

STATE TAX EQUALIZATION BOARD MINUTES

November 15, 2023
11:00 A.M.

In attendance:

Peter Barsz, STEB Board Chair – MS Teams
Gary Baker, STEB Board Member – MS Teams
Nicole Porr, STEB Administrator – MS Teams
Renee Reynolds, STEB Director
Susie Blanton, Counsel to STEB

Members of the Public: Lee Dellecker and Robert Junker Counsel for Pittsburgh Area SD – No comments were made.

Chairman Barsz called the scheduled meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

1. There were no corrections to be made to the meeting minutes of October 18, 2023. Chairman Barsz asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as stated. Mr. Baker motioned to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Litigation Updates:

2. Ms. Blanton presented the Board with an update on Boguslavsky v. N. Pocono Sch. Dist., et al., no. 348 MD 2021 (Pa. Cmwlth.). Ms. Blanton stated that Petitioner Boguslavsky had filed a motion for summary judgment, explaining that the Petitioner wants the Commonwealth Court to decide on their claims without holding a hearing. On October 16, 2023, the Court directed Petitioner Boguslavsky to file a brief in support of this motion for summary judgment by today, November 15, 2023. Ms. Blanton advised that she had checked the Court's docket this morning, which did not show that a brief had been filed as of this morning. No action is needed by the Board at this time.

3. Ms. Blanton presented the Board with an update on Vaysburd v. N. Pocono Sch. Dist., et al., Docket No. 40 MD 2023 (Pa. Cmwlth.). She stated that Petitioner Vaysburd's objections remain pending before the Commonwealth Court, that there had not been any activity on the Court's docket since last month's board meeting, and that no action is needed by this Board at this time.

4. Ms. Blanton updated the Board regarding the status of the Pittsburgh School District's objections to the recalculated 2020 Common Level Ratio for Allegheny County. She reminded the Board that the matter had been referred to the Department of State so that a record could be created in deciding these objections. She then stated that on November 14, 2023, Special Counsel to STEB filed a Response to the School District's Objections and that the Response was now with the Hearing Examiner. She also told the Board that Special Counsel had forwarded a copy of the Response via email to her and that she had already forwarded the Response to Mr. Barsz, STEB Chair, to disseminate to the other Board members. Ms. Blanton recommended that the Board members review the Response, and that prior to next month's meeting, that the Board hold an Executive Session to discuss any concerns regarding the Response. No other action is needed by the Board at this time.

5. Ms. Blanton updated the Board regarding the objections to the 2022 Common Level Ratio for Allegheny County filed by Petitioner Hickman stating that this matter had also been referred to the Department of State for a record to be created in deciding these objections. While Special Counsel to STEB had filed a response to the Hickman Objections on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, there has been no other activity regarding these objections. As such, no action is required by this Board at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

No further items came before the Board.

The Chair wished everyone a very happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

Department of Community and Economic Development
State Tax Equalization Board
Commonwealth Keystone Building
December 20, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Having attended to all matters of concern, Chairman Barsz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Baker motioned to adjourn, and Chairman Barsz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board concluded at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter R. Barsz
Peter Barsz, STEB Chair