

**Bloomsburg Area School District  
Board of School Directors  
Special Meeting  
Monday, 2 March 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, 2 March 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. Terry Kramarz, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mrs. Sandra Rupp, Mr. Thomas Tobin, and Mr. Joe Yodock. Mr. Joshua Klingerman was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Steve Bressi (left at 7:37 p.m.), Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 7:37 p.m.), Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 7:37 p.m.), Mr. Ryan Moran (left at 7:37 p.m.), Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 7:37 p.m.), Mr. Joshua Tabor (left at 7:37 p.m.), Mr. Mike Upton, and Mr. Nick Wozniak (left at 7:12 p.m.).

Others present were: Mr. Phil Burrell (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, and Ms. Deb Zollmann Krupp.

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

Ms. Zollmann Krupp addressed the board to let the school board know that recently, her son had a crisis at the high school and that the high school staff had been on their A-game in dealing with the situation. She also notified the board that she was being interviewed by Michael Lester from the *Press Enterprise* regarding exempting her children from taking the PSSAs.

**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 Requests**

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to retroactively approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip request: Bloomsburg High School Chorus students to Milton High School for the Region IV Chorus Festival from 26 February 2015 – 28 February 2015 at a cost to the district of \$326.00. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Hummel seconded, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip request: A Bloomsburg High School Chorus student to Providence, Rhode Island from 9 April 2015 – 12 April 2015 for the All-Eastern Mixed Chorus Festival at a cost to the district of \$1,498.20. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Acceptance of Donations**

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hummel, to accept the following donations:

- A monetary donation of \$300.00 from Ardella Research, Inc. for the 2015 Bloomsburg Middle School Science and Technology Fair;
- A signed copy of the book “I Want a Hero” by Clark Summit (pen name of Dr. William C. Zehringer) by Dr. William C. Zehringer to the Bloomsburg Middle School library;
- A Stylus Photo R1900 Large Photo Printer to the Bloomsburg High School art department made by Robby Bell of Bloom Imageworks; and
- A monetary donation of up to \$28,000 from First Columbia Bank & Trust via Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) to support the Theater Production program.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Budget**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Tobin seconded, to approve as presented the 2015-2016 Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School budget at a total of \$7,702,038, with Bloomsburg Area School District’s share being \$808,393. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Real Estate Tax Exemption**

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve the request of the Pennsylvania State Veterans’ Commission for a real estate tax exemption for Charles W. Horne. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Law Firm Engagement**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Hummel seconded, to approve as presented the agreement with the McCormick Law Firm. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Spring Sports Agreement Amendment**

Mrs. Rupp made the motion, which Mr. Kramarz seconded, to approve as presented the amendment to the Facilities Use Agreement with Bloomsburg University for use of BU athletic fields during Spring 2015. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items**

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

- Accept the retirements of the following classified staff members:
  - Bloomsburg High School In-School Suspension Advisor Geraldine Newhart, effective 19 June 2015; and
  - Bloomsburg High School Paraprofessional Trudy Ashelman, effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year;
- Approve Noah Mantione (Elementary Ed PK-4 and Special Ed PK-8) as a professional day-to-day substitute, effective 3 March 2015;
- Approve the following individuals as classified substitutes:
  - Judy DeFrain, effective upon receipt of her Act 34, 114, and 151 clearances and her tuberculosis test results; and
  - Dwayne Heeter, effective upon receipt of his tuberculosis test results;

- Approve Superintendent Cosmas Curry as the Bloomsburg Area School District's Title VI Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator;
- Accept the retirement of Bloomsburg High School Special Education Teacher Kathleen Ireys, effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year; and
- Approve the following individuals as athletic coaches:
  - Patrick O'Hara and Gino Ardo as Volunteer Wrestling Coaches, effective upon receipt of the appropriate clearances; and
  - Chris Stanziale as a Volunteer Baseball Coach, effective immediately.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:11 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, 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, 2 March 2015  
7:00 p.m.  
District Office Board Room**

**MINUTES**

**Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance Report**

Mr. Wozniak reported that his staff was being kept busy by ensuring the buildings stayed warm and keeping snow off sidewalks and parking lots.

**Administrative Reports**

Mr. Tabor reported that during kindergarten registration for the 2015-2016 school year, held from 23-27 February 2015, 12 students had been registered at Beaver-Main Elementary School and 24 students had been registered at W.W. Evans Elementary School. He said that he was working with the high school industrial arts department and both schools' parent co-ops to get a buddy bench at both schools. Next, he announced that Beaver-Main's annual science fair would be held on March 17 from 1-2:45 p.m. and that it would be open to the public. He then reported that the program Dinosaurs Rock would be held at W.W. Evans on March 30 and that Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE) would be coming to the schools to bring students their Shakespeare in the Schools program.

Ms. Christensen then reported that recently, there had been a kindergarten transition clinic for incoming 2015-2016 kindergarten students who would need special services. She then said that in honor of April being Autism Awareness Month, an autism puzzle piece wreath would be placed in each building, including the district office.

Next, Mr. Palmatier reported that through its weekly dress-down day held every Friday in February, staff at Memorial Elementary School had raised \$222 to donate to the food cupboard for the Panther Pack Program. He then reported that 46 kindergarten students had registered to attend Memorial in Fall 2015. He then recognized Bloomsburg High School English Teacher Robin Callahan for bringing high school students to Memorial the previous Friday to read to students for Dr. Seuss Week. He also thanked Memorial Elementary School Reading Specialists Lou Jean Beishline, Sheila Freese, and Christine Ulrich for their help with this.

**Middle School & High School Student Handbooks**

Mr. Freeman then gave his report, saying that recently, the school had switched its absence reporting protocol and was now using an automated calling system. He said that this change was reflected in the middle school's 2015-2016 student handbook. He also pointed out that the retention protocol had been clarified in next year's handbook, and also that the new handbook now mirrored the high school's handbook, stating that the list of disciplinary measures was not all-inclusive.

Mr. Bressi then reported that the only changes to the high school handbook for 2015-2016 was a revised section on library services, written by Mr. Burrell, and new language regarding the 1:1 technology initiative. Mr. Bressi concluded his report by informing the board that the drama club would be performing "Guys and Dolls" on March 5, 6, and 7.

### **Sixth-Grade Social Studies Textbook Review**

Mr. Moran said that Mr. Freeman, Bloomsburg Middle School Social Studies Teacher Mrs. Jennifer Flook, Bloomsburg Middle School Reading Specialist Amy Wilson, and himself had reviewed four different textbooks to purchase for sixth-grade social studies for 2015-2016, and that they would be recommending to the school board that “My World History: The Early Ages” by Pearson be approved. Mr. Moran said that this particular text had a very student-friendly layout, read at about an end-of-fifth-grade – early seventh-grade level, and that it had good resources, including digital resources. Mr. Moran said that the cost of purchasing this textbook and the accompanying online version was approximately \$87 per student, or just over \$13,000 for next school year, which was in line with the other textbooks that had been reviewed. Mr. Moran said that the textbook would be available for public inspection until the work session on 7 April 2015, when the board would be voting on it.

### **Policy 806 Update**

Dr. Curry highlighted changes between the district’s current Policy 806: Child Abuse and the proposed revised Policy 806. He said he would be bringing this policy to the board to recommend approving it on first reading at the 16 March 2015 regular monthly board meeting.

### **Insurance for Student District-Provided Devices**

Dr. Curry updated directors on the insurance available for the Surface Pros high school students would be issued the following school year. He said the extended warranty was good for three years, and that accidental damage and handling insurance was good for up to two episodes. He said that any costs not covered by insurance would be the responsibility of the student.

### **New Technology Coach Position**

Dr. Curry said that in order to be appropriately staffed for the inception of the 1:1 technology initiative, he would like to add one 12-month technology technician to the technology staff. This would be an at-will position, he said, and the salary would be about \$25,000 per year, which would be about \$45,000 total with benefits. Dr. Curry said he would like to have this individual housed in the office next to the high school library. Along with this change, Dr. Curry said he would like to add a professional development component to the high school librarian job description, which would then be separate from the K-8 librarian job descriptions. The technology technician housed at the high school could then cover for the high school librarian in his absence. Also, the new technician could assist the technology technicians housed at the district office over the summer. Dr. Curry said he would like to add a Tech Club for high school students and to provide professional development to staff over the summer, and pay the advisor an annual stipend of \$3,250. In order to be in this club, students would need to first interview. Tech Club members would be a resource to other students who needed help with their devices. Mr. Hummel suggested that students could take tests and then be identified with a button, or by some other means, indicating their proficiency in specific technology-related areas, such as using a projector. Mr. Kramarz asked if there was going to be a cap on the number of students in the Tech Club, and Dr. Curry responded that he had not yet put out any feelers to see how many students might be interested in it, so club numbers would just have to be monitored. Mr. Tobin said he thought the Tech Club would be very beneficial to students, as it would provide a valuable resource to the student body and would also look good on a resume for students participating in the club. Mr. Burrell said it would also be beneficial in helping students improve human interaction and would teach them how to be patient and work with someone needing help.

### **Budget**

Mr. Upton reported to the board that the governor would be releasing the state budget the next day, but that PASBO/PASA did not expect the budget to pass until after 30 June 2015. He said that he and Dr.

Curry would be going to Hershey for a state budget conference on 20 March 2015 and that more information would be available at that time. Mr. Upton said that the 2015-2016 budget included the new technology technician position, changing the half-time Spanish teaching position to a full-time teaching position (which may not end up happening), and \$25,000 for hybrid learning. He pointed out that there had been a decrease in salaries for support staff and professional staff due to retirements, but that there was an increase in health insurance, as some of the individuals who would be retiring at the end of the current school year did not have health insurance but the individual who would replace them may need it. Mr. Upton noted that there was an overall increase in the fund balance and a reduction in the deficit.

Dr. Curry said that the district would soon be advertising for a number of positions and that he would ideally like to have new staff for 2015-2016 hired in May. He said that he would be recommending the half-time reading specialist position at Beaver-Main Elementary School be turned into a full-time position, and that this was also included in the 2015-2016 budget.

Mr. Upton told directors that if they had not already read the PASBO/PASA report that had been e-mailed to them the previous week, that they should do so, and Mr. Hock agreed, saying it was a very good article.

### **Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Budget**

Dr. Curry pointed out that the services for the Bloomsburg Area School District that were included in the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) 2015-2016 budget totaled just above \$55,000. He said that the CSIU budget would be recommended for approval at the next school board meeting.

### **Flood Wall**

Mr. Upton started this discussion by stating the district currently had \$3,000,000 committed for a flood wall project. He said that the district had a \$54,000,000 investment in the middle and high schools and that it needed to protect that investment. He also said that the flood wall project was not a done deal, that the money had been put aside to protect the buildings from floods but that the method by which the district would do this had not been specified at that point. Mr. Upton said that his recommendation regarding protecting the schools from floods is that it's not an option to not do anything. He said that if there was water on the first floor, the school(s) could not be used at all, and that the district would be going through multiple studies to decide the best way to protect the buildings from floods. He said that the district needed to protect water from getting to building, and that the crawl space under the schools is earthen levee, which would therefore cause flood water surrounding the buildings to seep into the basement. Mr. Upton said that he believed the best way to protect the buildings from flooding would be a flood wall. Mr. Hock said he did not like the fact that the district had \$3,000,000 in committed funds but that it was going to raise taxes. He said he was concerned that \$3,000,000 was set aside for a project that might never come to fruition. Mr. Tobin pointed out that it was the school board that had voted to put the \$3,000,000 into committed funds for a flood wall. Mr. Tobin then said that after the flooding in September 2011, the school board had looked into the possibility of purchasing land and relocating its middle/high school campus, but that option turned out to be too costly. Mr. Tobin said he thought that building a flood wall to protect the middle and high schools would be not only beneficial to the district but also to the residents living in the area. Mr. Upton said that even though the project would be years off, he thought the district should get started on it soon. Mr. Yodock concurred, saying that once the district got started, it would have a better idea of how much the flood wall would cost. Mr. Hummel said he thought it was prudent to continue to hold the \$3,000,000 for the flood wall project and that the district was moving in the right direction. Ms. Kreisher suggested the district refer to this project as the "flood protection project," not the "flood wall project." Dr. Curry said that there would be up to \$500,000 available in grant money for the flood mitigation program, and that while the district could not directly apply for the grant, it could apply for it through the county or town. Dr. Curry said that after he had more

information on this grant, he would share it with the board. Mr. Upton said that an explanation of flood mitigation options could be shared with the public at the 9 March 2015 stakeholders' meeting.

### **Staff Recognition Dinner**

Dr. Curry said that the annual Staff Recognition Dinner would be held in May or early June, and that once a date was identified, it would be shared with the board.

### **Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report**

Mr. Tobin reported that prior to the last Joint Operating Committee meeting, there had two expulsion hearings. He also reported that the previous Friday was last day for students to apply to go to Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School for 2015-2016. He said the school had received a \$10,000 grant from Cabot Oil & Gas to be used to improve some classrooms. Lastly, he reported that Dave Bacher had been approved as the school's next executive director.

### **Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report**

Mr. Hummel reminded directors that the CSIU budget was a business plan and that the district just paid for the services it used. He also announced that a DQN Data Summit meeting was taking place later that month and talked about a wood-working program designed for special education students.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Tobin told school directors that on 23 March 2015, the CSIU would be hosting a computer fair for regional high school students. Dr. Curry said that Bloomsburg High School would be sending a team to participate.

Board members agreed that in lieu of holding a school board meeting on 6 July 2015 and 20 July 2015, it could just have one meeting in July, and that it could be on 13 July 2015. Dr. Curry said he would bring this recommendation to the board at its next meeting.

Mr. Hock announced that on 17 March 2015, he would be going to a PSBA meeting on Act 153, regarding clearances for volunteers. He said that if anyone else was interested in attending, that they should let him know. Mr. Hock also reminded directors to complete their surveys for the auditor general and e-mail them to the state, and that the annual stakeholders' meeting was scheduled for 9 March 2015 at 7 p.m. in the district office board room. He then advised the board that he would like to hold a new board member orientation for new board members in December, and that he would like to make current board members aware of continuing education opportunities available to them. Mr. Tobin said that PSBA would be holding a new board member orientation program in January, as this was an election year.

### **Adjournment**

At 8:38 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to adjourn the meeting and move into executive session. The motion passed by a voice vote of six yes votes to two no votes (being Mr. Hummel and Mr. Tobin).

**Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters**

An executive session was held from 8:38 – 8:48 p.m. for the purpose of discussing legal matters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler  
Recording Secretary