

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION
Blackhawk High School Library
September 13, 2012**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by seven of nine members, a quorum. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Calabria	Mr. Clendennen	Mr. Fleischman
Mr. Fitzgerald	Mr. Inman	Mr. Oswald
Dr. Rose		

Absent: Mr. Heckathorn Mr. May

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent	Mr. Salopek- Solicitor	Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary
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Mr. Oswald asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dave Knight, construction worker and long time resident who was accidentally killed on Thursday, September 6, 2012 while working on the Middle School project. Mr. Oswald then read a letter from the Chippewa police chief, Chief Clint Berchtold, complimenting Dr. Miller and the District's administrators for their professional handling of the situation that resulted from Mr. Knight's accident.

Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 16 and 23, 2012 meetings. Dr. Rose asked if the changes he requested to the August 9 meeting minutes regarding his abstention from the vote on an employment issue were made and he was told they were.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald announced that there was a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting prior to this meeting that was open to the public. In the future, public Buildings and Grounds meetings will be held on October 11 and November 8, 2012 in the High School Library at 6:30 P. M.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Miller informed the Board that the Coaches vs. Cancer fundraising efforts generated \$20,008.00 during the 2011- 2012 school year. The fundraising committee members thanked the

administrators, secretaries, teachers and students for their support. Dr. Rose asked how the money was raised and Dr. Miller explained the various events used to generate donations.

Dr. Miller introduced Mr. Anthony Mooney, the Middle School principal, who read a statement thanking the Crisis Team that handled the tragic situation at the Middle School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters. None were presented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Wessel reviewed the items proposed in the finance area for the voting meeting scheduled for September 20, 2012. He also informed the Board that added to the Finance portion of the agenda for that date will be resolutions appointing Berkheimer as the District's tax collector for Earned Income Tax, Local Services Tax, Per Capita Taxes and Mechanical Devices Tax. Mr. Fitzgerald asked for the current status of collections and Mr. Wessel told him that our district was not too far behind and should not have any funds tied up in Central Tax's bankruptcy. Mr. Fleischman asked if Berkheimer will accept payment by credit card for the various taxes and Mr. Wessel said he would check.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the Personnel items proposed for the voting meeting scheduled for September 20, 2012. She asked that the agenda item (number 4.5) recommending hiring approval for a paraprofessional be tabled until October to allow bidding for it and other positions that might be vacated by the process. On the agenda item (number 4.12) recommending 100 hours to support the Pre-K program, Mr. Fleischman objected because the position was not in the original Pre-K plan and Dr. Miller stated that it was needed to fulfill the commitment to coordinate with other pre-schools in the area. Mr. Fleischman asked what would be done to prevent this from becoming a full time position and Dr. Miller replied that it was not needed as full time now or in the future. Dr. Rose asked what a LEA was and he was told that it is an acronym for Local Education Authority (i.e. a school district, Intermediate Unit, etc.).

Mr. Wessel gave the Board members a handout explaining AESOP, an automated substitute calling system, which the administration plans to recommend the District use; and, he discussed the cost and advantages of the system. The administration will request the Board's approval to use AESOP at a future meeting after members have had the opportunity to study the handout and ask any questions they may have.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller informed the Board that Mrs. Bowman will present Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) results for the 2011- 2012 year at the September 20, 2012 meeting. Mrs. Bowman will also present student assessment changes for the 2012- 2013 year at the same meeting.

Dr. Miler presented information about the PDE Teacher Effectiveness Pilot in which the District will participate for 2012- 2013.

Dr. Miller presented the District goals set by the administration for 2012- 2013 for the Board's information.

Dr. Miller reviewed the items on the agenda for the September 20, 2012 meeting in the Education Committee area. Under the proposed item (number 5.8) recommending utilization of Heritage Valley for Occupational Therapy (OT), Dr. Rose asked why the District's athletic trainers could not do Occupational Therapy. Dr. Miller explained that the qualifications are very different for the two disciplines. Dr. Rose asked for an executive session after the meeting. Mr. Fleischman asked for the number of students involved and the cost and Dr. Miller explained that the student number is driven by IEPs requiring OT and that the District uses ACCESS funds to offset the cost of OT. She gave him costs from the previous year. Under the proposed item (number 5.9) recommending approval of an intern from Geneva College, Dr. Rose asked if the District used interns in the past and he was told yes. He then asked if the District was paid to take interns by the college the intern is from. He was told no. He stated that the District should charge the colleges and universities because the colleges get tuition from the interns. Dr. Miller pointed out that no other districts charge colleges for interns and our district would not get the free labor an intern provides if the District charged to allow interns to study here. Under the proposed item (number 5.11) recommending guidance surveys be sent out as a part of the American School Counselor's Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP), Mr. Fleischman asked who did the work to send out and receive the surveys. Dr. Miller told him that the school counselors did so.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the items proposed in this area for the September 20, 2012 meeting.

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the Athletics Grounds items proposed for the September 20, 2012 meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

No report.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

No report.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Blackhawk Education Association (BEA) regarding payment to Blackhawk teachers for instructing cyber students. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the Regional Choice Initiative (RCI) had lost all funding since teachers were paid through it last year. Dr. Miller replied that, while RCI paid for some of the software programs, the District paid for teachers last year by contracting services through the Intermediate Unit. This year the District would pay teachers directly if the MOU is approved. RCI has limited funds for the current year and expects none in the future. Mr. Fleischman asked the number of students and Dr. Miller gave him the current numbers. Dr. Rose asked the cost per student and Dr. Miller said that it varies depending on the number and type of courses taken , but it runs \$2,800 to \$3,500; much less that the \$8,500 cost that outside cyber schools costs.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to adopt the changes to the Acceptable Use of the Internet Access Policy (Policy 815).

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve conference attendance as follows:

a. Dana Cox, RAISE Teacher Leader Meeting, Pittsburgh, Oct. 11, 2012 (expenses budgeted).

b. Michelle Miller, Scott Nelson, Nancy Bowman, PDE: Common Core, State Assessment transition Plan and Graduation Requirements, Churchill, October 4, 2012 (budgeted).

c. Andy Yuhaniak, Jack Fullen, Annual NCAA Update, University of Pittsburgh, October 10, 2012.

d. Carol Sprinker, Amy Muslin, Gina Lansberry, Ashley Costello, Kyleigh Squicquero, Heather Stein, Amy Cienkowski, Improved Literacy Instruction, Seven Springs, October 27-31, 2012 (budgeted).

e. Gina Gordon, Western PA Bullying Prevention Regional Network Meeting, Mars, October 29, 2012 (budgeted).

f. Gina Gordon, PA School Counselors Association 57th Annual Conference, Lancaster, November 28, 2012 (budgeted).

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No report.

VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL

No report.

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

No report.

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

School Directors: Mr. Fleischman volunteered himself and Dr. Rose to be negotiators for the contract with the paraprofessionals. Dr. Rose declined Mr. Fleischman's offer to volunteer. Dr. Rose requested the floor as a point of personal privilege and stated that he felt anyone with a possible personal interest in anything should avoid that area, as he was with negotiations with a group that might have members that used his dental services. He said he supports a "nepotism policy" (sic) but that other Board members have not desired to adopt such a policy.

Mr. Clendennen urged all Board members to complete the latest PSBA survey regarding school construction projects and reimbursement, and to contact their legislators concerning State funding for education. Mr. Fleischman stated that a legislator he contacted told him that there was no guarantee that the State would ever pay the construction reimbursement for the Middle School project and Mr. Clendennen replied that that was not the case as explained by other State representatives.

Mr. Fleischman stated that he had been told that when the new copiers were fielded, salespersons were used to train teachers and clerical personnel to operate the equipment and he felt technicians should have been used.

Mr. Fleischman wanted an explanation of the email situation in the District and Dr. Miller told him a server crashed and it took time to get the new server on line. Dr. Rose asked if there was any hope that lost emails would be recovered and Dr. Miller said it was possible for them to be retrieved but is a time consuming process.

Administrators: None.

Visitors: Mrs. Goering asked the cost of AESOP and Mr. Wessel gave her the expected start up and annual costs. She asked what happens if a teacher doesn't get a good evaluation on the Effectiveness Pilot and Dr. Miller replied that the teacher would be placed on an improvement plan just as he/ she would be under the current evaluation system. Mrs. Goering asked about the General Fund balance and Mr. Wessel said it should come in at about \$2M after the auditors make their adjustments. She asked what the number of Pre-K students was and Dr. Miller told her 17, all qualified based on "at risk" criteria. She asked about the cyber numbers and Dr. Miller gave her the current numbers. Mrs. Goering asked how many kindergartners were in half- day Kindergarten because she saw kids leaving right after lunch and she was told none were in half day, but for the first two weeks of school, the Kindergarten kids leave early to help with the

transition into school. Mrs. Goering asked about the cost of Kindergarten last year versus budgeted for this year and Dr. Miller told her \$361,301 versus approximately \$673,000. She asked if any programs were on the chopping block for next year and Dr. Miller told her that no cuts were planned, but that the Administration must attempt to present a balanced budget to the Board and would recommend cuts if necessary. Finally Mrs. Goering stated that she felt the District was letting down those students who were not going to go to college but planned to go into trades.

Ms. Ashley Biega commented that she was offended by the comments made by Dr. Rose toward Dr. Miller during her presentation to the Board and felt that the comments were uncalled for and demeaning toward women. Dr. Rose said his comments were not intended to be derogatory or demeaning.

Mr. Jon Kaszer asked if there was a plan to institute a “nepotism policy” (sic) and Mr. Oswald replied that it was up to the Board to discuss. Mr. Kaszer said he felt it was about time the Board did something in that area.

Mrs. Jodi Weister asked if the District goals could be placed on line and Dr. Miller replied that it would be done. She asked about reusing furniture at the Middle School and Dr. Miller replied that usable furniture would be reused when possible, but some new would also be required. Mrs. Weister then asked about the use of and scheduling of flexible custodians.

Mr. Perry Pander reiterated his concerns regarding the concrete at the Middle School as heard in previous meetings.

Mr. Fleischman asked that the Thursday’s construction progress meetings be open to the public. Mr. Clendennen said that the Thursday construction meetings were between the contractors and architects. The District attendees were there to protect the District’s interests. Mr. Fleischman asked the solicitor if there was any legal reason why the public could not attend and Mr. Salopek said the contractors would not openly discuss issues in front of the public and he felt that it would not be an effective meeting.

Dr. Rose asked Dr. Miller if she accepted his apology for the comments he made during her presentation and she responded yes. He then said the public should be allowed to question the architects during the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting and Mr. Oswald said it was the plan to allow it at the end of that meeting, but the meeting today ran late.

Mr. Pander, Mrs. Weister and Mr. Kaszer all spoke again regarding the public being able to address the architects and participate in the discussion in Buildings and Grounds meeting. Mr. Oswald cut off the discussion and adjourned the meeting with the announcement that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the meeting with no plan to reconvene the public meeting. The next meeting will be held in the High School library on September 20, 2012 beginning at 7:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 P.M., September 13, 2012.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary