

Minutes
of the
KUTZTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, May 16, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

The Board of Directors of Kutztown Area School District met for a regular board meeting on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., in the High School Auditorium, pursuant to due notice to board members and the public.

Present Pat Bealer, Jeri Carroll, Alan Darion, Amy Faust, Jasper Ho, Leon Smith, Jo Stevens, Carl Ziegler, Craig Schroeder, Austin Fritz (student representative)

Absent

Also Present Nicholas Lazo, Karl Olschesky, Rikki Clark, David Miller, Matthew Link, Cynthia Meyer, Rebecca Beidelman, Jennifer McAteer, James Brown, Tracy Blunt, Peter Miller, Barbara Richard, Richard Gautman Esq., Lori Arndt, Aaron Ashman, Karen Austin, Vickie Bastian, Danielle Berger, Jessica Bing, Melissa Blatt, Christina Boyle, Andrew Brett, Lucas Bricker, Kristen Brightbill, Kourtney Buck, Brittani Budda, Joseph Chambers, Lori Christ, Rachel Christian, Susan Collier, Lou Cottone, Susan DeAngelis, Melissa DeLong, Meredith DeVere, Ann Dietrich, David Drummer, John Ebner, Kay Fritz, Michenelle Groller, Terry Guers, Wendy Hall, Kristin Haring, Bryan Hartman, Melanie Hartman, Elizabeth Hartz, Scott Heiter, Christy Hetrick, Donna Hill-Chaney, Amy Howard, Jeffrey Huffert, Karen Kabakoff, Donna Keglovits, Claire Kempes, Debra Kenney, Alison Kocis-Westgate, Brenda Loeb, Matthew Lord, Suzanne Mixa, Katherine Mohler, Heather Oppmann, Mary Paterno, Sara Patton, Stephen Pizzuto, Alyssa Raifsnider, Brooke Roberts, Denice Ruth, Sallie Sandler, Doris Schappell, Kerri Schegan, Allison Scheidt, Carol Schulley, Hallie Schumacher, Chris Simmons, Angela Skrobak, Antoinette Sprinkle, Stephanie Steigerwalt, Elizabeth Stump, Joyce Sturtevant, Shannon Sunday, Melissa Till-Smith, Bonita Treadway, Jane Venkauskas, Karen Vymazal, Erin Webb, Mary Weber, Randall Wert, Elizabeth Wessner, Barbara Weston, Amanda Williams, Jennifer Wyland, Nicole Yergey, Rebecca Ziegler, Lucy Williams, Bob Williams, Harold Sheaffer, Donna Sheaffer, David and Brenda Loeb, Don Ryan, Joanne Englehart, Barbara Newman, Joy Englehart, Jocelyn Englehart, Sandy Daniels, David Kenney, Joseph Galantino, Roger Bowman, Linda Baker, Roseanne Perkins, Gary Mantz, Renee Mantz, Rosemary Zettlemoyer, Michele Longacre, Cathy Padasak, Jane Rohrbach, Leila Yob, Wendy Hall, Rachael Hill, Allen Batton, Tom Fister, Ann McCoach, Karl Nolte, Alexis Blatt, Laura Quarmley, Alexandra Moore, Peter and Lillian Karch, Lizzie Rarick, Joe Marra, Kevin Stump, Abby Claypoole, Connor Koenig, Sam Summer, Connor Mertz, Hannah Schumacher, Olivia Massaro, Alex Diltz, Nate Noll, Layne Mertz, Pat Hartman, Leah Crow, Ashley Landis, Alyssa Buffum, Britta Schumacher, Lauren Warning, Cecily Ryan, Jackie Bispells, Kira Brazina, Jordan Loeb, Cody Klime, Gabrielle Moss, Josh Rarick, Jordan Kemp, Julia Scheffler, Jamal Kemp, Chester Lewis, Calant Scarfone, Dethone Kistler, Dustin Hoffman, Quentin Hampton, Melissa Gump, Ray Monica, Kate Delaney, Andrew Burleigh, Eldon Katter, Adrienne Katter, Gail Young, Ken Pacher, Karen Reed, Steve Fritz, Ensi Sylvernale, Cheryl Sylvernale, Jill Stark, Theresa DeLay, Michele Schoener, Eryn Ziegler, Kate Ziegler, Jamie Noon, Hannah Jeffery, Lynsey Jeffery, Donan Wasser, Laurel Delaney, Rachel DeLong, Mary Story, Maggie Sweeney Bickert, Beth Sica, Norm Adam, Paul Noon, Justin Greiss, Phillip Stutzman, Linda Schroeder, Karen Reiss, Joan Baldwin, Marta Schunk, James Schunk, Alexa Sicher, Britney Meitzler, Cyndi Parker, Caecilia Holt, Keri Laudenslager, Katrina Billig, Kathleen Laudenslager, Megan Laudenslager, Jennie Frieauf, Sandra Floyd, Michael Tucker, Sheila Fulton, Betty Parks, Brenda Boyer, Janet Yost, Addie Peters, Zachary Rudy, Christine Ryan, Naomi DeTurk, Carl Herman, Sylvia Herman, Bonnie Yurvati, Erica Yurvati, Mara Rockliff, Nancy Bowman, Muriel Hauf, Kathleen Daneshyar, Joyce Dietrich, Cliff Dietrich, Ben McKnight, Sara Mohler, Andrew Mohler, Joe Furst, Anna Furst, Melissa Ziegler, Elise Nach, Dan Nash, Cynthia Nash, Abby McAteer, Melea Barahona, Linda Heyer, Shannon Heyer, Bill Messersmith, Adam Rabenold, Ken Diehl, Jeff Collier, Wayne Wessner, Heidi Wessner, Tamu Ngina Kemp, Phillip Donner, Kathleen Brazina, Melissa Leiby, Billy Donner, Randy Burch, Laura Adams, Art Laudenslager, Audrey Tucker, Janelle Geist, Jen Swan, John Noll Jr., Michelle Fister, Amy Fister, Deb Kulp, Sam Kulp, Pam Angstadt, Lori Bickert, Joann Buffum, John Gump, Donald Duvall, Marianne Hill Strackbein, Kelly Corman, Cheryl Bailey, Seth Gottlund, Katelyn Remp, Brian Rabenold, Julie Rabenold, Crystal Hampton, Charlene Sheetz, Sierra Kern, Tucker Mertz, Shannon Barahone, Suzanne Barron, Michael Barron, Mary Galantino, Jennifer Erb, Lisa Schnell, Diane Piscatelli, Joe Piscatelli, Cindy Heiner, Darrell Engel, Arabel Elliott, Helen Bispells, Tina Billig, Michael Blatt, Dawn Fahim, Sarah Stump, Syane Rooney, Collin Muthard, Claude Giroux, Phillip Moore, Joanne Moore, Bev Burleigh, Kathleen Brintzenhoff, Lisa Rarick, Christopher Smith, Vincent Snyder, Simon Moyer, Michele Moyer, Mike Mixa Jr., Chris Collier, Karise Mace, Adie Weidner, Maribeth Keller, Dina Hayduk, Victoria Sweeney, Chris Rarick, Leah Corman, Hannah Schlegel, Shelby Schwoyer, Mike Heiner, Megan Parks, Jonathon Rarick, Haley Bailey, MacKenzie Sheetz, Justin Harris, Megan Bickert, Brock Rabenold, Abigail Fenerty, Michaela Ryan, Jade Hensinger, Alyssa Parker, Samantha Reed, Jennifer Rohrbach, Shelby Kuchenbrod, Meghan Donat, Stephanie Billig, Jordan Tucker, Amanda Miller, Catie Strong, Courtney Strong, Mel Bickert, Laila Fahim, Joan Cavell, Mikal Wilcoxson, Kristin Haring, Jane Lausch, Thomas Lausch, Michael Wert, James Ryan, Lisa Hintz, Magenta Hensinger, Benjamin Rice, Matt Gring, Karl Velik, Jim Shrawder, David DeTurk, Carl Zeplin, Nick Smith

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:46 p.m. by President Bealer.

KASD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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Welcome

President Bealer welcomed guests and opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. She asked everyone to sign the attendance book and mark the topic of comment next to his/her name. She requested that anyone wishing to speak on an agenda item please raise his/her hand to be recognized. She announced there was an executive session conducted prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters. She indicated that this meeting was being tape recorded.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Leon Smith, seconded by Jo Stevens, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2011 School Board Meeting, the April 26, 2011 Policy and Curriculum Committee and Facilities Committee Meetings, the May 2, 2011 School Board Meeting, and the May 9, 2011 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting.

Roll call vote: Yes 9 No 0 Absent 0
Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Motion made by Jo Stevens, seconded by Leon Smith, to accept the treasurer's report of the General Fund.

Roll call vote: Yes 9 No 0 Absent 0
Motion carried.

Ratification of General Account Bills

Motion made by Amy Faust, seconded by Jo Stevens, to ratify for payment the general account bills in the amount of \$2,873,594.47.

Roll call vote: Yes 9 No 0 Absent 0
Motion carried.

Approval of General Account Bills

Motion made by Leon Smith, seconded by Jo Stevens, to approve for payment the general account bills in the amount of \$281,751.77.

Roll call vote: Yes 9 No 0 Absent 0
Motion carried.

Approval of Construction Account Bills

Motion made by Amy Faust, seconded by Jo Stevens, to approve for payment the construction account bills in the amount of \$19,875.00.

Roll call vote: Yes 9 No 0 Absent 0
Motion carried.

Supt's Report

Mr. Lazo introduced Harold Sheaffer who recognized Amy Fister for competing and placing in the following rifle competitions:

- Pennsylvania Interscholastic State Championship, placing 19th out of 54 with 533 points out of 600
- Pennsylvania Junior Olympic Air Rifle Competition, placing 5th out of 33 with 579 points out of 600, missing the invitation to Nationals by one point
- Lehigh Valley Junior Rifle League Match, placing 1st out of 44 with 200 points out of 200
- Kutztown High School Level Match, placing 1st with 396 points out of 400

Mr. Lazo recognized Austin Fritz for his service as School Board Student Representative for the 2010-2011 school year and his dedication of time and energy to the Board of Directors.

Committee Reports

EIT Mrs. Bealer reported the collections are holding steady throughout the county.
Pat Bealer

BCTC No report.
Craig Schroeder

ECC Mrs. Stevens reported the 2011 fall coaching staff was reviewed, with no increase in salary for the third consecutive year. She reported the committee was presented with average GPA's of students involved in extra-curricular programs (87.46 GPA) versus students not involved in extra-curricular programs (80.98 GPA).
Jo Stevens

BCIU Mr. Ziegler reported renovations are continuing at the main campus with no impact on regular operations.
Carl Ziegler

PSBA Mrs. Bealer reported she contacted Rep. Gary Day regarding educational budget issues. She also reported PSBA is withdrawing its support on the furloughing bill.
Pat Bealer

Student Achievement No report.
Al Darion

Public Comment

John Gump expressed his concern that he believes the outcome of the Board was decided before the process began. He asked the Board to review things one more time with an open mind, and instead of saving money for taxpayers, make an investment in the students.

Melissa Ziegler stated the Board needed to remember why we are here – nothing other than the students. She expressed her disappointment in extra-curriculars being cut.

Adam Rabenold expressed his disappointment with the zero percent increase and the music program being downsized, which will be detrimental to all aspects of the KASD educational program. He stated his concern that the Board's decisions are not in the best interest of students and shows that saving money is the top priority.

Philip Donner thanked the Board members who turned down the budget for personally caring for his education.

Adrienne Weidner stated she feels cheated of opportunities for next year, which is unfair. She requested the Board keep students in mind, and not just money.

Melissa Gump expressed her concern of the horrible cuts, especially in music, and the district can't afford to lose its teachers.

Austin Fritz stated all the cuts are threatening their education, and lifestyle adjustments can and should be made to do whatever we need to do to save education.

Cody Kline expressed his concern that firing teachers is the worst thing to do, and students need smaller classes. He stated \$39 is not too much to pay, and most people can afford \$39 for 13 teachers.

David DeTurk, on behalf of the student body, stated their strong opposition of the zero percent tax increase budget. He stated the Board doesn't understand the actual effects on education by this vote, and proficiency in education will diminish. *Mr. DeTurk presented the Board with 323 student signatures stating their strong opposition of the vote made last week for a zero percent tax increase in the 2011-2012 school year.*

Hannah Schumacher stressed the importance not to cut 13 teachers.

Laila Fahim expressed her concern not to downsize the music program. She stated without the music program, she will not be able to compete against others in college. She expressed the elementary music program is the building block to get students into music, and at the secondary level it is important because music helps students get through the day.

Dethone Kistler presented the Board with alternate ways to balance the budget. He expressed the technology program and teachers should not be cut. He stated he would not be able to get the help he needs if there are 30+ students in a classroom and if the teachers are too busy picking up the work from the furloughed teachers.

Karl Velik commented his parents chose Kutztown for the good educational programs. He expressed his concern that these cuts will hurt the District's reputation of being a good school.

Lillian Karch expressed when she moved into the District 36 years ago, she was impressed with the District and curriculum. She stated young parents will move to other nearby districts. She stated she is concerned with taxes, but more concerned about the students.

Lou Cottone commented the KATA negotiations have been long and trying for all, but the dedication to the students have remained the number one priority among our educators. He expressed his concern that the Board has not been keeping confidential information quiet, and furthermore, demonstrating a lack of respect to the teachers of the District. Mr. Cottone stated KATA has given an honest effort, and agreed to a second year salary freeze (to preserve educational programs) and the Board turned the offer down with no acknowledgment or discussion.

Luke Bricker, on behalf of KATA, stated the Board has not asked the teachers for programmatic guidance or cost savings suggestions and employee input is not being respected. He expressed the Board is demonstrating a basic lack of understanding for the secondary curriculum and the creation of a master schedule. He presented actions of the Board members that are used to deflect responsibility away from the Board, where instead the Board needs to fill their responsibility to develop a strategic plan to coincide with the District's mission, because currently the Board's disrespect has brought public embarrassment to the District. He commented hidden agendas and dishonesty have no place in education.

Christine Ryan stated her support of all our educators. She requested the Board treat the District's teachers with the respect they deserve, and maybe that respect will be returned.

Randy Burch expressed the Board belongs to the public, prove you are a vocal majority, and get out to vote tomorrow.

Jen Swan stated that through Kutztown Area School District, all her teachers gave her so much. She expressed without her music teachers, she wouldn't be where she is today, and music is so important to everyone.

Katelyn Remp expressed she would not be excelling in college if it wasn't for every teacher at Kutztown. She expressed her disappointment that teachers will be cut, and her upset that current and future students will not receive the same education she did.

Kate Delaney expressed lives of teachers are more important than figures, and the teachers care deeply for their students.

Britta Schumacher expressed students are the Board's future. She stated she wouldn't be where she is today without the AP classes, encores, and everything else that was offered to her. She commented that students are not just a number, and teachers are more than just educators.

Allen Button stated his graduation class from Kutztown in 1986 had over 30 students per classroom. He requested the Board understand the history of the school, and if cutting 13 teachers, the District is doomed to repeat large class sizes of 30+.

Larry Shrawder stated his support for the Board because of their courage to face voters, students, and teachers. He expressed his hope that the Board will give the extra management to provide the students with the education they deserve after cutting teachers and having larger class sizes.

Arabel Elliot expressed schools are not businesses, and should not be run as such. She expressed the cuts are unacceptable to students and goes against the District mission statement. She requested the board consider the needs of the students and the community who they were elected to represent.

Lindsey Jeffrey requested the Board to listen to the majority of the students and community.

Mara Rockliff polled the high school students in attendance on issues being discussed.

John Rarick commented every teacher affected him in one shape or form and gave him the desire to succeed. He stated he feels the Board is not looking at what the students are saying and each student will be dramatically affected by the cuts.

Joan Baldwin stated two years of no tax increase is devastating to the District.

Mike Wert stated it is obvious each cut will affect the students. He expressed even financially strapped community members will find a way to pay a tax increase to benefit our students, so just do it.

Quentin Hampton expressed teachers should not be viewed as price tags and their true value is not being considered. He requested the Board to think of a tax increase as an investment in the future and to service the public interest and not their predetermined agendas.

Norm Adam stated people are struggling and taxes need to be watched. He stated his concern that people are losing money in their 401K and need to pay high taxes to feed the teachers' pensions. He presented a proposal to change to a defined contribution in the pensions instead of a defined benefit.

Sara Mohler expressed the value in education. She requested the Board review all the options and look at the broad picture of the decisions being made instead of using predetermined agendas.

Hannah Jeffrey stated students are losing hope because it is obvious the Board doesn't consider the feelings of the students. She stated it is discouraging when students are the future and their feelings and education don't have an impact.

Lauren Warning expressed teaching is not an easy job and teachers put their life and passion into teaching. She stated her concern that the Board decisions are ruining their future.

Alexis Blatt stated KASD prepared her for the future and she is proud to be a Kutztown graduate.

Andrew Mohler presented statistics, including only 2.6% of the public comments were for a zero percent tax increase in the 2011-2012 budget.

Brett Setlif questioned if the budget will be public and on the website. He requested the Board please take the opposition into consideration.

Erica Yurvati stated she understands the needs of senior citizens on a fixed income, but they show they still believe education is a key priority. She stated the public is showing the Board that education is key and should not be skipped on – everyone will be impacted.

Robert Statkus read a quote from Winston Churchill, who replied “then why are we fighting” when he was told arts needed to be cut.

Michelle Fister stated Kutztown has wonderful FCS and technology programs which teach students how to live and function in this world. She stated she wants to see the community come together and value our teachers.

Hannah Schumacher stated that through the public comment portion, the Board members are acting like they are not listening, which is extremely offensive. She asked the Board to at least look interested.

Adjournment

Motion made by Amy Faust, seconded by Leon Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rikki L. Clark
School Board Secretary