

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Monday, 4 April 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, 4 April 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: Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 7:39 p.m.), Mrs. Melissa Day (left at 7:39 p.m.), Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 7:39 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Kelly, Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 7:39 p.m.), Mr. Josh Tabor (left at 7:39 p.m.), Mr. Michael Upton, and Mr. Nick Wozniak (left at 7:12 p.m.).

Others present were: Mr. Phil Burrell, Ms. Jean Crane (left at 7:20 p.m.), Ms. Terri Drucker, Mrs. DeAnna Dube (left at 7:07 p.m.), Mr. John Dube Jr. (left at 7:07 p.m.), Ms. Barb Fritz (left at 7:20 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. Jimmy May (left at 7:07 p.m.), Ms. Julye Wemple (left at 7:07 p.m.), and Ms. Zipporah Hornberger (left at 7:07 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Ms. Drucker reported to the school board that for Pi Day, sixth-grade student Alex Bohm had broken the previous record of just over 100 by reciting Pi to 203 digits.

Next, Mr. Freeman introduced eighth-grade student Zipporah Hornberger, who read the board an essay she'd written in her English class entitled "Longer the Better." In her essay, Zipporah advocated year-round education for all students. Mr. Hock told Zipporah he appreciated her addressing the board and said the board would discuss this issue.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Middle 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. Mr. Kelly pointed out that the dress code section in both handbooks had been revised as per the board's request. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to accept the following donations made to the Bloomsburg Area School District: a monetary donation of \$150.00 to purchase books for the W.W. Evans Elementary School library, made by Bloomsburg High School teachers in memory of Wendy Upton; and a monetary donation of \$110.00 to purchase books for the W.W. Evans Elementary School library, made by retired Bloomsburg Area School District teachers. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Homebound Instruction Request

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve a homebound instruction request for a Bloomsburg High School student, retroactive to 16 March 2016 through the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Request

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the out-of-state/overnight field trip request of the Engineering Club/Robotics team to go to Lycoming Mall from 22 April 2016 – 23 April 2016, at a cost to the district of \$24.00. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve/accept the following personnel items: approve Cindy McWilliams as a driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year; and approve the leave of absence request of Memorial Elementary School Teacher Jane Endress, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year with a return date of 15 November 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 p.m., Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, 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, 4 April 2016
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Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance Report

Mr. Wozniak reported that the district would soon be going out for bids for its summer projects, that the irrigation system would be done by the end of the month, and that the maintenance crew was working on getting the athletic fields ready for spring sports. Mr. Klingerman asked if the district planned to repaint the maintenance shed soon, as it had faded to a burnt orange color as was embarrassing. Mr. Wozniak replied that he would get prices on this project.

Library Curriculum

Mr. Palmatier introduced the district's three librarians, Jean Crane, Phil Burrell, and Barb Fritz. Mr. Burrell then presented information on the district's library curriculum to the school board, and Mr. Kelly said he would be e-mailing a link to the board after the meeting so they could review the library curriculum. Mr. Burrell said that the library curriculum was an evolving document that would continue to be tweaked as needed, and told the board to e-mail himself, Ms. Crane, or Ms. Fritz with any questions they had pertaining to it.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Tabor reported that Beaver-Main Elementary School had recently held its annual science fair, and that over 50 projects were on display. He added that this was a large number of projects, considering only fifth-grade students were required to participate, and that over 100 community members attended the science fair in the evening. Mr. Tabor then reported that the grandfriends' day luncheon at W.W. Evans Elementary School has been attended by 274 grandfriends. He said that during the luncheon, students could invite grandparents, aunts, uncles, and any adults who had an impact on their lives, with the exception of their parents. Lastly, Mr. Tabor recognized elementary counselor Kelli Alexander for her work with coordinating PSSA testing.

Mr. Hock said that recently, there had been a family that visited the schools in the district, as they were considering moving into it, and that they'd had very positive experiences meeting staff and touring the buildings.

Next, Mr. Palmatier gave Ms. Christensen's report, as Ms. Christensen had lost her voice. Mr. Palmatier reported that April was Autism Awareness Month, and that the district's autism specialist Dennis Delorso had organized an autism t-shirt sale. Over 90 shirts had been sold, with all proceeds going to Camp Emerge in Millville.

Mr. Freeman then gave his report, which he started by recognizing Jami Houghton and George Lynn for their help with PSSA testing, and told directors that PSSA theme days were coming up. He then reported that several middle school teachers had visited Central Columbia Middle School the previous month to look at their grading system. He said he would be sharing information about this with his faculty that Wednesday and ask for their feedback on potentially changing Bloomsburg Middle School's current grading system. Mr. Freeman said he would follow up on this with the board in May. Mr. Freeman told

directors that he would be attempting to e-mail report cards to parents for the first time on Wednesday morning. He then told directors that students in grades six through 12 would be participating in an assembly on cyber safety, which would include such topics as sexting and potentially dangerous apps, on April 22. Mrs. Day added that parents would be able to attend the session being held from 10-11 a.m. on April 22 at the high school.

Mrs. Day began her report by recognizing life skills teachers Brooke Bowman and Nicole DelGotto for hosting the Easter dance for local life skills classes. She told directors that the recent donkey basketball game had been fun, that the National Honor Society induction was scheduled for that Thursday, and that a spirit night was scheduled at the Olive Garden from 4 p.m. until close on April 12, with 10% of the restaurant's earnings during that time being given back to Bloomsburg athletics. Mrs. Day told directors that prom was scheduled for April 30 at Rolling Pines, and that the theme was New York, New York. She said that if anyone was interested in chaperoning, they should let her know. Mrs. Day then told directors that the draft 2016-2017 master schedule was complete. Ms. Kreisher asked Mrs. Day how the pilot program for having high school students with absent teachers report to a central location to work on specific assignments had worked out, and Mrs. Day responded that it had not gone very well. She elaborated by saying that three of the four days (from March 8 – 11), the district had reached its bandwidth, and also saying that there was not yet enough structure for this idea to work. She said that this idea might be revisited in the future, but that it would not be attempted again during that school year.

Budget Update

Mr. Upton reported that because the state budget had passed (by Governor Tom Wolf having neither signed nor vetoed it within 10 days), the district had been wired \$834,000 of its basic education funding that day. Mr. Upton went on to say that the governor had vetoed the appropriations bill, meaning that the over \$333,000 the district should receive in debt service may not be seen that year, and that the district could be short up to \$435,000 for the year. Mr. Upton said that the new high school science teaching position and also turning the half-time reading specialist position at Beaver-Main Elementary School into a full-time position were still included in the district's 2016-2017 budget.

Flood Protection Update

Mr. Kelly reported that Pat Endler and Stephen Boone from Borton Lawson would be at the 18 April 2016 board meeting to make a presentation on the potential for increasing the footprint of the flood wall around the middle and high schools, toward Railroad Street. Mr. Kelly said that the projected total cost of the flood wall project was currently \$3.5 – 4 million, and that increasing the footprint of the flood wall toward Railroad Street would cost about an additional \$300,000. Mr. Kelly told directors that the Bloomsburg town council would be meeting with SEDA-Cog on 11 April 2016, and that at this meeting, the possibility of applying for a grant to extend the flood wall behind the homes on 12th Street and the tennis court and across Market and Catherine streets up to the public works building would be discussed. He said that if the town agreed with this grant, the school district could tie into its project and receive the same protection as it would if doing the flood wall project on its own. If the school district was able to tie into the town's flood wall project, it would cost about \$2 million, and the district could use the remaining funds appropriated for the flood protection project for potential future land acquisition. Mr. Kelly said that he would be out of town on April, but that he would e-mail the board with details concerning this meeting so that board members and/or Mr. Upton could attend.

After Mr. Kelly's report, Mr. Mael informed directors that there was a 62-acre plot of land for sale on Frosty Valley Road. He said he wasn't sure if it was in the Bloomsburg Area School District, but that he wanted to make his fellow directors aware of this. Mr. Yodock said that Mr. Rick Vanderpool also had land that the district might be able to purchase, and Mr. Hock asked Mr. Yodock to let Mr. Vanderpool know that the board would like to talk to him about this eventually, but not quite yet.

Athletic Handbook Changes for 2016-2017

Mr. Hock started discussion about athletic handbook changes for 2016-2017 by telling directors that a past school board had had some student-athletes' photos removed from the walls in the high school. He said that currently, the district had more photos to display, but that there was not a lot of room to do so, so the board should consider possibly reducing the size of the photos already hanging in the building in order to add more. He said that first-team all-state players' photos could be hung in the high school if the family chose to purchase the photos and met the district's guidelines regarding size and framing. Ms. Kreisher said she would like the guidelines for hanging student-athletes' photos to be included in the athletic handbook or policy manual. Mr. Hock agreed, adding the board would need to choose which governing polls to go with for the guidelines. Mr. Kelly said that he would have Mrs. Day, Mr. Bressi, and Mr. Thomas create draft guidelines to be shared with the board this spring. The guidelines could then be included in the 2016-2017 athletic handbook. Ms. Kreisher said she would like Mrs. Day, Mr. Bressi, and Mr. Thomas to also come up with recommended guidelines to be included in the athletic handbook for post-season sports travel and other accommodations. Ms. Haney said she would like there to also be a policy or procedure in place for all-state band students' photos. Mr. Kelly ended the conversation by pointing out that the major changes currently in the draft 2016-2017 athletic handbook were the change of clearances being good for three years to five years, and that addition of verbiage that out-of-state/overnight athletic trips needed to come to the board for approval.

Staff Recognition Dinner

Mr. Kelly informed directors that the Staff Recognition Dinner was scheduled for Monday, 23 May 2016 at 6 p.m. in the Kehr Union's Multicultural Center at Bloomsburg University. He asked that any directors wishing to attend let Ms. Kessler know.

CMAVTS Report

Ms. Kreisher reported that Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School had received a grant to update their server and security. She said that the school's 2016-2017 budget ended up passing by the school boards of all seven districts except Berwick. Mr. Yodock reported that the school had received 60 more applications than spots for the 2016-2017 school year, and that the school was moving forward with a 1:1 Microsoft Chromebook initiative. Ms. Kreisher added that the rollout would take a while and that students might begin using the Chromebooks in 2017-2018.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

As Ms. Zollmann was absent, there was no Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit report given.

Adjournment to Executive Session

Before adjourning the meeting, Mr. Kelly reminded directors that they would be interviewing a superintendent candidate at 6 p.m. on Monday, 18 April 2016 in the district office board room.

At 8:26 p.m., Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to adjourn the work session and move into an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. At 8:40 p.m., the executive session concluded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary