

Albert Gallatin Area School Board – Regular meeting – 6:00 p.m.

George J. Plava Elementary School

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Michael Dunham, Vice-president Tom DeGusipe, Secretary Edward Colebank, Treasurer Ken Plisko, Paul Dunham, David Howard, Betty Moser, Doug Sholtis, Janet Swaney

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Carl Bezjak, Assistant Superintendent Beth Hutson, Controller Denise Sheetz and Attorney Lee Price

President M. Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Moment of Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance after which all present responded to roll call.

PUBLIC FORUM

High School Senior Luke Dice spoke on the GPA/Scholarship funding. Luke believes that students taking the Dual Enrollment courses should have those grades factored into their GPA to a total weight of 5.0. Pennsylvania students are at a disadvantage when applying to colleges across the country because they are not given credit for the college classes taken. He would like the board to consider revising the policy.

Dawn Dice, mother of Luke also spoke on the unfairness of the dual enrollment classes not being counted in students GPA. Students going to Tech for a trade are given credit or students who are enrolled in the work study program are given credit. Albert Gallatin policies need to be looked at and changed so all students are treated fairly.

President M. Dunham assured Luke and Mrs. Dice they will look into this and make corrections if needed.

The following students were honored and given a certificate of accomplishment for placing the Fayette County Firemen Essay Contest: Grade 5 Kassie Riderick, Alexia Swisshelm Grade 6 and, Clayton Watson Grade 7, Sarah Johnson Grade 6. Also given an award for her participation in the VFW Essay Contest was Trista Harrold Grade 7 and she now advances to the District Level. Congratulations to these students for a job well done.

Mrs. Swaney voices her dismay with the Harrisburg officials in not passing a state budget. They should be ashamed and embarrassed. They have cost all districts extra money because of the interest they have to repay when borrowing money to keep school in operation. Albert Gallatin had to repay an additional \$23,000.00 in interest. Six months and no budget is a disgrace, it is time for compromise by all concerned.

Mr. Bezjak agrees that the \$23,000.00 could have been better spent of books and supplies for our students. There is no end in sight and politics is the cause of the hardships, not only school districts are suffering from but other agencies as well. It is time to pass a fair budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President M. Dunham announced executive sessions were held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 from 7:17 p.m. to 7:25 p.m. and from 7:40 p.m. to 8:25 p.m. for personnel, student confidentiality and tax appeal litigation.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Plisko second by Swaney to adopt the agenda as presented.
All members present voting in favor of the motion.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Colebank to approve the minutes of the Re-Organization meeting and regular December meeting held on December 9, 2015 as presented.
All members present voting in favor of the motion.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

President M. Dunham announced the following committee meetings were held:

1. An athletic committee meeting was held on January 21, 2016
2. A finance committee meeting was held on January 13, 2016

CHANGE FEBRUARY WORK SESSION

A motion was made by Swaney second by Howard to change the February work session to Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the George J. Plava Elementary School cafeteria with the Board meeting remaining on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. also in the George J. Plava Elementary School cafeteria.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Plisko second by Swaney to accept the treasurer's report including tax collections for December 2015 and preliminary financial statements as presented.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

BILLS AND PAYROLL

A motion was made by Howard second by Swaney to pay the following bills and payroll for January 2016:

1. Bills, utilities, insurance and contractual obligations paid at the end of the previous month in the amount of \$3,139,637.51
2. Current month general fund bills in the amount of \$11,375,444.13

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS

A motion was made by Colebank second by Howard to authorize payment of bills through activity accounts as presented by building principals.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

PRELIMINARY 2016-2017 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

A motion was made by Swaney second by Colebank to adopt preliminary budget proposal of the Albert Gallatin Area School District for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 in the amount of \$51,488,244.00 pursuant to Special Session Act 1 of 2006, as presented. The appropriate School District officers are directed to submit the preliminary budget proposal to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on or before February 1, 2016.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Swaney stated it is hard to hold back her laughter as once again the District is forced to pass another budget and the state is 6 months behind in passing their first budget.

ACT 1 OF 2006

A motion was made by DeGusipe second by Sholtis to authorize application be made to the Pennsylvania Department of Education requesting Act 1 referendum exception for costs incurred in providing special education programs and services to students with disabilities, and payments incurred as a result of increases in state mandated contributions to the Public School Employees' Retirement System. The appropriate District officers are directed to apply for the exception on or before February 11, 2016 and to give public notice of the intent to seek the exception by newspaper publication on or before February 4, 2016.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

LIBRARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Colebank to authorize financial support to the Public Libraries as follows:

1. Masontown German - \$6,808.00
2. Point Marion - \$2,000.00
3. Smithfield - \$2,000.00

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

POLICIES

A motion was made by Howard second by DeGusipe to approve third (3rd) and final reading of Revised Transportation Policy # 810 – policy adopted.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Plisko to waive 3 readings of Revised Mission Statement Policy #101 and adopt as presented.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Plisko second by Howard to accept the resignation of Biology Instructor Zachary Sipe effective January 15, 2016.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by Colebank to accept the resignation of Special Education Instructor Jessica Kirby effective December 10, 2015.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Swaney second by DeGusipe to accept the resignation of Bus Monitor Lisa Lataille effective January 27, 2016.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by DeGusipe to grant Megan Harvey, Aide a leave of absence to the end of the 2015-16 school term.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Sholtis second by Swaney to grant Bus Monitor Elaine Blyinton a 12 week leave of absence commencing January 1, 2016.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Plisko second by Howard to place Sherry Hruska in the three (3) hour cafeteria position at AG North.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

INTERNSHIPS

A motion was made by DeGusipe second by Howard to approve Grand Canyon University student teaching for the second semester as follows: Ashley Dugan/Teresa Seaman and Diana Black.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

FIELD TRIPS

A motion was made by Colebank second by Sholtis to grant preliminary approval for 22 students and 2 chaperones to attend the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA at a cost of \$1,376.00 from April 10 – 13, 2016, Karla Lent.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Howard second by DeGusipe to approve the HS Ski Club trip to Snowshoe, WV from February 19 – 21, 2016 at no cost to the District; Bethany Herman.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

MAINTENANCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

President M. Dunham announced the next regular meeting will be held on February 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the George J. Plava Elementary School.

A motion was made by Howard second by Sholtis to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

All members present voting in favor of the motion.

