

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' SPECIAL MEETING
Blackhawk High School Library
July 27, 2015**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Perry Pander, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:31PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Fleischman	Mrs. Helsing	Mrs. Kaszer
Mr. Pander	Mr. Young	

Ms. Aquino, Mr. May, Dr. Rose and Mr. Yonkee were absent.

Also in attendance were:

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

Mr. Pander noted that there was an executive session for personnel matters held on July 16, 2015 and tonight prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fleischman extended congratulations to Luke Martin and Jacob Trzcinski who won 2nd Place for their Community Service Video at the National Technology Student Association (TSA) conference in Dallas, Texas on June 28-July 2, 2015.

Mr. Pander asked Mr. Frombach to give a budget update report prior to public comment which will allow the community the opportunity to ask questions during their comments.

Mr. Frombach prepared a year-end report along with Mr. Brandenburg. The highlights included:

- Revenues – short \$812,189.
 - Local Revenues: \$49,062 over budget
 - State Revenues: \$407,982 less than budgeted
 - Federal Revenues: \$203,269 less than budgeted
 - Fund Transfers not Permitted: \$250,000
- Expenditures – over \$162,949
- Reconciliation: Auditors balance of June 30, 2015: \$1,647,458. Subtracting out the \$812,188 and \$162,958 the estimated fund balance as of 7/30/2015 of \$672,312.

This is the 4th consecutive year the district has overspent the budget. The Board has been advised to get control of the district spending. A conservative budget for 2015-16 has been prepared and will allow for approximately \$109,000 in surplus.

Mr. Frombach submitted our latest audit to Moody's last spring to determine the district's new bond rating. The bond rating will determine the amount and the percentage of any future bond issuance.

Even though the budget is balanced, we need to control expenditures and if possible to make any cuts without hurting students and programs.

Mr. Frombach spoke on the state funding and bond refinancing. A lot of hard decisions will need to be made. Depending on the final state budget and the direction of the bond refinancing, the budget could end up short.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township. Mr. Clendennen spoke on statement that the budget was overspent for the last 4 years. He noted that in 2009-2010 the fund balance was \$900,000. From 2010-2011 to 2012-2013 it grew to \$1.9M.

Mr. Clendennen inquired about the money owed from the cafeteria fund to the general fund and in the audit statement where there was a \$485,000 increase for the industrial appraisal taking advantage of the value of our equipment. But what has never been talked about is the \$980,000 that is owed to the general fund through the state for PlanCon G. It is Mr. Clendennen's understanding that money will be coming forward regardless of the state budget. He also understands that Blackhawk is in the next 40 school districts to receive reimbursement. He inquired why a balance due for PlanCon reimbursement isn't being shown. Mr. Clendennen asked why, after the budget is passed, we are looking at cutting classes such as PreK.

Mr. Lyndes, Chippewa Township. Mr. Lyndes questioned the statements and reports presented by Mr. Frombach. He stated that the board overspent their budget with the teacher's contract. Mr. Fleischman noted it was not this board. Mr. Lyndes noted it was his mistake. Mr. Frombach explained that the numbers were prepared along with the new business manager.

Mr. John Nescia, South Beaver. Mr. Nescia spoke on his son's excitement to start PreK at BIS and that the only communication regarding the potential elimination he has received is through a Facebook page. He expressed concern about all the other children and the foundation for the education. In addition, how are parents going to have time to find another program. Dr. Kerber addressed noting that with the state budget not being approved, Blackhawk will not be receiving state revenue in August. She offered to provide a listing of area preschools and their availability, if Mr. Nescia will see her after the meeting. Dr. Kerber explained that there have been 4 preschool programs at BIS: 1 that is offered by the IU which is being taken back this year. 1 is Headstart and 1 is PreK Counts both of which will remain. It is the fourth class that is costing the district \$111,000 which is being recommended to eliminate. Children with disabilities are eligible for 2 years of PreK. Through the new special education programs the district is implementing, students will be able to transition into kindergarten.

Mr. Noah Sims, Chippewa. Mr. Sims is the Senior Class President for the Class of 2015-16. He addressed agenda items 5.1 and 5.2 and a relation to a rumor of cuts to the foreign language program. It was noted that Blackhawk High School is the only school in the county to offer 4 languages. Mr. Sims discussed the educational benefits and those of traveling. Mr. Sims requested that the foreign languages not be cut.

Mr. Greg Woods, Chippewa Township. Mr. Woods spoke about the July meeting being canceled during the June meeting and inquired as to what occurred that made this meeting necessary. Dr. Kerber stated that it is very serious that we do not have revenue from the state coming in and that the district is

watching closing to ensure that payroll can be met. She addressed options that have been reviewed over the last months. Mr. Woods questioned why the budget numbers from last year was not discussed during the budget process. Mr. Frombach noted that those were discussed in January through March but when talking about the 2015-2016 budget this debt was not carried over. Mr. Pander discussed that interviews have taken place and the hiring process can be finalized. Mr. Fleischman stated that we need to find solutions; the board feels the same as the community does but stressed that we have to find solutions.

Mr. Woods asked if there will be computer classes for K-5. Dr. Kerber explained that they will be incorporated into the STEM classes. Science will be contained classes as well.

Mrs. Sharon West, Chippewa Township. Mrs. West expressed her concern that the PreK class will be eliminated. Spoke on her son's experience last year and stressed the need to keep the program in place. Addressed the financial burden of finding another program. Ms. West addressed that she emailed the entire board and the superintendent and received 3 responses from board members.

Mrs. Melissa Green, South Beaver Township. Mrs. Green spoke on the PreK program and the experience that benefited her daughter last year; as a result she has referred friends to the program. She asked the board to maintain the program.

Mr. Young noted that the comments are helpful and asked that the board extend the time. There were no objections from the board.

Mr. Sean Steinle, Chippewa Township inquired as to what is the criteria for cutting programs. Dr. Kerber addressed. First reviewing the non-student areas, and noted some positions that are not being filled. The board has been trying and has made every effort not to cut programs. One of the reasons that makes PreK vulnerable is that public education is not required at that age level.

Mrs. Jamie Hinkle, Patterson Township. She noted that she too wrote to the board and received 2 replies that she appreciated. Mrs. Hinkle expressed concern regarding the instruction support elimination and her concern of students falling through the cracks or lost to other schools. Dr. Kerber addressed that the instruction support needs to begin at the primary level and asked Mrs. Borroni to address how it is being held at the primary level. Mrs. Borroni explained a team approach is used with the principal leading; meetings are held on a weekly basis. Dr. Kerber really doesn't see it as a cut but rather a focus at the primary level.

Mr. Pander introduced a presentation by EdgeClick and noted that this will be a voting item this evening. Highlights of this program include:

- No cost to the district; shared revenue opportunity
- 6 school districts in Beaver County; 20 (soon to be 30) in the state currently participate
- Located in Ellwood City; local company
- Districts control the types of ads to appear on their website. All ads are approved by District prior to placement
- Other districts in the county receive checks about \$7-9,000 annually.
- 50/50 split in revenue sharing
- The more traffic on the website the more money that can be made; not counted by 'clicks'
- Network does not use 'cookies' (for tracking personal information)
- Contract is written in a simple manner; commitment to try for about 15-17 month period then written to become on-going
- Only 2 ads per page; school can decide on placement

- Commission statement – if the district refers an advertiser they will receive 5% on the total ad cost

Mr. Bareford inquired if all clients have a 50/50 split – Yes. It was also noted that no school has canceled.

Mrs. Kaszer made a motion to accept the plan outlined by EdgeClick Advertising, for advertising on the district website, as a revenue share program, at no cost to the district effective immediately. Mr. Young seconded the motion.

The public was provide an opportunity to comment.

A community member from Patterson Heights expressed that he feels that the parents and students need to decide, not the 5 out of 9 board members.

Mrs. Nancy Frederick, Chippewa Township, stated it was a great idea, however, expressed concern that it could conflict with the sponsorship for the sports stadium.

Mr. Chaz Jannuzi, Chippewa Township, Mr. Jannuzi stated that he is involved in the stadium projection and did not think there would be a conflict.

Mr. Fleischman made a motion to table until there is additional board discussion. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Helsing. Mr. Young inquired as to the duration of time to table – just until there is more discussion among the board.

Verbal Vote: 3 Yes; 2 No; (Mr. Young & Mrs. Kaszer) Motion Carried

FINANCE COMMITTEE

No Report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to approve Lisa Brown to utilize sick days and FMLA beginning on or about August 19, 2015 and will return to work on or about December 1, 2015. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Kaszer.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to approve Michelle Daniels to utilize sick days and FMLA beginning on or about August 19, 2015 and will return to work on or about December 1, 2015. Mr. Young seconded this motion.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Helsing to approve Amy Taylor to utilize sick days and FMLA beginning on or about October 2, 2015 and will return to work on or about December 22, 2015. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing motioned to approve Amy Winner to utilize sick day and FMLA beginning August 19, 2015 and will return to work on November 2, 2015. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fleischman.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to approve Ashley DeCoy to utilize sick days beginning on or about September 14, 2015 and will return to work on or about October 26, 2015. Mr. Young seconded this motion.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Helsing to employ Marianne LeDonne as Patterson and Northwestern Primary School Principal at a salary of \$87,000 plus benefits as set forth in the Act 93 agreement. Mrs. Kaszer seconded the motion.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mr. Fleischman to employee Shawn Weyand as Highland Middle School Secretary at a salary of \$26,000 plus benefits as set forth in the collective bargaining agreement, effective July 14, 2015.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to employ Tracy Zoppelt as Patterson Primary School Secretary at a salary of \$26,000 plus benefits as set forth in the collective bargaining agreement, effective July 28, 2015. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mr. Fleischman to employ Nancy Weatherly as Accountant at a salary of \$41,080, plus benefits as set forth in the collective bargaining agreement, effective August 3, 2015.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing motioned to employ Barbara DeRosa as Payroll Clerk at a salary of \$41,080 plus benefits as set forth in the collective bargaining agreement, effective August 6, 2015 pending clearances. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

The motion was made to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with the Blackhawk Educational Support Professionals Association by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mr. Fleischman.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing motioned to employ Joe Lamenza as Blackhawk High School English Teacher at a salary of \$63,275 plus benefits, Step 11 Masters beginning with the 2015-16 academic year. Mr. Fleischman seconded this motion.

Public discuss was offered; no comments received.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made the motion to employ Melissa Tweed as Blackhawk High School Math Teacher at a salary of \$58,000 plus benefits, Step 14 Bachelors beginning with the 2015-16 academic year. Mr. Young seconded this motion.

Public discussion was offered: Autumn Giocondi asked why some were starting at a step level different from Step 19. Dr. Kerber noted that this is the step that was negotiated with the board. Mr. Bareford clarified that Step 19 is the beginning of the scale. He also explained that the per the school code, credit can be given for education and experience. Mrs. Ensworth inquired as to why some candidates are

listed as Bachelors/Master and others do not, as well as, to why some say Step 19 on the agenda but are being given credit. Dr. Kerber explained that some of these positions had not been finalized until today.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made the motion to transfer Kristie Bresz to High School Spanish Teacher at a salary commensurate with the New Year and step she is currently compensated for. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fleischman.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

The motion to employ Wendy Robinson as Highland Middle School Nurse at a salary of \$49,495 plus benefits, Step 19 Bachelors beginning with the 2015-16 academic year was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mr. Young.

Public discuss was offered; no comments received.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing motioned to employ Scott Stiteler as Physical Education Teacher for Northwestern and Patterson Primary Schools at a salary of \$50,275 plus benefits, Step 19, Masters, beginning with the 2015-16 school year pending clearances. Mr. Young seconded this motion.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing motioned to employ John DeCaria as Physical Education Teacher for Blackhawk Intermediate School at a salary of \$49,495 plus benefits, Step 19, Bachelors, beginning with the 2015-16 school year pending clearances. Mr. Fleischman seconded the motion.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

A motion to employ Brianna Lang as Nurse Paraprofessional for the Northwestern Primary School at a rate of \$15.08 per hour plus benefits, beginning with the 2015-16 school year pending clearances was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mr. Young.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing motion and Mr. Young seconded the recommendation to employ Amy Bonar as Long Term Music Substitute for Northwestern and Patterson Primary Schools at a salary of \$49,495 plus benefits, beginning with the 2015-16 school year.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing motioned and Mr. Fleischman seconded the recommendation to employ Sandra D'Amico as Northwestern Primary School Lunch Monitor at a rate of \$7.25 per hour, approximately 3 hours per day.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Helsing motioned to eliminate the Instructional Support Program at Blackhawk Intermediate School beginning with the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Fleischman seconded the motion.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

A motion was made Mrs. Helsing to eliminate the district sponsored pre-school at Blackhawk Intermediate School beginning with the 2015-16 school year. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fleischman. Mrs. Kaszer asked to confirm that with the elimination of this program there will be no furloughs. Dr. Kerber responded that was correct. Dr. Kerber also offered to talk with Mrs. West following the meeting regarding some possible additional grants for the PreK Counts program.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. West inquired as to what the role of Mrs. Lisa Brown, the PreK teacher. Dr. Kerber advised that Mrs. Brown will move to Northwestern as a Title 1 teacher.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS/REAL ESTATE

No Report.

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Fleischman made a motion to approve the filming of the Blackhawk Cougars and Chippewa Indians for the Friday Night Tykes documentary pending receipt of the agreed upon document from Friday Night Tykes legal department. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Kaszer.

Mr. Bareford explained the need to have permission to come onto the school districts property to film practices and games until November 1, 2015. All legal concerns Mr. Bareford had have been addressed by their legal department. The contract version received this afternoon has all the agreed upon changes and legally covers the school board. Mr. Chaz Jannuzi noted that the organizations and families have their own agreements that have been completed. It was added that other districts in the county have declined to participate.

Verbal Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON

No Report

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No Report

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

No Report

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No Report

POLICY COMMITTEE

No Report.

BOARD/STAFF ENRICHMENT

No Report.

BEAVER COUNTY CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

No meeting this month therefore, No Report.

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

No Report

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No Report

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Visitors

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, addressed that the minutes from June 18th, 29th and 30th should have been presented at the next meeting and there were not on tonight's agenda. Mr. Clendennen spoke on the minutes from the March 19th meeting where he did speak during the public comment session. Would ask that his comments be included.

Mr. Clendennen spoke on the early retirement and the budget. Originally the savings was reported as \$1.2M and incorporated in the 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Clendennen's calculations only show \$400,000 to \$500,000 in savings. There is \$300,000 in debt service savings and of that the board just put a floor on bond refinancing of 2.25%. Which raised the amount from \$183,000 to \$200,000. He also stated that he believes the work being done by Citi Financial will cost about 10% and is a duplication of the work by Jayne Montgomery Scott.

Mr. Clendennen addressed the transfer of \$250,000 from the healthcare fund. Believed that occurred in 2013 and did not appear as an issue with the 2013 year end audit.

Mr. Clendennen noted that the \$111,000 saved from eliminating the PreK program is 3/10th of 1% of the budget. Will not make much of a difference in the budget but could in education.

Mr. Clendennen spoke on the motion that was tabled regarding the website advertising and inquired as to when the additional discussion will occur as this is not a topic for executive session.

Mr. Clendennen addressed that he received a copy of the Jerry Wessel separation agreement last week. His first request was filed on March 23rd, 2014 which was denied on a technicality of the name of the document. Mr. Wessel signed that document on March 26th and the district has distributed the money according to the agreement but the district did not sign the agreement until July 15.

Mr. Clendennen spoke that it is his understanding that Mr. Frombach will be staying beyond August 2, 2015. Dr. Kerber noted that the board would need to vote to approve any additional time. Mr. Clendennen asked if he has been involved in any negotiating – Yes.

Mrs. Borrioni, 17 year teacher at Northwestern. Mrs. Borrioni wanted to thank the board for the opportunity to serve as acting principal this summer. She viewed it as an incredible learning opportunity but what she will take away the most is how hard people work over the summer. From Dr. Kerber to part-time custodians. The maintenance, custodians and secretaries work hard to get the schools ready for the new school year. Mrs. Borrioni welcomed Mrs. LeDonne on behalf of Northwestern and Patterson.

Mr. Fleischman recognized Mrs. Borrioni's work and extended a round of applause.

Mr. Greg Woods, Chippewa Township. Asked for clarification on a few items. First, in the 2014-15 school year, BIS had no instruction support. Dr. Kerber stated that yes, they did. She discussed the history of the instruction support between Primary and BIS. Dr. Kerber noted we will not be without instructional support it is just a matter of the model used. Mr. Woods addressed the STEM program and asked where the information on the STEM curriculum can be found. Dr. Kerber advised the Mrs. Fucci developed and is rolling out, however, she could send it out. Dr. Kerber also noted that a letter will be going out at the end of this week and will be on the website. She will also include information on the curriculum changes.

Mr. Brent Steinle, Chippewa Township asked for the details on the Memorandum of Understanding (item 4.11). Mr. Frombach explained that last year the collective bargaining unit added the accountant and the payroll clerk positions. With 2 employees retiring there was not a salary for the positions. Needed to negotiate with the union to know what rate to hire them.

Administration

No Comments

Solicitor

Mr. Bareford noted before leaving the EdgeClick representatives provided him a draft contract for review. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

School Directors

Next meeting will be August 13, 2015, in the high school library. There will be an executive session following this meeting if necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.

Submitted by Missy Kaszer
Blackhawk School Board Secretary