

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK/VOTING MEETING
Blackhawk High School Library
July 19, 2012**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:31P.M. and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by seven members. Those in attendance were:

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

Absent were: Mr. Clendennen Dr. Rose

Also attending were:

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

Mr. Oswald explained changes to the draft minutes for the June 7, 2012 meeting proposed by Dr. Rose and incorporated into the minutes presented at the meeting for approval. Mr. Fleischman requested that in the June 14, 2012 minutes the sentence beginning in the twentieth line of the second paragraph under **PUBLIC COMMENTS** be changed from, "Mr. Heckathorn asked if there had been any negative impact and no one could name any." to, "Mr. Heckathorn asked if there had been any negative impact and no one named any." Mr. Heckathorn and the rest of the Board concurred. During this discussion, Dr. Rose and Mr. Clendennen arrived at the meeting and Dr. Rose asked if his proposed changes were incorporated. Mr. Oswald replied that they were and had already been briefed to the Board. Mr. May moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve the revised minutes for June 7 and June 14, 2012.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald announced that an Executive Session would be held after the meeting for Personnel matters.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fleischman extended commendations on behalf of the Board to the Blackhawk High School TSA team and its sponsors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters and asked that speakers limit their comments to two minutes.

Mrs. Missy Kaiser presented what she termed “Highland concerns” of a group she called the “Blackhawk Committee for Transparency” and wanted the questions raised by the group and any answers given recorded in the minutes. The first photo she showed was of a repair of bricks above a doorway in the architectural Area A section of the building and she asked if the current appearance was the way it would look at project completion. Mr. Dan Engen from VEBH replied that the new brick and mortar were selected to match the old materials, but the old surrounding brick and mortar is to be cleaned later in the project. The result should be a much closer match. Mrs. Kaiser’s second photo was of a newly placed concrete “curb” that was in someone’s opinion too thin. Mr. Engen replied that without knowing where the picture was taken and checking the specifications for that area he could not render a judgment on the quality of the work. Mrs. Kaiser asked if the reinforcing steel should be in or under the concrete and Mr. Engen said that it should be inside. He added that the District pays many architects, engineers, and independent quality control people to monitor the job in addition to District employees and School Board members that monitor the project on a regular basis and anything not meeting specifications should be discovered and fixed. Dr. Rose said he wanted a copy of the projects specifications by the next Board meeting and Mr. Engen said all three volumes of specifications could be made available to Dr. Rose. Mr. Engen then reiterated to Mrs. Kaiser that many professionals are monitoring the quality of the work for the project although he will check out all concerns raised by anyone else. Mrs. Kaiser then asked if there will be an ADA cut in the sidewalk behind the building and Mr. Engen replied that there will be, but reminded her that the walks behind the building are not yet completed. Mrs. Kaiser then showed a picture of what she called a transformer box and she asked why it was not placed in the area made for that type of equipment (i.e. the emergency generator area). Mr. Engen replied that the box was not a transformer but a disconnect required by the power company and the location was selected by the District as an alternative to a proposed site that would have cost the District an additional \$15,000. She then asked about a “drain spout” behind the switch and Mr. Engen replied that it was a not a drain spout but a scupper that is part of the backup roof draining system that should never need to be utilized if the roof drains are clear and that it is only one of many scuppers around the building. Mrs. Kaiser then showed a picture of a vertical expansion joint and was told that it was put in when the brick were laid and should look as it does.

Mrs. Laurie Bowman asked about her Kindergartener being approved for an out of zone placement at Patterson Primary School rather than attending Northwestern Primary School. She asked about the student to teacher ratio at Patterson and asked if a teacher or at least a paraprofessional could be added for Patterson Kindergarten and she said that if out of zone was denied, the District would have a bussing issue getting her child from school to her sitter. Dr. Miller replied that the Board had a handout on the Kindergarten situation and will have to decide on the out of zone and desired student to teacher ratio. Dr. Miller’s recommendation was that the Board wait until the August 9, 2012 meeting to see what the numbers for Kindergarten are and make a decision then. Mr. Oswald deferred the discussion to the Education Committee portion of the agenda.

Mrs. Teresa Schoeneweis asked why the Board would consider adding a Kindergarten teacher when Vo-Ag was not funded. She then asked what the replacement curriculum for previous Vo-Ag students will be. Dr. Miller said she could provide the course of instruction. Mr.

Fleischman wanted the course of study immediately. Dr. Miller said that she did not have a copy with her but could send it to Board members.

Mr. Perry Pander asked for any Board member to make a motion that three community members attend Buildings and Grounds Committee meetings. Mr. Oswald replied that a Board member could so move later, if so desired.

Mr. Kaiser asked if the cost of the Vo-Ag program could be given to the public.

Mrs. Jodi Weister asked when the Personnel Committee would have a new chairperson appointed since the prior chairperson, Mrs. Pander, resigned in May and who that will be. Mr. Oswald replied that he was acting as Personnel chair in the interim and that choosing the new chair would require some time because that person needs to communicate well with the superintendent and maintain confidentiality. Mrs. Weister asked what process would be used and Mr. Oswald replied that the choice was solely at his discretion but he would consider members desires. Mrs. Weister asked how members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee were selected and was told by Mr. Oswald that the committee chair can invite, but any Board member can attend as long as the number does not make a quorum of Board members (i.e. four or fewer is acceptable). Mrs. Weister then asserted that the maximum in Kindergarten classes was set at 22 when parents were met with and the District “jumped the gun” with the all day program and a teacher should be hired, not a paraprofessional to reduce the class sizes.

Mrs. Goering asked the cost to run the Vo-Ag program. She then asked where FFA stands. Dr. Miller replied that Mr. Leslie was working with the State to keep the program in tact but the details are still to be worked out. FFA will be a club and the advisor will be paid a stipend. Mrs. Goering asked about German and Dr. Miller told her nine people were interviewed and four had second interviews scheduled for next week. Mr. Fleischman stated that FFA Club members could not compete in State competitions. Dr. Miller replied that the District FFA received a variance from the same individual he had spoken to at the State. Mr. Fleischman said he wanted to be a part of that process. Mr. Oswald asked if Mr. Fleischman would like to chair an ad hoc committee to work on the FFA Club details and Mr. Fleischman said yes. Mr. Oswald said that once the Board got out of the Public Comments portion of the agenda Mr. Fleischman would be appointed in the Administrative Liaison portion of the agenda.

Mrs. Weister asked if a committee was formed to decide how the Marcellus Shale lease money was to be spent. Mr. Oswald said no. She complained that she and others paid Earned Income Tax on the money they received for leases and that the District needed to refund the money and asked what the impact would be on the District’s finances. Mr. Salopek directed her to request a refund from the EIT collector and Mr. Wessel said he had no idea what the impact would be. Mr. Inman explained the Earned Income Tax collection system to Mrs. Weister.

Mr. Kaiser asked if four was the maximum number of Board members that could attend Buildings and Grounds meetings and Mr. Oswald clarified that it is four Board members but any number of non-Board members could attend.

Mr. Oswald changed the order of the committees as shown on the agenda to allow the Buildings and Grounds portion to be discussed next.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Clendennen again introduced Mr. Dan Engen from VEBH who gave an update on the Middle School project. Mr. Engen then reviewed the change orders shown on the agenda. Mr. Fleischman asked Mr. Engen which change orders in his opinion were due to omissions and which due to unforeseen conditions. Mr. Engen replied that the first change order to Yarbrough

for \$5,520 was a District request. The next two change orders to Shipley for \$6,908.44 and \$3,392.67 were omissions and the final three, two to Shipley for \$3,072.29 and \$906.72 and one for Blackhawk Neff for the Patterson project for \$1,093.00 were unforeseen conditions. Mr. Clendennen asked Mr. Engen to explain how the schedule of values is used to determine if change order are appropriate and properly priced and Mr. Engen did so. He then asked Mr. Engen to explain how change orders are reviewed prior to presentation to the Board and Mr. Engen did so.

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve a Change Order for the Highland Middle School Project to Yarborough Development to provide an under drain at the bottom of the slope next to the transformer pad along the length of the parking area in the sum of \$5,520.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve a Change Order for the Highland Middle School Project to Shipley Bros. Construction, Inc. to provide an additional portion of overflow piping in Area D that was omitted from some of the drawings in the total of \$6,908.44

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve a Change Order for the Highland Middle School Project to Shipley Bros. Construction, Inc. to tie the new sanitary sewer line from the grease trap to the new line installed in Area D in the sum of \$3,392.67. Mr. Fleischman attempted to raise an unrelated issue in the discussion and was declared out of order by Mr. Oswald.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve a Change Order for the Highland Middle School Project to Shipley Bros. Construction, Inc. to provide additional piping to change the route of a water line to avoid the building footer in the sum of \$906.72.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve a Change Order for the Highland Middle School Project to Shipley Bros. Construction, Inc. to add an additional catch basin in the courtyard in a sum of \$3,072.29

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve a change order to Blackhawk Neff, Inc. for the Patterson Primary School project in the sum of \$1,093.00 to relocate 12 circuits and an adapter board to accommodate existing wiring for the new intercom system. Mr. Fleischman asked if this was a part of the project previously approved by the Board and when told yes, he replied that he was against the change order because he felt the project cost was too high. Mr. May asked if wire was being replaced and Mr. Clendennen said yes.

Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes; 1 No (Mr. Fleischman)- Motion Carried

Mr. May departed the meeting at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Inman introduced Alisha Phillips from the District's bond underwriter, Janey, Montgomery Scott, who discussed the benefits of refinancing the District's Bond Series of 2007. Mr. Wessel said that he would bring a request to begin the refinancing process to the Board in the next two months.

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to accept the Financial Report for the month of June as submitted.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to approve bills for June from the various Funds as submitted.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

The Board was directed by Mr. Inman to the exhibits within their packets for the June Monthly Insurance Reports.

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve a Repository Tax Sale for Lawrence County as presented..

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to accept the Student Activity Account statement as submitted.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Oswald recommended acceptance of the resignation of Lara Grogan, Elementary teacher at the Intermediate School, Mr. Inman so moved and Mr. Calabria seconded. Mr. Calabria asked the reason Ms. Grogan was resigning given that she was just hired the previous month and Dr. Miller replied that Ms. Grogan had been a long term sub in the Quaker Valley School District and was offered a full time position there.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to employ Ashely Costello as Elementary teacher at Blackhawk Intermediate School for the 2012-2013 school year at a salary of \$46, 690, Step 19 Masters level. Mr. Clendennen commented that he attended the interviews for the candidates for this position and many were very qualified.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to grant a leave of action to Mariah Brown for the birth of her child beginning August 29, 2012 until on or about October 12, 2012.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to grant an FMLA leave to Leah Lindemann for the rearing of her child from August 29, 2012 to November 27, 2012.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended acceptance of the resignation of Bob Anderson, Patterson Township Tax Collector, effective immediately. Mr. Inman so moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded the motion.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to appoint JoAnne Ferrazzano as the Patterson Township Tax Collector effective immediately.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to employ Elizabeth Anne Walker as the Assistant Athletic Trainer at a salary of \$28,000 plus individual health coverage and standard benefits with a contract effective August 1, 2012 and terminating August 1, 2013 for a newly created position. Mr. Fleischman questioned why this was a new position since the role was previously filled by an individual who died. Dr. Miller replied that the prior individual was in a supplemental, not a salaried position. Mr. Fleischman asked what advantages a contracted individual gave the District. Dr. Miller said that the previous holder was not credentialed nor had formal training. Mr. Fitzgerald commented that he saw having a female trainer for female athletes who can also work with male athletes as a plus. Mr. Calabria covered Ms. Walker's credentials. Mr. Fleischman objected to hiring a trainer when Vo-Ag was eliminated and moved to table the motion. Dr. Rose seconded.

Roll Call Vote: 2 Yes (Mr. Fleischman, Dr. Rose); 6 No Motion Failed

Mr. Oswald directed that the vote on the original motion be taken.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Yes; 2 No (Mr. Fleischman, Dr. Rose)- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to renew the agreement with Heather Kronk's dance studio for the 2012-2013 year.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approval the supplemental contract positions for the 2012- 2013 school year.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to assign Nanine Karpinski to Northwestern as the daylight shift custodian with a transfer date to be determined by the Buildings and Grounds supervisor.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald recommended, Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to employ Jim Lokey as Assistant Head Custodian for Blackhawk High School at a rate of \$19.50 per hour plus the Assistant Head Custodian stipend effective July 23, 2012. Mr. Fleischman moved to table the vote. No second was made. Dr. Miller discussed the qualifications of Mr.

Lokey and Mr. Clendennen stated that he was impressed with the skills that Mr. Lokey demonstrated in the interview Mr. Clendennen attended.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve the following field trip:

Flute Ensemble (6-8) George Hoydich, Rochester Manor December 7, 2012.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; (Mr. Inman out of the room) - Motion Carried

Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to permit Mr. Kelly Engle and Mr. Bob Abel to apply for the RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) for their schools, Northwestern Primary and Middle Schools.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; (Mr. Inman out of the room)- Motion Carried

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Calabria offered the following congratulations:

Congratulations to Brendan McKay who was named Gold Athlete of the Week by the Beaver County Times for the week of June 4, 2012.

Congratulations to Matt Emge, Brendan McKay and Adam Rousseau who were selected by Beaver County Times for the "The Times 20 Baseball All-Stars".

Congratulations to Bridgette Shaffer who was selected by the Beaver County Times for "The Times 20 Softball All-Stars".

Congratulations to Brendan McKay and Olivia Wulf who were selected by the Beaver County Times as the "Best in Sport" for baseball and volleyball respectively.

Congratulations to Matt Emge and Brendan McKay who were selected by the Tribune Review for the "Terrific Ten All-Star Selection" for baseball.

Congratulations to Brendan McKay and Matt Emge who were selected by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette for the 2012 High School Baseball All-Stars.

Congratulations to Matt Emge, Tyler Craig, Steve O'Hara, Brendan McKay and Adam Rousseau who were selected by Pittsburgh Post Gazette for the AAA, Section 1 All-Section baseball team.

Congratulations to Bridgette Shaffer and Emily Emge who were selected by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette for the AAA, Section 1 All-Section softball team.

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Mr. Oswald appointed Mr. Fleischman as chairperson of an ad hoc committee to monitor progress of the FFA club and directed him to report monthly under the School Directors Comments portion of the agenda.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No Report.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mr. Fleischman asked Mr. Wessel if Nutrition Inc. was prepared for the start of school and if the kitchens would all be ready and Mr. Wessel replied that they would be. Mr. Fleischman then asked if students, especially Kindergarten and First Graders, would be oriented to the lunch procedures and Dr. Miller replied that they would be.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Heckathorn presented the first reading of a revised "Acceptable Use of the Internet Access" policy and stated that changes were underlined. The changes allow the District to be compliant with recent requirement changes and fix a typo in the previous version of the policy. Mr. Wessel was asked if the District was a subscriber to the PSSA Policy Updates web site and he said the District just renewed its subscription.

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

No Report.

INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No report.

VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL

No report.

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Clendennen informed the Board that PSBA will hold its annual Policy Council meeting October 18, 2012 and that he could not attend but if any other member wished to do so, he should let the Board Secretary know. He also mentioned that a townhall meeting was being held by State Representative Cristiana this evening and that cyber school reform was not addressed by the legislature in its recent session and would be delayed at least until fall.

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

School Directors: Mr. Fleischman asked if the Middle School project would receive reimbursement in the current fiscal year. Mr. Wessel replied that while the legislature approved schools to be eligible for reimbursement if a project was started prior to October 1, 2012, sufficient money was not placed in the budget to fund schools that were not already approved and therefore the District may not see reimbursement until next year or even later.

Mr. Heckathorn encouraged Board members to trust each other more and to encourage the public to also trust the Board.

Mr. Clendennen mentioned that he will set another tour of the Middle School for Board members so all can see the progress on the project.

Administration: No comments.

Visitors: Mrs. Barb Brown asked for the Dental Fund balance and was given it by Mr. Wessel.

Mrs. Laurie Bowman asked if the Middle School project was within budget and Mr. Wessel replied that it is.

Mrs. Jodi Weister asked about the plan to not have a dedicated computer teacher for First and Second grades and Dr. Miller replied that the classroom teachers are capable of teaching computer and integrating it into other subjects at those levels and that teachers will receive additional training to help them do so.

Mrs. Laurie Bowman asked about the cost of an extra Kindergarten teacher and was told it is about \$70,000 for salaries and benefits.

Next Meeting: Mr. Oswald announced that the next scheduled meeting is August 9, 2012 in the Blackhawk High School Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 P.M.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary