

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
MEETING DATE OCTOBER 22, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

22 OCTOBER 2009

Community Advisory Committee Members Present: Richard Jordan, Connie Burgh, Sharon Salsman, Richard Niederberger, David Plank

Board Members Present: Pam Staats, Mary Homan, Doug Wilcox, Gloria Smith

Administration Present: Mike Ognosky, Jim Tallarico

Visitors Present: Bill Host, Eric Powers

Guidance Personnel Present: Mary Beth Ohmnacht (Guidance Department Chairperson), Brenda Ognosky (Guidance Secretary)

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

Items Discussed:

I. Mike Ognosky took the roll and noted the attendance as listed above.

II. Old Business: The following item was presented under Old Business

- **Current State Budget Status:** Mike Ognosky reviewed the final budget information based on the passing of the state budget in October. The school districts of Pennsylvania were one of the winners in the budget – the Montrose Area School District received a 4.4 % increase in the Basic Education Subsidy while both the Special Education Subsidy and Accountability Block Grant Allocation remained the same.
- **Oil and Natural Gas Leases in the District:** Mr. Ognosky reviewed the status of the recent lease that the District entered into with Cabot Oil regarding the acreage at the Junior-Senior High School. The District has accepted a non-surface operations lease with Cabot at \$5600 per acre for the entire 177 acres of property. The lease also calls for 21 % royalties for the District as well. A non-

surface operations lease provides Cabot with the ability to drill a horizontal cut from a property off of school property under our acreage. Mr. Ognosky thanked Mr. Jordan, a member of the Community Advisory Committee, for his assistance (pro bono) with the district in negotiating the lease.

III. New Business: The following items were discussed under New Business:

- **Presentation by High School Guidance Department:** Mary Beth Ohmnacht presented information regarding the services offered by the High School Department in preparing students for their future. She began by reviewing the work done by all three counselors: Kathy Oehler with the 7th and 8th graders; Angie Nebzydoski with the 9th and 10th graders; and, Mary Beth Ohmnacht with the 11th and 12th graders. During this portion of the presentation, she distributed handouts outlining all of the specific services at that grade level. Mary Beth followed by providing a thorough review of the current guidance page that exists on the district webpage, www.masd.info. She focused this portion of the presentation on the information available to parents in assisting their children with their future plans. The group was very impressed with the information presented and brainstormed methods of “getting” the word out to all of the parents regarding this source of information. Mr. Ognosky charged Mr. Tallarico with leading that process acknowledging that was “key” in this process.

IV. Open Forum: There were no items of discussion during the open forum.

- Connie Burgh asked if walkers were still allowed to utilize the hallways in the High School during the winter months. With the Energy initiative, many lights are off in the hallway, but Mr. Ognosky assured her that enough lights will be on in the hallways in order for walkers to utilize a designated route.
- Sharon Salsman had a number of items including:
 - A question regarding the protruding bolts on the benches in the High School Boys’ Locker Room. Mr. Ognosky will check that situation with the High School maintenance group and get back to the group at the next meeting.
 - There were a number of questions regarding the school lunch services at the High School including size of the portions, ice cream being served and prices for a second lunch. Mr. Ognosky will invite Miss Betsy O’Malley, Food Service Director, to provide an overview of the program and to address questions at the next meeting.
- Mr. Ognosky addressed the current status of the H1N1 virus in the district. At this point we have not had any diagnosed cases, but with other local districts experiencing diagnosed cases, it will ultimately happen in our district. He informed the group that there is constant ongoing communication with the Department of Health and we will follow their instructions in this situation. The district has been informed that we will be receiving vaccines for students and we

are developing a plan to distribute that vaccine outside of school hours. Parent consent is essential in the process and it is the thought of the administration that can best be achieved with an after hours distribution of the vaccine in which parents bring their child to the school for the administration of the vaccine. The vaccine is voluntary. Also, the High School is designated as a county distribution center and we have been notified by the Department of Health that the vaccine will be on site during the month of November.

- Mr. Ognosky asked that all members present reach out and invite a person, or persons, of their choice to the next meeting in an attempt to increase the size of the committee. All that is asked is that it be someone who has an interest in the district – they don't necessarily have to have a student in attendance in the district.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24th \ in the Faculty Room of the Choconut Valley Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. The last Thursday of November is Thanksgiving so we will be meeting on Tuesday of that week. Thanks!

Submitted by

Mike Ognosky