

**BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008**

Mrs. Loretta Leeson, president of the Board of School Directors, called the meeting of the Board Facilities Committee to order at 6:09 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2008, in the Dining Room of the Education Center. Present were School Board Members Judith Dexter, Charlene Koch, Loretta Leeson, Michele Cann, Irene Follweiler, and Eugene McKeon. Also present were Dr. Joseph Lewis, superintendent of schools; Scott T. Gilliland, director of facilities and operations; Arif Fazil and Mike Spadafora, district engineers (D'Huy Engineering, Inc.); Robert Gross, associate superintendent; Stanley Majewski, assistant to the superintendent for finance and administration; Thomas Washington, director of student services; Richard T. Agretto, director of special education; Jacqueline Santanasto, principal of Nitschmann Middle School; and representatives from the press.

The following items were discussed:

DISCUSSION ITEMS –

Mr. Fazil reviewed agenda item A, Summer Projects Bids, for discussion for the March 17, 2008, Regular Board Meeting. He referenced the summary of bids handout for the upcoming summer 2008 projects. He said these were all projects that were approved at the November 19, 2008, Regular Board Meeting. He briefly explained the bid results. For the security camera installation at Freedom High School, Comtec Systems Incorporated came in significantly lower than the other bids. Comtec's references were checked and there does not seem to be any reason not to consider their bid. Mr. Fazil also explained alternate 4 (add cost of new hybrid analog IP system) and noted that this is really the current system and it allows for future flexibility, however, the significant cost difference is the only reason not to accept the alternate.

Dr. Lewis added that this type of IP system was being installed at Liberty High School. Police departments prefer IP as the communication network can be interfaced immediately. He said it was a board decision as to what type of system to install.

Mrs. Leeson asked if there was any discussion from the board specific to the camera installation bids.

Mrs. Follweiler asked if the IP system were to be installed, would it cost less in the long run. Would the price of the IP system rise so much that it would cost more to upgrade down the road? Are we getting what we need with the analog system that will be installed?

Dr. Lewis said that they are researching devices that convert analog to IP. Currently, this item is not available, but it may be available in the future. He does not want any problems in the future if this item is not available and they [district] cannot get replacement parts for the analog system if it needs to be repaired.

Mr. Fazil added that the distance between buildings at Liberty High School forced them into choosing the IP system.

Dr. Lewis said that there are only so many dollars that can be spent right now and the cost difference between the analog and IP systems was too significant.

Mr. Fazil said fiber optic lines were more cost efficient at Liberty as the building infrastructure was being remodeled and they were able to be used to install the IP system. It would have cost more money to install the analog system as it would require different infrastructure needs.

Mrs. Cann asked if going with analog rather than the IP system would compromise the security at Freedom High School.

Mr. Fazil answered that we will lose some flexibility as far as being able to view clearer images on higher megapixel cameras when zoomed in, but it will meet the current needs. He then finished summarizing the rest of the summer project bids.

Mrs. Dexter asked why a HVAC upgrade was needed at Freedom High School.

Mr. Fazil explained that the data center creates excessive heat from all the servers located in this area. Typically, the best option would be to install a new raised access floor with the air flow system underneath the floor, but this was not feasible as all of the servers would need to be lifted. They cannot be lifted as there is not enough room. The HVAC system also cannot be installed under the floor because of existing asbestos flooring. This would be too time consuming as complete asbestos abatement of this room would be required. Currently, the data center was being cooled by Sanyo split units. He explained how the Liebert system works and how it would be installed. The bottom line was that the area must be air conditioned to avoid potential problems with the servers overheating and shutting down.

Mrs. Leeson asked how often the Liebert unit would need to be replaced.

Mr. Fazil said that the unit installed at the Education Center has never been replaced. The Liebert system's compressor comes with a five year warranty and the system should last at least twenty years. The system at the Education Center is at least 30 years old. He then explained agenda item A-4, [Emergency Power System – Freedom High School Data Center] and A-5 [Security Camera System Installation – Freedom High School]. The district received competitive bids with agenda item A-1 [Roof Repairs/Replacement – East Hills Middle School, Spring Garden Elementary School, and Transportation Building]. The East Hills Middle School roof bid came in slightly higher than expected due to the fact of the varying level differences of the roof and also that some drains and metal edging need to be fixed or replaced. The new roof will come with a twenty year warranty and it is possible to add an additional ten years by performing annual maintenance. The current roof is approximately eighteen years old; it is three years out of warranty. The district has been fixing it over the past three years, but that is no longer an option as the single-ply membrane has failed.

Mrs. Follweiler asked why the contingency recommended was reduced to five percent.

Mr. Fazil answered that he usually recommends a higher percentage until bids are received, but that amount should be sufficient unless there are extensive unforeseen conditions.

Mr. Majewski told the board to please note that all summer project bid items other than the roof repairs/replacements would be paid out of capital reserve funds. The roof projects will be paid out of 2005 and 2007 bond funds. He also noted that additional bond funds will be required to complete the Broughal project and the above noted summer projects. He said that all projects currently underway have been progressing quickly. The faster the projects progress, the less investment the bond funds return.

Dr. Lewis said it is important to know what the capital funds are in terms of balance. East Hills Middle School roof is in poor shape and can no longer be patched or fixed.

Mr. Majewski noted that if the roof is not fixed and water damages the gym floor and other areas of the building, the cost of replacing the gym floor would be insignificant compared to other problems that may arise such as mold. When mold damaged Freemansburg Elementary School, it cost the district approximately \$1.5 million to remediate.

Mrs. Leeson asked what the status was with the astroturf project payments.

Dr. Lewis said the district is paying down the debt.

Mr. Majewski said there was not much in the way of surplus. Once the loans are paid off, the district will save approximately \$17,000 per month.

Mr. McKeon asked what the three \$55 million loans were taken for.

Mr. Majewski said they were taken at three different times; once in January 2005, once in January 2007, and once in September 2007. They were taken for Liberty High School, Freedom High School, and Broughal Middle School. He added that Liberty and Freedom High School's budgets were on schedule.

Mr. Fazil agreed that Liberty and Freedom High Schools were on budget. Broughal Middle School required additional funds due to inflation, construction cost increases, and features such as the parking deck.

Mrs. Dexter asked if there were any other schools with major improvements needed.

Mr. Fazil said there are always the ongoing capital improvement projects. Freemansburg Elementary School's roof in the newer section was in need of being re-coated at the estimated cost of \$140,000, Asa Packer's roof re-coating at the estimated cost of \$220,000, and Farmersville Elementary School's roof re-coating at the estimated cost of \$310,000. All of these projects as well as numerous others are listed on the capital improvement project list.

Mrs. Dexter asked if there were any expenditures that could be put off for the time being.

Mr. Gilliland said that the alarm systems at Thomas Jefferson and William Penn Elementary Schools must be replaced. The fire inspector and fire department has said they need to be done. Because the systems are so out of date, there are no more parts available; they can no longer be repaired if broken. If the alarm systems are not replaced over the summer and are to fail during the school year, it could cause problems with having to repair when students are in the school.

Mrs. Dexter asked if there were any expenditures at Broughal that could be cut.

Mr. Fazil reminded the board that we are locked into the bid numbers. He asked Mrs. Dexter what type of features she was looking to cut.

Mrs. Dexter asked if the smart boards and extensive glass were necessary.

Dr. Lewis said that he is reviewing ways to fund the smart boards.

Mr. Fazil stated that only infrastructure for LCD screens is included in the project at this time, and because of where we are in the project, "you cannot take it back at the same value you bought it for."

Mrs. Dexter said that when the idea of a parking garage was raised for Broughal Middle School, she specifically asked if there was money available to fund it. Now we do not have the funds available that we thought we had?

Dr. Lewis said at the time the proposals were reviewed, there was ample funding. Money has run short due to costs that were not anticipated such as rising steel costs. Broughal Middle School simply costs more than past projects that we have done. Those [Freedom and Liberty High Schools and Northeast Middle School] were estimated and bid several years ago.

Mr. Fazil added nothing is being done differently from when the Northeast Middle School project was done. The price of construction materials such as concrete, steel, and copper have all risen from when the Northeast and Liberty project bids were awarded.

Dr. Lewis reviewed agenda item 1, Construction Updates. He thanked Mr. Gilliland and Mr. Fazil for the wonderful job in getting the Freedom High School windows replaced at no cost to the district. He noted this project has been completed. He presented a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed the progress of the Liberty High School and Broughal Middle School projects. Liberty's progress included masonry work, interior finishes, terrazzo flooring, the Klein Classroom Center, and installation of kitchen equipment and HVAC mechanical systems. Broughal's progress showed decking, steel erection, nearly completed backfilling, composite floor area A, classroom mechanical room completed, upper level parking deck, exterior block walls, and the installation of the LEED certified rain water collection tank. Dr. Lewis said that the water in this tank will be used for flushing toilets and will be a cost savings over time.

Mrs. Leeson said she was concerned as she noticed some of the temporary fencing placed around the Broughal site had fallen down. She felt this posed a safety issue because of the large equipment located on the site.

Mr. Fazil said he would have Steve Garner check into the fencing.

Mrs. Leeson then asked why we did not project the roof replacement at East Hills Middle School.

Mr. Fazil answered that the roof was under warranty up until about three years ago. Maintenance such as patching has been done on the roof to try to prolong its life, but the single-ply membrane has failed “miserably” since then. This roof has been on the capital improvement plan project list as a number seven priority for a number of years.

Mrs. Leeson asked why the projects were not discussed when Broughal costs were discussed.

Mr. Fazil said that all the projects were listed on the capital improvement plan and over \$40 million of projects need to be completed. He also said that if you have the funds to do all of the projects, they should be done. The roof at the Transportation Building can be put off for now, but then it will need to be done next year.

Mrs. Leeson said that the district has authorized about \$2 million in capital improvement projects every year.

Mr. McKeon added that there have been multiple contributors to debt such as the dramatic drop in tax receipts.

Mr. Fazil said that there was \$1.2 million for last year’s projects.

Mr. Gilliland explained agenda item B, Emergency Shelter Agreement. He said that this agreement was to encourage partnerships with various organizations as we use their facilities as well. There would also be more agreements to come in the future. He said that this agreement was between Bethlehem Area School District and Lehigh Valley Regional Charter School to use Liberty High School in the event of an emergency.

Mrs. Koch asked if the agreement included cleaning costs. Who would be responsible for the cleaning cost of the building if it were to entail above and beyond the “normal” cleaning and restoration? The district could end up with an enormous cleaning bill.

Dr. Lewis said that cleaning and restoration could be added to the Emergency Shelter Agreement. He directed Mr. Gilliland to prepare agreement language addressing cleaning and restoration costs and asked him to submit it to the district solicitor for review.

Dr. Lewis then gave a few brief remarks to introduce a presentation on possible options for a future Nitschmann Middle School.

Mr. Gilliland showed the board a PowerPoint presentation of the three current options for Nitschmann Middle School. The options included renovations and addition to the existing building, placing a new building on the existing site, or constructing a new building on the Hanover Elementary School site. He reviewed the pros and cons for each option. The first section of the presentation reviewed the existing building infrastructure needs. This included HVAC and boiler system replacement, electrical and emergency power system upgrades, paving, storm water piping, insulation, window replacement, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) modifications and asbestos abatement. He also explained that there is currently no card access in place and the camera security system is limited. No sprinkler system is in place. There are also multiple building deficiencies such as room layout, inadequate seating areas in the auditorium and cafeteria, and lack of band instrument storage areas as well as laptop storage and charging stations. The cafeteria needs more areas for food storage, community spaces are limited, and the health suite, science classrooms, and art rooms are also inadequate for the current needs of the school. Parking, as well as drop off and pick up points for buses and parents are problems as well. The recommendation is that this situation be addressed soon. Mr. Gilliland then explained the estimated costs for all three options.

Mrs. Follweiler asked if the differential of transportation costs could be estimated as she did not see it listed on any of the pros or cons of the three options.

Mr. Gilliland said it is estimated that an additional two buses may be needed. The cost would be minimal.

Dr. Lewis agreed that the cost for additional transportation would be minimal and it was difficult to put a "hard" number on it at this time.

Mrs. Koch said that it has always been past district policy not to sell property as it is hard to obtain within the district. She recommended not rushing into selling the property and/or building as the presentation suggested in option three, placing a new building on the Hanover site.

Mrs. Cann asked if it was permitted to build within such a close perimeter to Route 378.

Dr. Lewis said that there would be setbacks required by the city.

Mr. Fazil said there would be variances required for all options.

Mrs. Cann asked if they have considered using the land on the Asa Packer Elementary School site for the new Nitschmann Middle School.

Mr. Fazil answered that they have not, and it would need to be investigated.

Mrs. Leeson asked if James Buchanan Elementary School site was considered as well.

Mrs. Follweiler asked if there would be a regulation on the square footage of the new building. She noticed that with whatever option is decided upon, the total square footage for each building

will be roughly about the same. Why was this case? If you are designing a new building, should it not be larger than the existing one?

Mr. Fazil explained that they have applied the grossing factor to figure the needs for Nitschmann. This formula can be accurately done for any space that may be needed, including existing building spaces. Some of the existing building spaces at the current school are compromising the square footage as the existing building is not laid out optimally. The square footage for the new proposed building is not higher because proper layout and design would make a new building more efficient.

Mrs. Leeson asked how many students the new building could hold.

Mr. Fazil said about nine hundred, which is slightly higher than current student enrollment.

Mrs. Cann questioned how long Mr. Fazil anticipated the old Northeast Middle School will last.

Mr. Fazil answered that it is hard to put an exact timeline on the building as the repair and replacement list is quite extensive. Anything can change at any time, but many of the systems are approaching the end of their life. He stated to the board to keep in mind that there are various areas of the roof leaking.

Dr. Lewis recommended that the board members schedule a date to do a tour of the current Nitschmann Middle School building to see all of the problems there.

Mrs. Dexter agreed saying she thought it was a great idea to have a tour. She said the school looks like a “slum school” – the infrastructure is in terrible shape. On a recent trip there, she noticed various problems such as the lack of hot water and the leaking roof. She also noted there maybe mold present. The air conditioning does not work well; if any given day is over 73 degrees, the building becomes too hot. The unit also makes a lot of noise. She said, “I do not disagree with anything on the list, it all needs to be done.” Up to this point, Nitschmann has been a “quiet school” as they do not complain about the current state of the building. Doing nothing is not an option, a new facility is needed. What do we need to do?

Mr. Fazil said that Nitschmann Middle School is the same type of building as Liberty High School in terms of unforeseen problems.

Mrs. Dexter asked why demolition for the old Northeast Middle School was on the agenda if moving Nitschmann students to that campus during construction was being considered an option. She questioned whether renovation and additions to the existing building are a viable option. She further stated through conjecture that the administration appears to not favor this alternative.

Dr. Lewis said that she was correct in making that statement. Once the improvements as a percentage of renovation reach sixty percent or higher, the district is essentially “throwing money away.” Renovation and additions of the current middle school is the least favorable of all options.

Mr. Fazil stated the HVAC is the biggest problem at Nitschmann right now. It has a very unique infrastructure. New areas would need to be built. The “unknowns” of the building could end up being very costly. Termite and other problems in the sub floors could exist. He stated there is an additional five percent contingency on this option to handle unforeseen conditions.

Mrs. Santanasto said that Nitschmann has already had two additions added. This has created more movement of students across the building due to room location. Adding onto the existing building will not change the location of the highway, nor will it address the parking and drop off issue.

Mr. Fazil added that ADA modifications to the current building will still need to be addressed.

Mrs. Koch asked if a new building is built, is it true that the district would receive more reimbursement from the state than if the existing building were to be renovated?

Mr. Fazil explained that there would be a minimal advantage to building new as the district would receive additional money for reimbursement of site costs. If renovations and additions were to be done on the existing building, there is minimal reimbursement for site costs.

Mrs. Koch questioned this statement as she was under the understanding that this was the agreement at past board meetings. She said they were told they would receive more reimbursement if they were to build new buildings.

Mr. Majewski said it would not necessarily be a higher amount per say, but they had to consider the percentage to be reimbursed.

Mr. Fazil used various examples to explain full time equivalents (FTE's) to the board. He said it was a function of FTE's calculated and how each space would qualify. Some existing spaces may not qualify, but generally new spaces can be created to qualify for FTE, and therefore, reimbursement.

Dr. Lewis agreed by saying with a new building, all spaces would be compliant. If the existing building were to be renovated, not all spaces would be.

Mr. Fazil said he did not think that the budgets would be able to support gold or platinum LEED certified. Silver LEED status would be the least amount necessary to get reimbursement from the state and the budget would probably support this.

Mrs. Follweiler asked how this relates to the old Northeast Middle School building before it becomes an unsafe situation.

Dr. Lewis said again that renovation and moving students to this campus is not his recommendation. Maintaining the old Northeast building over the “dead period” until the project is approved and paperwork is in order would be costly. The roof needs replacement and the

projected estimated cost of replacement is \$2.2 million. He stated that this would be money the district would not get back. He did not favor this option.

Mrs. Follweiler suggested that additional discussion time of this topic was needed.

Mrs. Leeson asked the board if there were any other questions at this time.

Mrs. Koch questioned what will be done about the dire “financial straights” for the district to even be able to consider building a new middle school?

Dr. Lewis said this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Leeson said that she would like to further discuss the walking and bus options at the proposed building. She would also like to see further investigation into the James Buchanan and Asa Packer Elementary School sites.

Mrs. Follweiler agreed that she would like to see the other sites looked into as well. Also, what would the additional cost to the district be if the existing building could not be sold for a number of years? There may be safety issues. What additional costs can be projected?

Dr. Lewis said that there is one business that has expressed interest in approximately fifty percent of the Nitschmann parcel.

Mrs. Leeson inquired about Rosemont, Monocacy, and the Education Center as these buildings are on the capital improvement plan with a high number of improvements as a percentage of renovation. Would it be possible to move the Education Center and the students at the Rosemont building to the existing Nitschmann building? Would there be a savings by renovating only the Nitschmann building rather than both the Education Center and Rosemont?

Mr. Fazil said that he would research her question.

Mrs. Leeson said that financing needs to be discussed first before a new middle school could even be considered.

Mr. Fazil asked the board to keep in mind that the old Northeast Middle School needs to be demolished by April 2011 based on the current approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mr. Majewski and Mr. Les Bear (of Ferris Baker Watts) presented the types of financing available for the proposed Nitschmann Middle School project. The “dire portion” of the budget is being addressed now with the \$5.5 million proposed cuts. It is possible that in 2009–2010 budget year, there would be a millage increase. They also said that the debt from the Nitschmann project would be “phased in.” Improvement in the budget would start to be seen in the 2010–2011 budget year.

Mrs. Leeson said current projections show no increase in the fund balance. The district is looking at increasing taxes. We do not know what that increase will be yet.

Mr. Majewski said no one will know what will happen as it is four years away.

Mr. Bear said he was just asking the board to consider a fixed rate rather than a variable one. He suggested locking in a fixed rate. He also asked them to keep in mind that the information presented today will change and may not be the same in the future.

Mrs. Leeson presented agenda item D, Lease Agreement – St. Ursula’s Church/Holy Child School, to the board.

Mr. Majewski said that he asked the pastor of St. Ursula’s Church for an extension of intent to renew the lease from March 1, 2008, to May or the end of the lease term, and he agreed. The pastor also asked for an increase of monthly payments for lease fees.

Mr. Gross said that the district will need to maintain this lease with St. Ursula’s Church/Holy Child. Enrollment projections for the 2008–2009 school year indicate there will not be enough space in the Fountain Hill Elementary School to house the kindergarten children. Currently, there are two all day and four half day kindergarten classes running at Holy Child.

Mrs. Leeson asked if it were possible to move these children to the Monocacy building as there are four classrooms plus the downstairs available. This could possibly save some cost for the district.

Dr. Lewis indicated that the district is considering using the Monocacy building for the children currently located at the Career Academy Rosemont building. He also said that they are looking into a possible scheduling change for these students. The Monocacy building can handle the kindergarten children, but items of consideration include transportation and the amount of outside space available. Currently, the administration is able to walk to St. Ursula’s Church/Holy Child School. This will also need to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Majewski said approximately \$90,000 is being spent on utilities and \$72,000 on the current lease at St. Ursula’s Church/Holy Child. They also provide the custodian for this building. By not renewing this lease, approximate savings could range from \$110,000 to \$120,000 per year.

Mrs. Leeson polled to board to see if there was any further discussion. There was no other discussion.

Mr. Majewski presented agenda item 5, Board Policy 707 – Use of School Facilities. He explained the classes of lease applicants as defined in the policy and the request for waiver of lease fees. There will now be four classes instead of the current three. The only verbiage change in the new policy is within the classes, and the fee schedule has been restructured according to these classes.

Dr. Lewis said the policy is being changed and reviewed at his request. He contacted Easton Area School District with a request to view their lease policy and fee schedule. It should not be assumed that the district will pay for the extra costs associated with organizations leasing the facilities.

After reviewing the class changes in the policy, Mrs. Dexter asked if an individual, such as a board member or teacher wanted to use a facility such as the pool or tennis courts, would they be required to pay such a fee.

Mr. Majewski answered yes, they would.

Dr. Lewis asked if a wrestling coach wanted to use the gym when unoccupied, must he now lease.

Mr. Majewski said that it depends on how you view the situation. If he is using the gym for training to keep himself in shape or to practice new wrestling moves, then no, because it is job related.

Dr. Lewis said that clarification of who could use the building without a lease was needed as this could “open up a can of worms”.

Mrs. Leeson expressed concern for individuals using the facilities unmonitored. What happens if he or she is using the weight room and is to get pinned by a machine? What kind of liability issues does the district face?

Mr. Majewski suggested reviewing the policies, before action is taken. He noted that security and liability issues were always a concern.

Dr. Lewis indicated that he would like to have the district’s insurance reviewed.

Mrs. Leeson said that she would like to see a recommendation be approved on the current leasing situation. She asked if the policy could please be brought forward for review.

Mr. McKeon questioned if there was a security policy in force. He would like to see that policy also brought before the board for review.

Mrs. Dexter wanted to see the policies issued now rather than later to avoid potential problems.

Mrs. Koch said that she has been told of some teachers, specifically in elementary schools, being in the building until ten or eleven o’clock at night. Was this reasonable?

Dr. Lewis said that this reason alone is what makes the smart card security system so desirable. Without permission, these teachers or staff cannot be granted access. He then continued to say that the insurance liability issue would be resolved.

Mrs. Leeson polled the board to see who would like to see agenda item C, Authorization to Expend Bond Funds for the Design and Approval for the Demolition and Site Work of the Old Northeast Middle School delayed.

Mrs. Cann said that renovation of this building is not a viable option.

Mrs. Follweiler reminded the board that it was a \$150,000 commitment.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 17, 2008, REGULAR BOARD MEETING –

After discussion, the board committee agreed to bring the following agenda items to the March 17, 2008, Regular Board Meeting:

- A. Authorization to Expend 2005 and 2007 Bond Funds – Bids Opened February 26, 2008 – Roof Repairs/Replacement – East Hills Middle School, Spring Garden Elementary School, and Transportation Building
- B. Authorization to Expend Capital Reserve Funds – Bids Opened February 19, 2008 – Fire Alarm System Replacement – Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and William Penn Elementary School
- C. Authorization to Expend Capital Reserve Funds – Bids Opened February 19, 2008 – HVAC System Upgrade – Freedom High School Data Center
- D. Authorization to Expend Capital Reserve Funds – Bids Opened February 26, 2008 – Emergency Power System – Freedom High School Data Center
- E. Authorization to Expend Capital Reserve Funds – Bids Opened February 19, 2008 – Security Camera System Installation – Freedom High School
- F. Emergency Shelter Agreement
- G. Authorization to Expend Bond Funds for the Design and Approval for the Demolition and Site Work of the Old Northeast Middle School
- H. Lease Agreement – St. Ursula’s Church/Holy Ghost

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS –

The board extended the courtesy of the floor to hear all of the public input. The following people addressed the committee with comments:

Mary Pongracz, 321 West 4th Street, Bethlehem: Ms. Pongracz addressed the board and stated she was upset about Mr. Craig’s resignation. She said the people of the district should be able to

pick the next candidate; the board should not have “put someone [Sis-Obed Torres Cordero] in the ring” as a potential candidate. She asked the board to please follow protocol for this vacancy and any other future vacancies on the school board.

Mrs. Leeson said that she has spoken with Mr. Cordero and he indicated that he would like to follow protocol as well and “go through the system” the proper way. She would also like to see applications and hold interviews for other potential candidates.

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, Bethlehem: Mr. Antalics expressed concern about asbestos abatement. He stated that he believed contractors were using this service as a way to charge school districts an “extra expense” using tax payers’ money. He suggested taking samples from every building to see which buildings have “benign” asbestos and which have “malignant” asbestos. He said he has done extensive research and found that there are these two different types of asbestos. This type of sampling could potentially save the district millions of dollars on asbestos abatement by not removing types found as “benign.”

Dr. Lewis told Mr. Antalics that Mr. Gilliland oversees the district’s asbestos abatement projects. He said that he has never heard of “benign” asbestos, but is familiar with the term “encapsulated”. He also said that annual inspections are performed according to law.

Mr. Gilliland said that the district strictly adheres to the guideline of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1989 which requires 6 month surveillance and three year re-inspections. The three year inspections are more formal. Items such as floor tile, ceilings, and pipe insulation are thoroughly inspected. All of these inspections are logged and placed in the asbestos management plan books located at both the school and the maintenance building. These books are available to anyone who requests to review them. Mr. Gilliland also said that he is not familiar with the term “benign”, but with “friable” (airborne).

Mr. Antalics stated that he would like to see further investigation relative to “benign and malignant” asbestos.

OPEN FORUM –

Mrs. Leeson asked Mr. Majewski for a written job description of a board member. She then asked him to run the ad in the newspaper for the vacancy. She would like to review applications and have the advertisement run immediately.

The board then discussed dates and deadlines associated with the vacancy on the board to try to coordinate between existing board members when applications could be reviewed and interviews conducted.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Kristen M. Snyder, Secretary to the Director of Facilities and Operations

Scott T. Gilliland, Director of Facilities and Operations