

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION MEETING
Blackhawk High School Library
June 18, 2015**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Perry Pander, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:36PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Those in attendance included:

Mr. Fleishman	Mrs. Helsing	Mrs. Kaszer	Mr. May
Mr. Pander	Mr. Yonkee	Mr. Young	

Ms. Aquino and Dr. Rose was absent.

Also in attendance were:

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

A prayer was provided by Pastor Paul Poole, First Assembly of God Church.

Mr. Pander made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 21, and 28, 2015. Mrs. Helsing seconded the motion.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mr. Pander noted that there was an executive session for personnel matters held on June 10, 2015 and tonight, June 18, prior to the Work Session. He also advised that the Voting Session will be on June 30, 2015 in the High School Library.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commendations along with presentations to the following retirees of 2015:

- a. Robert Amalia
- b. Rebecca Arbogast
- c. Colleen Anzio
- d. Tona Bobbino-Recce
- e. Nanette Boggs
- f. Carol Durham
- g. Jenan Gouldsbarry
- h. Diane Huston
- i. Mary Jane Lombardo
- j. Carol McMillen
- k. Sam Nardone
- l. Alberta Oravitz

Dr. Kerber noted that another resignation was received from Mrs. Kim Stefanina. She will be recognized at a future meeting.

Mr. Pander stated that the two planned presentations will be moved prior to the public comments. He also noted that there will be two items voted on this evening. One is for a tax increase and the second regarding insurance renewals (3.7).

Eckles Presentation:

The presentation was passed out to the board regarding Eckles' study. Highlights include:

- While the primary focus has been Northwestern, a review of all schools in the district is being completed.
- Enrollment and projected enrollment figures were included in their review.
- 2 Options:
 - Close Northwestern and move students to other buildings. District does have the capacity.
 - Renovate Northwestern; to bring it up to current standards.
- Changes in renovations would include: improve items that present a challenge to the disabled, replace outdated heating, plumbing and electrical systems and install air conditioning and update data/telecommunications systems.
- Working with HRG on sewage system; have not reached a solution to date.

Eckle's recommendation is to continue to utilize Northwestern Primary School and update as outlined. A project of this size and nature would be eligible for state reimbursement of approximately \$3 million (14%).

Mrs. Ziegler inquired as to when did Eckles know that they would be presenting this evening. There was a meeting last Friday in which it was discussed.

Proposed Timeline:

- The Board would need to vote to approve the study and Part A would need to be submitted to the state by June 30, 2015. Submitting Part A does not lock a district into a project; but rather a step in becoming eligible for reimbursement.
- Finish design in early spring; February/March 2016
- Out to bid April 2016
- Start construction summer 2016. (15 month construction window)

Mrs. Nancy Frederick inquired whether the district's debt and bond rating was taking into consideration while completing the study. She also noted that since Eckle's would profit from any renovations the recommendations are not completely unbiased.

Mr. Yonkee asked for an overview of a phased construction project and phased borrowing scenario. Response: if able to move students off site could shorten the timeframe. It could also be done in 4 phases but would probably want to borrow at one time or possibly 2 separate bonds.

Mrs. Ziegler asked about the abatement with children in the building. Response: it will be a safe situation; abatement will be completed during the first summer.

Mr. Lyndes spoke about a school district in Steubenville, OH where trailers were used as classrooms. Is that an option for shifting students. Response: Depending on the age and style of the trailer, this could

become a costly alternative. If the Board decides to move forward all these opportunities will be explored.

Dinsmore & Shohl Presentation regarding the 2012 bonds:

An overview of the market and the history of the interest rates was provided. Reviewed the current bonds of the district. The average rate of the 2012 bonds is just below 4%. Goal to take the old interest rate and replace with a lower rate. No new debt; the savings comes from having a lower interest rate. Looking to have Board's approval on the resolution to begin the process.

Mr. Yonkee asked about the differential percentage points on the last projects completed for other districts. Response: It is hard to compare projects due to timeframes and amounts. Anything below 2% is not worth doing.

Mrs. Nancy Frederick asked why are we looking to refinance at this time. Response: Would refinance with a lower increase rate resulting in a savings to the district.

