

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS VOTING SESSION  
Highland Middle School LGI Room  
October 15, 2015**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Dr. Rose call the meeting to order at 7:37PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Those in attendance were:

<b>Ms. Aquino</b>	<b>Mrs. Helsing</b>	<b>Mrs. Kaszer</b>	<b>Mr. May</b>
<b>Mr. Pander</b>	<b>Dr. Rose</b>	<b>Mr. Yonkee</b>	<b>Mr. Young</b>

Mr. Fleischman was absent.

Also in attendance were:

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

A moment of silence was held.

Dr. Rose advised that there was an executive session held prior to this evening's meeting for personnel matters.

**PUBLIC REATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Kaszer extended congratulations to sophomore student, Kyle Hennig for winning the Slippery Rock Raceway championship this past weekend. He had 5 feature wins and 10 top 5 finishes to earn the championship. While being involved in racing for the past 6 years, 2015 was his inaugural year of racing. In addition to Slippery Rock Raceway, Kyle has raced at a variety of other speedways both in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Mrs. Kaszer also congratulated Blanche Darr, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Noelle Hughes and Noah Schiemer, seniors, on being selected to the Youngstown Symphony Youth Orchestra. The Youngstown Symphony Youth Orchestra is open to area students, ages 13-18, by audition and presents two concerts annually. Youth Orchestra members rehearse each Monday during the school year at the DeYor Performing Arts Center and this year's concerts will be held on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Both concerts begin at 4PM.

**Presentation by Highland Middle School**

Mrs. Amy Anderson, Principal, gave an overview of the "I said I would" program. Students of Highland Middle School have made promises to better themselves and the community. Highland Middle School made a promise to participate in the Water Walk for Life this spring, returning rain water to community (Brady's Run). The board was provided information on the "I said I would" program along with a card to make a promise. A video was played which shared the promises made by the students.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Berchtold, Chippewa Township Police Department, spoke regard agenda item 4.14, paying 2 business managers.

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, spoke on agenda item 4.14 and questioned the professionalism of the past interim business manager. He also addressed the proposed contract regarding no salary limit and the potential to other duties. Mr. Clendennen addressed the negotiation committee as well as spoke on the VBEH invoice from November 2014.

Mr. Woods, Chippewa Township, spoke on items 5.2 and 5.3 – STEM Curriculum. He noted that 5.2 appears to be a curriculum document while 5.3 is the state standards. Mr. Woods requested the curriculum also include computer education.

Mrs. Ziegler, Chippewa Township, expressed concern with the computer curriculum; noting that her 5<sup>th</sup> grade son is receiving no computer education. Expressed dissatisfaction that the computer teacher was not replaced. Looking for Blackhawk to be above the minimum standards.

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, requested a second opportunity to speak. Dr. Rose requested a roll call vote.

<b>Yes (2 additional minutes)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Ms. Aquino		
Mrs. Helsing		
Mrs. Kaszer		
Mr. May		
Mr. Pander		
Dr. Rose		
Mr. Yankee		
Mr. Young		

**8 Yes; 0 No.**

Mr. Clendennen spoke on agenda item 3.6, noting that none of the financial documentation was provide prior to the meeting. Questioned the transfer of \$140,000 to cover computer equipment from curriculum director.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Yankee made the recommendation to accept the Financial Report for September. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pander.

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

Mr. Yonkee made a motion to accept the payment of bills as follows:

- a. Fund 10 – General Fund: \$623,895
  - b. Fund 32 – Capital Projects Fund: \$220.00
  - c. Fund 51 – Cafeteria Fund: \$54,937.00
  - d. Fund 66 – UPMC Health Fund: \$405,626.72
  - e. Fund 67 – UPMC Dental: \$13,191.35
  - f. Fund 68 – UPMC Vision: \$3,905.73
- Payroll: September \$1,114,672.79

Mr. Yonkee asked Mr. Brandenburg about the district's cash flow due to the State budget not being passed. Mr. Brandenburg advised that the district should be able to fund until the middle of January. At that time, he will prepare RFPs and send to banks for a Tax Anticipation Note.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Pander.

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

The Monthly Insurance Report for September was included in the board packets as an information item.

Mr. Yonkee made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Aquino, to participate in the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit 2016-17 Joint Purchasing program.

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

The motion was made by Mr. Yonkee and seconded by Mrs. Helsing to make a \$500 donation to the Chippewa Township Volunteer Fire Department.

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

Mr. Yonkee made a motion for a budget transfer request. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pander. Ms. Aquino inquired as to the need for the budget transfer. Mr. Brandenburg noted that the computer equipment was under budgeted and the early retirements from 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 were not picked up. Ms. Aquino expressed concern for purchasing the computers if under budgeted. Dr. Kerber addressed the deficiency in technology in the district, especially in the high school. Ms. Aquino asked if other options were considered like Apple – Yes, extensively. She also inquired as to who will be providing support. Mr. Jim Cox and he has a technician, his request for a seconded technician has not been filled.

Mr. Yonkee expressed his thanks to the staff for their assistance in reviewing the bills.

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

Mr. Yonkee made a motion to offer all employees a District-wide Health Care Opt Out Program. Any eligible active bargaining unit member or Act 93 agreement member may opt out of the District's Health Care Plan in order to use another person's health care plan (outside of the district) and receive \$3,000 stipend. Mr. Yonkee withdrew the motion as it was determined this was an informational item.

Mr. Yonkee made a motion to accept the fee for assistance with the preparation of the AFR by Cottrill Arbutina at a rate not to exceed \$3,000. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Helsing.

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

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**Mrs. Helsing made a motion to employ the following as lunch monitors at a rate of \$7.25 per hour pending clearances. (Motion tabled from September Voting Session)**

- a. Claudia Thompson**
- b. Melissa Wade**
- c. Jennifer Ott**
- d. Linda Hurley**
- e. Linda Sullivan**

**This motion was seconded by Mr. Pander.**

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

**Mrs. Helsing made the recommendation to contract with STAT for Licensed Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse substitutes. Mr. Pander seconded the motion.**

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

**The motion was made by Mrs. Helsing to employ Michelle Hilton as part time cafeteria worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pander.**

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

**Mrs. Helsing motioned and Mrs. Kaszer second to employ Dana Cummings as part time cafeteria worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour.**

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

**The motion to employ Richelle Morris as part time cafeteria worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mrs. Kaszer.**

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

**Mrs. Helsing made a motion to contract with Gary Koch for Psychological services for the 15-16 school year. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young.**

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

**Mrs. Helsing motioned to employ Tammy Bartolone as Nurse Paraprofessional for Blackhawk Intermediate School at a rate of \$15.38 per hour including benefits. Mr. Pander seconded the motion.**

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

**The motion to employ Michele Savilisky as Nurse Paraprofessional for Highland middle School at a rate of \$15.38 per hour including benefits was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mrs. Kaszer.**

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

**Mrs. Helsing moved to revise Sharon LeBlanc, Northwestern Kitchen manager, hourly rate to \$14.20 per bargaining agreement. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young.**

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

**A motion was made to revise Renee Guman, Patterson Primary Kitchen Manager, hourly rate to \$14.20 per bargaining agreement and to include retroactive pay for past services rendered as Kitchen Manager. The motion was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mrs. Kaszer.**

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

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to compensate Melissa Foster \$14.20 per hour while fulfilling the position of Highland Middle School Kitchen manager to include retroactive pay for past services rendered as Highland Kitchen Manager. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kaszer.

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

A motion was made to contract with Lori Beckworth Consulting to assist Sue Lukacs with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) 5 year review at a cost of \$2,935. This motion was made by Mrs. Helsing and seconded by Mr. Pander.

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

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to accept the contract proposal of Mr. John Frombach to act as chief negotiator for the support staff negotiations. Mr. Pander motioned to amend this motions with the notation 'not to exceed \$10,000'. Mrs. Helsing seconded the amendment. Discussion took place regarding the contract, title, responsibilities and the dollar ceiling. Mrs. Kaszer made a motion to table until the next meeting, which Ms. Aquino seconded.

**Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No; Motion Tabled**

Mrs. Helsing made a motion to accept the settlement agreement and resignation of Blackhawk employee as submitted. Mr. Pander seconded this motion.

**Verbal Vote: 6 Yes; 2 No; Motion Carried (Mr. Yonkee and Ms. Aquino casted the 'No' votes)**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Ms. Aquino made a motion to administer the HMS and BIS School Counseling Needs Assessment Survey for teachers, parents and students. Mrs. Kaszer seconded the motion.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 1 No; Motion Carried (Mr. May casted the 'No' vote)**

Ms. Aquino made a motion to approve the kindergarten, first and second grade STEM curriculum. This motion was seconded by Mr. Young.

**Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 1 No; Motion Carried (Mr. May casted the 'No' vote)**

Ms. Aquino made a motion to table the approval of grades three through eight STEM curriculum. This motion was seconded by Mr. May.

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

Ms. Aquino motioned to approve the following field trips:

- a. Seventh and Eighth Grade Band (7), George Hoydich, County Band Festival, Beaver area High School, November 4-5, 2015. (\$224 expenses budgeted)
- b. Journalism (25), Joy Winters, Point Park Media Day, Pittsburgh, November 6, 2015. (\$250 expenses collected from others)
- c. Journalism (40), Joy Winters, Washington, D.C. Trip, November 13, 2015. (\$1,250 expenses collected from others)
- d. Athletic Department (6), Jack Fullen, WPIAL Summit on Sportsmanship, Heinz History Center, November 12, 2015 (no expenses).

Mr. Pander seconded this motion.

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

Ms. Aquino motioned to accept the requested update on the 2009-2010 Performance Audit by PDE. Mr. May seconded this motion.

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

#### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS/REAL ESTATE**

Mr. Pander made a motion to cancel all ad-hoc committees. Mrs. Kaszer seconded this motion. Mr. May questioned what ad-hoc committees were. Mr. Pander explained that there were several started and the best practice would be to dissolve all committees and reorganize.

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

#### **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Aquino motioned to accept the resignation of Olet Stasko, Assistant Softball Coach. Mr. Yonkee seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Aquino motioned to accept the resignation of Bill Mahan, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pander.

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

Ms. Aquino motioned to appoint Steven Brooks as Head Middle School and Varsity Swim Coach for the 2015-2016 school year. The board was advised that the individual has withdrawn his name. No appointment will be made at this time.

Ms. Aquino made a motion to approve Community Swim beginning October 26, 2015. Community Swim will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30pm-9:00pm. Community Swim will not be held on days that school is not in session. Mr. Yonkee seconded this motion.

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

Ms. Aquino motioned and Mr. Young seconded, to approve the athletic activity account. Mr. Yonkee asked Mr. Brandenburg if he was satisfied with the athletic activity account – Yes.

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

Ms. Aquino motioned to accept the resignation of Jake Anderson as the Assistant Volleyball Coach, effective immediately. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Helsing.

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

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON**

Dr. Kerber noted a few recent activities included:

- There is a web conference on October 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss budget impasse.
- Data In-service was held at the IU was attended by administration and staff; reviewed test scores. Blackhawk's Keystone scores are great and show progress. Found out 5<sup>th</sup> grade did well and show growth. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades beginning to show growth last year but not overall for the last 3 years. Represents areas of focus.
- Reading scores are down in the middle school; plans to address are being made.

- Glitches with SchoolBrains have been worked out.

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No Report

#### **FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

No Report

#### **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

No Report

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

No Report

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

Mr. Young motioned the approval of the following conferences:

- a. Jim Perlik, Legionella Water Treatment, Cranberry Township, November 11, 2015. (\$90 expenses budgeted)
- b. Brady Okon, Shawna Terry, science Olympiad STEAM Program, Edgewood Country Club, November 18, 2015. (\$70 expenses budgeted)

Mr. May seconded the motion.

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

#### **BEAVER COUNTY CAREER & TECHNOLOGY**

No Report – the next BCC&TC meeting will be Thursday, October 22, 2015.

#### **PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

No Report

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

No Report

#### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

##### **Visitors**

Mr. Clendennen, Patterson Township, spoke on a discussion from September; read a letter from VBEH to Mr. Wessel. Noted that Cottrill Arbutina audits were approved. Mr. Clendennen note that he will presented all questions and they can be answered via email. On item 4.10, to what date is retroactive

pay being made? 4.14 What is the dollar amount of the resignation agreement? Questioned financial documents being made available. Addressed the ad hoc communities.

Mr. Berchtold, Chippewa, spoke on item 4.13 – if there is a 4 to 4 vote it would be a dead issue – how can it be tabled? Dr. Rose ask the secretary to review her notes. Mrs. Kaszer reviewed that a motion was made by Mr. Pander to include a limit of \$10,000. There was further discussion at which point, Mrs. Kaszer made a motion to table until the next meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Aquino and passed by the board. No vote was taken.

Mr. Berchtold spoke regarding Mr. Fullen, Athletic Director. Dr. Rose addressed that there has been no action by the board regarding Mr. Fullen. Furthermore, the Superintendent has asked Mr. Fullen to return.

Mrs. Oravitz, Chippewa Township, made a plea in May 2015 for transparency. Today, she asked to focus on the district; to set petty actions set aside and focus on the education of the district. The personal vendettas need to stop.

Mr. Al Lyons, Chippewa Township, read a letter his wife wrote regarding Mr. Fullen.

Ms. Roni Wise, South Beaver, stated that what is going on in the district saddens her. Blackhawk was someplace special but not anymore.

Mrs. Ziegler, Chippewa Township, noted that the negotiation meeting of September 30, 2015 did not occur and requested when the next meeting is scheduled. Mr. Webster advised there is no scheduled date at this time. Spoke on the budget prepared under the interim manager and requested that he not be brought make. Mrs. Ziegler regard the negotiation minutes from the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mrs. Ziegler spoke regarding a board member, and addressed personnel issues. Mrs. Ziegler noted that 10 individuals in region 2 can file with the magistrate to have a board member removed.

Mr. Joe Hamilton, Chippewa Township, addressed the actions of a board member; requested the resignation. Dr. Rose noted that the board has no legal authority to remove a board member. Mr. Webster, solicitor, noted that the only authority the board has to remove a member is if the member has missed 2 or more consecutive meetings. Mr. Webster also noted that the superintendent had consulted with the solicitor's office and acted accordingly.

Mrs. Angela Sasser Noted that she only heard good things regarding the district until she moved her. Requested that the board start thinking about what the students are learning.

#### **Administration**

No Comments

#### **Solicitor**

No Comments



## **School Directors**

**Mr. Yonkee stated that he attended all of the Open Houses with the exception of Northwestern as it was the same evening at Patterson Primary. Noted how impressed he was of each of the schools and expressed his thanks to Mrs. LeDonne for the great job she has done.**

**Mr. Yonkee made the suggestion to schedule a special meeting to resolve the decision regarding Northwestern.**

**Ms. Aquino spoke on the process of handling issues and the leadership that is required as a board member. Ms. Aquino also spoke on the complaints regarding respect.**

## **Student Representative**

**Mr. Sims noted that the student body had a great Homecoming weekend. He also acknowledged that the Girls Soccer Team has beat Beaver which puts them into the playoffs for the first time in their team's history. The Boys' team plays Beaver this evening, which will determine if they make the playoffs.**

**Mr. Pander addressed the VBEH invoice, noting that when it was on the agenda, there was no back up documentation, therefore, it was tabled. That was the day that Mr. Wessel was dismissed and the payment of this bill was made that same day, without board approval. Mr. Pander stated that it is the board's responsibility to understand the bills and what is being paid which is why the item was tabled.**

**The next meeting will be November 12, 2015 at Highland Middle School, LGI Room, at 7:30PM.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:32PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Missy Kaszer  
Blackhawk School District Board Secretary**