

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, 21 March 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, 21 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 Ms. Deb Zollmann. Mr. James C. Dodge and Mr. Leo “Joe” Yodock III were absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Steve Bressi (left at 7:32 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Kelly, Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 7:32 p.m.), and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present were: Mr. Phil Burrell (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Ms. Leah Fogelsanger (left at 7:22 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler, and Dr. Amanda Stutzman.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

At this time, no one wished to address the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the minutes of the 16 February 2016 regular monthly meeting, the 29 February 2016 special meeting, and the 7 March 2016 special meeting and work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the financial reports for February 2016.

Mr. Upton reported that the state house had sent another budget to the governor, and that the governor had said he would veto it. However, the house was getting close to having enough votes to override the veto, he added.

Mr. Hock asked if PIAA had a requirement about the number of game workers needed per game, and Mr. Upton replied that there was not a requirement about game workers, but that there was about officials. Mr. Hock then followed up by asking if district employees working as game workers had their pay added into PSERS, and Mr. Upton responded in the affirmative. Mr. Klingerman asked whether school district employees should be allowed to be game workers, and Mr. Hock replied that the district should not discriminate. Mr. Kelly said he would get more information on this topic to directors at a future work session.

After discussion, the motion to approve the financial reports for February 2016 passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the bills payable for 17 February 2016 – 21 March 2016, ranging from check #00040406 – check #00040553, including wire transfers in the amount of \$972,354.12, in the total amount of \$1,628,331.90.

Mr. Upton pointed out the bill for \$6,292.00 to C.M. Eichenlaub Co. for repairing the middle school gymnasium bleachers. He said that project was complete and that the gap in the bleachers had been significantly decreased. Mr. Upton also pointed out the bill to GDC for \$1,790 for Surface Pro pen replacements and repairs to damaged keyboards at the high school, stating that the district was invoicing students' parents for lost and damaged pens. Mr. Upton also pointed out that included in the bills payable was a bill to Dauphin Datacom for \$6,000.00 for firewall and a Main Distribution Facility (MDF) switch update.

After Mr. Upton was done reporting on several of the bills included for payment, the motion 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 17 February 2016 – 21 March 2016, ranging from check #00001812 – check #00001814, in the amount of \$47,568.52.

Mr. Upton explained to directors that the bill for \$11,490.00 to Thomas W. Fetterman's A/C Co. was for a new water heater for the middle school, as the old one had broken and needed to be replaced.

The motion to approve the bills payable for the Capital Reserve Fund went on to pass by a unanimous roll call vote.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

High School Representative Leah Fogelsanger reported that there had been a blood drive at the high school earlier that month and that a small subcommittee of Student Council members had met with Mrs. Day about several pertinent issues at the high school, including the dress code, and that students had been extended the opportunity to participate in a survey. Ms. Fogelsanger said that Student Council had come up with the idea of holding pep rallies for other sports, not just football, at the end of each athletic season, for all teams that went to state competitions and also for important games played against teams like Central Columbia and Southern Columbia. She ended her report by saying that Student Council would be doing a Hawaiian-themed bonfire later in the spring.

Mr. Klingerman said that when Bill Perkins had been the district's athletic director, there had been an athletic banquet for all sports at the end of each season. Mr. Kelly said that since about 2005, the district had only been holding an end-of-year awards assembly for all sports. Mr. Klingerman then asked Ms. Fogelsanger how to get more Bloomsburg High School students to show school spirit, and Ms. Fogelsanger replied that the school did hold spirit weeks, but that it was a student's personal choice to participate in them. She said that some groups did have a lot of spirit, but that not everyone did. Ms.

Haney said this is how it was when she was in school, as well. Mr. Bressi said that times were changing and that there was not as much school spirit as there had been in the past. Ms. Kreisher pointed out that the lack of fervent school spirit did not seem to be taking away from the student-athletes who played sports, and attributed the lack of school spirit to the many different activities in which today's students were involved. Mr. Hock asked Ms. Fogelsanger to let the board know if she came up with any suggestions of how to stir up more school spirit among students.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Palmatier started his report by passing around pictures drawn by Memorial Elementary School students that were being displayed at the state capital building in Harrisburg. He said that one of the pictures had received an honorable mention award in the state-wide competition. Mr. Palmatier also reported that Memorial Elementary School students had recently participated in Jump Rope for Heart, raising \$4,295.94 for the American Heart Association, and that the annual spring Scholastic Book Fair had taken place from March 11 – 18. Mr. Palmatier told directors that kindergarten registration (being held during the week of April 4) was being done differently that year, with parents registering their children while the students were DIAL-tested. Mr. Klingerman said he appreciated that both the registration and testing were being done on the same day now, but said he wished the appointment times could be extended to before school and after school to further accommodate working parents. Mr. Palmatier said that this idea had been considered, but that because of the professional staff contract, it was not feasible. He ended his report by saying that students and teachers were preparing for PSSA testing in April.

Mr. Bressi reported that things were going well at the high school and that students and staff were gearing up for end-of-year activities, including Keystone Exams. He announced that high school student Jonah Crawford had won the gold medal in the 100-meter breaststroke at the state swimming competition. Mr. Bressi recognized Dr. Jones and his advanced art and honor society students for their work in creating the artwork going up the stairwells in the high school. He told directors that the Graduates of Distinction ceremony would be held that Thursday, and that the regional life skills Easter dance was being held at Bloomsburg High School the following day. Lastly, Mr. Bressi told directors that students from Bloomsburg, Danville, and Southern Columbia high schools would be participating in a large disaster drill at Knoebels on March 31. He said that in addition to students, police officers and FBI agents would be participating in the drill, and that Mr. Kubik and himself would be participating, too. After Mr. Bressi's report, Mrs. Howell asked why finals were being squeezed into two days that year when the finals schedule used in the past had seemed to be working well. Mr. Bressi said that as he was not part of the discussion that led to that decision, Mrs. Howell should contact Mrs. Day with this question.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Kelly told directors that they were invited to attend a meeting at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit at 6:30 p.m. on April 5. He said that executives from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials, and Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators would be attending the meeting to explain the status of the state budget. He added that state legislators would not be at this meeting. Mr. Kelly said that Ms. Haney had already told him she was interested in attending, and asked that anyone else who would like to attend let him know, as well.

Next, Mr. Kelly said that he and Mr. Upton had met with Pat Endler from Borton Lawson the previous week to show him the area where the board wanted to consider extending the flood wall (toward Railroad Street). Mr. Kelly said that Mr. Endler would make a presentation on this topic at the April 18 school board meeting.

Mr. Kelly then reported that he had contacted the town the previous week to see if there was more information available regarding the potential for a grant for the flood wall, but that there was no new news yet. He said that the county was ready to go, but that the district needed to find out what committee level the town was at. Ms. Kreisher said she would get more information on this.

Finally, Mr. Kelly reported that clearances were now good for five years instead of just three years.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Special Education Plan

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve as presented the Bloomsburg Area School District Special Education Plan Report for 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2019. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Authorizing Football Boosters to Locate and Sell Merchandise from a Mobile Trailer on School Property

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve authorizing the Bloomsburg High School Varsity Football Boosters to locate and sell merchandise from a mobile trailer on school property. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Donations

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to accept the following donations made to the Bloomsburg Area School District: books for the Bloomsburg High School library, totaling \$252.81, donated by Allison and Phil Burrell; and a tree planted in memory of Wendy Upton on the property of W.W. Evans Elementary School, along with a plaque, donated by: Nancy Gale, Carol Giger, Ruth Lunger, Deb Gilbert, Debbie and Randy Gustafson, Kathy Musser, Nancy Lorady, Nancy Derr, Karen Miksits, Terry Carr, Tim Latsha, Tina Lunger, Lisa Keller, Jennee Coombe, Lori Ebright, Meg Moyer, Stacey Thomas, Shelley Crawford, Brenda Breisch, and Vanna Cleary, with any leftover money being contributed to the W.W. Evans Elementary School music department. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Middle School and High School Student Handbooks

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve as presented the 2016-2017 Bloomsburg Middle School and Bloomsburg High School student handbooks.

Mrs. Howell voiced concern about some of the new wording included in the dress code section of the student handbooks, suggesting that instead of saying that students could not wear “stretch pants, leggings, or any form-fitting pants without an additional layer of clothing that covers to mid-thigh,” the handbook instead state that students needed to be “modestly covered.” Mr. Kelly said that school dress code had been an issue for at least the last 50 years and that the new wording in the handbooks was an attempt by the middle and high school principals to add clarification. Mr. Hock, Mrs. Howell, and Ms. Kreisher agreed that the principals should be able to use their discretion regarding what was considered “modestly covered” and that the board would support them. Mr. Mael said he disagreed with this line of thinking, saying he thought the handbooks should have a clear definition of clothing that was not acceptable to wear

in school. Mr. Kelly suggested the motion be withdrawn so the principals could come back with revised handbooks to be voted on at the next board meeting.

After discussion, Ms. Kreisher withdrew her motion and Mr. Klingerman withdrew his second to the motion.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Bus Driver

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve Dale Rothrock as a 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 Staff for Summer Programs

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve the following staff for Summer 2016 student programs: Jane Endress – Bloomsburg University Reading Program Liaison; Sara Broadt and Faith Halderman – KinderCamp Teachers; Sue Sitler and Leah Sosnoski – KinderCamp Paraprofessionals; Andrew Brown and Nick Hessert – STEM Camp Teachers; and Rose Strausser, Amy Fuehrer, Michelle Adams, Sue Nevius – Extended School Year Paraprofessionals. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Long-Term Volunteers/Overnight Chaperones

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the following individuals as long-term volunteers/overnight chaperones: Kristi Duane, Daniel Hendricks, Nick Keller, Allison Wardrop, Samantha Warren, and Richard Zentner. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Classified Staff

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve Todd Davis as a Bloomsburg High School Drama Club pit orchestra, with his stipend being paid by the drama club. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Professional Staff Leave of Absence Request

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve the leave of absence request of Bloomsburg Middle School / Bloomsburg High School Nurse Sara Ervin, effective 24 August 2016 with an anticipated return date of 21 November 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Athletic Coach

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve Nick Troychock as a Volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2015-2016 season. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Classified Staff Resignation

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to accept the resignation of Bloomsburg Middle School Paraprofessional Heather Beagle, retroactive to 15 March 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:58 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting and move into an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. The executive session ended at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary