

- Mr. Smith provided justification and rationale behind his motion.
- Board members were not opposed to obtaining a quote but suggested obtaining a general overview of what is offered in addition to the cost.
- Mr. Champagne expressed his concern of Board goals generated through a PSBA workshop not being vetted as thoroughly as the Comprehensive Plan.
- Mr. Ballard suggested requesting PSBA to facilitate a goal setting session noting their usual workshop is on Board communications.
- Dr. Bacher inquired about altering the wording of the motion to include both cost and an overview of what is offered.
- Both Mr. Smith and Dr. Munson agreed to a friendly amendment changing the word “quote” to “proposal” which encompasses both cost and overview of services provided.

This resolution was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Allen, Bacher, Ballard, Bowman, Champagne, Donatelli, Earnshaw, Munson, Smith – 9

## 12. LEGISLATIVE

a. Mr. Ballard reported on the following:

- Leaders of the legislature filed a petition with the United States Supreme Court in an effort to stay the decision of the State Supreme Court regarding the redistricting map. Another group of republican legislators filed a federal court action suit stating certain rights were abridged by the courts with regard to the redistricting.
- Legislative hearings on the proposed budget are in process.
- Mr. Smith inquired about the status of the proposed bill regarding the arming of teachers in the classroom. Mr. Ballard explained the legislative process regarding the passing of a bill by the General Assembly. He acknowledged his uncertainty as to whether or not this proposed bill will come to a vote.

### b. Resolution Opposing ESA Voucher Programs (SB 2) - Proposed by Charles Ballard

**Motion** by Ballard, Seconded by Bacher

RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors of East Penn SD adopt a resolution opposing ESA Voucher Programs (SB 2), as per Exhibit #11.

- Board members provided their comments and concerns regarding the voucher programs noting their reasons for supporting this motion.

This resolution was duly adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Allen, Bacher, Ballard, Bowman, Champagne, Donatelli, Earnshaw, Munson, Smith – 9

- Mr. Ballard requested that the Board Secretary send this resolution to our legislators and to PSBA.

## 13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- An Executive Session was held on February 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. covering personnel matters.
- There was no Executive Session on Monday, February 26, 2018.
- Next Board Meeting to be held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING ESA VOUCHER PROGRAMS (SB 2)  
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EAST PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania school districts provide countless academic and extracurricular choices for learning and growth of all students, preparing them for higher education and careers and

WHEREAS, public schools ensure that each student with a disability receives a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in compliance with federal and state law and regulations, with students and their families having the benefits of a system of procedural safeguards in accordance with federal law; and

WHEREAS, Education Savings Account (ESA) voucher programs such as those under Senate Bill 2 undermine Pennsylvania's responsibility to ensure every student in every community has equal access to public education; and

WHEREAS schools targeted under Senate Bill 2 are already in under-resourced districts; and state money for ESAs would be deducted, on a per-student basis, from a school district's basic education subsidy; and not only would school districts' state aid be sent to unaccountable private schools, but such money could also be diverted without accountability to higher education, tutoring services and other "qualified education expenses," not even ensuring students receive full-time educational instruction; and

WHEREAS, the voucher program in Senate Bill 2 benefits families regardless of income or need, including students already enrolled in private or parochial schools or never having attended a targeted public school; and voucher systems in other states have been shown to be vulnerable to financial fraud and abuse; and

WHEREAS, unlike private schools, public school districts accept, educate and protect the rights of all children who come to their doors, as opposed to those private institutions that can reject applicants based on any number of factors and are not required to uphold the rights of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, public schools are held to strict accountability standards that provide for fiscal accountability and that measure student achievement and academic progress, unlike private schools which are not required to use the same standard assessments and reporting requirements as public schools; and provisions under Senate Bill 2 would not require participating private or parochial schools to use the same standardized assessments, making comparison and evaluation of academic progress unachievable; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the EAST PENN School District opposes Senate Bill 2 and any other legislation or any effort by the General Assembly to implement tuition vouchers or any other program that would have an effect of a tuition voucher program, and we emphasize the importance of supporting and improving the quality of all public schools in the Commonwealth.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EAST PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan C. Earnshaw  
School Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janine L. Allen  
Board Secretary