

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' VOTING MEETING
Blackhawk Middle School Auditorium
May 19, 2011**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:50PM. Roll call was answered by all nine members. Those in attendance were:

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

Also attending were:

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

Mrs. Carol Sprinker, Intermediate School principal, offered the invocation.

Mr. Oswald announced that there will be a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held prior to the June 9, 2011 working meeting at 6:30PM in the Blackhawk High School library.

Mr. Oswald announced that the 2011- 2012 proposed budget approved at the previous meeting, May 12, 2011, is available for public review at each of the school buildings and at the District Office.

Mr. Oswald also announced that there was an executive session prior to the meeting for property matters.

PUBLIC RELATIONSANDCOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fleischman introduced the Intermediate School Principal, Mrs. Carol Sprinker, who with selected staff members and students presented an overview of this year's Camp Kon-O-Kwee experience by Fifth graders. Mr. Fleischman thanked the staff and student counselors from the High School for their work and complimented the Fifth Grade students for their presentations.

Mr. Fleischman introduced Mr. Todd Hosterman from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) who presented the "Honor Roll of School Board Service Award" to Board President Rich Oswald for his eight years of service with the Board. Mr. Fleischman added his congratulations, and congratulations on behalf of the other Board members.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to Mason Auman, seventh grade student, for being selected as the Middle Level winner in the Sargent Art Contest.

Mr. Fleischman offered commendations on behalf of the Board to the members of the Technology Students Association (TSA) who won awards at the Pennsylvania TSA conference at Seven Springs April 13- 16, 2011. He added special congratulations to Melody Funkhouser, Jim Andrascik, Mia Vinciguerra, Phil Plevel, Russell Diehl and Matt Pullen who qualified for the National TSA Conference in Dallas Texas June 21-26, 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mr. Frank Masukus complimented the Board for the recent projects to upgrade facilities during the previous few years and stated that he believes moving the eighth grade to the Middle School is a good idea. He said that he felt however that \$28M to renovate and add on to the Middle School is too much money and that the Board should find a way to do the work for \$20M.

Mr. Rick Sabona asked if the Board had discussed delaying the project as he suggested at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Oswald said yes. Mr. Sabona then asked how many students were at Northwestern and if it was being closed. Dr. Miller replied that about 300 students attend Northwestern and that the District reviews facility needs each year, but that Northwestern will not be closed for next school year. Mr. Sabona asked why the Middle School project was exceeding \$20M and Mr. Clendennen replied that the Beaver County Times article that said the project was \$20M was misleading because that was the hard costs number, not the total cost number. He added that total costs will not be know until after bids are opened. He also stated that the Board made decisions throughout the process that added costs because members felt that additional things were needed for the facility to provide the best learning environment for the students. Mr. Sabona asked if the paving projects scheduled for this summer had passed at the last meeting and Mr. Oswald told him they had. Mr. Sabona then asked about the number of students attending cyber schools and Dr. Miller responded that the District has about seventy students who do attend cyber schools at a cost of about \$10K each, but that the District is working to bring students back to the Regional Choice Initiative offered in house which would reduce the cost to \$3K per student enrolled. Mr. Fitzgerald added that anyone driving through Midland can see all the buildings being constructed by the cyber school there and while the money comes from school districts, the public has no input into how the money is spent as citizens do with their local school board. Ms. Pamela Gump? Asked if the cyber reimbursement has been restored by the state and she was told no.

Mrs. Micki Watterson made a presentation; handed out documents; and claimed to be an advocate for those losing their homes because of what she sees as excessive taxes and over regulation by the State.

Ms. Anita Mensch announced that the BEA voted to accept a pay freeze for the 2011-2012 school year because the members recognize the District's difficulties due to budget cuts by the state and want to save programs and staff member jobs.

There were no other public comments.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Mr. Wessel introduced Mr. Bob Aumer from Janney Montgomery Scott (the District's bond underwriter) and Mr. Anthony Ditka from Dinsmore Shohl (the District's bond counsel). Mr. Aumer discussed the current bond environment and proposed doing two bond issues for the Middle School project; one for \$20M next month and one for the remainder of the amount needed next year.

Mr. Inman moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to use First National Insurance for General Liability, Auto, School Leader Liability and Umbrella coverages and UPMC for Health, prescription Drugs, Alternative Medicine, Intergroup Coverage, and Stop Loss Insurances, with Dental and Vision to be worked out as necessary. Mr. Oswald asked if the vote could be tabled and Mr. Wessel said that it could not if the District wanted to change brokers or insurance providers at the start of the new fiscal year. Mr. Fitzgerald commented that the current broker has helped the District save money over the years and that he hoped no hidden costs were involved with a change. Mr. Fleischman said the Board "rushed" the Middle School project so why table this motion. Mr. Clendennen said that the project was discussed throughout and wasn't rushed and that every Board member was invited to take part in the insurance study that was done and those that did not should take the recommendation of those who did.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

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

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded motion to accept the settlement of the Walmart Assessment Appeal of Parcel 57-038-0178.001 at no change for 2010 and \$3,852,500 for 2011 and subsequent years as recommended by the solicitor.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Pander stated that there was no report.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. May moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve two field trips; the High School Band to the Memorial Day parade in Beaver Falls on May 30, 2011; and, the High School Band to the Darlington Day parade June 4, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to advertise and bid the Middle School additions and renovations project. Mr. Inman stated that the Board members knew his view concerning delaying the project, but he hoped that after the vote the Board would pull together to get the wishes of the majority accomplished.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes; 2 No (Mr. Inman and Mr. Fleischman) - Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to award the 2011- 2012 Athletic Field Maintenance contract to Gumpf Gardens Inc. for \$17,999.61.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to award the 2011- 2012 Athletic Fields Topdressing contract to S&S Processing for \$14,281.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mrs. Pander seconded a motion to authorize a change order in the amount of \$2,811. to Ceriani Construction Co. for the purchase and installation of 18 bronze offset door pulls at the High School to improve handicapped accessibility.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Calabria congratulated the winter sports teams for their outstanding performances during the seasons.

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

No report

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

No report

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded a recommendation to accept the Blackhawk Education Association's MOU regarding a pay freeze for teachers for the 2011- 2012 school year.

Verbal Vote: 9 yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

No report

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: Mr. Fleischman told the Board that as Food Service Chairperson, he should have briefed that next year there will be some testing of products to determine what students like or don't like. Mr. Fitzgerald thanked the teachers of BEA for the pay freeze for next year and complimented them for their putting students first. Mr. Heckathorn thanked Mrs. Sprinker for the presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

Administrators: Mr. Wessel pointed out that a PASBO report on funding and its accompanying press release were in the Board packets in case members of the public had questions when the report is publicized. Dr. Miller told the Board that it was a pleasure working with BEA on the salary freeze MOU because they were very reasonable and cooperative. She also thanked Mrs. Sprinker for the presentation.

Dr. Miller thanked all the staff members present for their efforts to be part of the solution to the District's funding problems, for being willing to open the contract for next year, and for all the suggestions to save money.

Visitors: Mrs. Mary Catherine Thomas asked if the change in health providers would increase co-pays. She was told it would not. The cost of the door handles was questioned and Mr. Oswald and Mr. Fitzgerald replied that they were improving accessibility in the district.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2011 in the High School library at 7:30PM, preceded by the Buildings and Grounds Meeting at 6:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary

