

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

JULY 12, 2010

A Special Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Bethlehem Area School District was held on Monday, July 12, at 7:22 p.m. in the Auxiliary Gym of Broughal Middle School, 114 West Morton Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING

The Board Secretary called the roll:

Members present: Directors Amato, Burkhardt, Cann, Dexter, Follweiler, Leeson, McKeon, and Ortiz – 8 members present

Members absent: Directors Faccinetto – 1

MEMBERS
PRESENT

Others present: Dr. Thomas E. Persing, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Newly Appointed Superintendent, Dr. Joseph Roy, Stacy Gober, Board Secretary; administrators, members of the press, and other interested citizens and staff members.

OTHERS
PRESENT

At this point of the meeting, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

President Leeson requested a moment of silent meditation

MOMENT OF
SILENCE

President Leeson offered courtesy of the floor to visitors. Speakers are asked to come to the podium, stating their name and address. Public comment in the first session is limited to 30 minutes. Speakers are limited to three minutes each. The board requests that, when possible, all individuals supporting a like position on a topic select a speaker to present their views to avoid repetition. If that is not possible, all are welcome to speak. As per school board policy, generally, speakers are limited to taxpayers, residents, or employees of this school district. At the conclusion of the regular school board meeting, another block of time will be allocated for public comment. At that time, the same rules will apply. It is asked that speakers observe proper decorum, without personal attacks towards a specific individual or individuals. It is not the custom for the board to enter into a dialogue at these meetings about concerns. However, the board does listen with care to issues raised. Speakers will receive responses, in some form, by the administration.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals addressed the Board of School Directors:

1. Steven Antalics – 737 Ridge Street, Bethlehem –
Mr. Antalics stated the following: This has no reflection on Dr. Roy in any way because he is a bird in the bush. I am disappointed that the board didn't give the bird in hand an offer he couldn't refuse. We're going to miss you, Dr. Persing.

President Leeson called for the approval of the minutes from the June 14, 2010 – Human Resource Meeting.
Director Follweiler made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Director Burkhardt. President Leeson called for a voice vote; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF
HUMAN RESOURCE
MEETING MINUTES

President Leeson said the board did have an executive meeting last Thursday evening concerning litigation.

PRESIDENT'S
COMMUNICATIONS

She thanked Broughal Middle School, Mr. Santoro and Mr. Dockalovich for allowing the board to use the school this evening and for hosting the board meeting.

President Leeson called for any unfinished business from the Board. There was none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Leeson stated that there is one recommendation of the Board. It is with pleasure that I announce that the recommendation of the board to appoint Dr. Joseph Roy, as our next superintendent to begin on or about August 16th.

RECOMMENDATION
OF THE BOARD

NAME: Roy Ed.D., Joseph J.
ADDRESS: Glenside
ASSIGNMENT: Superintendent of Schools
SALARY: \$165,000
EFFECTIVE DATE: On or about August 16, 2010

President Leeson called for the approval of the recommendation of the board. Director Dexter made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Board. Director McKeon seconded the motion.

President Leeson called for any discussion from the Board.

DISCUSSION

Director Follweiler stated that she when she took on the job as head of the Human Resources Committee she did not know that she would be going through this process. She said it has been a learning and enjoyable process and she is thrilled at the results that we have before us this evening for a vote for Dr. Roy.

Director McKeon stated he would like to thank Director Follweiler for shepherding this process. Director McKeon also wanted to thank Dr. Persing for all the work he has done. He stated it hasn't been exactly rosy, but it's been a lot less rocky than it has been in the past. Thank you very much Dr. Persing.

Director Dexter stated that she had the privilege and the honor to go on site visits with President Leeson and Director Faccinnetto when we were considering Dr. Roy. She wanted to share some of the things that she heard that had persuaded her that we really needed to bring Dr. Roy to Bethlehem. She stated that she looked through some of the notes she made and wanted to share some of the key words.

Director Dexter stated that these were things that were told to us by a number of people and during that day we counted up that we met with about 50 people of varying rolls in the district. There were some employees, teachers, parents, current and past members, current and past superintendents. We were told he was an honest man, he is data driven, he's a power thinker, he's accessible and one teacher told us, you are so lucky. You don't know how lucky you are. You people would be stupid if you didn't put him in the car and drive him to Bethlehem right now. That is how she felt at the end of the day and that is how she feels now. She stated, I welcome you, Dr. Roy, to our district and I know that you are every one of these words because we have heard it from people who have had the honor and privilege of dealing with you in a variety of different settings, some of which included crisis settings. Welcome aboard.

