

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, 20 June 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 7:03 p.m. on Monday, 20 June 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. Normal Mael, Mrs. Gail Moore, and Ms. Deb Zollmann. Mr. Leo “Joe” Yodock III was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 8:21 p.m.), Mrs. Melissa Day, Mr. Joseph Kelly, Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 8:21 p.m.), and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present were: Mr. Stephen Boone (left at 7:45 p.m.), Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Judith Dobson (left at 8:21 p.m.), Mr. Pat Endler (left at 7:45 p.m.), Mr. Cody Forgach, Ms. Chelsi Hunter, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Ms. LuAnn Leisering, Ms. Amanda Pavalko, Mr. Ed Pavalko, Mr. Ed Pavalko, Ms. Kerri Anne Pavalko, and Ms. Larissa Singley.

ELECTION OF NEW SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Prior to the start of the school board meeting, directors interviewed two new school director candidates, Judith Dobson and Gail Moore. At this point in the meeting, ballots were cast, and Mrs. Moore was elected by a vote of six to one. Mr. Hock swore in Mrs. Moore as a school director.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mrs. Crawford asked how the district’s superintendent search was going, and Mr. Hock replied that there were 22 applicants to date, and that the search would be ending at midnight that night. He said the board would be able to review candidates’ applications the following day and that it would be meeting the following week to select candidates to come in for first-round interviews. Mr. Hock said that Dr. Al Lonoconus, a retired superintendent, had met with Mr. Kelly and Mr. Upton and that pending board approval, Dr. Lonoconus would be the district’s acting superintendent starting in August 2016 until a permanent superintendent was found.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve the minutes of the following Bloomsburg Area School District Board of Directors’ meetings: the 16 May 2016 regular monthly meeting and the 6 June 2016 special meeting and work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

FLOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS PRESENTATION

Mr. Boone started Borton-Lawson's presentation by displaying a large map of where the levee would be if it was to surround the entire middle/high school campus. He said the average height of an earthen levee would be about 17 – 18 feet, which would not be feasible. Instead of the earthen levee, the district could opt for an MSE levee, which would be an additional \$3 - \$3.5 million increase to the project. Mr. Boone said that in order to surround the entire campus, the district would need to sacrifice soccer fields and reorient the baseball fields. He said there was no cost benefit to enclose the entire campus because it would take many, many floods in order to make the full campus enclosure cost effective. Mr. Hock said that having a wall that was 17 – 18 feet tall surrounding athletic fields was probably not the district's best option. Mr. Boone said that if the district was able to partner with the Town of Bloomsburg in pursuing a grant, it could possibly use some property not owned by the Bloomsburg Area School District. Mr. Klingerman said that if a flood wall was placed around the entire campus, the district could build a stadium in which all sports could be played, and that it could have a turf field. Mr. Boone said that if the district could not partner with the town, it would cost an additional \$1.5 million to enclose the whole campus, and that if the district could partner with the town, it would cost the district about \$2 million to complete the project, with the maintenance building being the presumed cut-off. Mr. Hock said that including the parking lots, stadium, and maintenance building inside the wall would square in the district's property and would make for a natural tie-in with the town. Mr. Boone agreed, and said this would eliminate the need for hundreds of feet of wall. Mr. Boone said a (10' x 10') pump station would likely be placed underground at the closure on Railroad Street. Mrs. Moore asked if the proposed flood management system would protect the middle/high school campus in a flood similar to that of September 11, and Mr. Boone replied that it would, plus two feet more. Mr. Hock asked for a cost of building the wall around the faculty parking lot and stadium, with the tie-in from the town, and Mr. Boone said he would get this information for the board.

Mr. Kelly then said that he had spoken with Lauren Martz from town hall to find out where the town was with regards to the next phase of the town's flood protection project. He said he'd found out that the town was looking at doing an addition to tie into Windsor Food in front of Bloomsburg High School and up 12th Street, across from Market Street, with a gate being at each road, or to Kawneer. He said this would protect about 250 homes on 11th and 12th street. Mr. Kelly said he'd told the town that the district was ready to move forward with the permitting process, and that the previous week, Bill Segal had met with representatives from PEMA, FEMA, and HUD about potential funding sources. Mr. Kelly said that he and Mr. Upton would meet with the town and county in July to discuss the district's contribution to a flood wall project. Mr. Kelly said he would report back to the board on this meeting at the July 18 school board meeting.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve the financial reports for May 2016. During his report, Mr. Upton pointed out that the district had received \$92,000 from Geisinger for its agreement regarding their nursing home on First Street. He also told directors that \$1.3 million had been received from the state for its basic education subsidy, and that the district should receive all of its federal funding. He said that the cafeteria would end up about \$33,000 in the black (after a \$50,000 accrual of salaries and benefits), which was approximately the same as the previous year. He said that some of this money could be used to renovate the Beaver-Main Elementary School kitchen. At the end of discussion, the motion to approve the financial reports for May 2016 were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve the bills payable for 17 May 2016 – 20 June 2016, ranging from check #00040828 – check #00040983, including wire transfers in the amount of \$411,644.28, in the total amount of \$1,085,649.58. While going through some of the bills, Mr. Upton pointed out the \$1,986 check for the school district's portion of the Autoneum appraisal. The motion to approve the bills payable 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 17 May 2016 – 20 June 2016, being check #00001816, in the amount of \$2,000.00. Mr. Upton explained that this was check was the final payment to Bognet, Inc. for the Beaver-Main Elementary School window project. The motion to approve the bills payable for the Capital Reserve Fund passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Day told directors that she would be recommending that they approve an Introduction to Robotics class for both middle and high school students. She said that presently, high school students could take Robotics Design I and Robotics Design II, and that an introduction class would allow students to take up to three years of robotics courses. She reported that five middle school students were interested in taking this course and that seven underclassmen (freshmen and sophomores) were also interested. Ms. Kreisher asked if middle school students taking this course would have it appear on their high school transcript. Mrs. Day replied that it would appear on their high school transcript and that it would be factored into their high school Grade Point Average (GPA). She said this would be clearly communicated to parents and students. Mrs. Day said that she spoke with other principals in the region, and that many of them did not include high school classes taken by middle school students on their high school transcripts, likely due to logistical issues. Ms. Kreisher said she did not understand why middle school students taking high school classes should have these classes count toward their GPA and appear on their transcript. Mrs. Day responded that many more middle school students benefitted from such courses being counted toward their GPA than those who were negatively affected by it. Furthermore, she said the middle school students taking accelerated classes – minus Algebra I in seventh grade – were actually taking these classes in the high school with other high school students. Mr. Hock said it was important to make sure that middle school students taking accelerated classes were made aware that their grades would count toward their high school GPA.

Ms. Christensen reported that the district would be hosting a training for its paraprofessionals and for paraprofessionals from nearby districts at the high school on August 8 and 9. She said it was expected 150 paraprofessionals would be in attendance, and that each summer the training changed location, and that this year, it was Bloomsburg's turn to host the training. She also reported that the special education department was having meetings for eighth-grade students going to Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School in 2016-2017, and that it was also working with incoming special education kindergarten students. Lastly, she reported that several outplaced special education students would be returning to the district in the fall.

Mr. Palmatier said that there was a lot of activity at Memorial Elementary School. He said that STEM camp had been held there the previous week and that about 30 students from the three elementary schools had attended it, and that KinderCamp and the Bloomsburg University reading program (for students in kindergarten through second grade) were currently being held there. Mr. Palmatier told directors that there were some long-term substitute teaching positions open at Memorial and that he would be conducting interviews for these positions in early July.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Kelly asked directors to complete their ballots for Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit directors and get them to Ms. Kessler that night so she could send them to Dr. Singer. He then reported that the following Bloomsburg Area School District professional staff members were being granted tenure after having met all the requirements of Section 1108 of the Pennsylvania School Code: Alicia Archuleta – Memorial Elementary School Teacher; Nick Hessert – Memorial Elementary School Teacher; Caitlin O'Brien – Bloomsburg Middle School English/Language Arts Teacher; Mike O'Shea – Bloomsburg High School Social Studies Teacher; and Nicole Walberg – W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

There was no student representative's report given at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Athletic Handbook for 2016-2017

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve as presented the Bloomsburg Area School District Athletic Handbook for 2016-2017. Mr. Hock asked if the high school would be utilizing a digital presentation to highlight first team all-state athletes and musicians, and Mrs. Day replied that yes, the school was moving forward with the project. She said it would be tried for one year and then evaluated after that. Mr. Klingerman said he thought district champions should also be displayed in the digital presentation, in order to highlight as many students as possible, adding that district champions could just be displayed for one year. After discussion, the motion to approve the 2016-2017 athletic handbook passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Athletic Schedule for 2016-2017

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve as presented the Bloomsburg Area School District athletic schedule for 2016-2017. Mr. Kelly told directors that there inevitably would be changes to the schedule. Mr. Hock asked how the athletic director search was going, and Mr. Kelly replied that the district had received 28 applications for the position. Mr. Kelly told directors that nine were being brought in for first-round interviews the following week, and that the top candidates would be brought in for a second-round interview with the school board. The athletic schedule for 2016-2017 then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Contract with PSBA

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve as presented the contract with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for Option 1: Policy Development Service Only for the 2016-2017 school year, at a cost of \$8,300.00. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Acceptance of Professional Staff Resignations

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to accept the following professional staff resignations: W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher Jennifer Asbury, effective 2 August 2016; Bloomsburg High School Biology Teacher Patrick Krepps, retroactive to 14 June 2016; W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher Meghan Moyer, effective at the end of the 2015-2016 school year; Bloomsburg Middle School Reading Specialist Amy Tommasini, effective 2 August 2016; Bloomsburg Middle School Health & Physical Education Teacher Joseph Tommasini, effective 2 August 2016; and Bloomsburg Middle School English/Language Arts Teacher Liesl Lewis, effective 2 August 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Classified Staff Resignations

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to accept the following classified staff resignations: Memorial Elementary School Custodian Kevin Breisch, with his last day of work being 24 June 2016; and Bloomsburg High School Paraprofessional/Personal Care Aide Mark Frank, retroactive to 8 June 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Professional Staff

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve the following professional staff members: Ed Pavalko as a Bloomsburg High School Biology Teacher at Step 1 Masters with an annual salary of \$38,253.00 and benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year and upon receipt of his Pennsylvania teaching certificate; Jeannine Plyler as a Bloomsburg High School Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher at Step 2 Bachelors with an annual salary of \$38,028.00 and benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year; Chelsi Hunter as a W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher at Step 2 Bachelors with an annual salary of \$38,028.00 and benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year; Larissa Singley as a W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher at Step 1 Masters with an annual salary of \$38,253.00 and benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year; and LuAnn Leisering as a W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher at Step 1 Masters with an annual salary of \$38,253.00 and benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

INFORMATION

Mr. Kelly reported that as of 3 June 2016, there were 1,555 students enrolled in the Bloomsburg Area School District, from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Mr. Klingerman asked if the district would be undergoing any PIAA classification changes for the following school year, and Mr. Kelly said he would look into this and let the board know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hock reported that there would be no work session in July, and that the regular monthly school board meeting would be held on Monday, 18 July 2016 at 7 p.m. in the district office board room. He also reminded directors that they would be meeting on Thursday, 30 June 2016 at 6 p.m. in the district office board to review superintendent applications and select applicants to be brought in for a first-round interview.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary