

**BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009**

Members of the Board Finance Committee met on Monday, January 12, 2009, in the Dining Room of the Education Center, at 1516 Sycamore Street, Bethlehem, PA. Mr. McKeon, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m. The following school board members were present: Mrs. Michele Cann, Mrs. Judith Dexter, Mrs. Irene Follweiler, Dr. Craig Haytmanek (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), Mrs. Charlene Koch, Mrs. Loretta Leeson, and Mr. Benjamin Tenaglia. Also in attendance were Dr. Joseph A. Lewis, superintendent of schools; Mr. Stanley J. Majewski, Jr., assistant to the superintendent for finance and administration; Mr. Thomas Washington, assistant superintendent for human resources; Mrs. Anne Morton, assistant director of business affairs; members of the press and other interested citizens.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Gail Nolf, teacher at the Career Academy, expressed her concerns with eliminating the alternative education program. She noted there has not been one fight in their building this year, and she mentioned the progress students have made at the Career Academy.

Nancy Lawrence of 3561 Stephen Crane Lane, Bethlehem PA shared information in support of the Regional Academic Standards Academy (RASA). She explained how the program has helped students become successful. Students are receiving academics at their level. She indicated that if RASA is cut their fourth, fifth and sixth graders would have to return back to their home schools where they were not successful. Nancy asked the board to please continue to invest in their school.

Mrs. Leeson remarked that she didn't know if everyone knew that the administration will be making the recommendation for the cuts, and the board will then be reviewing the administrations recommendations. She indicated that she wanted everyone to understand that this was a little bit premature.

Dr. Lewis, in clarification, indicated that the administration would not be recommending the cessation of the Career Academy or RASA. We have a set of recommendations we will review on tonight's agenda with the board. We are going to wait until later in the presentation to tell you what Mr. Majewski, myself, and my cabinet are recommending to bring this budget to some sort of balance.

Joan Fogel of 3449 Mountainview Circle, Bethlehem PA and an employee of RASA expressed her concerns with eliminating the RASA program. She explained the success rate of their students and mentioned how a vast majority of their kids have passed on to middle schools and have passing grades of A's B's and C's. Joan believes quality education for needy students does not have a price tag, and she cannot believe that the decision to educate kids in small classes with the extra help be made just by finances. We need to be more creative and look at the budget much more closely.

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Lissette Rivera of 701 _ East Sixth Street, Bethlehem, PA parent of Shayra Gonzalez wanted to say thank you to RASA for helping her child move from a kindergarten reading level to a fourth grade level by the end of fourth grade. Lissette believes her daughter is very prepared to attend Broughal Middle School next year. She indicated RASA is really helping kids one child at a time.

Jean Yasso a teacher aide at the Career Academy read a letter directed to Dr. Lewis from one of their students Caroleen Rivera. Caroleen said in her letter how the academy was not just a school for them. This is where we can all get together and put an effort to learn something from these teachers that are like our heroes. She asked if the Career Academy shut down what would become of her future.

Yajaira Velazquez 240 Uncas Street, Bethlehem, PA parent of four children in the district spoke in support of keeping the Regional Academic Standards Academy. She mentioned the progress her two boys have made based on the PSSA and 4Sight tests in two years at RASA. Yajaira believes in the work being done at the Academy. She asked the board to not even think about closing this school.

Todd Donnelly 4727 Kathi Drive, Bethlehem, PA president of the Hurricanes Club, a feeder program to Liberty Basketball, pleaded with the board to not have parents pay for gym time. Instead he asked to add the cost to taxes. He also commented on the subject of "pay to play". Todd does not see the positive in doing this. He said "pay to play" may be detrimental for the people who may not be able to afford it and maybe one more excuse for them not to get involved. Athletics, especially for middle school students, is a huge self-esteem booster for the kids and he would hate for it to have hurdles for their participation. Mr. Donnelly summarized by asking the board if students pay to play then why should admission to the game be charged?

Dominique Donaldson of 799 Briarstone Road Bethlehem, PA and ninth grader at Liberty High School, spoke on her experience at RASA when she was in fifth grade. She explained how beneficial RASA was for her and how it helped her self esteem as she moved along to middle and high school.

Katina Gordon of 799 Briarstone Road Bethlehem, PA and parent of Dominique Donaldson spoke in support of keeping RASA open. She explained how the teachers encourage their students and believe in them. She also has a son, Marquis, who attends there now who has already changed so much. She indicated that her daughter attained honor roll in 6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade and made it into a selective program called Sequoia. She ended by asking the board to please keep RASA.

John Donnelly of 925 Merrivale Rd of Bethlehem PA spoke on behalf of the Career Academy and RASA. He enjoys the fact that the classroom sizes are smaller so that teachers can give students individualized attention. He says he learned a lot at that school because it was always a fun place to be.

Sammy Donnelly of 925 Merrivale Rd of Bethlehem PA teacher and parent of John Donnelly said John was at the first class at RASA and now he is at the Career Academy. We don't have a sad story in our family. I have a master's degree and he has an older sister at college, but for some reason he is not a traditional learner. The class sizes were small enough, and he was not overwhelmed. He's showing some leadership skills, and he is concerned that the Career Academy is moving back to Liberty. It's going to be overwhelming. He understands that there are some budgetary concerns. There are kids

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with alternate views, alternate ways of learning, and they need alternate placement not in a bad way, not alternate because they are causing problems, but alternate because the way they learn cannot be addressed in a traditional school. I understand you have a big decision before you but if you could just keep that in mind that Career Academy and RASA are not just for those students whose family situations may be difficult and the kids really have challenges facing that or who may live in a certain area of the city but that it covers all of us.

Stephen Antalics 737 Ridge Street Bethlehem, PA said that he thought he was coming to a conventional quiet meeting and was stunned to hear the stories of some of these people and what has happened to their children. He said he is feeling their pain.

Dr. Lewis reminded everyone once again that they are not recommending the closing of these institutions, please wait and you can comment at the conclusion and after you take a look at the public document of our recommendations. I announced it earlier and I will reemphasize and state that this Board of School Directors has some difficult decisions. The board asked us to list all non-mandated programs and then discuss these items. All non-mandated programs are subject to review.

Jovani Serrano 508 Cherokee Street Bethlehem PA and senior at the Career Academy said I could go on forever about how the Career Academy helped me. I started at Freedom High in 9th grade and I needed extra attention. The Career Academy helped me out and I made honor roll quite a few times and I'm graduating this year. If it wasn't for the Career Academy, I would probably be a high school drop out. I don't know how you put this staff together but they are awesome. I want to thank all of them they are fully supportive.

FISCAL YEAR UPDATE/FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Majewski reported that very little has changed on this update, however, he indicated that what he had was a far more negative projection from when it was created on the debt service and it was displayed. Toward the end of December and during the month of December, it appeared that some of the markets were deteriorating was decreasing the swaps were not performing as well as they had been. Mr. Majewski explained that he had increased what he thought was going to be the cost to the school district. What he found after this was prepared was that those markets were healing and were starting to be reflected in the cost to the district. Episave is being purchased by Assured Guarantee. Dexia is getting support from Belgium, France or both but the spreads are starting to decrease. He was told that those decreasing spreads are likely to continue. Mr. Majewski explained that he went from using \$125,000 per week down to \$80,000 per week which he thought may be even more than what will be necessary, but he would rather be at this point right now. He would rather have a more conservative projection of cost than may actually occur than be short later. The market is improving and will allow for a \$1.2 million reduction in the debt budget. What I would like to take a look at is whether or not that is going to continue. I will bring you up to date on that if not at least once a month more frequently as news becomes available. But it is more likely right now that the projected year-end deficit is going to be about \$3.752 million dollars. As point of reference, last year we were looking at a deficit of \$3.169 million dollars. Total deficit anticipated as of June 30, 2009, right now is \$6,900,000 that is about 3.7 percent of our current budget.

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Mrs. Leeson asked Mr. Majewski if the \$4.9 million is the amount he was reducing?

Mr. Majewski responded that the \$4.9 million with the current information on the cost of the debt would be \$3,752,000, combined that with last year's \$3,169,000 and now our combined deficit as of June 30 is \$6,900,000.

Mrs. Leeson questioned why we don't show the combined total in the unreserved fund balance?

Mr. Majewski responded that the reason is we are still waiting on audited information. I wanted to make sure it was accurate.

Mrs. Leeson indicated that we are showing red already in our expenses for several items. These are not necessarily the projected but they are already the expended budget is that correct?

Mr. Majewski replied no, those are negative based on projections.

Mrs. Leeson stated that on the top it says unexpended budget not projected expenditures

Mr. Majewski explained that it is taking column B the amended column and subtracting it from C, which are the projected expenditures.

Mrs. Leeson thanked him and said so we are not in the red yet? But we are anticipating being in the red with certain items debt service being the most significant.

Mr. Majewski replied no and added that it is quite possible some of those may not be in the red at the end of the year, there is some that is likely, without a budget transfer. Overall, there will be insufficient funds to be able to transfer in order to be able to cover all deficits.

Mrs. Leeson asked if we were to take the unexpected debt service problem out of our picture and only look at the rest of our budget are we in a deficit position?

Mr. Majewski replied we would be \$2 million positive.

Mr. Tenaglia spoke with regard to the weekly debt service expenses at \$80,000 and asked what percent of that \$80,000 is something other than the interest on the variable rate debt.

Mr. Majewski replied that it is. He added that what he'll do is take a look at the variable rate debt factor in all the various swaps using the one month LIBOR, the ten year ISDA, the SIFMA, and calculate for each of those what that cost would be. It is what I would view as the cost for that week. I know a memo was provided to the board in the past of what the weekly activity had been. We have also seen information come in from our financial advisor with that same type of data.

Mr. Majewski stated that there is some very positive signs right now that we are getting from RBC, Goldman Sachs, and some of the few remaining big houses that something very positive is happening with FSA and Dexia and truly this is the first time this last week that we had a spread under 300 basis points, so I am encouraged.

Dr. Lewis amplified what Mr. Tenaglia was saying that the Dauphin County Pool when it becomes a reality will be yet another offset.

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CAPITAL RESERVE FUND UPDATE

Mr. Majewski presented a report on the balance of the capital reserve account. We started with the most recent audited balance we had was June 30, 2007, showing the revenue and the expenditures as a fund balance in the capital reserve account as of December 31 as \$1,391,000.

Mr. Tenaglia asked why do we see the capital reserve on item 2?

Mr. Majewski replied on item one and said it is strictly general fund, capital reserve is a separate fund just as you would have with the bond funds, the food service funds, the proprietary funds all of those are kept separate in governmental accounting.

Mr. Tenaglia said that we don't see Capital Reserve Fund on a monthly basis.

Mr. Majewski remarked we do not because it has not been a report that has been provided. It is a report that the office will provide if requested. There is not much activity in the Capital Reserve Fund but I'd be glad to provide what is booked.

Mr. Tenaglia stated that he would like to have it included because it's another \$1.4 million dollars. Is the dollars in the Capital Reserve Fund part of these other account balances that we see monthly?

Mr. Majewski replied that they are not.

Mr. Tenaglia said so there are another \$1.4 million dollars.

Mr. Majewski replied correct.

Mr. McKeon remarked that they are earmarked dollars.

Dr. Lewis said it could be shown and tracked. What I think Mr. Majewski and Mr. McKeon are speaking to is that they are not just discretionary dollars.

Mrs. Leeson asked could we move money from the Capital Reserve Fund with board action into general fund and use it for general fund purposes?

Mr. Majewski replied no.

CAREER ACADEMY MOVE

Dr. Lewis indicated they are seeking the board's permission to relocate the Career Academy to additional space at Liberty High School for a short time. Mrs. Durante, Mr. Gilliland and Mrs. Robledo-Shorey have met and identified a secure area (separated) from the mainstream operations. Some of the students have made some good points about the importance of having their own space, and we think we can accomplish that within Liberty. This would immediately result in cost savings estimated by Mr. Gilliland and Mr. Majewski of approximately \$30,000 for the semester. It may not be the same amount for the first semester as we don't spend as much on heat, which obviously we get hit heavily in January, February, and March months. It also means the movement of some custodial help we will no longer be needed there. I believe that's a .5 position. There would be some minimizing of insurance. We are asking the board permission to approve this move.

Mrs. Leeson asked if we currently have a DARE officer out at the Career Academy?

Dr. Lewis replied we have one resource officer at the Career Academy.

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Mrs. Leeson asked if that was funded by a grant or funded by the district?

Dr. Lewis indicated that it started out as a grant but it is fully funded by us at this time.

Mrs. Leeson asked if we were going to maintain the officer, or can we see a savings there or can we do a partial?

Dr. Lewis replied that we could certainly look at that. We have added a resource officer to Liberty this year unfortunately.

Mrs. Durante added that the police department indicated that the resource officer would stay.

Dr. Lewis said he would have to have Mr. Majewski and our solicitor look at the contract. I think Mrs. Leeson's question is down the road. Do we need to have three could we look at some sort of partialing there? In fairness I think we need to look at all of our officers and see where they are.

Mr. Majewski remarked that there is no contract.

Mrs. Follweiler asked have we factored in the cost of moving in the cost of savings?

Dr. Lewis replied yes we have, it's minimal. There would be a cost, a minimal cost to permit our teachers under our agreement with the association some time to pack but beyond that we would be using day staff and scheduling the move some time a week from February 9.

Mrs. Follweiler added that part of the success of the Career Academy and RASA is the segregation. Moving to Liberty campus although the classroom area may be segregated the rest of campus will not. I do believe this is something that we do need to review further especially with regard to some of the comments we had this evening about the inclusion of students while getting from their car to the campus. How will we ensure the same level of safety and individual security being at their home school?

Dr. Lewis responded by saying that these youngsters do shuttle right into Liberty High School and do board and disembark there for the return. There is some campus activity and involvement for these youngsters. They are very well behaved. There has never been an issue. The area we have selected permits Mrs. Robledo-Shorey to set up an office in that vicinity, and to exit in that area as far as delivery to the vocational school and to the work-study program. I believe we are secure, and I have every confidence that our kids at the Career Academy are respectable of the perimeters. There will be some adjustment.

Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Follweiler asked since we've moved the Career Academy twice in the last year what would be their assurance that this will be there home for some more substantial time?

Dr. Lewis said I would never say never. My goal is to maintain the Career Academy. I am a supporter of them. I believe it is meeting success. I feel very badly that they need to relocate but if given the choice, if we can save \$50,000 annually, let's put it in this cocoon for now. If the opportunity avails itself in the future years to relocate, back to its own site, I'll be the first to support that. I think people need to realize the gravity of the situation and our choices are getting narrower and narrower. I believe in alternative education and I'll do everything in our power to make it work. That's why we would not assume somebody else would accept the role of leading the academy, we believe they

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need their principal, they need their counselor, they need their support personnel, and they need to carry on their program the way it currently exists. We are talking about 45 kids on site half a day. I've got confidence in this professional staff. They've done a superb job of managing some challenging youngsters, and they are doing a wonderful job as we saw tonight.

Mr. McKeon stated that he'd like to see Mr. Majewski put together something that reports specifically with the Career Academy costs. We heard the verbalization, put it on a piece a paper so we can look at it. I'm trying to rationalize disrupting them again and moving them to another location.

Dr. Lewis replied that we can do that but we have gone from historical information on operational costs. We'll be glad to prepare that.

Mrs. Leeson pointed out that we have another cut here. We are getting an alternate ed. grant that is helping to support the Career Academy of \$75,000.

Dr. Lewis replied that yes we did receive our alternative ed. monies, and Mrs. Cintron, Mrs. Shorey, Mr. Washington and I met briefly to coordinate some wages going into that from the general fund which is perfectly acceptable use of the funds and it allows us to save one half of the principal's salary and a secretary's. This would be salaries only, but still \$75,000 goes back into keeping the Academy open.

Mrs. Dexter said that tonight she heard a point of view from the students that make her wonder whether moving the academy is a wise move even though there is a cost savings. One thing I heard was the significance of students feeling a part of something. I wonder if putting them at Liberty where some of them did not succeed and I also wonder whether moving students at the Liberty site would deter Freedom students from being there at all because of the tensions and perceptions that exist. I remember also some of the students who said how important it was for Mrs. Robledo-Shorey and her staff to greet them in the morning. I don't know how that would successfully happen at Liberty without making a mockery of those students because they are not in their cocoon of the driveway at Monocacy or the driveway of the other building at Pennsylvania Avenue where they had been last year. I'm wondering if we would be saving money but introducing some complexities that were not in the program earlier. Have we gotten feedback from staff and from Mrs. Shorey?

Dr. Lewis responded yes and it is no surprise they would like to stay right where they are. I would love to keep them right where they are but then you need to tell me where we go on some other areas to recapture that. You gave us a target and you have been reasonable in that target that you backed it off slightly in our discussion knowing well the economic impact. One of our goals announced earlier was \$1.6 million we have reset that at \$1 million because of current economic situation we're at \$800,000. Everything we put back, I just caution you, we got to go find somewhere else. My ultimate goal Mrs. Dexter is to save the Academy.

Mrs. Dexter agreed and stated that she wonders if we are saving the academy because sometimes the location of one program is a critical component. If we just have an average kindergarten and you're doing construction and you're in a church one year and move to a classroom another year and back to the church the third year again then maybe there is not going to be the same loss that there might be to the Career Academy where students need to feel at home. But you asked where else can we get the money if we would save it

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and I'm thinking I'd rather part with things that have less affect on students. The things I would think about are parting with some equipment that we don't use or computers. We could terminate some of the leases early and some of the projects. I saw it somewhere I don't know exactly where but we were looking at it for next year but maybe we can do that this year.

Dr. Lewis explained that the recapture cost on technology is minimal. It's unfortunate, but after four years they have very limited value. We do want to bring something to you not tonight that may look at some of the recapture funds through a program Easton Area School District has been using for the last two years. We are just not prepared to present the option tonight. Other equipment? I would need some help on that, and Mr. Gilliland is not here with us this evening. The area of equipment that I know we have sizable inventory of equipment beyond technology would be in the areas of copiers, which Mr. Majewski has already re-negotiated and our trucks and maintenance equipment.

Mr. Majewski responded that those copiers are leased and not owned. The agreement has several years remaining.

Dr. Lewis stated that the administration will take direction from the board. We just want to point out that our ultimate goal is to save the Career Academy.

Mrs. Koch recalled an old issue back 20 years when there was a proposal to close down three elementary schools. Had they done that at that time we would have been in a terrible mess because those schools actually wound up being expanded because of the increase of the school population. I am concerned about the idea of selling district property because of the same battle back then. Please don't sell district property. If you go five or ten years, neighborhoods change. We might have an elderly neighborhood right now where we don't have a lot of kids and then people start selling off and young families come in with children and all of a sudden overnight you can have this huge boom and this need for more elementary. If you sell off that piece of property where do you go in Bethlehem Township? We will be searching frantically for a place to build those schools or transporting them back to other schools within the district. It's a very important issue. It's changing something that we have always held dear as part of our policy that we do not sell district land. When we got it we keep it because we are probably going to need it if not tomorrow maybe five or ten years later we are going to need it, and I am hoping that you will at least keep this under consideration because once you do this you have then changed our policy. Then when we get to talk about Nitschmann we can go back to talking about selling Nitschmann Middle School because we have already done it we've sold other district property. Please be very careful what you do here in changing a long-standing practice.

Dr. Lewis responded by saying that he has unequivocally agreed with that premise his entire career, but these are extraordinary times and we put some conservative estimates on this. I think you've got to make some very tough decisions on something you may need five or ten years down and we need to focus on this year and our successor years of this budget. I don't feel good about that but these are extraordinary times. Please understand that I am not flying in the face of tradition or prior policy. We are just looking at every single option. At this point, the item on the agenda we are discussing is the Academy move.

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Mrs. Leeson asked if the question at hand is whether we want to put this on the agenda for a vote, or do you want this on the agenda, or is the question do we want it moved.

Dr. Lewis replied, it's your call, I don't know that it requires that we just want your approval.

Dr. Haytmanek stated that we've heard some very passionate statements tonight, and I think that when they talked about the Academy they talked about it in the form that it exists now and the rotation that exists now and I agree with Mrs. Dexter you take a lot out of it and you lose something if you move. To move that to Liberty High School I think will give up a lot of the identity that you have already. I would be for keeping both RASA and the other program where they are now.

The board vote concluded to keep the Career Academy where it is. The Career Academy will not move.

REFINANCING UPDATE

Mr. Majewski had Mrs. Morton distribute some information that Scott Shearer sent him this afternoon which provides some documentation in some of the areas that we are looking at. Mr. Majewski reminded everyone that we do have several of our bonds on bank bond status. He explained part of what he was saying earlier about FSA and Dexia. The other thing that they are whispering is that as a result of that it's quite possible that we may be able to see some of our bank bonds come out of bank bond status if the strength of FSA and Dexia continues to improve which would take away the concern of the Shippensburg and West Cornwall bank bonds which have an accelerated status and that will kick in April of 2009. Referring to the document distributed he added that we continue to look at the Dauphin County Pool bank of Nova Scotia may or may not be party to that. There have been some delays in putting the Dauphin County Pool together. As you were aware, we were hoping to close in February now a more realistic target is probably March; however, there is nothing definitive at this point. The Wachovia Wells Fargo merger appears to be moving forward. There is some easing of the discussions and it is possible that we can have additional information from them on Wednesday, which could be very positive. As soon as we receive anything in the way of news from Wachovia as what they will be offering to us, I will make that information available to you. TD Bank has also expressed potentially some interest in providing a letter of credit facility for \$50 million. If you add up some of these numbers together as it appears right now, we could have all of the variable bonds covered with some type of more stable form of financing at least in the short term. These are not long-term fixes. They are not where we are looking to go 10 or 15 years from now, however, it is what we believe is necessary in order to provide some stability to variable rate bonds at present. As of Wednesday of last week, the cost of maturity swaps and the suspension would have provided in the neighborhood of about \$2 million we know that moves from day to day. I did happen to take a look at that and if you took the monies that were being generated by the constant maturity swaps and multiply that out over a two-year period. You are looking at the two-year suspension value at about .50 cents on the dollar. That's not something that we are advancing right now. I just wanted to provide you with an update on information on that area since it had come up previously. As I get additional information I'll make sure you get a copy.

**BETHLEHEM AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL GENERAL
AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

Dr. Lewis stated that we would need to re-establish our authority. The authority is a group that has to be independent to the Board of School Directors that in essence is a body that can authorize certain funding exercises following debt restructuring those kinds of things specifically for an entity, such as the Vocational School. School districts typically had used these in the fifties and the sixties as a financing tool because the vocational school is not a taxing authority. It's required to use a board authority to function in that role of capital projects and then following in that regard. You have in front of you only one of your authority members, these folks have not met, and they have no need to. Mr. Cunningham is the only one remaining, and as of this month his term will have expired as well. We have made some oversight comments relative to information you had previously received. We would like to know your direction on reappointing or appointing new to this particular authority noting that the Vo-Tech Business Manager has informed me you would have to appoint members to terms that expire on a one-year rotational basis starting with 2010. You'd have a one-year authority member, a two-year authority member, and a three-year authority member. Your last member would serve five years on the authority.

Mr. McKeon asked can't it be anyone of us?

Dr. Lewis replied it could be no sitting school board member.

Dr. Haytmanek asked what are the responsibilities of this individual?

Mr. Majewski responded at this point very little. Most of those funds have been used. When the Vo-Tech was obtaining financing, they had to create an authority according to the law in order to be able to manage the funds that were put into the construction pool. Right now there's a requirement to meet once a year, and it's a matter of going through things. There are no funds currently available for them to use in a construction project. Each of three sponsoring school districts Bethlehem, Northampton, and Saucon Valley make annual payments to be able to pay for the Authority bond and that happens without their intervention, but it is a formality there is not much in the way of duties.

Dr. Lewis commented that they are looking to refinance, and they need the authority to be party to that transaction. It is estimated they may save two or two and a half percent if they were successful. Just like we are looking at debt reduction, they are also.

Mrs. Leeson asked if there were any recommendations from the Vo-Tech as to individuals that are active from the Bethlehem Area who would be willing to serve.

Mrs. Follweiler questioned if these should be folks in the construction field?

Dr. Lewis replied no, on the contrary, it's folks who would be representative of community opinion just like a board member. It's not an advisory board. This is an authority that in essence would be executing the issuance of bonds and refinancing notes. He added that we could advertise it out on our web page.

Mrs. Cann asked are there really five people on at any one time?

Dr. Lewis replied they are actually nine of them. We get five slots and they just rotate them. He added that the authority has a different term than you do.

Mrs. Cann asked if every year we should be replacing them?

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Dr. Lewis replied you would be if they were active or reappointing.

Mr. McKeon asked if we could contact the two top individuals and see if they are interested.

Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Koch suggested some people who served on the Tax Study Commission who are very active. When the opening came up for the Community College, we had several people who wanted to serve and this would only be one meeting a year.

Dr. Lewis agreed and said we'll put some information out and contact people that served previously on the tax study committee. We'll web advertise, we'll send some direct mails, and we'll have some names for you to consider.

Mrs. Dexter asked if Dr. Lewis could send them a copy of the web advertisement so if we know people we can quickly send it out.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY 26, 2009, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. Transportation Privatization

Mrs. Follweiler said she had sent out an email and Dr. Lewis had responded to her but she didn't know if everyone else knew the answer about the hiring of the consultant to come up with the figures on the transportation issue. I was looking to see if our own personnel couldn't come up with the estimated numbers of savings verses spending \$10,000.

Dr. Lewis apologized for not copying everyone on the question. The individual who is doing this is Mr. Leibensberger, of *Student Transportation Solutions*, and this is his exclusive work. A brief bio was also provided. Dr. Lewis explained that Mr. Majewski and Mr. Gilliland have been working on this, and we think that you will realize more than the eight or nine or ten you spend bringing this expert in to draw up the RFP in savings because he knows where to look.

Mr. Majewski commented that there is one thing we have been getting from the folks we've talked to in discussing whether or not contracted transportation or privatized transportation worked for their districts is that almost all of them have said it was a learning experience. Because we all might have had our own operations, we know how to run transportation systems but taking a look at structuring a proposal, putting the proposal out, and evaluating the proposals coming back from the other contractors. A contractor understands better than us where other contractors make extra money at the expense of the school district. Mr. Majewski stated that we may not be as familiar where somebody who has done this who has worked with contractor transportation who has submitted bids and proposals to school districts in the past, know all the games. Mr. Majewski believes it would be \$10,000 that would be saved several times over by having somebody with his background, his knowledge, his expertise involved. In the absence though he replied yes, we can try to put together our own proposal. We will do the very best we possibly can with the knowledge and information that we have. We believe that the way to get the best results quickly is to hire Mr. Leibensberger.

Mrs. Dexter asked if the administration decided to recommend privatization, or are we looking at this gentleman to help us to develop the pros and cons in depth.

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Mr. Majewski replied that it is very difficult to give you a definitive answer. I do believe that as we have discussed it that potentially privatization could show considerable savings because of the size and efficiency of the operations when we are taking a look at other school districts that may be contiguous or sharing some of the loads. However, to be able to say that it's going to be absolutely, positively, the least expensive alternative, one can't do that until you see the numbers in front of you. He added that the other possibility that occurs with that is once the results come in is the union going to be willing to come in at a lower cost, then the privatized cost would be to the district. We don't know that we won't ever get to that point if we don't at least get started or get ourselves started correctly. I'd rather be in a position where it would make sense to go in that direction where significant savings were going to be resulting that we have it done correctly, and if we were going to implement it, use the knowledge and the expertise of this individual.

Dr. Lewis stated that it does appear on our potential budget adjustments as a yellow highlighted item, which means we are recommending the pursuit. However, Mr. Majewski is correct in stating this may be reversed if indeed our own drivers can save us more money. In which case, there would be an adjustment on transportation but the word may not be privatization.

Mr. Majewski added that what he believes we are saying is that whether we would privatize or ultimately we'd be going with our own drivers through a renegotiated contract; there are savings to the district.

Mrs. Dexter stated that she understood you to say that we would be saving more than \$10,000 and it sounded to her like you are assuming the school district will contract school transportation.

Mr. Majewski replied that's not necessarily true, because if we go to this proposal process and it is structured properly, the union has an opportunity to come back and undercut the proposal. Either way there could be significant savings.

Mrs. Dexter questioned where would the \$10,000 come from?

Mr. Majewski replied it would have to come from the general fund.

Mrs. Dexter stated that we don't have a budget line, and we just looked at some red numbers tonight. Would we be adding to that?

Mr. Majewski responded that we would. If you would say let's save the \$10,000 now and then we go to the process and as a result of making our best efforts it costs a hundred thousand dollars; I don't think that is a wise investment either. What I am trying to do and I think what we have talked about here is that we are going to enter into this process and trying to save money for the district; we want to do it correctly, and we want to be able to use somebody who has the expertise in order to make sure that we stand the best chance in succeeding.

Mrs. Koch stated that we also own a very large bus depot or whatever ...garage. Is that going to be figured in with this?

Mr. Majewski said it's all part of the consideration. We own it, we are not going to be doing anything to get rid of that, but we may be leasing that all or part of it as a result of any type of privatization. We won't know until it's structured.

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Dr. Lewis added that typically what happens is and we've had this conversation with other districts; part of the agreement is to lease back the facilities part of the agreement is the sale of the physical inventory. Now that's one time money on the physical inventory but it's also ongoing annual wise revenue on the lease of the building.

Mrs. Koch remarked that the garage is a big thing.

Dr. Lewis responded by saying that's correct. They need to factor in that they would be getting in their buses here and saving their costs, and that they are not running them over to another site to repair them and fuel them or what have you. It's a very good question. You will realize some upfront monies. That may help you bridge rather pull revenue year but you cannot assume those are reoccurring monies. You will also have some other anticipated benefits we don't know this, but we've been told from the lease of that building for example.

Mrs. Follweiler stated that Mrs. Dexter started to touch on her next thought which is the recommendation as it stands clearly states transportation privatization; if I were to consider hiring a consultant at \$10,000, I would want to see it that it was perhaps evaluation of transportation costs or some other wording such that it isn't seeking the goal of privatization by its mere question. What we discuss there is that we may potentially find out that we saved more money by re-negotiating the work doing other things with our current situation. There's a lot of professionals and a lot consultants that will go in and look at a lot of different costs, transportation and freight for example in private business you can have somebody that comes in and they won't take any fee from you unless they find money for you to save. Now I don't know that this person's background or this person's recommendation would follow suit. In order to not exceed a \$10,000 type of item I would like to see that he could not then later profit from any of the decisions.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. McKeon added that we should be very explicit in that if he provides this consulting, he should not be eligible to bid on this contract.

Mrs. Follweiler stated that rewording of this recommendation in perhaps many many areas is necessary before she could make a decision on it.

Dr. Lewis commented that if we go to develop an RFP we can't be saying well maybe we're going to go this way of developing the RFP unless you specify it in the contract. Develop an RFP you put it out, you get your numbers, speak with your drivers, and you see where you are. At some point you have to put an RFP on the street, because you need hard numbers. You can't expect the drivers to respond to ambiguity, and I have no problem with putting a clause in there that would simply say that you are not entitled to bid on any possible contract as a result should you accept this consulting contract.

Mrs. Leeson indicated that she was unsure if the board members have the full background of what the administration has done to date, and I'm wondering if we can take a moment to discuss what was done to date. My experience is that we have had some casual conversations. Perhaps you can tell us to what you have done and what you think you are going to be able to realize from your investigations, and why you may be recommending going in this direction right now.

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Dr. Lewis dispatched Mr. Majewski and Mr. Gilliland, but because Mr. Gilliland is not here tonight, Mr. Majewski could share his visitation and his data collection.

Mr. Majewski shared that one of his most useful discussions that he has had was with the Pleasant Valley School District. When you take a look at their enrollment, they are smaller than we are maybe half of our size, however 100 percent of the students are transported. The number of students there who are transported is very similar to the number that BASD transports. It made them a very helpful comparison, and we had conversations about what they did, what they did right, what they would have done again where they did some of their mistakes, and that provided us with a better understanding about the whole proposal process and how the contractors who are in this all the time have the knowledge that those who are trying to do proposals on their own do not have, and how it can be very costly, and how it was costly for them and how it can be costly for others if you don't really understand the business. Not just transportation but how they structure their agreements in transportation. When we took a look at where they were and where their savings are based upon what they were paying before and what they are paying now, it's not even that it's union or non union shops because the unions have approached them. These are all about efficiencies and what they are able to do with other districts and how they can combine runs and drivers and some of the limitations that we have that they do not have that they are projecting on right now that they anticipate that they are going to save an excess of one million dollars in annual operating costs. That's excluding anything that they may receive for the sale of their fleet over and above their annual operating costs. That is intriguing, I think that their numbers are large enough and their story is compelling enough that it is definitely worth looking at that prospect. If we go through it and we find out that maybe we don't save a million and maybe we can save \$800,000 or \$700,000, that's a lot of money. No matter how you look at it the savings that we are getting for contracted transportation can be very significant. We're in the business of education I wish that the state when they take a look at regionalizing that they take a look at earned income tax collection that's going to be implemented at some point in the near future that they would allow for regionalizing transportation like an IU type of structure. Because we all have the laws that say we need to get this child 10 miles from the border to that one school and we could all tell the horror stories about how we lose one kid. That's where contracted privatization may be somewhat different because since that's growing and you have First Student or some of the other names that are out there they can take that student combine it with some of their own students in other runs and make it less costly per student in order to get them to their goal. That's where they are making their money, they maybe paying less in benefits they may be not, they may be paying less in hourly wages they may be not but they specialize in transportation, and they do it better than we do.

Mr. McKeon asked have we asked our people to come up with recommendations for cost reductions?

Mr. Majewski asked in clarification do you mean structuring efficiencies?

Mr. McKeon stated I'm talking about efficiency in transportation. I'm not talking about labor costs.

Some discussion followed.

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Mr. McKeon suggested consolidating stops so that kids walk further to a stop so that the stop becomes somewhat of a bus depot.

Mr. Majewski stated that Mr. Himmelberger does just that. He takes a look at where the student is coming from and tries to find a central point, and they may be walking a half a mile some times a 7/10 of a mile to get the bus.

Mr. McKeon rebuked the statement and said that on Freemansburg Avenue there is a stop inside Wagner Farms and there's another one by Country Top and Wagner, people over another block to the retention pond now you've got children walking from the front of Wagner plus the rest of the body moving into Wagner.

Mr. Majewski said that's just one, there may or may not be reasons why he structured it they way he did. I know that there is every effort to try to look at those runs and take some of those considerations.

Mr. McKeon commented that he thinks we have to look at that from a dollar and cents if we are going to get some internal improvement. I think we need to work internally and externally.

Mrs. Leeson asked if efficiency like that could be realized within the privatization program as well because they would follow our policies.

Mr. Majewski stated that they would follow our policies as far as routing and creating bus stops. I don't know if I heard we are looking at changing board policy.

Mr. McKeon clarified his comment and stated that what he said was if we study it, it might say we have to change policy. Currently we can't do that.

Mr. Majewski said we could do that with a change of policy. You couldn't do that with secondary because the law does indicate that if you are going to transport other things kick in. For example you cannot ask a secondary student to walk more than two miles to school if you are going to transport now you have to provide transportation. Elementary it is one and a half miles. BASD has a policy to limit that to one mile but that can be expanded to a mile and a half with a change of board policy.

Mr. McKeon stated that until we see the numbers we don't know whether the policy change is warranted.

Dr. Haytmanek commented that he thought we were somewhat unique as a large district that we own 121 busses. What happens to our busses?

Dr. Lewis responded by saying that we would sell our fleet. That may very well be part of the RFP. We will need to liquidate that, that's a one-time gain. That's what Pleasant Valley did. Their deal was with First Student.

Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Koch returned to the topic of extending the area where students flock. She mentioned to Mr. McKeon that perhaps in his neighborhood that might be doable but there are sections of town where it may be dangerous. She also recalled many years ago prior to Mr. Majewski being with the district where they looked into this and economically we were still in better shape by running things by ourselves. I understand things may have changed, and I am certainly supporting the idea of looking into it.

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Mr. Tenaglia asked if this is what is being put on the agenda as it is.

Dr. Lewis replied that the administration would like to with the one caveat that was added which is if he is awarded this contract he may not bid on.

Some discussion followed.

The board was polled and agreed that the item would be placed on the agenda so that Mr. Leibensberger could develop the RFP.

B. Revisions to Board Policy Number 707 – Use of School Facilities – Second Reading

Mr. Majewski commented that Mr. Gilliland's office has done some work in order to provide you with this information. I will caution you that when I took a look at this and checked with my own adding machine that there is a formula problem. I'll need to get you corrected back up supporting documentation however the amount paid by the district is not \$60,735. The first two rows are missing in that total it should be \$68,249.76. The top half is what you should be looking at because the ones affected if there was a change in policy that was presented to you would be the local youth organizations. That would be the Bethlehem Township Athletic Association as well as the Hurricane Wrestling Club, Basketball Club. After totaling the numbers, the Bethlehem Township Athletic Association will cost the district \$43,261.57 in custodial fees this year. The Hurricanes Organization will cost \$22,657.86. The way this works is that if there is a custodian already there and they have a lease that's not included here. This only represents the additional cost of their leases. They come in Saturday or Sunday where there is overtime pay. Currently we are expecting these leases to cost us \$68,000 of which \$43,000 are Bethlehem Township Athletic Association and The Hurricanes \$22,000. This cost to the district has been escalating over the last couple of years. Going back to 2005-2006 it was about \$42,000, for 2006-2007 it was about \$48,500, for 2007-2008 \$52,300 and now what we are looking at is closer to \$68,000. The cost to the district for custodial services is increasing at a rate above the wage increase so has the utilization on the Saturdays has increased so we are spending more money to support these organizations.

Mrs. Follweiler indicated that it is unfortunate that the gentleman who commented earlier had to leave. She clarified that these types of organizations (class 2 group) do not pay a lease fee. They are clearly paying for district staff only because of their use of the facility. At \$68,000, the expense to the district is quite a large expense. If practice were moved from a Saturday (where the building is open only for this reason) to a Wednesday after school, they would not be incurring this type of expense?

Mr. Majewski responded that they would not be charged for custodial fees.

Mrs. Follweiler stated that this is something that these organizations should really be reflecting and looking at what the total costs are and scheduling. Obviously, the district is also supporting some type of staffing to schedule these gymnasiums.

Mr. Majewski indicated that individual principals in their own buildings are responsible for their scheduling.

Mrs. Follweiler asked that she noticed a number for the Hurricanes but isn't there also a little Pates group. Are they part of the Bethlehem Township Athletic Association?

Mr. McKeon responded yes.

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Mrs. Follweiler agrees with the policy as recommended whereby custodial fees, site management fees and things like that would have to be picked up by the individuals that are actually using the facilities versus the taxpayer at whole.

Dr. Lewis stated that any other municipal organization that has a community center charges a fee. I support youth activities, but we have to draw a line somewhere. The taxpayers are underwriting these costs. As Mr. Majewski pointed out, these costs could very well estimate to \$70,000 next year and \$80,000 the year after. You have everything from the cost of opening the building to the salaries of the people who are there to the heat and the light. Those costs are real costs to the school district.

Mr. McKeon said he has spoken with some of the PTA people, and they don't have an objection to paying for custodial fees, they have an objection to the double billing. Paying for a site manager and a custodian.

Dr. Lewis remarked that he also spoke with a few of them and that was their objection. The problem is that the site manager needs to maintain very large extensive facilities. Freedom gymnasium is a primary example. I think it would be very risky to say a custodian will be on site to do some cleaning, but they'll have the run of the roost.

Mr. McKeon stated that there are gates up preventing them from getting in. Hopefully the adults are paying attention like they should be. That's a big issue because you have this piece of money. Their concern is with having to pay a site manager when they already have a custodian there.

Dr. Lewis stated that Mr. Senneca is here tonight. Dr. Lewis asked Mr. Senneca is this an issue from his perspective?

Mr. Senneca stated that he could only speak for Liberty High School. The way it is set up you would need a site manager because when you get into our building you can get anywhere in that building; any of the three classroom buildings.

Dr. Haytmanek questioned if this is for the Little Hurricanes and the Little Pates? I think we are losing sight of why we are sitting here. I really think we should pay for this. These are our kids.

Mrs. Cann commented that it's not as easy as just having these kids reschedule to after school times. These gyms are booked to the max even on Saturday. Like Dr. Haytmanek was saying this could be the demise of these clubs. They can't pay for this and long range it will effect our sports programs at the high school. If these kids aren't getting trained in middle school and grade school, you won't have a high school program and it will be gone.

Mrs. Leeson stated that she thought that was a policy. Why do some organizations pay and some of the others do not?

Mr. Majewski responded by saying if there was a site manager they should have paid. The custodial charges should have not been paid by any of these organizations.

Dr. Lewis clarified by saying the site manager was Freedom's costs. The costs for the site manager were for the high schools, Liberty and Freedom.

Mrs. Leeson stated that it was only Freedom.

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Mr. Majewski stated that Mrs. Leeson is correct. I do not know why that was not billed but it should have been billed. That is definitely a billable item. The custodial fees no, but the site manager costs yes. Looking at the second last column you can see that in all cases of use of Freedom High School the site manager's fee was billed but when the site manager was charged it was not billed to the Hurricane Wrestling Club.

Mr. McKeon stated that if we use the information that Mr. Senneca contributed every time that Liberty is open they should be incurring a site manager cost.

Mr. Majewski stated that we need to research why one the high schools was charging and collecting and one of them was charged.

Mrs. Leeson asked don't we have soccer fields out on Farmersville that I believe we allow Bethlehem Township to use. Do we charge for those fields?

Mr. Majewski responded that there is a 10-year agreement. They paid for the excavation work, and we leased the fields to them in return. There's no charge. The policy does not charge them for use of the building only for the additional cost of the custodian.

Mrs. Dexter remarked that, as she's looking through this there are more inequities.

Mr. Majewski replied that if the Liberty band was going to be using the building under our current policy there is no requirement for them to fill out a lease form because it is a school activity. I'm not sure why they were expected to fill out the lease form. It should have not been required.

Mrs. Follweiler commented that since it appears as though there are more questions with the data, when we changed this policy last April did it go into effect this school year?

Mr. Majewski replied it went into effect immediately preceding the board action.

Mrs. Follweiler asked are any of the organizations currently using the gymnasium are currently picking up these fees.

Mr. McKeon replied no, this is a proposal to move this from class 1 to class 2, which will generate fees.

Mrs. Follweiler remarked but we did that in April.

Mr. Majewski commented that it's a matter of reimbursing for costs the fees are still not being charged for use of the gym.

Mrs. Follweiler replied that she was using the phrase custodial fees but you are right. The fee schedule for people who actually use the facility is in the policy and is totaling different. It's a different subject.

Mr. Majewski replied yes it is a different subject.

Mrs. Follweiler stated she read the policy online and her interpretation of it was that the type of organizations that we are talking about already fall into class 2 along with the Boy Scouts and the Boys and Girls club and any other of these organization and communities. I read that as we were clarifying it because people didn't understand that the Little Hurricanes is similar to the Boy Scouts.