Director Ortiz stated that when I met Dr. Roy I saw in him a man that will bring our different cultures together in our district. I saw an intelligent man that will outreach to our community. I welcome you to our diverse district.

Director Burkhardt stated, I cannot let this opportunity go by without reflecting on the fact that it was probably a warm July afternoon back in the early 90's where a young man presented himself for his first administrative job. He was a social studies teacher at Emmaus High School. There were three administrators at Liberty at the time, myself, Ms. Seidel and Mr. Seamen and we were interviewing for an additional position. Joe Roy presented himself in such a spectacular manor, that we excused him and the interview was complete. We talked and if anyone knew Ms. Seidel, she didn't do things quickly. Everything was done with a lot of thought, but all three of us decided that this was a gentleman that we wanted to be part of our staff. We called him back as he was getting in his car in the front of the school and said that we would be really honored to recommend him as a candidate for an assistant principal at Liberty.

Congratulations, it is a pretty special evening.

President Leeson called for a vote on the motion. President Leeson called for a vote to accept the Boards Recommendation of Dr. Joseph Roy as the new superintendent. The motion was called with roll call as follows: Yea, Directors Amato, Burkhardt, Cann, Dexter, Follweiler, McKeon, Ortiz, Leeson
The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE TO ACCEPT
BOARD
RECOMMENDATION

President Leeson had a statement from Director Faccinetto.

PRESIDENT LEESON'S
COMMENTS

Director Faccinetto was not able to be with us this evening because he is shepherding a number of boy scouts at Philmont and anyone who knows about this trek, it is about 100 miles of walking. It is a very arduous week, but as busy as he was he wanted to send a message to Dr. Roy.

Mrs. Leeson, fellow board members, administrators, teachers, and members of the community, I very much regret that I cannot be present tonight to vote, but I am currently in New Mexico leading nine boy scouts on a 100 mile backpacking trip of a life time. That being said, I wanted to express my full support for Dr. Joseph Roy as the next superintendent of the Bethlehem Area School District.

Dr. Roy has all the qualities this district needs in a leader at this point in time. On June 4th, I was lucky enough to be able to visit his past two districts, Springfield Township and Upper Mooreland. The amount of support within both of these districts for Dr. Roy was overwhelming to say the least. His ability to inspire the people around him is nothing short of amazing. I have all the confidence in the world that Dr. Roy will move the BASD forward while bringing a renewed sense of excitement to our dedicated employees. Dr. Roy – Congratulations. Welcome. I look forward to working with you in the future.

President Leeson had a few comments to share: Tonight is a historic evening. Tonight we turn the next page in the Bethlehem Area School District history. Tonight is the night that we are electing a new superintendent Dr. Joseph Roy.

Before we move to that, I would like to say thank you to Dr. Persing. Dr. Persing has gone above and beyond any expectations this board ever could have had a year ago. He has given his heart and his soul to this district and for that we are extremely thankful. He has put this district in a place where we are now ready to move forward and it is with much excitement that we look to Dr. Roy as we move forward. The board had the opportunity to interview a large number of highly qualified candidates. The board was most impressed with Dr. Roy's passion for Bethlehem. We learned through some thorough investigation that he had the ability to take on difficult tasks and turn hard situations around. We learned of his propensity for hard work and we also learned as Director Dexter said of his honor, moral strengths and his values. We heard of his ability to inspire people to want to follow him. Dr. Roy, like all of us here, embraces the diversity of our community as Director Ortiz pointed out. We know that with the teachers, the staff, the administrators, the board and with Dr. Roy at the helm we are ready to get back to the glory days of Bethlehem. Dr. Roy, speaking on behalf of the entire board, we welcome you tonight and look forward to seeing you in a very short period of time sitting right up here with us.

President Leeson ask Dr. Roy if he wished to speak at this time or would he like to reserve that for his first meeting.

Dr. Roy said he would like to thank the board for all the kind comments. I am honored to be here.

No one wished to address the Board of School Directors.

COURTESY
OF THE FLOOR
TO VISITORS

President Leeson requested a motion for adjournment. Director Dexter moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest,
Stacy M. Gober
Board Secretary

