

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION
Blackhawk High School Library
September 8, 2011**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:35PM. Roll call was answered by seven members. Those in attendance were:

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

Also attending were:

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

Mr. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve the Minutes from August 8, 11, and 18 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 7 For; 0 Against - Motion Carried

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Miller told the Board there is no report this month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there was any public comment or questions on agenda items or other matters.

Mrs. Barb Brown said that a Buildings and Grounds meeting was scheduled prior to the working session, but was cancelled without it being noted on the web site. Dr. Miller responded that the cancellation was announced at the prior meeting, but in the future she will ensure the web site announces any such changes.

Mrs. Jody Weister asked if there was sufficient money in the Construction Fund for the ADA projects being considered as per the agenda. Mr. Wessel stated that there will be over \$1M in the fund after completion of the current projects if no major change orders are needed, which is not anticipated.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Wessel stated that the first three items on the agenda for the September 15, 2011 meeting would be sent to the Board for review prior to that meeting.

Mr. Wessel reminded the Board that the money from the bond issue approved in August will be available on September 22nd.

NOTE: Mr. Clendennen arrived at this point, bringing the total Board members attending to eight.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE portion of the agenda for August 18, 2011.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked about the loyalty stipend include in paragraph 4.1 and Mr. Wessel said that it would be retroactive for sub custodians that have worked more than half a year in previous years, but the amount was capped to prevent any sub from making more than a full time employee.

Mr. Fleischman had questions about item 4.7. He asked for the rate of pay proposed for the flex custodian and Dr. Miller said that would be included when a person was hired, but would be negotiated. Mr. Oswald commented that the feedback he had in the past was that custodians did not like flex positions. Dr. Miller responded that she met with union representatives to look at ways to reduce overtime and they agreed to the position and a plan to raise sub rates to \$9/ hour to hopefully entice more people to sub. Mr. Fleischman asked if the job will be posted in the Times and Dr. Miller said yes. Mr. Fleischman then asked if the criteria for skills was established and Dr. Miller replied that the criteria is being revised for this posting.

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve the following substitutes for the 2011- 2012 school year: Dean Borato, Dave Marker, Peg Fabri, Carie Kastelic, Amy Bungard, Jessie Debiec, Chelsey Yarmoney, Brittany Russell, Jamie Kotuby, Heidi Diaddigo, Lauren Bathold, and Brian Farkas.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to employ Amy Taylor as a Building Substitute for the 2011- 2012 school year at the Intermediate School.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to grant Joy Winters childbearing leave beginning on or about October 3, 2011 and ending on or about November 28, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to grant Cassie Clonch child bearing leave beginning on or about September 17, 2011 and ending on or about November 6, 2011 using 10 sick days and about 20 FMLA days.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to grant tenure to Ken Moser.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the EDUCATION COMMITTEE portion of the agenda for the September 15, 2011 meeting.

Mrs. Bowman briefed the Board on the Strategic Plan Midpoint review that the administration will recommend be submitted to PDE at the next meeting.

Mr. Fleischman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve field trips as listed in the agenda.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Dr. Miller informed the Board that Mrs. Bowman and Mr. Nelson will present an academic update at the next Board meeting.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE

Dr. Miller introduced Tom Durkin from VEBH who presented an update on proposed ADA upgrades to the Board.

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to approve a change order to Weider Services in the amount of \$2,107.09 for work associated with the chiller replacement at the Intermediate School which the Board had previously approved for time and materials not to exceed \$5,000 at the April 14, 2011 Board meeting.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve a change order to BJ Electric in the amount of \$4,800 for electrical work at Patterson Primary School.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen informed the Board that he will recommend at the next meeting that the Board approve replacement of the existing grease trap at the Intermediate School at a cost not to exceed \$6,000 pending receipt of three proposals.

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve conference attendance by Kim Steffanina, Brenda Black, Andy Yuhamiak and Anthony Mooney to attend conferences as listed in the agenda.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any comments from School Directors. Mr. Calabria asked if counseling was available for students and staff to help them deal with the recent death of Mrs. Groves, a staff member. Dr. Miller replied that people on staff have received grief counseling training and would be used as needed. Mr. Fleischman asked if para-professionals that were friends of Mrs. Groves would be allowed to attend the funeral and Dr. Miller replied that the District had not received details on the arrangements but would evaluate any requests to be absent once the details of the arrangements are received. Mr. Oswald said that in the past, the administration handled such matters and the Board did not need to get involved.

Mr. Clendennen told the Board that he visited the new PRIDE classroom at the Intermediate School and that the facility looked good and the kids seemed to be happy in that environment. He also thanked all the Board members that attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the Middle School and he thanked the Board members for their support of the project. Mr. Clendennen also asked about how the District handles those that wanted to take courses emphasizing particular areas like science, technology, the arts, math, etc. Dr. Miller replied that the High School has looked at Career Pathways which are clusters of courses for particular careers and advise students concerning which courses to take to help prepare for certain careers.

Mr. Fitzgerald acknowledged the students in the audience from Geneva College who were attending the meeting as a part of their course work.

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any comments from the administration. Dr. Miller informed the Board that eight students have been won back from PA Cyber School by the District's in house program and that Kim Boggs has done an excellent job with the program. She also informed the Board that eight students have been placed in the PRIDE program.

Mr. Oswald asked if any visitors had comments. Mrs. Brown commented that the VEBH plan for ADA access at the stadium at Northwestern would result in issues when exiting, especially in emergencies if the option to continue the ADA past the press box was implemented. Mr. Clendennen replied that while it was an option to consider, the solution to extra space was probably providing handicapped seating on the visitors' side. However, the project is still just in the planning phase and no decisions have been decided at this point.

Mac Gosnell, second grade teacher from Northwestern, invited the Board members to the Friday Olweus meeting to be held at 1:10PM if the members wished to learn more about how the anti-bullying program was working. Mr. Oswald thanked him for the offer

Mr. Oswald announced that the next meeting would be held in the Blackhawk High School library at 7:30 PM on September 15, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary