

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORKING AND VOTING MEETING  
Blackhawk High School Library  
July 28, 2011**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

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

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

Absent was: Mr. Inman Mr. May

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent Mr. Salopek- Solicitor

Absent was:

Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary

The minutes from the July 21, 2011 meetings were moved to be approved by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Clendennen.

**Verbal Vote: 7Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Oswald announced that Dr. Miller will be the Acting Secretary for tonight's meeting.

Mr. Oswald asked if there was any public comment or questions on agenda items. Mrs. Barb Brown inquired as to whether the District was contemplating using Cloud to support email service for the District. Dr. Miller responded that there have been initial conversation but no decision has been made yet. Mr. John Yaria asked if the results of the Highland Middle School Renovation project bid results would be shared at tonight's meeting. Dr. Miller responded that VEBH architects will be leading the conversation under the Buildings and Grounds portion of the agenda.

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to employ Judy Smith as paraprofessional for the Northwestern Library at an hourly rate of \$7.25 beginning August 26, 2011.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to employ Nancy Bowman as Director of Curriculum at a salary of \$105,000 beginning August 8, 2011. This position will be included in the Act 93 Agreement. Mr. Fleischman asked Dr. Miller to explain the rationale for this position. She explained that many curriculum changes are needed due to the new initiatives,

standards, assessments, graduation requirements and programs that will need to be implemented in the coming years. Mr. Fleischman also inquired as to whether this position could be a supplemental position for a principal. Dr. Miller said that she did not support this because of the magnitude of the tasks needing to be accomplished.

**Roll Call Vote: 6 Yes; 1 No (Mr. Fleischman)- Motion Carried**

Mr. May arrived at 8:20 P.M.

Mr. Dan Engen from VEBH provided a summary of the today's Bid Opening for the Highland Renovation Project and informed the Board that the District acknowledged the receipt of construction bids for the Highland Middle School project. Mr. Engen provided handouts and led discussion with the Board in the following: 1) Summary of bid openings and a description of each alternate 2) Summary of apparent low bidder and recommended alternates and 3) Completed PlanCon F: Attachment C. Mr. Fleischman asked for clarification as to the variance in the cost of the alternates. Mr. Engen responded that there is no one reason for the variances and that each figure for alternates is unique to the contractor.

Mr. Dan Engen continued the discussion and stated that with the recommended alternates, which were all deducts, the preliminary cost of the Highland Renovation project is \$9,953 under budget. The Act 34 PlanCon project cost was \$29,022,335 and the Preliminary Project Costs based on today's apparent lowest bidders and recommended alternates totals \$29,012,382. Mrs. Pander asked for clarification as to whether these figures include contingency funds and Mr. Engen responded that there is \$1 Million in contingency funds and that this money is included in the presented figures.

Mrs. Pander questioned to cost of the sewage tap-in fees. Mr. Engen and Mr. Clendennen provided clarification and rationale for the \$55,000 cost and commented that the cost had decreased significantly due to the utilization of energy savings fixtures.

Mr. Heckathorn inquired about the amount that the project will be reimbursed. Mr. Engen stated that he believed the reimbursement amount was over \$4.5 million but would revisit the numbers and recalculate reimbursement.

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Calabria seconded to approve PlanCon Part F Attachment C - 'Post Bid Opening Certification' for the Dept of Education. Mr. Engen clarified that the purpose of Attachment C is so PDE knows that bids have been opened and that there is not a need for an additional Act 34 hearing.

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

Mr. Oswald asked if any of the School Directors had any comments. There were none.

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

Mr. Oswald asked if any visitors had comments. Mr. Rick Sobona asked for the rationale for the Director of Curriculum position. Dr. Miller responded that many curriculum changes are needed due to the new initiatives, standards, assessments, graduation requirements and programs that will need to be implemented in the coming years. He asked about the amount of money that the District will receive from the lease agreement regarding Marcellus Shale. Dr. Miller responded that the District should receive \$317,000 for signing and have agreed to 15% royalties. She was not able to provide Mr. Sobona an estimate of how much the District anticipated in collecting from the royalties. In addition, Mr. Sobona asked how this revenue would be used. Dr. Miller stated that the Board has yet to determine this.

Mr. Oswald announced that there will be an additional meeting on August 8, 2011 at 7:30 in the High School Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Submitted by Dr. Michelle Miller  
Acting Board Secretary