

Minutes
Committee of the Whole
November 1, 2004

The Penn Manor School Board met as a Committee of the Whole at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Manor Middle School. Present were Mr. DeLuca, Dr. Frerichs, Mrs. Friedman, Mr. Geist, Mr. C. Willis Herr, Mr. Kreider, Mr. Lyon, Mr. Rintz (arrived at 5:20), and Mrs. Wert (arrived at 4:15). Present from the administrative staff were Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Griffis and Mr. Johnston. Also in attendance were Mr. George Brubaker, Mr. Ted Brubaker, Mr. Ken Phillips, Mr. Dan Burton 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 October 12, 2004, Committee of the Whole Meeting. Hearing none, on a motion by Dr. Frerichs a second by Mr. DeLuca, and a unanimous voice vote, the Minutes were approved as printed.

Mr. Johnston introduced Mr. Ken Phillips with RBC Dain Rauscher. Mr. Phillips explained the advantages of refunding the debt services. He said that there is a portion of the Series 1996 bonds that is eligible to be refunded. He reviewed the packet of information that was distributed to the board and explained that with the current market it would be advantageous to refund the bonds at this time. Approval for placement of this item on the November School Board Meeting Agenda was approved on a motion by Dr. Frerichs, a second by Mrs. Friedman, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. George Brubaker and Mr. Theodore Brubaker, from Hartman Underhill & Brubaker, reviewed the packet of information relating to Act 72. Mr. George Brubaker explained the school district's participation, deadlines and implementation. The funds for the property tax relief will come from four sources: the Property Tax Relief Fund, the 0.1% Qualifying Tax, an elective increase in the earned income tax, and the Sterling Act Tax Credits. Mr. Johnston reviewed the current revenues for Penn Manor and estimates for illustrative purposes. Mr. Brubaker continued with a review of the impact of implementation of Act 72, court approval, PDE approval, referendum expenditures, the budget process, reassessment, and the Homestead/Farmstead exclusions. He summarized ACT 72 and answered

various questions from Board members and Administrators. Mr. Johnston reviewed the charts he prepared referring to Act 72 and the November 2007 Referendum, the Penn Manor 2000 census information, wage tax information from 2002, district millage history and an Act 72 Worksheet.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the proposed new Board policy pertaining to male participation on female sports teams and female participation on male sports teams. In summary, if the school district maintains separate teams in the same sport for males and females during the school year, regardless of sports season, males may not compete on female teams and females may not complete on male teams. If the school district maintains only a female team in a sport, males may compete on the team unless the team is considered a contact sport. If the school district maintains only a male team in a sport, females may compete on the team. After some discussion, approval for placement of this item on the November School Board Meeting Agenda for a first reading was approved on a motion by Mr. Lyon, a second by Mr. DeLuca, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the proposal to add two basketball coaches at the Middle School level at a salary of \$1,000 each. He recommended approval of the proposal with the qualification that the superintendent be granted the approval to make the final decision granting the position based on the number of athletes participating in the sport. Approval for placement of this item on the November School Board Meeting Agenda for a first reading was approved on a motion by Mrs. Friedman, a second by Mrs. Wert, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Griffis reported that on October 18 she and Dr. Mindish presented to an IU Panel the School Improvement Plan. She said that the plan included curriculum instruction, assessment, data collection and analysis, and professional development. Highlights of the plan included connection of regular and special education in areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development; preparation of all students for the PSSA using eligible content, assessment anchors and item bank; and identification and remediation of all students who are not proficient. The plan was approved at the IU on October 18 and will be submitted to PDE. Mrs. Griffis said that the people at the IU liked the plan and asked that a team from Penn Manor present the plan at the IU. Mr. Geist stated that he spoke with Dr. Gible who praised Dr. Mindish and Mrs. Griffis for their approach and plan.

Mr. Stewart reviewed property activity in the district relative to Manor Barn, the high school auditorium, the maintenance facility, Comet Field House, the issue of additional acreage, an artificial surface at the competitive venue, and the commercial triangle. He said that it's evident that the co-curricular programs have become increasingly more important. However, he stated that if the proposed plan at anytime would jeopardize Penn Manor's ability to provide for the instructional program, then the priorities for the property activities would take a back seat. Mr. Stewart reviewed the recommendation, justification and timetable for each of the areas. He also discussed proposed funding for the projects.

Mr. Stewart explained that shortly after a custodian was hired for a floater position he was assigned to a permanent position to fill a vacant position. Because there is always a need for additional custodial staff due to vacancies, illness or work load it is recommended to add a second custodial floater/utility position. Approval for placement of a second custodial floater/utility position on the November School Board Meeting Agenda was approved on a motion by Mr. Lyon, a second by Mr. Rintz, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Griffis presented a preliminary study for a full day kindergarten. She said that a committee has been formed, they met for the first time and will continue meeting. The goal is to determine if full day kindergarten is feasible – philosophically, instructionally, physically and financially in the Penn Manor School District. She said the committee will be researching space, costs and projected enrollments. They will be visiting Pequea Valley where there is a full day kindergarten.

Mr. Johnston reported that the quarterly update for the student activity and athletic accounts is available on the website. He reviewed some accounts and explained that because of fund raisers some of the accounts have a large balance.

Mrs. Griffis reported on the Bridge Certificate which pertains mainly to special education teachers. All teachers must be highly qualified by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Teachers become highly qualified by holding an instructional content area certificate, taking and passing the Praxis in the content area or holding a Bridge certificate. The Bridge Certificate applies to special education teachers, alternative education teachers, middle level

teachers and ESL teachers. A teacher must obtain a Bridge certificate when the assignment of the primary teacher is in the core content area and the students are learning at the secondary level (grades 7-12). To apply for a Bridge certificate a teacher must be a current public school teacher and teaching secondary special ed, ESL, alternative ed, or middle level. The window for the teacher to apply is November 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005. The teacher must earn 12 points in a variety of ways while on the Bridge and 18 points per content area to get off the Bridge and earn a certificate in the content area.

Mr. Johnston updated the board on the E-rate program. He said that it is a Federal Program that reimburses schools for some telecommunication costs such as cell phones, t-1 circuits, local and long distance service. He said that audits began showing serious problems with funding in some large scale operation in city districts. The program has been put on temporary hold and the current year is frozen although approval letters are on file. D&E has been reimbursing the district; the others are on hold and will be seeking reimbursement by the end of the year. He reported that Penn Manor receives a total discount based upon free and reduced population and currently at a 40% funding level. He said that the net cost is budgeted for the services and if the funding goes away then the costs for the district will increase by \$30,000 per year.

Mr. Kreider reported on activities at the Career and Technology Center. The Collision Repair class made a presentation on new equipment. United Way provided information on the need for child care and the child care facility that is being built at the Mt. Joy Career and Technology Center was reviewed. Mr. Kreider will continue to be the delegate for the CTC.

Mr. DeLuca reported that the Lancaster County Academy had their reorganization meeting. He said they will be having the largest winter graduating class this December. He circulated an article from the Harrisburg paper about the Academy.

Dr. Frerichs reviewed some points of interest in the IU 13 Report to the Community booklet that was distributed. He said that the IU will be moving their facilities to the Burle Industries location.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Wert, a second by Mrs. Friedman, and a unanimous voice vote.