

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Monday, 1 February 2016
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, 1 February 2016 in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Mr. James C. Dodge, Ms. Stephanie Dunn Haney, Mr. Brent Hock, Mrs. Tina Howell, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Norman Mael, Mr. Joe Yodock, and Ms. Deb Zollmann. Mr. Joshua Klingerman was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Stephen Bressi, Ms. Donna Christensen, Mrs. Melissa Day, Mr. Joseph Kelly, and Mr. Trevor Palmatier.

Others present were: Ms. Nicole Flaugh (left at 7:29 p.m.), Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, and Ms. Dianne McCurley (left at 7:29 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr. Hock opened the meeting by asking for a moment of silence in memory of Wendy Upton, who had passed over the weekend. Mr. Hock said that Mrs. Upton been a teacher in the Bloomsburg Area School District for a number of years, and that she was also the wife of Business Administrator Mike Upton.

At this time, no visitors wished to address the school board.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Boys' Junior High Soccer Program

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve removing from the table the following motion: Approve the addition of a boys' junior high soccer program, effective for the 2016-2017 school year, with the introduction of a limited "start-up" team in Spring 2016 with transportation to away games being the only cost to the school district. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Kreisher then made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve the addition of a boys' junior high soccer program, effective for the 2016-2017 school year, with the introduction of a limited "start-up" team in Spring 2016 with transportation to away games being the only cost to the school district.

Mr. Kelly then told the board that in talking with Ms. Nicole Flaugh from the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), it appeared that AYSO would permit the district to use its U-12 field at the Bloomsburg Town Park for spring sports practices. Mr. Kelly said that as part of this agreement, the district's maintenance crew would be responsible for lining the fields. He said that another option the district could consider would be utilizing the Commercial Stainless fields, located off of Old Berwick

Road. Mr. Kelly suggested using the AYSO field would be better, as students would still be practicing close to the school.

Mr. Yodock asked for how many years the district would be permitted to use the AYSO field, and Ms. Flaugh replied that it would be for just that spring for now so they could see what condition the field was in afterwards. Mr. Kelly said that if the field were to become too worn, the district might be able to use the field between the sewage plant and 11th Street, which appeared to be in good shape.

Mr. Hock said that hopefully, by the end of the next year, the district's fields would all be useable again. Mr. Yodock said he didn't want to see the district start something it couldn't continue without affecting the sports already in place. Mr. Kelly told directors that there were several dates that Bloomsburg University had confirmed the district could use a field for games, and that he was not yet sure where the district stood with being able to use Columbia County Christian School's field. He said that both junior high girls' soccer and junior high boys' soccer would be practicing on the AYSO field, and that they would be holding combined practices like track and field did.

Mr. Hock said that the presentation Mr. Thomas had made to the board at its previous meeting was incomplete, and that he had expected a chart of fields and schedules from him at that meeting. He said that the season was now two weeks closer to starting and the board was still not convinced it would be plausible to start up a boys' junior high soccer program that season. Mrs. Howell agreed, voicing her concern that the district was not even sure where its games would be played. Mr. Kelly stated that games would be played on the practice soccer field and at Bloomsburg University. Mr. Hock said he did not think that anyone on the board objected to creating a boys' junior high soccer program, but that he did not believe there had been enough planning done on the part of the athletic director. Ms. Kreisher echoed this sentiment, stating she didn't think there was enough preparation done to start the program that season, and that she was concerned there was not a fall-back plan in place. Ms. Flaugh said she had not heard anything about the district possibly using an AYSO field until about two-and-a-half weeks ago.

At the end of discussion, Mr. Kelly suggested the board table the motion to the 16 February 2016 meeting and vote on it after the administration made a more detailed presentation and gave the board a schedule of which sport would be utilizing which field and when.

Mr. Yodock then made the motion, which Ms. Dunn Haney seconded, to approve tabling the motion to approve removing from the table the following motion: Approve the addition of a boys' junior high soccer program, effective for the 2016-2017 school year, with the introduction of a limited "start-up" team in Spring 2016 with transportation to away games being the only cost to the school district. The motion passed by a voice vote of six yes votes to two no votes (being Ms. Kreisher and Ms. Zollmann).

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of New High School Course

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the addition of the one-semester course "Exploring Entrepreneurship" for 11th- and 12th-grade students to the Bloomsburg High School course of studies, effective for the 2016-2017 school year.

Mrs. Day explained that Bloomsburg High School Business Teacher Jerry Davis had attended a course through the University of Iowa and that he was now certified to teach the "Exploring Entrepreneurship" class. Mrs. Day said that students taking this course could choose to take a test for \$150 and if they passed it, they would earn three credits through the University of Iowa. Mr. Kelly said that Mr. Davis was very enthusiastic about teaching this course. Mr. Yodock said that Penn State was doing a similar program and suggested that Mrs. Day have Mr. Davis contact him about it.

After discussion, the motion to approve the “Exploring Entrepreneurship” class passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve/accept the following personnel items:

- Approve the following individuals as classified staff:
 - Lorrie Davenport as a classified substitute, effective upon receipt of her three clearances and her tuberculosis test results;
 - Mark Frank as a classified substitute, effective 2 February 2016;
 - Margaret Abbott and Amanda Ziegler as Bloomsburg High School pit orchestra members, to be paid by the Bloomsburg High School Drama Club;
- Approve the following individuals as professional day-to-day substitutes, as per Bloomsburg Area School District Policy 405: Employment of Substitute Professional Employees:
 - Molly Decoteau (CSIU Guest Teacher), effective 2 February 2016;
 - Tonyia Wilson (CSIU Guest Teacher), effective February 2016;
- Approve the following individual as a long-term volunteer/overnight chaperone:
 - Henry Guzevich, effective 2 February 2016;
- Approve the leave of absence extension request of Memorial Elementary School Head Cook Anne Bradshaw, with a new anticipated return date of 22 February 2016;
- Approve the leave of absence request of absence of W.W. Evans Elementary School Cook Nicole Rupert, retroactive to 8 January 2016 until 27 January 2016.

Ms. Kreisher asked if both leaves of absence were uncompensated leaves, and Mr. Kelly replied that they were. When asked what the leaves of absence were for, Mr. Kelly replied that they both fell under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Ms. Kreisher said that because the board had been made aware of the issue (of the possibility of an employee asking for payment for a holiday while on uncompensated leave), it needed to make sure it didn't get put in a situation where this could happen again. Mr. Hock said that the board did not have to approve all leaves of absence.

Ms. Kreisher made the motion to amend the original motion to remove the following two items from the original motion and to vote on both of them separately:

- Approve the leave of absence extension request of Memorial Elementary School Head Cook Anne Bradshaw, with a new anticipated return date of 22 February 2016;
- Approve the leave of absence request of absence of W.W. Evans Elementary School Cook Nicole Rupert, retroactive to 8 January 2016 until 27 January 2016.

Ms. Zollmann seconded the motion, and the motion went on to pass by a voice vote of seven yes votes to one no vote (being Mr. Mael).

Ms. Kreisher then made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve/accept the following personnel items:

- Approve the following individuals as classified staff:
 - Lorrie Davenport as a classified substitute, effective upon receipt of her three clearances and her tuberculosis test results;
 - Mark Frank as a classified substitute, effective 2 February 2016;
 - Margaret Abbott and Amanda Ziegler as Bloomsburg High School pit orchestra members, to be paid by the Bloomsburg High School Drama Club;
- Approve the following individuals as professional day-to-day substitutes, as per Bloomsburg Area School District Policy 405: Employment of Substitute Professional Employees:
 - Molly Decoteau (CSIU Guest Teacher), effective 2 February 2016;

- Tonyia Wilson (CSIU Guest Teacher), effective February 2016;
- Approve the following individual as a long-term volunteer/overnight chaperone:
 - Henry Guzevich, effective 2 February 2016.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Zollmann said the board needed to look at rewriting the part of the contract dealing with unpaid leaves when it had the opportunity, but that for now it should continue operating as it had been. Mr. Mael pointed out that if the board started to not approve leaves of absence for medical reasons, it would receive bad publicity.

Ms. Kreisher then made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve the leave of absence extension request of Memorial Elementary School Head Cook Anne Bradshaw, with a new anticipated return date of 22 February 2016. Mr. Kelly said he strongly recommended the board approve this motion. The motion went on to pass by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Ms. Zollmann seconded, to approve the leave of absence request of absence of W.W. Evans Elementary School Cook Nicole Rupert, retroactive to 8 January 2016 until 27 January 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:49 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Zollmann, 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, 1 February 2016
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance Report

Mr. Kelly reported that Mr. Wozniak was not at the meeting because he'd left work early that day. Mr. Kelly then reported to the board that C.M. Eichenlaub Company of Pittsburgh had given the district a quote of \$4,545 to remove the bleachers from the wall in the middle school gymnasium, realign them to reduce the gaps between sections, and then reattach them to the wall. Ms. Kreisher asked if Eichenlaub was the same company that had created the gaps in the bleachers and Mr. Kelly said he would have to check with Mr. Wozniak. Mr. Hock directed Mr. Kelly to check to see if Eichenlaub was the company that had done work on the bleachers several months ago, and if so, to see if they would fix it for free or at a discounted cost, and then to go ahead and have the bleachers fixed.

Mr. Kelly shared with the board a letter from Borton Lawson indicating it would cost the district \$5,700 for artist renderings of a flood management system using SketchUp and Photoshop, should it wish to have the renderings done prior to committing to such a project. Mr. Hock asked Mr. Kelly to check with Borton Lawson to see if the district could pay the \$5,700 for the renderings to be done now and that if it did commit to the full project, the \$5,700 would be taken out of the cost then. Mr. Kelly said he had e-mailed Stephen Boone from Borton Lawson with this very question, but that he had not yet heard back from him.

Administrative Reports

Ms. Christensen reported that special education staff was working on the final stages of the special education plan for the period of 1 July 2016 – 1 July 2019. She said there would be a 28-day review period from February 8 – March 6, and that the plan would then be brought to the board for approval. She said the plan would then go on to the state for approval, with the deadline for submitting the plan to the state being May 1. She said the district will have no problem meeting this deadline.

Mr. Palmatier started his report by stating that the issue of not having enough professional substitutes to cover teacher absences had dramatically improved at the elementary level that month. He then went on to inform the board that that week was National School Counselor Week, and recognized the district's counselors for their work. Mr. Palmatier said that the camp was not budgeted and there was no grant funding available for the third- and fourth-grade STEM camp for the summer, but that he hoped the board would support this camp again. He said the program cost would be about \$2,400, which would cover the cost of Mr. Andrew Brown and Mr. Nick Hessert to lead the camp. He said the district would not be providing transportation, and that the camp would be held during the third week of June. Ms. Kreisher voiced her support of the STEM camp, saying that it was a wonderful program. Next, Mr. Palmatier said that after spending the first half of the school year reviewing other math programs, it was the recommendation of the math committee that the district update to the latest version of Everyday Math rather than going to a different program, as there didn't seem to be anything better out there. He said the cost of updating the program would be about \$56,000 for all three elementary buildings. Ms. Kreisher asked if there were secondary teachers on the math committee, and Mr. Palmatier replied that there had not been, but that he had been talking to Mr. Freeman about getting middle school math teachers, especially sixth-grade math teachers, together with elementary teachers to find ways to bridge the gap between elementary school and middle school. Mr. Mael asked how many years the district would get out

of the revised Everyday Math program, and Mr. Kelly responded that the current Everyday Math program was about eight or nine years old. Mr. Palmatier said the district would be using supplemental materials to fill in any gaps with the Everyday Math program. He also said that Berwick Area and Central Columbia school districts use Everyday Math, so Bloomsburg also using it would help transient students going among these districts with consistency.

Mrs. Day reported to the board that scheduling for the next school year had started that day at the high school. She said that she and the guidance counselors had met with all ninth-grade students regarding the scheduling process and that they would be talking with current eighth-grade students later that week. She said that an evening meeting had been scheduled to help the parents of eighth-grade students better understand the scheduling process. Students had until the end of the next week to complete their course requests, Mrs. Day informed the board. Ms. Kreisher voiced frustration that students could not schedule more than the maximum number of credits they could take in a year because some classes would end up not running due to low student enrollment. Mrs. Day replied that seniors were given priority in scheduling because they needed to be sure to schedule certain classes in order to graduate on time. Mrs. Day said she felt confident that improvements were being made with regards to the scheduling process. Mr. Hock told Mrs. Day that he thought it was very helpful that she was meeting with parents and students to make sure they understood the process of scheduling. Mrs. Howell asked if anything was being done to ensure that students were enrolled in the classroom driver's ed theory course at the appropriate time (relative to their birthdays). Mrs. Day said that staff would need to go back and determine what students should be enrolled in driver's ed for which semester, and that this needed to be done manually.

Mr. Bressi then passed around digital art pictures printed by students using their Surface Pros. He told the board that there had been a number of issues with students' lack of responsibility with the Surface Pros, but that they were starting to show a lot more respect for them. He said that he and Mrs. Day had been encouraging students to spend the approximately \$30 to purchase a hard case for their devices. Mr. Bressi also reported that students had begun their Project-Based Assessments (PBAs), and that class meetings had been held on January 25. He said that he and Mrs. Day were working on student handbook revisions for the next school and that they would have the draft handbook to the board the following month. Mr. Bressi told directors that he and Mr. Kelly had taken over Dr. Curry's position on the CJAB committee, which met to review topics affecting the area's youth, and asked anyone who would like to participate in these meetings to contact him. He finished his report by saying that Mrs. Day had had a good first month on the job and that they made a pretty good team.

Budget 2016-2017

Mr. Kelly passed out the 10-year budget projection, recently revised by Mr. Upton. He asked that directors bring that 10-year budget projection with them to the next few board meetings for reference. Mr. Hock noted that the projection for the district was that it would still be very solvent 10 years out.

Director of Elementary and Secondary Curriculum and Instruction Search

Mr. Kelly told the board that the district had received 13 applications for the position of Director of Elementary and Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, and that it would be hold first-round interviews for five applicants that week. He told directors that he hoped to bring back the top two candidates to be interviewed by the administrative team and school directors on February 8, with the intention to bring someone back for a board vote on 16 February 2016 and then have the approved individual start as soon as possible after that.

Superintendent Search

Mr. Hock told directors that one superintendent candidate had been involved in a vehicle accident and that this individual could not make the originally scheduled interview for February 2. It was the consensus

of the board that it would not reschedule this interview. Mr. Hock asked Mr. Kelly to call that candidate to let him/her know of this decision. Mr. Kelly reminded directors that February 22 was the target date to bring back the top candidates for their final interviews.

Tenure Report

Mr. Kelly reported that W.W. Evans Elementary School Reading Specialist Ashley Gregory and Bloomsburg Middle School Learning Support Teacher Stephanie Hock were being granted tenure after having met all the requirements of Section 1108 of the Pennsylvania School Code.

School Calendar 2016-2017

As no board members voiced concern of the draft school calendar for the 2016-2017 school year, Mr. Kelly said he would be recommending the calendar for approval at the 16 February 2016 school board meeting.

Summer Programs 2016-2017

Mr. Kelly shared with the board the Summer 2016 Extended School Year (ESY), KinderCamp, Bloomsburg University reading program, and STEM camp schedules and said he would be recommending them for approval at the next board meeting.

Possibility of Using Bloomsburg YMCA Facilities

Mr. Kelly told directors that he had been in contact with representatives of the YMCA about the potential for Bloomsburg student-athletes to use the YMCA's upstairs weight-lifting area, as Bloomsburg's weight room was limited in space. Mr. Kelly said it was suggested the district provide the coaching staff and the YMCA could provide the space for \$7 per student per month. There would be certain times that the YMCA would be able to offer use of their weight-lifting area, Mr. Kelly said. Mr. Hock and Mr. Yodock said they thought it would be a nice benefit if this opportunity was offered to all students. Ms. Kreisher suggested the district look into the possibility of student-athletes using the rec center at Bloomsburg University, and Mr. Kelly said he would check on this.

Graduates of Distinction Induction Ceremony

Mr. Kelly reminded directors that the Graduates of Distinction ceremony for that year would be held on Thursday, 24 March 2016 at Bloomsburg High School. He said that this year, Mr. Anthony Waskie from the Class of 1964 would be inducted into the program. Mr. Kelly asked that directors were invited to participate in this ceremony, which would probably be held around 10:30 a.m.

Staff Recognition Dinner

Mr. Kelly asked directors if they would like to continue offering a staff recognition dinner to Bloomsburg Area School District employees. Ms. Kreisher said she thought it was a good idea to continue with this endeavor. It was suggested this event be held at a location other than the Bloomsburg High School cafeteria, and Mr. Kelly said he would look into other options and report back to the board with them.

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report

Ms. Kreisher reported that Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (CMAVTS) had a preliminary budget for 2016-2017. She said the Joint Operating Committee (JOC) had looked into the potential of CMAVTS students going back to their sending schools to participate in sports, but that this would not be possible, as all seven sending districts would have to agree to this and several would not vote

for it. Ms. Kreisher said the school was considering implementing a 1:1 initiative but that it was unclear how it might work, as different vocational programs had different technology needs. Ms. Kreisher also reported that the JOC was reviewing its expulsion policy regarding sending districts. She explained that when a student was expelled from CMAVTS, the sending district decided what the alternative educational placement would be, and that it would be very helpful if all seven sending districts were on the same page. Lastly, she reported that Cabbott Oil & Gas had made \$1,000 in funds available for certain shop-specific items (such as the \$100 kit for cosmetology) and that 30 students had qualified for it.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

Ms. Zollmann said that she had not been able to attend the last Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) board meeting, as she had been ill.

Pennsylvania School Boards Association Programs

Mr. Yodock told directors that he and Ms. Haney had recently attended the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) new school director training. He said that he learned a lot about the financial aspect of running a district and that the training was very informative. He told directors he would like them to consider purchasing PSBA's policy program. He said that it would be beneficial to the board if a representative of PSBA made a presentation to the board about services it offered. Mr. Yodock said he also thought it would be beneficial for the district to have its own new board member orientation.

Adjournment

At 9:20 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Ms. Zollmann seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary