

**COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2015 - 6:00 PM  
9/10 Center Auditorium**

**OPENING ACTIVITIES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AT 6:12 P.M.**

**2. PURPOSE OF MEETING**

The purpose of this meeting is for the signing of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Agreement, and to take action on any other matters which may come before the School Board.

**3. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT**

*THE MISSION OF THE COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, A LEARNING COMMUNITY RICH IN DIVERSITY AND COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE, IS TO EDUCATE ALL STUDENTS BY PROVIDING RIGOROUS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE, PRODUCTIVE, LIFE-LONG LEARNERS IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY.*

**4. ADVISEMENT**

By notice of the President, Board Members are advised that all votes shall be regarded as roll call votes. The minutes should also note that public notice was given for this meeting in accordance with Act 93 of 1998, Section 1. School Board meetings shall proceed in accordance with School Board policy.

**5. ROLL CALL**

**Board of School Directors**

Dean A. Snyder, President - present	(Finance & Personnel Committee)
Stuart C. N. Deets, Vice President - present	(Operations and Finance & Personnel Committees)
Diane M. Brownfield - present	(Education Committee)
James A. Fox - absent	(Policy Committee)
James Hills - present	(Education and Operations Committees)
Laurie C. Knecht - present	(Operations Committee)
Michele S. Maffei - present	(Finance & Personnel Committee)
Deborah L. Thompson - present	(Education and Policy Committees)
Ann Wuertz - present	(Policy Committee)

**Solicitor**

Michael I. Levin, Esquire – not present

**Administration**

Dr. Cathy Taschner, Superintendent of Schools - present  
Dr. Angelo Romaniello, Jr., Assistant to the Superintendent - absent  
Dr. Kimberly R. Donahue, Assistant to the Superintendent of Curriculum & Learning - present  
Ronald G. Kabonick, Director of Business Administration & School Board Secretary - present  
Erika Zeigler, Director of Human Resources - present  
Abdallah Hawa, Director of Technology - absent  
John Reid, Director of Pupil Services, Data & Assessment - present  
Dave Krakower, Director of High School & Curriculum Instruction - Special Education (6-12) - present  
Dr. Teresa Powell, Director of Middle School Education & Curriculum Instruction - absent  
Jason Palaia, Director of Elementary Education (3-5) - Special Education (K-5) - present

6. **MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

*Additions:*

#1) **Resolution to Initiate Suit**

**Recommended Motion:** That the Board of School Directors add as Item 2-C-1 the Resolution to Initiate Suite against James Ellison, Rhoads and Sinon, and the Susquehanna Legal Group.

**Amendment to modify Motion 2-C-1:**

**Recommended Motion:** That the Board of School Directors include malpractice to the Resolution to Initiate Suite against James Ellison, Rhoads and Sinon, and the Susquehanna Legal Group.

Motion: Deborah Thompson                      Second: Stuart Deets                      Vote: 8-0-0

2. C. 1) Resolution to Initiate Suit Against James Ellison, Rhoads and Sinon, and the Susquehanna Legal Group

Motion: Deborah Thompson                      Second: Stuart Deets                      Vote: 8-0-0

#2) **Coatesville Solar Initiative Resolution**

**Recommended Motion:** That the Board of School Directors add as Item 2-D-1 the Coatesville Solar Initiative Resolution.

2. D. 1) C. S. I. Resolution

Motion: Stuart Deets                      Second: Michelle Maffei                      Vote: 8-0-0

#3) **Resolution for Repayment on Van**

**Recommended Motion:** That the Board of School Directors add as Item 2-E-1 the Resolution for Repayment of Van.

2. E. 1) Resolution for Repayment on Van

Motion: Michele Maffei                      Second: Diane Brownfield                      Vote: 8-0-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

The Board has requested all persons making comments on **agenda items** to list their name, address, telephone number and motion item(s) on the sheet provided. There is a three (3) minute limit per person. The Board does not take action or discuss items not appearing on the agenda. The Board values public comments and wishes to convey that although Board members cannot discuss items that are not on the agenda, they listen carefully and appreciate and value input from the public.

*None*

**MOTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

**1. EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Deborah Thompson, Chair)**

**A. Plan of Action/Agreement Discussion**

**1) Plan of Action/Agreement for Improving School-Community Relations**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approve the Plan of Action Agreement for Improving School-Community Relations as endorsed by the Coatesville Area School District (CASD), the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Pennsylvania (NAACP-PA), and the Center for Safe Schools/Mid-Atlantic Equity Center. (Enclosure 1)

Plan of Action  
Agreement for  
Improving School  
Community Relations

Approved

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion: Deb Thompson

Second: Diane Brownfield

Vote: 8-0-0

**2. FINANCE COMMITTEE (Stuart Deets, Chair)**

**A. Budget Presentation and Discussion**

**1) Adopt Resolution Authorizing the Proposed Preliminary Budget Display and Advertising & Authorizing of Referendum Exceptions**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approve the Resolution Authorizing the Proposed Preliminary Budget Display and Advertising and Authorizing of Referendum Exceptions. (Enclosure 2)

Adopt Resolution  
Preliminary Budget Display

Approved

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion: Dean Snyder

Second: Stuart Deets

Vote: 8-0-0

**B. Project Manager Resolution**

**1) Resolution on “Project Manager” Position**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approve the Resolution to eliminate the position known as “Project Manager” for reasons of economy, effective immediately, and that the employee in the position be furloughed at the close of business on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 and that the Administration shall provide notice to the employee. (Enclosure 3)

Project Manager  
Resolution

Approved

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion: Stuart Deets

Second: Deb Thompson

Vote: 8-0-0

**C. Resolution to Initiate Suit**

**1) Resolution to Initiate Suit against James Ellison, Rhoads & Sinon, and Susquehanna Legal Group**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approve the attached Resolution to Initiate Suit against James Ellison, Rhoads and Sinon, and Susquehanna Legal Group. (Attachment 1)

Resolution to Initiate Suit

Approved

Vote: 8-0-0

Motion: Dean Snyder

Second: Deb Thompson

Vote: 8-0-0

**D. Coatesville Solar Initiative Resolution**

1) **Coatesville Solar Initiative Resolution**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approve the attached CSI Resolution. (*Attachment 2*)

CSI Resolution Approved Vote: 8-0-0
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Motion: Dean Snyder

Second: Michele Maffei

Vote: 8-0-0

**E. Resolution for Repayment on Van**

1) **Resolution for Repayment on Van**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approve the attached Resolution for Repayment on Van. (*Attachment 3*)

Resolution for Repayment on Van Approved Vote: 8-0-0
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Motion: Dean Snyder

Second: Diane Brownfield

Vote: 8-0-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Board has requested that all persons making comments of public concern to list their name, address, telephone number and topic(s) on the sheet provided. There is a three (3) minute time limit per person.

- 1) *Fonz Newsuan* read a prepared statement specifically directed to the board members he felt should consider stepping down from their seat, emphasizing honesty and the well-being of those they were elected to serve. Mr. Newsuan also highlighted information extracted from the Grand Jury's Report referencing the dishonesty of Angelo Romaniello and that of Mrs. Knecht, referencing the sworn oath of office taken at the beginning of their term. Mr. Newsuan also outlined information pertaining to inaccuracies emanating from the Human Resources Department due to the HR Director's allegiance to Mr. Como, and he questioned how many minority applicants may have been overlooked throughout her tenure.

**ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Diane Brownfield will meet with the Chester County Intermediate Unit Board (*IU Board*) next week.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. on a motion by Dean Snyder and seconded by Deborah Thompson.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Karen Jackson, Recording Secretary*

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Ronald G. Kabonick, School Board Secretary

*Anyone wishing to review the minutes verbatim should contact the School Board Secretary to request a copy of the digital/audio file.*