

**Bloomsburg Area School District  
Board of School Directors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Monday, 21 September 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 7:00 p.m. on Monday, 21 September 2015, in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Mr. Brent Hock, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Joshua Klingerman, Mr. Terry Kramarz, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mrs. Sandra Rupp, Mr. Thomas Tobin, Mr. Joe Yodock, and Ms. Deb Zollmann.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Dan Bonomo (left at 8:11 p.m.), Mr. Steve Bressi (left at 8:11 p.m.), Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 8:11 p.m.), Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 8:11 p.m.), and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present included: Ms. Evie Allport (left at 7:08 p.m.), Mr. Gerald Beauvais (left at 7:18 p.m.), Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Mr. Christopher Dillon (left at 7:08 p.m.), Mrs. Joanna Dillon (left at 7:08 p.m.), Ms. Kayley Dillon (left at 7:08 p.m.), Ms. Terri Drucker, Mr. John Garland, Shane Hartman (left at 7:18 p.m.), Dr. Mark Jones (left at 7:08 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Kelly, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. Josh Tripp, and Ms. Kristina Unger.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK**

Bloomsburg High School Art Teacher Mark Jones addressed the board regarding a painting project that three of his students had been working on over the course of the past year. The paintings were hung in the district office board room and a copy of each would be hung in the high school as well, he said. Dr. Jones told the board that the concept for the three paintings was the past, present, and future of Bloomsburg High School. First, Bloomsburg High School student Kayley Dillon presented her painting to the board, which represented the past of Bloomsburg High School. Next, Bloomsburg High School student Evie Allport presented her painting, which depicted the present of Bloomsburg High School. Lastly, Dr. Jones unveiled to the board the final painting, which had been done by former Bloomsburg High School student McKayla Robbins, who had depicted what she thought the future of Bloomsburg High School would look like. Dr. Jones said he was very proud of these three students and their work on this project.

Next, Bloomsburg Middle/High School Mathematic Teachers Terri Drucker shared with the board that she had received concerns from parents regarding the recently released Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) scores, which were overall much lower than in past years. Ms. Drucker said that while parents had been sent a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) explaining that there had been a statewide drop in scores with their children's 2014-2015 PSSA scores, she thought a parent meeting might be helpful. Mr. Hock said that he thought everyone was aware of the changes to the grading system, but that he understood how parents could be concerned and confused about the drop in PSSA scores. Dr. Curry said that Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera had pointed to several reasons for the drop in PSSA scores, including the fact that the eligible content students were tested on had not been updated before students took the PSSAs in Spring 2015. Dr. Curry said that a One Call

containing a letter outlining some of the reasons for the lower test scores had been sent out in August and that the letter was on the district's web site. Mr. Yodock asked if there was merit to Ms. Drucker's idea of having a large-scale parent meeting regarding PSSA scores, and Dr. Curry responded that for now, small or one-to-one meetings to address parents' concerns would suffice, but that he would follow up with Ms. Drucker later that week to discuss a possible parent meeting or other ways to get information out to the school community through such venues as the district-wide fall newsletter.

Mr. Shane Hartman then asked the board to consider a request to add a boys' junior high soccer program. He presented the school board with a list of 17 seventh- and eighth-grade male students who had indicated an interest in participating in a boys' junior high soccer program and a list of 17 sixth-grade students who indicated they would be interested in participating in such a program in their seventh- and/or eighth-grade year. Mr. Hartman also said several individuals had expressed an interest in coaching and that the athletic director and a potential coach were in the process of collecting information on uniform costs. Mr. Tobin said the district would have to check with Title IX to make sure there was a balance of girls' and boys' sports.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve the minutes of the 17 August 2015 regular monthly meeting and the 8 September 2015 special meeting and work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Kramarz seconded, to approve the financial reports for August 2015. Mr. Upton told the board that the local auditor, Forgett and Kerstetter, had begun its annual audit the previous week. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE**

Mr. Klingerman made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kramarz, to the bills payable for 18 August 2015 – 21 September 2015, ranging from check #00039262 – check #00039481, including wire transfers in the amount of \$237,702.10, in the total amount of \$998,440.49. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE – CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

Mr. Tobin made a motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the bills payable for the Capital Reserve Fund for 18 August 2015 – 21 September 2015, ranging from check #00001803 – check #00001805, in the amount of \$103,826.35. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Curry distributed to board members a draft of the in-service agenda for 21 October 2015. Topics on the elementary agenda included math, writing, reporting/grading procedures, growth and development education, guidance department updates, special education law updates, and technology. Topics on the secondary agenda included One Note training, faculty 1:1 needs, suicide prevention training, and Guides 4 Learning development.

Next, Dr. Curry reported that Mr. Palmatier had been receiving numerous concerns about the lack of parking and the traffic congestion during drop-off and pick-up times at Memorial Elementary School. Dr. Curry said he had talked to Matt Zoppetti about the potential of the district buying or renting parking spots from him, and had been told that it be extremely expensive to buy even a portion of the parking lot and that it would cost the district \$950 per month for 30 spots, and the district would need to maintain those 30 spots. Dr. Curry said that the parking/traffic issue would be alleviated if parents would drop off their students and then move away from the school rather than sitting in their car and not moving until their child got into the school or if parents would drop off their children about a block from the school and let their children safely cross the street with the help of the crossing guards. Ms. Zollmann suggested the district could inquire about using the parking lots of the two churches near Memorial. Mr. Palmatier said this issue was definitely a safety concern, adding that there had been some minor accidents and near-misses due to the traffic issues during drop-off and pick-up times at Memorial. Dr. Curry said that police did patrol the area and that they did ticket double-parked cars. Mr. Kelly said that in years past, Bloomsburg Mills had allowed Memorial staff to park in its employee parking lot, and he also said that the YMCA's parking lot could be used by parents, but that there was a really good solution to the parking issue, due to the location of Memorial.

Dr. Curry then reported that a professional staff grievance had been received and that he had denied it. He said that this grievance may come before the board. He updated the board on the high school principal search, saying that the district had received six applicants and that the deadline for the search had been extended to 2 October 2015. Next, he reported that Siemens had finished its evaluation of the HVAC system at Memorial Elementary School and that they were working on an estimate on repairs to the system, which would be shared with the board once it was available. Dr. Curry said that he had e-mailed the board about the PDE performance audit for the period of September 2013 – June 2015, and said that it had been a good audit. Lastly, Dr. Curry said he needed two board members to be on the district's comprehensive planning committee. Mr. Yodock and Ms. Zollmann volunteered.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Bressi reported that so far, it had been a smooth start to the new school year. He said that the previous week, the school had gone through an accountability drill and that all students had gotten to the stadium and were accounted for within 15 minutes. He said that he was working on getting the application for the alternative education program approved by the state, and that the school was moving forward with Project-Based Assessments (PBAs). He finished his report by saying that he was working on a Safe Schools grant to try and get some equipment, including more security cameras, for the high school.

Mr. Bonomo told the board that at the October work session, he would be talking to them about adding four new courses – academic physics, anatomy and physiology, anthropology, and social studies in action – at the high school for the 2016-2017 school year. He reported that the school had a moment of silence in school and at the football game on September 11. Mr. Klingerman asked about the status of the sign being purchased by the Class of 1964 for the front of the high school, and Mr. Upton replied that the district needed to apply for a variance for it. Mr. Klingerman then asked if students would be doing any floats for the Homecoming parade. Mr. Bonomo said that he did know, and Ms. Kreisher said that the student representatives would be doing one. Mr. Klingerman said he thought that the administration and faculty needed to get students excited about Homecoming, and that the class advisors needed to get parents and students to help with floats. Mr. Tobin said that a few meetings ago, directors had questioned administrators about the time it took to get high school transcripts mailed out and dates on transcripts being whited out. Mr. Bonomo said the issue had been addressed with the guidance department and that the counselors were willing to talk to the board about it if requested.

Mr. Palmatier started his report by saying that the year was off to a great start and that Andrew Brown was doing a great job in his position as the Dean of Students at Memorial Elementary School and that he had taken on student attendance and discipline and had made it his own. Mr. Palmatier then said that feedback from faculty regarding the August in-service days had been very positive and that staff indicated they liked having their colleagues present information to them. Mr. Palmatier said that Erin Serrano and Tony DeLuca had done a commendable job with their presentations to the elementary staff. Mr. Palmatier also reported that the elementary math committee had held its first full-day meeting on September 15, and that the committee had discussed creating math modules and getting updated resources. Mr. Palmatier said he was working on getting a Survey Monkey survey out to staff concerning math. Then, Mr. Palmatier shared with the board proposed changes to the kindergarten progress report card, to which no board members had any objection. Lastly, Mr. Palmatier reported that the next two days, he, Mr. Gary Honabach, Mrs. Kim Honabach, and Mr. Phil Burrell would be attending Microsoft Office training in Hershey so that they could then train staff on Microsoft Office.

Ms. Christensen then shared with board members new gifted screening/evaluation procedures. She said she'd had a gifted parent meeting to inform them of changes. For the 2016-2017 school year, administrators were considering offering .25 credit to Bloomsburg High School students enrolled in the gifted program. She said that if approved, this course would be offered as a pass/fail course. She said there were currently 12 high school students with Gifted Individualized Educational Placements (GIEPs). Ms. Zollmann thanked Ms. Christensen for creating the rubric and asked that it be placed on the district web site.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kramarz, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests: W.W. Evans Elementary School Third-Grade Students to the Statue of Liberty on 6 May 2016, at no cost to the district; and Bloomsburg High School Band Students to Sandusky, Ohio for a Music in the Parks Concert Competition from 27 May 2016 – 29 May 2016, at no cost to the district. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Student Club**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve Junior National Honor Society as a club available to Bloomsburg Middle School students, effective for the 2015-2016 school year.

When asked if there was any discussion regarding this motion, Ms. Kreisher said she was concerned that having this organization at the middle school level would take away from the National Honor Society at the high school level. She said she was concerned because the names – Junior National Honor Society at the middle school and Junior Honor Society at the high school – were so similar. She said she would like to know the criteria for students to accepted into the organization, and that she did not feel she knew enough about the Junior National Honor Society to vote on approving it at that time. Ms. Zollmann looked up Junior National Honor Society's web site and informed the board that students needed at least a 3.6 GPA to be in it and that the application process was the same as it was for the National Honor Society. It was decided that Dr. Curry would talk with Mr. Bonomo, Mr. Bressi, and Mr. Freeman about coming up with a different name for the high school's Junior Honor Society, which was not a schoolwide

organization as opposed to a national organization, and that he would report back to the board with a recommendation.

After discussion, the motion to approve Junior National Honor Society passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Acceptance of Donation**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Kramarz seconded, to accept the following donation to the Bloomsburg Area School District: the book "Freedom Summer: The Savage Season that Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy" by Bruce Watson, made to the Bloomsburg High School library by Bonnie and Lonnie Crawford. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of First Reading of Policy**

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve on first reading and schedule for final approval at the 19 October 2015 board meeting Policy 228: Suicide Prevention. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **Approval of Advisor**

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve Michelle Hintz as the National Junior Honor Society Advisor for the 2015-2016 school year, at 8 units and a stipend of \$600. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Acting Elementary and Secondary Education Coordinator, Homeless Liaison, Title VI Coordinator, and Title IX Coordinator**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kramarz, to approve Trevor Palmatier as the Acting Elementary and Secondary Education Coordinator at \$100/day, and also approve him as the district's Homeless Liaison, Title VI Coordinator, and Title IX Coordinator, effective 19 October 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Acceptance of Athletic Coach Resignations**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to accept the following athletic coach resignations: Nicholas Hessert as an Assistant Swim Coach, retroactive to 8 September 2015; and Leo Yodock III as a Volunteer Cross Country Coach, retroactive to 14 September 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Long-Term Volunteers/Overnight Chaperones**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve the following individuals as Long-Term Volunteers/Overnight Chaperones: Corrina Caflisch and Amber Cease. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Professional Day-to-Day Substitute**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve Elaine Rompolski (Elementary Ed K-6) as a professional day-to-day substitute, effective 22 September 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Professional Staff Leave of Absence Request**

Ms. Zollmann made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the leave of absence request of Memorial Elementary School Teacher Dana Lylo, effective on or about 17 March 2016 through 1 June 2016 or the last day of the 2015-2016 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **INFORMATION**

It was reported that the topic “New High School Courses for 2016-2017” would appear on the October work session as an item for discussion. Ms. Zollmann asked if the board could discuss graduation gown colors and doing away with male students wearing red gowns and female students wearing white gowns, as that would create an issue for transgendered students. Ms. Zollmann also said that at an upcoming work session, she would like to discuss the cut-off Terra Nova scores for middle school students to be accepted into the honors program. She said she would like to see this data for the past five years, if possible. Mr. Upton said he would be discussing budget issues, including a five- to 10-year projection and the five-year maintenance plan, at the next work session. Mr. Klingerman said he would like to discuss land procurement.

It was reported that as of 16 September 2015, there were 1,601 students enrolled in K-12.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hock announced that the next work session would be held on Monday, 5 October 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room, and that the next regular monthly meeting would be held on Monday, 19 October 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:38 p.m., Ms. Kreisher 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