

**MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER**  
**MEETING DATE MAY 28, 2009 7:00 P.M.**

**Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

**28 MAY 2009**

Community Advisory Committee Members Present: Jim Shelp, Deb Bush, Rich Niederberger, Richard Jordan, Dave Plank

Board Members Present: Chris Caterson, Julie Humphrey, Kathy Mordovancey and Mary Homan

Administration Present: Mike Ognosky

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

**Items Discussed:**

I. Mike Ognosky took the roll and noted the attendance as listed above.

II. Old Business: The following item was presented under Old Business

- **Current State Budget Status:** Mike Ognosky reviewed the events in Harrisburg regarding the dispute over the budget between the legislative branch and the governor. The primary focus of the dispute is the distribution of the economic stimulus funds provided under President Obama's economic stimulus package and how those funds are to be distributed to the state and, ultimately, the school districts. It is in the best interest of the district that the governor's proposal be supported as it funnels hundreds of thousands of dollars to the district as discretionary funds.
- **Property Tax Reduction – State Gambling revenue update:** Mr. Ognosky explained that currently each qualified homestead/farmstead property owner in the district will receive a reduction on their property tax bill of \$361.52 due to the gambling revenue made available to the state.
- **Update on Bid proposals currently underway:** Mr. Ognosky reviewed the status of the bid procedures on a number of projects that the district hopes to complete this summer. Chief among those are the bids for upgrades in the

heating systems of all three school buildings. The upgrades will provide for much better control of the systems during off peak hours – our primary energy saving opportunities. A Special thank you was given to the Energy Ad Hoc Committee, as their work resulted in those recommendations being approved by the board. Also, the Board authorized the bidding of work to be done on the completion of a new concession stand at the High School Stadium that will also include bathrooms for spectator utilization.

III. New Business: The following items were discussed under New Business:

- **Oil and Natural Gas Lease @ Choconut Valley Elementary School:** Mr. Caterson reviewed the natural gas lease that the district has entered into with Alta, Incorporated for “no surface operations” at the Choconut Valley Elementary School. He thanked Mr. Jordan for his work with the district in providing a lease that provides the district with much discretion with any operations to be considered at Choconut Valley.

IV. Open Forum: The meeting was then opened for discussion on any item by members of the committee:

- Jim Shelp asked for some clarification as to why the district changed some of the current provisions in the dress code. Mr. Ognosky explained that the Board Policy Committee, the Teacher Discipline Committee at the Junior-Senior High School, and the Student Liaison Committee all were in agreement that the current dress code needed to be “tightened up” and the provisions approved will, hopefully, do that. One of the primary concerns that Jim has heard is the flip-flop regulation.
- Rich Niederberger asked a question regarding the number of teacher retirements for this year. Mr. Ognosky explained that there were two retirements, both in the High School English Department, and both would be filled through the interview process.
- Richard Jordan asked the board to reconsider the current philosophy in regard to the Advanced Placement courses at the High School. Currently, students who take Advanced Placement courses are not required to take the Advanced Placement exam at the conclusion of the course. He believes this leads to a watered down Advanced Placement curriculum and asked that the administration consider making the taking of the examination a mandatory part of the class. In a discussion that followed one of the concerns was the cost of the examination and Mr. Jordan offered that he would certainly support the board in a decision to supplement the cost incurred for the taking of the examinations.
- Richard Jordan also said that in a review of the most recent “Meteor Chronicle” he was concerned that the college bound choices of our students from the Class of 2009 did not include institutions such as Ivy League schools, Lehigh, Bucknell, etc. and was concerned that perhaps students were being guided away from such choices. Mr. Ognosky responded that in previous years we have had students accepted at all of the schools mentioned and that students are

encouraged to apply to their first choice schools on a consistent basis. He offered that at the next meeting, scheduled for September, he would invite the Guidance Department to present their procedures in offering parents and students guidance in preparing their college choices.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> in the Faculty Room of the Choconut Valley Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.**

Submitted by

*Mike Ognosky*