

Summary of Minutes
Special Board Meeting – General Purposes
Monday, May 22, 2014

President, Louis M. Elmy called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

Superintendent Dr. Bernard S. Prevuznak led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Secretary Leonard B. Przywara called the roll.

9 MEMBERS PRESENT: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

President Elmy stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Special Board Meeting-General Purposes of May 22, 2014.

- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

Unfinished Business

Miss Katsock asked if bids were received for the scaffolding at Coughlin High School.

Mr. Salijko, Apollo Senior Estimator, replied that there were two (2) bids received.

Miss Katsock stated that she was told in Executive Session, that the District owns scaffolding that was purchased and used at Meyers.

Mr. Salijko said he thought they could use some of the scaffolding; however, it was aluminum, not steel.

Miss Katsock stated that she would prefer to use the scaffolding the District has, as opposed to paying \$50,000 for new scaffolding.

Miss Katsock also noted that she saw a proposal to put a membrane on the scaffolding as well. Miss Katsock stated that scaffolding was up at Meyers High School with no membrane and I (Miss Katsock) am going on record that I will not support any membrane because scaffolding lasted at Meyers without a membrane.

Miss Katsock asked in regard to the fencing at Coughlin High School, if the District had paid for the fence and if so, was it done with a vote from this Board.

Dr. Prevuznak, Superintendent, stated that he spoke to Attorney Wendolowski along with Board Secretary, Leonard B. Przywara, and he (Dr. Prevuznak) knew that he was dealing with an emergency situation, he (Dr. Prevuznak) had no other fencing to use that he was made aware of and in order to insure the safety of the students and staff at Coughlin High School, he (Dr. Prevuznak) asked Apollo to address the situation based on what he (Dr. Prevuznak) considered being an emergency situation.

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Miss Katsock asked if the District has paid \$12,500.00 for fencing or if the District has entered into a contract to pay for fencing.

Mr. Salijko responded that he just received the invoice and the fencing has not been paid for.

Miss Katsock noted that she is going to make a public statement indicating that an individual who use to be on the Board gave us fencing for Meyers High School, 1,900 feet and we only need 650 feet of fencing. The individual still has the fencing and will donate the fencing to Wilkes-Barre Area School District for use at Coughlin High School at no charge.

Mr. Salijko stated that he had no knowledge of that.

Miss Katsock told Mr. Salijko that they will talk about it later.

Mr. Caffrey asked Miss Katsock if he may ask who the individual is.

Miss Katsock stated that she is not going to reveal that right now.

Dr. Prevuznak said thank you for bringing that to our attention, he (Dr. Prevuznak) was not aware of that.

Miss Katsock noted that the Board was also sent a report in regard to a study that was conducted five (5) years ago by, E.D. Ponds and Associates with regard to Coughlin High School, which indicated some of the same problems existed. Miss Katsock asked if that was correct.

Mr. Salijko noted that they (Apollo) did call E.D. Ponds and he went (E.D. Ponds) to Coughlin High school on Saturday and looked with a telescope.

Miss Katsock asked if the findings are still the same as they were in 2009.

Mr. Salijko said he did not know if they were the same in 2009, however, there was considerable damage due to the harsh winter.

Miss Katsock noted that the report done in 2009 indicated that a long term plan should be undertaken in four (4) years and now we are at the fifth (5th) year. Miss Katsock asked if there are any other reports out there like this in regard to other buildings that tell us when we should be doing things.

Dr. Prevuznak indicated that he spoke to Mr. Chiumento, Supervisor of Building and Grounds in regard to the exact same question. Dr. Prevuznak noted that there is an additional problem at Meyers High School with the parapet and that area has been fenced off and no students are allowed in that specific area. In getting back to Miss Katsock's original question, Dr. Prevuznak stated that he was not aware of any other reports.

Miss Katsock stated that her concern is, that if there are any other reports and we are not seeing specific deadlines, and perhaps if we had addressed this issue when the report of 2009 had suggested, we would not be in this position now and she (Miss Katsock) suggests if there are any other reports we pay attention to them.

Communications from the Superintendent

Dr. Prevuznak presented the following statement to the Board:

Regarding the recent events that have occurred concerning the main building at James M. Coughlin High School and the precautionary measures that were taken to allow the educational process to continue...I offer the following words of thanks and appreciation:

To this Board of Education, who kept in constant communication with me during this difficult time, I appreciate your support and trust in our district's efforts to keep Coughlin students safe during the course of the school day. I must acknowledge district employees who got involved with the process of securing the perimeter of the school from the get go. The secondary director of our district, (Mr. Brian Costello) our maintenance and grounds supervisor, (Mr. John Chiumento) our security director (Officer Brian Lavan) and resource officers took the ball and ran with it. The administration at Coughlin, (Mr. Patrick Patte, Mr. James Gieger, and Ms. Melissa Carter Myers). The Coughlin faculty and the support staff were absolutely, without question, dedicated to the cause of the safety of our students. It truly was an inspirational sight to see teachers, secretaries, and principalseither directing students or pulling police barricades off the back of a city truck to be put into place so a safe walkway could be established. And I must also credit our construction manager, Apollo for their assistance... Michael and Gary thank you for getting directly involved. Mayor Leighton and both fire and police departments are to be credited. They reacted quickly and partnered with us through this process. Additionally I would like to thank President Leary and LCCC reaching out to us for any service they could provide...Thanks Tom. And finally our maintenance and custodial staff...Kevin Thomas, Jerome Craig, Tom Weibrecht, Jimmy Decker...Fellas thanks for minute men...available at a minutes notice to help this district. I greatly appreciate it! And finally thanks to our Coughlin Community ...parents, grandparents and guardians...thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time...As district we needed to act swiftly to ensure that the school remained open and that a secure and safe haven for students continued. This accomplishment was a total team effort and I would hope that I did not forget anyone who contributed to this effort. Thanks again everyone.

There were no **Communications from Citizens**

There was no **New Business**

Communications from Solicitor

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following motion.

Dr. Susek motioned, seconded by Mr. Evans, for Apollo with the assistance of the Solicitor. to solicit proposals for the District's three (3) previously approved design professionals to submit proposals to conduct a study of the condition of the District's three (3) Secondary Schools for immediate and long term suitability and to conduct a feasibility review of five (5) potential sites for possible construction of a Secondary School Facility. The vote was as follows:

9 AYES: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

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Board Secretary Report

Leonard B. Przywara, Board Secretary/Business Manager announced the following Meeting schedule.

Special Meeting – General Purposes

Monday, May 27, 2014 – 6:00 PM

Committee Meeting

Monday, June 9, 2014 – 5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, June 9, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Miss Katsock moved to adjourn the Meeting.

President Elmy adjourned the Meeting at 6:29 PM.