

**BOARD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

The Bangor Area School Board met for a Board Work Session in the Slater Conference Room on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President, Joseph Boyle.

The Board Secretary, Stephen G. Wiencek, called the roll and recorded the following board members in attendance:

Michael Baird	Present	Michael Goffredo	Present
Robert Blake	Present	Kevin Pruett	Present
Steve Bussenger	Present	Albert Ronca	Present
Bruce Cameron	Arrived 7:55 p.m.	Joseph Boyle	Present
Pamela Colton	Present		

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Reinhart, Dr. Mulroy, Mr. DeFelice, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Vlasaty, Mr. Farnan, Mrs. Kocher, Mr. Hendershot, Mr. Borden, Mrs. Bustos, Mr. Lucrezi, Ms. Kropf, Mr. Gunnels, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Awigena and Mr. Wiencek represented the Administration.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Asher Schiavone was present.

SOLICITOR

Don Spry was absent.

BANGOR AREA EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Ms. Evans was present.

BANGOR AREA EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Harrington and Mr. Layton were present.

PUBLIC

No one was present.

PRESS

The Express-Times – Doug Brill was present.

The Morning Call – Tom Coomb was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ATHLETIC REPORT

Mr. Farnan reported the following items:

- Girls Basketball Team won the Colonial League Championship
- Boys Basketball Team will play in the District XI Tournament on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at Whitehall High School
- Girls Basketball Team will play in the District XI Tournament on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Pleasant Valley High School
- Spring sports physicals were held on February 17, 2009
- Spring sports will begin practice March 2, 2009
- Meet the spring sports coaches meeting will be held February 25, 2009

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Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Farnan why the Colonial League Championship game was held at Liberty High School.

Mr. Farnan stated there is no gymnasium in the Colonial League that is large enough to accommodate the fans for a girls and boys doubleheader championship.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION REPORT

Mr. Gunnels reported during the spring audit by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) the district received six citations for the inclusive practices under the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) portion of Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Mr. Gunnels reported as of February 6, 2009 the district has completed their goals for improvement and PDE has approved and signed off the citations.

Mr. Cameron arrived.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED MOTIONS:

1. Approve the following staff appointments:

1. Lindsay Cancelliere, Title I extended day teacher, at \$37 per hour, 1.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, effective immediately through April 30, 2009;
2. Deanna Strohl, Corrin Dylnicki, and Rachelle Rowlands, 21st Century Grant (Progress Success) student helpers, for a maximum of 3.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, \$7.65 per hour, effective until May 2, 2009.

2. Approve the Bangor Tennis Parent Booster Club as a sports booster group for the spring 2008-2009 school year.

Dr. Baird asked what ever happen to the idea of one large booster club.

Mr. Reinhart stated one large group was not accepted by the various members of booster groups.

3. Accept the following resignations:

1. Judy Csencsits, special education teacher, effective upon release by the Superintendent;
2. William Ponnett, head custodian, effective August 3, 2009, with intent to retire;
3. Nicholas Ambrosius, head middle school girls' soccer, effective immediately.

Mr. Blake asked when Mr. Reinhart would release Mrs. Csencsits.

Mr. Reinhart stated as soon as he can pending finding a replacement.

4. Approve the second public reading, final approval, for the following policies:

Operation and Use of School District
Motor Vehicles and Power Equipment
Data Breach Policy

5. Approve the attached lists of field trips and conferences.

Dr. Baird asked if the board ever received the itinerary for the Quebec trip.

Mr. Reinhart stated he will see that the board members receive the itinerary.

Mr. Blake asked if there are enough chaperones for the Quebec trip.

Mr. Reinhart stated the information is on the itinerary.

6. Approve the request for an extension of child-rearing leave for Patrick McHugh, beginning March 5, 2009 through the end of the 2008-2009 school year.
7. Approve the attached lists of district substitutes.
8. Approve the attached list of employees on FMLA status.
9. Approve the following extra-curricular appointments:
 1. Tim Oliver, assistant junior varsity baseball coach, at the contracted rate of \$2,480, effective for the spring 2009 season;
 2. Joanna Kovacs, assistant track and field coach, at the contracted rate of \$2,790, effective for the spring 2009 season;
 3. Nick Ambrosius, junior varsity girls' soccer coach, at the contracted rate of \$2,945, effective for the spring 2009 season.

10. Approve the following volunteer soccer coaches for the 2009 season:

Nikita Kline

Greg Beach

11. Approve payment of \$237.50 to Sharon Lowe for mentoring Nichol Serfass for the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year.
12. Appoint Kristina Martinez as mentor for Darlene DaSilva.
13. Authorize the submission of an application for non-reimbursable construction projects to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, PDE Form 3074(a) to rehabilitate the existing sanitary sewer lines in the Five Points Richmond Road school complex.

Mr. Goffredo asked if this could be delayed and done as part of larger project like the water system.

Mr. Wiencek stated that this project needs to move forward because of the agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection.

14. Approve the attached Section 356 Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue and Berkheimer Associates to provide Berkheimer Associates with a listing of the year 2007 state tax information.
15. Approve the Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 General Operating Budget for the 2009-2010 school year as per the attached document totaling \$2,912,140 with the Bangor Area School District's contribution estimated at \$18,744.11.
16. Adopt a preliminary school district budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010 in the amount of \$_____ utilizing \$_____ from the district fund balance and including the following tax levies (tax rates before sharing provisions go into effect): Real Estate - _____ mils; Earned Income Tax - 0.7%; Real Estate Transfer Tax - 0.5%; Occupational Privilege Tax - \$5.00 and Local Services Tax - \$5.00.

Mr. Boyle asked if any of the state funding has changed.

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Mr. Wiencek stated the proposed state budget suggests that the district will receive an additional \$350,000 but he is not certain on the details until after his meeting on February 25, 2009.

Mr. Cameron stated in the past the district has been able to keep the level of education without large tax increases. Mr. Cameron stated he hopes the district has better information in time for the tentative budget in May.

Mrs. Colton asked if the district gets the additional funds from the state, what tax increase would be necessary to balance the budget.

Mr. Wiencek stated the tax increase would need to be 1 mil or 2.1%.

Mr. Wiencek stated there is a good chance that an increase in the assessed values would generate an additional \$100,000 in real estate tax revenue.

Mr. Boyle asked where the budget would be with that additional tax revenue.

Mr. Wiencek stated the tax increase would need to be .8 mil or 1.7%.

Mr. Blake asked if the County Assessment Office is behind in the assessments.

Mr. Wiencek stated they are doing well with catching up right now.

Mr. Bussenger asked why there was such an increase in contracted services.

Mr. Wiencek stated the van contract was in different categories last year.

Mrs. Colton stated she is comfortable with the budget and is not comfortable with any cuts to the staff.

Mr. Goffredo asked if the district has the same restrictions on the PACT funding as it did last year and if some of the funding can be carried over until next year.

Mr. Wiencek stated the district must use all of the PACT funding by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Wiencek stated the district will still have the same restrictions on the funding.

Mrs. Colton asked if the district still has to account for the spending of the PACT funds.

Dr. Mulroy stated the district will still be accountable.

Mr. Goffredo stated this budget is a very aggressive budget in curtailing costs but he would like to see a budget without a tax increase.

Mr. Goffredo asked if the board would consider asking the unions to roll back portions of their raises for the 2009-2010 school year to avoid any staff reductions.

Mr. Reinhart stated the teachers are already the lowest paid in the area and he would not recommend asking the union since no other district in the area is asking their teachers to take cuts in salaries.

Mr. Reinhart stated the district can not continue to lose the amount of staff as it has in the past because the cost of staff development is too large.

Mr. Blake stated maybe we should give them the choice to make that decision.

Mrs. Colton stated she can not support the administrators forfeiting their raises and she can not support any of the cuts in Mr. Reinhart's proposal.

Mr. Pruettt asked if there were any retirement assumptions in the budget.

Mr. Wiencek stated the budget includes three less teaching positions that the district is hoping to eliminate through retirements or attrition. Mr. Wiencek stated there is also some savings in the budget that the district hopes to achieve via resignations by replacing higher paid staff members with employees closer to the bottom of the salary scale.

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Mr. Pruett asked if there is an increase in the medical insurance and if the district still has an excess in the insurance fund.

Mr. Wiencek stated there is an increase in the medical insurance. Mr. Weincek stated the district had several good years with the health insurance and have been able to accumulate a reserve, however the 2008-2009 school year has not been a good year for the health insurance.

Mr. Pruett asked if the \$600,000 increase in fund balance last year was anticipated.

Mr. Wiencek stated some of the increase was anticipated since the district included a portion of the tax increase last year to cover the new bond issue.

Mr. Cameron stated he is not ready to approve any cuts in positions or programs.

Mr. Blake stated if no cuts in personnel are done this year then cuts may need to make personnel cuts next year.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

An audio recording of this meeting is available for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen G. Wiencek
Board Secretary