

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, 18 April 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 April 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, Mr. Joshua Klingerman (left at 8:00 p.m.), Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Norman Mael, Mr. Leo “Joe” Yodock III, and Ms. Deb Zollmann.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mrs. Melissa Day, Mr. Joseph Kelly, and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present were: Ms. Cydnee Bence (left at 7:15 p.m.), Mr. Stephen Boone (left at 7:37 p.m.), Mr. Phil Burrell, Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Ms. Terri Drucker, Mr. Pat Endler (left at 7:37 p.m.), Mr. Nick Hessert (left at 7:15 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. Jimmy May (left at 7:20 p.m.), Dr. Amanda Stutzman, and Mr. Steve Welch (left at 7:48 p.m.), Ms. Tina Welch (left at 7:48 p.m.), Ms. Julye Wemple (left at 7:04 p.m.), Mr. Cong Zheng (left at 8:11 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr. Nick Hessert, a teacher at Memorial Elementary School, told directors that he would like to start a school-based community garden at Memorial. He said that he would like to go the organic route with this project, so he'd enlisted the help of Bloomsburg University graduate student Cydnee Bence. Mr. Hessert said the location of this garden would be to the right of the Fifth Street parking lot. He said that he had garnered the support of Memorial teachers, whose classes would help tend the garden, and said that he had teachers who would tend to the garden during the summer months. Ms. Bence said that it was important to get students involved with a hands-on project such as this, and that there would be many opportunities to link the project to such subject areas as STEM education. Ms. Kreisher suggested that students in the Kiwanis Club's summer program could help tend the garden over the summer. Mr. Hessert ended his report to the board by saying that he had good backing from the Memorial faculty and that there was money available for the project.

Next, Mr. Stephen Boone and Mr. Pat Endler from Borton Lawson made a presentation to the board on the potential flood wall project. They passed out a map of where the flood wall would be if it was pushed closer to Railroad Street, as well as a sample rendering of how it might look. Mr. Endler said that with the additional area enclosed by the flood wall, a fitness center and 16 classrooms could be added in the future. He also said that the school could expand into the yard outside the middle school pool and that a change could be made to the entry plaza that would not change the levee at all.

Mr. Boone said that if the additional flood wall toward Railroad Street was built, the cost to do so would be approximately an additional \$300,000, and that the flood wall would then be almost 10 feet tall in some portions. He said the elevation of the flood wall would be 485 feet, and that the elevation of the school was 480 feet. Mr. Hock asked if one would be able to see over the wall, and Mr. Boone answered that yes,

one would be able to see over the wall and that it wouldn't box classrooms in. He said that from Railroad Street, one would see the berm, not the wall. Mr. Hock then asked if there had been discussion with the Town of Bloomsburg about their project yet, and Mr. Boone replied that some discussion had taken place. Mr. Boone referred directors to closure nine on the map, along 12th Street, and said the wall would tie in there if the district were to partner with the town for a flood wall project, and that if the district did away with its maintenance shed, it could tie in at 11th Street, as well. He said that if the town and district worked together, about one-third of the district's project would be removed. Mr. Endler suggested that, without knowing if the town was going to move on its project, the district could bid its flood wall project in two pieces – the piece that would need to be completed by the district regardless of if it worked with the town, and then the portion that it would only need to build if it did not work with the town. Mr. Klingerman asked how long this project might take, and Mr. Boone said it would be a multi-year project, and added that a similar project had a two-year timeline. Mr. Yodock asked if it would be feasible for the wall to go around the entire property to enclose the stadium and athletic fields, and Mr. Boone said this would really change the magnitude of the project, as a 15- to 16-foot wall would be needed, and he wouldn't be surprised if this addition would double the cost of the project. Mr. Yodock asked Mr. Boone and Mr. Endler if they could let the board know approximately how much more this would cost. Mr. Upton said that after the flooding in September 2011, the damage to the fields was less than \$100,000.

Mr. Upton then said that at the flood wall meeting at town hall, Bill Seigel from SEDA-COG had said that the town would know in 60 days if it would receive any grant money. He recommended the board not act on anything regarding the flood wall until this 60 days was up, so it would know the direction it needed to go. Mr. Hock asked if directors could get the cost for completing the two-thirds of the project for which the district would be responsible if it worked with the town, and asked how long the permitting process might take, to which Mr. Boone responded about six to nine months. Mr. Hock said he thought that Mr. Upton's recommendation to wait on making any decisions about the flood wall until the town found out if it would receive grant money was a good idea.

Mr. Gary Honabach, the district's technology systems administrator, then addressed the board regarding two recent technology-related issues in the district. Mr. Honabach said that about two weeks prior to the meeting, a teacher had taken home her Surface Pro, which ended becoming infected with ransomware. Mr. Honabach said that it would have cost the district about \$50,000 to restore the affected files, which included files accessible to district personnel as opposed to just that teacher. Mr. Honabach said that the technology team had been able to rebuild the server from scratch and had gone back to two days prior to the date of infection and restored files as of that day. In order to prevent this from happening in the future, Mr. Honabach said he was in the process of getting pricing from Malware Bytes.

Mr. Honabach then reported on the previous week's attempt to e-mail middle schools students' report cards to parents. He said that Mr. Freeman had contacted him about the issue of the report cards not being properly e-mailed on the morning of report card distribution, and Mr. Honabach contacted a representative of MMS, the district's student information system, and had found that the problem was not with MMS, but instead with Microsoft. Mr. Honabach said he then contacted a Microsoft tech, who was able to fix the problem in two hours. Mr. Honabach concluded that middle school report cards should be successfully e-mailed for the next report card distribution.

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 March 2016.

During his report, Mr. Upton told directors that Berwick Area School District had recently done away with its per capita tax. He said that Bloomsburg Area School District only netted about \$45,000 per year from its per capita tax. He went on to point out that the February \$838,000 payment from the state was received on April 4, and that the next payment was supposed to be received at the end of April, but that as per the state's web site, it was not yet scheduled. He pointed out that the cafeteria fund was still making a profit. At the end of Mr. Upton's report, Mr. Hock asked if the final evaluation of the field irrigation system had been done, and Mr. Upton replied that it had and that it would also be evaluated again in one year. Mr. Klingerman said he was upset that the area along the first base line on the baseball field had not fenced off. Mr. Upton said that Mr. Wozniak did not want to put up stakes because of the potential safety issue that would cause.

At the end of discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Klingerman left at this point in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the bills payable for 22 March 2016 – 18 April 2016, ranging from check #00040554 – check #00040686, including wire transfers in the amount of \$286,941.28, in the total amount of \$1,377,090.91.

Mr. Upton pointed out that in order to procure a better deal on the middle school social studies techbooks being purchased for the 2016-2017 school year, the invoice for them was being included for approval in that night's bills payable. He also pointed out that there was a check included in the bills payable to Stewart Signs for the sign to be located on the exterior of Bloomsburg High School. Mr. Upton told directors that the variance for the sign had been approved at the recent zoning committee meeting and that the district was awaiting official documentation of this approval. Mr. Kelly said that the recommended location for the sign was to the right and front of the breezeway entrance.

After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE – CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve the bills payable for the Capital Reserve Fund for 22 March 2016 – 18 April 2016, being check #00001815, in the amount of \$2,348.50. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Kelly reported that beginning in May, the administrative team would be recommending to the board candidates to fill the professional staff vacancies for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Hock asked if the Memorial dean of students position was included in the budget, and Mr. Kelly replied that it was, but noted that the elementary assistant principal position was note.

Mr. Kelly then told directors that many issues arise at that point in the school year and that district personnel continued to work through them. He said that he continued to be impressed with how the administrators in the district handled issues.

Lastly, Mr. Kelly reported that the math portion of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) had been held the previous week, and that the English/language arts portion was taking place that week. He said that students seemed to be taking the PSSAs in stride and that the tone in schools was not as negative as he'd thought it might be.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Next, Bloomsburg High School student Cong Zheng gave the student representative's report. He told directors that the following day was custodian appreciation day, so Student Council had planned a breakfast for the school's custodians. He also reported that Student Council would soon be deciding who would go on the May 13 trip to Hershey Park, and that the organization was holding a luau on May 20. He said that this event, which would include food, games, and activities, would be open to the community and that there would be an advertisement for it on the high school's web site.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of Donations

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to accept the following donations made to the Bloomsburg Area School District: a monetary donation of \$250.00 to be used toward a new scoreboard in the middle school aquatics center, made by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #273 of Bloomsburg; and a monetary donation of \$100.00 to be used toward a new scoreboard in the middle school aquatics center, made by the Fort McClure Post 804 VFW. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Grant

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to accept a \$500 grant to be used to create a butterfly garden on the exterior back plaza of Bloomsburg Middle School and to plant perennials in front of and around the school, through Communities in Schools Pennsylvania (CISPA). The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve an out-of-state/overnight field trip request for qualifying track and field student-athletes to the state meet at Shippensburg University from 26 May 2016 – 28 May 2016, at a cost to the district of approximately \$96 for transportation and \$130 per student for lodging. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Professional Day-to-Day Substitutes

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve the following individuals as professional day-to-day substitutes as per Policy 405: Employment of Substitute Professional Employees: Cassandra Marzzacco (Elementary Education K-6), effective 19 April 2016; Kaitlin Steward (Grades PK-4), effective 19 April 2016; and Barbara Martz (Elementary Education K-6 and Family and Consumer Sciences PK-12), retroactive to 11 April 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Drivers

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve Dawn Young and Kyle Bogart as drivers 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

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve Amanda Daniel as a long-term volunteer/overnight chaperone. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Athletic Coach

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve Mike O'Shea as the Head Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach at Step 2 and a salary of \$2,674.00 for the 2016-2017 season. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. After the motion had passed, Mr. O'Shea thanked directors for the opportunity to serve as the varsity boys' basketball coach.

Approval of Professional Staff Leave of Absence Request

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the leave of absence request of Elementary Art Teacher Jillette Smith, effective on or about 12 September 2016 through 9 January 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Extended School Year Teachers

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve the following individuals as Extended School Year (ESY) teachers for Summer 2016, at a rate of \$22 per hour: Meghan Hallick – Elementary ESY Teacher; and Jessica Yerges – Secondary ESY Teacher. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION

Mr. Hock announced that the following items would appear on the 2 May 2016 work session agenda: Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Presentation by Karen Devine; Budget; Board Elections; and Elementary Student Handbooks. Mr. Hock said he would also like to discuss the per capita tax. Ms. Kreisher said she would like to discuss the location of the athletic training facility. She said that currently, girls had to go through the junior high football locker room to get to the athletic trainer. She said she would like to discuss moving the athletic trainer so that students could have a safe, private place to meet with her. She suggested it might be a good idea to explore the possibility of purchasing a trailer for the athletic trainer to use as her office.

As of 11 April 2016, the district had 1,574 students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hock reported that the next special meeting and work session was scheduled for Monday, 2 May 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room, and that the next regular monthly meeting was scheduled for Monday, 16 May 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. The executive session to discuss personnel matters that had originally been scheduled to be held after the regular monthly meeting was not held.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary