

Galeton Area School District
School Board Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2015

A meeting of the Galeton Area School Board was held August 3, 2015, in the Music Room of the Galeton Area School District.

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

Call to Order

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: Charles Bach, Beth Fuller, Michael Hoza, Julie Lane, Charles Tameris, Rick Yonkin, and James Douglass. Teresa Batterson was absent.

Attendance

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

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the minutes from the June 8, 2015, Board Meeting. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mr. Tameris, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the minutes.

Minutes

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the General Fund Bills List. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mr. Bach the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the bills list (EXHIBIT).

Bill List

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of a letter of resignation from Andrew Meyer, Technology Education Teacher. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the resignation.

Meyer resignation

Superintendent Dr. Brenda Freeman reported on the following:

- **Opening of School** – The teachers will start with inservice on August 21 and 24. Students start on August 25.
- **New Law Update** – Under House Bill 1013, Superintendents will no longer evaluate home school portfolios in lieu of a state evaluator. Senate Bill 880 may delayed Keystone Exams by 2 years, but community service and senior projects will still be required. Senate Bill 6 provides school improvement guidelines. District's in the lowest 5% of PSSA scores will be in improvement and the lowest 1% in achievement. The state would take over schools and replace staff in the achievement area.
- **PSSA Scores** – The cut scores in the state were supposed be lowered, but they were raised. Dr. Freeman reviewed the district raw scores in relation to the state averages. Confidence intervals will be added before scores are final.

Superintendent's Report

Principal Clyde Pierce reported on the following:

- **CCLC Grant** – Mr. Pierce has been working with community stake holders on an after school grant and it was submitted.

Principal's Report

Business Manager Penny Crowell reported on the following:

- **2014/15 Expenditure Update** – A preliminary report on last year’s expenditures shows an approximate \$16,000 overage due to unanticipated expenses.
- **2015/16 Expenditure Update** – A preliminary cash flow projection report estimates that without a PA State budget and state subsidies, the District can operate until mid-December 2015. This would include utilizing fund balance. The Administration is requesting board action tonight to transfer fund balance to the general fund. Mr. Yonkin asked what happens if we don’t get the state subsidy. Mrs. Crowell replied that the Administration is looking into a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note. Dr. Freeman indicated that a majority of schools are going through this, not just small schools. She also stated that it is not my intent to close the doors.

Citizen Recognition:

Lorri Stocum – expressed concern about schools.

Action Items:

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation for the employment of Jessica Green as Elementary Teacher effective August 21, 2015. Ms. Green will be employed as a Temporary Professional Employee at Bachelor’s Step 1, \$40,700, plus benefits as defined by the GEA/GASD Agreement. On motion of Mrs. Fuller and second of Mrs. Lane, the board voted 8 to 0 to approve the employment.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to transfer Tim Huck from Autistic Support Teacher to Technology Education Teacher beginning with the 2015/16 school year. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mr. Bach, the Board voted 8 – 0 to approve the transfer.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation for the employment of Janelle Sykora as Autistic Support Teacher effective August 21, 2015. Ms. Sykora will be employed as a Professional Employee at Master’s Step 8, \$52,575, plus benefits as defined by the GEA/GASD Agreement. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the employment.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation for the employment of Heather Brelo as Long-Term Substitute PreK Teacher from August 21, 2015, through November 25, 2015. Ms. Brelo will be employed at \$220.00/day plus individual benefits. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the employment.

Business Manager’s Report

Jessica Green employment

Tim Huck transfer

Janelle Sykora employment

Heather Brelo Long-Term Substitute

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to transfer the following current employees effective with the 2015/16 school year: Maria Wenrich from Dishwasher to Head Cook, an 8 hour/day position; Heather Jones from Cafeteria Monitor to Dishwasher, a 5 hour/day position. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the transfers.

Food Service Transfers

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to approve the 2015/16 Substitute Employee’s List (EXHBIIT). On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the listing.

Substitute List

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to renew the Virtual Academy Contract with Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit #9 for the 2015/16 school year to provide an option for the District’s cyber education program. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mr. Douglass the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the Contract (EXHIBIT).

IU9 Virtual Academy

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to renew the Wellsboro Online Academy Dual-Enrollment Course Agreement for the 2015/16 school year to provide an option for the District’s cyber education program. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mr. Tameris, the Board voted 8 to – to approve the Agreement (EXHIBIT).

Wellsboro On-Line Academy

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation of the first reading revisions to Board Policy #237 Electronic Devices. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the first reading (EXHIBIT).

Policy Revision – 237 Electronic Devices

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to enter into a cooperative agreement with The Meadows Psychiatric Center in the event District students are admitted to this facility. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the agreement (EXHIBIT).

The Meadows Agreement

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to transfer \$533,255 from Fund Balance to General Fund to meet District operating expenditures pending receipt of 2015 tax revenue and approval of the 2015 PA State Budget. In addition, the Administration requests Board permission for the Superintendent to approve the use of the remaining Fund Balance for operating expenditures if needed due to the lack of PA State funding receipts.

Fund Balance Transfer

Initial Transfer:

Unreserved	\$244,513
Retirement Reserve	106,478
Board Services Reserve	15,000
Grant Projects	18,500
Fitness Center Reserve	10,000
Capital Reserve	100,000
Maintenance Reserve	38,764

TOTAL 533,255

Remaining Fund Balance:

Non-spendable/scholarships	39,474
Maintenance Reserve	268,644
Technology Reserve	50,000
Curriculum Reserve	45,406
TOTAL	403,524
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	936,779

On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mr. Tameris, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the transfer of funds. Mrs. Fuller inquired if the funds will be returned when the state funding comes in. Dr. Freeman replied yes and a report will be provided to the Board at that time.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration's request, in anticipation of an unapproved PA State Budget, to investigate borrowing via a tax revenue anticipation note. On motion of Mr. Bach and second of Mr. Tameris, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the request.

Tax Revenue
Anticipation Note

President Stover made the following announcements:

Executive Session:

Monday, August 3, 2015 @ 6:00 PM, RE: Employee
Galeton Area School District Library, Galeton, PA

Announcements

Next Work Session:

Monday, September 8, 2015 @ 6:30 PM
Galeton Area School District Music Room

Next Board Meeting:

Monday, September 14, 2015, 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 8 to 0.

Adjournment

Approved as read September 14, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny L. Crowell
Board Secretary