

**INTERBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS'
MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING – DECEMBER 6, 2016**

The annual Reorganization Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Interboro School District was held on Tuesday evening, December 6, 2016, at 6:30 P.M. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Kindergarten Academy in the Administration Building, Prospect Park PA.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. William Phelps, President, and roll call was taken. The following members were present:

Ms. Kelly Boyle
Mr. Justin Shivone
Mr. Kevin McGarvey
Mrs. Deborah DiBattista
Mr. Jack Evans
Mr. Paul Eckert
Mr. Michael Burns
Mr. Edward Harris
Mr. William Phelps

Also present were, Mrs. Bernadette Reiley, Superintendent; Ms. Gaby Sereni, Solicitor, Mr. Martin Heiskell, Director of Finance; Mr. David Criscuolo, Director of Human Resources; Mr. George Wolhaffe, Director of Operations; Mr. Paul Korinth, Director of Special Education; Mr. Paul Gibson, Director of Pupil Services; Mrs. Barbara Hagerty, Director of Technology; Dr. Valerie Eckman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Principals, Ms. Nancy DeSanctis, Mr. Daniel Mills, Ms. Rachel Lambert, Mr. Timothy Fanning, Mr. Robert Kelly; approximately 10 staff members, approximately 15 members of the community.

Mr. Michael Burns read the *Notice of Reorganization*.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Ms. Phyllis Floyd - Prospect Park resident

- Urges the Board to choose strong leadership. Feels that it has been lacking, we need transparency, and members that will prioritize important issues. Feels bad that the Board has to work with a budget that started out with a million dollar deficit.

MOTION
Temporary President

Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. McGarvey *to nominate Mr. Michael Burns as Temporary President*

VOTE

*All members present voted 'aye' – motion carried 9-0.
(Agenda Item #5 – 12/6/2016)*

MOTION
*Nomination for Office
Of President*

Temporary President, Mr. Burns called for nominations for the Office of President to serve from December 6, 2016 until the Reorganization Meeting to be held during the first week in December 2017. (Section 404, Pennsylvania School Code).

Nomination by Ms. Boyle, seconded by Mr. McGarvey *to nominate Mr. Edward Harris as President.*

Nomination by Mr. Paul Eckert, seconded by Mr. Evans *to nominate Mr. William Phelps as President.*

Mr. Burns closed nominations

Roll Call

VOTE

Ms. Boyle, Mr. McGarvey, Mrs. DiBattista, Mr. Burns, Mr. Harris voted 'aye' – Mr. Shivone, Mr. Evans, Mr. Eckert. Mr. Phelps voted 'nay' motion carried 5-4 for nomination of Mr. Edward Harris as President.

Mr. Edward Harris was declared President to serve from December 6, 2016 until the first week in December 2017. (Section 404, Pennsylvania School Code).

(Agenda Item #6 – 12/6/2016)

President, Mr. Harris, resumed the meeting.

Mr. Harris wanted to thank the School Board for their support. We are facing a very difficult financial year ahead. I understand the importance of parents, faculty, staff and administrators working together with the Board as a team to pull through. The Board is very dedicated to continued student achievement and fiscal responsibility to the tax paying community. I thank you for this opportunity as your new Board President.

MOTION

Nominations for Vice President

President, Mr. Harris, called for nominations for the Office of Vice President to serve from December 6, 2016 until the Reorganization Meeting to be held during the first week in December 2017. (Section 404, Pennsylvania School Code).

Nomination by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. McGarvey to nominate Mrs. Deborah DiBattista as Vice President.

Nomination by Mr. Paul Eckert, seconded by Mr. Evans to nominate Mr. William Phelps as Vice President.

Mr. Phelps declined the nomination.

Nomination by Mr. Jack Evans, seconded by Mr. Eckert to nominate Mr. Jack Evans as Vice President.

Mr. Burns closed nominations

Roll Call

VOTE

Ms. Boyle, Mr. Shivone, Mr. McGarvey, Mrs. DiBattista, Mr. Burns, Mr. Harris voted 'aye' – Mr. Evans, Mr. Eckert. Mr. Phelps voted 'nay' motion carried 6-3 for nomination of Mrs. Deborah DiBattista as Vice President.

Mrs. Deborah DiBattista was declared Vice President to serve from December 6, 2016 until the first week in December 2017. (Section 404, Pennsylvania School Code).

(Agenda Item #7 – 12/6/2016)

MOTION
Solicitor

Motion by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Harris, to appoint the Law firm of Raffaele Puppio as Solicitor for Interboro School District at an annual retainer of \$2,000 and at an hourly rate of \$185. This appointment will be in effect from December 6, 2016 until the organization meeting to be held during the first week of December 2017. (Section 406, Pennsylvania School Code)

VOTE

All members present voted 'aye' – motion carried 9-0 (Agenda Item # 8.1 – 12/6/2016)

MOTION
Labor Solicitor

Motion by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Eckert, to appoint the Law Firm of Eckert Seamans as Solicitor for labor issues at an hourly rate of \$250. This appointment will be in effect from December 6, 2016 until the organization meeting to be held during the first week of December 2017.

Roll Call

VOTE

Ms. Boyle, Mr. McGarvey, Mrs. DiBattista, Mr. Burns, Mr. Harris, Mr. Phelps voted 'nay' – Mr. Shivone, Mr. Evans, Mr. Eckert voted 'aye' motion failed 6-3 to appoint Eckert Seamans as labor solicitor.
(Agenda Item # 8.2 – 12/6/2016)

MOTION
Labor Solicitor

Motion by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Harris, to appoint the Law Firm of McNichol, Byrne and Matlawski, P.C. as Solicitor for labor issues at an hourly rate of \$235. This appointment will be in effect from December 6, 2016 until the organization meeting to be held during the first week of December 2017.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Eckert stated that the Motion needed to be opened for Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

Mr. Eckert commented that an appointment for a new labor lawyer is being voted on and as a board member he has no backup information, no contract, no rates, nothing on this. Why are we doing this tonight? We seem like we are slipping back instead of moving forward. Should this not be tabled and have a full board discussion on this matter. This is exactly what happened a few years ago when we changed solicitors. This is the same play. I have sat here for a full year and graciously tabled motions at committee meetings until more information could be gathered and more contract language could be reviewed.

Mr. Burns replied that this motion last year was lumped into one motion, there was no discussion what so ever. There was no discussion from the previous Board, as I attended those meetings. No discussion among the new board members and had in fact asked a question at that time about the solicitor and should have been notified by the sitting board. Empathizes with feeling left in the dark, as he feels he was left in the dark last year. However, in terms of information, the hourly rate is \$235.00, a \$15.00 an hour savings. Additionally, this law firm is the labor attorney for the County, represents the Upper Darby School District, and has vast experience. I happen to know several attorneys in this firm and they have always done a good job on the cases that he had worked with them.

Mr. Harris commented that this is a democracy, if you are not satisfied with the motion or Mr. McNichol then vote no.

Mr. Evans commented that we are facing serious negotiations with our teachers. Our previous solicitor did walk us through several contracts over the last year and a half to two years with finalization, to the satisfaction of both the Board and the unions. While he understands this particular firm represents Upper Darby School District, the former solicitor represented about twenty different agencies throughout the county. In the interest of information and fair play would it not be acceptable to table the motion so we could at least meet with this attorney and hear his proposal, as was done last time we changed from Mr. Pileggi? It would give us the opportunity to hear about the firms, their legal experience and backgrounds. Feels bad that you felt ramrodded the last time, but doesn't

feel that this is cause for it to be done this time. Has to call into question, could it be perceived as an actual conflict of interest to Mr. Burns?

Mr. Burns replied that there is no perceived conflict of interest, as he is not a partner of this firm, no vested interest, merely presented to the Board and the public that he has had contact with them. There are a lot of lawyers in Media and in the Commonwealth who have contact with one other. Have had fair dealings with this firm and they are very professional. As far as interviewing other labor attorneys, if he recalls accurately, as a new Board Member that he had requested to meet Mr. Cassidy. Mr. Eckert had commented that this is the first time I've seen him in years since I've been sitting on the Board. There was no interview process or familiarity with Mr. Cassidy. Will not sit here and critique Eckert Seamans but prior to us coming on as new Board Members there was a two year hold up in the secretary negotiations, and we still have an unsettled janitor's contract. Mrs. DiBattista as well as myself had requested to table a motion from the previous president about reviewing a contract which had mistakes in it from the labor attorney. At which time, Mr. Phelps decided to vote against that table and rather then consider the rest of the board's opinion at that time. The time for review is over, if we have the votes we will pass it and if not we will revisit.

Mr. Evans commented that he did not mean to mischaracterize Mr. Burns' relationship with this firm but it was you who said you had friends that worked there and apologizes for the mischaracterization.

Mr. Eckert commented that it has been awhile since he has heard that we have the five votes and we're going to vote anyway. This was from a previous comment.

Roll Call

VOTE

Ms. Boyle, Mr. McGarvey, Mrs. DiBattista, Mr. Burns, Mr. Harris, Mr. Phelps voted 'aye' – Mr. Shivone, Mr. Evans, Mr. Eckert voted 'nay motion passes 6-3 to appoint McNichol, Byrne and Matlawski, P.C. as labor solicitor. (Agenda Item # 8.2a – 12/6/2016)

MOTION

Depositories

Motion by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Harris, that the Beneficial Bank, be named depository for school districts funds for a period extending from December 1, 2016, until the organization meeting to be held during the first week in December 2017. (Section 621, Pennsylvania School Code)

VOTE

All members present voted 'aye' – motion carried 9-0 (Agenda Item #9 – 12/6/2016)

MOTION

Meeting Schedule

Motion by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Harris that the following schedule of Board meetings to begin at 7:00 P.M., the meetings will be conducted in the Auditorium of the Interboro High School, 16th & Amosland Road, Prospect Park, PA or any other facility in the Interboro School District, be approved as listed:

December 21, 2016
January 18, 2017
February 15, 2017
March 15, 2017
April 19, 2017
May 17, 2017
June 21, 2017
July 19, 2017
August 16, 2017

September 20, 2017

October 18, 2017

November 15, 2017

VOTE

*All members present voted 'aye' – motion carried 9-0
(Agenda Item #10 – 12/6/2016)*

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent - Mrs. Bernadette C. Reiley

- On behalf of the administrators, Congratulations to Mr. Harris and Mrs. DiBattista. We are looking forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. William Phelps

- Congratulated Mr. Harris and Mrs. DiBattista, he's sure they'll both do a fine job.

Mr. Jack Evans

- Thanked Mr. Phelps for his tenure as President, he thinks he did a fine job. Looking forward to working with the new President and Vice President. Just remember you serve at the will of the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Work Session of the Interboro Board of School Directors will be convened in the Board Room of the Administration Building on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 6:30 P.M.

The next regular monthly public meeting of the Interboro Board of School Directors will be convened in the Auditorium of the Interboro High School on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.


MOTION

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Harris, *that the meeting be adjourned at 6:55 P.M.*

VOTE

All members present voted 'aye' - motion carried 9-0.


Mr. Jack Evans - Board Secretary Pro Tempore

