

MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
August 27, 2001

The Penn Manor School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on the above date at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Manor Middle School. Present were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Fields, Dr. Frerichs, Mr. C. Willis Herr, Mr. Kline, Mrs. Wert, and Mrs. Withum. Mr. H. Thomas Herr and Mr. Kreider were absent. Present from the administrative staff were Dr. Campbell, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Griffis, and Mr. Skrocki. Also in attendance were Mrs. Rhoades and Mrs. Warfel.

Mr. Herr asked if there were any Citizen's Comments. There were none at this time.

Mr. Herr asked the committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the August 13, 2001, Committee of the Whole Meeting. Hearing none, on a motion by Mrs. Withum, a second by Mr. Kline, and a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved as printed.

Mr. Phil Gale, Dean of Students at the High School, provided a report on the Summer School Program offered at the high school for the first time in many years. He said the goal for the program was to establish a program that would provide remedial help for high school students who were struggling. Previously these students had to go to another school district to obtain credit for courses they had failed. He said 32 students enrolled in the program with three of these students taking two courses. It was originally hoped to offer required classes in all academic subjects but the program was scaled back to offer English 9, Algebra I, and English 10. The Summer School Program was offered for six weeks with an average class size of 12 students. Tuition for the program was \$165 per class. While some students paid outright for the course, several worked in the high school to earn their tuition. Mr. Gale said the program paid for itself except for \$150.50 which the district is paying. He said the students involved in the program benefited from the small class size which provided them the advantage of working one-on-one with a teacher. Mr. Gale informed board members that the high school administration plans to ex-

pand the program next year in hopes of meeting the needs of all struggling students. He said required courses will be offered. This will eliminate the need for Penn Manor students to go to a neighboring school district for their remedial needs. Dr. Frerichs asked if it is planned to open the program to other districts. Mr. Gale said admission to the program will be offered to students of neighboring districts after Penn Manor students have had an opportunity to enroll. Mr. Fields questioned whether tuition for non-resident students would be increased. Mr. Gale said that it would be. Dr. Campbell asked if the high school administration would be looking for professional staff participation in teaching summer school classes. Mr. Gale said that they would. However, this year the classes were not taught by Penn Manor teachers. Dr. Frerichs asked if the classes offered next year would be remedial in nature. Mr. Gale said remedial classes would be offered for the next several years. He stated that it is possible that enrichment classes would be offered at a later date. Mrs. Withum asked how Mr. Gale felt the first year went. Mr. Gale said it was excellent. Mr. Stewart complemented the program and thanked the board for the opportunity to create the program. He stated that there are now 32 students who do not have to face social embarrassment or the possibility of repeating a class. Board members thanked Mr. Gale for his presentation.

Mr. Stewart informed board members that Mrs. Pearson, the newly appointed Assistant Principal, would be introduced at the September 10 meeting.

Mrs. Griffis reported on the Summer Reading Program which is in place for ninth grade students. Mrs. Griffis stated that the success of the program far exceeded expectations. There were 11 students involved in the program with one student dropping out. They became familiar with their social studies and science textbooks, developed their reading skills, and developed a power point presentation that was about a book they read for pleasure. Mrs. Griffis said the high school teachers involved in the program developed close relationships with the students and will work with them during their high school experience. She added that the teachers will use the skills and reading strategies they learned while being involved in the summer program in their classrooms. Being involved in the program left the students feeling they were able to face the challenge of being in a large building and do well. Mrs. Griffis stated that graduation was recently held and that it was very touching. The students showed their power point

presentations to those attending the graduation. Also, the tutors made a speech about the student's accomplishments. Each graduate was given a certificate to Border's Book Store. Mrs. Griffis shared letters from the students expressing positive impact of the program.

Mr. Stewart updated the board with regard to home school participation in co-curricular activities. He said that home schoolers make up 1.4% of students participating in fall co-curricular activities. All of the home school participants are capable athletes and will contribute to the teams they are involved in. In addition to the students involved in fall co-curricular activities, two home school students have expressed an interest in winter sports.

Mr. Stewart informed board members that he was contacted by Mr. Roly Shover of the Junior Comets Football Program who would like to establish a lighted practice area in back of Manor Middle School. Mr. Mark Blevins, representing the Junior Comets, presented their request with regard to a lighted practice area. He reviewed the background of the Junior Comets program (both football and cheerleading) and the fact that there are approximately 250 children involved in the program which runs from August through the middle of October or November depending on whether or not playoffs are involved. Mr. Blevins stated that the Junior Comets practice from 5:30/6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. so the need for field lighting is critical to the program. Until 1999 the teams practiced at the high school football facility after school started. Last year they practiced at Manor Middle School and used rented construction lighting at a cost of \$1,500-\$2,000 for two lights. The Junior Comets planned on doing the same thing this season with increased lighting, paying for the lighting via fund raising. Mr. Blevins stated that lighting has now become available via Glatfelter Field. New lights are being placed on Glatfelter Field; thus, making the old lights at that location available for sale. The lights are being removed from Glatfelter Field and would be transported to the buyer the week of September 3. PP&L will transport the poles to the new location at no cost. The Junior Comets would like to purchase four poles and lights at a cost of \$3,000 and install them as temporary lighting at Manor Middle School for at least this season and possibly next year. Electric lines will be put under ground for safety reasons. Mr. Nett said there is no electricity currently available to the Manor Middle School field. He stated it would be prudent to put electricity in now for future use by the district. He said the Junior Comets

would also consider putting better lighting on another field if the district were to develop a field. Dr. Campbell said a decision needs to be made by the board if the purchase and installation of the lights is to take place. He said if this request were to be approved it would fall under the Gifts and Donation Policy. Once the lights were given, they would belong to the district. The need for insurance coverage was discussed. Mr. Blevins who represented the Junior Comets stated that they have a one million dollar insurance policy. Mr. Kline said he feels the lights would be valuable to the students. In the event that the poles need to be moved, the Junior Comets will be responsible for any costs involved. A list of conditions/information was given to Mr. Blevins. (see attached sheets) After discussion, it was determined that the Junior Comets could install the lights at Manor Middle School. Permission to install the lights is contingent upon submission of required documentation and review and approval by the administration. Mr. Blevins asked if the poles could be stored at Manor Middle School until installation. It was determined that this would not be a problem as long as they are placed away from the building and access of the students.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the need for board member participation on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. He reviewed the committee's makeup and asked for a nomination/election of two board members and an alternate to this committee. Mr. Fields indicated his willingness to serve on the committee. After discussion, it was determined that Mr. Thomas Herr would be the other board member on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee with Mrs. Wert stating that she would be willing to be the alternate member.

Mr. Herr informed fellow board members that he and Dr. Campbell had visited various buildings in the district on opening day and that he was impressed by everything he observed.

Mr. Stewart said the administration is pleased with the Letort transition to different buildings. He stated that the local newspaper sent a photographer to Manor Middle School to take a picture of the tall middle schoolers and small elementary students walking down the hall together.

Dr. Campbell said the Summer Reading Program has great potential. He

commended Mrs. Griffis, Mrs. Sullivan, and the high school and middle school teachers who were involved in the program.

Dr. Campbell informed board members that a press conference would be held in the near future regarding Cyber Schools. He stated that some people have responded critically to his comments as printed in the recent *Above and Beyond*. He stated that he is not opposed to board approved cyber schools but is opposed to cyber schools far away who are for profit. Mrs. Withum indicated she would like to see Lancaster-Lebanon County districts join together regarding this topic. Mrs. Wert asked if we are still getting bills. Dr. Campbell said he has not received any new bills that he is aware of but that the district at this point has chosen not pay any bills received from cyber schools.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned to Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Fields, a second by Mr. Anderson, and a unanimous voice vote.