

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION  
Blackhawk High School Library  
February 9, 2012**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by six of nine members. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Clendennen  
Mr. Inman

Mr. Fleischman  
Mr. Oswald

Mr. Heckathorn  
Dr. Rose

Absent were: Mr. Calabria; Mr. May; and, Mrs. Pander

Also attending were:

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

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9 and 16, 2012 Board meetings. Dr. Rose asked if a vote was taken on the composition of committees as discussed in the minutes. Mr. Oswald replied that no vote was taken.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Oswald announced that the next meeting, scheduled for February 16, 2012, will be held at the Highland Middle School in the cafeteria.

Mr. Oswald announced that the Board held an executive session prior to the meeting at 7:00 PM to discuss the status of ongoing Negotiations with several District bargaining units.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Fleischman reported the death of Mr. Leroy (Skip) Stewart, who was involved in the formation of the District, former Board member, and made many other contributions to the District. Mr. Oswald held a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Stewart.

Dr. Miller reviewed the items proposed in this area for the voting meeting scheduled for February 16, 2012.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters.

Dr. Miller prefaced the public comments with information concerning the plans for the music program after Mr. Barthen's retirement at the end of the school year. She stated that there were no plans to reduce the band or music offerings/ opportunities in the future but that personnel changes will be discussed with the Board in executive session next week. Dr. Miller also stated that no decision has been made concerning implementation of all day kindergarten, but that will also be discussed next week with the Board and in public meetings next month in addition to gaining public input by send questionnaires to the parents of current and future kindergarten students.

Beth Schiemer from West Mayfield spoke on behalf of the band and supported the replacement of Mr. Barthen.

Gennifer Dusold, student ant Blackhawk High School and band member, from South Beaver presented petitions to the Board signed by band members and music students asking that the band and music programs be retained.

Dr. Rose asked Ms. Schiemer if Mr. Barthen was responsible for all the areas she had mentioned and she said yes and it took a lot of after hours time by him to do all he has done.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Wessel reviewed the items proposed in this area for the voting meeting for February 16, 2012.

Mr. Wessel introduced Mr. Joel Martin from Cottrill Arbutina Inc. who briefed the Board about the results of the Fiscal Year 2010- 2011 audit. Each Board member received a printed copy of the audit.

Mr. Inman moved and Dr. Rose seconded a motion to authorize the Business Manager, Mr. Wessel, to enter into an electric supplier agreement with the supplier providing the lowest pricing for electricity based on a competitive RFP process conducted by On Demand Energy Solutions.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Dr. Miller reviewed the Personnel items proposed for this meeting and the meeting scheduled for February 16, 2012.

Dr. Rose moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve the following substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year:

A. Brittney Miller, Elementary

- B. Karla Freede, Physics
- C. Denise Godwin, Secretary/Paraprofessional
- D. Jessica Wargo, Early Childhood

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Clendennen moved and Dr. Rose seconded a motion to approve the following:

for Nicole Holiday to use FMLA once her sick days are utilized, on or about April 23, 2012, for the birth of her child, for the remainder of the school year.

for Carolyn Clyde to use FMLA once her sick days are utilized on or about April 26, 2012, for the birth of her child, for the remainder of the school year.

for Megan Anderson to use FMLA once her sick days are utilized on or about April 4, 2012, for the birth of her twins, for the remainder of the school year.

to allow Nancy Knallay time off without compensation, for 4 days in March.

to allow Pam Thellman time off without compensation, for 5 days in March.

to appoint Lisa Sutherin to the Cafeteria Manager position at BIS at a rate of \$11.00 per hour, effective immediately.

to accept the retirement of Mary Sue Conner as Custodian at Blackhawk High School effective June 8, 2012.

to permit Mrs. Gina Gordon, BIS guidance counselor, to survey 4th and 5th grade students, with parental permission, as part of her dissertation study addressing the impact of empathy traits on aggression. This is completely voluntary for students and this study has been approved by Duquesne University's Institutional Review Board (IRB).

to appoint Alyssa Knowlson as the Middle School Volleyball Assistant Coach at a salary of \$1,525.77 for the 2011-2012 school year pending receipt of clearances.

to appoint Jake Anderson as a volunteer coach for the Middle School volleyball team.

to appoint Addison S. Young as Assistant Coach for the Varsity Girls Softball team at a salary of \$1,881.09 for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Miller reviewed the Education items proposed for this meeting and the next.

Mr. Heckathorn moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to approve field trips as follows:

- a. Concert Choir, Maura Underwood, Music in the Parks Festival, Sandusky, OH, Saturday, May 26, 2012 (student funded).
- b. PPS Second Grade, Chelsea Haight, Carol Durham, Megan Anderson, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, May 10, 2012 (PTO funded).
- c. 7th Grade Chorus Students (4), Jayne McDonald, Jr. High District Chorus, Reynolds High School, February 17, 2012 (student funded).
- d. Students from Fifth Grade (13), Krsten Neeley, Chorus Fest, Beaver Falls Middle School, March 2, 2012 (budgeted).
- e. PPS First Grade, Shawna Terry, Don Bunney, Anna Bretch, Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, June 1, 2012 (PTO funded)
- f. FFA (Future Farmers of America), Howard Leslie, Regional Career Development Events, Lawrence County Fair Grounds, April 19, 2012 (budgeted).
- g. Special Ed Students (60-80), Mariah Brown, County Wide Transition Fair, CCBC, February 24, 2012 (ACCESS and JTBC funded).
- h. Mrs. Heeckt 4th grade class, Mary Beth Heeckt, Heather Stein, Carol Sprinker, Fundraiser Winner Luncheon, Camp Kon-O-Kwee, February 23, 2012 (provided by Camp K-O-K).
- i. Grade 5, Grade 5 Teachers, Outdoor Education, Camp Kon-O-Kwee, April 23-27, 2012 (budgeted, PTO and student funded).
- j. PPS Kindergarten, Jenn Sharek, Amy Cienkowski, National Aviary, May 25, 2012 (PTO funded).
- k. HMS 7th Grade, Ruth Carothers, Rick Ford, 7th Grade teachers, 7th grade bowling trip, Sims Bowling Lanes, May 3, 2012 (Student Council, student funded).
- l. AP Biology Students, Anita Mensch, Allegheny General Hospital, April 2, 2012 (budgeted).
- m. Student Anti-Bullying Team (10), Shannan Shiderly, Bender Lean On Anti-Bullying Team Meeting, BVIU, March 1, 2012 (no expense).
- n. BHS Concert Choir, Maura Underwood, Choral Adjudication, Hickory High School, May 10, 2012 (budgeted and student funded).
- o. Art Students (40), Laura Kahler, Ashley Biega, Capitol Mall and National Gallery of Art Tour, Washington, D.C., March 30, 2012 (student funded).
- p. BHS Student Anti-Bullying Team (10), Shannan Shiderly, Transition Fair, CCBC, February 24, 2012 (no expense).

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Fleischman moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to host Camp Invention, a one week science camp for students K-5 during the summer of 2012 at no cost to the District (self funded through tuition).

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Wessel reviewed the Buildings and Grounds items proposed for this meeting and the next.

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to contract with Tower Engineering for commissioning service for the Middle School project as outlined in the Request For Proposals at a cost of \$119,900

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Clendennen moved and Dr. Rose seconded a motion to approve a contract with Verizon Communications to provide telecommunications service to the Middle School as a part of the additions and renovations project at a cost of \$10,150.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to authorize a change order for Yarborough Development Inc. in the amount of \$1,747.29 to provide a floor access door to the crawl space under Area E for the purpose of accessing plumbing when necessary in the future.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Fleischman asked about the evacuation of a classroom at Highland Middle School the previous day. Mr. Anthony Mooney, the building principal, replied that there was a class moved for about twenty minutes because of a smell due to construction work, but that there were no complaints from teachers or students and the problem was dealt with quickly.

#### **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Dr. Miller reviewed the Athletics Grounds items proposed for the next meeting.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Fleischman reported that he attended the interview of the person given the position of Food Service Supervisor at the Intermediate School and that he was impressed by her experience and enthusiasm and expects her to do an outstanding job in her new position.

#### **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Heckathorn led the first reading of a change to Policy 005, Organization, that discusses the formation of Board committees.

Mr. Heckathorn led the first reading of a new policy, Policy 620: Fund Balance which was proposed because of changes required by GASB 54 to the way the General Fund's fund balance is reported and establishes guidelines for the amount that should be targeted for the fund

balance. The wording of the proposed policy was changed to read that the Board must designate money placed into the "Assigned" portion of future fund balances rather than the superintendent. Mr. Clendennen asked when the policies were last updated and Dr. Miller replied that it is an ongoing process of revisions as needed. Mr. Salopek asked if the District used the online policies recommended by the PSBA and thus access to their recommended policy updates and Dr. Miller replied that the District did subscribe to that service.

## **BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT**

Dr. Miller reviewed the list of conferences and attendees on the agenda for the February 9, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to approve conference attendance as follows:

- a. Nancy Bowman, PMSA State Professional Development Conference, Penn State, March 4-6, 2012 (budgeted).
- b. Jason Farone, Teaching Economics Conference, Robert Morris University, February 16 – 18, 2012 (no expense).
- c. Jeff Tripodi, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh: National Security / Teachers, Pittsburgh, February 14, 2012 (budgeted).
- d. Jared Slimm, ETS Standard Setting Study, Harrisburg, February 16, 2012 (no expense).
- e. Marykim Murtha, 2012 NAEA National Convention, New York, March 1-4, 2012 (budgeted and teacher funded).
- f. Kim Steffanina, IUP Business Education Conference, March 23, 2012 (no expense).
- g. LuAnne Maginness, Kelly Engle, Beaver County Truancy Intervention Program, CCBC, February 10, 2012 (no expense).
- h. Jim Perlik, Diversified Landscape Solutions, Wexford, February 28, 2012 (budgeted).
- i. Rebecca Effert, National Art Education Association Conference, New York City, March 1, 2012 (budgeted and teacher funded).
- j. Rick Ford, Ryan Hardesty, Anthony Mooney, Jared Slimm, PMSA State Professional Development Conference, Penn State Conference Center, March 4-6, 2012 (budgeted).
- k. Becky Arbogast, Nancy Bowman, Andy Hedrick, Bryan Vitale, Teaming Up to Support Students with Head Injuries, BVIU, March 16, 2012 (budgeted).
- l. Krystal Gaudino, Pam Adiutori, Highly Effective Strategies to Help SLP's Moderate to Sever Teaching and Language Deficits, Coraopolis, March 12, 2012 (budgeted).
- m. Matt Merulli, Brado Okon, Sharry Peabody, Linda Strecker, Non-Violent Crisis Prevention, BVIU, February 27, 28, 2012 (budgeted through ACCESS).

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Dr. Miller informed the Board that she, Mr. Inman, Mr. Calabria, Mr. Clendennen, and Mr. Heckathorn attended the Intermediate Unit's workshop focusing on the roles and responsibilities of Board members and the superintendent presented on January 28, 2012. Copies of the power point presentation used at the training will be sent to Board members. Dr. Rose stated that while he missed the workshop he would appreciate the information.

## **VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

Dr. Rose stated that he attended the most recent Vo-Tech meeting and that the school is adding a Veterinary Assistant program in 2012-2013.

## **PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Clendennen briefed the Board that the legislature will be involved in discussions of the Governor's proposed budget and possibly vouchers during their next sessions and that PSBA will be monitoring and reporting what is being decided.

## **BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

No report.

## **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

School Directors: Mr. Fleischman asked if there had been any discussion with the local youth footballs teams after their request at the previous Board meeting that the rates charged for field use be reviewed. Dr. Miller replied that a meeting with the organizations, the athletic director Mr. Fullen, Mr. Calabria, Mr. Heckathorn, Mr. May and Mr. Clendennen was scheduled for 10:00 AM the following Saturday and the entire Board would be briefed on the meeting. Mr. Fleischman stated that he would have liked to have been included. Mr. Oswald replied that the committee was ad hoc and no decision would be made until the entire Board was briefed and given a proposal. Dr. Rose asked Mr. Oswald how Board members who want to be on a particular committee can do so in the future. And Mr. Oswald said he tried to get interested people on the committees and if another person wanted to join a committee he could see if another member would step out of the room while another member joined the discussion. Dr. Rose said he wanted to insure that no one was deliberately being left out of a committee. Mr. Clendennen replied that in some cases it was a trust issue in the sense that the Board as a whole needs to trust committee members to report their findings and recommendations to the Board honestly or everything would have to be done by the entire Board in open meetings.

Administrators: Mr. Wessel reminded the Board members that they need to complete and turn in their ethics forms for 2011 if they have not already done so. He had extra forms for Board members that needed them.

Visitors: Mrs. Jody Weister from South Beaver asked Mr. Wessel if the District had received the lease money from Chesapeake Energy. He replied that the District was paid in full in November. She asked if any action was being taken to replace the inoperative dishwasher at Northwestern Primary School and Mr. Wessel replied that the Board had authorized a firm to review the need and physical conditions at both Northwestern and the High School and recommend new dishwashers, with replacements planned for this spring or summer.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2012 Voting Session in the Highland Middle School cafeteria at 7:30PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel  
Board Secretary