

Galeton Area School District
School Board Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2016

A meeting of the Galeton Area School Board was held in the Music Room of the Galeton Area School District on April 11, 2016.

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

Beth Fuller, Dr. Mary Geiter, Michael Hoza, Charles Tameris, Rick Yonkin and Charles Bach. Tony Cimino and Julie Lane 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 March 14, 2016, Board Meeting. On motion of Mr. Yonkin 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 Mrs. Fuller and second of Mr. Hoza, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the bills (EXHIBIT).

General Fund Bills List

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

School Lunch Bills List

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the Field Trip Recommendations. On motion of Dr. Geiter and second of Mr. Hoza, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the field trips (EXHIBIT).

Field Trip

Superintendent Dr. Brenda Freeman reported on the following:

Superintendent's Report

- **Students of the Month:** **Lauren Sully, Elementary Student**, was nominated for always being prepared, making good use of time, caring, responsible, and students look up to her. Vinnie Carbo, Elementary Student, and Julia Burrows, High School Student, were also nominated but not in attendance.
- **State Budget:** We have been tracking the many changes about the up in the air funding. The State Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera met with IU 9 Superintendents and relayed that the Governor believes schools are underfunded. On March 23rd Dr. Freeman joined other school officials at a rally in Harrisburg. Some schools reported as not having enough funds to make the next payroll. Others had no pay increases for five years. The Governor did allow the budget to become law without signature or veto within 10 days. But he did veto the funding distribution bill, leaving question to how much funding the District will receive for 2015/16. April 4 was PASA/PSBA Advocacy day and Dr. Freeman attended to meet with Representative Baker and Senator Scarnati. They were pro-education and against cyber charter schools. She shared the low PILT tax, high cyber charter tuition rate, and other concerns with the legislators. The Administration has sent letters to the Governor and legislators expressing concerns about funding issues and the impact on the District. Through Secretary Rivera, Dr. Freeman invited the Governor to a school north of Route 80. He said he would pass the suggestion along to the Governor.
- **VFW Essay contest winners** were announced.

- **Gale Pride:** This organization brought an Americorps Worker program presentation to the staff and community members. The program could bring workers into the Galeton community and the school.

Principal Clyde Pierce reported on the following:

- **Guidance Liaison Position:** The Potter County Education Council has provided guidance assistance through hire of a part-time counselor, Lanae Gurnsey, to assist with career guidance and other areas over the next year.
- **ROAR Grant:** The District has received a grant to assist with implementation of the ROAR program and expansion into the high school next year. The funds will be used for staff training, program incentives and other expenses.
- **Senior Project Status:** All seniors are on-track to meet senior project requirements and presentations have been scheduled.
- **Newsletter Items:** Sixth grade highlighted PSSA preparations in Reading and Math. They are also working on continent studies in Social Studies and spring themes for the Open House. Library is working on research projects for grades 3 – 6. Grades K-2 are working on character, setting and plots in stories. Fifth grade is also preparing for the PSSA's and STEM projects in Science.
- **Upcoming Events:** PSSA testing April 12 – 26, Blood Drive April 13, Jr. High Play April 15 & 16, Open House April 28

Principal's Report

Business Manager Penny Crowell reported on the following:

2016/17 Budget Overview: The Administration will present a proposed final budget for Board approval at the May Board meeting. With the state funding not yet known, it has been difficult to estimate revenues and arrive at a budget number. Currently, expenditures are at \$7,171,566—which is \$308,763 above 2015/16. Revenue is projected at \$6,948,742. This leaves a deficit of (\$222,824). Cyber charter tuition continues to be a main budget concern at a current budgeted amount of \$355,200. PSERS employer share remains high at 30.03% on all wage dollars. Medical insurance is another main budget factor, with a 20% increase for 2016/17. The Payment in Lieu of Taxes program is being reviewed by some legislators. PA House Bill #343 of 2015 would double the current \$1.20/acre payment the District receives for state land and may increase tax revenue by \$140,737.

Business Manager's Report

Citizen Recognition:

Mr. Michael Plummer of Galeton thanked former Board members for not doing the energy program three years ago. The bond debt service would be a lot worse now had the District entered into that program. Mrs. Linda Plummer congratulated the Board for the "honest" budget.

Citizen Recognition

Action Items:

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration's recommendation to include the PA Governor's 2016/17 budget proposal in the 2016/17 Galeton Area School District Proposed Final Budget. Dr. Freeman indicated that this is where the Administration will begin to build the budget. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mr. Bach, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the recommendation.

2016/17 Governor's Recommendation on Budget

President Stover made the following announcements:

Executive Session: April 11, 2016, 6:00 PM, Galeton Area SD Library, RE: Labor & Employee

Next Board Work Session: *May meeting has been cancelled since the state budget has not been approved..*

Next Board Meeting: May 9, 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.

Approved as read May 9, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny L. Crowell,
Board Secretary

Announcements

Adjournment