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Mr. Majewski stated that the existing policy right now has the local athletic organizations under class 1 which will be treated exactly the same as any school district type of activity. There was no charge. Whereas the Boy Scouts and those other organizations that are similar to the Boy Scouts were class 2. What you see in front of you is the youth athletic organizations from class 2, which means they would be reimbursing custodial costs.

Mr. McKeon stated that they are already incurring the site manager costs.

Mr. Majewski commented that the site manager costs are separate from the custodian.

Mrs. Leeson asked are we ready to see it go on the agenda. The board was polled and the item was approved to be placed on the agenda.

C. Tax Collector's salaries

Dr. Lewis asked are we under contract to provide a tax collector increase?

Mr. Majewski replied no, we have no contract with these individuals these are elected people. Once every four years prior to the election you set their salary. That is then in place for four years. Typically what we have done is we've looked at a three percent annualized increase every time the salaries were renewed. If you looked at where it was and where we are looking at, what it is showing here that it's exactly three percent over four years and approximately calculated what that salary is. However, you have no obligation to set it at any rate. If you want to set it at one dollar, you can set it at one dollar. You need to set a salary for this position.

Mrs. Koch asked have we ever not increased their salary or left it at the same amount?

Mr. Majewski replied that he was not aware of anytime that it was kept at the same level.

Mrs. Follweiler commented that in these economic times salary increases is not uncommon, and she personally would not vote for an increase in salary in an elected position so the candidates could determine whether they did or did not want to run for the office based on the current salary.

Mr. McKeon agreed.

Dr. Haytmanek asked if this recommends a raise?

Mr. Majewski responded that it does. This represents an increase from what they are earning right now, and the discussion is what salary are we going to set for the next four years.

Dr. Lewis explained that they were making \$5,100 in Fountain Hill annually they would make \$5,740. I think what Mrs. Follweiler is suggesting is might we consider leaving it.

Dr. Haytmanek asked do you want to put this on the agenda?

Mr. McKeon stated that there are two things, do you want to put it on the agenda as proposed or do you want to keep it as is?

Mr. Majewski clarified by stating, salary proposal, it is historically how we've increased it. We can change it at anytime.

Mr. McKeon stated that the administration recommendation is to increase Fountain Hill by \$640.

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Mr. Majewski commented that we are not recommending any increase. I'm just making you aware that you need to set the salary and that is based on what we've done before. You can change that so it's not a recommendation of the administration, it's just an awareness. You need to set a salary.

The board was surveyed and the item was approved to be placed on the agenda for the regular board meeting without an increase.

D. Authorization to Accept Offer on Property Q7NWIB 1 5 West of Ravena Street, City of Bethlehem – Northampton County Repository Sale

Mr. Majewski explained that there is a property that currently resides on repository of Northampton County. The taxes are not paid on this property. They had it out on sheriff's sale, they put it out for bid, and nobody has an interest in buying this property. They now have informed us that they have a bid for \$100 for this property. They are requesting your approval in order to accept this bid. It is .1139 acres of land. It's in the Saucon Park area.

Mr. McKeon asked what are the tax receipts associated with it.

Mr. Majewski responded that the current value of that land market value (not the assessed value) is \$3,400.

Mr. McKeon asked if there was any objection to that.

The board approved to have it placed on the agenda for the regular board meeting.

E. Authorization to Approve PPL Right of Way Agreement – Elizabeth Avenue – Liberty High School Project Site

Mr. Majewski stated that he was not necessarily familiar with the background and Mr. Gilliland was going to address this but he was unable to make it.

Mr. Tenaglia asked to have this moved to the Board Facilities Meeting. I have several questions.

Mr. Majewski replied that he did not believe that there was a facilities meeting scheduled for this month.

Dr. Lewis shared the information he knew. He said it had to do with the Dunkin Donuts going in as you see here in the information piece. There's an anchor wire that's needed to the pole. It would be located on the Liberty High School side because the service needs to cross the street.

Mr. Tenaglia interjected by stating that it only references the guide wire. When you look at Sematic, we are also proposing two new poles. When I came by here, there are no poles by the Liberty sidewalk.

Dr. Lewis explained that the poles are in the right of way. The guide wire is extending beyond the right of way. The wire is a safety feature to keep the pole from falling on our students or falling on the street.

Mr. Tenaglia remarked they have an existing right of way.

Dr. Lewis replied they have an existing right of way.

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Mr. Tenaglia stated but they have poles on the opposite side of the street, which they are not going to use.

Dr. Lewis remarked that he didn't know why their engineer chose that but I know they have the right to put the poles in the right of way Mr. Gilliland explained to me. What they don't have a right to do is to drop a guide wire beyond the right of way. What they are requesting is permission to put that guide wire 3 feet from the sidewalk in a non right of way area. If you want us to go back and say why aren't you using the poles on the other side of the street I think the probable answer would be we have too much on those poles and we need to expand the service. I do know that Scott said we couldn't really stop them from putting the poles up because they have the right of way. I can further research it if you wish.

Mr. McKeon stated that there was electricity there before. It was a gas station.

Mrs. Leeson asked if the guide wires were going to come down to the ground.

Dr. Lewis replied yes.

Mrs. Leeson question will they be a danger?

Dr. Lewis replied the presumption is that they will be at an angle to create a safer situation. They are three feet from the sidewalk. Whether or not there are going to have kids wondering over there, I'm not ready to predict whether somebody won't trip on it.

Mrs. Leeson asked who becomes responsible for this as a dangerous situation?

Mr. Majewski asked is it necessary to contact PPL's field agent and have a discussion with the board.

Mr. McKeon stated that one of the things and I think Mr. Tenaglia had raised this question before is that up in that corner on Friday nights there is a group of children that congregate (not negatively congregate) but wait for rides or whatever and I'm sure there is a tendency to clown around. If this thing is out there and it is dark enough I understand the safety question. Maybe we do need a facility meeting to discuss the right of way.

The board agreed that the item would be moved to the next Board Facilities Meeting for discussion.

OPEN FORUM

Mrs. Leeson stated that she appreciated the many organizations that have become creative in fundraising. I certainly appreciate that we had a parent coming and asking to be a part of helping the district finances. She indicated that Liberty is doing the Last Comic Standing. I just wanted to say thank you and congratulations to all these organizations for being creative and going out and trying to find alternate sources of revenue at a time where we are little bit strapped. I appreciate their efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Arlene Vargas

Confidential Secretary to Stanley J. Majewski, Jr., Assistant to the Superintendent for Finance and Administration