

MARCH 9, 2009
CHOCONUT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – FACULTY ROOM
MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION MINUTES

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED APRIL 13, 2009

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Mr. Chris Caterson
President, Board of Directors

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky
Superintendent of Schools

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - The Montrose Area School District Board of Directors Work Session was called to order by Board Vice President Mr. George Gow at 7:46 PM in the Choconut Valley Elementary School faculty room, RR 1 Box 1730, Friendsville, PA, 18818.

A. Roll Call Attendance – Mr. Lewis Plauny, Board Secretary
PRESENT: Mr. George Gow, Mrs. Mary Homan, Ms. Julie Humphrey, Mrs. Kathleen Mordovancey, Mrs. Gloria Smith, Mrs. Pamela Staats, Mr. Douglas Wilcox, Mr. Karl Wimmer
ABSENT; Mr. Christopher Caterson
ADMINISTRATORS/SUPERVISORS: Mr. Michael Ognosky, Mr. Lewis Plauny, Mr. James Tallarico, Mr. Greg Adams, Mr. Chris McComb, Mr. Craig Owens, Mr. Rickie Clapper

II. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

- A. Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program – Polly Pritchard and Fatima El Addaoui
Mr. Tallarico reported that the teacher exchange program has been an excellent experience for all involved and introduced Mrs. Pritchard, teacher at the Junior-Senior High School and Ms. El Addaoui, visiting Montrose from Morocco, to those in attendance. Mrs. Pritchard relayed many of her experiences while living and teaching in Morocco and reported that it had been an honor to have been chosen for this program and thanked the members of the Board for their support in this joint endeavor. Ms. El Addaoui expressed her thanks for the warm welcome that she has received from everyone in the district and reported that she feels this program promotes “good citizenship between nations” as well as breaking through stereotypes that exist in both countries. Mr. Ognosky thanked both teachers for their participation in this program which has benefited the district’s students greatly.
- B. Administrators’ Reports – Electronically sent to members of the Board
1. Don Golden
 2. Betsy O’Malley
 3. Russ Canevari
 4. Mr. Rickie Clapper reported on various projects around the district including a change in the law that will affect the way the district’s indoor lighting is presently handled, the building permit for the concession stand at the Junior-Senior High School and updated those in attendance on the status of the softball field as well as the soccer field fence.
 5. Mr. Craig Owens reported that the server replacement for the district had gone very smoothly and updated the members of the Board on various projects including video conferences being held in the district’s Community Learning Center, student’s use of the CLC for a Latin III course, as well as pooling resources with Intermediate Units 18 and 19 to purchase megabytes in bulk for district use. Mr. Owens also updated the members of the Board on the Pennsylvania High School Computer Fair which is being held at Keystone College.
 6. Mr. Greg Adams reported that the prep classes for PSSA were winding down and that a pep rally has been scheduled for grades three through six in anticipation of the PSSA testing that will begin next week. Mr. Adams further reported that a new Big Brother/Big Sister program will be implemented in the district with high school students being paired with Lathrop Street Elementary School students. In response to questions from Board members, Mr. Adams, Mr. Tallarico and Mr. Ognosky explained how the students were selected from both schools to participate in this program as well as the training the high school students will undergo before meeting with their assigned elementary student.

II. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS – Administrator’s Reports continued

7. Mr. Chris McComb reported that PSSA testing at Choconut Valley Elementary School will be held the week of March 16th for grades four and six and the following week for grades three and five and that a party will be held for the students and staff participating in the PSSA prep courses. Those in attendance were invited by Mr. McComb to the C.V.E.S. Spring Fair which will be held on Saturday, April 18th and also reported on the Dr. Seuss birthday events and activities.
8. Mr. James Tallarico reviewed the PSSA testing schedule for the Junior-Senior High School and updated the members of the Board on the workshops held at that level to get the students prepared for the testing. Mr. Tallarico recapped the winter sports schedule and reviewed the spring schedule for those in attendance, reporting that participation in all sports is on the increase. Mr. Tallarico further reported that a new Peer Tutoring program has been introduced at the high school and is being very well received.
9. Mr. Lewis Plauny updated the members of the Board on the 21st Century Grant conference he recently attended in Harrisburg as well as a conference he will attend March 19th regarding possible changes to the way that Blue Cross will be handling claims in the future.
10. Mr. Michael Ognosky reported that he will be attending a video conference Governor Rendell will be holding and will update the members of the Board following the conference.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Review of March 4th Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting minutes – Mr. Gow
Mr. Gow reported that the majority of the meeting was devoted to discussion regarding the request of the Bridgewater Baptist Church to use the high school for weekly church services, briefly covering the items discussed including the breakdown of costs to the church. The representatives for the church attending the meeting reported that they will review the charges to determine if it would be cost effective to utilize the high school for their services. Mr. Ognosky reported the meeting was very cordial and that the Bridgewater Baptist Church will be using the high school for one upcoming meeting.
- B. Support staff daily substitute pay – Mr. Ognosky
Mr. Ognosky reported that he would like the members of the Board to consider an increase in the substitute support staff hourly pay for the 2009-2010 school year in order to increase applicant interest.
- C. Proposed 2009 – 2010 Course Selection Guide – Mr. Tallarico
Mr. Tallarico reported that all selection guides have been turned in to him and have remained the same except for one change. Mr. Ognosky advised the Board that the CAT teams will report to the members at the April Curriculum Committee meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Items from members of Board of Directors - None

VI. COMMITTEES

- A. Schedule meetings

A variety of dates were discussed for committee meetings in April and it was agreed that after checking calendars an Extra Curricular and a Technology Committee meeting would be scheduled.

VII. VISITORS’ COMMENTS

(Visitors must speak directly into the public microphone for accurate transcription of minutes. Even if the person speaks loud enough to be heard by meeting attendees, they cannot be heard on the tape transcription unless they speak directly into the microphone.)

Following a question by Mrs. Eileen Baessler, teacher for the Montrose Area School District, a discussion was held regarding communication between the administration and the faculty at the Junior-Senior High School.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – This meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:59 PM.