

**Hanover Public School District  
Board of Directors  
Minutes**

**Monday, January 30, 2008**

**5:30 P.M.**

**A. Opening Business**

- a) Call to Order – The meeting of the Hanover Public School District Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 P.M. in the boardroom of the administration building.
- b) Pledge of Allegiance
- c) Roll Call
  - i) Board Members present: Mr. Bortner, Mr. Kauffman (arrived at 5:35), Mrs. Lingg, Dr. O'Connor, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Mr. West, Mr. Zeigler.  
  
Member absent: Mr. Baker
  - ii) Also Present: Mrs. Gunnet, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Albin, Mrs. Schonover, Mr. Lehman, Dr. Krout, Dr. Doll, Mrs. Frock, Mr. Hershner, Mr. Klenk, Mr. Stahlman, Mr. Fry, Mr. Wentz, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Czap, Dr. Mowery, Teresa Erdman, HEA.

**B. Recognition of Visitors and Public Comments – None**

The purpose of the evening was to address the issues raised in the alternate budget document provided to administration by the Board.

**Budget Timeline History**

Troy Wentz discussed the past budget meetings by reviewing the timeline of budget discussions to bring the budget process to the current status. Included in the discussion were the other areas of consideration that the administration brought to the Board for the January 21 meeting that could limit the current deficit in the budget and fund balance utilization.

**Administration Presentations**

**Retirement Rates-**Troy Wentz discussed the PSERS retirement rate of 4.76% that was approved in conjunction with the legislatures consideration of implementing a floor of 7.13% on that rate and the consideration that the Board needs to make as to whether to budget at the approved rate or the suggested rate floor, if this legislation is not passed.

**New Staff Request-High School Math Teacher-**Karen Schoonover discussed the need for the additional high school math teacher and past practice of teachers teaching 6 periods a day. The High School curriculum has increased the number of math credits needed to graduate, although a test out option is currently available. Dual certification by faculty members was also discussed.

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**New Staff Request-Middle School Reading Teacher**-Pam Smith discussed the need for the additional middle school reading teacher. Curriculum compaction was discussed as well as the higher percentage of elementary teachers to student's ratio at the elementary level with continued reading difficulties and a general difficulty among other school districts regarding reading levels. Retention versus passing of students from one grade level to another was discussed. Potential Charter School impact on enrollment numbers was discussed. The current elementary distribution of a reading teacher included sharing at all buildings to cover the varied number of students. The Imagination Library effect was discussed where the students entering Kindergarten in '08-'09 were the first group affected by receiving books from birth to Kindergarten through this program. This program is funded through the Foundation for Excellence. Class size policy includes 24 to 26 students in a class and the possibility of limiting a teacher position through attrition was discussed and a need to look at class sizes at the elementary level.

**Field Trips**-Joe Albin discussed the experiences that elementary students gain and the conceptual relationships that a student can make to the classroom material with educational fieldtrips. A request was made by Art Smith to continue to look into the Hanover Borough Government Take-Over Day. The Board felt this topic was covered sufficiently.

**York County High School Extension**-Discussion included the HOPE program and the effect it is having versus an outside High School Program. Karen Schoonover was looking into the graduation rates of outside high school programs. HOPE currently has 12 students and had its first graduate in January. 90% of the students have achieved their first credit and are working on their second credit. This year it is open to all grade levels at the high school. It was indicated that PLATO is purchased from the Foundation giving.

**Emotional Support Class**-Lois Gunnet discussed the increase in this area and what is needed to have these classes outside the IU. Staffing needs were discussed. The need for certified and highly qualified teachers was discussed and the need to send letters to parents if such staff are not present in the classroom. This occurs beginning with the grades 7 to 12 level. There was concern raised over the increased costs of the object 300 purchased services. Currently there are 7 E/S students looking to graduate and 2-4 students per grade is the average. The IU projects a 5.1% increase in SP Ed costs. Students with IEP's can receive an education up to age 21.

**Alternative Education**-Lois Gunnet discussed how closely the District works with York County Children and Youth and will provide pamphlets to the Board that introduce outside placement facilities to the Board. Building space was discussed in regards to the Nursing Program wing along with the District's participating in a higher education program.

**Psychological Contracts**-Lois Gunnet discussed that the District hired a full time psychologist. The District contracts with the IU for 2 days of service to the middle school and in addition the District must pay for services to York School of Technology. The RIT model hopes to reduce the number of psych referrals.

**Curriculum and Instruction**-Dr. Mowery expressed the need for special education coordinator and potential legal fees that may result for a District lacking such a position. Concern was expressed regarding the number of administrators as it relates to the number of students at the District. The administration structure was discussed with regards to central office administration and elementary building administrators. Concern was raised over the filling of the Assistant Superintendent's position when it was vacant for 2 years.

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**York County School of Technology**-Wes Doll expressed that \$40,000 was increased to this budget area for the increase in debt payments for the building renovation commitment. Greg Zeigler expressed there could be an increase in the number of students attending the school next year from the District. Greg Zeigler indicated that currently 25 students attend York School of Technology and 1 senior will graduate with approximately 13 students to be added. Board requested a look at history of the numbers of students entering the program and completing the program.

**Technology Plan**-Computer grants were discussed with a caution that often software costs for additional computers obtained through grants are costly in addition to once the computers are purchased, often the grants provide no upkeep money and the District then has to budget for these additional costs. David Fry discussed that the rotation of computers could be delayed with the impact being that the cost will not go away but will need to be added in a future budget year. Additional tech people would also need to be added if additional computers through grants are purchased in order to service the computers.

**School Building Communication**-The Board expressed a need for more website inclusions regarding policy and District newsletter were discussed. Gaining additional email contacts of parents through the grading system contacts could limit the number of mailings that needed to go out. Homes not having computers limits the ability to go to all website means for information distribution. Concern was raised over the displeasure by the public in the glossy paper printing of the newsletter and any cost implications.

### **Board Discussion**

Topics included professional purchased services costs have increased over the years while buildings are limited or held steady to their budget supply amounts. The transfers to the athletic department and cafeteria were discussed. Board requested to see the athletic and cafeteria budgets that were approved in July of 2007. PSBA memberships were discussed and it was noted all 501 school districts currently belong to PSBA. The budget deficit from the alternate budget (1.3 million) versus the administration budget (1.6 million) was noted.

### **Future Direction**

Dr. Mowery was to address budget goals with the Board in executive session. Dr. Mowery indicated that more time will be invested in reviewing the budget before the admin recommendation is made to the Board in April.

### **Timeline**

A timeline was developed with an April 15 target date to have an administration recommended budget to the Board for review for preliminary adoption on April 28 or May 12 and Final Adoption on June 9 or June 23.

The Board 8:05 PM went into Executive Session at 8:05 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.