

**MINUTES**  
Committee of the Whole  
September 30, 2002

The Penn Manor School Board met as a Committee of the Whole at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Manor Middle School. Present were Mr. Anderson, Dr. Frerichs, Mr. C. Willis Herr, Mr. H. Thomas Herr, Mr. Kline, Mr. Kreider, Mr. Lyon, Mrs. Wert, and Mrs. Withum. Present from the administrative staff were Mr. Stewart, Mr. Skrocki, and Mrs. Griffis. Also in attendance were Penn Manor residents, Millersville University students, Mrs. Rhoades, and Mrs. Warfel.

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

Mr. Willis Herr asked the committee whether there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the September 9, 2002, Committee of the Whole Meeting. Hearing none, on a motion by Mrs. Withum, a second by Mr. Thomas Herr, and a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved as printed.

Mr. Stewart provided a construction update. He provided slides of the Eshleman construction site. He stated that the administration is pleased with portions of the construction they are able to control. The drilling of twenty-eight of the proposed wells has been completed. The remaining wells should be in place within the next two weeks. Mr. Stewart stated that he had contacted Eshleman neighbors regarding the drilling prior to its beginning. Initially it was believed that all of the neighbors were connected to water and sewer. However, three houses are still using wells. None of these have had any problems as a result of the drilling. Mr. Stewart stated that two sinkholes have developed on the Eshleman property that no one had any control over. One of the sinkholes is located in front of the building where the new parking lot would go. It is felt that this sinkhole is a result of buried debris from the original construction of the school. The other sinkhole is in back of the building off of the playground. Both sinkhole issues will need to be addressed and will result in a financial impact on the project. Mr. Stewart stated that there is a possible problem with soil compaction in another area of the project. He stated that 25% of the footers have been completed in this area but that a "stop" has been put on this portion of the project until soil compaction requirements are met. Mr. Stewart stated that Gilbert

Architects has a proposal for solving both problems. He stated that the cost of change orders required for the correction of each of these problems would be above the \$10,000 figure allowed to be approved by the Superintendent. Therefore, he asked that the board grant permission for him to contact Mr. Willis Herr regarding the above cited change orders exceeding the \$10,000 limit for Superintendent's approval and then approve them prior to board approval in order to eliminate delays on the project. These change orders would then be brought to the board for their approval. Mr. Anderson indicated his willingness to be the contact person regarding these change orders. Mrs. Withum made a motion, and Mr. Lyon seconded the motion to grant Mr. Stewart permission to approve these changed orders after contacting Mr. Anderson. This motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Skrocki updated the board with regard to tax payments made via credit card. He reviewed the history behind approval of this process. Mr. Skrocki stated that to date \$41,104.46 was received via credit card payments. Payment of taxes by credit card does not cost the district anything. It is simply an option for payment of taxes provided to taxpayers. However, individuals paying their taxes via credit card pay a convenience fee with the average fee being \$45. Mr. Skrocki said the administration is pleased with the success of this option for payment of taxes due to the quick receipt of the tax money.

Mr. Skrocki updated the board with regard to Letort change orders. He stated that the administration is pleased with the job done by Gilbert Architects. Mrs. Withum asked if Gilbert Architects total cost for the project was under estimate. Mr. Skrocki said the bids for the prime contracts were under but furniture and equipment costs were higher than expected. He stated that the overall project came in under budget. Mr. Stewart reminded the board of the upcoming community Open House scheduled for Sunday, October 6, between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Stewart updated the board regarding I.U. 13 special education enrollment projections. He stated that I.U. enrollments are exploding. He reviewed 2002/2003 classroom locations by category/facility and the enrollments for these classrooms. Students in I.U. Learning Support Classrooms increased by 24% from September 2001. Penn Manor is eighth in terms of enrollment in I.U. classes with 75 students being enrolled. Mr. Stewart reviewed the percentage of school age students with disabilities. He stated that there were 10.51% of school age students with disabilities in the 1996/97 school year versus 14.15% in the 2002/2003 school year.

The I.U. projects there will be 17% of school age students with disabilities in 2006/2007. Mr. Kreider asked why the numbers have increased. Mr. Stewart indicated there could be various reasons - 1) doctors are prescribing and diagnosing earlier, 2) the internet is providing knowledge regarding disabilities that parents are accessing, 3) the stigma that used to be attached to children with disabilities has been minimized, and 4) preschools are recognizing students at an earlier age.

Mr. Stewart requested approval for placement of a revised school calendar for high school students only on the October School Board Meeting Agenda and submission of this Act 80 request to the Department of Education. He stated that the request was being made so that seniors could graduate on June 6 rather than June 10. He stated that Penn Manor is able to make this request of the state due to the fact that the seniors will still meet the minutes of instruction required for a school year. Mr. Stewart informed the board that per the Negotiated Agreement an additional student day could be added to the calendar next year. He asked that board members discuss this possibility with constituents and get a sense of what public opinion might be. Approval for placement of this item on the October School Board Meeting Agenda was granted on a motion by Mrs. Withum, a second by Mr. Kline, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the Sunday, September 22, Aggressive Intruder Drill held at Penn Manor High School. He stated that police, fire, EMT personnel, and the Lancaster County Swat Response Team were involved. He indicated that he was pleased with the results of the drill. He stated that he was impressed with how the various agencies cooperated. He stated it was a frightening scenario that unfolded and he gained a great deal of respect for the police and response teams and the job they are required to do. As a result of the drill, Mr. Stewart stated he feels Penn Manor would be better prepared to respond in an emergency. Mr. Stewart said ten staff members, 25 Penn Manor students, and 80-100 Millersville University students volunteered their time to participate in the drill. A Millersville University student in attendance stated that she took part in the exercise and felt it was successful even though it was a little disorganized at times. Mr. Stewart thanked the Millersville University students who participated. He said they were put in difficult situations and did a good job of acting out their scenarios.

Mrs. Griffis reviewed the fact that Penn Manor disbanded their Reading Recovery Consortium and would like to join the Lancaster-Lebanon

Reading Recovery Consortium. She stated that the total cost to belong to this consortium would be \$9,262. Mrs. Griffis requested approval for placement of this item on the October School Board Meeting Agenda. Approval was granted on a motion by Mrs. Wert, a second by Mr. Lyon, and a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Griffis reviewed PSSA scores for tests taken in April of 2001/2002. She stated that 2002/2003 fifth, eighth, and eleventh graders would take reading and math tests. Eleventh graders would also take writing tests. Requirements set by Chapter IV for students below proficiency level were reviewed. Mrs. Griffis reviewed the numbers of students cited as being below proficiency at various levels. She stated that all students must take the PA Assessment Tests including Learning Support Students. ESL students are also required to take the test upon their arrival in the United States and enrollment in a public school. Mrs. Griffis stated that principals are identifying students scoring below the proficient level and deciding which students are special education students and which students at the middle school and elementary level are CSS students. She stated that in the past you could see how each school did but now you have to look at individual students and where they score. She stated that schools must make an average annual gain. The pressure placed on staff and students is tremendous. Mrs. Griffis stated that graduation does not hinge on being proficient. Mr. Kline asked if the number of students below proficiency in math could also be below proficiency in reading. Mrs. Griffis indicated that was definitely a possibility.

Mr. Skrocki shared an article regarding the fact that the school tax payment deadline will be put back to April for one year. He stated that the Lancaster County Commissioners revoked a decision they made on June 18 to switch the tax collection date from the first Monday in April to January 15. Mr. Skrocki said only two districts attended the commissioners meetings and were aware of the change in date. The other districts, therefore, had the wrong date printed on their tax bills. These districts requested a meeting with the commissioners upon learning of the change in date and at the end of the meeting it was determined that the county commissioners would postpone the January 15 date by one year. Penn Manor will grant the later date for those taxpayers who do not pay by the previous date.

Mr. Kline informed fellow board members that the Career and Technology Center was awarded \$450,000 due to an asbestos settlement. The Career & Technology Center will retain 25% of the money and distribute the

other 75% to participating school districts. Mr. Kline said the dinner held in honor of Dr. Burley was very nice.

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