

**Keystone School District  
Knox, Pennsylvania  
Minutes of Work Session  
April 11, 2011**

**OPENING/ATTENDANCE**

Mr. John R. Slagle, President of the Keystone School District Board of Directors, called the Work Session to order on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7 P.M. The Meeting was held in the Keystone High School Auditorium, 700 Beatty Avenue, Knox, Pennsylvania. The following Board Members were present: Mr. Gregory A. Barrett, Mr. James A. Beary, Mr. Wayne D. Johns, Mr. Thomas L. McCoy, Mr. John R. Slagle, Mrs. Marilyn L. Stempeck, Mr. Kenneth L. Swartfager and Mrs. Stacey I. Thompson. Mr. Alan F. Seigworth was absent. Also present were: Mr. Richard Bonnar, Mrs. Suzanne Chomas, Mrs. Shawn Corcetti, Mr. Vernon Lauffer, Mr. Rodney Sherman, Mrs. Vicky Walters and many members of the public.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ❑ Members of the public were welcomed by Mr. Slagle.
- ❑ Mr. Slagle said an Executive Session was held on March 21, 2011 to discuss the KESPA Contract.
- ❑ Mr. Slagle said an Executive Session would be held tonight, April 11, 2011, to discuss the KESPA Contract.
- ❑ Mr. Slagle said the next Meeting would be the Regular Business Meeting on April 18, 2011 in the High School Auditorium. (It has been subsequently changed to the Elementary Gymnasium.)

**DIALOGUE ITEMS**

- ❑ Mr. Bonnar summarized the two textbooks for High School Math and Health presented for consideration at next week's Meeting. Mr. Slagle requested the cost of the textbooks be included with the Motion next week. ***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar reviewed the upcoming Continuing Professional Development Conferences:
  1. April 13, 2011: Learn More About Struggling Readers, Pittsburgh.  
Requested by Linda Heath, Misty Angel, and Laura Hogue. Cost is \$95.
  2. April 15, 2011: SAP Update, Clarion. Requested by Jennifer Slaughaupt.  
***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar reviewed the Use of Facilities for the SMILES Summer Step Pre-Kindergarten Program. ***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***

**DIALOGUE ITEMS (Continued)**

- ❑ Mr. Bonnar reviewed the Upcoming Student Field Trips:
  1. April 14, 2011: Clarion-Jefferson Regional Safe Driving Competition. Requested by Brigette Irwin. No Cost.
  2. May 13, 2011: Math 24, Clarion University. Gifted Students. Requested by Nicole Gorog.

***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar reviewed the Principal Performance Description. ***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar said the Contract with Whitehall Camp and Conference Center for August 8, 2011 through August 12, 2011 for Marching Band Camp. Total Camp Cost is \$6,010 with a required deposit of \$1,202. The Student Activities will fund this event. If the event is cancelled, KMA will reimburse the Student Activities Account.
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Following Policies:
  1. #210.1: Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Injectors.
  2. #227: Controlled Substances Paraphernalia
  3. #247: Hazing
  4. #248: Unlawful Harassment--Pupils
  5. #348: Unlawful Harassment--Administrative Employees

***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar reviewed Keystone School District's participation in the Gas Leasing Consortium north of the Clarion River. At this point, he said that we could withdraw from the Consortium at any time. ***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar outlined a potential Retirement Incentive with a \$10,000 offering to the Keystone Education Association outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding that is in the Board Packet. ***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar reviewed the Auditor General Reports for School Years ended June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2007. He detailed two findings included in the Audit and a recommendation. ***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***
- ❑ Mr. Bonnar reviewed the Board Resolution in Opposition to the Proposed Reductions in State Education Funding for 2011-12. ***Mr. Slagle said this Item would be placed on next week's Business Meeting Agenda.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- ❑ Mrs. Tamalyn Goble addressed the Board regarding Special Classes--Library, Art, Music, and Technology.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)**

- ❑ Mr. Chris Rosetti spoke agreeing that "teachers are the core like a baseball." He also had a willingness to raise taxes.
- ❑ Mr. Martin Frederick questioned the Board regarding the bidding of insurance and if a time study for staffing needs had been done.
- ❑ Mrs. Lori Lauer regarding the Class Size for students who learn well as well as students who don't.
- ❑ Mrs. Cujas commended her daughter's Kindergarten teacher in dealing with her daughter's health issues. Questioned as to whether it would be a safe environment if the class size was larger.
- ❑ Mrs. Shelley Seth spoke regarding the many tasks a Teacher Aide does during a school day.
- ❑ Mrs. Barb Goughler asked how the status of the financial crunch would affect the Career Center students.
- ❑ Mr. Derek Nichols spoke on the importance of Art and Music in his years at Keystone.
- ❑ Mr. John Hannold spoke on the issues of SMILES Program, Lawn Mowing, and "Prune the tree.....don't cut off its branches."
- ❑ Mrs. Erin Hartman asked if there would be Kindergarten next year and the importance of offering courses at the Career Center.
- ❑ Mrs. Mindy Traister spoke on how it would be beneficial to have 3 full days of Kindergarten as opposed to 5 half days.
- ❑ Ms. Katie Kohlenburg spoke on importance of Band/Choir.
- ❑ Ms. Hannah Roberts spoke on the importance of Industrial Arts and Music.
- ❑ Mr. Tom Kahl spoke regarding "Scaling Back" of Elementary Programs would be better than eliminating them. He also said he can't afford more taxes and that we must all live within our means.
- ❑ Mrs. Jennifer Kaye questioned if the Special Classes were on the chopping block. She also noted that communications to legislators are very important at this time.
- ❑ Mrs. Sherrie Bennett asked if the school day could be shortened and if transportation could be streamlined.
- ❑ Mrs. Amy Winger asked if the State Budget comes in with a greater subsidy than predicted for Keystone after the eliminations have occurred if and how eliminations would be reinstated.

**DIALOGUE ITEMS**

- Mr. Bonnar reviewed the status of our Budget as he originally outlined in the March Meeting. Following a video and short message, he began to detail specifics of recommended Reductions/Eliminations as follows:

- Mr. Slagle reviewed the Reduction, Curtailing, and/or Alteration of Programs:

1. ATHLETICS: (Savings of \$100,00):

- A. No funding from District for Golf, Cross Country, Weight Training, Baseball, Softball, Wrestling, and Soccer.
- B. Freeze Coaches' Salaries.
- C. No Physician at Football Games.
- D. 1 Jr High Team (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>).
- E. Elimination of 1 Football Coach.
- F. No JV.
- G. Less Officials.
- H. Less Transportation.
- I. No Cheerleaders at Away Events.
- J. Increase Activity Fees.

He added that his worksheet will be posted on the District website for the public to view in detail.

2. ARTS:

- A. Eliminate 1 Teacher.
- B. Eliminate PMEA Festivals.

3. KINDERGARTEN:

- A. Decrease Full Day to Half Day.

4. TRANSPORTATION:

- A. Mr. Beary reviewed transportation. He stated that we are analyzing the streamlining of Bus Routes.
- B. We have absorbed 3 Bus Routes over last 6 Years.
- C. We are considering Waivers to Eliminate Seats on a Bus that may be able to cut a Route and the Possibility of Adjusted "Stops" for High School Students.

5. CAREER CENTER:

- A. Could be Reduced to only include 11 & 12 Grade, which would allow for 2-year Programs in the Future but Requires Agreement with 6 other School Districts.

6. ASSISTANT HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL/ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL:

- A. Mr. Bonnar said that Keystone is not overstaffed in Administration. In light of this, the Recommendation at this time is to eliminate 2 Administrative positions.

7. TITLE I PROGRAM:

- A. 1 Teacher can be reduced and multiple Aides restored within funding limits.

**DIALOGUE ITEMS (Continued)**

8. PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

- A. These could be eliminated or maintained at 1 per grade level.

9. INCREASE CLASSROOM NUMBERS:

- A. Grade 1: 4 Teachers; 21-22 Students  
B. Grade 2: 4 Teachers; 19-20 Students  
C. Grade 3: 4 Teachers; 21-22 Students  
D. Grade 4: 3 Teachers; 26-27 Students  
E. Grade 5: 3 Teachers; 24-25 Students  
F. Grade 6: 3 Teachers; 28 Students

10. INDUSTRIAL ARTS:

- A. This program could be eliminated.

11. ELEMENTARY TECHNOLOGY:

- A. This program could be eliminated.

12. ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE COUNSELOR:

- A. Currently have 3 Counselors--Could be Only 2 Counselors--K-8 and 9-12.

13. ELEMENTARY MUSIC PROGRAM:

- A. Could retain 3 Teachers District Wide.

14. PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:

- A. Could Reduce 1 Teacher Across District.

15. SPECIAL EDUCATION:

- A. Using Caseload Standards, the District could eliminate 1 or 2 Teachers.

16. LIBRARY:

- A. Elementary Library is not mandatory.

- Mr. Johns asked the recommendation of the Superintendent in regards to cutting of the Clarion County Career Center. Mr. Bonnar stated that this option might not be available as per Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**A Recess was held at 9:15 P.M.**

**An Executive Session was held from 9:25 P.M. to 11:20 P.M.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon F. Lauffer  
Board Secretary