

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' VOTING MEETING  
Blackhawk's Middle School LGI Room  
February 12, 2015**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Mr. Perry Pander, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:40PM. 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	Mr. Yonkee	Mr. Young

Dr. Rose was absent.

Also in attendance were:

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

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 12 and 15, 2015. Mr. Young seconded the motion.

**Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Pander noted that there was an executive session for personnel matters prior to the Work Session.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Fleishman noted that there will be a presentation by Lyndsay Wilcox and the Vo-Ag students during the February 19<sup>th</sup> Voting Session.

Mr. Fleishman welcomed David Beckman from Yesco who provided a presentation on savings opportunities for the district utilizing LED lightings while staying compliant with new regulations. They reviewed a study of the lighting for Northwestern Primary and Blackhawk Intermediate School, outlining the cost for equipment and the incentives available.

Mr. Fleishman extended congratulations to Blackhawk Intermediate School for receiving a grant in the amount of \$693 from Beaver County Educational Trust for their project proposal, "Camp Read S'more".

Mr. Fleishman congratulated RaeAnn Ensworth, Junior, who received an award from the Pennsylvania School Press Association. She won first place at the regional writing contest which qualifies her to compete on March 2 at Penn State for the state writing contest.

Mr. Fleishman offered commendations to Adam Kantz and Victoria Wegman for being accepted into District Jazzband by audition. Adam, Senior, will be playing drums for Band I, and Victoria, Senior, will be playing tenor saxophone for Band III.

Mr. Fleishman extended congratulations to the Vo-Ag Square Dance team who received a white ribbon and the Demonstration team who received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the state at the Farm Show.

Commendations to Highland Middle School for continuing Rachel's Challenge by collecting hats, gloves and mittens and sending them to the Romania Community Relations Donations Project which supplies items to orphanages through the Marines. Blackhawk Graduate, L.Cpl. Ben Fritzley was stationed there with the Marines and was involved with the project.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jodi Weister, South Beaver, inquired about agenda item 3.7, the proposed increase in Right-to-Know fee. Dr. Kerber responded that the fee has not been addressed in 3 years and the district has only been charging .11 per page. Have been advised by Weiss Law Offices to raise the fee to .25 which is consistent with other school districts.

Ms. Weister also inquired if Highland Middle School would be eligible for the discounts and savings on the new construction since the project isn't closed yet. Clarification was provided that the eligibility period is within 180 days from installation not completion. Therefore, HMS is ineligible.

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, spoke on Mr. Weiss' contract as it pertains to Right-to-Know noting that since the law office has assumed responsibility for RTK, a 30 day extension has been initiated on requests; while legal it is cumbersome to the district. Interested in seeing the document that outlines the process and what the district is charged.

Mr. Clendennen also spoke on the attachment to the minutes that answers questions from the January 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting. These included:

- What is the total amount of money spent on legal fees for the teachers' contract? Noted that the costs outlined only include Babst Calland. Based on information he received the total is \$70,777.
- Asked today to review that 2014-15 budget. In his review \$56,150 has been spent on accounts 330, 331 and 332 all pertaining to legal fees which would be an over spend amount of \$29,000 leaving \$4,000 for legal fees for the rest of the year. Noted that these numbers cross over two fiscal years. According to policies 611 & 618 the business manager has the ability to prepare budget transfers.

Mr. Frombach addressed that \$56,150 was budgeted; as of end of January \$42,284 had been spent leaving approximately \$14,000 remaining. May have to make budget transfers next month.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Yonkee reviewed the items to be recommended for approval at the February 19, 2015 voting meeting. This included:

- Approval to accept the Financial Report for January.
- Approval for the payment of bills.
  - a. Fund 10 – General Fund: \$
  - b. Fund 32 – Capital Projects Fund: \$0
  - c. Fund 51 – Cafeteria Fund: \$
  - d. Fund 66 – UPMC Health Fund: \$0

e. Fund 67 – UPMC Dental: \$

f. Fund 68 – UPMC Vision: \$

Payroll: January \$

- The Monthly Insurance Report for January was provided as an Information Item.
- The committee is recommending approval to appoint Pam Kromka as Blackhawk School District authorized representative to make request upon and receive any and all tax information and records from Berkheimer, relative to the collection of taxes for official purposes only. (John Frombach is also an authorized requestor per January Board approval.)
- The committee is recommending approval for Resolution 02192015 regarding the appointment of the Business Manager as Primary Voting Delegate for the BCTCC, Beaver County Tax Collection Committee.
- The committee is recommending approval to contract with NaviGate for security systems in each school building at no cost.
- The committee is recommending approval to increase the Right To Know, Open Record Fees.

A presentation was given by Jamie Doyle (PFM) on Financial Management Services and refunding the 2012 series bonds. Their services would include monitoring the market and advised when the interest rates are optimum for refunding the 2012 series bonds (early). There is no fee for the service until the refunding occurs. Blackhawk will appoint an underwriter to work in conjunction with PFM for the refunding process.

Mr. Frombach provided a review of the revenue he conducted, noting a discrepancy in the local revenue. This year's budget shows \$18.2M in local revenue which represents a \$1M increase. Projecting to receive \$17M, leaving a deficit of \$1M. It was also noted that the local service tax of 2013-14 school year was \$16,000 while the budget for 2014-15 showed \$30,000. Mr. Frombach is pursuing options on collecting delinquencies. State revenues is projecting \$15.6M; this is not a concern as the district knows what is coming through the state budget. Federal revenue in the budget included \$310,000 for cafeteria/milk subsidies which much be held in a separate proprietary fund. This needs to be removed from the general fund. There were 2 transfers of \$250,000 noted to be transferred from the Healthcare fund, which cannot occur. The result would be a \$1.6M deficit. With restrictions and careful monitoring, maybe able to breakeven this year.

Mrs. Kaszer announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Education has awarded the Safe School Grant to Blackhawk High School in the total amount of \$22,300. This will provide funding to equip the central office with swipe card capabilities, entrance camera's and air phones. In addition, all high school classrooms and offices will be equipped with a phone. The grant application was prepared by Joy Winters, High School Teacher, Amy Anderson, Acting Middle School Principal, Sami Hanna, High School Guidance Counselor and Scott Nelson, High School Principle.

Mr. May left the meeting at this time.

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The committee is recommending approval for the following substitutes:

- a. Ian Taylor
- b. Angela Ringling
- c. Marissa Neely
- d. Mary Kay Jones
- e. Corinne Pinchotti
- f. Amanda Prugar

- g. Lala Babayeva
- h. James DeLadesmo

The committee is recommending approval for Jamie Planitzer to use 31 sick days beginning on or about April 10, 2015 until May 28, 2015.

The committee is recommending approval to employee Kirsten Stitsel as Athletic Secretary at a salary of \$35,000 per year plus benefits (approximately \$23,905) effective March 2, 2015.

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The committee is recommending approval of the following field trips:

- a. PRIDE (4), Tracy Yowler, Community Based Instruction, local community, February 20, 2015. (Expenses collected from other)
- b. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (200), Ryan Hardesty, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington D.C. Trip, Spring 2016 (date to be determined). (Expenses collected from students)
- c. NPS Kindergarten (110), Mandie Payne, OH Wow! Science Center, Youngstown, May 29, 2015. (Expenses collected from other)
- d. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students (9), Kristen Neeley, District 5 Chorus Fest, Grove City College, March 6, 2015 (\$324 Expenses budgeted)
- e. Applied Engineering and Technology (10), Brandon Smith, Westinghouse Tour, Cranberry, February 27, 2015. (\$182 Expenses budgeted)
- f. FFA (5), Lyndsay Wilcox, State Legislative Leadership Conference, Harrisburg, March 15-17, 2015. (\$150 expenses budgeted and collected from students)
- g. 5<sup>th</sup> grade BIS Buddies (28), BIS Buddies and The Science Olympiad, Gina Gordon, Northwestern Primary, May 15, 2015. (\$140 Expenses budgeted)
- h. Second Grade (110), Second Grade Teachers, Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History, Pittsburgh, May 18 and 26, 2015. (\$1,256 expenses collected from PTO)
- i. Math Students (10), Dave Hanlon, Penn State Beaver Math Competition, March 24, 2015. (no expense)

The committee is recommending the approval of Jennifer Custer, Geneva student to intern with Bob Abel, Elementary guidance counselor for Spring semester, 2015.

#### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS/REAL ESTATE**

Mr. Pander advised that after a year, the blinds in the LGI are working.

#### **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

The committee is recommending approval to appoint Olesia Stasko as the assistant softball coach for the 2014-15 school year at a salary of \$2,010.24.

The committee is recommending approval to appoint Charles Gussett as the middle school softball coach for the 2014-15 school year at a salary of \$1,652.86.

The committee is recommending approval to appoint James Riggio as a volunteer softball coach for the 2014-15 school year.

The committee is recommending approval to appoint T. J. Lambert as volunteer boys' baseball coach for the 2014-15 school year.

The committee is recommending approval to appoint Frank Campagna as volunteer boys' baseball coach for 2014-15 school year.

The committee is recommending approval to appoint Katherine Singletary as assistant middle school track coach for 2014-15 school year at a salary of \$2,903.68.

The committee is recommending approval to appoint Mike Arbogast as head middle school track coach for the 2014-15 school year at a salary of \$2,903.68.

The committee is recommending approval to honor the request of Joe Hamilton, Football Head Coach, for retirement effective January 20, 2015. Coach Hamilton will remain equipment manager for the football team until June 30, 2015.

The committee is recommending approval to appoint Cory Schmidt as head coach of the middle school swim team for the 2014-15 school year at a salary of \$2,188.

The committee is recommending approval to appoint Mary Ann Miller as a volunteer coach for the middle school swim team for the 2014-15 school year.

Mr. Fleischman congratulated Courtney Vannoy on scoring 1,000 career basketball points.

Congratulations were extended to the girls' basketball team, they won the section championship and will be advancing to post season play.

Blackhawk Lady Cougars achieved their 700<sup>th</sup> victory last week by defeating Upper Saint Clair. The Lady Cougars first season began in 1975 and has been going strong ever since.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON**

Dr. Kerber advised that the Comprehensive Report is now on the website. This report was originally submitted in May but had a question by the state.

The board will be asked to consider a social media platform on the website. This will include a LinkedIn platform.

Mrs. Tara Jones will be running a summer camp for 2 weeks in the summer.

At the recent IU meeting of superintendents the calendar of 2015-16 was discussed and should have finalized for review next month.

The board is being asked to review immunization records process, discussed having completed by the first day of school. Currently exempt by state for 8 months into school year. Concern for staff was noted.

PSSAs are coming up in April.

Dr. Kerber has been invited to Washington, D.C. to speak at a congressional briefing. Potentially there will be a wide audience of those with ability to proportion funds. Staff will be asked to provide a summary of what they are doing regarding STEM.

A board representative is needed to sit on the Vo Tech Center board and the Intermediate Center.

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No Report

#### **FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

No Report

#### **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

No Report

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Young provided the first reading of the revisions to the following policies:

- 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- 404 – Employment of Professional Employees
- 405 – Employment of Substitute Professional Employees
- 504 – Employment of Classified Employees
- 505 – Employment of Substitute and Short-Term Employees

Mr. Young noted that he has been working on a policy regarding a student advocate for the board. Plan to have this in place by the end of the school year. Public and board input is welcome.

#### **BOARD/STAFF ENRICHMENT**

The committee is recommending approval for the following conferences:.

- a. Chris Lantzy, Meet the Rigorous Common Core Standards for Writing, Coraopolis, March 23, 2015 (\$239 expenses budgeted)
- b. Gina Gordon, IUP – School Counselor Professional Development Day, Indiana, PA, February 27, 2015. (\$87.40 expenses budgeted)
- c. Gina Gordon, LuAnne Maginness, Danielle Bailey, Kelley Engle, Amy Anderson, PSSA Administration Training Sessions, BVIU, March 10, 2015. (no expense)
- d. Lou Wolber, Recertification PA-DMV End of Course Skills Test, Butler, March 4, 2015. (no expense)
- e. Gina Gordon, Geneva College Advisory Board, Geneva, March 6, 2015. (no expense)
- f. Christy Desselle, Sound Management: It's About Time, BVIU, February 20, 2015. (no expense)
- g. Melanie Kerber, PA Association of School Business Officers, March 10-13, 2015. (\$711.04 expenses budgeted)
- h. Dianne Sarver, Special Olympics Aquatics Meet, New Brighton, April 10, 2015.

(no expense)

- i. Football coaches, Coach of the Year Clinic, Greentree, February 27- Mar 1, 2015. (\$1,395 expenses budgeted)
- j. Dave Zaccari, PMEA All-State Conference Workshop, Hershey, March 25-28, 2015. (\$814.50 expenses budgeted)

#### **VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

No Report

#### **PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

No Report

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

No Report

#### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

##### **Visitors**

Autumn Giocondi, Patterson Township, spoke on her youngest child who is 6 and didn't attend the All-Day Kindergarten program last year because he wasn't ready. Inquired as to what the plans are for the 2015-16 school year. Noting that now that he is ready for an all-day program. Dr. Kerber advised that there have been no discussions on changing; it is the wish to preserve as it is important. However, going into the budget, time will tell.

Melissa Ziegler, Chippewa, inquired as to where on the website is the Comprehensive Plan located? And has it been voted on by the board. Dr. Kerber will advise as to the location and noted that the plan needs to be on display for 30 day prior to vote.

Mrs. Ziegler asked about the status of Kelly Services. Dr. Kerber responded that she has met with Kelly Services and will not be moving forward this school year; anticipate utilization of this service in the fall of 2015.

##### **Administration**

No Comments

##### **Solicitor**

No Comments

##### **School Directors**

No Comments

Next Meetings – February 19, 2015, Highland Middle School LGI Room, 7:30PM.

A motion for adjournment was made by Ms. Aquino and Seconded by Mrs. Helsing. The meeting adjourned at 10:16pm.

Submitted by Missy Kaszer  
Blackhawk School Board Secretary