

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' VOTING MEETING  
Blackhawk Middle School Auditorium  
April 14, 2011**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:40PM. Roll call was answered by all nine members. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Calabria	Mr. Clendennen	Mr. Fitzgerald
Mr. Fleischman	Mr. Heckathorn	Mr. Inman
Mr. May	Mr. Oswald	Mrs. Pander

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent    Mr. Salopec- Solicitor    Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary

Pastor Judy Angleberger from the Stephin Hill Presbyterian Church offered the invocation.

Mr. Oswald announced that the May 12, 2011 Board Meeting will be held in the High School library at 7:30PM.

Mr. Oswald announced that there will be a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held prior to the May 12, 2011 working meeting at 6:30PM in the Blackhawk High School library.

Mr. Oswald announced that at the previous meeting, April 7, 2011, Mr. Paul Heckathorn, Region 3, was appointed as a Board member to complete the term of Mrs. Perri, whose resignation was accepted at the same meeting.

Mr. Oswald also announced that Mr. Don Inman was elected Board vice president at the April 7, 2011 meeting replacing Mrs. Perri.

**PUBLIC RELATIONSANDCOMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Fleischman introduced the Primary School Principal, Mrs. JaneAnn Fucci, who presented letters from students to the Board members; highlighted student art displayed in the room; and, introduced Mr. Chad Toporski, who then directed first grade students in a short choral concert for the Board and audience. Mr. Fleischman thanked Mrs. Fucci and commended the students for their efforts and the parents and relatives of the students for their support.

Mr. Fleischman introduced the Middle School principal, Mrs. Nancy Bowman. She and a member of the Middle School staff recognized their Students of the Month for March. Mr. Fleischman congratulated the students and thanked their parents, grandparents and siblings for their support of the students.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to the members of the Technology Students Association who placed at the Region 1& 6 TSA Conference on held at California University on March 4, 2011.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to Katie Vecere, 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Intermediate School, who received Honorable Mention for her submission to the Beaver County Sons of the American Revolution Americanism Poster Contest. Her poster "The Battle of Cowpens" will be displayed at the Merrick Art Gallery in New Brighton from April 3-20, 2011.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters.

Mr. Rick Sabona asked if the District can afford the Middle School project given the cuts in State funding. Dr. Miller replied that the State cut funding by \$1.4M and that the District's staff is working to reduce spending without reducing the quality of education. She said the budget is being developed to be balanced when it is presented on May 12<sup>th</sup> as a draft for the Board's consideration. Mr. Sabona asked if the budget would include a millage increase and he was told that there will be a request for a 1 mill increase as allowed by the index defined by Act 1. He then asked if the Middle School project was stopped now how much the District would lose and he was told the loss would be over \$1M.

Mr. Bruce Hamily stated that people were surprised by the 1.5 mill increase enacted last year and that the Board needed to remember that people on Social Security received no increase this year, as did a lot of working people. Dr. Miller replied that wage freezes are also being considered by the District. Mr. Hamily said the Board needs to look at putting projects on hold and sacrificing as necessary.

There were no other public comments.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded motion to accept the Financial Report for March as submitted.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve bills from the various Funds as submitted.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

The Board was directed to the exhibits within their packets for the March Monthly Insurance Report.

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to contribute \$500 to the Patterson Heights Borough Recreation Program.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to accept the 2011- 2012 Beaver County Career and Technology Center's Operating Budget of \$3,956,044.77, a 1.6% increase from the prior year's budget.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to contribute \$1,000 to the Blackhawk Area Youth Baseball Association for field maintenance supplies as per Administrative Guideline #9.13.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve Lauren Sieger (Elementary Special Education) and Laryssa Nilsen (Elementary) as substitutes for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to approve summer employment as custodial/ grounds workers for Marcus Johnson, Robert Bevinton, Matthew Dorenkott, Colin Loughner, Andrew Regis, Jaret Schriener, and Mark Wylie. Mr. Fleischman asked why there is a graduated pay scale going out beyond 150 days for summer help. He was told that the days are cumulative for pay for summer help that work several summers in a row.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to accept retirement requests from Betty Krestal (High School Family and Consumer Science teacher), Sue Ann Lindembom (High School Gifted teacher), Ardy Nocera (Fifth Grade teacher), Dora Clavell-Powers (paraprofessional), Pam Rimbey (Patterson Primary Kindergarten teacher), Cathie Wagoner (Patterson Primary Kindergarten teacher), and Maureen Welesko (High School Librarian).

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to approve a Family Medical Leave Act absence for Janet Girting.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. May moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve a change to the date of graduation for 2012 from Thursday June 7, 2012 to Friday June 8, 2012.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

#### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to submit Plan Con F for the Middle School project to PDE. Mr. Fleischman requested a roll call vote on the question. Mr. Inman stated that while he was prepared to approve filing Plan Con F, he might have to vote no to approving the bids if he was not convinced the District can afford the bond payments both next year and in the following years. He said the New Jersey Model is multiple years of cuts and freezes and that would make financing the bond issue a problem. Mr. Fleischman said he echoed Mr. Inman's concerns and was also concerned that the State might renege on future rental reimbursements for bonds. Mr. Clendennen stated that once a project is approved through Plan Con, reimbursement is a legal commitment by the State and they cannot change that. Mr. Fleischman was not convinced that the State would not change the laws so the agreement could be voided.

**Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes; 1 No (Mr. Fleischman)- Motion Carried**

Mr. Clendennen informed the Board and public that the bidding and advertising timelines for the Middle School Project have been developed, with contracts scheduled to be awarded on July 7, 2011.

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to authorize a "time and materials" change order not to exceed \$5,000 to Weider Services to repair/ replace four valves found to be improperly installed when the Intermediate School chiller was replaced.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Calabria congratulated Coach Andy Hedrick, his staff and the boys' basketball team for winning the AAA basketball championship; Coach Steve Lodovio, his staff and the girls' basketball team for winning the AAA basketball championship; Coaches Andrea Collins and Jamie Planitzer and the girls' swim team for winning the section championship; the girls' 200 Medley relay team who placed third, the girls' 200 free style and 400 meter relay teams who placed second, and Marissa Camp who placed second in the 200 free style and third in the 100 butterfly at the WPIAL swimming championships; and, Brianna Camp, Marissa Camp, Casey Cerbus, Melody Clerici, Alexis Lopez, Alaina Marshall, Sara Peace, and Lindsay Thomas who qualified for PIAA State Swimming Championships. Mr. Calabria also commended Brett Alberti and Angelica Peck for being selected by the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame for the Student Athlete Award; Christian Cuspard and Alexa Hayward for being recognized as student athletes at the MAC banquet; Alexa Hayward for being selected to the Pittsburgh Tribune Review Terrific 10; Alexa Hayward (section 2, AAA first team all-section), Alexis Graham (section 2, AAA first team all-section), Rachel Curtiss (Section 2, AAA honorable mention), Cory Ostach (Section 2, AAA first team all-section), Chandler Kincade (Section 2, AAA first team all-section), and Tyler Damazo (Section 2, AAA second team) for being selected by the Beaver County Times as Basketball All-Stars; Rachel Curtis, Jesseca Muslin, Alexa Hayward, and Tyler Damazo for being selected to play in the Quigley Classic; the Girls' Lacrosse team, who one their first WPIAL match on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Quaker Valley; and three scholarship winners- Dustin Pringle (to Western Michigan University for football), Alexa Hayward (to St. Francis University for basketball), and Angelica Peck (to Syracuse University for cross country/ track).

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to appoint Jamie Planitzer as Middle School swimming head coach at a salary of \$2,048.30

**Verbal Vote: 9 yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to appoint Shawn Hammers as volunteer High School track coach pending receipt of clearances.

**Verbal Vote: 9 yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

No report

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No report

#### **FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

No report

#### **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Inman reported that the Act 93 group met with board members and agreed to a one year contract extension with a wage freeze for the 2011- 2012 year as a part of a Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Calabria thanked the administrators for that concession and recommended that the Board vote to accept the MOU. Mr. Inman so moved and Mr. Calabria seconded the motion.

**Verbal Vote: 9 yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

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

Mr. Calabria recommended approval of conference attendances as listed in the agenda and so moved. Mr. Inman seconded.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

#### **INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

No report

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

No report

#### **PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Clendennen pointed Board members to a handout concerning Act 1 which says vouchers may actually be unconstitutional; and, he stated that work continues by many people at many levels to not have the bill pass.

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

No report

## **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

School Directors: Mr. Fitzgerald reiterated that approval of filing the Plan Con F does not constitute final commitment to the Middle School project. He said that vote will come after the bids are received and reviewed. He also said that until that date, project engineering needs to continue so that if bids are awarded the project can go forward. Mr. Fitzgerald told the audience that if they contact their state representatives concerning the budget cuts to education, they may want to emphasize that Pennsylvania has the largest state legislature in the Country and the most State representatives and that a large amount of money could be saved (and the legislature might be more efficient) if the number of legislators is reduced.

Mr. Clendennen reminded the Board that it spent \$1.14M to get to Plan Con F and that much of that money could be wasted if the Middle School Project does not go forward.

Mr. Fleischman stated that he voted no to the filing of Plan Con F to symbolize the need to make the best decision and emphasize that the final decision will not be made until the bids are received and reviewed.

Administrators: Dr. Miller reminded the Board members that they each received a ballot to use to vote for Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) board members.

Dr. Miller commended BEA for its members' efforts contacting State representatives and for getting Representative Christiana to come and speak in the District next week. She also thanked the staff members who attended the Township meeting.

Dr. Miller commended the teachers that are retiring at the end of this school year (although they will also be honored later) and said they have been highly valued employees and still do a great job for the District.

Dr. Miller thanked Mrs. Fucci and Mr. Toporski for the students' performance given the Board at the start of the meeting and for all the efforts involved with the Board's visit to Patterson.

Dr. Miller thanked all the staff members present for their efforts to be part of the solution to the District's funding problems, for being willing to open the contract for next year, and for all the suggestions to save money they have generated.

Visitors: Mr. Rick Sabona asked the Board which District employees had agreed to a pay freeze for next year. Dr. Miller replied that she has agreed to a freeze, as have the principals, business manager and that negotiations with the teachers for a freeze has been agreed to by the Teachers' Association.

Mrs. Jane Hetche, a retired Blackhawk teacher, commented that if she were still teaching and was asked to take a pay freeze, she would do so. She said she feels that it is the right thing to do to prevent furloughs and provide the education the students deserve in the current environment of severe budget cuts.

Mr. Clendennen thanked the teachers who put the flier on Act 1 together and distributed it.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2011 in the High School library at 7:30PM, preceded by the Buildings and Grounds Meeting at 6:30PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel  
Board Secretary