

**COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD HEARING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2010 - 6:00 PM
9/10 CENTER AUDITORIUM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 6:06 P.M.

2. PURPOSE OF THE HEARING

According to Section 780 of the Public School Code of 1949, in the event of a permanent closing of a public school, the board of school directors shall hold a public hearing on the question not less than three (3) months prior to the decision of the board relating to the closing of the school. This hearing therefore is on the question of the permanent closing of the Caln Elementary School and the conversion of the Scott Middle School from its present use as a middle school to an elementary school to service the students presently attending the Caln Elementary School.

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

The minutes should note that public notice was given for this hearing in accordance with Act 93 of 1998, Section 1 and Section 780 of the Public School Code of 1949. School Board hearings shall proceed in accordance with School Board policy.

5. ROLL CALL

J. Neil Campbell - present	(Operations Committee)
Richard M. Ritter – present	(Finance Committee)
Diane M. Brownfield - present	(Education & Community & Student Relations Committees)
Joseph E. Dunn, Jr. – absent (Mr. Dunn arrived at 6:30 p.m.)	(Finance Committee)
Paul L. Johnson - present	(Operations Committee)
Laurie C. Knecht - present	(Operations Committee)
Robert M. Knecht - present	(Education & Community & Student Relations Committees)
William A. Sweigart – present	(Finance Committee)
Dr. Tonya Thames Taylor - present	(Education & Community & Student Relations Committees)

6. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

7. ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATION

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board has requested all persons making comments concerning the purpose of this hearing to list their name, address, and telephone number on the sheet provided. There is a three (3) minute limit per person. The Board values public comments and wishes to convey that Board members listen carefully and appreciate and value input from the public.

- 1) *Vincent Rose:*
Mr. Rose appreciates the revisions made to the proposal to close Caln Elementary School, and he acknowledged the fact that Caln ES is in “bad shape”; however, he is not in favor of moving the elementary students to Scott. He questioned if one security officer was sufficient at Scott, and asked if the By Laws would allow the District to form a planning session to further discuss this transition and consider other parental requests.
- 2) *Holly Bender:*
Ms. Bender is very angry with the District’s plan to move Caln elementary students to a place where all the minority students are located. She is not in favor of moving the Caln students to Scott.
- 3) *Jen Redmile:*
Ms. Redmile is not in favor of moving Caln students to Scott, and she does not understand the proposal. Her primary concerns include playground access and capacity, and afterschool activities currently being held at Caln ES.
- 4) *Ron Miller:*
Mr. Miller is still opposed to Scott becoming an elementary school, and asked the District to change their plans.
- 5) *Matthew Fogg:*
Mr. Fogg had safety concerns. He was pleased to learn that transportation will be provided to all elementary students attending Scott, and that a security officer and additional playground areas will be included. Mr. Fogg read some statistics based on living in Coatesville versus living in Caln Township, and he asked if a fence will be placed around the second playground area.
- 6) *Julie Hart:*
Ms. Hart expressed her concerns regarding to traffic and the playground area.
- 7) *Jim Caldwell:*
Mr. Caldwell is hopeful that the outcome of this hearing will produce better ideas for this plan. He asked, “What’s the rush?”

- 8) *Kristin Pisano:*
Ms. Pisano is not in favor of moving Caln ES students to Scott. She feels closing Caln ES will cause the price of her home to decrease and cause good neighbors to move out of the area.
- 9) *Steven Harris:*
Mr. Harris questioned the projected enrollment process, and asked about the possibility of building a new elementary school.
- 10) *Bonique Harris:*
Mrs. Harris loves Caln ES and she is not in favor of it closing. Currently, her elementary child(ren) love attending Caln, and her middle school son loves attending Scott.
- 11) *Edwin Spragg:*
Mr. Spragg thanked the board for holding the Hearing and listening to public comment. He is concerned about real estate values dropping, and would like Scott to remain a Middle School.
- 12) *Josh Young:*
Mr. Young said the board must address the people's concerns about safety, and assure parents that their children will be safe. He also offered to help find available land.
- 13) *Stephanie Reeder:*
Ms. Reeder is very happy and pleased with her children's successes at Scott Middle School. They are all straight "A" students. She is in favor of moving Caln elementary students to Scott, and she loves Scott Middle School.
- 14) *Erin Scheivert:*
Ms. Scheivert thanked the board for the presentation, information, and changes made to the proposal. She wants everyone to focus on the future - not on the past, and regardless of what plan the Board chooses to accept, she encouraged them to refer to the National Recreation & Park Association and utilize their specs and regulations for school parks and playgrounds. She also asked the Board to ensure that the state-of-the-art facility at Scott remains. She also asked that grant money and resources currently issued to Scott and Caln, continue to be used for the programs at Scott.

9. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on a motion by Neil Campbell and seconded by Diane Brownfield.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Jackson, Recording Secretary

Kenneth D. Lupold, School Board Secretary

If any Board Member or member of the public wishes to review the minutes verbatim, please contact the School Board Secretary and make arrangements to come to the District Office and listen to the meeting tapes.