Mr. Woods inquired if the term would be shorter – Yes, a couple of months.

Mrs. Nancy Frederick asked what the cost to the district for refinancing. Response: the \$184,000 is net; already incorporated into the figures. May lower the annual service fee slightly.

Mr. Clendennen inquired to the impact of buying bonds to pay off other bonds that aren't available to sell, what position does this put the district? The 2015 bonds will be put into escrow; old bonds would be paid out of the escrow. The new bonds will be paid by the district.

Mrs. Nancy Frederick inquired on the date of the interest rates being used – yesterday, June 17, 2015.

By passing tonight the district is at no risk. If rates go up, will not continue.

Public Comments

Mrs. Ziegler, Chippewa Township. Inquired as to why Eckles presentation not on the agenda. A presentation of that importance would interest the public. At last week's study section several parts of the open meeting act were violated, in her opinion. At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Kerber noted that Northwestern will remain open next year without any further remarks or public comments. At the last board meeting it was noted that the public would be kept updated and be given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Pander explained that there is still the study with HRG regarding the sewage and both (HRG and Eckles) will be presented. Mrs. Ziegler asked who made the decision to keep Northwestern open. Mr. Pander noted that it was based on timing of the study being completed. Mrs. Ziegler added that the requirement of a public hearing would also be needed. Dr. Kerber advised a public hearing is not needed if closing for a year or two for renovations.

Mrs. Ziegler stated that the board needs to advise the public of any executive sessions held and that there was an executive session on June 5th, prior to graduation when Eckles presented this information to the board members. Dr. Kerber advised that there was no executive session held on June 5th; it was a presentation without any deliberations and cleared through the solicitor. Mrs. Ziegler asked the solicitor what constitutes an executive session. Mr. Bareford explained; there are times when a committee as whole can met for information or presentation. Executive Sessions is a provision within

the Sunshine Act were the board can meet for discussing issues such as personnel and litigation. Mrs. Ziegler noted what is wanted is transparency.

Mrs. Ziegler expressed concerned that tonight's 2 presentations supported more questions from the public and not the board.

Mrs. Ziegler wished to speak on the Korin McMillen decision of last week and asked if anyone extend professional curiosity to Dr. Koch regarding his contract with the district. Mr. Pander advised that personnel issues can't not be discussed.

Mrs. Ziegler has counted 24 positions which individuals have retired and/or resigned; inquired as to how the community can be assured that these positions will be filled by the start of the school year. Dr. Kerber stated that positions have been posted, second round of interviews are taking place and will have a full staff by the start of the school year.

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township. Mr. Clendennen spoke on the committee of a whole. In the policy it stated that the work session acts as a committee of the whole. Whether there is any action doesn't mean people shouldn't be able to speak. He noted that 50 people came to a meeting held on June 10th and were not permitted to speak. Mr. Clendennen spoke that there were 28 meetings of the Building & Grounds committee from 2010. While nothing was decided in those meetings, there were agendas and the public were entitled to speak and listen to presentations. Action was taken by the full board. Mr. Clendennen asked in the budget process for the documentation regarding the \$1.2 million in savings from the early retirement program and was told to file a Right-To-Know request.

Mr. Clendennen was advised that he had 1 minute remaining on his time to speak. Mr. Clendennen spoke on the budget; the board and administration has not followed the policy. Meetings with administrators to set perimeters have not been conducted. He believes Blackhawk School District has moved in the wrong direction and blames the superintendent is responsible for it. If he could, would call for a vote of no conscious. At this point he was advise his time was up.

Ms. Aquino arrived at this time.

According to policy, Mr. Clendennen requested a vote of the board to allow him additional time to speak as he has not had an opportunity to do so. Clarification was asked as to how much time is needed – 3 minutes. Members were agreement to permit an addition 3 minutes.

Today, Mr. Clendennen reviewed the budget from Prosoft. The first thing noticed was a letter which was sent out to the community which stated there is a \$1.6 million deficit, which include \$859,000 of over statement in the budget. This happened in the 2014-15 budget. When reviewed today, the total revenue shown is \$34,857,000. In Prosoft, there is still an \$857,000 mistake. This is a good example on how numbers can be skewed. Mr. Clendennen questioned the savings of the early retirement program and noted an explanation of these numbers is owed.

At this point Mr. Clendennen was advise his addition 3 minutes were up.

Mrs. Carol Sprinker, Chippewa Township, inquired if the board would be voting on item 4.8 this evening (her resignation). – Yes. Mrs. Sprinker wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Blackhawk School District for the experience of being a teacher and administrator. Mrs. Sprinker spoke on the personnel changes proposed in the special education program, noting that these changes will weaken the

program. She noted that the status quo leadership will cause irreparable *damage*. Mrs. Sprinker urged the board to make decisions in the best interest of the children.

Mrs. Cheryl Lyndes, Chippewa Township. Mrs. Lyndes spoke on the anti-bully policy of the district noting it has 4 attributes, perseverance, accountability, respect and trustworthy. Do your PART. Lead by example. She spoke of their move to the district and have watched families who have been bullied out of the district by adults. This community is watching and listening. Asking the board and administration to eliminate bullying and do their part. Asked them to do what is right and don't hide behind doors. She expressed concern for those that have left the district.

Mr. Clint Berchtold, Chippewa Township. Mr. Berchtold expressed concern for the personnel lost. Again, is hearing that another individual is under the microscope – Mr. Perlik. He addressed a question to Mr. Pander, are you considering replacing him yourself – No. Mr. Berchtold noted it is time to move forward and represent the people who put the board members in their seats.

Mr. Greg Woods, Chippewa Township. Noted that he moved here from Cleveland; prior to moving interviewed with 3 schools and chose Blackhawk. Now concerned about that decision. Mr. Woods inquired as to the increase in the budget to the special education program and asked if that could be explained. Mr. Frombach provide information regarding the 4 new additional classes being created in Special Education; Autistic Support will be at Northwestern, Life skills at the high school and Northwestern and the emotional support at BIS.

Mr. Woods asked about the increase in support services. Mr. Frombach noted that \$2,200 in new technology is being added along with a support person. Mr. Woods also asked Mr. Frombach to speak on line 2500. This was a shift in personnel that was in an inaccurate line. The salary increases are in these line items; no additional head counts.

Mr. Woods inquired about the maintenance budget. He and Mr. Frombach discussed the utilities for this year which were underestimated by over \$100,000, along with their existing contracts. Mr. Woods noted that not much was spelled out during the original presentation and asked if information can be given on the number of staff leaving and replace. There are 12 retired, only 4 replaced, 4 new special education teachers and 1 in technology.

Mrs. Jamie Hinkle, Patterson Township. Asked to verify that the PRIDE program will be staying. Dr. Kerber responded yes, all existing special education programs will remain.

Mr. Jarrod McCowin, Chippewa Township. Inquired how was the deficit met to reach a balance budget from the last meeting. Mr. Frombach responded that this was done by raising taxes to the index. No other major changes – No.

Mrs. Jane Ann Fucci, Chippewa Township. Addressed the negative comments and wanted to circle back to positive. She noted that the teachers make the difference for the students and tonight we saw about 200 years of experience retire. Mrs. Fucci stated that she has learned the significance of the people serving on the board. The work of the district is happening in the buildings with the students. She expressed her pride in where she works and what the district produces. One piece of misinformation; we have had certified personal with the first 10 years; Mrs. McMillen has done well, however, with certification more can be provided for the students and staff.

Mrs. Nancy Frederick, Chippewa. Stated that she appreciations the open discussion; thinks that is a positive thing, even when comments are negative. Are we replacing a Spanish teacher the loss of 2 – Yes. Is it a legal issue to have a certification special education director? Mr. Bareford noted that it is not appropriate to discuss.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The exhibit – Financial Report for May – will be provided prior to the Voting Session.

Mr. Yonkee motioned and Mrs. Kaszer seconded the approval for the payment of the following bills.

- a. Fund 10 – General Fund: \$412,474.69
 - b. Fund 32 – Capital Projects Fund: \$8,500
 - c. Fund 51 – Cafeteria Fund: \$35,937.96
 - d. Fund 66 – UPMC Health Fund: \$
 - e. Fund 67 – UPMC Dental: \$
 - f. Fund 68 – UPMC Vision: \$
- Payroll: May \$737,055.29

The Monthly Insurance Report for May was provided as an Information Item.

The committee is recommending approval to adopt the 2015-2016 Blackhawk School District General Fund, proposed budgets as previously approved by the Board for review and modified as needed. General Fund (Fund 10) expected expenditures total \$34,514,917 and expected revenues total \$34,624,844.

The Committee is recommending approval to accept A-G detailing the District's tax levies, tax collectors, tax collection procedures, and compensation rates for tax collectors:

- A. REAL ESTATE LEVY: Resolved that the Board of School Directors does hereby levy and impose a tax upon all taxable real estate property for the 2015-2016 fiscal year at a rate of 59.12 mills based upon the assessed valuation of the properties in the District's municipalities located in Beaver County; and, at a rate of 18.50 mills based upon the assessed valuation of the properties in Enon Valley Borough in Lawrence County. This equates to \$5.912 per \$100 of assessed value for properties in Beaver County and \$1.850 per \$100 of assessed value for properties in Lawrence County.
- B. SCHOOL CODE PER CAPITA TAX: Resolved that pursuant to the authority granted under Section 679 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended, the School Board of Directors does hereby levy and impose a Per Capita Tax of \$5.00 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year on each resident or inhabitant of the School District 18 years of age or older. The determination of those taxable and the assessment, collection and enforcement of the tax shall conform to the provisions of the standing Act 511 Per Capita Tax Resolution adopted by the School Board of Directors heretofore.
- C. ACT 511 TAXES: Resolved that the levy of one percent (1%) on all earned income and net profits levied by under the authority of the Local Tax Enabling Act 511 of 1965, as amended, is hereby renewed for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and for an indefinite term thereafter, and all taxes levied under Act 511 of 1965 including the earned income and net profits tax and the real estate transfer tax be reenacted without substantial change.
- D. PAYMENT PERIOD FOR REAL ESTATE AND PER CAPITA TAXES: Resolved that in compliance with statutes, Real Estate Taxes, Section 679 and Act 511 Per Capita taxes for fiscal year 2015-2016 shall be payable at a 2% discount during the months of July and August, at face the months of

September and October and at a penalty of an additional 10% of the face value after November 1, 2015. The real estate taxes may be paid at face without discount or penalty in three equal installments if the same are paid on or prior to August 31, 2015, October 31, 2015 and December 31, 2015 respectively as provided by law. The payment of the first installment prior to or on August 31, 2015 shall be conclusive evidence of intent to pay the tax by installments. If such installments become delinquent, the full face amount plus an added 10% of the face amount penalty shall become immediately due.

- E. COMMISSION FOR COLLECTION OF SECTION 679 PER CAPITA TAXES: Resolved that for the 2015-2016 fiscal year collectors of the Section 679 Per Capita Tax and Act 511 per Capita Tax will be paid per contracted amount with Berkheimer Associates Inc. (Berkheimer)
- F. DELINQUENT SECTION 679 AND ACT 511 PER CAPITA: Resolved that Berkheimer is hereby appointed the collection agency during fiscal year 2015-2016 for delinquent Per Capita Taxes levied. Charges will be as contracted.
- G. APPOINTMENT OF EIT, LST, AND MECHANICAL DEVICES COLLECTORS: Resolved that during the 2015-2016 fiscal year collectors for Earned Income Tax, Local Services Tax, and Mechanical Devices Tax will be Berkheimer. Rates for collection will be as per existing agreement between the District and Berkheimer. Berkheimer will be responsible for delinquent collection for any EIT, LST and mechanical devices taxes uncollected for the year.
- H. APPOINTMENT OF AMUSEMENT TAX COLLECTOR: Resolved that the District Business Manager be appointed as interim Amusement Tax Collector.

Mr. May left at this point.

The committee is recommending approval to accept Resolution 06292015 regarding Homestead/Farmstead exclusions real estate tax assessment reductions for the school year beginning July 1, 2015.

Mrs. Kaszer motioned to approve the renewed insurance (Commercial, Automobile, Umbrella, Workers Compensation, School Leaders, Cyber Liability) as discussed. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Helsing.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

The committee is recommending approval for the following Tax Collectors and Deputy Tax Collectors:

- a. Chippewa: Linda Rawding, tax collector, Tom Householder, deputy
- b. Patterson Twp; Joann Ferrazzano, tax collector, Kathy Brewer, deputy
- c. Patterson Heights; Susan Phillipp, tax collector, Robin Huston, deputy
- d. South Beaver; Robin Huston, tax collector, Susan Phillipp deputy
- e. Darlington Twp; Tom Householder, tax collector, Kristi Funkhouser, deputy
- f. West Mayfield; Kathy Brewer, tax collector, Joann Ferrazzano, deputy
- g. Enon Valley; Vonnie Dombrosky, tax collector, no deputy

The committee is recommending to contract with Kelly Services and possibly one other for district substitutes.

Mr. May returned at this point.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The committee is recommending approval for David Rice to intern with Andrew Yuhaniak, high school guidance counselor from August 2015 until December 2015.

The committee is recommending to employ the following summer and sub custodial staff at a rate of \$9.00 per hour pending clearances:

- a. Tabitha Markusic, summer custodial
- b. Matt Marasco, custodial

The committee is recommending approval to accept the Notice of Retirement from the following staff member:

- a. Karen Fritzley, effective June 30, 2015
- b. Pam Kromka, effective July 31, 2015
- c. Teresa Morelli, effective August 5, 2015
- d. Patricia Primerano, effective July 30, 2015
- e. Nancy Shebish, effective July 31, 2015
- f. Beth Smith, effective July 31, 2015
- g. John Cox, effective July 31, 2015
- h. Tony Sobieski, effective July 31, 2015

The committee is recommending approval to accept the resignation of Danielle Bailey, Blackhawk Intermediate School Principal, effective June 30, 2015.

The committee is recommending approval to accept the resignation of Kim Steffanina, Computer Teacher at Blackhawk Intermediate School effective August 14, 2015.

The committee is recommending approval for the following summer school teachers:

- a. Donald Bunney
- b. Lori Uslenghi
- c. Erica Shidlt
- d. Corinne Pinchotti
- e. Naomi Neff
- f. Kaitlyn Thayer
- g. Jessica Fosnaught

The committee is recommending approval to accept the resignation of Kevin Whipple, High School Head Custodian, effective July 18, 2015.

The motion to accept the resignation of Carol Sprinker, Northwestern Primary School Principal, effective June 30, 2015 was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Ms. Aquino.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to approve Jodi Borroni to assume the role of Acting Principal for Northwestern and Patterson Primary Schools at a rate of \$75 per work day in addition to per diem. This was seconded by Mrs. Kaszer. Mr. Yonkee inquired about the number of days; 50-60 days.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Ms. Aquino had 2 questions: Item 4.3 is this early retirement for secretaries – yes. Did the board approve moving forwarding with this early retirement program – yes. Item 4.6, is Corrinne Pinchotti is a current substitute teacher – Yes, all summer school teachers are district teachers or substitutes.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee is recommending approval for high school student parking procedures to include monetary fines as well as behavioral consequences for parking permit violations. Mr. May expressed interest in seeing the student driving/parking policy prior to voting. Mr. Young will review and if policy needs revised will have the 1st reading ready for next week.

The committee is recommending approval for the high school Program of Studies.

The committee is recommending to allow Beaver County Cancer & Heart Association to conduct a Blood Lipid and Cholesterol Screening program to seventh graders at Highland Middle School with parental consent at a cost of \$5 for students and \$15 for adults. The screening will be held on March 2, 2016.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS/REAL ESTATE

No Report

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

The committee is recommending approval to accept the resignation of David Greiner, Middle School Boys' Head Soccer Coach.

Congratulations to Abby Shope and Aleena Milinski for being selected First Team All WPIAL Division 2, by WPIAL Coaches in Lacrosse.

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON

Dr. Kerber provided an update on current and future administrative activities, including:

- Administrative staff participated in a 2-day retreat last week focusing on professional development & safety/security.
- Technology is being updated to include a new district website, student accounts and class scheduling.
- The district will benefit from additional funds made available for Carnegie Science Center's STEAM Pathway.
- Blackhawk Cougars and Chippewa Indians are being considered for the show Friday Night Tikes.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No Report

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

No Report

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No Report

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Young advised that he is currently working on 2 policies; a) suicide prevention and b) naming rights.

BOARD/STAFF ENRICHMENT

Mr. Young motioned to approve the following conferences:

- a. Susan Hullihen, Integrating Patients Back into the School System, Children's Hospital, August 14, 2015. (\$30.00)
- b. Korin H. McMillen, LuAnne Maginness, Lisa Brown, Beth Watkins, Kristi Leiper, Governor's Early Learning Conference, Monroeville, June 21-25, 2015 (Expenses paid by the Governor's Institute)

This motion was seconded by Mr. May.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Perfect Attendance was recognized at the Beaver County Career & Technology Center on May 7, 2015. Congratulations to the following Blackhawk students who earned Perfect Attendance in 2014-2015.

- a. LeaOnna Gentsy, Business Information Systems
- b. Tanner Fritz, Collision Repair Technology
- c. Alexis Adrian, Cosmetology
- d. Kyle Lyndes, Greenhouse/Landscaping
- e. Shayna Wimer, Logistics & Materials Management
- f. Dalton Bradford, Welding
- g. Brandt Foster, Welding

The Beaver County Career & Technology Center hosted their Student Awards Banquet on May 14, 2015. Congratulations to the following Blackhawk students whose accomplishments were recognized with their awards.

- a. Kyle Lyndes, Star Greenhand Award at the Regional FFA Competition
- b. Elizabeth Ayres, First Place Transportation Written Event at the State DECA Competition
- c. Angelique Villarreal, A \$250 Award from the Beaver Falls Wolves Club for Carpentry

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

No Report

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No Report

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Visitors

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township. Mr. Clendennen commented on the budget by referencing an analogy previously used and referred to the budget, in his mind, as a rolling rock budget. There was conversation that was not allowed tonight due to personnel issues, but could be addressed as policy by addressing the state audit report that was presented September 2013 which reviewed all professional employees and certifications. At that time the district had a Special Education Coordinator. A job

description is on file. Mr. Clendennen noted that he was on the board at the time the position was filled and it is his understanding of the situation that the administrative team met and discussed how teacher evaluations would be completed; by the building principal. This allowed for a coordinator position. Unless the job description is changed. Mr. Clendennen asked the solicitor to review and advise the definition of a work session; referencing deliberations mentioned by Mr. Frombach at the study meeting. Every document that the board produces is a public document according to the Sunshine Act. Mr. Clendennen noted that March 19, 2015 that the board took action to power and enact the agreement for the termination of JW and he would be paid based on the contract. Mr. Clendennen doesn't think that happened.

Administration

There were two additional items that needed to be addressed and voted on.

Missy Kaszer motioned authorizing the incurring of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed eleven million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$11,250,000); covenanting to pay, and pledging all available taxing power of the local government unit for the payment of, the bonds; establishing a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository; fixing the form, maximum interest rates, maturity dates and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the bonds; authorizing a filing of required documents with the department of community and economic development; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain other covenants and provisions in respect of the bonds. Mr. Yonkee seconded this motion.

Mr. May mentioned that the percentage discussed (2%) will not result in the figures needed. Would like to amend Section 11.01 to 2.25%, which will get the district closer. The board was advise that if the interest rates don't drop enough, this may not be obtained. Additional discussion was held regarding the percentage to set. If set at 2% the savings would be approximately \$184,000 but at 2.25% would result in and additional \$30,000. Mr. Young stated that the district is limited itself for the rest of the year for borrowing additional funds; therefore why not consider the higher percentage (2.25%). Discussion was held regarding the refinancing in relationship to any borrowing for a renovation project.

Public comments were provided prior to voting:

Mr. Clendennen, reminded the board that the 2007 bond was refinanced in 2012 which benefited the district by \$1,123,000. This was done in the proper terms and time limits. The amount of \$184,000 for the amount of time and trouble it takes is something the board needs to consider. The number in the budget is actually \$300,000 to balance.

Mrs. Nancy Frederick's inquired about the fees. They are outlined: Cost of issuance is \$85,000; underwriter's discount is \$78,000. The only variability is with the bond rating – correct.

Roll Call vote to amend the document to 2.25%, which was made by Mr. May and seconded by Mr. Young.

In Favor of Amending	Not In Favor of Amending
Ms. Aquino	Mr. Pander
Mr. Fleischman	
Mrs. Helsing	
Mrs. Kaszer	
Mr. May	
Mr. Yonkee	

Mr. Young	
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7 in favor; 1 opposed. Motion to amend passed.

Prior to a roll call vote on the original motion, as amend, public comments were heard. Mr. Greg Woods asked about the impact on the bond rating. The bond rating is determined by an agency such as Moody’s. Should not have an impact as the district is just lowering the interest on existing debt and not taking on new debt.

Roll Call vote to approve as amended was taken:

In Favor of Accepting as Amended	Not In Favor of Accepting as Amended
Ms. Aquino	
Mr. Fleischman	
Mrs. Helsing	
Mrs. Kaszer	
Mr. May	
Mr. Pander	
Mr. Yonkee	
Mr. Young	

8 in favor; 0 opposed. Motion Carried.

Mr. Yonkee made a motion to resolved that the Board of School Directors does hereby levy and impose a tax upon all taxable real estate property for the 2015-2016 fiscal year at a rate of 59.12 mills based upon the assessed valuation of the properties in the District’s municipalities located in Beaver County; and, at a rate of 18.50 mills based upon the assessed valuation of the properties in Enon Valley Borough in Lawrence County. This equates to \$5.912 per \$100 of assessed value for properties in Beaver County and \$1.850 per \$100 of assessed value for properties in Lawrence County. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Mr. Fleischman inquired as to the index – 1.44 in Beaver County. Mrs. Kaszer verified that this increase will help out budget provide the education to our students. Yes, this will equate to \$353,000 in increased revenue.

A roll vote was take on this motion:

In Favor of Raising Taxes to Index	Not in Favor of Raising Taxes to Index
Ms. Aquino	Mr. Fleischman
Mrs. Helsing	
Mrs. Kaszer	
Mr. May	
Mr. Pander	
Mr. Yonkee	
Mr. Young	

7 in favor; 1 opposed. Motion Carried

Dr. Kerber spoke on the challenging time the district is facing and noting trying very hard to keep all employed. 45% of the districts in the state have furlough teachers; she is trying to avoid such actions and to do what is in the best interest of the students under these conditions.

Solicitor

No Comments

School Directors

Mrs. Kaszer reminded the community of the Special Education Support Group meeting on Monday, June 22, 2015 being organized by Mr. & Mrs. Hinkle. She also noted that the new district website is scheduled to be launched on July 1, 2015.

Mr. Yonkee acknowledge the comments of Mr. Woods and wishes to assure that the board will consider all options and will do the best we can.

Mr. Yonkee also responded to the comments made by Mr. Berchtold; advised that he has had a conversation with Mr. Pander recently. During this conversation Mr. Pander had expressed the knowledge of the district that Mr. Perlik holds. It is his (Mr. Pander's) intention to try to do what is necessary to eliminate any problems that Mr. Perlik and the maintenance department are facing.

Ms. Aquino spoke regarding the parents (community) desire for the board to be more transparent. As a professional, the big picture is needed. Decisions that are made effect all the students; even if not directly.

Mr. May thanked Mr. Pander and Dr. Kerber for allowing him the opportunity to present his son with his diploma at graduation. It was appreciated by his son and family.

Mr. Pander expressed that it was an honor to attend and participate in the graduation ceremonies. He noted how impressed he was with the organization of the teachers. The teachers and superintendent have done a great job. Mr. Pander noted that the board is trying to be transparent and added that there was a meeting of his committee regarding the study by HRG. It was felt that it was not done properly; and it was determined it wasn't. As a result it is being redone. There was also a meeting with the committee regarding the stadium and fund raising. Things are moving along; additional updates will be provide when available.

Mr. May noted that the board voted for Eckle's to complete a district wide study but only heard about Northwestern. Mr. Pander advised that the study is still being completed and a presentation will be provide on the entire district.

Next Meetings – June 30, 2015, Blackhawk High School Library, 7:30PM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32PM

Submitted by Missy Kaszer
Blackhawk School Board Secretary