

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
Highland Middle School LGI Room
November 10, 2015**

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Pander called the meeting to order at 7:02PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Those in attendance were:

Ms. Aquino	Mr. Fleischman	Mrs. Helsing	Mrs. Kaszer
Mr. Pander	Mr. Yonkee	Mr. Young	

Mr. May and Dr. Rose were absent.

Also in attendance were:

Dr. Kerber – Superintendent
Mr. Eric Brandenburg – Business Manager
Mr. Hobie Webster – District Solicitor

Mr. Pander announced that there was an executive session for personnel matters prior to the Special Meeting.

A presentation was made by the BCCI and Sports Boosters to provide an update on the proposed Sports Complex. Over the past 6 months, research has been completed on how other school districts have raised the funds to complete similar projects. A proposal was made to raise \$500,000 toward the project and asked the board to vote to give the 'green light' to start selling the naming rights. In closing, the committee asked for the community and Board to come together, stop negative comments and work together toward progress.

Dr. Kerber made a presentation reviewing the buildings within the district and the proposed stadium along with cost savings suggestions.

Highlights include:

- Blackhawk is approaching its 50th anniversary as a district – 2020
- Regarding the SPP scores: The PSSAs are not included in the profile score. The Keystone exams have posed a huge challenge for school districts, but Blackhawk is showing success. #1 in Beaver County; #11 or 89th percentile within the 93 surrounding districts.
- District becoming community based providing access and opportunities; partnering with businesses and corporations
- Education: focusing on STEM, Continuing education, becoming Career Ready
- Discussed Learning space; potential needs within the next 10 years
- Reviewed the cost of Northwestern: \$470,000 (2014-15 Actual Costs BSD Activity Report)
- The recommendation received from Eckles is for a whole renovation

- Plenty of rooms at BIS to accommodate the students at Northwestern
- Roofing Challenges have been identified
 - Large wet spot at Patterson Primary - \$100,000
 - Garage Roof at Blackhawk High School - \$350,000
 - Blackhawk High School Roof – 2 small wet areas; from 1.5% wet insulation in 2006 to 11% in 2015. \$2,500,000 for repairs
- Sports Complex – interest in pursuing due to potential revenue stream.
 - Received quote of \$3,000,000
 - Benefits of stadium with turf:
 - Lower cost of maintenance
 - Outdoor venue that can be used for a multitude of events
 - Commitment to future generations
 - Paying for Sports Complex:
 - Naming rights – potential \$1,000,000
 - Set fund raising goals
 - Grants
 - Booster Clubs
- Suggested timelines were outlined to show the timeframes required but it was stressed this are only a guide.
- Total funds needed: Roofs - \$3M, New Sports Complex - \$3M, Northwestern Moving expenses - \$30,000 for a total of \$6.3M.
- Reduction in Expenditures/Increase in Revenues were reviewed:
 - Monies saved by closing Northwestern - \$200,000
 - Redistribution of personnel - \$300,000
 - Reduction in Healthcare Contributions - \$250,000
 - Naming Rights - \$1,000,000
 - Reduction in Supplemental contracts - \$50,000
 - Total- **\$1.8 Million**
 - Increase in Staffing Costs for 2016-17 - \$900,000
 - Loan Payment - \$700,000
 - Total Payments - **\$1.6 Million**
- 2016-17 Planning Primary Education
 - Engage Community
 - Good Schools drive real estate
 - Community partners
 - Learning – flexible & adaptable
 - Safety & Security
 - Athletics
 - Energy – efficiency
 - A LOT OF CONSIDERATION IS NEEDED
- Beacon School – A beacon for the community; servicing the children, families and elderly

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, addressed the following:

- Feasibility study in 2009
- \$2.7M spent between Northwestern and Patterson Primary Schools

- To sell or close the schools would not recoup the investment; taxpayers will continue to pay for 25 years.
- To sell to nursing facilities – would potential buyers be interested with the discussions of mold, etc.
- Completed a Right-to-Know request for the 3rd Day Enrollment History
- Spoke on realignment; can't move Northwestern into BIS due to overcrowding
- Asked where the money is going to come from, stating the district is not in a position to move forward.
- Inquired as to where the Sports Complex will be located – high school. Spoke on the permits required from the DEP.

At this point the allotted 5 minutes had expired.

Mr. Yankee asked for clarification on the remarks regarding mold. Doesn't exist at present time and does not want to jeopardize opportunities for the district.

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, read from the school code regarding votes made by a Lame Duck Board in reference to items 4.3 and 4.4. Mr. Pander thanked Mr. Clendennen for his remarks. Mr. Clendennen noted that the board is liable for their actions.

Mr. Webster advised that is not the actual interpretation of the law. Boards are limited but can still take some actions.

Mrs. Beth Schiemer, West Mayfield, thanked the board for taking action regarding concerns at Northwestern, and having studies completed. Mrs. Schiemer expressed frustration that for 35 years something needed to be done and no board has taken action. She urged the board to do something whether it be renovate, building or an addition, do something.

Mr. Greg Woods, Chippewa Township, inquired if naming rates ongoing each year – no. After first year, how is the district going to pay the \$700,000? With regard to the presentation, Mr. Woods, spoke on considering Darlington as part of the community. He expressed interest in seeing the plan for computers at the lower grades. Mr. Woods implored the board and superintendent to plan ahead.

Mr. Don Inman, Patterson Township, spoke regarding 3 issues:

- First, the \$3M needed for the Sports Complex – concerned for permits needed at an estimated cost of \$500,000 being added to the total.
- Case law concerning a situation where an old board entered into a new agreement between boards.
- Regarding public involvement: As a Patterson Township commissioner the closing of Patterson will affect the home values.

Mrs. Melissa Ziegler, Chippewa Township, spoke on agenda item 4.3 noting that the Superintendents evaluation was not completed timely. Read a segment on egos and leadership. Mrs. Ziegler asked the board to table the action.

Mr. Robert Berchtold, Chippewa Township, spoke on agenda items 4.3 and 4.4, addressing the teacher's contract and the support staff contract being negotiated and asked why Dr. Kerber should receive an increase.

Mrs. JaneAnn Fucci, Chippewa Township and district administrator, while respectful of the views of those individuals who spoke against Dr. Kerber's raise, she expressed surprise that the community would not support such a raise for an administrator. Noting that Dr. Kerber should be treated as the district would treat other professionals in the district. Mrs. Fucci expressed that it is dishearten that salaries of individual administrators are discussed during board meetings. Mrs. Fucci asked the board not to table the vote this evening.

Mr. Mark Papa, Chippewa Township, addressed the temperature in the LGI room. He stated that everyone tries to do what is right for the district. Along the way it is easy to get lost. Mr. Papa spoke how he and his wife had moved but made the decision to keep their children in Blackhawk, as they are pleased with the district. He address the election and hopes that people voted for him because they unaware he was not eligible and not against a policy. Recommending to circle back and continue to evaluate on an on-going basis. If not at a point where the district can afford to move forward, then let's not do it. Mr. Papa discussed the Sports Complex and suggesting working together with the community at the Chippewa Township Park. He expressed that he believes in the new and old board and strongly suggested working together as a community.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Yonkee made a motion for approval of the CSM e-rate consulting services for the 2016-17 school year at an approximate cost of \$4,000 for category 1 funding and 6% of category 2 applications submitted, not to exceed \$10,000. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young. Mr. Yonkee spoke that he had reservations but is accepting Mr. Brandenburg's recommendation.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to approve Cherie Fleischman as Food Service Manager at a salary of \$57,500 plus benefits effective December 1, 2015. This motions was seconded by Mr. Yonkee.

Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstention (Mr. Fleischman) Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to accept the settlement agreement and resignation of Blackhawk employee as submitted. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young.

Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 1 No; (Mr. Yonkee) Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to amend Dr. Melanie Kerber's Employment Contract to raise her annual salary 3% for the 2015-16 school year from \$120,000 per year to \$123,600 per year, retroactive to July 1, 2015 and to raise her annual salary 3% for the 2016-17 school year from \$123,600 per year to \$127,308 per year, if she receives a satisfactory or higher rating for her 2015-16 performance evaluation, as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fleischman.

Ms. Aquino made a motion to table this agenda item which was seconded by Mr. Yonkee. Roll Call vote to table was taken.

Yes to Table	Not to Table
Mr. Yonkee	Mr. Pander
Ms. Aquino	Mr. Young
	Mr. Fleischman
	Mrs. Helsing
	Mrs. Kaszer

Roll-Call Vote: 2 Yes; 5 No; Motion to Table failed.

Mr. Yonkee stated that he submitted his copy of the evaluation this evening. He was waiting to see the audit report. He also noted that there are 108 people waiting for a contract and views the superintendent as the captain of the ship. Until that contract is finalized, Mr. Yonkee expressed he would not vote in favor of this increase.

Ms. Aquino noted that she received her copy of the evaluation in the mail with a note to complete and return to Mr. Pander at her earliest convenience. There was not due date provided. She discussed the policy for the board to meet in executive session to discuss the evaluation. Mr. Pander noted that an executive session was held following a board meeting to complete the evaluation. Ms. Aquino expressed concern that she was not aware of a meeting of the board to review the evaluation noting that she has had her evaluation for months.

Members of the audience were advised that they were out of order for yelling out during the board discussion.

Ms. Aquino asked how the board can be financially responsible. Mrs. Kaszer called the question. The motion 4.3 was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mr. Fleischman. A Roll Call vote was taken.

Yes to Approve	No to not Approve
Mr. Fleischman	Ms. Aquino
Mr. Pander	Mr. Yonkee
Mrs. Helsing	
Mr. Young	
Mrs. Kaszer	

Roll-Call Vote: 5 Yes; 2 No; Motion Carried

Mrs. Helsing motioned to amend Dr. Melanie Kerber's Employment Contract to be amended to provide her with a \$3,000 per year healthcare stipend retroactive for the 2014-15 school year and for the 2016-17 school year in exchange for not taking the District's health insurance during those years, as presented. Dr. Kerber elected to take the District's health insurance during the 2015-16 school year. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fleischman.

Ms. Aquino made a motion to table this agenda item. A second to the motion to table was not received; motion to table failed.

Mrs. Helsing noted that every person who does not take the healthcare provided is reimbursed \$3,000. Ms. Aquino argued that it is in Dr. Kerber's contract that she is not taking the healthcare, and that is the

reason her contract was negotiated at a higher salary. Mrs. Helsing stated that all administrators are entitled.

A Roll Call vote was taken on the original motion.

Yes to Approve	No to not Approve
Mr. Fleischman	Ms. Aquino
Mr. Pander	Mr. Yonkee
Mrs. Helsing	
Mr. Young	
Mrs. Kaszer	

Roll-Call Vote: 5 Yes; 2 No; Motion Carried

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Visitors

Mr. Greg Woods, Chippewa Township, asked the solicitor if a quorum was needed for a meeting of the board to review the superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Webster advised that individual members may chose not to attend but a minimum of 5 members is required. Mr. Woods asked for the date of when the meeting was held. Mr. Pander advised that it will be looked-up. Mrs. Kaszer was asked to look-up the date and she advised that she does not have access to the internet to research.

Mrs. Bob Clendennen, Patterson Township, spoke on the Testla car and the fact that it has a button entitled Ludicrous. He added that is what this meeting was this evening; ludicrous. Mr. Clendennen asked the business manager if he has reviewed the items presented this evening and if the district can afford to borrow \$6 million dollars for the projects and if the business manager had input. Furthermore, Mr. Clendennen stated he just wanted a Yes or No answer. Mr. Brandenburg, reminded everyone that there is still not a state budget. He isn't saying that the district can or cannot afford but rather that a lot is involved to be considered including tax increases, preliminary budgets, etc.

Mr. Clendennen asked if there is money in the 2015-16 budget to begin the project. Mr. Brandenburg responded if the district receives what the governor has proposed, the district will see \$229,000, but still needs to evaluate. Mr. Clendennen stated that the board, in 2013-14, overspent the budget by \$686,000 and 2014-15 by \$700,000. Mr. Clendennen indicated that there are board members who do not understand a budget and singled out a board member by name. Mr. Clendennen was advised that he was out of order and dismissed. After continued comments, Mr. Pander adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Missy Kaszer
Blackhawk School District Board Secretary