

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION  
Blackhawk's High School Library  
March 13, 2014**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Dr. Rose, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:44 PM. and the Pledge of Allegiance was made. Roll call was answered by eight members. Those in attendance were:

Ms. Aquino	Mr. Fleischman	Mr. Heckathorn	Mrs. Helsing
Mr. Oswald	Mr. Pander	Dr. Rose	Mr. Yonkee

Absent was: Mr. May

Also attending were:

Dr. Thomas- Acting Superintendent  
Mr. Petrush- Solicitor  
Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary

Dr. Rose directed the attendees to the videotaping policy in place for the meeting.

Dr. Rose announced that the minutes from the February 20, 2014 were in the Board members' packets for review and would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Dr. Rose announced that the agenda was being changed to allow Mr. Scott Nelson, High School Principal, to present information concerning Graduation Projects; and, Mr. Jim Cox, Technology Director, to present a proposed upgrade of the phone system prior to taking public comments.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Fleischman offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Jenn Sharek, Mandie Payne and Meredith Oliver for being selected by the Beaver County Educational Trust to receive a grant in the amount of \$1,200 for the project proposals, "Read Like an Olympic Champion", "The Night Before Christmas" and "It's Not a Crime to Read".

Mr. Fleischman offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Cameron Croston, high school senior, who won first place for the category "Feature Photo" and second place for "News Photo" in the statewide competition, 2014 Student Keystone Press Award.

Mr. Fleischman offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Carolyn Rapp and Joyce Medlin, crossing guards, for their dedicated service to the District. Joyce is employed by

Patterson Township and acts as the crossing guard at Patterson Primary. Carolyn directs traffic at the high school every day, and other buildings when needed. We appreciate all of their efforts and hard work as they help keep our students safe.

Mr. Fleischman offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Nate Catanzarite, Kaylyn Kiser, and Jack Whalen, high school students, who qualified for the PA All-State Orchestra. This is the first time any student from Blackhawk School District has qualified through audition for PA All-State Orchestra!

Mr. Fleischman offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Breanne Steiner, high school Vo-Tech student, for placing first in the Medical Terminology portion of the “SkillUSA Champions at Work” competition at Beaver County Career and Technology Center.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to Dianne Sarver and the PRIDE team of BSD employees for winning the “Cool Schools” honor at the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. The district was able to raise \$4,091 for the plunge, which surpassed all of the competition.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to Rachel Omogrosso, Mandie Payne, Ashley Costello, Michelle Daniels, and Laurel Brest for their presentation about Daily 5 to the Beaver County Reading Council.

Mr. Fleischman offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to the cast and crew of the Blackhawk High School Musical, *Titanic*, which was a great success. Students worked very hard to create a fantastic, memorable musical experience. Performances were March 7, 8, and 9. Thanks were extended to administrators, faculty, staff, and families for their support during the rehearsal process and the performances.

Mr. Fleischman informed the Board and public that on March 7, Blackhawk Intermediate School celebrated Read Across America Day with a podcast book reading. Special guest reader Chief Berchtold from the Chippewa Township Police Department read the book *Detective LaRue Letters from the Investigation* by Mark Teague to BIS students via podcast. This book fit in with the Read Across America celebration theme "It's not a crime to read". Attendance was over 400 for this creative event.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Scott Nelson presented information on High School Graduation Projects with Mr. Sami Hanna and Mrs. Anita Mensch. They fielded questions from Board members after their presentation.

Mr. Jim Cox briefed the Board concerning a proposed upgrade to the District’s phone system and answered questions posed by Board members. Mr. Cox recommended that the Board approve a \$26,293 upgrade utilizing one PRI line card.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Rose announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting for pending litigation and that an executive session would also be held after the meeting for litigation.

Dr. Rose read a statement on the Board's position concerning the resolution rescinding the Teachers' collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Jarrod McCowin (president of the Blackhawk Teachers' Association) discussed Board Resolution 2014-1.

Ms. Autumn Giocondi asked about the Graduation Project and Ms. Anita Mensch answered her questions.

Ms. Jodi Weister asked about proposed e-ratable contracts; District credit card use; the proposed contract for HVAC services at Patterson Primary, Northwestern Primary and the Intermediate School; recycling junk computers; radon testing at Northwestern Primary School; and, the contract with the teachers' association.

Ms. Melissa Ziegler gave the Board a petition concerning the teachers' agreement and discussed reading intervention and vocational agriculture. Mr. Fleischman responded to the vocational agriculture issue.

Ms. Bonnie Goehring suggested the public request budget records through Open Records to see where the District spends money.

Mr. Jon Kaszer asked about the IRS penalty the District is appealing, the status of back-up generators at the schools, and progress on the punch lists at the Middle School.

Mr. Bob Clendennen discussed the back-up generators and asked about the acting superintendent's contract, the solicitor's agreement, policies concerning public comments, and the teachers' contract.

Mr. Roger Iben discussed tax increases impact on those with fixed income.

Ms. Aquino asked Mr. Clendennen about previous actions to correct the generator problem and a discussion followed.

Mr. Yonkee discussed the teachers' agreement.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Thomas discussed the items on the agenda for the March 20, 2014 meeting for the Finance Committee area.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Helsing discussed the items on the agenda for the March 20, 2014 meeting for the Personnel Committee area.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Thomas discussed the items on the agenda for the March 20, 2014 meeting for the Education Committee area.

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

Mr. Pander informed the Board of a request from Henry Mahosky, Patterson Township Commissioner, for Patterson Primary School to be utilized as a training facility for “Active Shooter Training” on a non-school day (TBD), for surrounding police departments.

Mr. Pander discussed the items on the agenda for the March 20, 2014 meeting for the Buildings and Grounds Committee area.

## **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Heckathorn congratulated on behalf of the Board the girls’ basketball team who are the WPIAL AAA Champions.

Mr. Heckathorn congratulated on behalf of Board the girls’ basketball team who advanced to the PIAA Playoffs and won tonight’s game.

Mr. Heckathorn congratulated on behalf of the Board Halle Denman who was named Player of the Game in the WPIAL AAA championship game by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Mr. Heckathorn congratulated on behalf of the Board the girls’ swim team who placed 3rd in the WPIAL at the WPIAL swimming championships.

Mr. Heckathorn congratulated on behalf of the Board the swimmers who qualified for the PIAA state swim meet on March 14 & 15 – Brianna Camp, Marissa Camp, Casey Cerbus, Alexis Lopez, Tara Pettner and Chris Vogler.

Mr. Heckathorn congratulated on behalf of the Board Marissa Camp who was selected as the Beaver County Times Athlete of the Week for the week of February 17.

Mr. Heckathorn discussed an item on the agenda for the March 20, 2014 meeting for the Athletics Committee area.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Yonkee informed the Board that he has spoken with PSBA to identify any policies that need revision and that he will continue to examine the District's policies.

## **BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT**

Ms. Aquino discussed the items on the March 20, 2014 meeting for the Board/ Staff Enrichment area.

## **INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Mr. Oswald referred the Board members to the exhibit in their handout concerning the BVIU Board of Director's February meeting notes.

## **VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

No report.

## **PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

No report.

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

No report.

## **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

Visitors: Mr. Jim Fredrick discussed the teachers' agreement.

Mr. Bob Clendennen discussed the teachers' agreement.

Mr. Yonkee discussed the teachers' agreement.

Mr. Pander discussed the teachers' agreement.

Ms. Melissa Ziegler discussed the teachers' agreement.

Student Alex Devic asked about publishing class rank.

Student Matt Young discussed the teachers' agreement.

School Directors: Mr. Heckathorn asked about attendees at a previous meeting of the Finance and Buildings & Grounds Committees.

Mr. Fleischman discussed the request for an early bird contract; what Mr. Salopek made while serving as District solicitor; the radon testing at Northwestern Primary School; and emergency generators.

Mr. Oswald discussed Board members discussing issues from executive sessions in public.

Dr. Rose discussed the emergency generators.

Administrators: Dr. Thomas discussed Board meeting decorum.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2014 in the Blackhawk High School library at 7:30 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel  
Board Secretary