

**February 8, 2016**

A meeting of the Galeton Area School Board was held in the Music Room of the Galeton Area School District.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Bonita Stover at 6:30 PM.

Board Members and all others present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

The following School Board Members were also present, as confirmed by roll call:

Attendance

Tony Cimino, Beth Fuller, Michael Hoza, Julie Lane, Charles Tameris, and Rick Yonkin. Charles Bach and Dr. Mary Geiter were absent.

Others present included Superintendent Dr. Brenda Freeman, Principal Clyde Pierce, Business Manager/Board Secretary Penny Crowell, and interested community members.

Minutes

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the minutes from the January 11, 2016, Board Meeting. On motion of Mr. Cimino and second of Mr. Tameris, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the minutes.

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the General Fund Bills List. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the bills.

General Fund Bills List

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the School Lunch Fund Bills List. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the bills.

School Lunch Bills List

**Mock Trial:** President Stover thanked Mr. Mike Plummer for his help and support to students in the Mock Trial competition. Mr. Plummer commented that the kids did a great job. We are going to do it again and “whoop-em” next time! Dr. Freeman complimented the students and Mr. Plummer for a good job and said the students want to participate again next year.

**Superintendent Dr. Brenda Freeman reported on the following:**

- **Students of the Month: Heather Miller, Elementary Student,** was nominated for being a student who is quick to help her peers. She is the first one in class to want to help someone else. She volunteers continually and is a model student.
- **Keystone Exams:** The Governor post-poned this exam for two years. There are many alternatives to the exam and schools are concerned that some students may not be able to pass it. The Keystone Exam is still part of the SPP rating program so we still need to take it; however, it will not be required for graduation at this time.
- **State Budget:** The District has only received 45% of the Basic Education Funding. We are monitoring and watching our expenditures closely. I encourage you to write your legislators to approve the budget.
- **2014/15 Audit:** The audit is being recommended for acceptance by the school board. The on-site audit was completed in December; however, the final document was just completed by the auditor this past month. Internal controls with our small staff continue to be monitored.

Superintendent's Report

**Principal Clyde Pierce reported on the following:**

- **Tenure Recommendation:** Miss Angela Cochran, Elementary Teacher, is being recommended for tenure at this meeting. She is a wonderful and very compassionate teacher. She is working on her Level II certification. This recommendation is coming to the Board now since the evaluation scores under the new process just came back from the state.

Principal's Report

- **Mock Trial:** Mr. Pierce thanked Mr. Plummer for his assistance.
- **Think Pink:** This was a great event coordinated by a student as a senior project with much support and assistance from Mr. Tameris. The activity raised over \$4,000 for the Patterson Cancer Center.
- **Act 80 Day:** Teachers worked with SPP score data to identify ways to improve student learning and achievement.
- **ROAR Mid-Year Review:** A video on appropriate student behaviors in school was presented. It was written and put together by students.
- **Newsletter Items:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is working on PSSA preparation and the Technology Education program students are working on individual projects in wood, metal and drafting. The Rotary donated materials and students are building benches for town.
- **Other items:** Teacher mid-year reviews are complete. The District was not awarded the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant and Mr. Pierce will inquire why for future applications. The discipline and athletic reports were given. Family Reading Night will be February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Business Manager Penny Crowell reported on the following:**

**Treasurer’s Report:** As of January 31, 2016, the cash balance for all accounts is \$2,392,620, \$403,524 of this being fund balance. Expenditures on hold continue to be cyber charter tuition-- \$212,019, PSERS employer contribution - \$177,029 and a loan from Fund Balance - \$533,255.

Mr. Yonkin inquired if there is a penalty for not paying cyber charter tuition.

Dr. Freeman responded there has been no discussion about a penalty. Most schools are holding payments such as this since the state budget is at impasse.

State Ethics Statement: Mrs. Crowell asked all Board Members and Administrators to complete the annual State Ethics form and return to her as soon as possible.

**Citizen Recognition:**

Mr. Mike Plummer reminded the Board that the “most important holiday” is coming—March 14<sup>th</sup> is pi-day. Dr. Freeman said that the district will participate.

Mr. Plummer also informed the Board that he has reorganized his legal practice and can no longer act as a private practitioner. His newly formed firm, D. Plummer Law Firm LLP can serve the District. President Stover acknowledged that the Board would like to continue working with the reorganized firm.

**Action Items:**

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation for the employment of John Blass as Maintenance/Custodian effective February 9, 2016, contingent upon receive of current clearances. Mr. Blass will be employed at \$11.50/hour plus benefits as defined by the Support Staff Conditions of Employment and Board Policy #508 Support Employees Employment Contract. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the employment.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation for the employment of Cassandra Emery as Cafeteria Monitor effective February 9, 2016. Ms. Emery will be employed at \$7.50/hour plus benefits as defined by the Support Staff Conditions of Employment and Board Policy #508 Support Employees Employment Contract. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the employment.

Business Manager’s Report

Citizen Recognition

John Blass Employment

Cassandra Emery Employment

President Stover asked for a motion to approve a two year extension of the WAN and internet access contract with Seneca Highlands IU #9 from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018. On motion of Mr. Cimino and second of Mr. Yonkin the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the contract (EXHIBIT).

WAN Contract

President Stover asked for a motion to add Dawn Stover to the day-to-day substitute employees list for secretary, teacher aide, fitness center, cafeteria and custodian effective February 9, 2016. On motion of Mrs. Fuller and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 6 to 0 to 1, with Mrs. Stover abstaining, to approve the addition.

Substitute Employees

President Stover asked for a motion to add McKayla Cochran to the day-to-day substitute employees list for secretary, teacher aide and fitness center effective February 9, 2016. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the addition.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Administration for the 2016/17 school calendar. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the motion (EXHIBIT).

2016/17 School Calendar

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Administration to grant tenure and enter into a Professional Employee's contract with Angela Cochran, Elementary Teacher, retroactive to the beginning of the 2015/16 school year. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve tenure.

Angela Cochran Tenure

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Administration to accept the 2014/15 Audit conducted by Buffamante, Whipple, and Buttafaro, P.C. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 7 to 0 to accept the audit.

2014/15 Audit

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Administration to approve D. Plummer Law Firm, LLP, as district special counsel. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mr. Tameris, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the special counsel.

D. Plummer Law Firm, LLP  
Special counsel

**President Stover made the following announcements:**

Announcements

**Executive Session:** February 8, 2016, 6:00 PM, Galeton Area SD Library  
RE: Personnel and Labor

**Next Board Meeting:** March 14, 2016, 6:30 PM, Galeton Area School District Music Room

Being that there was no other business before the Board, President Stover asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mr. Yonkin, the meeting was adjourned by a vote of 7 to 0.

Adjournment

Approved as read March 14, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny L. Crowell,  
Board Secretary