

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Monday, 2 June 2014
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, 2 June 2014, in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Mr. David Cantore, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Joshua Klingerman, Mr. Terry Kramarz, Mrs. Sandra Rupp, and Mr. Thomas Tobin. Mr. Brent Hock, Mr. Justin Hummel, and Ms. Marianne Kreisher were absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Steve Bressi, Ms. Donna Christensen, Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Marc Freeman, Mr. Trevor Palmatier, Mr. Mike Upton, and Mr. Nick Wozniak (left at 7:13 p.m.).

Others present included: Ms. Jennifer Bates, Mr. James Booth (left at 7:15 p.m.), Ms. Barbara Fritz, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. Brad Smith, and Mrs. Gloria Wolfe (left at 7:15 p.m.).

In the absence of President Hock, Vice President Tobin led the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Ms. Jennifer Bates spoke in support of retaining the full-time librarian position at Bloomsburg High School.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Final 2014-2015 Budget

Mrs. Rupp made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the final 2014-2015 Bloomsburg Area School District budget, in the amount of \$22,411,944.51. Tax rates shall be set as follows, with the continuation of existing penalties and discounts:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate | 39.7 mils |
| Act 511 | |
| Per Capita | \$5.00 |
| Occupational Privilege | \$10.00 |
| Real Estate Transfer | 1.0% |
| Earned Income | 1.56% |
| Per Capita Section 679 | \$5.00 |

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Donation

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to accept the donation of \$100 for the driver's education program at Bloomsburg High School, made by Joan Drumm. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

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

- Approve the following classified staff:
 - Kevin Breisch as a Memorial Elementary School Second-Shift Custodian at \$8.25 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff contract, effective upon receipt of his tuberculosis test results;
 - Gloria Wolfe as the Computer Technician/Technology Data Coordinator at an annual salary of \$26,000 and with benefits as per her proposed contract, effective 1 July 2014, pending receipt of her Act 114 and 151 clearances, and to hire her as a substitute at \$12.50 per hour effective 3 June 2014 – 30 June 2014; and
 - Denise Zeiber as a Bloomsburg Middle School Paraprofessional at \$8.50 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff contract, effective for the start of the 2014-2015 school year;
- Approve Megan Smith as a Bloomsburg Middle School Long-Term Eighth-Grade Science Substitute Teacher for the 2014-2015 school year at Step 1 Masters and an annual salary of \$37,853 and with benefits as per Policy 405: Employment of Substitute Professional Employees;
- Approve James Booth as a Bloomsburg Middle School Sixth-Grade Learning Support Teacher at Step 1 Bachelors and an annual salary of \$36,076 and with benefits as per the negotiated professional staff contract, effective for the start of the 2014-2015 school year, pending receipt of his Special Education Pennsylvania teaching certification, and add him to the professional day-to-day substitute list, effective 3 June 2014;
- Accept the following classified staff resignations:
 - W.W. Evans Elementary School Personal Care and Summer 2014 Extended School Year (ESY) Paraprofessional Aide Shawna Malencore, effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year;
 - Special Education Secretary Ashley Honabach, effective 18 July 2014; and
 - Bloomsburg Middle/High School Second-Shift Custodian Marty Hahn, retroactive to 23 May 2014 and to add him to the approved classified substitute list; and
- Approve Lauren Bettle and Shannon Marnell as professional day-to-day substitutes, effective 3 June 2014.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Professional Staff Leave of Absence Extension Request

Mr. Cantore made the motion, which Mr. Kramarz seconded, to approve the leave of absence extension request of W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher Robert Cromley, retroactive to 29 May 2014 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year. The motion passed by a voice vote of five yes votes to one no vote (being Mr. Tobin).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 p.m., Mrs. Howell made the motion to adjourn the special meeting and move into the work session. Mr. Kramarz 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, 2 June 2014
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance Report

Dr. Curry and Mr. Wozniak highlighted some of the items on the general maintenance plan. Dr. Curry reported that two of the three landscapers who had meetings scheduled with himself and Mr. Wozniak had cancelled because they have enough work. Dr. Curry said the third firm would be getting a quote for landscaping to the district in the near future. Mrs. Howell said that she has received a lot of positive comments about the work being done on the district's grounds.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Bressi reported that prom, which was held on 31 May 2014 at Bloomsburg University's Kehr Union Building, had gone very well. He reminded the board that baccalaureate would be held that Thursday evening and that commencement would be held that Friday evening.

Mr. Freeman reported that the school's first annual sixth-grade science and technology fair, held on 15 May 2014, had gone well and that Carrie McClure had done well at spear-heading this project. Mr. Freeman also reported that the Memorial Day activities, held 22 May 2014, were successful, and that the Keystone Exams had been smoothly completed as well. Mrs. Rupp said that she was very impressed with the Memorial Day activities and the students' behavior. Mr. Freeman then reported that the school's awards ceremony would be held at 9 a.m. that Thursday. Mr. Brad Smith then showed a middle school computer technology program presentation to the school board. Mr. Smith reviewed the history of the program and said that in the future, the district may wish to offer a multi-media class, as well. During his presentation, Mr. Smith showed the course overview for each grade level six through eight, and also showed student samples.

Next, Ms. Christensen reported that two life skills students had recently participated in the CSIU's communication day, that grade fifth learning support students had spent a day at the middle school during the previous week in order to better prepare them to transition to the middle school, and that all transition meetings for incoming 2014-2015 students had been completed.

Mr. Palmatier then reported that, being it was the end of the school year, Memorial Elementary School had a number of assemblies, including the Officer Phil presentation, field trips, and field days. Mr. Tobin asked Mr. Palmatier if computers were being adequately used at Memorial and Mr. Tobin replied that they were – both in classrooms and via laptop carts. Mr. Tobin asked if it was a possibility for elementary students to be taught keyboarding and Mr. Palmatier said this was something that could be looked into. Dr. Curry said that in reviewing the data obtained through the recently administered BrightBytes survey that the administration would be better able to ascertain what computer skills students were lacking. He said that after compiling the data, he would be sharing details of the survey with the school board at a future board meeting.

Dr. Curry then referred the board to the Staff Recognition Dinner program and also to the CSIU Board of Directors report, both of which were distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

High School Librarian Position

Dr. Curry started the discussion by saying that it was still his recommendation to not replace the high school librarian position. He distributed a 2014-2015 list of staff changes and also a chart showing the decline in student population from 1,732 students June 2006 to 1,593 students in March 2014. He told directors that cutting the high school librarian, middle school physical education, and high school social studies positions would not take away any academic opportunities for students and that, if needed, these positions could be brought back in the future. He said that cutting these three positions had already been discussed and evaluated by the administration and presented to the board at both April meetings.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Kramarz said he thought a librarian, as opposed to an English teacher, should be teaching research skills, and that the district should not add funds for more student sports opportunities while taking away a librarian position. Mr. Cantore said he thought the district should retain the high school librarian position because the students deserve it. Mr. Klingerman said that since the high school English department was already fulfilling the role of the 21st Century librarian that there was no need to add a new position now. Dr. Curry said that there would be more academic benefits to hiring a new Spanish teacher for the middle and elementary schools instead of keeping the high school librarian position. He also said that the district could monitor the situation in the high school library during the next school year and in the future could consider bringing back the position, if necessary. Mr. Tobin requested that at the 16 June 2014 board meeting there be a vote taken on whether or not to keep the position.

Middle School Physical Education Position

Mr. Cantore said that the district should replace the middle school physical education position and that the district should use the middle school pool more and offer students opportunities to explore water polo and canoeing. Mr. Freeman said that lifeguarding would be offered to students next school year.

Driver Education

Dr. Curry reported that per year, it costs the district approximately \$72,468 to run the driver education program (both theory and in-car). He said that it would cost about \$31,000 per year for 100 students to take the theory (\$10,000 per year) and in-car (\$21,000 per year) components of driver education if the district offered students the program through the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit. He said that when Mr. Jeff Archey retired as the district's driver education teacher, that the district could then look at the future of the driver education program. It was the consensus of the board that the district should continue to offer the program and that it supported purchasing a new driver education car.

Policy Font

It was the consensus of the school board that changing the policy font from Comic Sans MS to a more professional font such as Times New Roman would be voted on at the 16 June 2014 meeting.

Cancellation of 7 July 2014 Special Meeting and Work Session

It was the consensus of the school board that cancellation of the 7 July 2014 special meeting and work session would be included on the 16 June 2014 meeting agenda for approval.

Reorganization Dinner at CMAVTS – 3 December 2014 at 6 p.m.

Dr. Curry said that the Bloomsburg Area School District Board of Directors' reorganization meeting would still be held on 2 December 2014 at 7 p.m. in the district office board room, but that all directors would be invited to attend a dinner at Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School on 3 December 2014.

List of Graduates

Dr. Curry referred directors to the list of Bloomsburg High School 2014 graduates, being shared with the board as an informational item.

Athletic Schedule 2014-2015

There were no questions regarding the 2014-2015 athletic schedule. Dr. Curry asked if the board wanted to continue to approve the athletic schedule for each school year and that board responded that it did.

CMAVTS Report

Mr. Tobin reported that Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School was considering acquiring the adjacent Seesholtz property, which would be used to expand the school's horticulture program and other programs such as welding technology. He said the property was about nine acres and would cost approximately \$350,000 to purchase. Mr. Tobin also reported that the Joint Operating Committee had voted to dismiss a teacher.

CSIU Report

Dr. Curry referred to Mr. Hummel's Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit report that had been included with the board packet.

Other Items

Mr. Cantore said that he had not realized that Athletic Director Ryan Gible's contract, approved at the previous board meeting, had included a raise from \$20,000 to \$22,000, and Mr. Klingerman said that he had not realized this, either. Dr. Curry said that this information was not intentionally withheld and that as per Mr. Gible's contract, he was supposed to work only up to 29 hours per week but that he was actually putting in about 60 hours per week. The alternative would be to pay Mr. Gible an hourly rate for hours worked beyond 29 per week and pay him insurance as a result of him working over 29 hours per week and that the \$2,000 raise was reasonable.

Adjournment

The work session was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary