

**Bloomsburg Area School District  
Board of School Directors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Monday, 16 May 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, 16 May 2016 in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Mr. James C. Dodge, Mr. Brent Hock, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Joshua Klingerman, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Normal Mael, Mr. Leo “Joe” Yodock III, and Ms. Deb Zollmann. Ms. Stephanie Dunn Haney was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Stephen Bressi (left at 7:27 p.m.), Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 7:38 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Kelly, and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present were: Ms. Jennifer Bates, Ms. Steffanie Bowes, Mr. Phil Burrell, Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Rebecca Drucker, Mr. Todd Foust, Mr. Dave Hogue, Ms. Erin Hogue, Mrs. Jill Hogue, Ms. Kristin Hogue, Mr. Ryan Hogue, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. John Long (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Ms. Andra Mingle (left at 7:38 p.m.), Mr. Jason Moser, and Ms. Abigail Stout.

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

Ms. Jennifer Bates, a librarian in the Central Columbia School District, addressed the board to emphasize the importance of having a certified librarian hired to replace the elementary librarian who was retiring at the end of the current school year. She noted that the individual being brought to the board for approval that evening did not presently have her librarian certification. Mr. Kelly responded that the individual had passed her Praxis to become a certified librarian, and that she should have her certificate in hand within the next 10 days.

Mr. David Hogue addressed the board to consider keeping Mr. Thomas as the district’s athletic director. Mr. Hogue said he had worked with numerous athletic directors, and that he found Mr. Thomas to truly care about kids and always work with the best interest of the athletic program in mind. He said that Mr. Thomas was doing an admirable job. Mr. Hock responded that he respected Mr. Hogue’s opinion and thanked him for his comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve the minutes of the following Bloomsburg Area School District Board of Directors’ meetings: the 18 April 2016 regular monthly meeting, and the 2 May 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 April 2016.

Mr. Upton pointed out that the district had received two payments from the state – in February and April – in the amount of \$1.6 million. He said that there should be an increase in the basic education, special education, and Ready to Learn Grant, in the amount of approximately \$86,000. He also told directors that the rental and sinking fund, in the amount of \$335,000, would not be coming through in the current year. Mr. Upton said that the year's last two social security payments, totaling about \$50,000, was being withheld. He said that he and Mr. Kelly had met with Rep. Millard about the state budget, and that Rep. Millard had told them there would be a budget on his desk by June 30. Mr. Upton said he expected there to be a budget impasse for the next school year, as well.

Mr. Upton pointed out that the cafeteria fund was doing well, and that it would be used to purchase multiple pieces of equipment, in the amount of about \$40,000 for the district's kitchens, which would be helpful to the district because this money would not have to come from the general fund. Mr. Kelly reminded directors that the district was not raising lunch prices for 2016-2017 because it fiscally needed to, but because it needed to raise them at least \$.05 in order to meet federal guidelines.

After Mr. Upton finished giving his report, the motion to approve the April 2016 financial reports passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve the bills payable for 19 April 2016 – 16 May 2016, ranging from check #00040688 – check #00040827, including wire transfers in the amount of \$336,275.79, in the total amount of \$1,170,083.52. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Bressi told directors that things were relatively quiet at the high school. He said that that day was the first day of Keystone testing, adding that Mrs. Day had done a great job with scheduling the exams. He said that the preliminary dropout report was looking good, and that to that point in the school year, there had been 83 suspensions, up from the previous year, during which only 61 total suspensions had occurred. Mr. Bressi said that having only 61 suspensions in one year was extraordinarily good. He ended his report by saying that over 70 seniors were going on the senior trip to Dorney Park that Friday.

Next, Ms. Christensen told directors that the special education department was busy evaluating and processing incoming kindergarten students who might need services for the following school year. She said that seniors had completed their services document. Ms. Christensen said she'd recently had the opportunity to chaperone the W.W. Evans Elementary School third-grade trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, and that it had been fun to see the city through the students' eyes. Lastly, Ms. Christensen said she thought it would be very positive for the district to pay the full tuition amount, rather than capping it at Bloomsburg University's rate, for the district's behavior specialist Andra Mingle. Ms. Christensen said that Ms. Mingle was planning to attend Arizona State University, which was the least expensive of the three universities that she had looked into regarding a Curriculum and Instruction Applied Behavior Analysis M.Ed. program. Ms. Christensen said she thought it would be beneficial for the district to have a second employee with her behavior analyst certification (herself being the other), for legal reasons and also because it would help the district be able to keep more students in the district.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Kelly reported to directors that the timeframe of April through mid-June was a very busy time of year for the special education department, and applauded the district's special education department for being very competent and offering a beneficial program to students. He then reminded directors that graduation was scheduled for Saturday, June 4 at Bloomsburg University, and asked that any directors wishing to have reserved seating let him know. He also reminded directors that the Staff Recognition Dinner was scheduled for Monday, May 23, also at Bloomsburg University, and asked that anyone who wished to attend but had not already RSVP-ed let him know that night.

Mr. Kelly then referred school board members to the handouts at their seats regarding guidelines for transgendered students – one being from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the other being a letter from the United State Department of Justice and the United States Department of Education. Mr. Kelly said he had contacted the district solicitor about this issue, and he that the district was very good at accommodating students and that it should continue to operate as it had been for the remainder of the school year. He said the district should learn more about the issue and work on policies over the summer and into the fall, rather than hastily creating policies. Mr. Kelly said that over the next few months, all 500 school districts in the state would be receiving instruction from the Pennsylvania Department of Education about how to handle this. He ended his report by saying that Bloomsburg Area School District should have no trouble complying with the requirements.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

As a student representative was not at the meeting, there was no report given at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve as presented the 2016 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Breakfast and Lunch Prices for 2016-2017**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve the following student breakfast and lunch prices for the 2016-2017 school year: Elementary Breakfast - \$1.05 (no change from 2015-2016); Secondary Breakfast - \$1.15 (no change from 2015-2016); Elementary Lunch - \$2.30 (up \$.05 from 2015-2016); and Secondary Lunch - \$2.55 (up \$.05 from 2015-2016). The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Field Trip Mileage Rates for 2016-2017**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve increasing the mileage rate for field trips and athletic trips for Bloomsburg Area School District bus contractors from \$2.30 per mile in 2015-2016 to \$2.36 per mile in 2016-2017, effective 1 July 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Acceptance of Donations**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to accept the following donations to the Bloomsburg Area School District: a monetary donation of \$250.00 to be used toward the Memorial Elementary School community garden project, made by the American Legion Valley of Bloomsburg Post 273; and monetary donations for a tree planted in memory of Wendy Upton on the property of W.W. Evans Elementary School, along with a plaque, by: Wilma Steinruck, Gail Faust, Carla Evans, Ginny Bidleman, and Pat Smith. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Proposals for Bloomsburg High School Walk Improvements**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve Orangeville Surveying Consultants of Orangeville, PA to complete a topographic survey and prepare sketch plans for the Bloomsburg High School entrance walkway improvement project, at a cost of \$2,000.00.

Mr. Kelly explained that the district was looking at making just one sidewalk to the high school, as opposed to the two sidewalks it currently had that met in the middle and then led up to the school. He said this project could be completed in Summer 2016, and that it was budgeted for the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Howell asked if there was a back-up plan if the entranceway was not complete before the first day of school, and Mr. Kelly replied that in this case, students could either enter through the middle school or use the door by the art room and Mr. Marshall's room.

After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Next, Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve Larson Design Group (LDG) of Bloomsburg, PA to design and administer the Bloomsburg High School entrance walkway improvement project according to the attached description, at a cost of \$13,250.00 plus reimbursable expenses. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Proposal for Facility Systems Site Assessment for W.W. Evans Elementary School**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve as presented the proposal from Siemens Industry, Inc., in the amount of \$25,678.00, to provide a facility systems site assessment for W.W. Evans Elementary School. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Tuition Prepayment and Reimbursement Rate Exception**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve tuition prepayment and reimbursement for courses taken by Andra Mingle through the Curriculum and Instruction Applied Behavior Analysis M.Ed. program through Arizona State University at Arizona State University's rate rather than Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania's rate, as described in Section 10.02(g) of the professional bargaining agreement. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the out-of-state/overnight field trip request for Bloomsburg Junior Varsity and Varsity Boys' Basketball student-athletes to participate in the Hoop Group Skills Camp in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania from 11 June 2016 – 12 June 2016, at a cost to the district of approximately \$30.52. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Elementary Student Handbooks**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve as presented the Beaver-Main Elementary School, W.W. Evans Elementary School, and Memorial Elementary School student handbooks for 2016-2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Reapproval of Board Secretary**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to reapprove Stephanie Dunn Haney as the Board Secretary from 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Reapproval of Board Assistant Secretary**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to reapprove Michael Upton as the Assistant Board Secretary from 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Reapproval of Board Treasurer**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to reapprove Tina Howell as the Board Treasurer from 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Reapproval of Board Solicitor**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to reapprove Atty. Noah Naparstek as the district's solicitor with Derr, Pursel, Luschas, and Naparstek as its firm from 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017 with a retainer fee of \$1,100 and an hourly fee of \$125.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Authority Representative**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve Tom Tobin as the district's Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Authority representative for a three-year term from 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2019. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Acceptance of Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Representative Resignation**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to accept the resignation of Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Representative Deb Zollmann, effective 17 May 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Representative**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve Norman Mael as the district's Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Representative, to fill the term vacated by Deb Zollmann, which will expire 30 June 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Professional Day-to-Day Substitute**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve Noelle Humphries as a professional day-to-day substitute as per Policy 405: Employment of Substitute Professional Employees, effective 17 May 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Long-Term Professional Substitute**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve Larissa Singley as a Long-Term Professional Fourth-Grade Substitute Teacher at W.W. Evans Elementary School, retroactive to 2 May 2016 through 3 June 2016, at a rate of \$100 per day. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Extended School Year Teacher**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve Reanna Buehler as an Extended School Year Teacher for Summer 2016, at an hourly rate of \$22.00. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Professional Staff Transfers**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve the following professional staff transfers, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year: Steffanie Bowes from the position of Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher to the position of Full-Time High School Art Teacher; Jennifer Coombe from the position of W.W. Evans Elementary School Second-Grade Teacher to the position of Memorial Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher; Anthony DeLuca from the position of Memorial Elementary School Fifth-Grade Teacher to the position of W.W. Evans Elementary School Second-Grade Teacher; Jennifer Mertz from the position of Beaver-Main Elementary School Half-Time Reading Specialist to the position of Beaver-Main Elementary School Full-Time Reading Specialist; and Sheila Freese from the position of Memorial Elementary School Reading Specialist to the position of Memorial Elementary School and Beaver-Main Elementary School 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Librarian, pending receipt of her librarian certification. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Professional Staff**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve Patricia Zimmerman as a Bloomsburg High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Masters Step 7 and an annual salary of \$48,824.00 and with benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Kreisher then made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve Patrick Krepps as a Bloomsburg High School Biology Teacher at Bachelors Step 2 and an annual salary of \$38,028.00 and with benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Athletic Director Termination**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve terminating Corey Thomas from the position of Athletic Director, effective 15 July 2016, with Mr. Thomas being permitted to use all accrued vacation and personal days prior to that date and receiving a severance payment of approximately \$2,549.95.

Mr. Hock said that it had been a tough decision to terminate Mr. Thomas' contract because he was very well liked. He said that Mr. Thomas had not violated any policies or had excessive absences, but that after close to two years with him as the athletic director, the athletic program was not moving forward in the position the board wished it to go. He said the board wished the best for Mr. Thomas in the future.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Classified Staff Termination**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve terminating Lisa Conti from her position as a Memorial Elementary School 3.5-hour-per-day Food Service Aide, effective 29 April 2016 at 12 p.m. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Reapproval of Dean of Students**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to reapprove Andrew Brown as the Memorial Elementary School Dean of Students for the 2016-2017 school year.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Classified Staff Leave of Absence Requests**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve the following classified staff leave of absence requests: Memorial Elementary School Secretary Angela Burns, effective 15 June 2016 with a return date of 15 September 2016; and W.W. Evans Elementary School Custodian Stanley Haney, effective 11 May 2016 through 3 June 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Classified Staff Transfer**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve transferring Patricia Milligan from the position of Classified Substitute to the position of Three-Hour-Per-Day Memorial Elementary School Food Service Aide at \$8.25 per hour and with benefits offered as per the negotiated classified staff agreement, effective 23 May 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Driver**

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve Patricia Mohr as a driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Acceptance of Board Member Resignation**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to accept the resignation of Bloomsburg Area School District Director James C. Dodge, effective 17 May 2016.

Mr. Dodge said that because of his work schedule and his wife's illness, he did not feel he could devote the time necessary to be an effective board member. Mr. Hock told Mr. Dodge that he was an excellent board member and that he appreciated his insights, but that he did realize there was an issue regarding the time commitment. He said he respected Mr. Dodge for realizing he was not able to commit the time to being an effective board member at the present time, and that he hoped he would reconsider being on the board if things changed down the road.

The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **INFORMATION**

It was announced that the following items would appear on the next special meeting agenda: Approval of Final Budget 2016-2017. It was also announced that the following items would appear on the next work session agenda: List of Graduates, Athletic Schedule 2016-2017, Athletic Handbook 2016-2017, and PSBA Policy Services.

As of 9 May 2016, the district had 1,555 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hock announced that the next special meeting and work session was scheduled for Monday, 6 June 2016 beginning at 7 p.m. in the district office board room, and that the next regular monthly meeting was scheduled for Monday, 20 June 2016 beginning at 7 p.m. in the district office board room.

Mr. Hock then reported to members of the audience that the district was still in the process of searching for a new superintendent. He also reminded everyone that high school graduation was being held on Saturday, 4 June 2016 at Bloomsburg University.

## **ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:59 p.m., Ms. Zollmann made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to adjourn the regular meeting and move into an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

At 8:45 p.m., the executive session being held to discuss personnel matters was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler  
Recording Secretary