

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Monday, 6 March 2017
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Attendance

A special meeting of the Bloomsburg Area School District Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, 6 March 2017 by President Marianne Kreisher in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Ms. Stephanie Dunn Haney, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Jonathan Jones, Mr. Joshua Klingerman Sr., Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Norman Mael, Mrs. Gail Moore, and Mr. Leo “Joe” Yodock III. Mr. Hock was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Stephen Bressi (left at 7:36 p.m.), Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 7:36 p.m.), Mrs. Melissa Day, Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 7:36 p.m.), Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 7:36 p.m.), Dr. Amanda Stutzman, Mr. Josh Tabor (left at 7:36 p.m.), Mr. Michael Upton, and Dr. Donald Wheeler.

Others present were: Mr. Phil Burrell (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Mr. Jordan Hoyes (left at 7:11 p.m.), Ms. Tara Hoyes (left at 7:11 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. John Polhill (left at 7:11 p.m.), Mrs. Kate Polhill (left at 7:11 p.m.), Ms. Madeline Polhill (left at 7:11 p.m.), Ms. Brittney Smith, Mr. Jedediah Smith, and Mr. Steven Welsh (left at 7:11 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr. Steve Welsh addressed the board to ask that it consider permitting his son [who would be turning five years old on 3 September 2017] entrance into kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year despite the fact that school district policy stipulated children had to turn five years of age before September 1 in order to be admitted into kindergarten for that school year. Ms. Kreisher responded that in order for Mr. Welsh’s son to be able to attend kindergarten in 2017-2018, the board would need to amend its policy before then. She said the board would take a look at the policy and thanked him for bringing this to the board’s attention. She told Mr. Welsh that if the board changed its policy, Mr. Welsh would be notified.

Mrs. Day then recognized Madeline Polhill, who was among only 15,000 students nationwide to have the distinction of being a National Merit Scholarship finalist. Ms. Kreisher congratulated Madeline on her accomplishment.

Mrs. Crawford then suggested to the board that students who earned a five on their AP exams be recognized (possibly with a plaque, as National Merit Scholars were) in the high school. Ms. Kreisher responded that the district was currently working on ways to recognize students for academic – not just athletic – accomplishments, and that more information on this would be coming soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Final Reading of Policies

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve on final reading the following policies:

- Policy 000: Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations;
- Policy 001: Name and Classification;
- Policy 002: Authority and Powers;
- Policy 003: Functions;
- Policy 004: Membership;
- Policy 005: Organization;
- Policy 006: Local Board Procedures;
- Policy 006.1: Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications;
- Policy 007: Policy Manual Access;
- Policy 011: Principles for Governance and Leadership.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of 2017-2018 Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Budget

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School budget for 2017-2018 in the total amount of \$6,352,301, with Bloomsburg Area School District's share being \$846,663. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of 2017-2018 Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Budget

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit budget for 2017-2018 in the total amount of \$1,119,823, with Bloomsburg Area School District's share being estimated at \$89,921 and the actual share being based on actual use of services. The motion approved by a vote of seven yes votes and one abstention, being Mrs. Moore, who abstained because she is an employee of the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit.

Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Requests

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests:

- Bloomsburg High School Technology Student Association (TSA) students to the TSA State Leadership Conference in Champion, Pennsylvania from 19 April 2017 – 22 April 2017, at a cost to the district of \$2,078;
- Bloomsburg High School Wrestling student-athletes to the district wrestling competition in Williamsport, Pennsylvania from 24 February 2017 – 25 February 2017, at a cost to the district of \$364.80 plus hotel tax;
- Bloomsburg High School Wrestling student-athletes to the regional wrestling competition in Williamsport, Pennsylvania from 3 March 2017 – 4 March 2017, at a cost to the district of \$284.80 plus hotel tax;
- Bloomsburg High School Wrestling student-athletes to the state wrestling competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania from 8 March 2017 – 11 March 2017, at a cost to the district of not more than \$1,148.80 plus hotel tax;
- A Bloomsburg High School chorus student to Atlantic City, New Jersey to participate in the All-East Treble Choir from 5 April 2017 – 8 April 2017, at a cost to the district of \$1,217.54.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to accept the following donations made to the Bloomsburg Area School District:

- A monetary donation of \$500 for the Bloomsburg Middle School Science Fair, made by Merck Cherokee;
- A refrigerator for the Bloomsburg High School swimming/diving team to be used at the concession stand for all home swimming/diving events, made by the Denise Keyser family.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve/accept the following personnel items:

- Approve the leave of absence request of Memorial Elementary School Speech Therapist Reanna Buehler, effective on or about 22 May 2017 through the end of the 2016-2017 school year;
- Approve Brandon Brown Sr. (certified in All Subjects 4-6, Science 7-8) as a professional day-to-day substitute as per Policy 405: Employment of Professional Substitute Employees, effective 7 March 2017;
- Approve Joseph Olcsvay as a van driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year;
- Approve the following individuals as staff for Summer 2017 student programs:
 - Sara Broadt and Becki Benko – KinderCamp Teachers;

- Amelia Blackledge and Valerie Whitebread – KinderCamp Paraprofessionals;
- Tony DeLuca – Bloomsburg University Reading Program Liaison;
- Andrew Brown and Mike Runkle – STEM Camp Teachers;
- Approve William McGinley as a Volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2016-2017 season;
- Approve the following individuals as long-term volunteers/overnight chaperones:
 - Lauren Boyle;
 - Andrea Daly;
 - Reagan Gettys;
 - Julia Kepler;
 - Mary Kerr;
 - Courtney King;
 - Taylor Little;
 - Hyun Long;
 - Olivia Olver;
 - Lauren Pavone;
 - Katie Shuman;
 - Elizabeth Tanribilir;
 - Jessica Williams;
 - Monica Williams;
- Approve Norman Mael as the Bloomsburg Area School District representative serving on the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, effective 1 July 2017 through 30 June 2020.

The motion passed by a voice vote of seven yes votes and one abstention, being Mr. Mael, who abstained because he was included for approval in the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:13 p.m., Mrs. Howell made the motion to adjourn the special meeting and move into the work session. Mr. Jones seconded this motion, which then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Work Session
Monday, 6 March 2017
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Administrative Reports

Mr. Bressi reported that on February 23, Bloomsburg High School held an assembly on drugs. He recognized Ms. Tara Hoyes, the mother of a Bloomsburg High School student who had passed of a drug overdose several months ago. Ms. Hoyes had shared her son Brandon's story with the students and staff of Bloomsburg High School at the school's recent drug panel presentation. Mr. Bressi thanked Ms. Hoyes for sharing her emotional journey.

Mr. Freeman thanked Merck Cherokee for their recent donation of \$500 for the middle school's science fair. He said that over the past four years, Merck Cherokee had donated \$1,800 to this event. He then recognized Steve Roeder for having taken fifth place at the state junior high wrestling tournament that year. Lastly, he told directors that students in Ms. Zwalkuski's social studies classes had been blogging with Bloomsburg High School graduate Luke Kurelja, who was attending the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Mr. Freeman said that students were learning about working on a ship and what it was like to be in the maritime academy. He said at some point, he would like to get Mr. Kurelja to come to the school to talk to the students in person.

Ms. Christensen reported to directors that special education staff had recently completed a kindergarten clinic for incoming [2017-2018] kindergarten students. She said that staff had met with the students' parents and were preparing to get these students' necessary services in place for next year.

Mr. Tabor recognized his reading specialists for their work in celebrating Dr. Seuss week. Mr. Klingerman said that he'd attended Beaver-Main's literacy night and that the school was very fortunate to have Mrs. Mertz as a reading specialist.

Mr. Palmatier thanked Memorial's reading specialists for their work with Dr. Seuss week as well, and recognized [high school English teacher] Robin Callahan and her students for their help with the week's activities, as well. He said that about 60 incoming kindergarten students had been registered to attend Memorial in the fall, and that he expected many more to enroll over the summer.

Mrs. Day and Dr. Stutzman then presented information on the district's plan for expanding college options to high school students. Mrs. Moore thanked the two administrators for so clearly outlining college and STEM programs. They explained that the current weighting for STEM classes taken at Bloomsburg University was 1.10, and that there was currently no weighting for ACE classes taken at Bloomsburg University. Their proposal suggested STEM weighting be changed to 1.06, and that there would still be no weighting for ACE credits. Their proposal also included a student being able to take up to six credits (electives only) at Bloomsburg University through the ACE program. Mr. Jones thanked Mrs. Day and Dr. Stutzman for their work on this and for making everything so clear. Dr. Wheeler ended the conversation by saying that this would be brought for a vote at the next board meeting.

Budget Update

Mr. Upton said that he was continuing to review all items in the 2017-2018 budget and make changes as necessary. He said there was only one professional retirement for the end of the 2016-2017 school year and one for January 2018. He pointed out that retirement rates had risen again, and that there had been several employees who had picked up health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Mr. Upton said that the tax elimination bill for real estate taxes had a lot of opposition and that he didn't expect it to become a reality for 2017-2018. He said that the district's deficit for 2017-2018 had grown said his last budget presentation to the board, and that it was currently at \$1,059,000.

Staff Recognition Dinner

Directors decided that they would again like to hold a staff recognition in late May or early June. Ms. Kessler said that typically, about 70 employees attended this event, which recognized retirees, new teachers completing the induction program and their mentors, and employees completing benchmark years (10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years) of consecutive employment with the district. Mr. Mael suggested that district could hold the dinner at the Pine Barn Inn in Danville. Directors asked to make sure that no sporting events were scheduled for the night of the dinner, and Ms. Kreisher directed Ms. Kessler to get in touch with Mr. Mael to set this up.

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report

Dr. Wheeler said that there were very productive conversations about how Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (CMAVTS) delivered its services to students. He said that CMAVTS staff and other local superintendents were open to providing additional opportunities to students.

Ms. Kreisher then said that due to time constraints, she was resigning from the CMAVTS Joint Operating Committee. Mr. Jones said he was willing to take her place on the committee.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

Mr. Mael said that he had not been able to attend the last meeting, but that the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit had been looking at land purchase, if necessary.

Adjournment to Executive Session

At 7:51 p.m., Mr. Klingerman made the motion to adjourn the work session and move into executive session to discuss negotiations. Mr. Yodock seconded this motion, which then passed by a unanimous voice vote. The executive session concluded at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary