

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION
Blackhawk High School Library
May 12, 2011**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:37PM. Roll call was answered by all nine members. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Calabria	Mr. Clendennen	Mr. Fitzgerald	Mr. Fleischman
Mr. Heckathorn	Mr. Inman	Mr. May	Mr. Oswald
Mrs. Pander			

Also attending were:

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

The minutes from the April 7 and April 14, 2011 meetings were moved to be approved by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Calabria.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald announced that the May 19, 2011 Board Meeting will be held at the Blackhawk Intermediate School at 7:30 PM and will be preceded by a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting in the same location at 7:00 PM

Mr. Oswald announced that an Executive session was held on May 5, 2011 to discuss negotiations and personnel.

Mr. Oswald announced that the Board Appreciation Dinner has been rescheduled to June 7, 2011 at 6:00 PM due to scheduling conflicts and that invitations will be mailed this week.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fleischman introduced Mr. Bob Barthen and the Blackhawk High School Jazz Band who performed several numbers for the Board. Mr. Fleischman thanked the band for their performance and all their musical work representing Blackhawk.

Mr. Fleischman introduced Mrs. Bowman and she in turn introduced Mr. Morelli who assisted her with the presentation of Middle School attendees selected as Students of the Week for the month of April. Mr. Fleischman thanked the students and their families for their efforts.

Dr. Miller reviewed agenda items for the voting session on May 19th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there was any public comment or questions on agenda items.

Mr. Ron Stedman stated that he expected there to be a motion to table the agenda item approving the signing and submission of PlanCon F for the Middle School project and asked why any board member would object to tabling the motion or at least bidding the project with and also without the prevailing wage requirement in case the State eliminates the requirement. Mr. Fitzgerald asked how the Board could comment on a motion to table when the motion had not even been discussed at that time, and how Mr. Stedman knew of such a motion. Mr. Stedman responded that he was just hoping such a motion would be made. He also asked if the timing was right to go into the bond market for the project. Dr. Miller asked Mr. Dan Engen from VEBH to discuss prevailing wage issue. Mr. Wessel commented on the bond market and reminded the board that the bond underwriter is scheduled to address the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Clendennen commented on non- union/ non- prevailing wage jobs he has seen that were substandard and Mr. Fleischman commented that Mr. Clendennen's opinion was framed by his 44 years as a union member.

Mr. Rick Sabona said that he felt that the District should stop the project and start all over again by evaluating the District's needs and maybe close one of the schools. Mr. Oswald replied that closing another school has been studied several times in the past. Mr. Fitzgerald said that the previous Board discussed closing a building and the public was very much against it. Mr. Stedman said it was because they wanted to spend too much money and people did not want a tax increase. Mr. Fleischman said the project price has been increasing and is now \$29M.

Mr. Heckathorn asked how long the Board was going to discuss and wait to do the project since the District has been getting bad press over it for five years. He said the Board needs to change its attitude to do what is best for kids. Mr. Fleischman said he just wants the Board to be open and transparent and Mr. Fitzgerald replied that the Board is the most transparent he has seen.

Mr. Sinclair from the audience asked if the money had to be spent now given the hard economic times. He feels taxes are too high, but did not know how much his taxes are or what a mill increase means to his taxes. Dr. Miller said the District set a maximum of \$29M at the Act 34 hearing, but the bids will determine what we actually spend. The need for the project was substantiated in three separate studies over the years and makes sense from an educational point of view. Mr. May said that the Board needed to do what was right for kids. Mr. John Yaria stated that he started 19 years ago with the District and they were discussing renovating the Middle School then. Jody Meister from the audience asked two questions: why do the summer maintenance work on parking lots and in the Patterson kitchen now and why has the Middle School been allowed to get in such bad shape? Dr. Miller responded to her questions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Wessel stated that the first three items on the agenda for the May 19, 2011 would be sent to the Board for review prior to that meeting.

Mr. Wessel reviewed the Proposed 2011- 2012 Budgets for the General Fund, Food Service Fund, Health Fund and Dental Fund. Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to accept the Proposed Budgets as presented.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Wessel reminded the Board that the Bond Underwriter, Mr. Bob Aumer, will brief the them at the May 19th meeting and that a recommendation concerning the District's insurance coverage for the next year will also be presented May 19th.

Mr. Wessel directed the Board to the exhibits for the student activities report and proposed settlement on the Walmart assessment appeal which will be voted at the May 19th meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE portion of the agenda.

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to hire as substitute teachers Matthew Shaffer (Secondary Social Studies) and Ashley Costello (Elementary) for the remainder of the 2010- 2011 school year.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to hire Technology Summer Employees as follows: Tyler Tracy (@ \$7.25 per hour), Blake Dulick (@ \$7.25 per hour), Daniel Warnaka (@\$7.60 per hour) and Anthony Caratelli (@\$7.60 per Hour).

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to allow Christina Plyler (Slippery Rock student) to intern during the 2011- 2012 school year beginning in January 2012 with the Guidance staff.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to grant Amy Cienkowski FMLA leave until on or about May 31, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to renew the contract of Heather Kronk as Dance Instructor for the 2011- 2012 school year.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to create the following positions (to be filled from the current staff) for the 2011- 2012 school year: .5 Gifted Teacher at the Middle School; .5 Special Education Teacher at Patterson Primary School; 1.0 Life Skills Special Education Teacher at the Intermediate School; .5 District Cyber Coordinator; and 1.0 Dean of Students at the High School.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve resignations from supplemental positions as follows: Matt Merulli (MS Boys' Basketball Head Coach); Shawn Haddox (MS Girls' Soccer Head Coach); Leslie Bellia (Girls' Lacrosse Assistant Coach); Linda Bathen (Color Guard/ Flag Sponsor and Winter Guard Sponsor); and, Anita Mench and Sammi Hanna (Graduation Project Sponsors).

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. May moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion that field trips by the Band to the Instrument Petting Zoo, Blackhawk Intermediate School May 26, 2011; by the Jr. Historians, Mr. Oswald and Mr. Mooney to Cedar Point Ohio on June 14, 2011; and, Jr. Historians, Mr. Oswald and Mr. Mooney to Washington D.C. May 28, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Dr. Miller explained that the motion to accept the resolution regarding the 2011 Beaver County Summer Academy at a cost of \$500 allowed any number of students to participate rather than the District paying a per pupil cost and, based on participation in previous years, that was a good deal. Mr. May moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to do so.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to approve resolution 051211 as a part of PlanCon F submission to PDE. Mr. Inman moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to table the vote for 90 days and Mr. Inman read a statement concerning his belief that the pending legislation to remove the requirement to pay prevailing wage of projects could save the District large sums of money if it is enacted prior to bidding the project. Mr. Clendennen read the PlanCon F submission in order to assure the Board that it certified that all permits and approvals or would be obtained prior to the award of bids.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Against; 3 For (Mr. Fleischman; Mr. Inman and Mrs. Pander)- Motion Failed to Carry

The original motion was then voted upon.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes; 2 No (Mr. Fleischman and Mr. Inman)- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen briefed the Board that the approval to advertise and bid the Middle School project would be moved for at the May 19, 2011 meeting

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to award the High School Site General Construction contract number 158213-1 to McElroy Paving Co. in the amount of \$843,105 with substantial completion specified for August 19, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to award the High School Site Electrical Construction contract number 158213-2 to Turney Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$106,807 with substantial completion specified for August 19, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to award the Intermediate School Site Construction contract number 158220.1 to McElroy Paving Co. in the amount of \$728,000 with substantial completion specified for August 19, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to award the Intermediate School Site Construction contract number 158220-4 to Turney Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$106,100 with substantial completion specified for August 19, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to award the Patterson Primary School Kitchen General Construction contract number 158221-1 to Thomas DiDiano & Son, Inc. in the amount of \$157,700 with substantial completion specified for August 19, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to award the Patterson Primary School Kitchen combined Plumbing Construction contract number 158221-2 and HVAC Construction contract number 158221-3 to Central Heating & Plumbing in the amount of \$88,414 with substantial completion specified for August 19, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to award the Patterson Primary School Kitchen Electrical Construction contract number 158221-4 to B&J Electric, Inc. for \$35,700 with substantial completion specified for August 19, 2011. Mr. May asked for clarification that the total being spent was still in budget and he was told that it is. Mr. Calabria asked if there were penalties in place if the August 19th dates were not met and the solicitor, Mr. Salopek, clarified that penalties can only be for cost to the District and those costs are often hard to demonstrate. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the Intermediate School project would be phased to minimize disruption and he was told that the project had not been phased.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen briefed the board on two additional contracts for grounds maintenance that will appear on the May 19, 2011 agenda for approval.

Dr. Miller reviewed the agenda items for the Athletic Committee for the May 19, 2011 meeting

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mr. Fleischman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to donate the remaining original Blackhawk Cafeteria china dishes to the Blackhawk Foundation for its fundraising efforts.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve conference attendance as listed in the agenda.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Dr. Miller pointed out under the PSBA LEGISLATION COMMITTEE area that Exhibit K contained an update on proposed legislative for the Board's review. Mr. Clendennen pointed out that PSBA is asking citizens to write or contact their legislators and the Governor to generate support for the Act 1 bill passed by the Senate which included economic furloughs with reverse seniority as the standard for selecting employees to furlough.

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any comments from School Directors. Mr. Fleischman asked that selected charts from the budget briefing be placed on the District's web site for the public's information and Mr. Wessel said he would do so. Mr. Clendennen informed the Board that Trane had begun start up procedures for the new Intermediate School chiller, but that they would need several warm days in a row to get it balanced. Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that the VOTECH/ BVIU budgets did not include any pay freezes and that he was disappointed that freezes were not apparently discussed for those groups.

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any comments from the administration. Dr. Miller reminded the Board that there were ballots for the BVIU Board members in their packet and asked that the members complete them. She also informed the Board that there would be an action item added to the May 19 agenda for door pulls at the High School to make the new doors more user friendly for those with physical handicaps.

Mr. Oswald asked if any visitors had comments. Ms. Jenn Sharek (Blackhawk teacher) announced that Representative Christiana will visit on May 22, 2011 at 4:15PM to discuss issues being considered at the State level. She asked if the Board was aware of bill 1485 which propose returning some of the funding for Basic Education which was removed by the Governor's budget. She was told that the bill would return 6-8% of the money cut, but that the bill had not passed yet and the District cannot count on the money until the legislation passes. Mr. Yaria asked if the district was changing insurance providers and if so, would the benefits stay the same. He was told that the agreements require no changes in benefits without discussions with the unions and that would occur if the District recommends a change. He also asked about an Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) for this year and was told by Dr. Miller that the District asked what criteria would be wanted if an early retirement agreement was considered but did not promise an incentive this year. She added that an ERI was just one of many things the District was looking at in regards to staffing into the future and might be considered at a later time. Mr. Yaria stated that some teachers would be disappointed.

Mr. Oswald announced that the next meeting would be held at the Blackhawk Intermediate School at 7:30 PM on April 14, 2011 and would be preceded at 7:00 PM by a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary