

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, 21 December 2015
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Attendance

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomsburg Area School District Board of Directors was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, 21 December 2015, in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Mr. James C. Dodge, Mrs. Stephanie Dunn Haney, Mr. Brent Hock, Mr. Joshua Klingerman, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Norman Mael, Mr. Leo “Joe” Yodock III, and Ms. Deb Zollmann. Mrs. Tina Howell was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 7:28 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Kelly, Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 7:28 p.m.), and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present were: Ms. Stephanie Kessler.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

At this point in the meeting, no guests wished to address the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, Ms. Zollmann seconded, to approve the minutes of the following Bloomsburg Area School District Board of Directors’ meetings: 16 November 2015 regular monthly meeting; 7 December 2015 special meeting and work session; and the 14 December 2015 special meeting. Mr. Hock asked directors if they would like a printed copy of the draft minutes in each month’s board packet and it was the consensus of the board that this would be a good idea. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve the financial reports for November 2015. Mr. Upton reported that the 2015-2016 state budget still had not been approved, and he said that he did not think the district would be receiving the additional (approximately) \$350,000 that it was projected it would receive from the state. Also, the district had not yet received any of its federal funding, which would come through the state. During discussion of the financial reports, Mr. Hock asked if there was a way to alleviate the gap between the bleachers, as this was a safety concern. Mr. Upton said he would check with Mr. Wozniak on this. At the end of discussion, the motion to approve the financial reports passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

Mr. Klingerman made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve the bills payable for 17 November 2015 – 21 December 2015, ranging from check #00039800 – check #00040004, including wire transfers in the amount of \$305,064.95, in the total amount of \$1,125,694.94. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ms. Christensen reported that all secondary special education teachers had received mandated training under the state performance plan that would help them in providing services and documents that were legally compliant. She reported that the district's special education plan was due to the state by 1 May 2016, but said she believed it would be submitted by March. Mr. Yodock asked how it was decided that students should be placed in an educational setting other than the Bloomsburg Area School District, and Ms. Christensen replied that the recommendation to place a student outside the district came from the Individualized Education Placement (IEP) team, which was typically comprised of a principal, parents, specialists, and Ms. Christensen. She said the IEP team reviewed the student's attendance, academics, and psychological needs, and also took into account the safety of that student and students around him/her. She said the district had the final say in the student's placement, and Mr. Kelly told the board that parents did have the option of appealing that decision. Ms. Christensen said that parents were always given a procedural safeguards notice at IEP meetings.

Mr. Palmatier then told the board that he was dealing with typical issues that arose before the holiday break and said that he did not really have much else to report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

As the student representative was not present at the meeting, there was no student representative report given. Ms. Kreisher told the board that the reason her daughter Leah Fogelsanger, the student representative to the school board, was not at the meeting was because the Student Council advisor had not given her any information to report. Ms. Kreisher said that Leah had asked the advisor several times for information to report and had not heard back from her, and that Leah felt uncomfortable making a report to the board without having been authorized to release that information. Mr. Hock asked that Mr. Kelly remind the Student Council advisor that she needs to communicate with Leah about the report that Leah gives to the school board each month. Mr. Klingerman said he believed that all advisors should be reminded that they were being paid to be an advisor. Mr. Upton suggested the board could revisit having all advisors present an end-of-year report to the board.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Upton reported that in the preliminary 2016-2017 budget, there was presently a \$378,000 deficit. He voiced concern that the district would not receive the additional \$350,000 it was supposed to receive from the state budget, which still had not passed. He pointed out that he had used the same figures for federal funding in 2016-2017 as he had in 2015-2016, as this amount should remain about the same. Mr. Upton distributed a revenue report and preliminary salary and benefit budget for 2016-2017, the latter of which showed budgeted amounts for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. He said that the professional staff would have until 1 March 2016 to submit a letter of retirement if they would be retiring at the end of the 2015-2016 school year, so he did not have information on professional staff retirements yet. Mr. Upton pointed out that worker's compensation insurance would be increasing, as there had recently been several major worker's compensation cases, and that he had budgeted less for tuition reimbursement, as this amount had

been decreasing in previous years. Mr. Upton pointed out that the building budgets were very similar from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017, and that the technology budget was down for 2016-2017 because the Surface Pros, which were on a four-year replacement cycle, had been purchased in 2015-2016. Mr. Upton reported that the Bloomsburg University Foundation had filed a tax appeal for its Greenly Center and that Autoneum had also filed a tax appeal. He told the board that both transportation costs and debt service payments would be very close between 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Mr. Upton said he was concerned that if the district did not include a tax increase in the preliminary budget, it would not be able to have a tax increase in the final budget, an option he wanted to keep open. He said that under Act 1, the district could increase mills by 3%, which would be 1.2 mills, equaling about \$286,000. Mr. Upton said he took the amount budgeted for flood mitigation from \$3.5 million to \$4.2 million and that while the budget would reflect this, the district was not committed to it. Mr. Upton said that because the state budget had yet to be approved for 2015-2016, he would feel more comfortable if the board approved a preliminary budget that included a tax increase, which would be used only if necessary. Mr. Upton told directors that the preliminary 2016-2017 budget needed to be out in January, and that he would be posting in on the district web site and advertising its availability for public inspection over the holiday break. Mr. Hock thanked Mr. Upton for the work he'd done with the budget, and noted that Mr. Upton's budgets tended to be very accurate.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Kelly highlighted discussions that the school board had regarding flood mitigation, starting with the consolidation report done in 2012. This report explored consolidation options for the Bloomsburg Area School District and the Central Columbia School District. Mr. Kelly pointed out that the report, which ranked the facilities of the two districts, rated Bloomsburg High School the highest of all the schools, following by Bloomsburg Middle School. He said that the report stated that Bloomsburg's facilities were in good condition, but that there was a fear of flooding for the high school/middle school. He said that the study recommended that flood mitigation be down to the high school/middle school, regardless of if the district chose to purchase property to build new schools in the future. Furthermore, he pointed out that the report stated that if Bloomsburg Area and Central Columbia school districts were to consolidate and therefore sell the current Bloomsburg Middle School and Bloomsburg High School, there would be limited appeal to potential buyers because these facilities were in the flood plain and did not have any flood protection. Realistically, he said, the report suggested these facilities would sell for about \$2-\$3 million. If sold, the district would still need to pay debt payments on the high school, which at the time of the study was about \$8 million. Mr. Kelly said that he doubted the district could sell the high school and middle school without flood protection, and that the board had two different issues to consider: protecting the high school and middle school for flooding and possible land acquisition. He said the district was currently \$16 million in debt and that at current construction costs, it would cost approximately \$35 million for a new 200,000-square-foot middle/high school. Mr. Kelly said the district could not afford this type of obligation right now and said the district could maybe consider it 10 years down the road. He warned that the district was really asking for trouble if it didn't spend the approximately \$3.5 million for a flood mitigation project now.

Mr. Klingerman asked how all the schools in the area had been able to afford to build new schools.

Mr. Upton replied that Central Columbia School District had been putting aside money for a number of years in order to do their recent high school construction project. He also said that Bloomsburg needed to protect its assets first and then look into available land. He said he thought it would be easier to sell the high school/middle school if flood mitigation was in place, and reiterated that the two buildings were solid.

Ms. Kreisher said that since she had been on the school board, the district had looked into purchasing four or five different parcels of land, but that none of them had come to fruition. She said that the district

needed to protect the facilities it had and that if it failed to do so, it would be doing a disservice to the community. She said that the high school and middle school were structurally sound except for the flood issue.

Mr. Hock said that the board was looking at two different topics. He said the district needed to be prepared for a flood and that it should consider purchasing property so that future board had the luxury of building new schools. Mr. Klingerman said the district should have purchased the Welliver property when there was only a \$50,000 difference in the negotiated price. Mr. Upton said the cost of the property was actually \$900,000. Mr. Hock said he thought the board should create an exploratory committee to look at potential land to purchase. He also said that the middle school needed air conditioning, but that first, the district needed to protect the building from flooding. Mr. Klingerman said that in 30 years, if middle school and high school students were still attending school in the current buildings, Bloomsburg would be the last place that anyone coming to the area would want to send their children. Ms. Zollmann said that she researched school districts before moving to Bloomsburg, and that she chose Bloomsburg because she liked the idea of neighborhood schools.

Mr. Yodock asked if the district would lose a lot of revenue if a 500-year flood were to occur and take out a number of properties along 11th and 12th streets. Mr. Upton said the district had lost some revenue from Fernville and the west end of town following the September 2011 flooding. Mr. Upton also said that the district should devise a long-term but that it really needed to protect what it currently had. He said that it should start putting away money now to acquire land, but that it would take a long time to do so. He said the board could commit funds for land purchase. Mr. Hock suggested the board could take the difference between funds committed for flood mitigation and the actual cost of flood mitigation, assuming the project came in less than \$4.2 million, and put the difference into committed funds for future land acquisition.

Mr. Klingerman said the district needed to take the opportunity to purchase land when it was able to do so, adding that the board could change and decide to sell the land that the current board had purchased. Mr. Hock said he didn't want the issue to be a thorn to the board and that everyone needed to be on the same page. Mr. Mael said that the image of a flood wall three feet from the school wasn't working for him. Mr. Kelly said that Borton-Lawson would come back to the board fairly soon to present options and prices for flood mitigation. In the first half of 2016, he said, the board should assemble a land acquisition committee.

After the flood mitigation and land acquisition discussion, Mr. Kelly reported to the board that he had met with Chief Van Loan and Mr. Yodock and that the town was considering completely redoing the traffic pattern at the west end of Market Street, as Memorial Elementary School could dismiss students onto Jefferson Street. He said that because purchasing 150 parking spaces was not financially feasible, creating a drop-off area was a good alternative.

Lastly, Mr. Kelly reported that the district would need to work on updating its computer and Internet access use policy, and that he would be bringing a revised policy to the board in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the board at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Policies 227, 302, and 505

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve on first reading and schedule for final reading at the 18 January 2016 meeting the following revised policies: Policy 227: Use of Unauthorized Substances; Policy 302: Employment of Superintendent; and Policy 505: Employment of Substitute and Short-Term Employees. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Cancelling 4 January 2016 Board Meeting

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve cancelling the 4 January 2016 special meeting and work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Elementary and Secondary Curriculum and Instruction Director Job Description

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve as presented the revised Elementary and Secondary Curriculum and Instruction Director job description. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Boys' Junior High Soccer Program

Ms. Zollmann made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Haney, to approve the addition of a boys' junior high soccer program, effective for the 2016-2017 school year, with the introduction of a limited "start-up" team in Spring 2016 with transportation to away games being the only cost to the school district.

Mr. Kelly told the board that the program, once fully implemented, would cost approximately \$5,400 per year. He said that if approved with a start-up year of 2015-2016, Mike McGarry had offered to volunteer as the coach and jerseys would be provided by the booster club. Ms. Kreisher said she was not in favor of approving the boys' junior high soccer program to start in Spring 2016, as she was concerned that the other sports already in existence may not have access to the fields that they should be allowed. Mr. Hock said he thought the board would be justified to hold off approving the initiation of the program until the 2016-2017 school year because the district did not have a field for them to use in Spring 2016. Mr. Kelly suggested the board table the motion and then act upon it after talking to Athletic Director Corey Thomas and Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance Director Nick Wozniak.

Mr. Klingerman then made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to table the motion to approve the addition of a boys' junior high soccer program, effective for the 2016-2017 school year, with the introduction of a limited "start-up" team in Spring 2016 with transportation to away games being the only cost to the school district. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Contract with PSBA for Superintendent Search

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve as presented the Contract for Professional Services with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), at a cost to the district of \$1,250 for the superintendent search and a rate of \$500 per finalist reference check. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

After this motion passed, the board discussed key dates regarding the superintendent search. The board decided that it would meet to review all applications on 25 January 2016 at 7 p.m. in the district board room. The board decided that first-round interviews would be held beginning at 6 p.m. in the district office board room on 2 February 2016 and 3 February 2016, and 4 February 2016 (if needed). The

seconded-round interviews, the board decided, would be held on 22 February 2016, with the board's interviews beginning at 7 p.m.

Mr. Hock told the board that he'd recently spoken with Wayne LeClair from the Pennsylvania School Board Association, who had told him that to date there was one application for the superintendent position and that there are been several inquiries about it, as well as about 100 views on their web site.

Approval of Purchasing Electronic Sign for BHS

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Ms. Zollmann seconded, to approve the district paying up to \$5,000 toward the purchase of an electronic sign to be placed in front of Bloomsburg High School. Mr. Kelly noted that this donation would match a donation of \$5,000 that was made by the Bloomsburg High School Class of 1964. Mr. Kelly explained that by the district matching the donation of the Class of 1964, it would be able to purchase a larger, more visible electronic sign. He said there was an unused contingency in the budget that could be used toward the purchase of this sign. Mr. Yodock said the district could explore alternative funding possibilities with this sign. After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Athletic Field Irrigation System Bid

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to accept the low bid of Sokol, Inc. in the amount of \$23,485.00 for the installation of irrigation piping for the athletic fields. It was noted that bids were opened at 2 p.m. on 17 December 2015 in the district office board room, and that they were as follows: Jumper Landscaping LLC of Mountain Top, PA - \$48,343.00; Winterberry Irrigation LLC of Southington, CT - \$27,812.00; Sokol, Inc. of Bloomsburg, PA - \$23,485.00. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Ms. Zollmann seconded, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip request: Bloomsburg High School Softball team to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for spring training from 8 March 2016 – 12 March 2016, at no cost to the district. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Athletic Coaches

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Zollmann, to approve the following individuals as athletic coaches for the 2015-2016 season: Suzanne Noll – Elementary Girls' Basketball Co-Coach – 6.5 units - \$487.50; Janna Ward – Elementary Girls' Basketball Co-Coach – 6.5 units - \$487.50; Alex Barra – Elementary Boys' Wrestling Coach – 5 units - \$375.00; Lloyd Fry – Elementary Boys' Wrestling Coach – 5 units - \$375.00 (reapproval); Daniel Roeder – Volunteer Elementary Boys' Wrestling Coach (reapproval); Deb Baker – Volunteer Varsity Field Hockey Coach; and Joe Glowaski – Assistant Varsity Boys' Soccer Coach – Step 2 - \$1,629.00. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Long-Term Volunteer/Overnight Chaperone

Ms. Zollmann made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve the following individual as a long-term volunteer/overnight chaperone: Lorie Hippenstiel, effective upon receipt of her Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check and her FBI Clearance or Volunteer Affidavit. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Substitute Bus Drivers

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Ms. Zollmann seconded, to approve the following individuals as substitute bus drivers through Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year: Kelly Oliver and Richard DiLena. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of CSIU Board Representative Resignation

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher to accept the resignation of Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Representative Leo “Joe” Yodock, retroactive to 11 December 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Election of CSIU Board Representative

Mr. Hock asked for nominations for the position of Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Board of Directors representative for a term expiring 30 June 2017.

Mr. Hock nominated Ms. Zollmann.

There being no other nominations, Mr. Hock asked for a motion to close nominations. Ms. Kreisher made the motion to close nominations, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

As there were no other nominations, Mr. Hock announced that Ms. Zollmann had been elected to the position of Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Board of Directors representative for a term expiring 30 June 2017.

Approval of Long-Term Professional Substitute

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Zollmann, to approve Anna Marie Bridges as a Long-Term Substitute Learning Support Teacher at Memorial Elementary School from 16 February 2016 through the end of the 2015-2016 school year, at a rate of \$14.29 per hour as per Policy 405: Employment of Professional Substitutes. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Advisors

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the following individuals as advisors for the 2015-2016 school year: Kay Martin – Drama Club Seamstress – stipend to be paid by Drama Club; Connie Pawling-Young – Drama Club Vocal Coach – stipend to be paid by Drama Club; and Aaron White – Drama Club Assistant – stipend to be paid by Drama Club. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Classified Staff Leave of Absence Request

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Zollmann, to approve the leave of absence request of Memorial Elementary School Head Cook Anne Bradshaw, effective 4 January 2016 with an anticipated return date of 28 January 2016. Mr. Kelly told the board that this leave did not encompass any paid holidays. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION

It was reported that the following item would appear on the next work session agenda: Budget.

It was reported that as of 16 December 2015, there were 1,585 students enrolled in K-12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hock announced that the next regular monthly meeting would be held on Monday, 18 January 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Zollmann to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary