

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

**Monday, March 10, 2008**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Opening Business**

Call to Order - The meeting of the Hanover Public School District Board of Education was called to order at 6:07 P.M. in the boardroom of the administration building.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Board Members: Mr. Baker, Mr. Bortner, Mr. Kauffman, Mrs. Lingg, Dr. O'Connor, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Mr. West, Mr. Zeigler

Student Board Members: Bakhtiar Shahid, Lyna Tran

Also Present: Mr. Albin, Mr. Wentz, Mr. Klenk, Mr. Hershner, Dr. Krout, Mrs. Frock, Mr. Lehman, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Stahlman, Mrs. Schoonover, Mrs. Dubbs, Linda Yowaiski, HPESPA; Diane Wagaman, Kevin O'Connor, Heather Faulhefer, Evening Sun; Jennifer Celaya, Eric Hartman, Debbie Sell, Karen Nicholas, James McMahon, Nicole Wright, Karen Cataldo, Teresa Erdman, HEA; from VIDA Charter School: Maria Ortiz, Sabrina & April Hobson, Augusta Ruiz, Maria Sosa, April Yetsko, Ty Meidl, Reinaldo Ramos, Indi Petranek Metlyn, Mark Montero, Fred Oberholtzer, Audrey Hess, Maria Perez, Luis & Raquel Zepeda, Luis Albertas, Tien Yetsko, Omar Martinez Lazo, John & Stacey Zitto, Martha Elena Holz, Juan Anacleto, Lourdes Anacleto, Lynda Cockle, Antonio Corona, Adelina Montes, Kerry Urcuyo, Teresa Moreno, Rudolfo Moreno, Laura Moreno, Erica Moreno, Isabel Moreno, Brenda Moreno, Carol Videl, April Pasko

**Recognition of Visitors and Public Comments - None**

**Approval of Minutes from Past Meetings**

The Board was requested to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting February 25, 2008. (**enclosure**)

**BOARD ACTION:**

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Lingg and passed on a vote of 9-0.

**Committee Reports (enclosure)**

**Recreation** – Mrs. Lingg reported that there was a meeting on Thursday at the Borough. A map of the recreational facilities for the Borough was given at the meeting. Mrs. Lingg noted that over half of the recreational areas designated on the map belong to the Hanover School District. Their goal is to add more recreational areas to Hanover. In the past several years Hanover Street Elementary has been closed to the recreational center for summer recreational programs. Mrs. Lingg made a motion to open Hanover Street for summer recreational program. Mr. Bortner seconded the motion. Mrs. Lingg would also like the playground be open during daylight hours. Mr. Hershner noted that they do have students that currently use the facilities. Summer Reading Academy is also held at Hanover Street but it is primarily indoors so that should not affect the recreational center program. Currently the recreational center program is held at Washington Elementary and Clearview. Dr. Mowery thought that the policy

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on use of facilities procedure should be checked. Mrs. Lingg made a motion to table the motion for the program until the next meeting in March.

**Legislative** – Mr. Baker stated that the Governor is requesting that the Board support the Graduation Competency Assessment for graduating seniors. PSBA is urging School Board's to vote against the Graduation Competency Assessment. Mr. Bortner asked when the Board needs to make a final decision. Mr. Baker stated that the Board needs to take a position as soon as possible. The deadline for replying is past, but they would still like input. If the student is given the test two weeks prior to graduation and he/she wouldn't pass the test, the student could not graduate. It would give the state more control. The cost involved in testing would probably affect money that is given to schools. Seventy-five school boards have taken a position so far. Dr. Mowery stated that if you have a real stand on it the more mail the better. Mr. Bortner felt that he would like more research. Dr. Mowery stated that if the money is used for other things the money is not increased. Dr. O'Connor felt the test does offer some positives. He said that we should be teaching to the PSSA test. We must prepare for their future not our past. If the students can't pass the test, we need to find out why. One of the drawbacks is that it may increase our drop-out rate. Mr. Baker made a motion for the Board to take a position in opposition of the competency test for seniors and seconded by Mrs. Lingg. It passed on an 8-1 roll call vote. Dr. O'Connor cast the negative vote. Mr. Baker will notify PSBA regarding the vote.

**York County School of Technology** - Mr. Zeigler gave some highlights of what is happening at York Tech. The budget will be voted on later in this meeting. Mr. Baker noted that in the budget from York Tech the property decreased by \$155,000. Mr. Zeigler will check but some property like an ambulance and fire truck that were not being used were donated to a fire company. Dr. O'Connor inquired why York Tech's budget increased by 4.3% and our proposed budget going to York Tech went up 18%. Mr. Wentz will get the breakdown. A board orientation is tentatively scheduled for April 29 from 4:30-6:30 P.M. A dinner will be held at 6:30 P.M. and tours starting at 7:30 P.M. York Tech has doubled in size. A direct payment will be made to Hanover School District in the amount of \$20,142 for expenses paid in 2006-2007.

**Wage Tax** - Dr. O'Connor attended the Hanover Area tax committee Meeting. The audit review was given and they were given a clean bill of health. The audit showed that they are efficient in how they do taxing. In western Pennsylvania every municipality does own taxing. They are looking to make it county-wide which would be the next step in regionalization.

**Moul Field Negotiating Committee & Policy Committee** - Mr. Smith would like to change the chairman of the policy committee to Mr. West and the chairman of the Moul Field Committee to Mr. Smith. Mr. West agreed to the change.

## **Student Board Member Report**

Spring sports have started last Monday. The high school raised over \$1,000 for Cystic Fibrosis. The Juniors took their SAT's last Saturday. A Badminton tournament was held and the 29 teams participating raised over \$300. A pep rally will be held next Wednesday for spring sports. A Red Cross blood drive will be held this Wednesday.

## **Superintendent's Report – Dr. David Mowery**

Some fifth grade teachers did a presentation on the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Civil War Encampment. The funding is provided by fund raisers like boxtops, activity fees and PTO. They raised many concerns including budgetary/funds, volunteers, security/safety since they spend the night outside. They felt that when new teachers are hired they should be aware of the program. Medical issues were raised. The nurse won't be spending the night. The nurse spending the night depends on student needs. Also behavioral issues were raised. After the program is over, a program review will be completed. Mr.

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Baker wondered whether Hanover police could help with security. It was stated that they are notified and they do send patrols by periodically. Dr. O'Connor wondered whether the event is still tied to curriculum beforehand. The mock battle outcome used to be based on points beforehand. They no longer do that because of the time factor. If a Board member wants to participate, they are more than welcome. If the program continues, some things need to be addressed. Dr. O'Connor felt that brain learning and memory occurs best when it is linked to an emotional activity.

Dr. Doll noted that our Strategic Plan is behind schedule. He will need two to three volunteers to be on the steering committee. Mr. Smith and Dr. O'Connor expressed an interest in being on the committee. A letter will be sent out the community that we will need community volunteers. Summer Reading Academy will be held in July.

Mrs. Schoonover supplied the number of students attending Vo-Tech. In 05-06 there were 25 students; in 06-07 24; and for 07-08 there were 25. Only two students have returned to Hanover after the first year. Eight students have moved out of the district.

Mrs. Frock stated that two full-time classified staff members are on the agenda to be approved at this meeting. A new form was submitted in regard to information about the proposed staff members and it was felt to be helpful.

Dr. O'Connor wondered if we measure if imagination library is a worthwhile program. Dr. Doll noted that we do look at data and that this is a free program to our district and supported by the Hanover Foundation for Excellence. Mr. Zeigler and Mr. Kauffman gave positive comments regarding the program.

Mr. Klenk reported that Zac Wolford received eighth place in the 135 lb. Category in state wrestling.

Dr. Krout stated that the mentoring program with Mr. Jenkins is going well. Anyone who has time is more than welcome to help with the program.

Mr. Fry stated that we are ready to file the grant application for classroom of the future mobile labs for professional development for teachers.

Mr. Albin stated that Clearview Elementary raised \$2,800 worth of free books at their book fair.

Mr. Hershner said that in April Hanover Street Elementary is doing a race car theme. The students are to read on a nightly basis and they will invite race cars in for an evening and drivers will be reading to them.

Mrs. Smith spoke about the Civil War Encampment and she would save a tent for the Board Members interested in participating in the beginning of May. A special showcase is being held tonight at the Middle School from 7-9 P.M. They are preparing for the PSSA's which will be April 1-4 at the Middle School.

Legal Report – **No Report.**

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**Standing motions regarding personnel**

**Employment** – The Board was requested to approve the following employment items contingent upon the receipt of all necessary employment documents.

**Classified Employees:**

**Faye Krepps**, high school guidance secretary, effective upon release from current employer. Rate of compensation will be \$9.64 per hour. **(enclosure)**

**Wendy Young**, middle school secretary/receptionist effective upon release from current employer. Rate of compensation will be \$9.91 per hour. **(enclosure)**

**Substitute Employees:**

**Rhonda Seibel**, extended substitute learning support teacher, effective February 25, 2008 for approximately four weeks during the medical leave of Mrs. Tami Turchich, learning support teacher in the middle school. Rate of compensation will be \$202.61 per day.

**Sandra Pika, Meghan Mushovic Girroir, Katie Sager, and Olivia VanBuskirk** day-to-day substitute teachers, effective upon completion of necessary employment paperwork. Rate of compensation will be \$95.00 per day.

**Karen Cataldo**, extended substitute supervisor of special education, effective March 25, 2008, to June 20, 2008. Rate of compensation will be her teacher salary plus a weekly stipend of \$150.

**Supplemental Employees:**

**Marty Dows**, primary team leader for Hanover Street elementary, effective February 1, 2008 through the end of the 2007-2008 school year. Rate of compensation will be \$352.20, which has been prorated for the remainder of 2007-2008. Mrs. Dows will be assuming the responsibilities during the maternity leave of Mrs. Kelly Ulsh.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mrs. Smith had a question about the classified employees and their rate of compensation.

**BOARD ACTION:**

There was a recommendation to table this action until a discussion is held in executive session at the end of the Board meeting.

**Conferences/Workshops-** The Board was requested to approve the following conferences/workshops-

<b>Dr. Wesley Doll</b>	Pennsylvania Association of Federal Program Coordinators (PAPFC)
<b>Joseph Albin</b>	Hershey, PA
	April 13 - April 16, 2008
	Cost- \$1573.00 (total for both)

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## **BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the conference/workshop as presented. Seconded by Mr. Baker and passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

## **Standing motions regarding Curriculum and Technology**

**Fifth Grade Civil War Thematic Unit Exchange** – Board approval of those fifth grade students and teachers who participate fully in the fifth grade Civil War Encampment on Friday, May 2, 2008 and Saturday, May 3, 2008, to be excused from school on Monday, May 5, 2008. This permission will be granted subject to the execution of a non-precedent setting memorandum of understanding with the Hanover Education Association. (**enclosure**)

## **BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the Civil War Thematic Unit Exchange as presented. Seconded by Mr. Baker and passed on a vote of 9-0.

**Student Handbooks** -- The Board was requested to discussed the Elementary and Middle School Student Handbooks for the 2008-2009 school year (**enclosure**)

## **DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Baker had a suggestion to reword classroom parties. Right now it sounds like parents can't participate. Dr. O'Connor felt that the absences – Homework on page 1 of the elementary handbook could be simplified if the homework was listed on the website. A statement was made that most times the student in the elementary classes does not have their books at home to do the homework. The parent usually stops on the way home from work to pick up the necessary homework materials. Under Admissions Dr. O'Connor felt that their should be a readiness test rather than age based. If the student is not ready for school, they could be held for a year. On page 4 the cost of lunches is listed. A question was raised as to if the cost of lunches is increased could this be changed. It was stated that it would be changed. A question was asked as to why Tone Chimes was singled out and listed on page 25. It was stated that Tone Chimes is the only program which is held before school.

## **Standing motions regarding finance:**

**York County School of Technology Budget** – The Board was requested to approve the proposed 2008-2009 York County School of Technology Budget. The total budget amount is \$21,427,339 (\$20,537,132 for 2007-2008) and the District's costs for 2008-2009 are estimated to be \$271,524 (\$256,011-revised estimate for 2007-2008) including regular education plus special education. (**enclosure**)

## **BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the York County School of Technology Budget as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Lingg and passed on a vote of 8-1. Mr. Baker cast the negative vote.

**Tractor Purchase** – The Board was requested to approve a purchase of a tractor and mower replacement from the capital reserve account at an approximate cost of \$45,000 including a trade in of the 1978 International Tractor and Mower. This information was presented at the last two Board meetings.

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## **BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the tractor purchase as presented. Seconded by Mr. Baker and passed on a vote of 8-1. Mrs. Smith cast the negative vote.

## **Standing motions regarding Policy:**

**2008-2009 District Calendar** -- The Board was requested to approve the 2008-2009 District Calendar. (enclosure)

## **DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Mowery noted that the calendar was given to Administrators, Teacher's Union and Classified Union for their suggestions.

## **BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the 2008-2009 District Calendar as presented. Seconded Mr. Baker and passed on a vote of 9-0.

**VIDA Charter School** -- The Board was requested to discuss the approval of the application for the VIDA Charter School.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Bortner spoke about the fact that there was no sustainable support. There was no teacher support because no teachers have expressed an interest in the Charter School. He noted that there was less than 3/10 of a percent of people in favor of the School. He will be voting no.

Mrs. Smith felt that it was way under budget especially in the 2000 account which would include support services like guidance, library, technology. She also had location and safety concerns.

Mr. Baker noted that on the three pages of signatures there were only twenty-eight households represented. He has seen no other support for the organization. He was also concerned about the safety and welfare of the students.

Mrs. Lingg was amazed at their enormous undertaking. She felt that it was a positive thing but she didn't have enough information. She felt that not everything was there.

Dr. O'Connor stated that this was one of the most difficult decisions. He applauded the idea. He feels that competition is important. The method to teach language is most effective when it is done in elementary grades. He was very concerned about community support. He felt that three administrators for 300 students was too much. He felt that charter schools should be a model for other schools.

Mr. Kauffman felt that this would take the diversity out of Hanover Schools. It would isolate these students rather than bringing them together. Transportation was a concern since there is no busing in Hanover. Also he was concerned about the accountability to the Board.

Mr. Zeigler felt there was no sustainable community support. There is only one organization that is backing the program. He also had questions about safety issues, the play area, deliveries to other businesses in the area and rezoning.

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Mr. West felt that this was one of the most difficult decisions he has had to make as a Board Member. He has taught in Costa Rico. He felt that we should have more time. He questioned the sustainable support and donations. He has received a lot of feedback from the community. All have been opposed to the Charter School. He wondered if dual immersion was innovative. He noted that special education would have one teacher. He noted that if a special needs child wanted to attend, they would need to outsource and that it very expensive. He questioned the accessibility for the handicapped student. He questioned the safety of the building and average size for classrooms. He will need to vote no, but wish there was more time.

Dr. O'Connor felt that the School District must meet needs. All students should know a foreign language. Staff needs properly certified. Noted that Administrators were not certified.

Mr. Smith noted that there was 166 feet to the play area. He felt there was many concerns for fire commissioners. Fourteen classes have no windows. If the plans were for our school, he would not be able to vote for it.

Mr. Yingst stated that he would need to draft a letter regarding deficiencies within the next two weeks.

### **BOARD ACTION:**

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the application for VIDA Charter School as presented. Seconded by Mr. Baker and did not pass on a roll call vote of 0-9. All members of the Board cast negative votes.

### **Old Business**

### **Other Business:**

#### **Facility Improvement Project**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Mowery said that we should review what we have done in the past. The priorities need to be based on phases. Some will be done rapidly and some slower. We need to evaluate where we have been. Dr. O'Connor felt that the Board needs to set the priorities. Dr. Mowery felt that the Board should evaluate the programs. We can't drive out cost until we evaluate. Dr. O'Connor felt that the figures have been overestimated. He felt that they took a large-scale approach, and wondered if we could contact another local architect. He wondered about a 1998 plan by Baumgardner. He didn't want to pay to redo the same architect with new codes. Mr. West and Mr. Zeigler didn't remember that plan. Dr. Mowery stated that to move along we would need a plan. Mr. Smith felt that we should clear up ideas regarding repairing things. He was wondering about volunteer labor. Dr. O'Connor wondered what can be put in maintenance. Dr. Mowery stated that deferred maintenance has occurred in anticipation of a project.

Dr. O'Connor visited the Clearview PTO. They raised over \$12,000 last year. He wondered why the wellness policy is so rigid.

Mr. Zeigler attended the Spring Legal Roundup. He passed out 20 questions for each Board Member to answer.

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Mr. Kauffman attended the Escape School Program at Washington Elementary. It was an excellent program and he highly recommends for other elementary schools.

Mr. Baker wanted to congratulate the custodians. When he toured the buildings, he noted how well they were cleaning our schools.

The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:35 P.M. to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Baker left at 8:50. The Board reconvened at 8:55.

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the employment items as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Smith and passed on a roll call vote of 8-0.

**Next meeting date:**

The next meeting will be Monday, March 24, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. in the Boardroom.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 P.M.