

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK AND VOTING MEETING
Blackhawk High School Library
July 21, 2011**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:34PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by eight members. Those in attendance were:

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

Absent was: Mr. Heckathorn

Also attending were:

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

The invocation was given by C. H. Hoffman from the Presbyterian Church of Darlington.

Mr. Oswald announced that an executive session was scheduled immediately following the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters. Ms. Holly Wisner said that she received a letter to parents saying that technology instruction was being cut for primary students and she asked why. Dr. Miller asked her if the letter was from the District and Ms. Wisner said no, she was not sure where it came from. Dr. Miller explained that technology instruction would be as it was in First and Second Grades, but in Kindergarten technology training would be integrated into regular classroom instruction and be taught by the regular teachers rather than being a pull out special taught by a technology teacher.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to accept the Financial Report for June as submitted.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

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

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

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

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to adopt the proposed facility rental fees as presented.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to approve leasing the District's property to Chesapeake Appalachia L.L.C. for oil and gas extraction. Mr. Wessel explained that because of the way the District's property was titled, three leases were needed; one for 132.07 acres titled to Blackhawk School District, one for 16.7 acres titled to Highland Suburban Jointure, and one for 10.03 acres titled to the School District of Chippewa for a total of 158.8 acres. The offer was for \$2,000 per acre as a signing bonus (for a total of \$317,600) and 15% of any profits from wells tapping District property as a royalty. The leases are for five years with renewal rights and were reviewed by attorney George Verlihay. All changes requested were granted the District by Chesapeake. There was some discussion concerning how the money could be used (led by Mr. May) which the Board may consider in the future, and some discussion concerning whether the deal was the best the District could get (led by Mr. Fleischman). J.T. Cummings representing Chesapeake fielded technical questions and affirmed that the offer matched the best offers given to date in Beaver County.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes; 1 (Mr. Fleischman) No- Motion Carried

Mr. Wessel briefed the Board concerning the final funding amounts to be received as a part of the State's budget that was passed the end of June. Compared to the initial budget proposal, the District will receive an additional \$515,662 in Basic Education funding, \$40,302 less for Special Education funding and \$135,478 (less than 37% of last year's funding) as Accountability Block Grant money. The net is \$610,838 more than initially proposed but still \$729,028 under the funding received the prior year. Because Federal funding under ARRA has finished, the District will also receive \$723,080 less in Federal funding than the previous year. Restoring some money that was removed from the budget for tutoring and proposed staff changes will add about \$68,000 to the budget, but Mr. Wessel recommended the remaining money added by the State be saved to mitigate the PSERS and salary increases for next year, pay for bonds issued for the Middle School project and help keep tax increases down if possible.

At the request of Mr. Fleischman, the Board was asked to revisit a partnership in funding the Chippewa Library. Mr. Wessel asked the Board if they now wanted to continue discussions or not. Estimated cost was \$500,000 over ten years (\$50,000 per year). Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that he was a supporter of libraries but this is not the time to support this project. Mr. Fleischman spoke in favor of supporting the partnership and requested that it be placed in the August agenda for a vote. Mr. Clendennen said that the amount of support stated in the March library meeting minutes was \$40,000 from the Township, \$50,000 from the District and \$328,000 from a grant from Jason Altmire. He did not believe this funding was adequate to support a 7,000 square foot stand alone facility. Total estimated project costs and operational costs would have to be developed along a funding plan before we could consider the issue, especially in light of current budget redirections. Dr. Miller told the Board that the Township was looking for a firm

commitment before they expended more effort. The consensus of the Board was that more information should be gathered before this project was placed on a future Board agenda.

The Board was directed to the Performance Audit from the State Department of the Auditor General in their packet. The report covers the period April 2009 through September 2010 and states that the District complied in all significant respects, took corrective action on all the prior report recommendations, and there was one finding that not all bus drivers had copies of their Federal clearances in their files which the District has now resolved.

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to accept the Student Activities Account report as submitted.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to renew psychologist Gary Koch's contract for 30 budgeted days beginning on or about July 21, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to renew District Representative John Stevenson's contract for two years beginning July 21, 2011 through July 21, 2013.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve student teachers Tonya Sainovich from RMU (with Sarah Shuleski at the Middle School) and Robert Aitken from RMU (with Peggy Graham at the Intermediate School).

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. May moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve a field trip for the Primary Summer School to the Living Treasures Animal Farm July 21, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. May moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to accept proposed changes to the kindergarten computer curriculum. Mr. Fleischman asked if this would reduce the amount of instruction students received. Dr. Miller replied that the instruction would be given by the kindergarten teachers, not as a pull out class as was done previously, but that the nearly all of the skills taught would be the same

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to establish an approval process for change orders for the Middle School project as follows:

Change orders for the Highland Middle School project will be approved by the Buildings and Grounds committee or designees for change orders up to \$15,000 per item, per Contract. Recognizing that multiple contracts are in-place, it is conceivable that several contracts may be in need of simultaneous change order approval up to \$15,000. Approved change orders will be ratified by the Board at each Voting meeting. Change orders within the allowable limits will be approved by the following three Board members: Bob Clendennen (Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair), Don Inman, and Jamie Fitzgerald with Jerry Wessel or Jim Perlik as alternates. Change orders exceeding the allowable limit will be presented to the Board and will require Board action.

This allows the Property and Grounds Committee to approve change orders up to \$15,000 per item, per contract when necessary to keep the project moving and report those approvals to the Board for ratification at the next voting meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald clarified that the Board would still see all change orders but the process was being established so minor changes would not delay the project.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Dr. Miller informed the Board that PlanCon D was received back from the State approved and for PlanCon E the review was completed and the letter it requires will be sent in with PlanCon F. A phone call to discuss F was scheduled with PDE and the architects for Friday, July 22nd.

Dr. Miller informed the Board that the bid opening for the Middle School project will be July 28th and a Board meeting to discuss the bids held on the same day at 7:30PM. A meeting to award the bids was tentatively scheduled for August 8th at 7:30PM.

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Calabria directed the Board to the summary of the spring sports season in Board members' packets.

Mr. Calabria directed to the exhibit in the Board packets showing the academic standings of the athletes this past year. Every team exceeded a 3.1 GPA for the second year in a row. Mr. Calabria congratulated the students and their coaches on the academic standings.

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion appointing Anthony Beatrice as a volunteer football coach pending receipt of clearances.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to appoint Josh Rawding as a volunteer Men's Soccer coach.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Jim Potts as Middle School Softball Head Coach.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to appoint Rich Ford as Assistant Athletic Director at a salary of \$5225.25.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to appoint Rachel Finch as the Varsity Girl's Soccer Assistant Head Coach at a salary of \$2,340.91 pending receipt of clearances.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to approve the supplemental contract positions as presented for 2011- 2012. Mr. Calabria asked for clarification that all supplemental salaries were frozen at '10-'11 rates and Dr. Miller confirmed that they were all frozen.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to permit the use of the Middle School soccer fields on Sundays from 12PM to 8PM for the BASA traveling team games and practices due to the prevailing lease agreement between the District and the Township. The District will determine when/ if the fields become unsafe due to construction activities at the Middle School and will stop use at that time. Mr. Calabria asked for verification that District policies in general prohibited use of fields on Sundays and Dr. Miller replied that the policy just requires Board approval for Sundays, but with the long term lease in place between the District and the Township, the District needed to comply with the request for Sunday use if at all possible.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes; 1 No (Mr. Inman)- Motion Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

No report

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mr. Fleischman moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to accept the vending proposal from the Nutrition Group Vending Services. Mr. Inman questioned the including of Pepsi Max on the cold beverage list and Mr. Wessel replied that the Board could direct that it not be allowed for sale in the District. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if booster groups have any restrictions on what they sell at events based on the vending contract as had been the case with Pepsi and Mr. Wessel told him that there are no restrictions.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No report

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Heckathorn was assigned to be the Chairperson of this committee, replacing Mr. May, who had tentatively been assigned in June.

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to approve conference attendance by Susan Hullihen to Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals at Allison Park on July 25, 2011 and to Today's Student: A Program for School Nurses at Children's Hospital on August 5, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No report. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that no meeting was scheduled for July.

VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL

No report. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that no meeting was scheduled for July.

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

No report

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No report

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

School Directors: None.

Administrators: Dr. Miller informed the Board that she has tickets for the football "meet and greet" if any Board members are interested.

Visitors: Mr. Mike Alberico stated that he has issues with the changes to the technology curriculum and that the Board should reconsider the changes it not for this year, for the next. He felt the lease with Chesapeake Energy was good for the District and the area because it created jobs. Finally, Mr. Alberico disagreed with supporting the library project.

Mrs. Jody Weister expressed her opinions about the library support and changes to technology instruction. She also stated that the money received from Chesapeake should be used to pay off debt. Mr. May stated that the Board has not decided how the lease money or any royalty money received in the future should be used.

Mrs. Barb Brown asked about the fund balance in the Health Fund.

Mr. Fleischman commented on Mr. Alberico's statements and a spirited discussion took place until Mr. Oswald adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: August 11, 2011 in the High School library at 7:30PM. Special Board meetings will be held on July 28th and August 8, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary