

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

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS WORK SESSION  
Highland Middle School LGI Room  
October 8, 2015**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Dr. Rose call the meeting to order at 7:35PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Those in attendance were:

Mrs. Kaszer	Mr. May	Mr. Pander
Dr. Rose	Mr. Yonkee	Mr. Young

Ms. Aquino, Mr. Fleischman and Mrs. Helsing were absent.

Also in attendance were:

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

Mr. Yonkee asked about voting to pass the minutes next week instead of this meeting. Dr. Rose noted this is a voting item for this evening.

Mrs. Kaszer made a motion to approve the September 10, 2015 meeting minutes. Mr. Pander seconded this motion.

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

Mrs. Kaszer made a motion to approve the September 17, 2015 meeting minutes. Mr. Pander seconded this motion.

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

Mrs. Kaszer noted that a few years back the board had discussed and decided not to make the meeting minutes public until after board approval. Recently, these documents have been made available under supporting documents on the website prior to board approval. Mrs. Kaszer asked for clarification on which is the correct protocol that should be followed. Mr. Webster, Solicitor, stated that they should not be published until approved; this will eliminate duplicate versions of the minutes should any revisions be made. Dr. Rose asked that the administrative office not publish the minutes and invoices prior to them being approved.

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

## **PUBLIC REATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Young congratulated the following high school students for being selected Student of the Month for October.

- a. Nina Hudak – Little Beaver Lions Club
- b. Ryan Cerbus – Rotary Club
- c. Nina Pappan – Chippewa Lions Club

Mr. Simms noted that all three individuals had prior commitments this evening and were unable to attend.

Mr. Young made a motion to move the Presentation by Eckles – Northwestern Primary School on the agenda to before the public comments section to allow the community to comment or ask questions on the presentation. Mr. Yankee seconded this motion.

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

### **Presentation by Eckles – Northwestern Primary School**

Highlights of the presentation include:

- Reviewed the findings of the soil testing at Northwestern; done to determine if new septic system is possible
- 8 different holes were dug in the area south of the baseball field by a certified soil scientist
- The soil scientist climbed into the holes to examine the soil.
- Adequate area for an On Lot system was found.
- Recommendation to continue pursuing.

Dr. Kerber inquired if there is a big difference in the cost. Eckles advised the estimates used \$10,300 gallon, the DEP will consider alternative ways to calculate the flow. There is a good chance cost will be reduced; need to design the system prior to being able to provide a cost.

Mr. Puskas inquired if the current system is leaking. Eckles responded that the current system does not absorb as much as when it was originally developed. In the Plancon budget there was \$428,000 budgeted; based on a flow of 10,300 gallons per day into the system the estimate is at \$415,000 - \$515,000.

Dr. Rose asked at what point would an actual perk test need to be conducted. Will need additional testing as moving through process.

Next steps recommended by Eckles – the district has already submitted Part A, which does not lock the district into anything. Need to decide whether to commit or not. Urgency to determine as further actions do come with required timeframes.

Dr. Rose, inquired if there is a variety of soil types, do we have sufficient area/land for the site? 20,000 square feet of area needed – satisfied with the area available.

Mr. Pander noted that there are 2 types of systems: 1 is a drip system which is used by most school districts. Cannot drive on it but you can still hold practices and play baseball. The other is a sand mound. Northwestern passed for a drip system. There were 2 holes that did not pass but 4 holes that did pass.

Mr. Yonkee inquired about a timeframe. Eckles noted that the district is doing their due diligence if continue at the current pace we would be looking at 10-12 months with the earliest being August / September 2016 to begin the project. Would recommend to decide sooner rather than later, hopefully in November.

Mr. Yonkee inquired as to which system is being recommending. Mr. Pander identified the drip system which has a lower cost, no mound or manhole cover. This would go out the end of the building toward the outfield of the baseball field.

#### **Public Comments**

Mr. Greg Woods, Chippewa Township, spoke on agenda items 5.3 and 5.4 – the curriculum for STEM. Mr. Woods requested for the curriculum to be made available to the public for parents. Inquired as to the number of times the students in grades 3-5 have been to the computer labs – Classes are signed up for once a week. Mr. Woods expressed concerned that classes have not been to the computer labs yet. Mr. Woods commended the district for working on the curriculum to bring up to date.

Ms. Lisa Duncan, Chippewa Township, spoke on agenda item 7.3 to appoint Steve Brooks as head Middle School and Varsity Swim Coach. Ms. Duncan sat in on the interview and was able to speak on his knowledge of the sport and experience in working with the students. She encouraged the board to appoint Mr. Brooks.

Ms. Roni Wise, South Beaver, also addressed agenda item 7.3. She has participated in the interview as well. Ms. Wise noted that with her HR background, she was able to speak on the skills that Mr. Brooks can provide to the district in addition to the values that he can install into the students.

Dr. Rose acknowledge the potential future board members in attendance at this evening's meeting. He thanks Mrs. Bonnie Goehring, Mrs. Marian Jones and Mr. Robert Berchtold for attending.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The committee is recommending approval to accept the Financial Report for September.

The committee is recommending approval for the payment of bills.

- a. Fund 10 – General Fund: \$0
  - b. Fund 32 – Capital Projects Fund: \$0
  - c. Fund 51 – Cafeteria Fund: \$0
  - d. Fund 66 – UPMC Health Fund: \$0
  - e. Fund 67 – UPMC Dental: \$0
  - f. Fund 68 – UPMC Vision: \$0
- Payroll: September \$0

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

The committee is recommending approval to participate in the Beaver Valley intermediate unit 2016-17 Joint Purchasing Program. Mr. Brandenburg was asked to provide details; The value of the IU is proving options to compare pricing. The district is not committed to use.

The committee is recommending approval to make a \$500 donation to the Chippewa Township Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Yonkee asked for the rationale. Dr. Kerber to check but stated that a solicitation was received. Mr. Brandenburg noted that the fire department does provide program in the schools.

Mr. Yonkee also addressed comments made at the previous meeting regarding donations to the proposed stadium project.

Mr. Yonkee asked for detailed information regarding the up-coming budget transfers. Mr. Brandenburg will have information available early next week.

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The committee is recommending approval 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 Off
- d. Linda Hurley
- e. Linda Sullivan

The committee is recommending approval to contract with STAT Staffing for Licensed Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse substitutes.

The committee is recommending approval to employ Michelle Hilton as part time cafeteria worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The committee is recommending approval to employ Dana Cummings as part time cafeteria worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The committee is recommending approval to employ Richelle Morris as part time cafeteria worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The committee is recommending approval to employ Sharon Petrocelli as part time cafeteria worker at a rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The committee is recommending approval to contract with Gary Koch for Psychological services for the 15-16 school year.

The committee is recommending approval to employ Tammy Bartolone as Nurse Paraprofessional for Blackhawk Intermediate School at rate of \$15.38 per hour including benefits.

The committee is recommending approval to employ Michele Savillsky as Nurse Paraprofessional for Highland Middle School at a rate of \$15.38 per hour including benefits.

The committee is recommending approval to revise Sharon LeBlanc, Northwestern Kitchen Manager, hourly rate to \$14.20 per bargaining agreement.

The recommendation is made to approve to revise Renee Guman, Patterson Primary Kitchen Manager, hourly rate to \$14.20 per bargaining agreement.

The recommendation is made to approve to compensate Melissa Foster \$14.20 per hour while fulfilling the position of Highland middle School Kitchen Manager to include retroactive pay for the past services rendered as Highland Kitchen Manager.

The recommendation is made to approve to contract with Lori Beckworth Consulting to assist Sue Lukacs with national School Lunch Program (NSLP) 5 year review at a cost of \$2,935.

Dr. Kerber spoke on the items were tabled because they do need to be negotiated, however, upon review with the solicitor the individuals are being hired because the district does not have enough help in the cafeterias. As for the last item, the district has just received word of a 5 year audit that is due in January. This is a comprehensive audit and reviews all cafeteria activities.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Yonkee addressed the notations of 'budgeted' and inquired if the board could receive a document that shows where the budget stands. Mr. Yonkee also noted that he understands that high school music program costs more than other programs but requested a break-down of the allocation for the other programs.

Due to field trip dates, Mr. Yonkee motion to approve the following field trips:

- a. FFA (9), FFA Fall Leadership Conference, Lyndsay Wilcox, Altoona, October 5, 2015 \$30 (Expenses budgeted)
- b. FFA (20), Fall CDE Competitions, Lyndsay Wilcox, Lawrence County Fairgrounds, October 15, 2015 \$175 (expenses budgeted).
- c. Eleventh Grade (30), Go Ape/High Ropes, Bryan Vitali, Pittsburgh, October 15, 2015 (no expense).
- d. English Club (40), The Crucible Play, Anita Steppe, Hazlet Theatre, November 3, 2015 (no expense).
- e. English Club (40), A Christmas Carol Play, Anita Steppe, Benedum Theatre, December 10, 2015 (no expense).
- f. English Club (40), A Lesson Before Dying Play, Anita Steppe, Hazlett Theatre, March 9, 2016 (no expense)
- g. BHS Band (43), Band Performance at BOA Championship, Dave Zaccari, Indianapolis, IN, November 12-15, 2015 (\$2,800 expenses budgeted).
- h. Transition/PRIDE (20), National Disability Mentoring Day, Mariah Brown, location to be determined, October 21, 2015 no expense.
- i. PRIDE (2), Special Olympic Fall Fest, Dianne Sarver, Villanova University, November 6, 2015 (no expense).
- j. Seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus (10), Jr. High District Chorus, Jayne McDonald, Beaver, January 22, 2016 \$460 (expenses budgeted).
- k. Sixth Grade Chorus (40), Schoolttime Concert Series, Jayne McDonald, Heinz Hall, January 20, 2016 (no expense).
- l. TSA (80), TSA State Conference, Tim Linkeheimer, Seven Springs, April 13-16, 2016 (\$3,600 expenses budgeted and collected from students).
- m. TSA (50), TSA HS Regional Conference, Cal U, January 28, 2016 (\$1,000 expenses budgeted).
- n. TSA (16), TSA Teams HS Competition, BVIU, March 3, 2016 (\$155 expenses budgeted).

- o. Gifted/Academic Games (15), Propaganda Tournament, Geneva College, November 5, 2015 (\$200 expenses budgeted).
- p. Gifted/Academic Games (15), Presidents Tournament, Geneva College, November 19, 2015 (\$200 expenses budgeted).
- q. Gifted/Academic Games (15), World Events Tournament, Jeff Tripodi, Ambridge, January 21, 2016 (\$200 expenses budgeted).
- r. Gifted/Academic Games (15) Jeff Tripodi, Equations Tournament, Center Stage, February 2, 2016 (\$200 expenses budgeted).
- s. Gifted/Academic Games (15), Jeff Tripodi, Linguistik Tournament, Center Stage, February 16, 2016 (\$200 expenses budgeted).
- t. Gifted/Academic Games (12), Academic Games National Tournament, Atlanta, GA, April 21-27, 2016 (expenses budgeted).
- u. Expressions (30), Jayne McDonald, Expressions Performance, Various Locations, December 4, 15, 16, 2015 (\$145 expenses budgeted).
- v. MS TSA (10), Lego Mindstorms Exhibition, Tim Linkenheimer, BVIU, December 4, 2015 (no expenses)
- w. FFA (25), Lyndsay Wilcox, FFA State Convention, Penn State University, June 14-16, 2016, (\$150 expenses budgeted and collected from students).
- x. FFA (25), Lyndsay Wilcox, Pennsylvania State Farm Show, Harrisburg, January 11-13, 2016. (\$2,700 expenses budgeted and collected from students).
- y. FFA (9), Lyndsay Wilcox, State Legislative Leadership Conference, Harrisburg, March 6-8, 2016, (\$120 expenses budgeted and collected from students)
- z. FFA (9), Lyndsay Wilcox, ACES Leadership Conference, Harrisburg, February 6-7, 2016. (\$75 expenses budgeted and collected from students)
- aa. How Stuff Works (42), Brandon Smith, Harnessing Energy Through History, Beaver County, October 23, 2015. (\$155 expenses budgeted and collected from students).
- bb. Applied Engineering and technology (8), Brandon Smith, Chain Reaction Contraption Contest, Carnegie Science Center, December 11, 2015. (\$50 expenses budgeted).
- cc. Accounting 1&2 (30), Kelli Ambler, Accounting Career Day, Duquesne University, November 17, 2015. (\$250 expenses budgeted).

Mr. Pander seconded the motion.

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

The committee is recommending approval to administer the HMS and BIS School Counseling Needs Assessment survey for teachers, parents and students. Mr. Yonkee asked for the background information. Dr. Kerber provide information; it is an optional survey to identified needs. No invasive questions are asked. There is no cost for the survey. It is copied and distributed through the schools to assistance the counselors.

The committee is recommending approval for kindergarten, first and second grade STEM curriculum. Dr. Kerber advised that the standards are on the website. Computers are now part of this class. Will elaborate more on this program through the website.

The committee is recommending approval for grades three through eight STEM curriculum.

Dr. Yonkee noted how impressed he was with the Open Houses that he has attended so far this year.

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

Mr. Pander noted the district need to try and decide what to do about Northwestern; expressed interest in obtaining thoughts from public and teachers to make a decision in the best interest of the district.

## **ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

The committee will be recommending approval to accept the resignation of Olet Stasko, Assistant Softball Coach.

The committee will be recommending approval to accept the resignation of Bill Mahan, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach.

The committee will be recommending approval to appoint Steven Brooks as Head Middle School and Varsity Swim Coach for the 2015-16 school year.

The committee will be recommending approval for Community Swim beginning October 26, 2015. Community Swim will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30PM to 9:00PM. Community Swim will not be held on days school is not in session.

The committee will be recommending approval for athletic activity account.

Mrs. Kaszer announced that the Lady Cougars are selling Cougar Paw Prints. They will paint paw prints on your drive way to show your support of any/all Blackhawk Cougar activities.

Mrs. Kaszer – noted that inquires have been received from graduates who which to join high school practices while home on break to stay in shape and competitive and asked if this is something the district could look into. Mr. Fullen stated it is against WPIAL bi-laws unless they are a coach with the team. The district solicitor also noted that they would need clearances.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON**

Dr. Kerber noted a few recent activities including:

- Will be traveling at the end of the month to Harrisburg with other superintendents to meet with the Secretary of Education. Discuss points include: Budget, Keystone, Not taking a moratorium on the Keystones.
- The next IU Meeting will be discussing data
- Curriculum Meeting; focus on Vertical & Horizontal alignment
- Global Passport – Due to success more teachers and students becoming involved. Working with First Energy again. Met with CCBC regarding college credits
- Working on several grants: Transition grant, Lowes Grant and Natural Science
- Open Houses have occurred except for the Primary Schools; forthcoming
- Discussed the High School Presentation on date violence
- Homecoming this weekend
- Attendance Trends from the IU

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No Report

## **FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

No Report

## **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

An information item on the support staff negotiations and contract.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

No Report

## **BOARD/STAFF ENRICHMENT**

Mr. Young motioned the approval of the following conferences:

- a. Christy Desselle, Integrating Speech and ABA-Based Programs, BVIU, October 15, 2015, no expense.
- b. Jeff Tripodi, Beaver County Academic Games/Gifted Consortium, BVIU, October 8, November 13, 2015, March 18, April 17, May 9, 2016 (\$100 expenses budgeted).
- c. Tim Linkenheimer, Beaver County Gifted Consortium Meetings, BVIU, December 1, 2015, January 8, February 5, 2016 (\$45 expenses budgeted).
- d. Gina Gordon, PA School Counselors Association Southwest Regional Workshop, Wexford, October 30, 2015 (no expenses).
- e. Gina Gordon, 2015-16 Beaver County Counselors Association Meetings, November 20, 2015 (Geneva College), February 19, 2016 (CCBC) (no expense).
- f. Melanie Kerber, Negotiation Skills Workshop, AIU3, October 31, 2015, (\$250 expenses budgeted).
- g. Jim Cox, Pennsylvania Educational Technology Conference, Hershey, February 21, 2016 (\$1,200 expenses budgeted).
- h. Krystal Kier, Integrating Speech and ABA-Based Programs, BVIU, October 15, 2015 (no expense).
- i. Kelley Engle, Prescription Drug Abuse and it's Relationship to Heroin, BVIU, (\$15 expenses budgeted).
- j. Anita Mensch, Anita Steppe, Heather McCowin, SAS institute, Hershey, December 6-8, 2015 (\$960 expenses budgeted).
- k. Eric Brandenburg, PASBO, Hershey, March 8, 2016 (\$1,100 expenses budgeted).

This motion was seconded by Mr. Yonkee.

**Verbal Vote: 6 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**

**Mr. Pratte, Chippewa Township, the current bus stop for his children is at the corner of Park and Shenango Roads. They need to walk about 3/10's of a mile to the stop. There have been a number of accidents. Have talked with McCarter's and there is no mini bus or van. The recommendation was made to speak with the directors on the Transportation Committee.**

**Mrs. Kim Corrella, South Beaver and Mrs. Deana Wilmoth from Patterson Township. Addressed that their children attend the Aviation Program and were requesting assistance with transportation from the high school to the airport. Dr. Rose made the recommendation to speak with the directors on the Transportation Committee.**

**Mr. Greg Woods, Chippewa Township, asked for clarification if the standards for STEM were on the website – yes.**

### **Administration**

**No Comments**

### **Solicitor**

**No Comments**

### **School Directors**

**Mrs. Kaszer spoke on the Spaghetti Lunch at the PRIDE Class at Highland Middle School in September. The students made homemade sauce from tomatoes donated from one of the parents. They shopped for and put together a nice luncheon. The PRIDE Class from the High School donated cookie trays for dessert. Mrs. Kaszer gave a 'shout out' for a job well done.**

**Mr. Yonkee inquired for the date of the letter from Conrad Siegel. Mr. Yonkee asked for the cost charged; Dr. Kerber advised that she would like the opportunity to read and review the letter before commenting as it was just received prior to tonight's meeting.**

## **Student Representative**

**Mr. Sims noted soccer has been selling tee shirts in support of pediatric cancer. Fall sports are beginning to wrap up and Senior Nights are occurring. Tomorrow's football game will have a neon theme. The homecoming dance will be Saturday and will have the theme is the Fabulous 50's. The Football game on October 30<sup>th</sup> will be the Pink Out Game. Addressed Spirit Sale currently in progress featuring the new school logo. 8 students have made district choir. Dr. Kerber thanked the class of 2015 for the gift of a new sign at the High School.**

**The next meeting will be October 15, 2015 at Highland Middle School, LGI Room, at 7:30PM. There will be an Executive Session at 6:30PM prior to the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Missy Kaszer  
Blackhawk School District Board Secretary**