

MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
July 31, 2000

The Penn Manor School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on the above date at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Manor Middle School. Present were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Fields, Dr. Frerichs, Ms. Herr (arriving at 4:10 p.m.), Mr. Herr, Mr. Kline, Mr. Kreider, and Mrs. Withum. Mrs. Wert was absent. Present from the administrative staff were Mr. Skrocki, Mr. Stewart, and Mrs. Griffis. Dr. Campbell was absent. Also in attendance was Dolores Warfel.

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. by Mr. Herr.

Mr. Herr asked if there were any Citizen's Comments. There were none at this time.

Mr. Herr asked the committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the July 10, 2000, Committee of the Whole Meeting. Hearing none, on a motion by Mr. Anderson, a second by Dr. Frerichs, and a unanimous voice vote the minutes were approved as printed.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the request for board approval of three new positions - a 2/3 science position, 1/3 foreign language position, and 1 elementary position. He provided the board with a breakdown of classes at the high school and explained various reasons for requesting these positions. Mr. Stewart stated that the anticipated number of juniors did not sign up for the SAT class but more students than anticipated signed up for foreign language classes. He explained that if the 1/3 foreign language class was not added we would have to eliminate the highest level Spanish class and that the 2/3 science position is being asked for due to large science classes. Dr. Frerichs asked if these positions were in the budget. Mr. Stewart responded that they were not. He stated that the cost of adding the new positions would be lessened by the elimination of the half time SAT person and the fact that two CSS positions which had been included in the budget have not been filled. Dr. Frerichs asked if the CSS positions will be filled during the year. Mr. Stewart said he needed to discuss this issue with Dr. Campbell but that the right personnel for these positions have not been found at this point. Mr. Fields questioned why these positions were not put in the budget. He stated that he was not opposed to adding the positions but concerned with the fact that they were not brought to the board

at budget time. Mr. Stewart explained that the elementary position was not in the budget because of a hope that numbers would not increase. However, increased enrollments now require the request. The high school positions are being requested due to the fact that students signed up for classes differently than anticipated with the high school having 51 students to provide an education for that they had not anticipated. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of closing availability of a class to students when a class has reached a predetermined number, whether class enrollment should be closed to interested students, whether there are guidelines at the high school regarding a desired class size, the benefit of having smaller classes, whether class sizes have changed over the years, etc. Mr. Fields asked what the cost to the district would be for the positions. Mr. Skrocki cited an approximate cost of \$70,000. Ms. Herr asked that the class size numbers be looked at and the board be given an explanation. Mr. Stewart said he will look into this matter and get back to the board with an update. He stated that in the future he would like to be more aware of such needs at various levels and be able to come to the board with requests for additional positions in a more timely fashion. On a motion by Mrs. Withum, a second by Dr. Frerichs, and the following vote this item was approved for placement on the August School Board Meeting Agenda. Mr. Anderson, yes; Mr. Fields, yes; Dr. Frerichs, yes, Ms. Herr, no; Mr. Herr, yes; Mr. Kline, yes; Mr. Kreider, yes; Mrs. Wert, absent; Mrs. Withum, yes.

Mr. Skrocki updated the board with regard to the Student Activity Accounts. He stated a report on these accounts is provided the board on a regular basis. He reviewed the fact that the Athletic Fund has a balance of \$42,294.25 and stated that this is the first year the Student Athletic Account paid for security. In the past it was paid for out of the General Fund. He stated that \$8,190 was spent for security in 1999/00.

Mr. Skrocki then reviewed a Right-of-Way Agreement generated by a request from the City of Lancaster for permission, and a contract, to have a water main installed along Route 741 at Comet Field. He stated that approval of this agreement would help Penn Manor bring water to Comet Field and recommended board approval for placement of this item on the August School Board Meeting Agenda. Mr. Skrocki said the solicitor has reviewed the document and wants to insure that the right-of-way will run along 741 and not cut into Comet Field property. Mr. Skrocki said Penn Manor would have to pay for the water used to water our athletic fields. He stated that depending on how many fields are watered it could cost \$40,000-\$50,000 for installation. However, Mr. Skrocki stated that this is

much less than the anticipated cost to bring water to Comet Field (\$150,000) in the past. On a motion by Dr. Frerichs, a second by Mr. Anderson, and a unanimous voice vote, this item was approved for placement on the August School Board Meeting agenda.

Mr. Stewart informed board members that the Penn Manor Education Foundation was offering teachers the opportunity to apply for grants. He stated that the applications for the grants will be on the intranet. These applications when submitted will be reviewed by the administration. Those chosen for consideration will be forwarded to the Foundation for approval. Dr. Frerichs informed fellow board members that the Foundation is making giant strides and that they will be seeing more of this type of activity from the Foundation in the future.

Mrs. Griffis reviewed the new teacher orientation and the plans for the opening day of school. She stated that new teacher orientations begin on August 8 and reviewed proposed meeting dates. Mrs. Griffis invited board members to attend any of the scheduled meetings and invited them to be present at the opening day on August 23.

Mr. Stewart reviewed Penn Manor's Home Schooling Policy and gave some background with regard to past requests for home schoolers to participate in school district activities and current issues that have recently evolved. Discussion ensued regarding ramifications of allowing home schoolers to participate in selected activities with board member's sharing their feelings regarding this topic. Board members questioned how other district's handle such requests. Mr. Stewart said several districts allow home schoolers to participate in athletic programs for example and stated that some districts have changed their stance on not allowing participation by home schoolers. Mr. Fields said it might be good to have some background information regarding costs to the district if home schools are allowed partial participation. Ms. Herr suggested having George Brubaker attend a meeting and review home schooling rules, regulations, guidelines, etc. Mr. Stewart said he would arrange to have Mr. Brubaker at an upcoming meeting to discuss this topic.

Mr. Stewart distributed a proposed Special Interest Policy which had been provided by Mr. Brubaker. The policy would give the board control over what was posted on buildings, etc. but would restrict other advertisers in programs such as football. Mr. Stewart has asked that a second draft be done of this policy which would allow the board to review suggested advertising and deem it inappropriate if necessary. Mr. Stewart said he will

bring a second draft of the policy to the board. He also shared with board members a concern Mrs. Wert had with regard to advertising put in front of students. Mr. Fields suggested waiting until Mrs. Wert was in attendance to discuss this topic so she had an opportunity to express her opinions. This issue will be revisited at a later date.

Mr. Skrocki then reviewed a Revised Acceptable Use of Internet and Network Resources Policy he was recommending for approval for placement on the August School Board Meeting Agenda. He stated that this policy will apply to both students and staff. On a motion by Mrs. Withum, a second by Ms. Herr and a unanimous voice vote this item was approved for placement on the August School Board Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Skrocki reviewed the Revised Position Description for the Senior Technology Systems Technician. He informed board members that Mr. Lichtenwalner, the current Senior Technology Systems Technician, has resigned and stated this is a perfect opportunity to revise and update the current position description. Mr. Skrocki requested approval for placement of this item on the August School Board Meeting Agenda. Approval was granted on a motion by Mrs. Withum, a second by Mr. Anderson, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stewart informed board members that the police have pressed charges against two individual with regard to a bomb threat placed at the high school in November.

Mr. Stewart also informed those in attendance that there were no nominees for the Performing Arts Wall of Honor. He stated that Ms. Mindish would like to redefine the award as the Distinguished Graduates Wall of Honor. Ms. Mindish asked for a board member(s) to serve on the committee. Mr. Kline and Dr. Frerichs both volunteered.

Mrs. Griffis informed the board of a Jump Start Reading Program which is being provided via The Read to Succeed Grant. There are nine second graders involved and 16 third graders. Board members were invited to stop by Conestoga to see what Morningside is like.

Mrs. Griffis also informed the board that Penn Manor's Act 48 was approved by the State.

Mr. Herr updated fellow board members with regard to the Athletic Wall of Honor. He stated that there were 17 nominees.

Mr. Kreider thanked board members and support staff for their show of sympathy when his father recently passed away.

Mr. Anderson said the calendar has gone to the printer. He stated that the first calendar is totally sold out which means there will be no cost to the district for its production. Ms. Herr questioned whether the calendar would be submitted to the State for recognition. Mr. Skrocki said it would be.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 5:45 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Anderson, a second by Ms. Herr, and a unanimous voice vote.