

**Hazleton Area School District  
Special School Board Meeting Minutes  
9:00 P.M., Thursday, April 14, 2011  
Large Group Instruction Room of Hazleton Area Career Center**

- A. Call to Order by Board President: **9:24 P.M.**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence
- C. Attendance Roll Call

<b>School Director</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Bonomo</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Childs</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Earley</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Hahn</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>John</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Mehalick</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Platukis</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Shema</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Yenkevich</b>	<b>X</b>	

<b>Administrator</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Sam Marolo</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Francis X. Antonelli</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Joseph Andrews</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Anthony Ryba</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Robert Krizansky</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Solicitor Slusser</b>	<b>X</b>	

**D. Public Comment & Questions Directed to the Board on Agenda Items Only:**

- L.A. Tarone, WYLN Television, commented on what could be discussed during Executive Session and he feels that the session held today was in violation of the Sunshine Law.
- Slusser commented that the Board was in the rights of Executive Session rules and regulations and did not violate the Sunshine Law.
- Jeff Brownson commented on gifted education.
- Casey Herseim commented on budget cuts for Early Education (1/2 day kindergarten).

**1 – Recommend Board approve the list of budget cuts: (APPROVED)**

- A. To eliminate twenty (20) Special Education Paraprofessionals at an estimated savings of \$600,000.
- B. To eliminate twenty (20) Regular Education Paraprofessionals at an estimated savings of \$600,000.
- C. To eliminate one (1) school nurse at an estimated savings of \$100,000.
- D. To eliminate one (1) ESL teacher at an estimated savings of \$60,000.
- E. To eliminate two (2) principals at an estimated savings of \$250,000.
- F. To eliminate one (1) vice principal at an estimated savings of \$115,000.
- G. To eliminate ten (10) teaching positions due to scheduling on the campus upon approval of PDE at an estimated savings of \$600,000.
- H. To eliminate one (1) Student Software Administrator position and transfer that person to Guidance at an estimated savings of \$7,000.
- I. To eliminate one (1) case manager at an estimated savings of \$62,000.
- J. To eliminate all middle school's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade sports at an estimated savings of \$260,000.
- K. To eliminate all district general fund clubs at an estimated savings of \$349,545.
- L. To eliminate summer school at an estimated savings of \$66,000.

This is a total of \$3,069,545. The district’s budget deficit is still \$4,361,350 after these cuts are approved.

**Public Comment on Budget Cut Items**

- Pat Cannon asks if the ten teachers are beyond retirement.
- Ryba answers that the ten teachers are all beyond the retirement list and he will share the names with Ms. Cannon. Ryba also clarifies that there are two Special Education Paraprofessionals and one Regular Education Paraprofessional that are on the retirement list as part of the eliminations & the principals and vice principals are reflected in the retirements.
- Childs and Earley motion to Amend – to split the Budget Cut vote into separate items. **(FAILED)**

The following vote includes agenda item(s): **1 (To Amend - To split into separate items for voting)**

**Motion:** Childs  
**Second:** Earley  
**Vote:** Voice

School Director	“Yes” Votes	“No” Votes	Abstain	Absent
Bonomo		X		
Childs	X			
Earley	X			
Hahn		X		
John		X		
Mehalick	X			
Platukis		X		
Shema		X		
Yenkevich	X			

The following vote includes agenda item(s): **1 (Original Agenda Item)**

**Motion:** Hahn  
**Second:** Platukis  
**Vote:** Roll Call

School Director	“Yes” Votes	“No” Votes	Abstain	Absent
Bonomo		X		
Childs	X			
Earley		X		
Hahn	X			
John	X			
Mehalick	X			
Platukis	X			
Shema	X			
Yenkevich	X			

2 – Recommend Board hereby offers a one-time retirement incentive to those professional employees of the District that are covered by the Administrator’s Compensation Plan (Act 93). The Board hereby extends an offer to any Act 93 Administrator who would be desirous of submitting their irrevocable resignation from employment no later than April 27, 2011 and permanently retiring under PSERS to later than August 1, 2011. This one-time incentive and offer will be valid up through April 27, 2011 at which time it will expire and become null and void.

For any Act 93 Administrator who has at least 25 years of service in PSERS and is at least age 50 by the time of their retirement, the District will pay for the cost of health care benefits up to a specified amount not to exceed \$75,000.

The District shall contribute toward the cost of the amount of healthcare benefits under the Blue Care PPO retiree plan (\$1,000/\$3,000 deductible) until the employee/retiree or spouse reaches age 65, is covered by another medical insurance plan, or the amount up to \$75,000 is exhausted, whichever comes first.

If the Specified Amount is depleted the former employee shall have the option of paying for the premiums for the benefits at group rates at his/her own expense pursuant to Section 513 of the School Code.

If the retired employee should die prior to depleting the Specified Amount his/her spouse shall be given the option of continuing the benefits for as long as sufficient funds exist from the Specified Amount to pay the premiums.

The retired employee and spouse shall have no vested rights to the Specified Amount. For illustrative purposes, if 1) coverage is no longer available; or 2) the retired employee dies and the spouse decides not to continue coverage as provided in the Summary Plan Document, the program ceases for that employee and his/her spouse with no rights to the Specified amount, credits, or any portion thereof.

In all respects, coverage under the District's group insurance plan shall be pursuant to the operating guidelines and procedures of the Summary Plan Document and/or Insurance Provider.

It is distinctly understood that this retirement incentive, if so elected by the employee, is in lieu of any other retirement incentive that may be outlined in the Act 93 Agreement. The Employee may only take advantage of one retirement incentive.

It is understood and agreed that once the irrevocable letter of retirement is submitted and accepted by the Board, the retirement of the employee is non-revocable.

By accepting this Retirement Incentive it is understood and agree that the District will not be responsible for payment of any future unemployment claims filed by the Retiree against the School District or any other future employer(s). **(APPROVED)**

- Earley and Platukis motion to amend Agenda Item #2 to be contingent on a two-year wage freeze for Administrators. **(APPROVED)**

**Public Comment on motion to amend**

- There are no interested parties for public comment.

**The following vote includes agenda item(s): 2 (To Amend – to be contingent on a two-year wage freeze)**

**Motion:** Earley  
**Second:** Platukis  
**Vote:** Voice

School Director	“Yes” Votes	“No” Votes	Abstain	Absent
Bonomo	X			
Childs	X			
Earley	X			
Hahn		X		
John	X			
Mehalick		X		
Platukis	X			
Shema	X			
Yenkevich		X		

The following vote includes agenda item(s): **2 (Amended Motion – to be contingent on a two-year wage freeze) (APPROVED)**

**Motion:** Earley  
**Second:** Platukis  
**Vote:** Roll Call

School Director	“Yes” Votes	“No” Votes	Abstain	Absent
Bonomo	X			
Childs	X			
Earley	X			
Hahn		X		
John	X			
Mehalick		X		
Platukis	X			
Shema	X			
Yenkevich		X		

3 – Recommend Board request Attorney Beard, Labor Attorney for the District, to draft an offer to the HAEA regarding a package proposal for teachers on salary and early retirement to include a 1-year wage freeze and an early retirement offer of \$75,000 for at least fifty retirees. **(APPROVED)**

**Public Comment on Agenda Item #3:**

- Pat Cannon comments on the package proposal on salary and early retirement.
- Larry Sampson comments on the package proposal on salary and early retirement.

The following vote includes agenda item(s): **3**

**Motion:** Bonomo  
**Second:** Mehalick  
**Vote:** Roll Call

School Director	“Yes” Votes	“No” Votes	Abstain	Absent
Bonomo	X			
Childs		X		
Earley		X		
Hahn		X		
John	X			
Mehalick	X			
Platukis	X			
Shema	X			
Yenkevich		X		

**Motion To Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn **(APPROVED)**

The following vote includes motion to adjourn: **(10:30 P.M.)**

**Motion:** Bonomo  
**Second:** Shema  
**Vote:** Voice

School Director	“Yes” Votes	“No” Votes	Abstain	Absent
Bonomo	X			
Childs	X			
Earley	X			
Hahn	X			
John	X			
Mehalick	X			
Platukis	X			
Shema	X			
Yenkevich	X			

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SECRETARY