

Galeton Area School District  
School Board Meeting Minutes

**March 14, 2016**

A meeting of the Galeton Area School Board was held in the Music Room of the Galeton Area School District on March 14, 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

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

Others present included Superintendent Dr. Brenda Freeman, 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 February 8, 2016, Board Meeting. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mr. Tameris, the Board voted 8 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. Lane and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 8 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 Mr. Tameris and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the bills.

School Lunch Bills List

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the May 11, 2016, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades Annual Field Day field trip to Renovo Elementary School. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mr. Cimino, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the trip.

Field Trip

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

Superintendent's Report

- **Students of the Month: Olivia Rohrbaugh, Cassidy Burrous, & Alli Macensky, Elementary Students**, were nominated for having community pride that goes far beyond what we expect from students at school. They organized a fund-raiser called Orange & Black day to benefit the ASPCA.

**High School Student Dan Polz** was nominated for excelling in a math class that he just began mid-year. He helps others in class and is very artistic. He is our go-to when we need any architectural projects at school.

District Level Plan

- **PA Department of Education** has accepted the 7/1/16 – 6/30/19, District Level Plan (EXH).
- **Course Requirements Update:** We would like to move the computer applications class to 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades, then a digital citizenship class could be offered to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students for proper internet usage and research skills, and to build on the computer applications. This will prepare students for computer use and classroom projects in 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. This will also allow a personal finance class to be offered in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Freeman stated that we should continually look at and update our curriculum.
- **Pi Day** was a great success. Everyone enjoyed it!
- **Meeting with Representative Matthew Baker:** Dr. Freeman met with the Representative to get a budget update. He is confident that the budget discussions are going well and expects a 15/16 budget within 30 days. As of this date, we expect to use the TRAN to borrow funds to complete the year. We do not plan to close our doors. Representative Stan Sailor, Chair of the House Education Committee, is pro-cyber-charter schools. Board members and citizens are encouraged to contact him regarding this issue for our school.

- **Donor's Choice:** Mrs. Lewis received \$1,000 for kitchen supplies and \$300 for a new baby in the child development class.
- **Safety Plan Committee:** The District is required to submit a new plan next year and we are working with FEMA state representative Michael Knight and a committee of school, fire department, ambulance and borough representatives.
- **SEED:** Student Extra Education Program is available through the grocery store Shop N Save. Use the store's Perk Card and register on-line for the school to receive benefits.
- **Fitness Center:** The Gale Foundation has purchased new equipment for the fitness center. We thank them for their generous support.
- **Elementary Play:** The students did a wonderful job and really get into their roles. Thank you to Mrs. Dimon and Ms. Green for facilitating the play, presented March 11 and 12.
- **IU 9 Superintendent's Retreat:** Dr. Freeman will be at this program in State College March 17 and 18. Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera will speak and budget and education issues will be discussed.

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

**Electricity Consortium:** The District participates in an electricity consortium with IU 9 districts and On-Demand Energy. They have notified us that our rate will go down and we can lock into the service for another term through December 2019. The current rate is .0627 and the new rate will be .05479, a reduction of .0079/kilowatt hour.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of February 28, 2016, the cash balance for all accounts is \$1,940,454, \$403,524 of this being fund balance. Expenditures on hold continue to be cyber charter tuition--\$287,828 and a loan from Fund Balance - \$533,255. Compared to the 2015/16 budgeted revenue, the following state subsidies are uncertain at this time: BEF 1,269,593; SEF 115,365; REN Subsidy 168,000; Social Security Reimbursement 18,986. Unless the 2015/16 budget is approved soon, the District will be required to draw funds from the TRAN by May 1.

**Citizen Recognition:**

Mrs. Linda Plummer referred to a speaker at Corning who discussed the digital meeting the physical. He was so excited about everything he did. This is the kind of excitement for learning that is so important. Thank you administration, school board and teachers for everything you do.

**Action Items:**

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration's recommendation that all tuition payments to cyber charter schools be held pending resolution of the PA state budget. This recommendation is impelled by the following:

- Continued Pennsylvania State 2015/16 budget impasse
  - Local revenue provides only 51% of all revenues
  - The State has ceased to make budgeted and necessary basic education funding payments
  - The State has not approved budgeted and necessary bond issue reimbursements in the amount of \$168,000
  - PA School Code Section 1155 prioritizes payroll obligations before other current expenses
- On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mr. Tameris, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the recommendation.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration's recommendation of the Resolution Supporting School Districts Serving as Plaintiffs in a School Funding Lawsuit. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mr. Yonkin the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the Resolution (EXHIBIT).

Business Manager's Report

Citizen Recognition

Hold Cyber Charter Tuition

School Funding Lawsuit Resolution

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration's recommendation of the Resolution Urging the Governor and the General Assembly to Finalize the 2015/16 and 2016/17 State Budgets and Adequately Fund School Districts. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Dr. Geiter the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the Resolution (EXHIBIT).

Finalize the 15/16 and 16/17 State Budget Resolution

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Administration to enter into a supplemental contract with Matt Stover as Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2015/16 school year in the amount of \$2,780, pending receipt of clearances. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mr. Cimino, the Board voted 7 to 0 to 1, with Mrs. Stover abstaining, to approve the coach.

Baseball Coach

President Stover asked for a motion to accept the School Based Behavioral Health: Establishment of SWPBIS (Schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) grant in the amount of \$5,965 in support of the District's ROAR Positive Behavior Interventions & Support Program. On motion of Mr. Cimino and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 8 to 0 to accept the grant.

SWPBIS Grant

President Stover asked for a motion to accept the Administration's recommendation to add Lore Pifer to the day-to-day substitute employees' list for secretary, teacher aide, fitness center, cafeteria and custodian. On motion of Dr. Geiter and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 7 to 1, with Mr. Tameris voting no, to add the substitute.

Substitute List

President Stover asked for a motion to accept the Administration's recommendation to enter into a Technical Service Agreement with Zito Business for hosted VOIP voice services for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 fiscal years in the amount of \$869.50 per month (\$97 less than the 2015/16 rate. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 8 to 0 to enter into the Agreement (EXHIBIT).

Zito Media VOIP Agreement

President Stover asked for a motion to accept the Administration's recommendation to adopt a Resolution of the Articles of Agreement for the Operation of the Seneca Highlands Career and Technical Center. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mr. Cimino, the Board voted 8 to 0 to adopt the Resolution (EXHIBIT).

CTC Articles of Agreement

President Stover asked for a motion to accept the Administration's recommendation to adopt the Resolution Concerning the Intermediate Unit Budget, whereby the 2016/17 Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit #9 General Operating Budget is a total of \$1,259,043, of which the Galeton Area School District's share is \$48,915. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Dr. Geiter, the Board voted 7 to 1, with Mr. Tameris voting no, to approve the Resolution (EXHIBIT).

16/17 IU 9 General Operating Budget

**President Stover made the following announcements:**

Announcements

**Executive Session:** March 14, 2016, 5:30 PM, Galeton Area SD Library, RE: Labor

**Next Board Work Session:** April 4, 2016, meeting has been cancelled.

**Next Board Meeting:** April 11, 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 8 to 0.

Adjournment

Approved as read April 11, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny L. Crowell,  
Board Secretary

