

**Bloomsburg Area School District  
Board of School Directors  
Special Meeting  
Monday, 7 March 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, 7 March 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. Joe Yodock. 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 9:03 p.m.), Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 9:03 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Kelly, Mr. Joshua Tabor (left at 9:03 p.m.), Mr. Michael Upton, and Mr. Nick Wozniak (left at 7:53 p.m.).

Others present were: Mrs. Dawn Coulter (left at 9:03 p.m.), Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Mr. Todd Davis (left at 9:03 p.m.), Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Sharon Fisher (left at 9:03 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler (left at 9:30 p.m.), Mr. Alex Maiersperger (left at 7:52 p.m.), Mr. Scott McBride (left at 9:03 p.m.), and Mr. Antawn Williams (left at 7:52 p.m.).

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

First, Mrs. Bonnie Crawford said that over the past few years, there had not been any high school student participation in the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit's computer fair. She said that she would like to see both middle and high school students compete in this in the future. Secondly, she said that she noticed the district was paying for varsity wrestling students to attend district, regional, and state competitions. She said she was not against wrestling, but that she'd like to see equity for all sports, including swimming.

Next, Mr. Kelly introduced members of the varsity football booster organization. He said that the boosters had asked him if they could purchase a trailer (to replace their tent) in order to store items and then sell those items at football games. Ms. Sharon Fisher told the board that the boosters would like to purchase at 8' x 20' vending trailer with a flip-up window that could be locked. She said the trailer would be located between the home bleachers and the large rock, and that the trailer would have a hitch and wheels for quick relocation in case of flooding. Mr. Scott McBride said the boosters had purchased a tent, but had lost it due to wind the previous year. Currently, he said that the items being sold at football games needed to be taken to parents' home for storage and then brought back to be sold prior to each home football game. He said that eliminating having to transport the items would look more attractive to prospective volunteers. Mr. Yodock asked how the trailer would look. Mr. McBride said it would look nice and that the boosters would like to have a white or red trailer and get decals on it. Mr. McBride said the football boosters had been working with the band boosters on the placement of trailer so they would not detract from the band boosters' stand. Ms. Kreisher asked if the boosters would pay for this trailer, and Mr. McBride responded that they would. Ms. Kreisher said she was concerned about how large trailer might be, and Mr. McBride assured her that space would not a problem. Mr. Kelly added that the full rectangular space where the boosters were looking to put the trailer was 15' x 30'. Mr. McBride said that

the boosters could make a fence to keep around the trailer, give it rounded edges, and put the hitch toward the bleachers in order to help avoid potential safety issues. He also said that with the hitch, the trailer measured 23.5' across. Mr. Hock said that the football boosters would need to talk with Mr. Upton about liability issues. Mr. Hock also pointed out that one problem with getting volunteers was that parents want to see their children playing, and he wondered if the boosters could locate the trailer in a place that workers could see the game from inside it. Mr. McBride said he wouldn't want the trailer to be near the end zone because of the amount of things being thrown there. Mr. Hock said he thought something could be worked out between the district and the boosters and suggested the boosters consider purchasing a smaller trailer. Mr. Kelly said the trailer would remain property of the football boosters, which could be done because it was mobile. Mr. Hock said that he did not see a problem with the boosters purchasing this trailer, so long as they coordinated the project with Mr. Kelly, Mr. Upton, and Mr. Wozniak. He also said that the only concern he had was the large size of the trailer. Mr. McBride said that an 18' trailer would probably work. Ms. Fisher told the board that the football boosters were looking to sell spirit wear, instead of just football attire and items.

Ms. Kreisher then told her fellow school directors that they had received a thank you note from the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard for the donation they had made in memory of Wendy Upton. Mr. Yodock then asked if the district was still participating in the Panther Pack program, and Mr. Upton replied that it was.

Mrs. Coulter than asked the board why booster organizations had to have their fund raising efforts board approved, and Mr. Upton replied that under Title IX, it is mandatory. She also asked if the district was doing anything for the family of Duncan Heider, the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical (CMAVTS) school student who had tragically lost his life several days prior. Mrs. Day said that students at the high school had signed sympathy cards during their lunch period. Mr. Freeman said that Mr. George Lynn, the middle school guidance counselor, had gone to CMAVTS to help counsel grieving students and staff, and that there was a gofundme account set up for Duncan's family. Mr. Klingerman cautioned that gofundme took a portion of all proceeds, so it was advisable for anyone wishing to make a monetary donation to the family to instead give the donation directly to Mr. David Bacher, the administrative director of CMAVTS.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Yodock made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests: Engineering Club to the Technology Student Association's State Leadership Conference at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania from 13 April 2016 – 16 April 2016, at a cost to the district of \$2,424.40; Forensics students to the Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Championships at Susquehanna University from 8 April 2016 – 9 April 2016, at a cost to the district of \$423.00; Eighth-grade students to Washington D.C. on 13 May 2016, at no cost to the district; Varsity wrestling students to the district competition in Williamsport, Pennsylvania from 26 February 2016 – 27 February 2016, at a cost to the district of \$905.83; Varsity wrestling students to the regional competition in Williamsport, Pennsylvania from 4 March 2016 – 5 March 2016, at a cost to the district of 933.00; Varsity wrestling students to the state competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania from 9 March 2016 – 11 March 2016, at an approximate cost to the district of \$1,010.00.

Mr. Klingerman questioned why two of the wrestling trips were being brought to the board retroactively, and Mr. Kelly responded that he and Mr. Thomas had been unaware that the board needed to approve overnight athletic trips. Mr. Klingerman then asked if wrestlers and coaches attending wrestling competitions in Williamsport and Hershey had to stay overnight. Mr. Freeman explained that for the district wrestling competition, the athletes were usually done between 9 – 10 p.m. and that they had to be back around 7 a.m. the next morning for weigh-ins, so it was very beneficial for them to stay overnight in Williamsport. Mr. Klingerman said he would check with Dan Klingerman to find out if he could give the district a better rate on hotel rooms when there was a need for students to stay overnight in Williamsport.

Mr. Hock said that previous boards had been all over the place in paying for meals and/or hotel rooms for student-athletes attending overnight district, regional, and state competitions. Mr. Yodock asked what the next step for the board was in creating a policy or procedure for overnight athletic competitions. Mr. Kelly said that presently, the district did not pay for meals if students did not stay overnight for a competition. He suggested the procedures be outlined in the 2016-2017 athletic handbook. Ms. Kreisher said she was in favor of doing this, as detailing the procedure in the handbook would alleviate the board having the same discussion every year. Mr. Hock asked that adding the procedure for overnight athletic trips to the 2016-2017 athletic handbook be added to the next work session agenda.

After discussion, the motion to approve the six out-of-state/overnight field trip requests pass by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of New Middle School Course**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve the addition of the course “Advanced Computer Technology,” available for eighth-grade students at Bloomsburg Middle School, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Reapproval of End of Course Skills Testing Driver Training Program**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to reapprove the district’s continued participation in the End of Course Skills Testing (EOCST) driving program. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Budget for 2016-2017**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School budget for 2016-2017 in the total amount of \$6,107,979, with Bloomsburg Area School District’s share being \$820,272. The motion passed by a voice vote of six yes votes to one no vote (being Mr. Klingerman).

#### **Approval of Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Budget for 2016-2017**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit budget for 2016-2017 in the total amount of \$1,073,846, with Bloomsburg Area School District’s share being estimated at \$64,075 and the actual share being based on actual use of services. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Acceptance of Donation**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to accept a monetary donation of \$500 from Merck Cherokee for the Bloomsburg Middle School’s third annual science fair. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## PERSONNEL

### Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

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

- Accept the following professional staff retirements, effective at the end of the 2015-2016 school year:
  - Bloomsburg High School Family Consumer Sciences Teacher Toni Farides;
  - Bloomsburg High School Art Teacher Mark Jones;
- Approve the following classified staff transfers:
  - Mary Hubler from the position of classified substitute to the position of 2.25-hour-per-day food service aide at Memorial Elementary School at \$8.25 per hour and with benefits offered as outlined in the current classified staff agreement, effective 7 March 2016;
  - Mark Frank from the position of classified substitute to the position of Bloomsburg High School 5.5-hour-per-day paraprofessional/personal care aide at \$8.75 per hour and with benefits offered as outlined in the current classified staff agreement, retroactive to 22 February 2016;
- Approve the following individuals as classified staff:
  - Jennifer Anderson as a classified substitute, effective 8 March 2016;
  - Judy Dobson as a classified substitute, effective 8 March 2016;
- Approve the following individuals as long-term volunteers/overnight chaperones:
  - Barry Davis;
  - Tiffany Snyder;
- Approve Amber Daily as a van driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year;
- Approve Jeff Davis as a volunteer baseball coach for the 2015-2016 season;
- Approve the following individuals as professional day-to-day substitutes:
  - Rachel Owens, effective 8 March 2016;
  - Andrea Zajac, effective 8 March 2016;
- Approve the following classified staff leave of absence requests:
  - Payroll Clerk Elia Zdanavage, effective on or about 6 May 2016, with a return date of 25 July 2016;
  - Memorial Elementary School Custodian William Miller, effective 23 June 2016 and continuing for approximately 60 working days;
- Accept the resignation of Head Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach Jason Moser, effective 8 March 2016.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to adjourn the special meeting and move into its 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, 7 March 2016  
7:00 p.m.  
District Office Board Room**

**MINUTES**

**Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance Report**

Mr. Wozniak reported that the maintenance crew had sealed the windows at Beaver-Main Elementary School and that the windows seemed to be doing well. He also said that his crew was busy preparing for the spring athletic season.

**Administrative Reports**

Mr. Tabor started his report by saying that Mr. and Mrs. Yuck presentations had been recently done at Beaver-Main and W.W. Evans elementary schools. He went on to report that students at W.W. Evans had recently made biography presentations, and that students at Beaver-Main had done their biography presentations and also participated in a living history project where they dressed up as figures from history. He told directors that there had been an Oceans Rock assembly at W.W. Evans, which gave students the opportunity to see artifacts from the ocean and to learn new ocean facts. Mr. Tabor thanked the high school for letting third- through fifth-grade students review the musical. Lastly, he reported that two fifth-grade students at W.W. Evans had approached him about publishing a student newspaper and that three fourth-grade and three fifth-grade students had ended up participating in this project. Mr. Tabor urged directors to go to the school's web site to see the first version of "Panther Post Jr."

Mr. Freeman started his report by thanking the board for approved the new advanced computer technology course. He mentioned that the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., approved earlier that evening, provided a good experience for students, especially those who had not much travelled outside of the area. He publicly thanked Merck Cherokee for its \$500 donation to the middle school's science and technology fair, and said that over the past three years since the science fair's inception, Merck Cherokee had donated \$1,300 to this event. Mr. Freeman told directors that two Math Counts students, Joe Polhill (who placed third) and Jamie Nguyen (who placed fifth), would be going to the state competition in Harrisburg on March 19. He reported that Odyssey of the Mind students had competed in Berwick the previous weekend and that they did not advance beyond the regional competition for the current year, but that they did a great job and put a lot of effort into the competition. He reported that a group of middle school teachers would be going to Central Columbia School District in the near future to learn more about how they split grades (into a math responsibility grade and a math grade, for example), and that he would report back to the board on this concept at the next work session. Mr. Freeman ended his report by recognizing Mark Jones, saying he was all for kids and would really be missed in the district.

Mrs. Day then began her report by discussing the components of the School Performance Profile (SPP). She said that the high school's SPP for the previous school year was 82.2% and then proceeded to pour labeled cups of blue water into a large bowl to show how all the components of the SPP (such as the graduation rate, attendance rate, etc.), when added together, created the total SPP score.

Next, Mrs. Day presented the board with the timeline that had been used for enforcing the dress code as outlined in the 2015-2016 student handbook. She pointed out that there had not been a change in the dress code, but that it was now being more strictly enforced. In January and February, she had several meetings with students, staff, and parents about the dress code. She said that prior to February, there had

been five dress code infractions that school year, and that in February, there had been 43 infractions, the most prominent of which being tight-fitting clothing like leggings worn without a long enough shirt to cover the bottom. Mrs. Day said that when a student was cited for a dress code violation, he/she had the option of changing clothing or going to in-school suspension for the rest of the day. Mr. Klingerman asked Mrs. Day why she had started enforcing the high school dress code half-way through the year, and said he would rather that she make something else a focal point. Mrs. Day responded that she'd had teachers approach her with concerns about the dress code not being enforced, so she decided to take action on this issue. Mr. Hock said he didn't think the principal should pick and choose which parts of the student handbook were enforced. Ms. Kreisher said from what she knew of the situation, it seemed that Mrs. Day had been very respectful when dealing with students with dress code infractions, had offered options to students violating the dress code, and that students needed to follow the rules.

Mrs. Day then told directors that the only part of the student handbook that should be changed for 2016-2017 would be to update the sections on unexcused absences and digital distribution. She then reported to the board that the high school would be piloting a program that week which would offer a large-group setting for digital assignment completion, rather than having a separate substitute for each absent teacher. She said this program was working well at Central Columbia High School, and hoped it would work at Bloomsburg, as well. Mrs. Day then gave an update on the scheduling process before going on to state the high school's need for an additional science teacher for 2016-2017. Mr. Klingerman asked if the district could send high school students to Bloomsburg University in lieu of them taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and Mr. Davis replied that in order for students to receive college credit for AP courses, students needed to take them in the high school. Mr. Hock questioned if the extra science teaching position was absolutely needed, and Mr. Davis said that in order to offer all of the courses the school wanted to make available to its students, it really needed to add a teacher. Mr. Upton said that with the three professional staff retirements, there was money in the budget for this new teaching position. Mr. Klingerman said the district needed to consider other staffing needs, include making the half-time reading specialist at Beaver-Main Elementary School a full-time position. Mr. Kelly told Mr. Klingerman that the administrative team working on prioritizing staff, but that it was difficult without having a state budget. Mr. Upton said that since new science courses had already been approved, the district now needed to make staffing them a top priority.

### **Superintendent Search**

Mr. Hock gave a brief update on the superintendent search process, stating that the board had offered the position to its top candidate, who had ended up accepting a position elsewhere. He said that the board had opened up the search again.

### **Budget Update**

Mr. Upton reported that there was still a gridlock with state funds, and that the district was roughly \$3 million short of what he had anticipated receiving and it was doubtful the district would see the money this year. Because of this, Mr. Upton said the district was on a spending freeze. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Upton urged board members to contact state officials to voice their concern that the state still did not have a 2015-2016 budget in place. Mr. Upton told directors that the district should be alright, although it may need to un-commit some funds from the committed funds for retirement. Mr. Hock said directors should call their legislators to voice their concerns about the lack of a state budget, and Mr. Upton said there needed to be a public meeting in order to bring this issue back to the forefront again. Ms. Kreisher suggested this public meeting could be a combined meeting with surrounding school districts and local legislators. Mr. Kelly said there was a superintendents' meeting scheduled for that Thursday at Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School, and then he would talk to the other superintendents then about setting up a public meeting about the state budget.

### **End-of-Year Calendar**

Mr. Kelly shared with directors the current end-of-year calendar with board members. He said he would keep them updated with any changes or additions.

### **Land Acquisition**

Mr. Klingerman referred directors to the printed map of the Welliver property and surrounding area that was placed at each of their seats. He told his fellow directors that he had met with George Welliver the previous week to find out how much he would be willing to sell the 100-acre property for. Mr. Klingerman said that Mr. Welliver was willing to sell 80 acres of the property to the district for \$800,000. Mr. Klingerman said there was no other land in the district to be purchased, so he thought the board needed to purchase this property and then put in place a plan for building on it. He said he thought it was time for the district to do a feasibility study. Mr. Hock responded that he refused to spend money on purchasing land until it had protected its current assets, which was the immediate need. Mr. Mael said he thought it would be very difficult to explain to people why the district was purchasing land while it was in the process of protecting its middle and high schools from potential flooding. Mr. Yodock said he was not a big fan of the flood wall, but that he was keeping an open mind about it. He said that the district was financially unstable at the moment because of the \$3 million shortfall from the state. Mr. Hock said he was anxious to hear back from Borton Lawson about how much more it would cost to extend the flood wall out further from the middle and high schools toward Railroad Street, and that the district needed to soon make a decision and move on it. Mr. Kelly said the district would need to make some hard choices in the next 10 years regarding its facilities, and that it remained his recommendation to first flood-protect its existing facilities, as recommended in the consolidation study of 2012. Mr. Yodock told directors that he'd just seen a survey indicating the area's population was going to decrease by tens of thousands of people in the future, so the district's facilities might be adequate. Ms. Kreisher said that she did not want to take the risk of purchasing land and not moving forward with the flood control project in the hopes that another significant flood did not occur. Mr. Yodock said he thought the district needed to keep moving forward with collecting information on the flood control project. At the end of the conversation, Mr. Klingerman asked directors for direction on what to tell Mr. Welliver. The board indicated it was not interested in purchasing the property at that time.

### **Staff Recognition Dinner**

The board decided that this year's staff recognition dinner would be held at 6 p.m. on March 23 in the Multi-Cultural Center in Bloomsburg University's Kehr Union Building.

### **Update on Flood Control Project**

Mr. Kelly told directors that he had met with representatives from the Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, and SEDA-Cog concerning an available grant that could help fund an extension of the flood control project that would include the middle and high schools.

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

There was no report at this meeting, as the last Joint Operating Committee meeting had occurred the same night as superintendent interviews.

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

There was no report given, as Ms. Zollmann was absent from the meeting.

**Adjournment to Executive Session**

At 9:56 p.m., the work session was adjourned and the board moved into an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The executive session concluded at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler  
Recording Secretary