

**BLACKHAWK SCHOOL DISTRICT
500 BLACKHAWK ROAD
BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010**

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION
Blackhawk High School Library
August 11, 2011**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:35PM. Roll call was answered by seven members. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Calabria	Mr. Clendennen	Mr. Fitzgerald	Mr. Fleischman
Mr. Heckathorn	Mr. Inman	Mr. Oswald	

Absent were: Mr. May Mrs. Pander

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent Mr. Salopek- Solicitor Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary

Mr. Oswald announced that there will not be a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting prior to the August 18, 2011 meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Miller reviewed agenda items for the voting session on August 18th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there was any public comment or questions on agenda items or other matters. There were none.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Wessel stated that the first three items on the agenda for the August 18, 2011 would be sent to the Board for review prior to that meeting.

Mr. Wessel informed the Board that the bond resolution originally on the agenda was removed because the turbulence in the markets resulted in the underwriter, solicitor and bond counsel recommending pulling the bonds from the market and delaying their sale until the next meeting date, August 18, 2011. Alicia Phillips from Janey Montgomery Scott (the underwriter) reviewed the market conditions and the reasoning for delaying the bond sale. She also answered several Board members questions concerning market conditions.

Mr. Wessel pointed the Board to a request to exonerate a trailer that had been billed for real estate taxes after it was removed from the District area. The solicitor advised that rather than being an informational item, this should be added to the agenda for the next meeting as a voting item and Mr. Wessel said it would be added.

Mr. Wessel discussed the request that the Board approve Timeware to provide time clocks for the District. He explained that while the contract with Timeware will be under

\$10,000, additional cost of about \$5,000 would be necessitated in order to protect District servers using UPS devices. Mr. Clendennen asked how many hours of protection would be provided by the UPS devices and Mr. Wessel replied that he would need to get additional details to address that question. Mr. Fleischman asked if the time clocks were being considered because of a problem with employees cheating the District and Mr. Wessel replied that it was primarily to increase efficiency and save accounting time, but also to improve accounting accuracy. Mr. Fleischman asked what the estimated payback time would be and Mr. Wessel said that while it was hard to estimate given the complexity, a year seems to be reasonable.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE portion of the agenda for August 18, 2011.

Mr. Fleischman asked if any retirees from the District were on the substitute teacher list and he was told by Dr. Miller that some are, but that the restrictions imposed by the retirement system limited their use to day to day substituting, not long term or building substitute positions.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the EDUCATION COMMITTEE portion of the agenda for the August 18, 2011 meeting.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve submission of PlanCon G to PDE.

Roll Call Vote: 6 For; 1 Against (Mr. Fleischman)- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen informed the Board that PlanCon F was received from and approved by PDE.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the Transportation items on the agenda for the August 18, 2011 meeting. She also informed the Board that bus schedules will be posted in all the school buildings and selected local establishments prior to the beginning of classes; with the exception of Kindergarten schedules (because those contain student names) and that Kindergarten parents should contact the school office concerning the schedule for their child.

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

Dr. Miller reviewed the August 18, 2011 agenda item under this area. She also informed the Board about PublicSchoolWORKS, an on-line training program that requires employees to complete lessons selected for their position which will give them safety training and information they need to be safe and perform their jobs within District policies. She pointed out that the District will be the first in Pennsylvania to use the system and will receive it for \$1,000, not the usual \$4,000 to \$5,000 cost. Mr. Fitzgerald commented that the price and service seemed like a very good value.

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any comments from School Directors. Mr. Clendennen mentioned that he recently watched a hearing on the State's prevailing wage legislation and that

the testimony indicated that there are many firms that get around requirements and that the prevailing wage does not assure quality work.

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any comments from the administration. There was none.

Mr. Oswald asked if any visitors had comments. Mr. Mike Alberico asked what lateral movement on the salary schedule meant since a list of teachers with increased levels of education was included under the personnel actions for the next meeting. Dr. Miller explained that while, for example, a step 5 teacher from last year is frozen at the step 5 level for this year, if that teacher achieved a higher level of education based on definitions in the collective bargaining agreement, he/she would move laterally to a slightly higher level of pay on that step. Mr. Alberico also asked what the likelihood was that the bonds the District was selling would be downgraded in the future and thus cost the District more money for interest payments than anticipated. Mr. Wessel explained that once the bonds are sold their interest rates are locked in and any future downgrade in the District's rating cannot affect past bond agreements entered into.

Mrs. Colleen Barley asked how employees would clock in with the time clocks being proposed and Mr. Wessel informed her that the same type of bio-metric system used in the cafeterias was planned, which reads an individual's fingerprint at the clock. She asked if there would be only one clock per building and she was told that multiple clocks were being planned for.

Mr. Oswald announced that the next meeting would be held in the Blackhawk High School library at 7:30 PM on August 18, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary