

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Reorganization/Special Meeting
Tuesday, 2 December 2014
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Attendance

The annual reorganization meeting of the Bloomsburg Area School District Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 2 December 2014 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, Mr. Thomas Tobin, and Mr. Joe Yodock. Mr. Justin Hummel, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, and Mrs. Sandra Rupp were absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Dan Bonomo (left at 8:45 p.m.), Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 8:45 p.m.), Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 8:45 p.m.), Mr. Gary Honabach (left at 8:45 p.m.), Mr. Ryan Moran (left at 8:54 p.m.), Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 8:54 p.m.), Mr. Josh Tabor (left at 8:54 p.m.), and Mr. Mike Upton.

Others present were: Mr. Phil Burrell, Mr. Todd Foust, Mrs. Sherry Frye, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Ms. Deb Krupp, Mr. Chris Long, and Mr. Corey Thomas (left at 8:45 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Athletic Director Corey Thomas made a report to the board regarding the fall sports season. He reported that boys' soccer, girls' soccer, field hockey, and girls' tennis (both singles and doubles) had all made it to states. Mr. Thomas said that the high school cross country program was continuing to grow and that students had made great strides throughout the season. He said the evaluations for football came back favorable and that he had given Head Varsity Football Coach Mike Kogut recommendations to strengthen the program, including building a more experienced coaching staff. Mr. Thomas said he had spoken to eighth-grade football players about future recruitment opportunities they might have. He said he had also spoken to twelfth-grade football players about continuing their athletic endeavors in college, and that he planned to soon speak to basketball players about recruitment opportunities, as well.

Mr. Klingerman asked Mr. Thomas about an incident that had occurred earlier that day, during which recruiters from Lebanon Valley College had been told they could not meet with student-athletes because they did not have an appointment. Mr. Klingerman said this was "unacceptable" and that if recruiters showed up at the high school in the future, that they should be permitted to meet with students, even if they did not have an appointment.

Mr. Klingerman then asked Mr. Thomas if he would recommend all Fall 2014 coaches be invited to coach again in Fall 2015, and Mr. Thomas answered in the affirmative. Mr. Klingerman went on to say that he did not believe the community was behind Coach Kogut and that he wasn't a good fit, and that he would like the position to be reopened. He said that Mr. Kogut would be welcome to apply for this position and that he could end up being the successful candidate, but that it would be beneficial to re-advertise to ensure the district had the best coach possible. He continued, saying he'd heard from football players who claimed they were not being adequately prepared for games through their practices. Mr. Hock said that based on Mr. Thomas' recommendation to bring back all of the fall coaches for the following season, he

did not believe the position of head varsity football coach should be re-opened. Mr. Tobin then asked Dr. Curry for his opinion, and Dr. Curry said that he had talked with both Mr. Thomas and Coach Kogut throughout the season and that he felt confident the football program was on the right path. He also said that he agree with Mr. Thomas that more experienced assistant coaches were necessary to further improve the football program.

ADJOURN SINE DIE

Mrs. Howell moved to adjourn sine die, and Mr. Klingerman seconded this motion. A unanimous voice vote was then taken and the motion passed.

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

Mr. Tobin nominated Mr. Hock to serve as the temporary president. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Tobin then made the motion to close nominations, and Mr. Kramarz seconded this motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

At this point, Mr. Klingerman moved to elect Mr. Hock as the temporary president, and Mr. Tobin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Hock asked for nominations for the position of board president. Mr. Klingerman nominated Mr. Tobin, and Mr. Yodock elected Mr. Hock.

Next, Mr. Tobin moved to close nominations, Mr. Klingerman seconded that motion, and the motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Curry, acting as the secretary in Mrs. Rupp's absence, passed out ballots. Dr. Curry then collected the ballots and read the results: five votes for Mr. Hock (from Mr. Hock, Mrs. Howell, Mr. Klingerman, Mr. Kramarz, and Mr. Yodock) and one vote for Mr. Tobin (from Mr. Tobin). Dr. Curry announced that Mr. Hock had been re-elected to a one-year term as the board president.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Tobin nominated Mr. Klingerman as the board vice president. Mr. Klingerman then nominated Mr. Tobin as the board vice president, and Mr. Tobin declined the nomination.

Mr. Tobin then made the motion to close nominations and Mr. Kramarz seconded this motion. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Hock announced that Mr. Klingerman had been elected as the board vice president for a one-year term.

**APPOINTMENT OF PSBA LEGISLATIVE CHAIRPERSON,
MEMBER, REGION 6 REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Hock appointed Mrs. Rupp to the position of PSBA Legislative Chairperson, Member, Region 6 Representative, from 2 December 2014 – 7 December 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Kramarz made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests:

- Bloomsburg High School Chorus to Shikellamy High School for District 8 Chorus from 22 January 2015 – 24 January 2015, at a cost to the district of \$357.60; and
- Bloomsburg High School Band to Troy Area High School for the PMEA District 8 Band Festival from 8 January 2015 – 10 January 2015, at a cost to the district of \$1,290.00.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Facilities Use Agreement with Bloomsburg University

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Mr. Kramarz seconded, to approve as presented the facilities use agreement between the Bloomsburg Area School District and Bloomsburg University for use of the university's athletic facilities for Spring 2015 athletic events. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Aesop

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Mr. Tobin seconded, to approve purchasing the Aesop substitute calling program at a total of \$10,375.00. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Bowling Co-op with CMAVTS

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tobin, to approve as presented the bowling co-op agreement with Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

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

- Approve the following classified staff transfers:
 - Julia Lehman from Bloomsburg Middle School Personal Care Aide to Memorial Elementary School Personal Care Aide, retroactive to 2 December 2014;
 - Amy Fuehrer from Memorial Elementary School Personal Care Aide to Bloomsburg Middle School Personal Care Aide, retroactive to 2 December 2014; and
 - Corrine Stojakovich from Classified Substitute to Bloomsburg Middle School Personal Care Aide (6.5 hours per day) at \$8.65 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff contract, effective 3 December 2014;
- Accept the resignation of Payroll Clerk Debra Gunn, with her last day of work being 13 February 2015;

- Approve Ami Jo Cox as a classified substitute, effective upon receipt of her Act 151 Clearance and her tuberculosis test results;
- Approve the leave of absence request of W.W. Evans Elementary School Cook Nicole Rupert, retroactive to 3 November 2014 through 26 November 2014; and
- Approve as presented the agreement for social work services between the Bloomsburg Area School District and Marika Handakas.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT TO WORK SESSION

At 7:38 p.m., Mr. Klingerman moved to adjourn the special meeting and move into the work session. Mrs. Howell seconded this motion, and it then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary

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Board of School Directors
Work Session
Tuesday, 2 December 2014
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MINUTES

Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance Report

Dr. Curry said that both Mr. Bressi and Mr. Wozniak could not make that evening's meeting, and that they would be at the 15 December 2014 to give their reports.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Bonomo reported that the high school staff was working on an updated Program of Studies and that scheduling for the following school year would be starting soon. He also reported that the Bloomsburg High School Class of 1964 had raised funds to pay for an LED sign for outside the high school and that more information about this would be provided to the board in January.

Mr. Freeman reported that the seventh- and eighth-grade chorus and band holiday concert was scheduled for December 11, that the sixth-grade chorus and band holiday concert was scheduled for December 15, and that preliminary rounds had begun for the middle school's history and geography bees. He also said that recently, a Bloomsburg University chemistry professor and students had made in-class demonstrations to students, and that preparations were underway for the science fair, which would be held in May 2015. Mr. Freeman said that he had invited the Central Columbia Middle School principal to attend this year's science fair in the hopes that Central Columbia could collaborate with Bloomsburg on this in the future. Eventually, Mr. Freeman said he would like to see other schools in the county and intermediate unit participate in the science fair.

Mr. Moran reported that Mr. Tabor, the new principal of Beaver-Main Elementary School and W.W. Evans Elementary School, had just started to work in the district that day. He said that he had been introduced to students and staff at W.W. Evans Elementary School. He also reported that the W.W. Evans Elementary School holiday concert was scheduled for December 9 and that the Beaver-Main Elementary School holiday concert was scheduled for December 10. Lastly, Mr. Moran commended the fourth-grade team for its district-wide lesson plan regarding a unit on the Titanic. At the conclusion of Mr. Moran's report, Mr. Hock thanked him for serving as the interim principal of Beaver-Main and W.W. Evans elementary schools.

Mr. Palmatier told the school board that Memorial Elementary School's holiday concert would be held on December 4 at Bloomsburg High School. He also reported that the school was involved in a program called Support a Pet, through which students and staff were collecting items to donate to the Animal Resource Center, a no-kill pet adoption organization, that students had reached their goal of earning 1,000 P.A.W.s for P.A.W.sitive behavior and would therefore be having an ice cream sundae party on December 19. Lastly, Mr. Palmatier commended the work being done by teacher Andrew Brown, who had created his own YouTube channel and Twitter account to help get students more interested in technology.

Next, Ms. Christensen reported that all three life skills classes (elementary, middle, and high school) had participated in TreeFest and that Jean Crane had been instrumental in helping with this project. She also reported that the middle school life skills class, led by Nicole DelGotto-Harvey, had served over 100 guests during its Thanksgiving feast. Ms. Christensen ended her report by sharing an anecdote about a

family who was moving from the district and had let her know they were very grateful for the educational experience of the children at Memorial Elementary School.

Mr. Tabor ended the administrative reports by saying he'd had a great first day on the job and that he was excited about working in the district.

Technology Update

Dr. Curry began his update on the district's consideration of a 1:1 technology initiative by distributing a two-sided handout outlining options for the board to consider. He said that after the BrightBytes Committee had finished analyzing data from the BrightBytes technology survey, and after talking with the technology staff, administrators, teachers, and students, it was his recommendation to go purchase Microsoft Surface Pros for students, utilizing a phase-in plan. Dr. Curry said that providing adequate professional development to staff would be key in implementing a successful 1:1 initiative. He said that the district would need one or two more technology technicians in order to maintain the new devices, and also said policies for a 1:1 initiative were currently being drafted and would be ready to be shared with the board in January or February 2015. These policies would address such issues as how much, if anything, to charge students for use of the devices.

As the discussion continued, Mr. Hock asked when Dr. Curry would have a recommendation for the board, and Dr. Curry replied that starting the phase-in of Surface Pros was being included in the 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Honabach said that if approved, implementation could begin during fair break in September 2015. Mr. Klingerman then asked why Dr. Curry's recommendation was to go with Surface Pros instead of iPads, and Dr. Curry responded that business representatives and faculty had indicated they used Microsoft much more heavily. Additionally, he said he'd rather use the Surface Pros because the district already had the platform in place to support the PCs. Educationally, the Surface Pros would support project-based assignments, writing opportunities, and extended learning opportunities for students with a hybrid methodology of deployment. Mr. Klingerman applauded Dr. Curry for the work he'd put into this initiative.

Mr. Kramarz asked if it might be feasible for the district to begin purchasing e-books instead of textbooks. Dr. Curry stated that as of the present, it was more expensive to purchase e-books as they needed to be purchased every year, than it was to continue using textbooks. When asked his thoughts on implementing a 1:1 initiative, Bloomsburg High School 21st-Century Librarian Phil Burrell said that he and his colleagues at the high school were excited about this opportunity and that he agreed with Dr. Curry that the district would need to provide ample professional development to ensure the technology was used to its fullest potential.

Panther Pack Program Update

Dr. Curry shared with the board that letters about the Panther Pack program had been sent home with Kindergarten and first-grade students in all three elementary schools. He said that as of that day, 51 students had been registered for the program. Dr. Curry asked board members if they would like him to apply for a matching grant to help fund the program, and it was their consensus that they should. Dr. Curry said he was very excited about this program and hoped to be able to expand it in the future. Mr. Tobin thanked Dr. Curry for his work on this initiative.

Substitute Rates

Referring to a spreadsheet comparing local school district's daily professional substitute pay rates, Dr. Curry said that in order for Bloomsburg to be competitive, he would like to increase the daily substitute pay rate from \$75 to \$85. He said that there was an ongoing issue with substitutes working in other districts that paid more and that the increased pay should help remedy this problem. It was the consensus

of the board that the district should increase the pay rate to \$85. Dr. Curry said he will come back to the board with a recommended revision to the current substitute policy.

Budget

Mr. Upton distributed to directors a handout summarizing the district's revenue history/projection from 2009-2010 to 2015-2016 and reviewed it with them. He also reported that as per Ms. Kreisher's request, he had researched the possibility of the district receiving funds through the amusement tax and that as a condition of Act 1, it would not be able to do so.

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report

Mr. Tobin did not have anything to report to the board at that time.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

No report was given, as Mr. Hummel was not at the meeting.

Adjournment

The work session was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary