

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION
Blackhawk High School Auditorium
April 7, 2011**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:35PM. Roll call was answered by eight members. Those in attendance were:

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

Absent was: Mrs. Perri

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent Ms. Briggs- Solicitor Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary

The minutes from the March 10 and March 17, 2011 meetings were moved to be approved by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Inman.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald announced that the April 14, 2011 Board Meeting will be held in the Patterson Primary School cafeteria at 7:30 PM and will be preceded by a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting in the same location at 6:30 PM

Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Joyce Perri from the School Board effective immediately.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Fleischman moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to fill the position on the Board vacated by Ms. Perri with Mr. Paul Heckathorn.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Fleischman seconded a motion that Mr. Inman be appointed Board Vice-President replacing Ms. Perri. Mr. Inman accepted the nomination.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Miller introduced Mr. Nate Goodrich and the Blackhawk Strings Program who then gave a performance for the Board and audience. Dr. Miller and Board members thanked Mr. Goodrich and the performers and complimented them on their performance upon its completion.

Dr. Miller announced that Mrs. Fucci and the Patterson Primary staff will have a presentation for the Board at the next meeting. Dr. Miller also reviewed the agenda items for the next meeting- recognition of Middle School students of the month; commendations for students who placed at the Technology Student Association Conference; and commendations to a student receiving honorable mention for an entry to the Sons of the American Revolution Americanism Poster Contest.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there was any public comment or questions on agenda items.

Mr. John Yaria, BEA President, asked if the Board had considered closing Patterson Primary School as a cost savings measure and if so, what the savings would be. Dr. Miller replied that that had been studied in previous years and would be reviewed. She also said that the District is considering every option to reduce costs and that she appreciates all the suggestions received from the staff to date.

Mr. Yaria asked if the Middle School project were stopped what the savings and loss of money spent to date would be. Mr. Wessel replied that the District has been considering the project for a decade and that, if it is needed (as this and the previous Boards have determined), the current economic conditions make it the best time to borrow money seen in the last forty years. A delay will certainly cost the District more money in the future. The Board will have to weigh the pros and cons as a part of the budget process.

Mr. Yaria mentioned that the ERRP (Early Retiree Reinsurance Program) has been promoted by the PSEA as a possible way to gain additional funds for the District. Mr. Wessel said he would explore the program and use it if it can add to the revenues.

Mr. Yaria stated that his questions concerning closing Patterson Primary School and stopping the Middle School project were prompted by questions from the teaching staff. Mr. Clendennen stated that he appreciated the staff's concerns and that staff members should contact their state representatives concerning the state budget cuts for Education being proposed in Harrisburg. He also stated that on April 18th representative Jim Christiana is coming to speak with staff members and they should try to attend to insure he knows the concerns educators have.

Mrs. Jenn Sharek stated that she has been contacting state representatives and that Mr. Christiana said he would be more than happy to speak with the staff about the impact of budget cuts. Mr. Calabria said the Board and administration need all the suggestions and help they can get to determine ways to save money. He also encouraged the audience to contact their representatives so that the District isn't stuck with a budget on June 30th that we can't really live with. Mr. Oswald added that everyone needs to get the word out to the community because many people do not understand the impact the budget reductions will have on education. Mr. Fleischman asked if teachers have been asking other districts' teachers what they are planning to do to help with the budget situation and Mr. Yaria replied that they have been doing so, but the Blackhawk staff must decide what is best for Blackhawk's kids and community.

Dr. Miller and Mr. Wessel reviewed the FINANCE COMMITTEE portion of the agenda proposed for April 14, 2011.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE portion of the agenda proposed for April 14, 2011.

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to grant Tracy Sams FMLA leave effective April 6, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the EDUCATION COMMITTEE portion of the agenda proposed for February 17, 2011.

Mr. May moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion that field trips by the Band to Kennywood Park on August 15, 2011; BHS Art to the Pittsburgh Glass Center on April 15, 2011; and, 8th Grade Academy to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History be approved. Mr. Inman asked if next year's budget would reduce the number of field trips, since one trip on the agenda was in the next fiscal year. Dr. Miller replied that the one trip proposed in the new budget year is self-funded and does not have a budget implication.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. May moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to approve a field trip by the BHS Computer Science Class to a Computer Programming Competition at Robert Morris University on April 15, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve submission of PDE Form 3074s for the Patterson Primary School Food Service Area Upgrades; Intermediate School Concrete and Paving; and High School Concrete and Paving projects.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion discard unneeded/ unwanted items from the Middle School in preparation for the renovation and additions project there. Mr. Fleischman asked how those items would be disposed of and Dr. Miller replied that some will be donated, some sold and some just discarded depending on condition and interest by others.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Dr. Miller reviewed the remainder of the BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS agenda and informed the Board that the Middle School Project timeline for bidding and advertising will be discussed at the April 14th meeting.

Dr. Miller briefly reviewed the agenda items for the ATHLETICS COMMITTEE.

Dr. Miller reviewed the BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT portion of the agenda.

Dr. Miller pointed out under the PSBA LEGISLATION COMMITTEE area that Exhibit C contained an update on proposed legislative for the Board's review.

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any comments from School Directors. Mr. Fleischman said that as a Blackhawk Foundation member he wanted to thank the many teachers present who contributed to the Foundation and assured them that their donations have resulted in many enhancements for students.

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any comments from the administration. There were none.

Mr. Oswald asked if any visitors had comments. Mr. Yaria said that the faculty knows cuts have been made as a part of the preparation of next year's budget and that they would like a list of the cuts made thus far. Dr. Miller replied that all the cuts made were done in collaboration with the principals and that they could show teachers what has been reduced. She added that the administration is continuing to look for reductions and the budget will be in flux until the proposed budget is ready for presentation in May.

Mr. Oswald announced that the next meeting would be held at Patterson Primary School in the Cafeteria at 7:30 PM on April 14, 2011 and would be preceded at 6:30 PM by a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting at 6:30PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary