

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Monday, 4 May 2015
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, 4 May 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. Justin Hummel, Mr. Joshua Klingerman, Mr. Terry Kramarz, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mrs. Sandra Rupp, Mr. Thomas Tobin, and Mr. Joe Yodock.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Steve Bressi (left at 8:38 p.m.), Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 8:38 p.m.), Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 8:38 p.m.), Mr. Ryan Moran (left at 9:26 p.m.), Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 9:26 p.m.), Mr. Josh Tabor (left at 8:49 p.m.), Mr. Michael Upton, and Mr. Nick Wozniak (left at 7:18 p.m.).

Others present included: Ms. Kelli Alexander (left at 8:38 p.m.), Ms. Angela Brown (left at 7:12 p.m.), Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Casey Hackett (left at 9:05 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler (left at 9:32 p.m.), Mrs. Annie Kostiuk (left at 8:38 p.m.), Mr. Zach Lindgren (left at 7:12 p.m.), Mr. George Lynn (left at 8:38 p.m.), Mr. Brian McNamara (left at 8:38 p.m.), Mrs. Tammy Mrozek (left at 8:38 p.m.), Mr. Corey Thomas (left at 8:38 p.m.), and Ms. Victoria Van Fleet (left at 7:12 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

At this time, no one wished to address the board.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip request: AP US History students to Washington DC from 13 May 2015 – 14 May 2015 at a cost to the district of \$972.40. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Job Description

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve as presented the Licensed Pool Pesticide Applicator job description. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Summer of Innovation Camp

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve the Summer of Innovation Camp for 2015 at a cost to the district of \$2,838.53. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Donation

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to accept a monetary donation of \$5,080 from the Magee Foundation through the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation to be used to support the Bloomsburg High School library. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

Mr. Kramarz made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve/accept the following personnel items:

- Approve the following staff leaves of absence:
 - Bloomsburg Middle School Paraprofessional Heather Beagle, retroactive to 11 March 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year; and
 - Memorial Elementary School Custodian William Miller, effective 14 May 2015 approximately until 24 August 2015;
 - Bloomsburg Middle School Social Studies Teacher Roger Boschetto, retroactive to 13 April 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year;
- Approve the following individuals as coaches for the 2015-2016 season:
 - Marcus Coulter as a Volunteer Football Coach; and
 - Stephanie Geise as the Head Junior High Girls' Soccer Coach at Step 4 and a salary of \$1,462 and also as the Assistant Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach at Step 4 and a salary of \$1,829, pending receipt of her Act 34, 114, and 151 clearances;
- Approve the following individuals as long-term volunteers/overnight chaperones:
 - Deanna Coyne;
 - Dennis Kuhar;
 - Michele Kuhar;
 - Nicole Martinez;
 - Trina Rhoads; and
 - Natasha Wesch;
- Approve the following individuals as classified substitutes:
 - Marlene Eveland, effective 5 May 2015; and
 - Andrea Galbraith, effective 5 May 2015;
- Accept the resignation of Bloomsburg Area School District Director Justin Hummel, effective 5 May 2015;
- Accept the resignation of Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Ryan Moran, effective 19 June 2015;
- Approve John Celona and Marion Celona as a substitute bus driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year;
- Approve the following staff transfers:
 - Angela Brown from the position of K-12 Itinerant Behavior Support Specialist to the position of Memorial Elementary School Learning Support Teacher, with Mr. Trevor Palmatier as her supervisor, effective for the start of the 2015-2016 school year;
 - John Kubick from the position of Professional Day-to-Day Substitute to the position of Professional Long-Term Substitute (Social Studies at Bloomsburg Middle School), retroactive to 13 April 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year, at a daily rate of \$100; and

- Samantha Bittner from the position of W.W. Evans Elementary School Paraprofessional and Professional Day-to-Day Substitute to the position of Professional Long-Term Substitute (Fifth-Grade at W.W. Evans Elementary School), retroactive to 14 April 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year; at a daily rate of \$100; and
- Approve Victoria Van Fleet as a Memorial Elementary School Learning Support Teacher at Step 1 BS and an annual salary of \$36,276 and with benefits as per the negotiated contract, effective for the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

The motion passed by a voice vote of seven yes votes, one abstention (being Ms. Kreisher, who abstained because one of the individuals listed in the motion was a client of hers), and one no vote (being Mr. Klingerman).

Approval of Professional Staff Unpaid Leave of Absence Report

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tobin, to approve the unpaid leave of absence request of Angela Brown from 15 February 2016 through the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:12 p.m., Mr. Kramarz made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to adjourn the special meeting and move into the work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Work Session
Monday, 4 May 2015
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance Report

Mr. Wozniak reported that over the summer, many aspects of the middle school gym were scheduled to be repaired or replaced.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Bressi shared with the board a report that showed the average daily attendance percentage and the average daily membership of high school students. He said that compared to high school attendance rates across the state, Bloomsburg's 94-97% attendance rate was very good.

Mr. Freeman reported that students finished their PSSA testing that day, and that Keystone Exams would be held on May 13 and 14. He said that 30+ students had been attending Panther Camp, and that Mrs. Mentzer and Bob Horn had helped with this. He also reported that Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble had recently presented a play for sixth-grade students, that Vo-Tech students had recently made presentations to students at the middle school, that Law Day had been held that day, that May 11 would be the seventh- and eighth-grade chorus concert, that May 14 would be the science and technology fair, and that students would be participating in the ALS Walk on May 16. He informed the board that Memorial Day activities would be held on May 19 and that eighth-grade students would be going on their Washington DC trip on May 29. He reported that May 1 had been the annual Kids' Conference for all students at the middle school.

Mr. Moran started his report by thanking the board for the eight years he had worked as an administrator in the Bloomsburg Area School District. He then recognized the district's guidance counselors for doing an outstanding job as PSSA site coordinators. He said that he was not yet ready to make a decision about whether to ask the board to rescind its approval of the Pearson sixth-grade social studies textbooks and instead recommend going with a Discovery Education resource. He said that Mrs. Flook was still researching the Discovery Education resource, and that he should know which resource was a better fit in time for the next board meeting.

Next, Mr. Moran discussed language arts professional development options for 2015-2016. One option would be to have two elementary teachers (one would be a K-2 coach and the other would be a 3-5 coach), work with Ann Moorcones during the 2015-2016 school year so they could become part-time literacy coaches and work with other elementary teachers. For their work as literacy coaches, they would be paid at the contracted hourly of \$22. After the 2015-2016 school year, these two coaches would provide professional development to staff in the area of English/Language Arts. Another option would be to have these two part-time coaches become full-time literacy coaches. Mr. Hummel said he didn't understand why the district would pay for Ann Moorcones' professional development services again in 2015-2016. Dr. Curry replied that while the transition could be completed without her, it would be beneficial to continue to contract with her for one final year.

Ms. Christensen reported that the district would be asking the state for permission for Lindsay Rado to be a half-time learning support/half-time emotional support teacher at Bloomsburg High School. She said

there would be no additional cost to the district for this, and there would be no additional staff needed. Ms. Christensen said there were about four students who would be needing emotional support services, and that the goal would be to keep these students in the district and keep them safe and supported, rather than placing them out of the district. When Mr. Tobin asked how much it cost the district to send a special education student out of district for his/her education, Ms. Christensen replied that one student at New Story could cost \$50,000 – \$90,000 per year.

Chapter 339 Guidance Plan Report

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Curry introduced the district's guidance counselors. He said that the counselors had been working with on the district's mandatory Chapter 339 Guidance Plan (K-12), which would soon be recommended for approval to the school board.

The counselors went on to summarize the Chapter 339 Guidance Plan. In grades three through five, students would identify career interests and would participate in a career day in fourth grade. Fifth-grade students would be introduced to Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School. In sixth grade, students would take interest inventories, in seventh grade, they would get information about three different career areas, and in eighth grade, they would develop a career plan. In high school, students would have individualized career plans and their counselors would meet with them individually, as well as in the classroom. The goal would be to have all sophomores take the PSATs, have juniors finalize their career academic plans, and have seniors ready to utilize these plans.

Elementary Student Handbooks

Before discussing elementary student handbooks, Mr. Palmatier gave shout-out to the Memorial Elementary School kindergarten team, which had recently raised \$1,013 for MLS through a hop-along event.

Mr. Palmatier and Mr. Tabor said there had not been too many changes in the elementary student handbooks from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016. They reported that all three elementary handbooks had been aligned over the past three years. Mr. Palmatier highlighted the changes made to the handbooks, saying that information about early dismissals had been further detailed, and that some health room changes from Myra Golomb had been added. There was also information added about parents paying into their children's breakfast/lunch accounts online. He pointed out that the technology policies available online were references in the handbooks.

Budget

Mr. Upton reported that there was still no further information available on state funding. He said that the 2015-2016 deficit was down to \$287,000, and that the budget was in good shape.

PIMS Coordinator Job Description

Dr. Curry presented to the board a new job description for Gloria Wolfe, which better reflected her job responsibilities and duties. Originally, she had been hired into a full-time position that was part-time Data Technology Coordinator and part-time Technology Technician. Over the past year, Dr. Curry explained, her position has evolved into being a PIMS Coordinator, so her job title and description was changed to better portray this.

U.S. Diving Club

Bloomsburg Area School District Swim Coach Casey Hackett talked to the board about creating a U.S. Diving Club. She said she would not be looking for a stipend for this position and that there would be no

cost to the district, as the club would only need use of the pool. Ms. Hackett said she would be the registered U.S. Diving Coach for this club, which would not be affiliated with the Bloomsburg Area School District. Mr. Thomas assured Ms. Hackett that the club would have pool time, and Dr. Curry said he had no concerns about this club. Dr. Curry emphasized that unlike BAY, which is a for-profit organization, U.S. Diving would not pay pool rental fees, as they are a not-for-profit organization, with students only paying for their insurance coverage, which would allow them to be eligible in U.S. Diving.

Athletic Director Renewal

Dr. Curry said that he would be recommending that Mr. Thomas be reapproved as the district's athletic director for the 2015-2016 school year. He said that Mr. Bonomo was in the process of completing Mr. Thomas' evaluation, and that it was his intent to have the evaluation done by the 18 May 2015 board meeting or 1 June 2015 meeting, at the latest. Mr. Thomas confirmed that he would like to come back for another year. A concern was raised over the fact that Mr. Thomas did not live in the district as stipulated in his job description.

Director of Elementary and Secondary Education

Dr. Curry reported to the board that only two individuals had thus far applied for the position of Director of Elementary and Secondary Education, and that the deadline would be extended by about two weeks to see if more applications would come in. He said that if a successful candidate was not identified by the time Mr. Moran left, that he (meaning Dr. Curry) could act as the Director of Secondary Education and that Mr. Palmatier could act as the Director of Elementary Education until the position was permanently replaced. He proposed that both he and Mr. Palmatier could be paid a stipend of \$12,000 for these additional duties for 2015-2016, and that a dean of students could be hired for Elementary School District for 2015-2016 in order to take care of student discipline issues. At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, the district could then re-advertise for a Director of Elementary and Secondary Education or promote Mr. Palmatier from within and identify a new principal.

Policy 011: Board Governance Standards/Code of Conduct

Mr. Hock recommended the board vote down the proposed Policy 011: Board Governance Standards/Code of Conduct at the next school board meeting. Ms. Kreisher said that she saw the benefit of having a school director code of conduct and referenced one she had found online for the board's consideration.

Flood Mitigation Update

Dr. Curry reported on a recent meeting with representatives from Aqua Fence, a Philadelphia company that provides flood protection utilizing a fence that uses the weight of the water to hold it in place. The cost of the fence to surround the perimeter of the middle/high school would be about \$1 million. After reviewing the positives and negatives of this product, the board decided to evaluate other options. Mr. Yodock said the district needed to engage an engineering firm that was an expert in flood mitigation and allow the firm to give the board recommendations. Dr. Curry also reported on a recent meeting with town representatives who were looking to partner for a flood wall project that may be able to allow the district to obtain grant money for flood mitigation. The board encouraged pursuit of a partnership as these other avenues were explored.

Board Elections

The board discussed future elections and recommended at the next meeting that Ms. Kreisher be elected as board secretary, Mrs. Howell be re-elected as treasure, the firm of Derr, Pursel, Luschas, and Naparsteck be elected as solicitor, and Mr. Upton be re-appointed as assistant board secretary.

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Kreisher gave her report on policy review during the aforementioned Policy 011 discussion.

Mr. Klingerman and Mr. Yodock brought up continuing to re-evaluate the digital signage idea that Dr. Singer had reported on at a prior meeting.

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report

Mr. Tobin reported on the CMAVTS Authority refinancing bonds, which would save BASD approximately \$15,000.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

Mr. Hummel that the current meeting would be his last, and that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time on the board. It was recommended that Mr. Yodock be named as the CSIU replacement for Mr. Hummel.

Informational Item

Dr. Curry reported on PIAA student transfer rules. He said he had received a phone call from Berwick Area School District Superintendent Wayne Brookhart, who said that there were concerns in Berwick regarding alleged recruiting of two Bloomsburg High School students who went on a college visit with Berwick High School Football Coach George Curry. A gentleman not affiliated with the Berwick program drove the Bloomsburg students to Penn State on this trip with the parent of one of the Bloomsburg students. Dr. Curry reported he heard about the trip after the fact and that it was not unlike anything Coach Curry had done with other area athletes in the past and didn't give it much credence. Dr. Curry directed Mr. Bonomo and Mr. Thomas to conduct an investigation to determine if in fact the students were being recruited. The investigation was conducted by these aforementioned individuals and it was determined that they were not recruited. Mr. Hummel stated that Dr. Curry should not worry about this, which was echoed by several other board members. Mr. Klingerman said he was thankful for Coach Curry because he had helped him get a scholarship, and he said that Coach Curry did much to help all area students. Mr. Hock said that next time a similar situation arose, the Berwick coach should ensure he first spoke with the Bloomsburg coach.

Adjournment

The work session was adjourned at 10:04 p.m., following a motion by Mr. Hummel, a second by Mr. Klingerman, and a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary
(completed with some notes
from Dr. Cosmas Curry)