

**Minutes**  
Committee of the Whole  
September 8, 2003

The Penn Manor School Board met as a Committee of the Whole at 7:00 p.m. in the All-Purpose Room at Eshleman Elementary School. Present were Mr. Anderson, Dr. Frerichs, Mr. C. Willis Herr, Mr. Kreider, Mr. Lyon, Mrs. Wert, and Mrs. Withum. Mr. H. Thomas Herr and Mr. Kline were absent. Present from the administrative staff were Mr. Stewart, Mr. Skrocki, and Mrs. Griffis. Also in attendance were Penn Manor residents, Eshleman Elementary Principal, teachers and staff, Mrs. Rhoades and Mrs. Howard.

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

Mr. Willis Herr asked the committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the August 11, 2003, Committee of the Whole Meeting. Hearing none, on a motion by Mrs. Wert, a second by Mr. Lyon, and a unanimous voice vote, the Minutes were approved as printed.

Mr. Willis Herr thanked Mr. Ed Nett for a tour of the newly renovated Eshleman Elementary, and the Eshleman Elementary Principal, Mr. Manny Caulk and staff for attending the meeting. Mr. Stewart thanked Mike Ressler, Eshleman custodian, for the many extra hours he put in to get the building in shape for school to start. Mr. Stewart expressed his appreciation to the staff for all the last minute time spent to open the building on time for the students.

Mr. Stewart recommended that the Board place on the agenda the Administrative Cabinet Compensation Plan as amended with changes after the August meeting. Placement of the Administrative Cabinet Compensation Plan on the September Agenda was approved on a motion by Mr. Lyon, second by Mrs. Wert, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stewart explained the PSSA Data Recognition Corporation Report. Data Recognition Corporation is being used by the state of Pennsylvania to score and evaluate the PSSA tests. The report from Data Recognition Corporation is a more expanded evaluation of test scores than in the past. The emphasis is no longer on scaled scores but on the student scores in the

advanced, proficient, basic and below basic areas. In order for the students to meet the state and federal guidelines the students must score in the advanced or proficient areas. Based on the No Child Left Behind Law, the district will be evaluated on sub groups including disadvantaged or low income students, white students, African American students, Latino or Hispanic students, American Indian and Alaskan students, Asian or Pacific students, multi-racial students, students who have been identified as in need of learning support, and limited English proficient students. All of our schools collectively and individually scored well in math. Schools scoring below 45% would have been cited as failing to meet standards based on the whole school population. All of our students when taken as a group scored extremely well in reading. The district will now be required to look at students in selected groups and make sure they are all making progress. With the new evaluation as long as the number of students does not exceed 40 in a sub group the scores are not significant and the school district will not be cited. Penn Manor received two citations. The Martic Elementary attendance was at 94.5%, 95 is the required attendance percentage, and 72 students in the high school junior class with IEPs did not have proficient percentages scoring in advanced and proficient. Mr. Stewart appealed both citations. The state accepted the Martic appeal but rejected the high school. Penn Manor will be charged with working to improve the scores for the IEP students at the high school. If there is a 10 percent improvement in the number of high school students with IEPs who score in advanced or proficient than the citation will be revoked.

Mrs. Griffis updated the board of the three summer programs. The first was a reading program for two weeks for eighth graders going into ninth grade. Mrs. Griffis read a letter Mrs. Letavic, an ESL teacher, wrote to Mrs. Sullivan, the program coordinator. Mrs. Letavic expressed that the summer reading program and the teachers had a tremendous impact on an ESL student of hers. The student daily mentions the program and as a result of the program has an improved self-esteem. She is ecstatic that she could read an entire book and more importantly she understood what she read. The program and teachers made a tremendous impact on this student. As a culminating part of the summer reading program, the October 10 District Inservice Day will revolve around a speaker, Chris Tovani, who wrote the book I Read It But I Don't Get It. This is the book that the summer reading tutors used to learn how to teach students to read across the content areas. The second program was the Parent Literacy workshops which was an activity based program for local preschools, kindergarteners, first graders,

and incoming kindergarteners and first graders and their parents. Several of the teachers involved in the program put together a curriculum guide for all the schools. This is a compilation of the activities in the Parent Literacy programs and organizes them according to PA state standards in reading, as well as, by school. This will be used in planning and standardizing the activities for the following years. There will be increased funding with Title money this year to help with this program. The total participation last year was 991 parents and students, so it was quite successful. The third program included two Jump Start Reading camps. The elementary program has been run for the past 4 years. This year 30 students in grades 3 and 4 attended from all elementary schools. The students were selected based on reading deficits. The goal for next year is to expand to second grade and establish a site in the north. Presently the programs only run at Conestoga. For the first time this year a middle school Jump Start transition program from grade 6 to 7 was held. The students were also selected based on reading deficits, in addition to, socialization concerns and students who were felt at-risk entering the middle school. A total of twenty-five students attended at Manor and Marticville for one week. The goals for next year is to increase the number of students, increase the program to two weeks, and add a math component.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the kindergarten history and current enrollment data. This year there are 37 fewer kindergarten students than last year at the end of the school year, which represents more than a 10% drop. A significant number of students enrolled over the summer in the elementary grades; however, the enrollment is down 86 children after the summer. This is largely due to the large sixth grade class moving to the middle school. The middle school enrolled nine seventh graders and twenty-two eighth graders over the summer. The high school is up eighty-eight students over last year. The graduating class in 2003 was 391, and the freshman class this year is 466. School opened with a total enrollment 5,349 students. Penn Manor has an increased enrollment this year of 25 students.

Mr. Stewart recommended that the Board place on the agenda the Eshleman Change orders for items such as installing drywall in the original restrooms instead of repairing the tile, additional painting of the library ceiling, changes to the exterior light fixtures to meet code. Placement of the Eshleman change orders on the September Agenda was approved on a motion by Mrs. Withum, second by Mr. Lyon, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Griffis reviewed the employment of new teachers and professional personnel. The new teacher meetings will start in September. WGAL and the Learning Matters program will be following two new teachers in the county throughout the year. Michelle Cirulli, a new teacher at the high school, was chosen to be one of the teachers they would follow. Mrs. Rhoades showed a video of WGAL's first segment, Michelle's first day at school. Mr. Stewart informed the board that seven of our middle school teachers took and passed the PRAXIS test in their field to change their elementary certification as required by No Child Left Behind. They did this a year earlier than what was required.

Mr. Stewart recommended that the Board place on the agenda the Comet Field and ELA Contract. This plan will allow the irrigation of Comet fields. Placement of the Comet Field and ELA Contract on the September Agenda was approved on a motion by Mrs. Withum, second by Mr. Lyon, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stewart explained that the Field Hockey Team would like to plant a tree in memory of Judy Witmer, a former Penn Manor teacher who passed away. Judy was a tremendous supporter of the Field Hockey Team and her daughter was a coach. Mr. Stewart recommended that the Board place on the agenda the acceptance of the gift from the Field Hockey Team/Parents. Placement of the Acceptance of the gift from the Field Hockey Team/Parents on the September Agenda was approved on a motion by Mrs. Wert, second by Dr. Frerichs, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Griffis told the board that David Zubalsky, a Millersville University Librarian, contacted her and offered us the entire collection of non-fiction children's books which they are no longer using. There are 12 library carts that will be looked at by 2 of our librarians to determine which books will be useful for us.

Mr. Stewart informed the board that the Foundation raised \$9,012, a preliminary total, at a dinner on Sunday evening.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 8:05 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Lyon, a second by Mr. Anderson, and a unanimous voice vote.