

BLACKHAWK SCHOOL DISTRICT
500 BLACKHAWK ROAD
BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VOTING SESSION
Highland Middle School/LGI Room
September 17, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Perry Pander, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Those in attendance were:

Ms. Aquino
Mr. May
Mr. Young

Mr. Fleischman
Mr. Pander

Mrs. Helsing
Mr. Yonkee

Mrs. Kaszer and Dr. Rose were absent.

Also in attendance were:

Dr. Melanie Kerber – Superintendent
Mr. Eric Brandenburg – Business Manager
Mr. Christian Bareford – District Solicitor

Mr. Pander noted that there was an executive session for personnel matters prior to the Voting Session.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

No Report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Allen Lyndes of Patterson Township extended an invitation to board members to attend a Spaghetti Dinner at the Highland Middle School on September 25, 2015. The preparation and meal itself was made possible by the generous donations of tomatoes, groceries and equipment from Mr. Lyndes and PRIDE teacher Mrs. Yowler and staff. The luncheon was delicious and it was great seeing the students work together so well.

Mr. Greg Woods of Chippewa Township asked about the Computer Facilitator positions that were to be voted on later in the meeting. He noted his concern about the level of computer education at the Blackhawk Intermediate Unit School (BIS). He expressed a desire for a greater focus on computer education for these students.

Mr. Rob Puskus, Science Teacher at Blackhawk High School, praised the Keystone Scores and the district's hard working students. He saluted the work of the biology department. He spoke of the need for new materials and shared his opinion on Schoology.

Mrs. Melissa Ziegler of Chippewa Township spoke about the vote on new stadium renderings later in the meeting and expressed a desire to see presentations for forthcoming meetings placed on the website in a timlier manner.

Mr. Bob Clendennen of Patterson Township thanked Eric Brandenburg for information provided to him.

At the completion of Public Comments, a Power Point presentation related to the Keystone Exams was presented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Yonkee requested approval to accept the Financial Report for August. Mrs. Helsing seconded.
Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried.

Mr. Yonkee moved and Paul May seconded a motion to accept the payment of bills as follows:

- a. Fund 10 – General Fund: \$409,312.05
 - b. Fund 32 – Capital Projects Fund: \$3,000
 - c. Fund 51 – Cafeteria Fund: \$19,833.71
 - d. Fund 66 – UPMC Health Fund: \$253,192.62
 - e. Fund 67 – UPMC Dental: \$12,053.00
 - f. Fund 68 – UPMC Vision: \$2,199
- Payroll: August \$1,057,862.27

The Monthly Insurance Report for August was provided as an informational item.

A motion was made by Mr. Yonkee and seconded by Mrs. Helsing to honor a request from South Beaver Township to exonerate the 2015 school real estate taxes for the following Parcel numbers based on the mobile homes being removed from prior to the distribution of the district's tax bills.

- a. Parcel 77-003-0305-946, located at 40 Kathy Street, Beaver Falls.
- b. Parcel 77-003-0305-966, located at 4 Kelly Drive, Beaver Falls.
- c. Parcel 77-121-0145-896, located at 19 Carla Drive, Beaver Falls.

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

Kathy Helsing made a motion to authorize payment of \$272.70 to Dillon's Trophy for six full color plates that represent various potential views of a proposed new stadium to be located at Blackhawk High School. Mr. Fleischman offered additional explanation about the stadium renderings. Mr. May, Ms. Aquino and Mr. Yonkee raised concerns and discussion followed. A decision was reached to categorize it as a donation rather than a payment. Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Paul May and seconded by Tori Aquino to table the employment of a new Northwestern Primary lunch monitor. Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Dean Fleischman to tale the employment of a BIS lunch monitor. Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Paul May and seconded by Matt Young to table a request from Cassandra Clonch to utilize sick leave and FMLA on or about September 8 until or about October 20, 2015. Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Dean Fleischman to accept the resignation of Pam Smith, a Nurse Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective September 18, 2015. Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Ken Yonkee to accept the resignation of Veronica Wood, a Nurse Paraprofessional at Blackhawk High School, effective September 18, 2015. Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No; Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Dean Fleischman to hire the following substitutes:

- a. Denise Rodriquez
- b. Lisa Hopkins

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 9 No; Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Matt Young to grant tenure to the following teachers:

- a. Thomas (Jake) Anderson, BIS
- b. Lisa Brown, NPA
- c. Ashley DeCoy, BIS
- d. Christy Desselle, BIS
- e. Erin Krut, NPS
- f. Natalie Nicolette, HMS
- g. Amy Taylor, BIS
- h. Catherine Virgin, PPS
- i. David Zaccari, BHS

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

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Tori Aquino to increase the salary of school principals Scott Nelson (BHS) and Jane Ann Fucci (BIS) by \$3,000 respectively for the 2015-16 school year according to the Act 93 Agreement.

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

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Tori Aquino to hire the following as part-time custodians at a rate of \$12 per hour without benefits:

- a. Christine Cipolla
- b. Matt Mooney
- c. Erin Lokey
- d. Tabitha Markusic
- e. Shannon Sabatucci
- f. Kathi Young
- g. Jacob Goehring
- h. David McCowin
- i. Matt Marasco (pending clearances)
- j. Ricky Hemphill

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Tori Aquino.

A motion was made by Kathy Helsing and seconded by Dean Fleischman to table this item.

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Tori Aquino and seconded by Matt Young to approve the following field trips:

- a. Highland Middle School PRIDE (4) Tracy Yowler, Community Based Instruction, 2 days per month during the school year pending van ability (no expense)
- b. Music Academy/Choir (15), Maura Underwood, PMEA Honors Chorus Auditions, Westminster, October 1, 2015 (\$200 expenses budgeted).
- c. Music Academy/Choir (6) Maura Underwood, PMEA Honors Chorus, Westminster October 29-31, 2015 (\$780 expenses budgeted).
- d. Concert Choir (7), Maura Underwood, PMEA District Chorus, Laurel, February 3-6, 2016 (\$980 expenses budgeted).
- e. Concert Choir (3), Maura Underwood, PMEA Region Chorus, Western Beaver, March 16-19, 2016 (\$420 expenses budgeted).
- f. Concert Choir (3) Maura Underwood, PMEA All-State Chorus, Harrisburg, March 30-April 2, 2016 (\$900 expenses budgeted).
- g. Concert Choir (105), Maura Underwood, High Notes Festival, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, March 27, 2016 (expenses collected from students).
- h. Concert Choir (100), Maura Underwood, Holiday Tour, Pittsburgh, December 12, 2015 (\$200 expenses budgeted).
- i. Music Academy (21), Maura Underwood, Musical Christmas Carol, Pittsburgh, December 22, 2015 (\$150 expenses budgeted).
- j. Blackhawk High school PRIDE (5), Mariah Brown, Community Based Instruction, 2 days per month during the school year pending van ability (No expense).
- k. Blackhawk High School PRIDE (3), Bender Leadership Academy, Pittsburgh, November 18-, January 14, February 18, and April 7, 2016 (no expense).
- l. Third Grade (200), Third Grade Teachers, Iron Mills Farmstead, New Wilmington, October 16, 2015 (expenses collected from PTO).
- m. Sophomore Class (40), Joe Verbosky, P.E. Outdoor Field Trip, Pittsburgh, Sept. 24, 2015 (expenses collected from students).

A motion was made by Tori Aquino and seconded by Kathy Helsing to approve the annual Blackhawk School District School Picnic on Monday, June 13, 2016.

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

BUILDING AND GROUNDS/REAL ESTATE

No Report.

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Dean Fleischman and seconded by Paul May to appoint the following as Computer Facilitators for the 2015-2016 school year:

- a. Ken Moser, BHS, \$2,850
- b. Naomi Equels, BHS, \$2,850

- c. Darlene Martin, HMS, \$3,610
- d. Erica Schilt, Primary Schools, \$2,850
- e. Barbara Brown \$3,610

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

ADMINISTRATIVE LIASON

Dr. Melanie Kerber provided a report with information on the following areas: finances, facilities, district achievements and initiatives, staffing and upcoming events.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No Report.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

No Report.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No Report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No Report.

BOARD/STAFF ENRICHMENT

A motion was made by Matt Young and seconded by Paul May to approve the following conferences:

- a. Gina Gordon, PA School Counselors Association 60th Annual Conference, Hershey, February 17-20, 2016 (\$500 expenses budgeted).
- b. Melanie Kerber, Managing Crisis: Community Chaos, Nemaquin, November 12-13, 2015 (\$615 expenses budgeted).
- c. Ashley Biega, Dale Moll and Tim Linkenheimer, TSA Regional Conference Planning Meeting, California University, PA October 1, 2015 (\$94.00 expenses budgeted).
- d. Dale Moll, Tim Linkenheimer, TEEAP Conference, Camp Hill, November 5-6, 2015 (\$750 expenses budgeted).
- e. Dale Moll, 2015 STEAM Showcase, Pittsburgh, September 9, 2015 (no expense).
- f. Dale Moll, National TSA CRC Manager Meeting, location to be determined, October 18-20, 2015 (no expense).
- g. Mariah Brown, Beaver County Transition Council, BVIU, October 23, 2015 – May 27, 2016 (\$100 expensed budgeted).
- h. Amy Anderson, Principal Leadership Institute, Location to be determined, October 29, 2015 – May 2016 (\$500 expenses budgeted).
- i. not listed
- j. Amy Anderson and Scott Nelson, Rigor and Assessment Literacy, online September 14-September 28, 2015 (\$300 expenses budgeted).
- k. Jane Ann Fucci and four teachers to be determined, Math and Science Collaborative, Allegheny Intermediate Unity, September 30, 2015 (\$50 expenses budgeted).
- l. Nicole Holiday, Mike Arbogast, SAP Coordination Meeting, Baden, September 30, 2015 (no expense).
- m. Nicole Holiday, Caring Team for Grieving Children, Warrendale, October 6, 2015 (no expense).

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

BEAVER COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY
No Report.

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
No Report.

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
No Report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
Visitors

Melissa Ziegler asked about the medical absence of Dr. Rose, the new stadium renderings and the status of voting agendas prior to a voting session.

Bob Clendennen discussed district policy for adding items to an agenda and monies he believes are owed to the architectural firm VEBH for work performed on the renovation of Highland Middle School. He also spoke about Act 93 Raises for Principals, New Stadium Fundraising and the former Ad-Hoc Committee to discuss the Northwestern Primary School.

School Directors

Ken Yonkee spoke about his meeting with business manager Eric Brandenburg to discuss the enacted Early Retirement Initiative for teachers and classified employees. He also spoke about district enrollment figures and the proposed refinancing of 2012 bonds.

Eric Brandenburg, business manager, spoke and said at this point refinancing is not viable given current interest rates, which are too high to create the necessary savings.

Ken Yonkee then asked Dr. Kerber about a letter from an actuary related to the health care fund. Audience member Bob Clendennen interjected but was not recognized.

Tori Aquino spoke about board member conduct.

Perry Pander indicated that the next board meeting will be October 8, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by Dean Fleischman, board member acting as board secretary in Missy Kaszer's absence.