

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' VOTING MEETING  
Blackhawk Middle School Auditorium  
March 17, 2011**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:40PM. 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: Mrs. Perri

Also attending were:

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

Pastor Bruce Backensto from the First Reformed Presbyterian Church offered the invocation.

Mr. Oswald announced that an executive session for Personnel was held prior to the meeting being called to order.

Mr. Oswald announced that there will be a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held prior to the April 7, 2011 working meeting at 6:30PM in the Blackhawk High School library.

Mr. Oswald announced that there will be a VIP Brunch on May 18, 2011 to recognize the District's volunteers.

Mr. Oswald also announced that there will be a Board Appreciation Dinner on May 26, 2011 to recognize the District's achievements and individuals' contributions for the year. Board members that would like to have a specific person recognized were directed to contact Dr. Miller.

**PUBLIC RELATIONSANDCOMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Fleischman introduced the High School Principal, Mr. Scott Nelson, who with members of his staff, presented a 15 minute video on High School daily life. They also announced that an "empty bowls" fund raiser will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the High School and

each member of the board received a bowl made by students for the event and were invited to participate.

Mr. Fleischman introduced the Middle School principal, Mrs. Bowman. She and members of the Middle School staff (Mrs. Shuleski, Mrs. Androlia, and Mrs. Lindemann) recognized their Students of the Month for February. Mr. Fleischman congratulated the students and thanked their parents, grandparents and siblings for their support of the students.

Mr. Fleischman announced that the School Picnic at Kennywood will be held on June 13, 2011 and tickets will go on sale at all the District schools on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to Academic Games Players for their outstanding performance at the Linguishik Tournament at Center Stage on February 15<sup>th</sup> during which eleven students qualified.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to the members of the Technology Students Association who placed at the Region 1 & 6 TSA Conference on February 25<sup>th</sup> and a special congratulations to the Blackhawk student officers who lead the opening and closing ceremonies. Recognition was extended to Dr. Dale Moll who received the Dr. J .D. Helsel Distinguished Service Award for service to Regions 1 & 6.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to the Intermediate School for their recognition as a National Model School for their School Counseling Program (recognition as a RAMP- Recognized ASCA Model Program school). Gina Gordon, school counselor, thanked the Board for its support and accepted the honor on behalf of the school and its principal, Mrs. Sprinker. The Intermediate School was one of only six schools in the state to receive the designation.

Mr. Fleischman also recognized and commended the Girls Varsity Basketball Team and its coach Steve Lodovico, for capturing the WPIAL championship on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters.

Mr. Ron Stedman asked what impact the Governor's proposed budget was on the District. Dr. Miller responded that the District lost \$1.4M from the current year as budgeted. He followed with a question concerning what one mill generates and if the District would be raising the millage above the index (approximately one mill). Dr. Miller replied that a mill generates about \$238,000 and that the District is restricted to the index for next year, at least at the present time.

Mr. Stedman then asked if the Middle School project was still on and Dr. Miller responded that it is still on at the present time. Mr. Stedman commented that he felt that was foolish given the cuts to basic education proposed and recommended that the project be looked at. He stated that it might be wise to wait to go out for bids until decisions were made on prevailing wage requirements, etc. rather than laying off teachers. Mr. Oswald commented that the District is still looking at options and that the Board could not comment on speculation

concerning cuts, lay offs, etc. until all alternatives were considered. Mr. Stedman commented that the timelines need to be re-evaluated and that the future “is scary.” He said he was probably not alone among residents who feared not just increased taxes, but also for the quality of education in the District.

There were no other public comments.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded motion to accept the Financial Report for February 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 February Monthly Insurance Report.

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve appointing Kathy Brewer as West Mayfield tax collector; to approve the BVIU’s budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012 ( a 35, \$584 increase); and, to approve modifying the District’s 403(b) Plan to include Roth 403Bs beginning July1, 2011.

**Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to grant Chelsea Haight maternity leave beginning on or about May 9, 2011 and continuing for the remainder of the 2010- 2011 school year.

**Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve substitutes as listed in the agenda.

**Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve Bob Abel, Primary School Counselor, to apply file a RAMP application as a part of ASCA’s National Model for School Counseling at a maximum cost of \$300; to accept Barry Balaski’s letter of resignation effective April 1, 2011; to employ Carey Courinos as a full time care assistant at Northwestern Primary School at a rate of \$7.25 per hour effective February 21, 2011; to approve Jacqueline Gill as a substitute English teacher pending receipt of clearances; and, employing Deb Young as Cook/ Manager at Northwestern Primary School at a rate of \$12.00 per hour effective March 18, 2011.

**Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. May moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to approve field trips as listed in the agenda.

**Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. May moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve accepting the 2011- 2012 school calendar as presented; to approve a field trip by the Football Club to the Football Hall of Fame on March 25, 2011; and, to approve adopting McDougal Littell's Algebra Readiness textbook for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre- Algebra.

**Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **FOOD SERVICE**

Mr. Fleischman informed the Board that the Pennsylvania Department of Education completed an every five year audit of the Food Service Program and provided very positive feedback concerning the program with minimal corrective actions required.

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

No report.

## **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT**

Mr. Calabria recommended approval of conference attendance as listed in the agenda and so moved. Mr. Fitzgerald seconded.

**Verbal Vote: 8 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:

No report.

Administrators: Dr. Miller commented concerning Barry Balaski leaving on April 1<sup>st</sup> saying that he did a very good job for the District, that it was a pleasure to work with him and that the District wished him well in his new position.

Visitors: No report.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2011 in the High School library, preceded by the Buildings and Grounds Meeting at 6:30PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel  
Board Secretary