

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' VOTING MEETING  
Blackhawk's High School Library  
March 20, 2014**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Dr. Rose, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM. and the Pledge of Allegiance was made. Roll call was answered by eight members. Those in attendance were:

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

Absent was: Mr. Heckathorn

Also attending were:

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

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

Pastor Dan Muir from the Chippewa Alliance Church offered the opening prayer.

Mr. Oswald moved and Mr. Pander seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2014 meeting.

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

Dr. Rose announced that an executive session was held after the last meeting for Personnel and litigation and that an executive session was held prior to the current meeting for personnel and the hearing of a grievance.

Dr. Rose announced that the agenda was being changed to allow Ms. Korin McMillen, Special Education Director, to brief the Board on the Special Education Plan being prepared for submission to the State prior to the Public Comments section of the meeting.

Ms. McMillen gave her presentation and fielded questions from the Board members.

(Note: Mr. Heckathorn arrived during the presentation.)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Fleischman offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Marcus Franitti, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Blackhawk Intermediate School. Marcus's t-shirt design for the Million T-Shirt March Against Bullying National T-Shirt Contest was selected as the winning submission in the Grades 1-5 Division.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Thomas read a statement concerning his comments at the previous Board meeting. He said that he will not speak in the future about the economics of the agreement with the teachers but pointed out that his calculations of the so called "give-back" for per diem pay for long term substitutes were much lower than previously stated and come to about \$30,000 per year including this year.

Ms. Cindy Vannoy questioned the cost of litigating the teachers' contract, the superintendent search, and the vocational agriculture program. Dr. Thomas replied to the status of the superintendent search and Dr. Rose said the cost of the litigation for the teachers' contract has not been determined.

Ms. Dianne Sarver, PRIDE teacher, thanked the Board for their recognition of the Polar Plunge participation and she thanked the participants who raised money for Special Olympics. She also spoke about the PRIDE Program.

Mr. Al Lyndes spoke about the PRIDE Program.

Students Ethan Kron, Noah Sims, and Nick Sosnowski spoke in support of the teachers' contract.

Ms. Autumn Giocondi asked if 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will be included in the summer school program and stated that she supported expansion of Special Education opportunities in the District.

Ms. Melissa Ziegler spoke in support of the teachers.

Student Matt Young spoke about videotaping meetings, gifted and Statewide funding issues.

Student Sarah Stack spoke in support of the teachers.

Ms. Karen Woods spoke in support of expansion of Special Education programs within the District.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Yonkee moved and Mr. Fleischman seconded a motion to accept the January Financial Report.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Yonkee moved and Mr. Oswald seconded a motion to accept the February Financial Report.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Yonkee moved and Mr. Pander seconded a motion to approve the payment of bills as presented.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Yonkee asked the Board members if they had any questions on monthly insurance reports included in their packets.

Mr. Yonkee moved and Mr. Fleischman seconded a motion to update the District phone system as presented on March 13, 2014 at a cost of \$26,243. A discussion followed.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Pander moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to approve to award the following Telecommunication bids as a part of the E-Rate process as presented:

- a. Blackboard Engage (School Fusion) for web site maintenance at a cost of approximately \$5,100 after e-rate reimbursement.
- b. Classroll.com for the District grading system at an approximate cost of \$7,100 after e-rate reimbursement.
- c. Sprint for the districts cell phone plans at an approximate monthly cost of \$430 after e-rate reimbursement.
- d. Winstream for Northwestern's internet and phone service at an approximate monthly cost of \$750 after e-rate reimbursement.
- e. Consolidated Communications for the District telephone service. Monthly cost: (\$1,972.50).

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Yonkee moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to accept the 2014- 2015 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit's Operating Budget as presented with no increase in the District's contribution from the current year.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Yonkee moved and Mr. Fleischman seconded a motion to accept the 2012- 2013 Audit.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Pander moved and Mr. Fleischman seconded a motion to ratify the contract with Dr. Thomas as acting superintendent.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mrs. Helsing moved and Mr. Pander seconded a motion to approve Catherine Rodgers (elementary) as a substitute for the 2013- 2014 school year.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mrs. Helsing moved and Ms. Aquino seconded a motion to grant Chelsea Haight child bearing leave beginning on or about April 22, 2014 utilizing sick days and FMLA as per her letter.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mrs. Helsing moved and Mr. Fleischman seconded a motion to grant Leslie Bellia, Northwestern Primary School Paraprofessional, time off without compensation from April 7 through April 11, 2014.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Helsing moved and Mr. Oswald seconded a motion to approve the following field trips:

- a. Sixth through Eighth Grade Orchestra, Seventh and Eighth Grade Band (150), Nate Goodrich, George Hoydich, High Notes Festival and Kennywood Park, Carnegie Mellon University, May 16, 2014 (\$400, transportation, other expenses collected from students).
- b. Jr/Sr Historians (40), Rich Oswald, Gettysburg, May 24, 2014 (expenses collected from students).
- c. Jr/Sr Historians (90), Rich Oswald, Cedar Point, Sandusky, OH, June 13, 2014 (expenses collected from students).
- d. Patterson Primary Kindergarten (79), Kindergarten teachers, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, May 22, 2014 (expenses paid by PTO).
- e. Jazz Ensemble (14), Dave Zaccari, Jazz Festival, Beaver Falls High School, April 14, 2014 (\$150 expenses budgeted).
- f. High School Band (32), Dave Zaccari, Music Performance Assessment, Beaver Area High School, April 24, 2014 (\$300 expenses budgeted).
- g. Learning Support (60), Mariah Brown, County Wide Transition Fair, CCBC, April 11, 2014 (\$140 expenses budgeted).
- h. Transition (15), Mariah Brown, New Castle School of Trades Tour, New Castle, April 1, 2014 (no expense).
- i. Fifth grade Blackhawk Intermediate School Buddy Mentors (33), Gina Gordon and LuAnne Maginness, BIS Buddy Mentors and Science Olympiad, NPS, April 11, 2014 (no expense).
- j. Third grade (187), Third grade teachers, The Movie BEARS – Celebrating Earth Day 2014, Cinemark Theatre, Monaca, April 25, 2014 (expenses paid by PTO).
- k. Northwestern Primary School Second grade (95), Second grade teachers, Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History, Pittsburgh, May 28, 2014 (expenses paid by PTO).
- l. Advanced Placement Science (4), Kim Baker, Science Lab Challenge, Penn State Beaver, April 11, 2014 (\$20 expenses budgeted).
- m. Seventh and Eighth grade (100), Ryan Hardesty and Jared Slimm, Medieval Times, Mount Vernon, VA; Hanover, MD May 31, 2014 (expenses collected from students, Blackhawk Foundation Grant)
- n. Patterson Primary School First grade, First grade teachers, Carnegie Science Center, May 23, 2014 (expenses paid by PTO).
- o. High School Orchestra/Band (3), Maura Underwood, PMEA All-State Orchestra, Hershey, March 26-29, 2014 (\$1,125 expenses budgeted).

p. High School Band (20), Dave Zaccari, Band Recruitment Trip, Highland Middle School, April 1, 2014 (expenses budgeted).

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Helsing moved and Mr. Pander seconded a motion to accept the revised 2013- 2014 academic calendar to accommodate snow day #5, February 18, 2014

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

Mrs. Helsing moved and Mr. Pander seconded a motion to accept the 2014- 2015 academic calendar as submitted.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Helsing moved and Mr. Oswald seconded a motion to authorize a District summer school program and staff employment, according to Policy 406; "Employment of Summer School Staff."

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mrs. Helsing informed the Board that the Blackhawk High School Program of Studies for the 2014- 2015 school year is in the Board packets for members' review...

## **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. Dr. Thomas will seek additional information.

Mr. Pander moved and Ms. Aquino seconded a motion to contract with FIT Energy Solutions for a one year term at a cost of \$3,240 for HVAC maintenance at Patterson Primary School, Northwestern Primary School and Blackhawk Intermediate School.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Pander moved and Mr. Oswald seconded a motion to schedule Maven Technologies Inc. to pick up and recycle unusable, outdated, and junk computer components/equipment at no cost to the District.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Pander moved and Mr. Fleischman seconded a motion to install an inside tank (diesel fuel) for the emergency generator at Blackhawk Intermediate School at a cost of \$5,590.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

## **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Heckathorn moved and Ms. Aquino seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Pastor Rod Smith as boys' basketball assistant coach and to send him a thank you letter.

**Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried**

Mr. Heckathorn congratulated on behalf of the Board Chassidy Omogrosso who was selected Beaver County Times Athlete of the Week for the week of March 17, 2014.

Mr. Heckathorn congratulated on behalf of the Board Coach Steve Lodovico and the entire Girls' Basketball Team for an outstanding season. They won the PIAA semi-finals and will be playing for the PIAA State Championships in Hersey on Saturday, March 22, 2014.the girls swimming and diving teams for winning the MAC Championship on Saturday, February 15, 2014.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Yonkee asked Mr. Wessel to explain the proposed Municipal Bond Policy Manual which was included in the Board packets for review.

#### **BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT**

Ms. Aquino moved and Mr. Yonkee seconded a motion to approve attendance at the following conferences:

##### **A. Educators:**

1. Maura Underwood, Theater Workshop, South Fayette High School, February 28, 2014 (no expense). *\*\*This was pre-approved due to the date.*

2. Christy Desselle, Krystal Kier, Managing Cluttering in the School-Age Child, BVIU, April 10, 2014 (no expense).

3. Maura Underwood, PMEA All-State Orchestra, Hershey, March 26-29, 2014 (\$813 expenses budgeted).

4. Becky Effert, Teaching Art to Students with Autism, Homestead, March 9, .2014 (\$35 expenses budgeted).

**Verbal Vote: 9 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**

Visitors: Mr. Bob Clendennen objected to not being able to comment on an agenda item before it was voted upon. He also questioned the seating capacity of the Library, the status of the emergency generator at the Intermediate School, and the Course of Study at the High School.

Mr. Clint Berchtold discussed the teachers' contract.

School Directors: None.

Administrators: Dr. Thomas thanked Ms. McMillen for her briefing and the students who spoke at the meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2014 in the Blackhawk High School library at 7:30 PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Rose announced that the Board was going into executive session for Personnel after adjournment but would not be going back into session to vote thereafter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel  
Board Secretary