

**MINUTES****I. CALL TO ORDER**

The September 26, 2006, meeting of the Alexandria Township Board of Education was called to order by President Susan F. Luthringer at 7:30 PM.

**II. NOTIFICATION OF MEETING**

This meeting was properly advertised according to the Open Public Meeting Act (P.L. 1975:31) in the Delaware Valley News on May 4, 2006, to begin at 7:30 PM.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Kathleen Finnegan - A(7:37 PM)  
Francis L. Guenther - A(7:50 PM)  
Beth Harding - P  
Bernice M. Keizer - P  
Diane Y. Kelly - P

Douglas E. Linden, Jr. - P  
Susan F. Luthringer - P  
Patrick D. McGuinness - P  
Susan E. Metz - P

**IV. BOARD STATEMENT**

The Alexandria Township Board of Education is committed to provide an educational climate where all children can and do learn.

**V. FLAG SALUTE****VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board acknowledged receipt of a note from Robert Herman, Interim Alexandria Middle School Principal, wishing the Board a wonderful 2006-07 school year.

A thank you note was received from Joanne McCluskey, thanking the Board for the staff luncheon and gift.

A letter was received from Keith and Debra McAuliffe, advising that they have decided to transfer their son to another school because they have lost faith in Alexandria's system.

**VII. BOARD PRESIDENT****VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Wendy Schadt, Superintendent of Schools, thanked Bob Herman for his assistance in making a smooth transition for the new Alexandria Middle School Principal, David Pawlowski. Dr. Schadt said that Mr. Herman was a great asset to the District.

Thomas Bubba gave an update on activities at the Lester D. Wilson School.

David Pawlowski gave an update on activities at the Alexandria Middle School.

**IX. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BD SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Ms. Barbara E. Prowker, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, reported the following:

1. Reminder: The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, in the Board conference room at 6:00 PM.
2. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will meet with the District's auditor to review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006, on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at 6:00 PM. The meeting will take place in the Board conference room.
3. Ms. Prowker advised that the two-way radios are now in use and are working very well. The radios have enabled communications with staff and between the two schools.

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

McGuinness - Buildings and Grounds Committee

**XI. PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Kenneth Schultz and his wife approached the Board asking for consideration for an alternate transportation request. The Board denied their request as it did not comply with the District's current transportation policy.

Mr. Rick Smith asked if there is currently an Advisory Council. Dr. Schadt advised that one will convene if there is an issue that she needs addressed.

**XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Barbara Prowker explained how the voicemail system works in the District. Dr. Guenther said that he wanted to speak to a "real" person when he calls the District. Ms. Prowker explained that there are 2 secretaries in each Main Office and 2 people in the Business Office to cover incoming calls. If the main number in each area does not respond, then the call bounces to the second person, and if the second person does not respond, the message drops into voicemail. Ms. Prowker said that it was impossible to guarantee that a person answer every call because both people may be on the phone, one might be in the restroom, one could be in the copy areas, etc.

Ms. Prowker said that there is only one 12 month secretary in each main office in the summer months. It was suggested that calls then bounce to a 3rd person. Again, Ms. Prowker explained that the 3rd person might also not be available. Dr. Schadt said that every effort is made to answer calls when they come in and to respond to voicemail messages promptly.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Keizer said that she was disappointed that the art teachers were not at Back-To-School Night. Dr. Schadt advised that staff are required to attend only one evening and if the Board would like them to attend both nights, they would have to be compensated.

Mrs. Harding suggested that maps be available at Back-To-School Night so that people could find their way around the buildings.

President Luthringer advised that the Board of Education would have a table set up at Community Day and asked that Board Members take turns manning the table.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:27 PM**

Motion made by Mrs. Keizer, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the approval of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the Board's role and dynamics and special education matters.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

**OPEN SESSION: 9:27 PM**

Motion made by Mrs. Finnegan, seconded by Mr. McGuinness, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board return to Open Session at 9:27 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

**XV. MOTIONS**

**Personnel**

1. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the letter of resignation from Michael Loreti, custodian/maintenance person, effective September 22, 2006.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

2. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the letter of resignation submitted by Shannon Bingert, part time custodian, effective September 22, 2006.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

3. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve Caitlin Glick as a 10 month custodian for 19 1/2 hours per week for the 2006-07 school year at a salary of \$10,062 prorated, effective September 25, 2006. Employment contingent upon the successful completion of the criminal history background check required by law.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

4. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve a child rearing leave for Mary S. Bidwell, commencing December 16, 2006. Mrs. Bidwell will utilize accumulated sick days through January 26, 2006, at which time she will utilize the Family Leave Act for 12 weeks. Mrs. Bidwell will return to a teaching position September 1, 2007.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

5. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve an employment contract for Christina Salerno for the 2006-07 school year as a math teacher for 45 minutes per day at Step 1-BA(.1) \$41,186 prorated, and as a special education aide for 6 hours and 45 minutes per day at \$18,500 (.9) prorated. Employment contingent upon the successful completion of the criminal history background check required by law

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

6. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve an employment contract for Cheryl Burlew, effective August 30, 2006, as a 12 month secretary for the Lester D. Wilson School at \$21,000 prorated. Employment contingent upon the successful completion of the criminal history background check required by law.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

7. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board amend Lisa L. Pepe Mroz's employment contract for the 2006-07 school year as a resource center teacher for 13 hours per week at Step 6-MA+15 (.347), \$49,536 prorated, and as a special education aide for 24.5 hours per week at \$18,000 (.653), prorated.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Substitute List

8. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following additions to the Substitute List, contingent upon the successful completion of the criminal history background check required by law.

Barbara Callahan	Nurse
Leanne Levy	Secretary & Teacher
Pamela Marsiano	Teacher
Janet O'Connor	Teacher
Nancy O'Leary	Teacher
Bridgid Penninger	Teacher
Frances Sterbenz	Teacher

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Emergent Hiring

9. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Alexandria Township Board of Education approve application of the emergent hiring of the following:

Beth Ann Brogan	Cafeteria Employee
Cheryl Burlew	Secretary
Thomas Connolly	Speech Consultant
Alana Fichtelberg	Speech Consultant
Caitlin Glick	Custodian
Kelly Murray-Hoff	Speech Consultant
Elizabeth Rasmussen	Cafeteria Employee
Christina Salerno	Teacher and Aide

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Finnegan, Guenther, Harding, Keizer, Kelly,  
Linden, Luthringer, McGuinness, Metz

Jazz Band Director and Assistant Drama Director

10. Motion made by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the position of Jazz Band Director and Assistant Drama Director, both at a salary of \$1,162 for the 2006-07 school year. (Funds for this come from the Odyssey of the Mind position).

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Workshops

11. Motion made by Mrs. Metz, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following workshops:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Workshop</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Lewis	Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Workshop	9/27/06	\$175
Jones	NJAAHPERD Elementary PE Conference	9/29/06- 10/01/06	150
Winchatz	Art Educators of NJ Fall Conference	10/03/06	125

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Policy

12. Motion made by Mrs. Finnegan, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the 2nd reading and adoption of the following policies:

3542.1	School Nutrition Policy
1120	Board of Education Meeting
1100	Communicating with the Public
1220	Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Memorandum of Agreement

13. Motion made by Mrs. Keizer, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Alexandria Township Board of Education and the New Jersey State Police - Kingwood Station, for the 2006-07 school year. There are no changes to the document.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present-Finnegan, Guenther, Harding, Keizer, Kelly, Linden, Luthringer, McGuinness, Metz

**2006-07 School Year Level Objectives**

14. Motion made by Mrs. Keizer, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Draft Proposal of the 2006-07 School Year Level Objectives for Lester D. Wilson School and Alexandria Middle School.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

**Field Trips**

15. Motion made by Mr. Linden, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following field trips:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Destination</u>
9/21/06	8th	Water Studies Trip to Phillipsburg
9/22/06	8th	Water Studies Trip to Phillipsbug
10/04-06	7th	Fairview Lake Camp and Conference Center

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

**Approval of Minutes**

16. Motion made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Minutes of the August 22, 2006 meeting as submitted.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

**Finance**

17. Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the transfers for the month ending August 31, 2006 as submitted by the Superintendent, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

18. Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mrs. Harding, to accept the Alexandria Township Board of Education's certification that the Superintendent, Dr. Wendy L. Schadt, recommends that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month ending August 31, 2006, and she further recommends in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(3) that the Board of Education certify that no major account or fund has been overexpended and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

19. Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board accept the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Barbara E. Prowker, certification as required by N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(d), that no line item account has been overexpended as of August 31, 2006, and that as of this date sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

### **Bill List**

20. Motion made by Mr. Guenther, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Bill List dated August 28, 2006, in the amount of \$214,353.31, check numbers 3258 - 3333, and the Bill List dated September 22, 2006, in the amount of \$551,280.30, check numbers 3334 - 3437.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

### **Special Education**

21. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve a Tuition Contract Private Schools For The Disabled with The Midland School for a student, D.O.B. 8/3/92, C.I., for the 2006-07 school year for 180 days at a cost of \$34,704.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

22. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve an agreement with Speech Partners, Inc., for the 2006-07 school year to provide auditory verbal based therapy for a student, D.O.B. 11/25/95, AI, for 1 hour per week for 6 weeks in July and August, 2006, and 2 hours per month during the school year at \$165 per hour.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

23. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve an agreement with Summit Speech School for the 2006-07 school year to provide itinerant teacher services for a student, D.O.B. 11/25/95, AI, for 4 hours per week at \$115 per hour.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

24. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following resolution regarding a dispute between the Alexandria Township Board of Education and R.C. and B.C. regarding a Settlement Agreement dated 9/26/06.

WHEREAS, E.C. is a student residing within the Alexandria Township Public School District who is eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, a dispute arose between the Alexandria Township Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") and R.C. and B.C. regarding E.C.'s proposed program and placement for the 2006-07 school year; and

WHEREAS, the parties disposed of their dispute through amicable negotiations, the terms of which are set forth in full in the attached Settlement Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement are hereby ratified and reaffirmed in all respects. The Board President and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Settlement Agreement and any other documents necessary to effect said settlement.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present  
Finnegan, Guenther, Harding, Keizer, Kelly,  
Linden, Luthringer, McGuinness, Metz

25. Motion made by Mrs. Harding, seconded by Mr. Linden, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the following resolution regarding a dispute between the Alexandria Township Board of Education and M.S. and W. H. regarding a Settlement Agreement dated 9/26/06.

WHEREAS, P.H. is a student residing within the Alexandria Township Public School District who is eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, a dispute arose between the Alexandria Township Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") and M.S. and W.H. regarding P.H.'s proposed program and placement for the 2006-2007 school year; and

WHEREAS, the parties disposed of their dispute through amicable negotiations, the terms of which are set forth in full in the attached Settlement Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement are hereby ratified and reaffirmed in all respects. The Board President and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Settlement Agreement and any other documents necessary to effect said settlement.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present  
Finnegan, Guenther, Harding, Keizer, Kelly,  
Linden, Luthringer, McGuinness, Metz

### **Use of Facilities**

26. Motion made by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School art room by Daisy Troop 546 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month for the 2006-07 school year from 3:40-5:00 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

27. Motion made by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School art room by Brownie Troop 1144 the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month for the 2006-07 school year from 3:40-5:00 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

28. Motion made by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Alexandria Middle School cafeteria area by the Riegle Ridge Rams for cheerleading practice on the following dates:

Tuesdays for October 3, 17, 24, and 31 and November 14, 2006, from 5:30-7:30 PM

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

29. Motion made by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School parking lot as a rest area by the Live Strong Central New Jersey Charity Ride on October 1, 2006, from 8:00 - 11:30 AM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

30. Motion made by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Lester D. Wilson School art room by Girl Scout Troop 1211 for the 2006-07 school year on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 3:40-5:00 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

31. Motion made by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve use of the Alexandria Middle School art room by Girl Scout Troop 251 for the 2006-07 school year on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 3:40-5:00 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

### **Transportation**

32. Motion made by Mrs. Metz, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve a Joint Transportation Agreement with the Delaware Valley Regional High School Board of Education for the 2006-07 school year to transport regular education students on 54 passengers buses as follows:

Route	Cost
A-1	\$18,975.78
A-2	23,989.88
A-3	21,614.78
A-4	21,086.98
A-5	22,934.28

A-6	22,670.38
A-7	18,447.98
A-8	18,447.98
A-9	34,545.88
A-10	19,503.58
A-11	20,823.08
A-12	18,447.98
A-13	18,447.98
A-14	17,392.38
AK1	18,856.34
AK2	13,050.54
AK3	18,856.34

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

33. Motion made by Mrs. Metz, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve a Joint Transportation Agreement with the Delaware Valley Regional High School Board of Education for the 2006-07 school year to transport special education students as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Price</u>
Lester D. Wilson School	\$38,373.90
Jerry Davis School	58,228.17
Cambridge School	24,364.40

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

#### **XVI. BOARD GOALS**

- a. Develop creative and innovate ways to improve communications about strengths and challenges facing the District with the community, and with parents, and teachers/staff.
- b. Increase meeting productivity by:
  1. Contacting administration prior to the meeting to discuss new items for the Agenda; and
  2. Direct new business to the appropriate committee or administrator and to place that item under "Unfinished Business" for the next meeting; and
  3. Limiting discussion to Agenda items.

#### **XVII. PUBLIC INPUT**

Someone asked if we were having the Odyssey of the Mind club this year. Dr. Schadt said "No", and that we have not had it for some time.

**XVIII. ADJOURN**

Motion made by Mrs. Finnegan, seconded by Mrs. Harding, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:59 PM.

Roll Call Vote: YES: All Present

Respectfully Submitted By,

Barbara E. Prowker  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BEP/nlm