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

## BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION Blackhawk High School Library October 13, 2011

## **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:35PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by all nine members. Those in attendance were: Mr. Clendennen Mr. Calabria Mr. Fleischman Mr. Fitzgerald Mr. Heckathorn Mr. Inman Mr. May Mr. Oswald Mrs. Pander

Absent was: None

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent Mr. Salopeck- Solicitor Mr.

Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary

Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8 and September 15, 2011 Board meetings. **Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried** 

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Miller reviewed the items proposed in this area for the voting meeting scheduled for October 20, 2011.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters. Mrs. Sue Lukacs from the Food Service Department introduced Mrs. Renee Guman from the Patterson Primary School kitchen who helped prepare the chocolate treats Mrs. Lukacs presented to the Board members. Mrs. Lucaks thanked the Board for their support and complimented Mrs. Guman and the other Food Service employees for their hard work and dedication. Mrs. Lukacs also pointed out the news letter included in Board member's packets that announced the new "choose two" program and showed the Board examples of the items available under that program. Finally, she informed the Board that the Tyson's Chicken offerings were being well received by the students.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Wessel reviewed the items proposed in this area for the voting meeting for October 20, 2011.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the Personnel items proposed for this meeting and the meeting scheduled for October 20, 2011.

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve substitutes for the 2011- 2012 school year as follows: Carmen Huber (Nurse- pending clearances); Sunshine Poerio (Nurse- pending clearances); Brian Daniels (Spanish); Allan Jason (Music); Nathan Parrott (Music, Mid Level Math); Marci Cipolla (Nurse); Paula Garen (Nurse); and, LuAnn Fabiani (Secretary).

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

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to grant Karen Fritzley, Nurse Paraprofessional at Northwestern Primary School, five days uncompensated leave in November 2011.

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

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to immediately employ Nicole Smith as a part time cafeteria worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour. Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to accept the leave of absence of Jamie Planitzer as Middle School Swimming Head Coach for the 2012 spring sports season. **Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried** 

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to appoint Rick Migliore as a volunteer coach for the Men's Varsity Basketball team pending receipt of favorable clearances. **Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried** 

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Miller reviewed the Education items proposed for this meeting and the next.

Mr. May moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve 19 field trips as listed in the agenda.

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

Mr. May moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve sending Primary Guidance Surveys to both parents and teachers as presented. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the survey contained any items that would make it confidential or sensitive. Dr. Miller replied that there are no sensitive items requested by the survey. Mr. Fleischman asked that the Board be given feedback concerning the number of surveys returned versus those sent.

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

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

Dr. Miller reviewed the Buildings and Grounds items proposed for this meeting and the next.

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve a Lease Agreement between the District and the Community Development Institute Head Start for classroom space at Northwestern Primary School. Mr. Calabria asked when Head Start was conducted and Dr. Miller replied that it was conducted during school hours. He then asked about Blackhawk residents and JaneAnn Fucci, the Principal, replied that first priority goes the Blackhawk students. Mr. Calabria asked if there was any cost to parents and Mrs. Fucci replied that it is free to those families eligible. Mr. May asked how long the District has had Head Start and Mrs. Fucci replied that it has been at least 18 years.

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

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to authorize a Change Order to McElroy Paving in the amount of \$2,900 for work related to replacement of an underground storm pipe in the South driveway at the Intermediate School. The pipe was discovered to be clogged during the course of the project and could not be cleared. **Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried** 

## Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to authorize a change order to McElroy Paving not to exceed \$10,000 for hillside grading and stabilization of the hillside adjacent to Dillon Street in the High School campus. Dr. Miller briefed the Board about the events leading to the proposed change order. Mr. Fitzgerald commented that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) came out to the site because of a call from a neighbor and their "recommendations" are not optional; the District has to do as they request or may be subject to fines. Mr. Calabria asked if the repair would be paid for from Capital Projects Fund or the General Fund and he was told the Capital Projects Fund. He said he was okay with the change order because the District had to repair the site. Mr. Clendennen informed the Board that the area with the problem is fill placed several years ago, not something done this last summer. Mr. Fleischman asked if DEP put their recommendations in writing and Dr. Miller replied that they have not, but the engineers will address them in their plan and DEP will approve the plan prior to the work being done. Mr. Fleischman asked if the District could be confident that DEP will not change the scope of work at a later date. Dr. Miller said yes, if the contractor meets the approved specifications, the District should have no problems. Mr. Clendennen clarified that a drawing will be created that DEP will sign off on. Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that conditions may be uncovered that could require additional work once the repairs are started. Mr. May asked where the not to exceed price came from and he was told by Mr. Clendennen that the contractor developed the estimated cost based on a schedule of values and knew that it would be used to develop and not to exceed amount.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to authorize a change order not to exceed \$5,000 for top soil and seeding in the vicinity of the hillside work next to Dillon Street on the High School campus.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

#### **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Dr. Miller reviewed the Athletics Grounds items proposed for this meeting and the next.

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to accept the winter sports schedule as provided.

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

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to solicit bids for athletic equipment and supplies for the 2012- 2013 school year. Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to authorize a "Learn to Swim", Family Night Swimming, Masters Swimming And American Red Cross Lifesavings programs beginning October 17, 2011 and ending in March 2012. Mr. May asked if the District had allowed these programs in the past and Dr. Miller said yes. She also reviewed the prices charged participants in order that the cost is recovered by the District. **Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried** 

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to authorize a co-operative sponsorship with the Beaver County Christian School for Men's Tennis for the next two years. Mrs. Pander asked if the District would receive some monetary payment for allowing their participation and Dr. Miller said yes. Mr. May asked if Blackhawk kids might be bumped from a starting position and Mr. Calabria replied that all the kids would be on the team, but the best would compete. Mr. May then moved that the motion be tabled so more consideration could be given to it and Mr. Calabria seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Calabria congratulated a list of athletes and coaches as found in the meeting agenda for their achievements during the fall sports season to date.

# ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

No report.

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No report.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE No report.

#### **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT**

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to approve conference attendance by individuals as listed in the agenda. Mr. Fleischman asked that in the future the costs of conferences be listed in the motions for conference attendance. Dr. Miller replied that the costs are in the back up information in the requests themselves. Mr. Fleischman asked that they be on the agenda so the public could see them and Mr. Oswald said he agreed. **Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried** 

Dr. Miller informed the Board the Blackhawk will be hosting the Regional Learning Academy under the direction of the Educational Leadership Initiative (ELI) through the University of Pittsburgh on November 15, 2011.

#### **INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Dr. Miller informed the Board that their packet of information contains a Position Paper on Charter Schools/ Vouchers and there was some discussion about the lack of support for public schools by the Governor and Secretary of Education.

Dr. Miller also informed the Board members that their packets contained information on Making the Grade Virtual town Hall Meeting on Effective Teaching.

## **VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

Dr. Miller informed the Board that a representative and alternate representative are needed to serve on the BCCTC Operating Committee for a three year term. Mr. Oswald asked the members to think about serving in one of those roles and the matter could be discussed again next meeting, although the Board has until December to select people for the positions.

#### **PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Miller recommended the Board members review the PSBA report in their packets.

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

No report.

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

School Directors: Mr. Clendennen spoke about the voucher issue and said Board members and the public need to make their views known to their representatives in the State House. Mr. Fleischman wished Happy Birthday to Mr. Wessel on his 39<sup>th</sup> (or thereabouts) birthday.

Administrators: Dr. Miller told the Board that the administration is looking for new ways to honor students. Middle School students will no longer be recognized in Board meetings but will be honored in other ways. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the Board would be holding meetings in the different buildings again this year and Dr. Miller said yes. A discussion about cyber school and the Regional Choice Initiative (RCI) followed and Dr. Miller informed the Board that Blackhawk had 10 students in its cyber program, to which Mr. Fitzgerald replied that the District needs to continue to expand that program. Mr. Fitzgerald said that the District should share services with other districts, especially Western Beaver School District since they are neighbors. Dr. Miller said we look at all opportunities to share services. Dr. Miller then ended her comments by informing the Board that the Middle School students this year selected Mandie Cline and Tim Stanton as "Teachers of the Month" for September.

Visitors: Mrs. Barbra Brown asked if the town hall meeting scheduled for November 9, 2011 was at 7PM. She was told that the time would have to be checked. She then stated that Noah's Ark had partnered with PA Cyber school for 4 year old kindergarten and asked if the District was considering a 4 year old program. Dr. Miller explained that PA Cyber was stating that the 4 year old Kindergarten as free to parents, but that it cost the District full tuition for the kids enrolled. Dr. Miller stated that the District is looking at a 4 year old kindergarten program of its own and also all day kindergarten. Mr. Fleischman said that pre-school is something the area needs and the District should consider the best way to provide to residents.

Next Meeting: October 20, 2011 Voting Session in the High School library at 7:30PM, with **no** Buildings and Grounds meeting prior to the meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel Board Secretary