

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Tuesday, 6 September 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 Tuesday, 6 September 2016 in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Mr. Brent Hock, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Joshua Klingerman, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mrs. Gail Moore, and Mr. Joe Yodock. Ms. Stephanie Dunn Haney, Mr. Norman Mael, and Ms. Deb Zollmann were absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mrs. Melissa Day (left at 8:57 p.m.), Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 8:57 p.m.), Dr. Amanda Stutzman (left at 8:57 p.m.), Mr. Michael Upton, Dr. Donald Wheeler, and Mr. Nick Wozniak (left at 8:57 p.m.).

Others present were: Ms. Terri Drucker, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. Al Luschas (left at 7:52 p.m.), Ms. Susan Martz (left at 7:07 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Ms. Susan Martz addressed the board to let them know she felt hurt that she had not been asked to continue serving as the district's Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (CMAVTS) Authority representation. She said that she had been on the school board until about 10 years ago, after which she served as the authority representative. She said that she had been told that Mr. Tom Tobin was taking her place as of 1 July 2016, but that she had not been told why. Mr. Hock said that he had asked Mr. Tobin, who recently ended his tenure as a school board member, to serve on the authority because Mr. Tobin had served on the CMAVTS Joint Operating Committee. He apologized that this had been hurtful to Ms. Martz.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:08 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion to move into executive session to discuss legal matters, and Mr. Klingerman seconded this motion. The motion to go into executive session passed by a unanimous voice vote. The executive session ended at 7:52 p.m. and the board went back into public session.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Architect for Beaver-Main Elementary School Kitchen Renovation Project

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve as presented the proposal for architectural services with Arch Central Architects, Inc. for the Beaver-Main Elementary School kitchen upgrades and new generator project, in the amount of \$18,580. Mr. Hock asked how much the project would likely cost, and Mr. Upton replied that it would likely cost between \$300,000 - \$400,000. Mr. Upton also said that some funds for this project would be coming from the cafeteria fund. The motion went on to pass by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Booster Organizations for 2016-2017

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve the following booster organizations for the 2016-2017 school year: Bloomsburg High School Track and Field Boosters and Bloomsburg High School Varsity Football Cheerleading Booster Club. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Agreement with All-American Publishing

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve as presented the agreement with All-American Publishing. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of New Student Organizations

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the addition of the Bloomsburg High School Outdoors Club for the 2016-2017 school year. 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 homebound instruction for a W.W. Evans Elementary School student, retroactive to 29 August 2016 for a period of at least 20 school days. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve/accept the following personnel items:

- Accept the resignation of Memorial Elementary School Teacher Faith Halderman, retroactive to 22 August 2016;
- Accept the following classified staff resignations:
 - Memorial Elementary School Paraprofessional Georgiana Petridge, retroactive to 18 August 2016, and add her to the classified substitute list;
 - Technology Technician Chris Evans, effective 9 September 2016;
- Approve the following individuals as professional day-to-day substitutes as per Policy 405:
Employment of Substitute Professional Employees:
 - Lori Piekanski (Elementary Education K-6), retroactive to 29 August 2016;
 - Kimberly Kerchusky (Art K-12), effective 7 September 2016;

- Approve Gale Stewart as a classified substitute, pending receipt of her Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check, FBI Clearance, Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, and tuberculosis test results;
- Approve Changyan Song as a Second-Shift Custodian at Bloomsburg High School at \$8.60 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff agreement, effective 6 September 2016;
- Accept the unpaid leave of absence request of Maintenance Worker Norman Swisher, effective 4 August 2016 until 24 October 2016;
- Accept the following professional staff leave of absence requests:
 - Bloomsburg High School Health/Physical Education Teacher Andrea Heckman, effective 12 September 2016 through 23 September 2016, with a tentative return date of 1 October 2016;
 - Bloomsburg High School Science Teacher Martha Kanaskie, effective 12 September 2016 for a period of up to two weeks;
- Accept the professional staff leave of absence change request of Memorial Elementary School Teacher Jane Endress from the start of the 2016-2017 school year with a return date of 15 November 2016 to the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year with a return date of 17 October 2016;
- Approve Pari Cheesman as bus driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the 2016-2017 school year;
- Approve as presented the advisors for the 2016-2017 school year;
- Approve the following individuals as athletic coaches for the 2016-2017 school year:
 - Adam Kopitsky – Volunteer Girls' Tennis Coach;
 - Raymond Chulock – Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach.

After the motion was made and seconded, Mr. Hock asked Mr. Wozniak if he was now fully staffed, to which Mr. Wozniak replied that he was not. Mr. Wozniak said there had been no applicants for the full-time Beaver-Main Elementary School custodian position, and that he had a candidate he could use as a long-term substitute in maintenance. Mr. Klingerman said he felt frustrated because the district's pay rate for classified staff was low, to which Mr. Upton replied that the pay was mandated as per the negotiated classified staff contract. Mr. Klingerman said that the Beaver-Main Elementary School playground was not up to par during the school's open house. Mr. Hock suggested the district could contract out lawn mowing for all of the outside buildings if needed.

After discussion, the motion to approve/accept the aforementioned personnel items passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 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
Tuesday, 6 September 2016
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance Report

Dr. Wheeler told directors that there were still a number of questions regarding the high school sidewalk project scheduled to start later that month. Among those questions, he said, was where the memorial stones and trees would be relocated and what impact the flood wall would have on the location of the LED sign. Dr. Wheeler recommended the board consider discussing with Benton Mobile Concrete the possibility of delaying the project until June 2017 in order to make sure the questions were addressed. Mr. Hock asked if Benton Mobile Concrete would be able to still complete the project if any changes were made to it, and Mr. Upton replied that the project would need to be re-bid if the scope of the project was changed. Mr. Upton added that he was totally against changing the project at that time, and that the district already had a signed contract with Benton Mobile Concrete. Ms. Kreisher said that if the contractor agreed to complete the project in the spring instead of in the present month, an addendum to the contract changing the completion deadline would need to be created. Mr. Hock said he liked Dr. Wheeler's idea of holding a dedication ceremony for the memorial garden. Mrs. Howell asked what would happen to the big tree in front of the entrance, and Mr. Upton responded that they would try to keep the tree there but remove some branches.

Mr. Wozniak then reported that his custodial and maintenance crew was doing the best it could despite vacancies. Mr. Hock told Mr. Wozniak that the football field looked awesome, and Mr. Yodock said that the outside of W.W. Evans Elementary School look awesome as well.

Administrative Reports

Mrs. Day reported that 60 of the 96 incoming high school freshmen had been represented at freshman orientation on August 4. She said there had also been a nice group of parents in attendance at the high school open house. Mrs. Day told directors that the parent advisory group (which was currently comprised of 11 parents) had met that morning, and that the group would be meeting once a month. She said that she had been participating in fall sports practices and that it was amazing to see what the athletes were doing. Mr. Yodock said that his daughter was in cross country and that she had enjoyed Mrs. Day participating in one of their practices. Mrs. Day said that during fair week, she and some students would be going to the Women's Center to clean as part of a community outreach endeavor. Ms. Kreisher told her fellow directors that each class would be asked to have a float in the Homecoming parade, and Mr. Yodock volunteered use of some of his wagons.

Dr. Stutzman reported to the board that during the induction meeting on August 23, the new teachers and support teachers had been taken on a brief tour of the Bloomsburg community, which had been well received. She also told directors that there had been very positive feedback regarding the in-service and Act 80 Days on August 24-26, and that there had been an Act 48 Committee meeting held earlier that day to begin planning for the October 10 in-service. Mr. Hock said that it seemed that a majority of teachers appreciated the team-building opportunities during the in-service days.

Mr. Palmatier said that it seemed that this year had marked the smoothest start to the school year that Memorial Elementary School had had in his five years as its principal. He elaborated, saying that dismissal had gone very well. He also told directors that he'd met with representatives from the food cupboard and that the district would continue to offer the Panther Pack program to students in kindergarten through second grade for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Palmatier said that there had been a great turnout at the school's open house and band recruitment night. He ended his report by saying that someone had broken off the top of the buddy bench at Memorial, and that a work order had been submitted to the maintenance department to have it fixed.

Superintendent's Entrance Plan

Dr. Wheeler passed out his revised entrance plan and briefly summarized it. He told the school board that nothing in the school district was broken, and that nothing needed to be rushed. What he'd taken away from his first week on the job, he said, was that each building was very unique and has strong leadership, and that everyone cares for each other and the students.

Middle School/High School Security Upgrade

Mr. Upton reported to directors that he wanted a fob system to be added to the middle school and security cameras to be added to the middle and high schools. He said that Berkshire had been brought in to look at the buildings and consider potential security upgrades in them. Mr. Upton said that this would be an expensive but necessary upgrade, and that there was funding available in the capital reserve fund. Mr. Klingerman asked if this job would need to be bid out, and Mr. Upton replied that Berkshire was on Co-Stars, so it would not need to be. Mr. Klingerman asked how long the equipment would last, and Mr. Upton responded that it should last about 10 years. Mr. Upton then asked if the board was okay with the district going ahead with starting this project, and there were no objections.

Lawn Mower Replacement

Mr. Upton told directors that the district had a John Deere lawn mower that it would like to trade in toward a Kubota that could be purchased through Co-Stars. He said that the Kubota was a larger, wider-cutting mower and that a plow could be put on it. Mr. Wozniak added that the Kubota was a four-wheel drive mower and that it could be used year-round. Mr. Klingerman suggested the board might want to consider having an outside contractor take care of some of the district's grounds. Ms. Kreisher replied that the district did have a contractor mow the lawns of Beaver-Main, W.W. Evans, and Memorial elementary schools. Mr. Wozniak confirmed this, adding that the district's maintenance crew mowed the lawns of the middle and high schools and the district office. Mr. Wozniak said that the maintenance crew also removed snow from all school property except at Beaver-Main. Ms. Kreisher said the district should look at the agreement it had with Carl Fritz, its lawn mower contractor, as it may need to add trimming and weed removal to this contract. Mr. Upton asked if any directors had objections to purchasing a new mower, and no one responded in the negative.

Student Housing Property Assessment

Mr. Hock stated that this item had already been discussed earlier that evening, in the executive session.

School Board Negotiating Team

Mr. Hock told directors that negotiations for the professional staff contract, which would expire on 30 June 2017, would need to start in January 2017, if not before then. He asked who would like to serve on

the committee, and it was determined that he, Ms. Kreisher, Mr. Mael, and Mr. Yodock would do so. Mr. Hock said he would be setting up an initial meeting in the near future.

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report

Ms. Kreisher reported that the last meeting of the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (CMAVTS) Joint Operating Committee had been a short meeting, but that there had been a lot to cover. She reported that Alcoa had donated \$60,000 to the school to go into mechatronics, that 174 freshmen were enrolled in the school and that there were still about 20-25 students on a waiting list, that the school had partnered with Penn College and enabled 32 students to earn credits at the college during the previous school year, and that Keystone scores had dramatically increased. Ms. Kreisher said that the school had partnered with the community foundation for fund-raising efforts and was currently forming an advisory committee. She said that there should be one member from each of the seven school districts serving on this committee, and that anyone who was interested should let herself or Mr. Yodock know. Lastly, Ms. Kreisher reported that the Joint Operating Committee had hired Susan Shipman as the school's new principal.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

As Mr. Mael was absent from the meeting, no CSIU report was given.

Other Items

Mr. Hock told his fellow directors that a situation had arisen where a teacher was returning a month early from her leave of absence. He said that instead of releasing her long-term substitute early, this substitute would still work for that extra month, but would be used as a floater substitute during that time. Dr. Wheeler suggested that from that point forward, the district should consider approving long-term substitutes for just six weeks at a time. Mr. Hock said that because in this particular instance the board would be breaking Policy 405, it would need to vote on this item at the September 19 meeting.

Adjournment

At 9:12 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Klingerman seconded this motion. The motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary