade and the other residents near Seville that our current schools are already overcrowded and he believes we should keep Seville school and open it for our future use.

Mrs. Robin Mullin stated that the Seville neighbors never wanted to school to close in the first place and are still very irate about that. She believes the district will have growth in the number of children attending school and the district will need to either open Seville or build a new school. She believes that would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Jason Purring stated he believes there will be growth due to the new developments near the old Highland Country Club and other areas in Ross Township. He believes our district will grow like the Avonworth School District and will require another school building. He mentioned Dr. Mannarino stated in 2012 that Seville was a safety net. He also mentioned North Hills Board Policy #242 - Class Size, and stated that the district should not violate its policy. He asked the Board not to sell the Seville building.

Mrs. Heather Immekus stated that she and her husband wish to keep 2 children in her home as “foreign exchange” students. She requested transportation for these students from her home to their private school in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh and her request was denied by the district administration. She is appealing this decision to the Board. Dr. Mannarino asked Mrs. Immekus to contact the Board Secretary to provide all information of request so that it could be presented to the Board for a decision at the November 13, 2014 Legislative Meeting.

Mr. Jerry Fabiszewski agreed with the other residents about not selling Seville school. He also asked for disclosure about the numbers driving this decision including enrollment, taxes, where the district would find the land to build another school if needed.

Mr. Jerry O'Brien questioned if the district had done demographic studies as to how many students we forecast will be enrolled in future years. He also asked the total number of students that can be educated in a building the size of Seville. He wondered where the district would find land to build if necessary.

Mr. Fred Anderson urged the district not to burn any bridges since we do not know the enrollment numbers in future years. His own neighborhood is experiencing a turnaround where older residents are moving or dying and younger families are moving in. He urges the Board not to sell Seville. Either keep it empty or lease it.

Mr. Ralph Blakely agreed with the group and requested that the Board not sell Seville.

Mrs. Barbara Averell agreed with the other residents near Seville and requests that the district do not sell the building.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Bender, seconded by Mr. Muha and unanimously passed to adjourn the Work Session/Legislative Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Loretta J. Rieger
Board Secretary