

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Monday, 8 August 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, 8 August 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 (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Norman Mael, Mrs. Gail Moore, Mr. Joe Yodock, and Ms. Deb Zollmann. Mr. Joshua Klingerman was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 7:43 p.m.), Dr. Alan Lonoconus, Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 7:43 p.m.), Mr. Justin Simpson (left at 7:43 p.m.), Dr. Amanda Stutzman (left at 7:43 p.m.), Mr. Joshua Tabor (left at 7:43 p.m.), Mr. Michael Upton, and Mr. Nick Wozniak (left at 7:24 p.m.).

Others present included: Ms. Donna Bunch (left at 7:15 p.m.), Mr. Phil Burrell (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), Ms. Jean Crane, Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. Doug Lynn (left at 7:15 p.m.), Ms. Alyssa McNamara (left at 7:15 p.m.), and Ms. Alyssa Wawroski (left at 7:15 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mrs. Crawford addressed the board to voice concern about Dr. Donald Wheeler, the individual the board would be voting to hire as its next superintendent. She said she had googled him and learned about a survey conducted by the board president of a former district for which Dr. Wheeler had worked that indicated that 84 percent of the faculty did not see Dr. Wheeler as a credible leader and that 89 percent of them did not believe he demonstrated ethical, trustworthy, and professional behavior. Mr. Hock said that Dr. Wheeler had brought up this survey during the interview process, saying that he had made a mistake and had learned from it. Mr. Hock added that the board had talked to 17 references regarding Dr. Wheeler, and that all of them had been positive. Ms. Kreisher then elaborated that Dr. Wheeler had become superintendent of a district with a \$17 million deficit and had to make some difficult decisions, including teacher furloughs. She said that he had established a program through which students could graduate from high school with an associates degree.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Facilities Use Agreements with Bloomsburg University

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve as presented the facilities use agreements with Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania for Fall 2016 sporting events on an as-needed basis. Mrs. Howell arrived at this point in the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Tax Exemption Requests

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Moore seconded, to approve the following tax exemption requests: the Town of Bloomsburg's request for tax exemption for the Red Cross Building (Parcel 05E02 00800000) at the address of 119 East Seventh Street in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, and Hemlock Township's request for tax exemption for a parcel of ground located at the end of Jacoby Drive (Township Route 372). The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Zollmann, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip request: Bloomsburg High School students to the Jostens Renaissance Back to School Tour in Hagerstown, Maryland on 29 September 2016, at a cost to the district of \$205.80. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Booster Organizations for 2016-2017

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve the following booster organizations for 2016-2017: Bloomsburg High School Softball Boosters, and Bloomsburg High School Cross Country Boosters. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of New High School Course

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve the Introduction to Robotic Design course for eighth-grade students and high school students, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Bloomsburg High School Entrance Project Bid

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Moore seconded, to accept the low bid of Benton Mobile Concrete, Inc., in the amount of \$43,391.98, for the Bloomsburg High School walkway entrance project. 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 hiring Tyler Rupert as a Full-Time W.W. Evans Elementary School Custodian at \$8.60 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff agreement, retroactive to 18 July 2016, and to accept his resignation effective 27 July 2016;

- Accept the resignation of Bloomsburg High School Secretary Denise Waterman, with her last day of work being 22 August 2016;
- Accept the resignation of Assistant Softball Coach Mary Jo Yocum, retroactive to 15 July 2016;
- Accept the resignation of Bloomsburg High School Half-Time Spanish Teacher Gail Parsons, effective 23 September 2016;
- Accept the retirement of Beaver-Main Elementary School Teacher Suzanne Yartz, effective 9 August 2016;
- Approve the transfer of Custodian James McManus from Full-Time Bloomsburg High School Custodian to Part-Time Memorial Elementary School Custodian, effective 29 August 2016;
- Approve the following individuals as professional staff:
 - Alyssa Wawroski as a Beaver-Main Elementary School Second-Grade Teacher at Step Bachelors 2 and an annual salary of \$38,028 and with benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year;
 - Chelsey Whitmiller as a Bloomsburg Middle School English Teacher at Step Bachelors 2 and an annual salary of \$38,028 and with benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year;
 - Jami Houghton as a Bloomsburg Middle School Guidance Counselor at Step Masters 5 and an annual salary of \$45,459 and with benefits as per the negotiated professional staff agreement, effective for the start of the 2016-2017 school year;
- Approve the following professional long-term substitutes:
 - Lauren Strauch as a Memorial Elementary School Long-Term Fourth-Grade Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$100 per day, effective 24 August 2016 until 15 November 2016;
 - Alyssa McNamara as a Memorial Elementary School Long-Term Fifth-Grade Substitute Teacher for the 2016-2017 school year, at Step Bachelors 1 and an annual salary of \$36,476;
- Approve Justine Karc as a bus driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the 2016-2017 school year; and
- Approve Doug Lynn as the Head Softball Coach at Step 1 and a salary of \$2,114 for the 2016-2017 school year.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Superintendent

Mr. Hock announced that the board would not be voting on the new superintendent or his contract at the current meeting, but that it would be voting on these items at the 15 August 2016 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 p.m., Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to adjourn the special meeting and move into 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, 8 August 2016
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lonoconus thanked the school board for allowing him to be the district's acting superintendent. He said that everything in the district seemed to be going well, and that he was impressed with the administrative team. He said that the buildings and athletic fields – especially the football field – were in good shape, and that it was a goal of his to be in every building before the start of school and meet with each principal to ensure that all schools were ready for the start of the school year. He said there were some areas at Beaver-Main Elementary School – namely the electrical service in the cafeteria area – that would need to be addressed at some point in the near future, and that he would be sure to talk to Dr. Wheeler about this. Dr. Lonoconus said that the transition from himself as the acting superintendent to Dr. Wheeler as the permanent superintendent was scheduled to occur during the week of August 22, with both working that week and then Dr. Wheeler being by himself the week of August 29. Dr. Lonoconus said that Dr. Wheeler would be coming into a very good situation.

Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance Report

Mr. Wozniak reported that things were coming along well on the custodial side. He said that the middle school carpet replacement had been completed, and that the first floor of the district office – minus the board room – was scheduled to be done over fair break. Mr. Wozniak said he had talked to representatives from Borton Lawson, who had assured him that the parking lot would be available and free of debris for the start of school. Also, Mr. Wozniak said that pending the evening's acceptance of the low bid for the high school entrance project, work there would begin shortly and would take about two to three weeks. If this project was not completed in time for the start of school, students and staff could use the wrestling room door if necessary, he added. Mr. Hock asked how the water wheel was doing, and Mr. Wozniak replied that it was working well and being used about three to four days per week.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Tabor reported that his two buildings, Beaver-Main and W.W. Evans elementary schools, were in the process of being cleaned in preparation for the start of the new school year. Mr. Tabor said that Dave Barrett had been the sole custodial at Beaver-Main all summer and that he had been doing a great job. At W.W. Evans, Lori Hahn and Dee Van Blargan had also been doing a commendable job cleaning at W.W. Evans. Dr. Lonoconus suggested the board consider changing the part-time custodial position, which was currently unfilled, to a full-time position. He said this could be helpful in finding someone to fill this position, and Mr. Tabor said that there was definitely enough work at Beaver-Main to justify a second full-time custodian. Mr. Tabor said he would bring a list of reasons justifying the need for a second full-time Beaver-Main custodian to the board.

Next, Mr. Freeman told directors that sixth-grade orientation, which had been held on August 3 and 4, had gone over very well with students and parents. He said the new format was more student-centered and that the feedback about it had been very positive. Mr. Freeman reported that seventh- and eighth-grade

students' schedules would go out August 15, and that open house would be held on August 24 from 6-8 p.m. Lastly, he reported that he expected to come to the board with a recommendation for the open middle school social studies teaching position at the August 15 school board meeting.

Mr. Palmatier then reported that there were still some unknowns with regards to staffing at Memorial for the upcoming school year. He said he would be recommending the hiring of several individuals at the August 15 board meeting. Mr. Palmatier told directors that KinderCamp had been very successful, that Kiwanis would finish its camp at the end of the current week, and that kindergarten orientation and the school's open house were coming up later that month.

Dr. Stutzman told directors that the new Everyday Math materials had recently been received by the district, and that the new program was tightly aligned to the common core. She said that she and Mr. Tabor had attended an Everyday Math Users Conference in Philadelphia the previous week, which had been beneficial to them both. Lastly, she reported that the agendas for the in-service and Act 80 days scheduled for August 24 – 26 were set, and that they included team-building exercises and a poverty simulation through Agape.

Athletic Director Report

Mr. Simpson thanked the board for the opportunity to be the district's new athletic director. He said that during his first week on the job, he had been extremely busy, and that Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Day, and Mr. Wozniak had been very helpful in his transition. He said that over the past few days, a new head softball coach had been hired, and that the district's pocket calendars had come out that day and would be distributed later that week. He concluded his report by saying that fall sports would start on August 15, that football had started that day, and that Community Night was scheduled for August 20.

Swimming Scoreboard

Mr. Upton told directors that the district was considering replacing the middle school natatorium scoreboard, and that it had received a quote of \$14,625. He said that as things currently stood, the district would have to pay about \$4,000 of it and that donations would cover the rest. The board gave Mr. Upton the directive to begin the process of having the scoreboard ordered. Mr. Upton said he would start the process the following day, and that the scoreboard would likely be installed over fair break.

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report

Ms. Kreisher reported that Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (CMAVTS) had recently hired a new principal and had hired Spanish Teacher Gail Parsons as its new student services director. Dr. Lonoconus told directors that because Ms. Parsons, who had been a half-time Spanish teacher at CMAVTS and a half-time Spanish teacher at Bloomsburg High School, had been hired full-time by CMAVTS, a search for a replacement Spanish teacher was underway. He said that there was a candidate being considered.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

Mr. Mael reported that he had attended his second Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) board meeting, and that he would be meeting with CSIU Director Kevin Singer that Friday for an orientation.

Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Hock told those in attendance that negotiations with Dr. Donald Wheeler, the board's candidate for the position of superintendent, were going well and moving quickly. Mr. Hock said that during the executive session to follow, directors would be discussing the terms of Dr. Wheeler's contract. Mr. Yodock then made the motion to adjourn the work session and moving in an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Ms. Kreisher seconded this motion, which then passed by a unanimous voice vote. The work session was adjourned at 7:50 p.m., and the executive session lasted from 7:50 – 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary