

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION
Blackhawk High School Library
November 10, 2011**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:35PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by all nine members. Those in attendance were:

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

Absent was: None

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent	Mr. Salopek- Solicitor	Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary
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Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the October 13 and October 20, 2011 Board meetings.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Miller reviewed the items proposed in this area for the voting meeting scheduled for November 17, 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters. Mr. Ron Stedman questioned the agenda item changing the not-to-exceed amount for remediation of the erosion issues next to Dillon Street on the edge of the High School campus from what was approved last month. Dr. Miller explained the situation. Mr. Stedman suggested that the District hire a soils scientist consultant to recommend what remediation needs to be done as a minimum. Mr. Clendennen stated that the architects were present to discuss the change in the Project's scope if the Board so desired. Mr. Inman stated that in his experience, soils scientists' opinions trumped Department of Environmental Protection and engineers' recommendations for remediation of soils issues. Mr. Clendennen again offered that the architects explain the issues involved. Mr. Fleischman said Mr. Clendennen was demeaning Mr. Stedman by indicating the District should listen to the architects and not go the soils scientist

route and he asked who was taking responsibility for the problem. Mr. Clendennen replied that the Board has the responsibility for the situation because a previous Board created it when fill was placed on the site. Mrs. Pander asked if the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) gave the District the drawing to mediate the site. Dr. Miller replied that the drawings were done by Pennoni Engineers based on their meeting with the Conservation District representative who approved the drawing, and were approved by DEP, but that was after last month's meeting when the original not-to-exceed amount was presented. Mrs. Pander asked if all the erosion was due to the heavy rains in September and Dr. Miller responded yes. Mrs. Pander asked why the entire field needed top soil and said she felt the price was very high. Mr. Dan Engen from the architect's office (VEBH) said that once the erosion problem was discovered, the County Conservation District gave guidance to the engineers (Pennoni) and the drawings were developed. Beaver County Conservation District approved the drawings. Based on the revised minimum from the Conservation District, new drawings will be needed, so nothing is absolute at this time concerning the price. Mr. May said that the District needs to look at the alternatives and since it is too late to seed this year, the District can take the time. Mr. Inman said he checked with the DEP and they did not know about the issue so it must be the County Conservation representative who is requiring the work. Mr. Calabria asked what a Soils Scientist might cost and Mr. Stedman said \$100 per hour or so. Mr. Fleischman asked the architect, Mr. Engen, if he has ever seen the Conservation District admit that conditions were unusual (like the worst rains in 40 years) and therefore work with us for a reasonable solution. He answered his own question, "Of course not." Therefore the District should stand up to the bureaucracy and fight not to spend District taxpayers' money. Mr. Clendennen repeated that the Board should ask the architects and engineers who have studied this issue what the best solution is. He said spending less will leave the problem unfixed and cost more in the future. Mr. Oswald ended the discussion at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Wessel reviewed the items proposed in this area for the voting meeting for November 17, 2011.

Mr. Wessel introduced Mr. Robert Aumer and Mr. Anthony Ditka who discussed the bond issue needed to complete work on the Middle School project.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the Personnel items proposed for this meeting and the meeting scheduled for November 17, 2011.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Mr. May moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve 6 field trips as listed in the agenda.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to authorize VEBH to complete bidding documents to provide ADA accessibility at the home side of the Northwestern stadium as presented at the October 20, 2011 meeting. Mr. Fleischman asked Mr. Wessel if the insurance company was okay with the plan and Mr. Wessel answered that they were and no increase in premium would result. Mr. Fleischman said the project would improve accessibility and was needed. Mr. Fitzgerald related that he saw three people fall or need help at the last game he attended and this was a needed improvement.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to authorize a Change Order to Yarborough Development, Inc. in the amount of \$423.40 to provide a concrete slab on grade in the plumbing chase in room A111 needed because of unforeseen conditions. Mr. Fleischman asked that in the future the school a change order was for be included on the agenda. This change order is for the Middle School.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to authorize a change order to Shipley Brothers Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$3,236.10 to provide plumbing in the Life Skills Classroom at the Middle School because the work was not shown on the plumbing drawings but is needed for the educational program.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to authorize a change order for \$2,959.67 to Shipley Brothers Construction, Inc. to provide additional work at the Middle School related to underground sanitary piping for two sinks in the Art Room (A117) and a sink piped through room A101.1 The size pipe and elevations were found to be not as indicated on the original drawings.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve a change order to American Contracting Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$8,830.00 to provide asbestos abatement, demolition and removal of the boiler on the ground floor of the annex at the Middle School. This was an unforeseen condition.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

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

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

No report.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

No report.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No report.

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

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

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Dr. Miller informed the Board Blackhawk will be hosting the Regional Learning Academy under the direction of the Educational Leadership Initiative (ELI) through the University of Pittsburgh on November 15, 2011.

INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No report.

VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL

No report.

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller informed the Board that information was included in their packets to vote for a person to fill the PSBA School Director seat on the PSERS Board.

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

School Directors: Mr. Heckathorn stated that he attended the anti- bullying program for community organizations and though that session was not well attended he felt the program was well worth the time.

Mr. Fleischman said that four businesses have left the area recently and jobs have been lost. This could affect the District's ability to pay for things such as the proposed bond issue and although next year will probably not see major cuts by the State because it is an election year, the District will need to watch every dollar. He also said the Board should look at technology for Board member's use to make all the documents members receive easier to deal with. Mr. Heckathorn mentioned that a software system called Board Docs is available if the District wants to explore using laptops and send documents to Board members electronically. Mr. May asked if future agendas for voting meetings could summarize motions approved in the previous working session and Dr. Miller said it would be looked at.

Administrators: Dr. Miller reminded the Board that that some of the High School students will be on the show "Hometown High Q next week. She also reminded the Board to sign up for visits to view the progress at the Middle School. Finally, Dr. Miller told the Board that new background check forms are being required of all employees and a sample was placed in their packets.

Visitors: Mr. Stedman commented that the Board will have to watch revenues and tax increases going forward given the economy and he questioned Mr. Wessel's earlier statement that local revenues have been going up.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2011 Voting Session in the High School library at 7:30PM, with **no** Buildings and Grounds meeting prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM. With an Executive Session being held directly after the Voting meeting for legal and personnel matters.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary