

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS VOTING SESSION  
Blackhawk High School Library  
January 21, 2016**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31PM. Roll Call was taken after the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Fleischman	Mrs. Goehring	Mrs. Helsing	Mrs. Jones
Mr. Pander	Mr. Schaefer		

Mr. Berchtold, Mrs. Kaszer and Mr. Yonkee was absent.

Also in attendance were:

- Dr. Kerber – Superintendent
- Mr. Eric Brandenburg – Business Manager
- Mr. Ira Weiss – District Solicitor
- Mr. Hobie Webster – District Solicitor
- Mr. Noah Sims, Student Representative

A prayer was provided by Reverend Scott Graham, Chippewa Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

There was an executive session for personnel matters prior to the Voting Session.

Mrs. LeDonne and staff members of Northwestern and Patterson Primary provided a presentation representing all three grades. Highlights included:

- Community Service programs included donating over 200 pounds of candy to the troops and making placemats for the Meals On Wheels program
- The Kindergarten classes made and presented bookmarkers to the Board of Directors in honor of Board Appreciation month.
- Northwestern Kindergarten will have a Story Walk on March 3, 2016 from 6-8PM.
- The Board Members received samples of the Northwestern Kindergarteners' writing
- The Second Graders presented each Board Member with a wooden sculpture that they created during their STEAM class
- The First Graders provided a demonstration of a Music Class

*Mr. Berchtold arrived during the Music Class presentation.*

Mr. Dave Esposito, Eckles Engineering, presented an overview of three new options representing an addition to Highland Middle School for grades 1 and 2. A summary review of all 5 options proposed to date was provided.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Bob Clendennen, Patterson Township, questioned if the November bills had been paid, discussed the meeting supporting documents and inquired about the addendum to the agenda.

Autumn Giocondi, Patterson Township, asked Mr. Esposito about the class rooms and sizes in the options presented.

Mandie Payne, Chippewa Township, inquired about adequate room for 'quite discussions' in the options presented and any upgrades to technology at Northwestern.

Greg Woods, Chippewa Township, inquired about phasing the renovations if decision to remodel Northwestern. Mr. Woods also inquired about the index noted in item 3.4.

A student asked Mrs. Helsing to open her present, the wooden structure made for her.

Don Inman, Patterson Township, inquired as if consideration was given to adding on to Patterson.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

No Report

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Schaefer made a motion to accept the Financial Report for November and December. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

A motion was made by Mr. Schaefer to approve the payment of bills.

- a. Fund 10 – General Fund: November \$440,236.70, December \$33,213.56
  - b. Fund 32 – Capital Projects Fund: \$0
  - c. Fund 51 – Cafeteria Fund: November \$17,414.89, December \$33,213.56
  - d. Fund 66 – UPMC Health Fund: November \$0, December \$2,550
  - e. Fund 67 – UPMC Dental: November \$10,758.75, December \$12,398.10
  - f. Fund 68 – UPMC Vision: November \$2,432, December \$2,787
- Payroll: November \$1,206,184.24, December \$1,652,903.14

Mrs. Goehring seconded the motion.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Information Item: Monthly Insurance Report for November and December.

Mr. Schaefer made a motion to accept the Preliminary General Fund Budget in the form presented in the amount of \$36,274,903 and a millage rate of 64. (Beaver County), 20.53 (Lawrence County) and authorizes the administration to apply for exceptions above the Act 1 of 2006 Index. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Information Item: The Proposed Final General Fund Budget will be approved May 12, 2016 and the Final General fund Budget on June 16, 2016.

Mr. Schaffer made the motion to contract with US Employee Benefits Services Group for Affordable Care Act Consulting & Reporting Services at a rate of \$13,950 for the 2015-16 school year. This motion was seconded by Mr. Berchtold.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

A motion to grant Catherine Virgin's request to use 25 sick days and FMLA on or about February 16, 2016 until on or about May 12, 2016 was made by Mrs. Goehring and seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

A motion to grant Mariah Brown's request to use sick leave beginning on or about March 15, 2016 until on or about May 30, 2016 was made by Mrs. Goehring and seconded by Mrs. Helsing.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mrs. Goehring made a motion to approve Tim Naugle as Maintenance-HVAC Journeyman, at a rate of \$20.20 per hour plus benefits, pending clearances and Universal Certification for Refrigerant Usage EPA Section 608. This motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

A motion to approve homebound instruction for a fifth grade student beginning December 14, 2015 until medical release was made by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Helsing.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

A motion to approve participation in the School-Based Counseling Services/Mental Health Partnership program offered by Glade Run Lutheran Services at no cost to the District by Mrs. Jones. This motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mrs. Jones made the motion to approve the following field trips:

- a. Concert Choir Men (8), Brothers, Sing On! Maura Underwood, Westminster College, February 25, 2016, expenses collected from students.
- b. Senior Class (120), senior Camp Kon-O-Kwee Trip, Joe Verbosky, Fombell, April 12-14, 2016 expenses collected from students.
- c. Tenth Grade (40), BCCTC Visit, Brandon Smith, BCCTC, February 26, 2016 expenses collected from students.

- d. Ninth-Twelfth Grade (17), YSU English Festival, Leah Lindeman, Youngstown State, April 20, 2016 expenses collected from students.
- e. Journalism (1), PSPA Penn State Competition, Joy Winters, Penn State University Park, March 4, 2016 no expense.

Mr. Schaefer seconded this motion.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

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

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to purchase a van for the purpose of transporting materials and personnel at the cost of \$22,993.15. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Goehring. Mr. Pander noted that the district has been working with a CoStar dealer in New Castle. Mr. Fleischman inquired as to the need to purchase a new van; the old van is worn and will not pass inspection.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

#### **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Schaefer made a motion that the Athletic Training Facilities at the Blackhawk High School and highland middle School be named The Richard Clare McMillen Training Facility. Rich was a former President of the Blackhawk School Board and the Athletic Trainer for the Blackhawk Football and Basketball teams for 33 years. He was also responsible for donating the equipment and materials for the Blackhawk and Highland middle School Training Facilities. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to appoint Amanda Wertz as Assistant Middle School Volleyball Coach for the 2015-16 school year at a salary of \$1,679 (supplemental contract). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Helsing.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to appoint Dan Muir Volunteer Coach for the Varsity Swim Team for the 2015-16 school year. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Goehring

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

*Mr. Fleischman left the meeting at this point.*

Mr. Schaefer motioned to appoint Mark Duncan Volunteer Coach for the Varsity Swim Team for the 2015-16 school year. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Helsing.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to appoint Anita Alberti Volunteer Coach for the Middle School, Junior Varsity and Varsity Softball Teams. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to accept the resignation of John DeCaria as the Assistant Freshman Football Coach. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to accept the resignation of David Gayhart as the Assistant Freshman Football Coach. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to table the vote to contract with Varsity News Network per attachment (\$1,300). Table until response to questions asked are received from Varsity News Network. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to accept the athletic activity account. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to appoint Anna Wargo Assistant Middle School Track Coach for the 2015-16 school year at a rate of \$2,242.50 (Supplemental Contract). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Helsing.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to appoint Dan Hedglin Track Coordinator for the 2015-16 school year at a rate of \$5,980 (Supplemental Contract). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Goehring.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Mr. Schaefer motioned to appoint Heather McCowin as Assistant Yearbook Sponsor at a rate of \$1,054 (Supplemental Contract). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON**

Dr. Kerber provided an update on activities in the district. Highlights included:

- January 18, 2016 – professional development: topic suicide prevention and Keystone consulting presentation
- Governor Wolf has signed off on the proposal to delay the start of Keystone Exams until 2017
- Last week Highland Middle School partnered with the Beaver County Career & Technology Center for a STEAM night. It was a very successful evening.
- News article in Board packets where Blackhawk was featured for our STEAM achievements. Reported on the Water Walk initiative at Highland
- Staff working on grants; including 1 designed as Parent University
- The stage has been repaired
- First Energy visited yesterday regarding the Global Passport Project
- Mandy Payne visited Bethel to discuss the Daily 5 at Blackhawk
- End of first semester; reports are going out.

*Mr. Fleischman returned to the meeting during the Administrative Liaison report.*

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No Report

## **FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

No Report

## **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

No Report

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to adopt the revision of Policy 819, Suicide Prevention (Exhibit). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Goehring.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

Informational Item: First Reading, revision of Policy 006, Meetings. The recommendation is to change the current policy which reads: The appointment of solicitor of the Board requires the unanimous vote of all remaining Board members. A Board member who has served for two (2) consecutive terms of four (4) years each may be appointed as solicitor after resigning his/her office. In such case, the appointment shall require the unanimous vote of all remaining Board members. Recommended change: The appointment of solicitor of the Board requires the majority vote of all Board members. A Board member who is an attorney by profession and wishes to be appointed as the district solicitor must have served for two (2) consecutive terms of four (4) years and must resign his/her office. In such case, the appointment shall require the unanimous vote of all remaining Board members.

## **BOARD/STAFF ENRICHMENT**

Mr. Pander made the motion for approval of the following conference:

- a. Carolyn Fisher, Alternate Eligible Content & Essentialization, BVIU, February 4, 2016 (no expense)

Mr. Schaefer seconded this motion.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried**

## **BEAVER COUNTY CAREER & TECHNOLOGY**

No Report

## **PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

No Report

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

No Report

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

**Visitors**

Melissa Ziegler, Chippewa Township, spoke on agenda item 6, the purchase of the van and the preliminary budget. Mr. Brandenburg and Mr. Schaefer addressed.

Greg Woods, Chippewa Township, inquired about the exhibits being posted.

Bob Clendennen, Patterson Township, spoke on the posting of financial information. He also spoke on policy 6.1 regarding Board agendas and the Open Meeting Law. When Mr. Clendennen’s 5 minutes (per policy) expired he requested a Board vote for additional time to speak. A roll call vote was taken

Yes – Grant Additional Time	No – Not to Grant Additional Time
Mr. Berchtold	Mr. Fleischman
	Mrs. Goehring
	Mrs. Jones
	Mr. Schaefer
	Mrs. Helsing
	Mr. Pander

**Roll Call Vote: 6 Yes; 1 No; Motion Failed**

Melissa Ziegler, Chippewa Township, spoke on Work Session and setting the agenda and the financial documents.

**Administration**

Mr. Brandenburg addressed that the State budget has not yet been passed after 7 months. This makes preparation of the 2016-17 budget difficult without knowing what is going to be received.

**Solicitor**

No comments

**School Directors**

Mr. Fleischman commented 3.4 the approval of the preliminary budget. He also addressed passed votes and board actions to provide a history and direction for change.

Mr. Pander discussed his research on the TCPN Cooperative Buying Contract. He addressed the projects where he made suggestions not write the scope of the project. Mr. Pander noted that the Board is trying to doing what is right for the district but everyone makes mistakes.

Mr. Pander asked the Board to consider working with Wilkie & Associates, LLP to conduct a forensic audit on Highland Middle School. Moon School District has worked with them on 2 building projects and have found it to be successful in that they are now receiving refund checks from vendors.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Noah Sims inquired about the cost for AP Testing will be covered or eliminated. Dr. Kerber noted that she has recommended to the Board to eliminate but it has not been voted on; no final decision made.

Noah will be working with the National Honors Society and Key Club on a community service project to collect warm clothing for Beaver County Social Service.

The next meeting will be February 11, 2016, Blackhawk High School Library, at 7:30PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Missy Kaszer  
Blackhawk School District Board Secretary