

**Bloomsburg Area School District  
Board of School Directors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Monday, 18 January 2016  
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, 18 January 2016, in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Ms. Stephanie Dunn Haney, Mr. Brent Hock, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Joshua Klingerman, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Norman Mael, and Mr. Leo “Joe” Yodock III (arrived at 7:20 a.m.). Mr. James C. Dodge and Ms. Deb Zollmann were absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mrs. Melissa Day (left at 8:29 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Kelly, Mr. Joshua Tabor (left at 8:23 p.m.), and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present were: Ms. Kyla Burns, Mr. Phil Burrell, Ms. Jessica Butler, Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Ms. Leah Fogelsanger (left at 8:29 p.m.), Ms. Tanya Pisulak, and Mr. Corey Thomas (left at 7:10 p.m.).

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

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Thomas addressed the board regarding the logistical feasibility of starting a boys’ junior high soccer program that spring. The main issue with having 2015-2016 as a start-up year for this program, as determined at the last board meeting, was that there might not be enough fields to accommodate the current spring sports and a boys’ junior high soccer program. Mr. Thomas said that he was in the process of finding out if the district could use the AYSO field next to the tennis courts and also Columbia County Christian School’s soccer field for the junior high boys’ soccer program. Mr. Thomas said that he would like use Bloomsburg University’s and Columbia County Christian School’s fields for boys’ junior high soccer games and then use the AYSO field for practices. Mr. Kelly recommended the board not act on establishing a boys’ junior high soccer program until the district had a written commitment from the town that it could use the AYSO fields from 3-5 p.m. If the town could not commit to this, Mr. Kelly said he would recommend the district wait until 2016-2017 to start the program. Mr. Klingerman said that he would like the district’s maintenance staff to maintain the AYSO fields if the town granted the district permission to use them.

Next, Mr. Stephen Boone and Mr. Patrick Endler from Borton Lawson Engineering distributed to directors a report dated 18 January 2016 entitled “Flood Management Alternatives Study Update Preliminary Subsurface Investigation Findings for Bloomsburg Area High School/Middle School.” Mr. Boone summarized the presentation he gave to the board in October 2015, saying that during that study it had quickly become apparent that flood proofing the middle/high school facilities would not be feasible because of the basement. He said that the purpose of the new study was to conduct subsurface studies around the building in order to have a more comprehensive idea of what a flood mitigation system would need to entail. Mr. Boone reported that the ground tested was primarily sand and silt, that the bedrock was deep and weathered, but that there was no groundwater. Due to the poor material, a slurry wall was recommended. He said that with this solution, there would be no interruption to pedestrian traffic or loss

of parking. To include the maintenance shed in this project would cost about \$4.5 million, Mr. Boone told directors.

Mr. Yodock arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Kelly told Mr. Boone that the board was concerned about the aesthetics of a flood wall around the premises of the middle/high school, and Mr. Boone replied that there would be a lawn embankment that could have a 5' – 8' brick façade. Mr. Kelly asked if it would look similar to the sample by the Fifth Street gate of the Bloomsburg Fair, which he said looked pretty good, and Mr. Boone responded that it would. Mr. Kelly then asked Mr. Boone if there was a similar structure to the proposed flood wall in the region that directors could look at, and Mr. Boone said that he would investigate this and get back to him.

Mr. Hock asked what would prevent the south side of the building from flooding, as it would be surrounded by a 4' – 5' tall earth levee. Mr. Boone said that water could get into the basement, but that there was two feet of depth in the basement where not damage would be done, and added that high-quality sump pumps would be part of the project. He said that directors could look at West 11<sup>th</sup> Street for an example of how this earth levee might look.

Mr. Kelly then asked about the timeline for this project, should the board choose to proceed with it, and Mr. Boone said that acquiring permits would be the longest part of the project. He said that the Department of Environmental Protection and possible the Army Corps would need to inspect the premises, and that it would likely take four to six months for the review to be completed.

Mr. Hock asked where the water on West 11<sup>th</sup> Street would go, in the event of another major flood. Mr. Boone said that there would be two islands, and that the maintenance shed should still be alright. Mr. Upton said that at that point, the maintenance shed was pretty well flood-proofed, so it could be left out of the flood wall project, saving the district close to \$500,000.

Mr. Hock asked if people would still be able to see the school when driving down 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and Mr. Boone replied that yes, the school would still be visible. He added that Borton Lawson could have it rendered early on so directors could see what it might look like. Mr. Yodock asked if the wall would look like a sound wall on the interstate, and Mr. Boone said that was a good analogy. Mr. Endler said the district could consider possibly having students paint murals on the wall. Mr. Hock asked how much it would cost to have the artist rendering done at this point. Mr. Boone said he and Mr. Endler would work on this, and Mr. Endler said that a lot of the design was done in a 3D model anyway. Mr. Klingerman said he would like to see if the art department could paint murals on the wall instead of doing the brick façade. Mr. Hock asked if it would take about half an hour for maintenance workers to put in all the closures, and Mr. Boone replied in the affirmative. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Boone encouraged the board to contact him with any further questions they had.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the minutes of the 21 December 2015 regular monthly board meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Ms. Kreisher moved to approve the financial reports for December 2015, and Mr. Klingerman seconded this motion.

Mr. Upton said that the district was beginning to receive state funding for the 2015-2016 school year and that it was back in a stable position. He said he was very satisfied with local income and believed the district would meet its budget there. He also said that the district would soon be receiving \$156,000 in federal funding, which had to be passed through the state. He pointed out that lunches were still down but that they had stabilized and that the cafeteria fund was in the black. Mr. Hock asked if the district could hold off on getting the electronic sign for the front of the high school until it had figured out what it would be doing with the flood wall. Mr. Upton replied that the purchase order, which already issued, was on hold (in order to hold the price) until the district notified Stewart Signs that it was ready to purchase/receive the sign.

After discussion, the motion to approve the financial reports for December 2015 passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve the bills payable for 22 December 2015 – 18 January 2016, ranging from check #00040010 – check #00040138, including wire transfers in the amount of \$886,123.64, in the total amount of \$1,360,143.02.

Mr. Upton said there were currently reassessments going on with Autoneum and the Bloomsburg University Foundation's Greenly Center. He asked directors if they were alright with the district going along with the town and the county in getting an assessor to conduct the reassessment of Autoneum. Mr. Upton said that the cost for this assessment would be about \$5,000 - \$6,000, but that it could save the district about \$200,000 per year. No board members voiced any concern over this.

Mr. Yodock then asked administrators how they liked AESOP, and Mr. Upton replied that they loved it. He said that AESOP had eliminated issues with professional substitutes not being recorded at the building level and therefore not being paid appropriately. Mr. Yodock then asked if the district could create reports about substitutes that could be used in the process of hiring permanent professional staff. Mr. Upton said that this could be done, as teachers could pick their five favorite substitutes, who were given preference to subbing in their classroom. Ms. Kessler elaborated that in AESOP, teachers could rate professional substitutes on a scale of one to five and also leave detailed comments about their performance.

After discussion, the motion to approve the bills payable passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

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

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the bills payable for the Capital Reserve Fund for 22 December 2015 – 18 January 2016, ranging from check #00001809 – check #00001811, in the amount of \$13,101.05. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Kelly started his report by offering his sincere gratitude to the school board, acknowledging that being a school director was a huge time commitment. He presented each director with a certificate of appreciation for School Director Appreciation Month. Mr. Tabor then told directors that his staff wanted to be part of School Director Recognition Month, so Beaver-Main Elementary School students had made cards for each director and W.W. Evans Elementary School staff had made goodies for directors. Mr. Tabor said that Mr. Yodock would be shadowing staff the following month, and he extended this invitation to all school directors, as well.

Mr. Kelly then reported that the previous Wednesday had been the district's first weather-related event, being a two-hour delay, of the school year. He said that the One Call message sent out did not reach all intended recipients due to old instructions, but that the instructions had since been updated.

Next, Mr. Kelly reported that there were currently five curriculum coordinator applications and that the deadline for applications was January 22. He said that first-round interviews would be held on February 3 and 4, and that second-round interviews, which would include board members, would be held sometime after that.

Mr. Kelly told directors that as of that day, there were 15 applicants for the position of superintendent, and that that night was the deadline for applications. He said that Wayne LeClair from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) would be sharing the applications with the board on Wednesday. Mr. Hock stressed to directors the importance of keeping the candidates' names confidential.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mrs. Day began her report by passing out to directors a logo that she had started using at the high school that read "Let Yourself Bloom." She said that her first two weeks as the new high school principal had felt very comfortable, and that during that time, she had gotten into every classroom in the building. She said she had been involved with a number of meetings and the Microsoft training that had been part of that day's in-service. Mrs. Day said that she was assembling a high school advisory committee to bring forward any concerns that staff had, and that 16 faculty members had volunteered to serve on this committee. She said the first meeting of this advisory committee was scheduled for the following week, and that class meetings were also scheduled for the following week. She said that the first parent advisory meeting would be held on January 19. Mrs. Day reported that the scheduling process would soon be starting and that on May 31, eighth-grade students would be involved in a walk-through of their ninth-grade schedule. She said that she had started meeting weekly with Mr. Thomas to go over athletic issues. Lastly, Mrs. Day told directors that she was on Twitter @Start\_Blooming.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Ms. Fogelsanger reported that Student Council would be holding a dance in February and a blood drive in March. Mr. Hock congratulated Ms. Fogelsanger for being accepted to attend Bucknell University in Fall 2017.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Final Reading of Policies 227, 302, and 505**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve on final reading the following revised policies: Policy 227: Use of Unauthorized Substances; Policy 302: Employment of Superintendent; and Policy 505: Employment of Substitute and Short-Term Employees. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Preliminary Budget**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve as presented the preliminary 2016-2017 Bloomsburg Area School District budget. Mr. Upton told directors that nothing had changed since the last presentation of the budget. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Transfer of Funds to Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve committing an additional \$61,702.00 from the unassigned fund balance to reflect the district's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligation of \$488,532.00 at 30 June 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Comprehensive Plan Committee Members**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve the following individuals as members of the Bloomsburg Area School District Comprehensive Plan Committee:

#### Teacher Representatives

1. Andrew Brown
2. Nicholas Hessert
3. Kim Honabach
4. Jackie Krankoskie
5. Rachel Mollette
6. Amy Tommasini

#### Educational Specialist Representatives

1. Dennis Delorso
2. Ann Kostiuk

Mr. Kelly informed the board that with the addition of these six professional staff members, the comprehensive plan committee was complete. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests: Bloomsburg High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) to the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania from 11 April 2016 – 13 April 2016, at a cost to the district of \$2,185; and Bloomsburg High School Introduction to Business students to Baltimore, Maryland on 1 March 2016 – 2 March 2016, at a cost to the district of \$460. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Approval of Classified Staff Leave of Absence Requests**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve the following classified staff leave of absence requests: Beaver-Main Elementary School Part-Time Custodian Jessie Gebhart, retroactive to 6 January 2016 for a period of approximately four weeks; and W.W. Evans Elementary School Paraprofessional Dwayne Heeter, retroactive to 20 November 2015 until 8 February 2016. The motion passed by a voice vote of six yes votes to one no vote (being Ms. Kreisher).

### **Approval of Classified Staff**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve the following individuals as classified staff: Gloria Boudman as a classified substitute, effective 19 January 2016; Benjamin Kuzinski as a member of the Bloomsburg High School musical pit orchestra, with his stipend being paid by the drama club; Diane Wasser as a member of the Bloomsburg High School musical pit orchestra, with her stipend being paid by the drama club; and Ronald Wasser as a member of the Bloomsburg High School musical pit orchestra, with his stipend being paid by the drama club. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the following individuals as professional day-to-day substitutes as per Bloomsburg Area School District Policy 405: Employment of Substitute Professional Employees, effective 19 January 2016: Meghan Hallick (Special Education PK-8 and Grades PK-4); and Elise McAninch (Special Education PK-8 and Grades PK-4). The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Bus Driver**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve Gary Keough as a substitute bus driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Long-Term Volunteer/Overnight Chaperone**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Haney seconded, to approve Douglas Hewlett as a long-term volunteer/overnight chaperone. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Acceptance of Professional Staff Retirement**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to accept the retirement of Memorial Elementary School Librarian Barbara Fritz, effective at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Kelly told the board that Ms. Fritz had worked in the district since October 1985. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **AMENDMENT TO MINUTES**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion to amend the minutes of the 21 December 2015 school board meeting so that under the superintendent's report, the statement about the price of the Welliver property would read: "Mr. Klingerman said the district should have purchased the Welliver property when there was only a \$50,000 difference in the negotiated price." After Ms. Kreisher seconded this motion, it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **INFORMATION**

It was announced that the following items would appear on the next work session agenda: Budget 2016-2017, Calendar 2016-2017, Summer Programs 2016, Tenure Report, Junior High Boys' Soccer Program, and New Middle School Technology Class.

It was reported that as of 11 January 2016, there were 1,586 students enrolled in K-12.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hock announced that the next work session would be held on Monday, 1 February 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room, and that the next regular monthly meeting would be held on Tuesday, 16 February 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room. He also reminded directors that superintendent candidates' applications would be reviewed by the board on Monday, 25 January 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room. He said that first-round

superintendent interviews would be held in the district office board room beginning at 6:00 p.m. on February 2 and 3 and also on February 4 if needed. The second-round superintendent interviews, he said, would be held on February 22. Mr. Hock also told directors that first-round interviews for the position of director of elementary and secondary curriculum and instruction would be held on February 3 and 4, with the second round being scheduled on February 8.

Mr. Hock told directors that Ms. Haney and Mr. Yodock were registered to attend PSBA's new school director training on January 30, and that he would be attending PSBA's school board president training on January 23.

### **ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:38 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to adjourn the meeting and move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion passed by a voice vote of seven yes votes to one no vote (being Mr. Klingerman). The executive session concluded at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler  
Recording Secretary