

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
Minutes of the Planning Meeting
May 5, 2011
High School Auditorium

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President, Sandra Clutter, followed by the pledge of allegiance and roll call.

Board members present: Henry Clemens, Sandra Clutter, Scott Day, Ronald Harton, Colleen Interval John Keisling, James Knapp, Dennis McWreath and Tamara Salvatori

Absent: Yvonne Beverina Weaver, Assistant Superintendent

Others present: Paul T. Kasunich, Superintendent; James Shargots, Director of Fiscal Services/Board Secretary; Dennis Makel, Solicitor; and Judy Walz, recording secretary.

Mrs. Clutter read the following statement: “Because of State budget cuts, we directed our superintendent to propose cuts of \$2.7 million. Over the past few weeks he has worked to achieve this daunting task. None of these cuts are easy and for every one of them there is an argument to be made against it, but in reality cuts have to be made. Raising taxes and using our fund balance was not an option. We owe it to our taxpayers, especially our senior citizens, to stop overspending and work within our current tax base. For every position we are considering cutting, it is a savings of \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year with benefits. The pay to play is being considered by many school districts to offset the huge cost of sports. Our athletic budget has approximately a half million dollars a year. Although not a popular topic, it is an option to keep from eliminating them. Tonight we ask any of you that have better options than what we are considering that you put them in writing and send them to our superintendent.”

Approval of the Minutes – *May 19 meeting*

RECOGNITIONS

Students of the Month for April will be recognized at the May 19 meeting

Dr. Kasunich congratulated Connie Kisner and Nicklas Poole for being inducted into the National Technical Honor Society for outstanding achievement while attending Western Area Career and Technical Center. He also recognized the Trinity Hockey Freshman Team as the PIHL Tier IV Freshman Champions: Camden Allison, Joseph Blumer, Michael Hilzendeger, Brandon Loos, Colton Scott and James Tucker, as well as their coaches Jon Sattler, Adam Sattler, Assistant Coach Terry Allison and Student Coach Andrew Piatt.

Mr. McWreath noted that Spencer Secreti and Casey Knapp were the recipients of \$1000 scholarships from the Washington Hospital.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Beatrice Bebout, Amwell Township, discussed budget cuts, particularly her support of full day kindergarten and maintaining clerical aide positions.

Martin Valentic, North Franklin Township, remarked on the duties of the Athletic Director, in particular his attendance at the Tri State Coaches Association meetings.

Mike Williamson, South Strabane Township, discussed his concern over the proposed redistricting of elementary students, noting that the move would not accomplish the goal of reduced class sizes as well his suggestion to provide an open forum for citizens to express their concerns over proposed budget cuts.

Dwight Pees, Amwell Township, questioned the possibility of a freeze on employees' wages.

Amanda Shrader, Canton Township, discussed concerns over redistricting students from Trinity West to Trinity North.

Kerri McIlvaine, South Strabane Township, discussed the possible elimination of the position of Transportation Director, recent personnel issues in the district as well as legal fees.

Sherri Rohrbacher, South Strabane Township, spoke in support of maintaining the Food Service Director position rather than contracting with a food service company.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Scott Day, Chairperson

4.1 Approval is recommended for the Treasurer's Report for March 2011

1. Motion by Mr. McWreath, seconded by Mrs. Salvatori to approve payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$735,881.84 (Item 4.2)

On a roll call vote, motion carried: 8 ayes (Clemens, Clutter, Day, Harton, Interval, Keisling, Knapp, Salvatori); 1 nay (McWreath)

2. Motion by Mr. Keisling, seconded by Mr. Clemens to approve payment of cafeteria bills as submitted (Item 4.3)

Motion carried unanimously.

4.4 Approval is recommended for the Middle School Activities Account, High School Activities Accounts, Extra Curricular Account Reports be accepted as submitted

4.5 Approval is recommended to accept the Intermediate Unit 1 bids at the voting meeting.

4.6 Approval will be recommended to award life insurance coverage for the 2011-2012 school year to Gleason Financial.

4.7 Approval will be recommended for banking institutions for the 2011-2012 school year.

3. Motion by Mr. Day seconded by Mrs. Salvatori to add the Preliminary Fund Budget for 2011-12 to the agenda for approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion by Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. McWreath to approve the Preliminary Fund Budget for 2011-2012 which sets appropriations and obligations at \$44,416,498 and requires the following tax levies: (Item 4.8)

Real Estate Taxes	103 mills
Per Capita Taxes	\$5.00
Act 511 Taxes:	
Earned Income Tax	.5% or ½ %
Per Capital Tax	\$5.00
Real Estate Transfer Tax	.5% or ½ %
Local Service Tax	\$5.00
Mercantile Tax – Retail	1.5 mill
Mercantile Tax – Wholesale	1 mill

On a roll call vote, motion carried: 6 ayes (Clutter, Day, Harton, Interval, McWreath, Salvatori); 3 nays (Keisling, Knapp, Clemens)

Mr. Keisling discussed the impact of full day kindergarten on the budget and expressed his opinion that the board should consider voting on reinstating a half-day program. He also expressed concern that there had not been more public discussion regarding budget cuts.

Dr. Kasunich reported that a letter was received from the Secretary of Education commending the board of directors and administrative staff of the school district for accomplishments shown by the audit of operations for fiscal years ending June 30, 2006 and 2005 by the Department of the Auditor General. (Item 4.9)

4.10 Approval will be recommended for agreement with School World for webhosting.

4.11 Approval will be recommended to rescind the insurance opt out incentive for Trinity Area School District employees.

PERSONNEL/ATHLETICS COMMITTEE – Scott Day, Chairperson

5.1 Approval will be recommended to name the Board Treasurer for the 2011-2012 school year.

5.2 Approval will be recommend for the request of employee D.O. to purchase service from PSERS

- 5.3 Approval will be recommended to accept the resignation for retirement purposes of the following teachers at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, contingent upon the District fulfilling the terms of the early Retirement Incentive: Joyce Lewis, Susan Bender, Dara Lemmon, Marcia Montgomery, Elaine Mahland, Mary Podany, Sandra Welsh and Marta Bugaile; and the resignation of cafeteria employee Bonnie Patress for retirement purposes, at the end of the 2010-2011 school year
- 5. Motion by Mr. Clemens, seconded by Mrs. Salvatori, to accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Ralph McVeigh, van driver, effective April 13, 2011. (Item 5.4)

Motion carried unanimously.

- 5.5 Approval will be recommended to approve Chelsey Smith as a substitute teacher.
- 5.6 Approval will be recommended to approve a medical leave for employee L.C.
- 5.7 Approval will be recommended to employ Pedro Angel Sanvicente as the Middle School Girls Head Soccer Coach effective the 2011-2012 season
- 5.8 Approval will be recommended to employ Shawn E. Gray as JV Assistant Softball Coach effective May 20, 2011
- 5.9 Approval will be recommended for the agreement with Five Star Sports Calendar
- 5.10 Approval will be recommended for the contract with Tri State Fitness

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Dennis McWreath, Chairperson

- 6.1 Approval will be recommended to adopt textbooks for the 2011-12 school year as submitted
- 6.2 Approval will be recommended to approve administering the CSI portion of the Terra Nova to second graders beginning the 2011-2012 school year.
- 6.3 Approval will be recommended to approve redistricting elementary students from Trinity West to Trinity North
- 6.4 Approval will be recommended to increase physical education classes in the elementary buildings
- 6.5 Approval will be recommended to increase graduation requirements to four credits in all core subjects, effective with the Class of 2013

TRANSPORTATION/BUILDING & GROUNDS – Henry Clemens, Chairperson

- 6. Motion by Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. McWreath to add the bid for asphalt repairs to the agenda. (Item 7.1)

On a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion by Mr. Clemens, seconded by Mr. Keisling to award the bid for asphalt repairs at the elementary buildings, middle and high schools to El Grande a total cost of \$199,000

On a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

- 7.2 Mr. Clemens reported on possible renovations/alterations being considered to the rifle range at the Middle School.

POLICY COMMITTEE – Colleen Interval, Chairperson

No Report

WESTERN AREA CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER – James Knapp, Representative

No report

NORTH FRANKLIN BUSINESS & RECREATION AUTHORITY – Scott Day and Colleen Interval, Representatives

No report

CITIZENS LIBRARY – Tina Hilk, Representative

No Report

PSBA LIAISON – Scott Day, Representative

No report

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Dr. Kasunich reported that the following committee meetings are scheduled:

- Finance – May 10 at 4 p.m.
- Policy - May 10 at 5 p.m.
- Education – May 11 at 10 a.m.
- Transportation, Building & Grounds - May 25 at 10 a.m.

He also noted that an executive session was held this evening at 5:00 p.m. for personnel purposes and that the next Board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. May 19 in the high school auditorium.

8. Motion by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Harton to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

James R. Shargots, Secretary
Trinity Area School District Board of Education