

- EXECUTIVE SESSION** The board held an executive session immediately prior to this meeting to discuss matters of personnel and litigation.
- CALL TO ORDER** At 7:15 p.m. the January 12, 2015 meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of School Directors was called to order by President Carol Karl.
- SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT** Mrs. Shannon G. Billante, Mr. John F. Dietrich, Mrs. Kathy L. DelGrande, Mr. Clifton Edwards, Ms. Carol Karl, Mr. Jesse Rawls, Sr., Dr. Peter J. Sakol, Mr. Mark Y. Sussman, Mrs. Helen Spence
- DISTRICT OFFICE PRESENT** Mr. Richard D. Daubert, Mr. Oslwen C. Anderson, Jr., Substitute Solicitor Michael McAuliffe Miller, Ms. Laurel Black
- ABSENT** None
- MOTION TO APPROVE** Moved by Mrs. Spence, seconded by Mrs. Billante, to approve the agenda with the addition of Item #7H, the swearing in of Dr. Tamara Willis as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at Susquehanna Township School District; this Item to be considered prior to Item #1E Reports/Announcements. Motion passed: 9-0, 0 abstain, 0 absent.
- SWEARING IN OF DR. TAMARA WILLIS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT** Magistrate District Judge 12-1-01, The Honorable James A. Lenker administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Tamara Willis. Reverend Wilson Mosley, Jr. held the Bible for the ceremony.
- REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS** Legislative Updates: None
- Buildings and Grounds Report: (as attached to agenda)
- Student Representative Reports: Joya Maser presented information on VLN (Virtual Learning Network) courses offered at Susquehanna Township High School. STSD is one of 50 districts that use VLN; VLN is unique to Pennsylvania and Ohio and offers customized on-line courses. STHS presently has 15 different courses being taken by 105 students. Justine Fabian presented feedback on VLN courses from our students. Positive results such as skills in prioritization, time management, self-reliance were voiced. VLN helps to bridge high school learning and college curriculum styles with a focus on technology.
- Susquehanna Township High School Alumni Association: None
- Hanna Education Foundation: None
- HACC: None
- Dauphin County Tax Collection Committee: None

Dauphin County Technical School: Mr. Rawls, Sr. advised there is a meeting on Wednesday and a vote to refinance a bond. He notified the board of funds that could be held on account at DCTS or returned to the District and asked the board for guidance on how he should vote on this at the next DCTS board meeting. Mr. Rawls, Sr. expressed the need to have another board member appointed to attend the DCTS board meeting as Mrs. DelGrande was unable to do so. He emphasized that two board members were mandatory to have a quorum. Ms. Karl said she would make a note of that request. Mr. Rawls, Sr. also reminded the board members to complete the DCTS ballots and return them to him at the meeting as he would hand deliver them to the Wednesday DCTS board meeting.

CAIU: None

Board of Commissioners: Mr. Rawls, Sr. requested that Ms. Karl appoint another board member to replace.

Committee Report: None

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Daubert advised that the Susquehanna Township Middle School Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Douglas Nyce performed at the Capitol Building. The School of Arts' Second Marking Period Showcase is this Friday, January 16, 2015 at the Susquehanna Township High School ("STHS"); Visual Arts students will exhibit artwork at 6:30pm; Fashion Design students will present a Fashion Show at 7:30pm; Performing Arts students will debut their original children's theater play after the Fashion Show. Keystone Exams are taking place at the STHS; Algebra, Biology and Literature began January 7, 2015 and should be concluded by end of January 21, 2015. Mr. Daubert advised there were 3 weather-related situations in his first 4 days. He explained the system used by the district in determining school opening decisions involving school personnel, township personnel, nation weather service, 5 other superintendents in area. School is to be closed on January 19, 2015 in recognition and respect of Martin Luther King, Jr. There is an early dismissal this Friday, January 16, 2015 when professional development is scheduled for staff on Act 126. There is an early dismissal on January 20, 2015. Mr. Daubert further advised that January is School Board Recognition Month and our school board members and student board members were provided personalized resolutions from the Pennsylvania School Board Association thanking the board members for their service to our board and the variety of other things they do.

II. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jonathan Weader, President of the Wrestling Booster Club asked for the board's attention in the case of Avere Robinson, a two-time state champion wrestler who won a state title in AAA in March 2011 and again in 2012; he was a four-time state tournament qualifier who is now attending Temple University and a member of their football team. Mr. Weader would like Mr. Robinson's picture to be placed inside the gym with the rest of the state champions stating that Mr. Robinson earned it.

Mr. Weader expressed the willingness of the Wrestling Booster Club to assist in anyway needed.

Ms. Karl apologized and noted the board did receive a letter from Mr. Weader; she stated the board would take this up and have a response in the near future.

Karen Friedman Kester deferred her time until after the presentation.

Adam Wiener expressed his concern about the process in which leadership in the school district and the loss of Dr. Miller. He stated that teachers, families, students and administrators were content with the role Dr. Miller was filling. He expressed concern that some on the board would want to have Dr. Kegerise back. He stressed the importance of moving forward like we had recently been and his sense that we are now moving backward.

Justin Fleming welcomed Mr. Daubert to the district. He noted that he has been optimistic about the District and that our students do great things but other issues make the headlines. He noted the improvements brought under Dr. Miller as acting superintendent. He expressed concern that some board members would seek to direct a permanent superintendent in all matters. He noted the Auditor General's report highlights that school boards should neither be passive nor micromanage. He expressed concern that the current board majority wishes to micromanage rather than serve as a liaison between the residents and the education experts. He implored the board to listen to residents and staff and share plans with stakeholders.

Mr. Adrian Robinson noted that he is a resident of the district, graduated in the class of 1981 and was part of the 1979-80 state championship basketball team. He said he was speaking due to the disrespect given to his son, Avere Robinson. He noted District tradition for state champions' pictures to be put on the [high school gym] wall. He stated Avere worked at wrestling from before he was 14 and was the only two-time state champion in district history. He said that his son was promised his picture would be put up but it never happened. He stated there was no reason for this especially since Avere's name is already out on the other wall. He urged that someone make a decision about this and that it should have been handled at the high school.

Ms. Karl said that this will be dealt with in February.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Rawls, Sr. believed that Mr. Robinson was 100% right and what was done to Avere Robinson was 100% wrong.

POINT OF ORDER

Dr. Sakol called Point of Order as Mr. Rawls, Sr. was entering the realm of personnel issues.

LEGAL ADVISEMENT

Attorney Miller advised that Ms. Karl was in order to rule on the motion.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY 12, 2015

**MOTION TO APPROVE
AGENDA**

Moved by Mr. Sussman, seconded by Mr. Rawls, Sr., to approve the meeting agenda for January 12, 2015 with the addition #10D to the agenda, an item for discussion regarding Mr. Edwards's statement in an email that credits Dr. Sakol and Mrs. DelGrande with planning to remove our former acting superintendent. Motion passed: 5-2, 0 abstain, 2 absent.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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|----------|--|
| Aye: | Mr. Sussman, Mrs. Billante, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Dietrich, Mr. Rawls, Sr. |
| Nay: | Mrs. Spence, Ms. Karl |
| Abstain: | None |
| Absent: | Mrs. DelGrande, Dr. Sakol |

LEGAL ADVISEMENT

Attorney Miller advised there was a motion on the floor to amend the agenda to have a discussion with regard to that statement and so the discussion is on whether or not that amendment will be allowed to the agenda. He further advised that before there is a discussion, he recommended the board go into executive session if there is a personnel or litigation part to it.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Rawls, Sr. called for a roll call vote.

Dr. Sakol and Mrs. DelGrande left the meeting at 7:55 p.m. and did not return.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Dietrich asked to clarify on the placement of this item on the agenda as Item #10B. Ms. Karl agreed and confirmed the board would go into executive session immediately before that item.

IV. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

**2015-16 FISCAL YEAR
PRELIMINARY GENERAL
FUND BUDGET**

A. Mr. Anderson began his presentation of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Preliminary General Fund Budget with a recap of the Act 1 budget development timeline with milestone and deadlines as presented in September. Mr. Anderson stated he was asking the board to authorize a resolution to increase taxes above the state Act 1 index as allowed for expenditures for special education and PSERS. The board was either going to authorize the district to proceed with a proposed preliminary budget above the Act 1 index of 1.9% or the board was going to certify that the district will stay at or below the index.

Mr. Anderson provided information on the impact to the taxpayer with the following example: a tax increase to the maximum allowable amount, about 6%, would equate to a taxpayer example of a property assessed at \$100,000 having an additional \$102.12 in taxes per year or \$8.50 per month.

Mr. Rawls, Sr. left the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Mr. Rawls, Sr. returned to meeting at 8:13 p.m.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Dietrich questioned if our expenditures would be \$48 million in the future years. Mr. Anderson explained that by 2015-16 the number will drop by \$1 million but that money may be associated with the settlement of the 3 union contracts.

Mrs. Billante asked if the district will be soliciting bids based on the anticipated 8% increase in medical insurance expenses. Mr. Anderson indicated this increase is anticipated and not actual. Attorney Miller advised both he and Mr. Anderson have met with another potential health care provider preliminarily and have been contacted for a follow-up meeting.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Billante asked if the reduction in earned income tax of almost \$700,000 is strictly based on the lower employment numbers in the district. Mr. Anderson stated our final audited EIT revenue number from the 2013-14 year was much lower due to a change in the EIT collection company and one-time return of moneys in 2012-2013 we received held by the former collection company.

Mr. Sussman asked for clarification on what was needed tonight.

Mr. Sussman reiterated that the board was voting to give latitude to the process not to increase taxes today. Mr. Anderson confirmed this and stated we need to submit our PDE 2028 to the state; the state will review and decide if district really needs to be above index.

Mr. Edwards asked for clarification that 1.9% is the state index maximum. Mr. Anderson confirmed that as correct. Mr. Edwards asked if the extra budgetary amount would come out of the fund balance without exceptions. Mr. Anderson confirmed and added we would deplete the fund balance within 3 to 4 years at this level.

Mr. Dietrich asked if exceptions can be applied for two years in a row. Mr. Anderson didn't think there was a limit to how many consecutive times we can apply for the exceptions. Mr. Dietrich asked if Mr. Anderson had projections on the rate of draw down on the fund balance. Mr. Anderson expressed difficulties in defining this due to the increasing rate and unknowns with PSERS rates.

Ms. Karl remarked the board needed to be more active on legislation and work with organizations such as Pennsylvania School Boards Association ("PSBA") and Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials ("PASBO") who are lobbying this issue in order to get state assistance to fix this problem.

Mr. Sussman asked Mr. Anderson to have a projected outlay for PSERS over the next 3, 4, and 5 years correlating the effect on our reserve funds in order to facilitate further decisions concerning tax increases. Mr. Sussman expressed the importance of the board and public to see the alternatives of spending down the reserve funds versus the cost over time when bill finally comes due.

**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC
DEFERRED COMMENT
KAREN FRIEDMAN KESTER**

Karen Friedman Kester stated no one likes to pay taxes but we have an obligation to our students and community at large to fund our schools for the good of our society. She noted our fund balance is what allows for a great bond rate. If spent down, the next rate might not be as good. Mrs. Kester stated this was not new information; it was just ignored. If we don't ask for these exceptions, our debt will become a cumulative bigger debt year-after-year. She said we need to fund our schools as education starts with our basic education and we need to have that within Susquehanna.

XIII. FINANCES

MOTION TO APPROVE

A. (Part 1) Moved by Mr. Rawls, Sr., seconded by Mrs. Spence to adopt the resolution as submitted to the board:

Act 1 Referendum Exception Notice

Pursuant to Act 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Education publishes an index % applicable to the School District. The school district real estate tax increase for the next fiscal year is limited to the index % unless the proposed tax rate is approved by voters pursuant to a referendum or the School District qualifies for an Act 1 exception. As a result of special circumstances covered by an Act 1 referendum exception, a tax rate % increase above the index might be required to balance the School District budget for the next fiscal year. The tax to be levied is required to provide a quality education program as reflected in the School District Preliminary Budget.

The School District intends to seek approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education as required by Act 1 for an exception allowing increase of the real estate tax as reflected in the School District Preliminary Budget. The Preliminary Budget is available for public inspection at the School District offices, 2579 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Pennsylvania. On written request by any School District resident or taxpayer, the School District will provide a copy of the referendum exception application.

Motion passed: 7-1, 0 abstain, 2 absent

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: Mr. Sussman, Mrs. Billante, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Dietrich,
Mr. Rawls, Sr., Mrs. Spence, Ms. Karl

Nay: None.

Abstain: None

Absent: Mrs. DelGrande, Dr. Sakol

RECORD TO REFLECT

Mr. Rawls, Sr. wanted the record to reflect that two school board members left the meeting.

MOTION TO APPROVE

A. (Part 2) Moved by Mrs. Billante, seconded by Mr. Rawls, Sr., to approve the resolution authorizing the proposed preliminary budget, as follows:

Resolution Authorizing Proposed Preliminary Budget
Display and Advertising and Authorizing Referendum Exception

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of Susquehanna Township School District, as follows:

1. The School District shall make the Proposed Preliminary Budget available for public inspection at least 20 days before the date scheduled for adoption of the Preliminary Budget.
2. At least 10 days before the date scheduled for adoption of the Preliminary Budget, the Secretary shall advertise a Preliminary Budget Notice in substantially the form as presented to the School Board. The notice shall be advertised once in a newspaper of general circulation and shall be posted conspicuously at the School District offices.
3. The Act 1 index applicable to the School District as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is 1.9%. The Preliminary Budget Proposal assumes that the School District will receive approval for use of one or more Act 1 real estate tax referendum exceptions. The School District shall take all steps required to obtain approval for the referendum exceptions contemplated in the Preliminary Budget Proposal, including advertising once in a newspaper of general circulation and placing on the School District internet website Act 1 Referendum Exception Notice in substantially the form as presented to the School Board.

Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstain, 2 absent

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: Mr. Sussman, Mrs. Billante, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Dietrich,
Mr. Rawls, Sr., Mrs. Spence, Ms. Karl

Nay: None.

Abstain: None

Absent: Mrs. DelGrande, Dr. Sakol

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE

A. Moved by Mr. Sussman, seconded by Mr. Dietrich, to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2014 Board Meeting.

Motion passed: 7-1, 0 abstain, 2 absent

PLACEHOLDER

VI. PROGRAM

None.

VII. PERSONNEL

ADVISEMENT

A.1.-7. Conferences. The following conference attendance was presented for advisement purposes. No discussion requested.

- 1.** Mary Nied - SeaPearch Instructional Session - No Charge - December 13, Philadelphia - Drexel University.
- 2.** Mark Billante - SeaPearch Instructional Session - \$144.78 - December 13, Philadelphia - Drexel University.
- 3.** Kelly Fringer - Supporting Gifted Students - \$45.00 - December 16, Summerdale - CAIU#15.
- 4.** Leslie Harrington - IReady Training - No Charge - December 17, Halifax - CAIU #15.
- 5.** Cortney MacTavish - IReady Training - No Charge - December 17, Halifax - CAIU #15.
- 6.** Cortney MacTavish - Develop Interventions for ELLS During ESL instruction - No Charge - January 8, 2015 Harrisburg - PaTTAN.
- 7.** Andrea Lacy - Concrete-Rep-Abstract Math Days - No Charge - January 8, 2015 Harrisburg - PaTTAN.

PLACEHOLDER

B. None.

MOTION TO APPROVE

C.-G. Moved by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Sussman, to approve Items #C, D, E, F, and G.
Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstain, 2 absent

C.1. Approve the employment of Betty Ward as Spanish Teacher at the Susquehanna Township High School at a salary of \$41,480.00, pro-rated, effective January 5, 2015. (BS, Step 1)

C.2. Approve the employment of Tiffany Laing as 2nd Grade Teacher at the Sara Lindemuth Elementary School at a salary of \$47,128.00, pro-rated, effective TBD. (MA, Step 3)

C.3. Rescind previous board approval on December 15, 2014 of Nicholas Kennedy as Special Education Inclusion Teacher at the Susquehanna Township Middle School at a salary of \$47,862.00, pro-rated, effective date: TBD. (MA+15, Step 3). Mr. Kennedy accepted a different employment offer.

D.1. Approve the employment of Tae Kim as Custodian at the Susquehanna Township High School, at a salary of \$11.57 per hour with a \$0.45 shift differential, effective January 5, 2015.

D.2. Approve the employment of Min Jiang as Food Service Worker at the Thomas Holtzman Jr. Elementary School at a salary of \$10.86 per hour, effective January 5, 2015.

D.3. Approve the employment of Robette Porter as Food Service Worker at the Susquehanna Township Middle School at a salary of \$10.86 per hour, effective January 5, 2015.

D.4. Approve correction to the last name of new hire Guadalupe Zeledon to Guadalupe Caswell; Zeledon is maiden name. Mrs. Caswell approval of employment was on the October 20, 2014 agenda.

E.1. Michele Stoneking, mentor for Carina Garcia, at a stipend of \$250.00.

E.2. Kerry Snell, mentor for Betty Ward, at a stipend of \$250.00.

E.3. Robert Campbell, Hanna Musical Production Club as only advisor, at an additional stipend of \$300.00.

F.1. Approve the resignation of Kelli Baskerville, Head Cheerleading Coach at the Susquehanna Township High School, effective December 15, 2014.

G.1. Approve the following volunteers with clearances for the Susquehanna Township School District 2014-2015 School Year: LouAnn Caldarella

IX. FINANCES

MOTION TO APPROVE

B.C.D.E.F.G.H. Moved by Mr. Rawls, Sr. to approve Items #8B through H.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

Mr. Sussman suggested a friendly amendment to motion to approve Items #8B through G. Ms. Karl noted that E and F do not require a motion; they are placeholders.

MOTION TO APPROVE

B.C.D. Moved by Mr. Rawls, Sr., seconded by Mr. Edwards to approve Items #8B through D.

Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstain, 2 absent

B. Approve the Cash Balance for the period ending 01/05/2015, showing a balance of \$14,786,643.99.

C. Approve the payment of bills from the Metro General Fund as listed in the Computer Check Register, ending 01/06/2015, totaling \$3,315,104.50.

D. Approve payment of bills from the Metro Activity Fund as of 01/05/2015, totaling \$4,281.76.

- PLACEHOLDER** E. None.
- PLACEHOLDER** F. None.
- MOTION TO APPROVE** **G.** Moved by Mrs. Billante, seconded by Mrs. Spence, to approve the payment of bills from Food Services Fund, 12/09/2014 through 01/05/2015, totaling \$27,413.84.
Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstain, 2 absent
- MOTION TO APPROVE** **H.** Moved by Mr. Sussman, seconded by Mrs. Rawls, Sr., to approve refund of personal taxes to Alana Arp for years 2013-2014 in the amount of \$589.00 as a non-resident
Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstain, 2 absent
- PLACEHOLDER** **IX. POLICY**
- None.
- X. OTHER**
- MOTION TO APPROVE** **A.** Moved from Mr. Rawls, Sr., seconded by Mrs. Spence, to approve out-of-state field trip on Saturday, May 30, 2015 to "Music in the Park" Six Flags Great Adventure NJ for HS Music Students, Band, Orchestra and Chorus.
Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstain, 2 absent
- LEGAL ADVISEMENT** Attorney Miller asked Ms. Karl to entertain an executive session for purposes of litigation before Item 10B was addressed. No objections were heard to that request.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** Ms. Karl adjourned board to an executive session at approximately 8:47 p.m.
- RECONVENE** Ms. Karl reconvened the board meeting at 8:59 pm after executive session to discuss matters of litigation.
- MOTION TO TABLE** **B.** Moved by Mr. Sussman, seconded by Mr. Dietrich, to table Item #10B until the next public meeting.
Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstain, 2 absent
ROLL CALL VOTE:
Aye: Mr. Edwards, Mr. Dietrich, Mr. Rawls, Sr., Mrs. Spence,
Mr. Sussman, Mrs. Billante, Ms. Karl
Nay: None.
Abstain: None
Absent: Mrs. DelGrande, Dr. Sakol

XI: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Mrs. Billante, seconded by Mrs. Spence, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed: 7-0, 0 abstain, 2 absent.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Mark Y. Sussman
Board Secretary