

**BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009**

Mrs. Michele Cann, Facilities Chairperson of the Board of School Directors, called the meeting of the Board Facilities Committee to order at 10:50 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2009, in the Auditorium of Liberty High School. Present were School Board members Dr. Craig Haytmanek, Benjamin Tenaglia, Charlene Koch, Loretta Leeson, Rosario Amato, Michele Cann, Judith Dexter, and Eugene McKeon. Also present were Dr. Joseph A. Lewis, superintendent of schools; Scott T. Gilliland, director of facilities and operations; Arif Fazil, district engineer (D'Huy Engineering, Inc.); Thomas Washington, assistant superintendent for human resources; David Himmelberger, supervisor of transportation; Ann Behers, operations manager; and representatives from the press.

The following items were discussed:

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS –

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, Bethlehem: Mr. Antalics asked the board if the demolition of the old Broughal Middle School building was a “done deal”.

Dr. Lewis answered that the demolition was awarded as part of the contract bid.

Mr. Fazil said that the demolition permits were issued when the project was started and the demolition is included as part of the general permit. There may need to be some additional paperwork submitted such as utility disconnects, rodent control, and environmental remediation prior to start of the work.

DISCUSSION ITEMS –

Mr. Gilliland reviewed item 2.1, Broughal Middle School Signage. He stated that samples were brought to the meeting tonight so the board could see the size and materials the letters would be composed of.

Dr. Lewis stated that a memo went out to the board relative to the signage layout at Broughal. He wanted the board to see the samples and specifically the size of the letters and configuration that would be on the building. They are long lasting as they are made from metal.

Mrs. Koch recommended using a different color for the “ $E=mc^2$ ” on the sign. She said it may be difficult to see.

Dr. Lewis said the color will be reviewed with the architect and if necessary a revised layout will be shown to the board as soon as possible.

Mrs. Dexter asked what the status was of the Broughal Middle School dedication plaque.

Dr. Lewis answered that it was in draft mode and would be reviewed next month.

Dr. Lewis reviewed item 2.2, Request for Proposal (RFP) – Transportation. He said that the RFP was sent to the solicitor for legal review. The solicitor's suggestions are highlighted in blue; the recommendations made were minor changes and nothing too technical. Dr. Lewis then outlined some of the changes recommended. He stated that upon Mr. Majewski's return, the document would be finalized and sent out. The RFP was designed to protect the district.

Mrs. Cann asked if number five, supervision, was worded correctly in regard to the contractor providing a qualified supervisor and staff of employees. She felt that the language was confusing.

Mr. Himmelberger said that the contractor's supervisor and employees would not replace district employees. The contractor's supervisor would be more like a representative of the company that would deal directly with the district's staff.

Dr. Lewis said that by retaining district employees, we will maintain the right of the oversight of the bus routes. He also noted that the district's bus drivers shall be given the first opportunity at employment with the contractor; this was clearly stated in the RFP.

Mr. Tenaglia asked about the solicitor's comment of number 11, bus routes and bus stops. Letter F states that the contractor shall be flexible and accommodate additional service, changes, and/or removal of scheduled routes. He wanted to know if this language would be changed to what the solicitor recommended.

Dr. Lewis said that the language shall be built out based on the increase or decrease of mileage.

Mrs. Cann reviewed item three on the agenda, Board Policy 810 – Transportation – 2nd Reading. She asked Mr. Washington to explain the proposed changes.

Mr. Washington said that the language change proposed by Mrs. Leeson was noted in italics on the memo attached to the policy. The administration wanted to further discuss these changes. He also said that he still needed to survey two hundred families [that this policy would affect] about the proposed changes.

Mrs. Leeson said that by incorporating the italicized language, it would eliminate a need for a number of the detailed bullets.

Mr. Himmelberger stated that additional bus stops would be assessed as they were needed; the "already scheduled" stops would not necessarily be the only ones used.

Dr. Lewis stated that the district wants to be fair. If there is a stop that is needed and the bus driver's run goes by that area, a new stop can be placed on the run. A pattern would be developed to assist the bus drivers.

Mr. Tenaglia said that more discussion was needed on this item. He felt that either way, the language was subject to different interpretations. He also said that the italicized recommendations were general enough.

Dr. Lewis said that the language created too many “if then” statements.

Mr. McKeon said that more often than not, there is space available on the buses for extra stops and students. This may be interpreted differently by the transportation department and misunderstood by parents. If you use that statement and remove the others as you are recommending, the district’s bus transportation department will end up becoming a taxi service.

Dr. Lewis stated that the district’s administration would work out the language to simplify the plan. After a discussion, it was decided that more discussion was needed and this item would not appear on the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Gilliland reviewed agenda item F, Memorandum of Understanding – Fountain Hill Police. He told the board to note the date of October 24, 2007, on the Memorandum. Mr. Gilliland said that his office just received this item from the Fountain Hill Police Department.

After a vote, it was decided that this item would appear on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 16, 2009, REGULAR BOARD MEETING –

After discussion, the board committee agreed to bring the following agenda items to the March 16, 2009, Regular Board Meeting:

A. Memorandum of Understanding – Fountain Hill Police

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS –

No discussion.

OPEN FORUM –

Mr. Tenaglia said that upon reviewing a recent PSBA bulletin, he had concerns regarding criteria PSBA utilizes when determining endorsements for service providers.

Mrs. Koch stated that she did not know the answer to this question but suggested that Mr. Tenaglia contact Tom Gentzel for an answer.

Mrs. Leeson asked if the chandeliers were recently cleaned in the Liberty High School Auditorium.

Mr. Gilliland answered, yes they were. They were lowered down, cleaned, and the bulbs were replaced. He added that he hoped the board enjoyed their tour of Liberty High School today. He also thanked Mr. Hanna for his diligence on the Liberty High School project.

Mrs. Dexter, referring to the Broughal Middle School project, said that she does not remember choosing the façade for the project. She wanted to know who made the decision for this she has received many questions about it.

Mr. Gilliland said that he recalled Mr. Robert Furst of Architecture Furst bringing in samples and presenting them to the board for the project.

Dr. Lewis said that he did remember a discussion taking place on the oversized bricks that were proposed. Using the oversized bricks would cut down on the masonry costs.

Mrs. Dexter said that the last discussion she remembered was selecting the materials for the Liberty High School athletics area. It was possible that perhaps she missed that meeting as she could not remember seeing the samples.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:21 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

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

Scott T. Gilliland, Director of Facilities and Operations