

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' VOTING MEETING
Blackhawk's Middle School LGI Room
January 15, 2015**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Dr. Lance Rose, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Those in attendance were:

Ms. Aquino	Mr. Fleishman	Mrs. Helsing	Mrs. Kaszer
Mr. May	Mr. Pander	Dr. Rose	Mr. Yankee
Mr. Young			

Also attending were:

Dr. Kerber – Superintendent
Mr. Christian Bareford – District Solicitor
Mr. John Frombach – Interim Business Manager

Pastor Gary Hilton, Chippewa United Methodist Church, provided an opening prayer.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kerber recognized and commended Chloe Leaf, 4th grader at BIS, who organized a drive for homemade Christmas cards. Students at BIS, as well as students from the entire Blackhawk School District, were able to make 754 homemade Christmas cards which were sent to Addie Fausett, a young lady in Fountain Green, Utah who has a terminal disease. Dr. Kerber presented Chloe with a plaque and flowers to thank her for her generous spirit.

Mr. Fleishman offered commendations to Madeline Portzline, Brant Kish, Xander Wilkinson, and Will Portzline, who sold \$500 worth of tickets for the 50/50 raffle benefiting Coaches Vs. Cancer. The raffle drawing was held December 17, 2014. These students are on the Patterson Heights Junior Council, the organization through which the raffle was made possible.

Dr. Kerber announced that in honor of School Board Appreciate Month, gratitude is extended to our nine school board directors. The Blackhawk School District and community will thank the Board for their time and efforts they put forth in making our district a special place. The Board Members have been given a basket of fruit and will be honored at a breakfast on January 27 at 7:30 am followed by a visit to all schools to visit classrooms.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Melissa Ziegler, Chippewa Township. Addressed items 3.5 approval is recommended to ratify contract with Ira Weiss and 4.8 approval to ratify contracting with Dr. Dan Miller. Discussed the difference between ratified and approved items. Inquired as to who approved these contracts.

Mr. Bob Clendennen, Patterson Township. Noted that he made a request for the January 12, 2015 meeting documents, but had not received any of the supporting documentation. Inquired as to why the documents were not provided based on his request. Mr. Clendennen also commented on the scheduling of Work Session Meetings.

Mrs. Jodi Weister, South Beaver Township. First question regarding 3.2 General Fund. The totals from November & December total over \$900,000. What was this spent on? Mr. John Frombach explained that the General Fund budget represents the operating budget. \$500,000 a month is not uncommon. The General Fund differs from the Reserve Fund. Secondly, 3.6 approval for the district to utilize SchoolBrains, eSchoolView and Schoology. What are these programs? Dr. Kerber noted that a presentation will be conducted tonight. Jodi asked regarding 10.1 the approval to allow the contract with Nutrition Group to expire. Will this be voted on this evening as there is no asterisk? Dr. Rose noted yes. Mrs. Weister asked if there is a written response for 3.5 that will be posted on the website tomorrow, could this be read tonight. Dr. Kerber read the response, which will still be posted. Ms. Weister spoke on the past practice of supporting documentation at board meetings, noting that in the past 4 years this information has not been provided.

Mrs. Carol Sprinker, Northwestern Principal, and students of Northwestern made a presentation to the board highlighting a video of their activities and the charms that they earn throughout the year. Each charm represents a positive attribute.

Mr. Jim Cox made a presentation regarding technology software for the 2015-16 academic school year. Mr. Cox's presentation covered the Technology Council, the current software and the recommended changes for next school year.

Mr. Michael Callaghan, Navigate, made a presentation to the board regarding a cloud-based security software. Blackhawk School District is eligible for the initial implementation of this software through a grant. The fee for subsequent years will be \$500 a building or total of \$2,500.

Mrs. Beth Schiemer, representing a community committee, made a presentation showcasing Northwestern Primary School Building and the research regarding its current state.

At 9:14PM, the Board of Directors went into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation issues. At this time Mr. May excused himself from the meeting.

The Board of Directors returned from Executive Session at 10:13PM.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Yonkee made a motion for approval to accept the Financial Report for November and December, 2014. Mr. Pander seconded the motion.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mr. Yonkee motioned to approve payment of the bills listed below. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pander.

- a. Fund 10 – General Fund: November \$548,958.86, December \$402,876.94
 - b. Fund 32 – Capital Projects Fund: \$44,145.60
 - c. Fund 51 – Cafeteria Fund: November \$57,796.29, December \$0
 - d. Fund 66 – UPMC Health Fund: \$0
 - e. Fund 67 – UPMC Dental: November \$8,218.20, December \$7,318.50
 - f. Fund 68 – UPMC Vision: November \$1,798.00, December \$2,126.00
- Payroll: November \$719,801.05, December \$671,203.83

The amount of \$44,145.60 Fund 32 – Capital Project was added during the meeting and it was noted that it represents the final payment to Northeast Interior Systems, Inc. The public was given the opportunity to ask questions pertaining to this item prior to the vote for approval. Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, asked what is the remaining amount owed on the project. Mr. Pander responded approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000. Mr. Jon Kaszer, Chippewa, asked what will be the remaining balance of the construction fund once the \$150,000 to \$200,000 is paid out. Mr. Frombach advised that there was a transfer of \$250,000 to the construction fund in September 2014 timeframe bringing the current balance of the construction fund is \$146,319.03.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

The Monthly Insurance Report for November and December was provided as an information item.

Mr. Yonkee made the motion to appoint Mr. John Frombach as Blackhawk School District authorized representative to make requests upon and receive any and all tax information and records from Berkheimer relative to the collection of taxes for official purposes only. Mrs. Helsing seconded the motion.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mr. Yonkee motioned and Mr. Fleishman seconded a motion to ratify contracting with Ira Weiss as special counsel to the audit.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mr. Yonkee motioned and Mrs. Kaszer seconded a motion for Blackhawk School District to utilize SchoolBrains, eSchoolView and Schoology as replacement services, effective July 1, 2015. The annual expense will be \$33,469 with the first year start up expense of \$16,182, total of \$49,651 for the first year.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Dr. Rose advised the Board that prior to leaving this evening, Mr. May provided notice of his resignation from Board Treasurer. This request was made to both Dr. Rose and Dr. Kerber. Mr. Fleishman made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. May as Board Treasurer. Mr. Pander seconded.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Kaszer made a motion to appoint Mrs. Helsing as Board Treasurer. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Helsing made the motion to hire Michelle Markusic as a full time custodian for Blackhawk High School at a rate of \$14.80 per hour plus benefits (approximately \$37,331.92 per year) effective January 5, 2015. Mr. Pander seconded the motion. Mr. Young made the motion to table the original motion indefinitely.

Motion Tabled

The motion was made by Mrs. Helsing to hire Timothy Hopton as a substitute custodian at a rate of \$9.00 per hour pending clearances. This was seconded by Mr. Yonkee. Mr. Young made the motion to table the original motion indefinitely.

Motion Tabled

Mrs. Helsing made the motion to approve Amy Anderson to assume the role of Acting Principle for Highland Middle School at a rate of \$75 per work day in addition to the regular teaching salary. Mr. Pander seconded.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing moved and Mrs. Kaszer seconded the motion to appoint Tom Householder as deputy tax collector to Linda Rawding in accordance with Act 164 of 2014 pertaining to the Local Tax Collector Law.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing moved and Mr. Pander seconded the motion to appoint Susan Phillips as deputy tax collector to Robin Huston in accordance with Act 164 of 2014 pertaining to the Local Tax Collector Law.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing moved to approve for the following substitutes:

- a. Ian Taylor
- b. Angela Ringling
- c. Marissa Neely
- d. Mary Kay Jones (pending clearances)
- e. Jennifer Morgan

Mr. Yonkee seconded the motion. Mr. Young made the motion to table the original motion indefinitely.

Motion Tabled

The motion was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mrs. Kaszer to approve Heather McCalla to use sick days as well as FMLA beginning on or about January 19, 2015 until on or about April 7, 2015.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing moved to ratify contracting with Dr. Dan Miller, University of Pittsburgh, for professional development in math for Blackhawk Intermediate School teachers at a rate of \$6,260. Mr. Pander seconded.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

The motion was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mr. Yonkee to approve Rachael Omogrosso to use sick days as well as FMLA beginning on or about February 23, 2015 until on or about May 4, 2015.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made the motion to approve Theresa Taylor to use FMLA beginning March 1, 2015 until April 1, 2015. Mr. Pander seconded.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mr. Pander motioned to commence termination proceedings against employee 2015-01 and to authorize the solicitor to prepare all documentation necessary to accomplish said action pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fleishman.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor	Not In Favor	Absent	Abstain
Mr. Young		Mr. May	
Mr. Yonkee			
Dr. Rose			
Mr. Pander			
Mrs. Kaszer			
Mrs. Helsing			
Mr. Fleishman			
Ms. Aquino			

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Aquino motioned and Mr. Young seconded a motion to approve the following field trips:

- a. How Stuff Works/Applied Engineering and Technology (29), Brandon Smith, Power Plant, Shippensburg, PA, January 16, 2015. (\$145 expenses budgeted)
- b. Transition (20), Mariah Brown, Tour of PTI, Pittsburgh, January 28, 2015. (Expenses collected from other)
- c. High School Band (60), Dave Zaccari, Band performance at BOA Grand Nationals, Indianapolis, PA November 11-14, 2015. (expenses collected by student)
- d. Ninth Grade Academy (200), Missy Bender, 9th Grade Academy Science Center, Pittsburgh, April 1, 2015. (expenses collected from students)
- e. AP Biology (18), Anita Mensch, Open Heart Surgery Observation, Allegheny General, April 8, 2015. (\$360 expenses budgeted)
- f. Choir/Academy Students (3), Maura Underwood, PMEA All-State Chorus, Harrisburg, March 25-28, 2015. (\$1,100 expenses budgeted)
- g. FFA (9), Lyndsey Wilcox, ACES Conference, Harrisburg, February 21-22, 2015. (expenses collected from students)
- h. PPS Second Grade (88), Megan Anderson, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, May 14, 2015. (expenses collected from PTO)
- i. Fifth Grade (177), Wes Chismar, Danielle Bailey, Outdoor Education, Camp Kon-O-Kwee/Spencer, April 27-May 1, 2015. (expenses budgeted and collected from other)
- j. PRIDE (4), Tracy Yowler, Community Based Instruction, Walmart, Dollar Tree, McDonalds, January 30, 2015. (no expense)
- k. BHS Orchestra (7), Nathan Goodrich, District 2,3,5 Orchestra, Sharon, February 4-6, 2015. (\$250 expenses budgeted)
- l. FFA (9), Lyndsay Wilcox, ACES leadership, Harrisburg, February 14-15, 2015 (expenses collected from students)

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS / REAL ESTATE

Mr. Pander reported that the heat system has been checked, roof inspection has been completed, HVAC season preparation was completed as was the inspection of the fire extinguishers. There were quite a few small items have also been addressed. Mr. Pander noted that some repairs will be needed on the High School roof. Estimated cost of these repairs is between \$400,000 and \$500,000. More information will be coming on these repairs.

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Fleishman moved and Mr. Pander seconded a motion to approve the appointment Olesia Stasko as the assistant softball coach for the 2014-15 school year at a salary of \$2,010.24. Mr. Young made the motion to table the original motion indefinitely.

Motion Tabled

A motion was made by Mr. Fleishman and seconded by Ms. Aquino to approval the appointment of Charles Gussett as the middle school softball coach for the 2014-15 school year. Mr. Young made the motion to table the original motion indefinitely.

Motion Tabled

A motion to approve the appointment of James Riggio as a volunteer softball coach for the 2014-15 school year was made by Mr. Fleishman and seconded by Mr. Pander. Mr. Young made the motion to table the original motion indefinitely.

Motion Tabled

Mr. Fleishman made a motion to accept the resignation of Kim Baker, middle school track coach. Ms. Aquino seconded the motion.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mr. Fleishman made a motion to accept the resignation of Natalie Nicolette, middle school track coach. This motion was seconded by Ms. Aquino.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

A motion to appoint T.J. Lambert as volunteer boys' baseball coach for the 2014-15 school year was made by Mr. Fleishman and seconded by Mr. Yonkee. Mr. Young made the motion to table the original motion indefinitely.

Motion Tabled

A motion to appoint Frank Campagna as volunteer boys' baseball coach for the 2014-15 school year was made by Mr. Fleishman and seconded by Mr. Yonkee. Mr. Young made the motion to table the original motion indefinitely.

Motion Tabled

Mr. Fleishman made a motion to accept the resignation of Mary Ann Miller, Middle school swim team head coach. Mrs. Kaszer seconded this motion.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON

No Report

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No Report

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mr. Young made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Helsing, to allow the management contract with Nutrition Inc. to expire on June 30, 2015, and implement a district operated food service program effective July 1, 2015.

Mrs. Kaszer noted that the members of the board received a letter from the Nutrition Group, Inc. stating that they have recommendations for savings that they wish to discuss. Mrs. Kaszer asked if this motion could be tabled until those recommendations could be explored. Mr. Frombach responded that he has met with the Nutrition Group and their recommendations include eliminated the current staff and rehiring them at potentially lower pay rates and benefits. Mr. Frombach addressed some opportunities with a district run program. Additional discussion was held regarding the fact that the contract will expire at the end of the school year and there will not be any penalties for allowing it to expire.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried (Mr. Fleishman abstained from voting due to a relative's employment)

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No Report

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Young reported that he is currently working on a policy for a student advocate to the board. He noted that any input from the public and board was welcome. It is the goal to have ready for review in February.

BOARD / STAFF ENRICHMENT

Mr. Young made a motion to approve the conferenced listed below. Ms. Aquino seconded this motion.

- a. Tara Jones, Child Accounting Professional Associations Spring Conference, Hershey, February 25, 2015. (\$965 expenses budgeted)
- b. Kathy Kiser, JaneAnn Fucci, and Tara Jones, PDE Data Summit 2015, Hershey, March 25, 2015. (\$1,026.10 expenses Budgeted)
- c. Rebecca Freyvogel, Pam Lapek, PA Title I Improving Schools Performance, Pittsburgh, January 26, 2015. (\$50 expenses budgeted).
- d. Dale Moll, Transform ED Classes, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, January 21, March 5, and March 25, 2015. (no expenses)
- e. Amy Cienkowski, JaneAnn Fucci, Carol Sprinker, Karla Campagna, Danielle Bailey, Kyleigh Squicquero, Drew Bosco, Amy Black, Kristie Bresz, Brian Bain, Math & Science Collaborative Consortium, Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, February 5, 2015. (\$50 expenses budgeted).
- f. Ashley Boyers, PDE – Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth, Harrisburg, January 15, 2015. (\$386 expenses budgeted)
- g. Jim Perlik, Donna Holt, Chris Yingling, Western PA Facilities Directors Association, North Huntingdon, February 6, 2015. (\$160 expenses budgeted)

- h. JaneAnn Fucci, Lisa Brown, BC Transition: Best Practices to Transition to Formal School, BVIU, February 6, 2015. (\$60 expenses budgeted)
- i. Jim Cox, Pete & C State Educational Technology Conference, Hershey, February 8-11, 2015. (\$1,002 not budgeted/strongly recommended)
- j. Leah Lindemann, Project Zero: Developing a Culture of Thinking, Quaker Valley Middle School, January 17, 2015. (\$50 expenses budgeted)
- k. Nathan Goodrich, District 2,3,5 Orchestra, Sharon, February 4-6, 2015. (\$330 expenses budgeted)
- l. Ryan Hardesty, PAMLE State Conference, State College, February 22-24, 2015. (no expense)

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

No Report

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

No Report

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No Report

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Visitors

- Mrs. Brown, Chippewa Township, requested the account balances for UPMC healthcare, vision and dental funds. Mr. Frombach was able to provide the following figures:
UPMC Healthcare: \$2,762,531.68, Dental: \$261,895, Vision: \$5,565.50
- Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, spoke on several items, including
 - The November minutes were signed by Board Member, Missy Kaszer. Mr. Clendennen questioned whether someone should have been appointed to take the minutes and if the November meeting minutes are legal.
 - Mr. Clendennen stated that a motion was tabled in November to approve an invoice to VEBH in the amount of \$23,000 for extra work. Since that time, no further action has taken. He inquired what the status of the invoice. Adding that all of the invoices need to be paid in order to receive a statement from the architect to file for the PlanCon J by March 2015.
 - Mr. Clendennen also noted that to his knowledge, the previous board did not receive requests for supporting documents for board meetings.
 - At the November 2013 meeting, Mr. Pander talked about the security camera RFP and requested that no action be taken. It has been 13 months without further discussion.
 - Inquired about what happened to the archived minutes on the website.
 - Discussed his request for a copy of Mr. Weiss' Contract.

Mr. Frombach noted that the District cannot file for the PlanCon J until the project is closed with the punchlist completed. Once legal requirements are met, Mr. Frombach will file the PlanCon J. Mr. Pander added that the punchlist is still quite extensive. Dr. Rose asked to have the punchlist available for public review.

- Mrs. Melissa Ziegler, Chippewa Township, spoke on a few issues:
 - Noted that she spoke with Mr. Jerry Wessel regarding the PlanCon J documents. They are near completion and were left in his office.
 - Mrs. Ziegler asked for fairness in answering questions. Dr. Kerber offered to answer the previous questions pertaining to Dr. Dan Miller. At this point, Dr. Kerber provide an overview of the math pilot being conducted at BIS and the reasoning for contracting with Dr. Dan Miller.
 - Mrs. Ziegler inquired about the status of Kelly Services. Dr. Kerber noted that she has an appointment next week with Kelly Services and will pursue service for next school year.
- Mr. Jon Kaszer, Chippewa Township, inquired of the possibility for the board to form a committee to investigate the spending on the Highland Middle School Project from the beginning until present. He noted that his request is based on the remarks made by a citizen during the December 2014 meeting, during the second public comment section, that addressed \$20,000 in overbilling and \$250,000 paid without board vote.

Administration

- No Comments

Solicitor

- Mr. Christian Bareford provided an explanation for several motions being tabled earlier in the meeting. As a result of a law that went into effect the end of 2014 regarding child protection, the Law known as 168-2014 (nick named “Passing the Trash”), requires an additional clearance to ensure that an employee isn’t hired during an investigation of sexual assault by a previous employer. An employee cannot be hired pending this clearance. The motion to table new hires and volunteer coaches this evening is due to this law. This new clearance will be required of anyone volunteering with all school projects and activities.

School Directors

- Ms. Aquino spoke on 2 items:
 - Ms. Aquino referenced that policy on the PA Website regarding PlanCon J and expressed her confusion on the status. She verified that not all contracts have been paid in full therefore the District cannot file PlanCon J yet.
 - As a mother of 2 BIS students, Ms. Aquino stated that she is excited to see that the math pilot is being addressed. She asked how will a decision be made between Go Math and Everyday Math. Dr. Kerber noted that finances will have an impact on the decision. In addition the data and feedback on both programs will be considered.

- Mr. Yonkee spoke on the following:
 - He extended a Thank You to Melissa Tweed for her comments of civility at a previous meeting. Things have been better.
 - Mr. Yonkee also extended a Thank You to Beth Schiemer for her presentation this evening. Mr. Yonkee made a motion for a professional Engineering Study; to solicit at least 3 quotes to evaluate and determine what it will cost the district to address major renovations to Northwestern Primary School. Mr. Pander seconded this motion. Ms. Aquino clarified that this is just a gathering of quotes and no money is being spent at this time. Dr. Rose asked for public comments regarding the motion on the table.
 - **Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Fleishman extended a Thank You to Mr. Jim Cox on his Technology Council presentation this evening.

Dr. Rose addressed Mr. Tom Davidson, The Beaver County Times, and explained that due to advise received through legal counsel he is unable to speak on the teacher's contract and the current litigation.

The next meeting will be held on February 12, 2015, Highland Middle School LGI Room, 7:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pander made a motion for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34.

Submitted by Missy Kaszer
Blackhawk School Board Secretary