

**BLACKHAWK SCHOOL DISTRICT
500 BLACKHAWK ROAD
BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010**

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' WORK SESSION
Blackhawk High School Orange Cafeteria
March 8, 2012**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by all nine members. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Clendennen	Mr. Calabria	Mr. Fleischman
Mr. Heckathorn	Mr. Inman	Mr. May
Mr. Oswald	Mrs. Pander	Dr. Rose

Absent : None

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent	Mr. Salopek- Solicitor	Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary
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Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9 and February 16, 2012 Board meetings.

Verbal Vote: 9 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Oswald announced that the next meeting scheduled for March 15, 2012 will be held at the Patterson Primary School in the gymnasium.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Miller reviewed the items proposed in this area for the voting meeting scheduled for March 15, 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters.

Mrs. Jodi Weister and student Selena Bonomo questioned the proposal to eliminate the Vocational Agriculture course. Ms. Bonomo presented a petition signed by 370 people in support of the program. Dr. Miller explained that the Vocational Tech School offers many of the same courses and that others will be integrated into other areas such as science. She also pointed out

that the State will no longer recognize Vocational Agriculture courses for credit as science courses due to the Keystone exams.

Twenty students and parents spoke on the subject of the proposal to eliminate Drivers Education as a part of the curriculum. Included were Nicholas Kaszer, Griffin Geehan, Michelle Myers, Abby Shope, Charles Schaub, Jan Deyber, Lesa Caratelli, Anthony Kincade, Taylor Graham, Sierra Sichak, Sam Nardone, Kim Majors, Matt Young, Jennifer Henderson, Missy Kaszer, Eric Racan, Santiago Roig, Jon Kaszer, Debbie Rankin, Kim Majors (again), and Michelle Kincade. Dr. Rose asked at one point how many students took Driver's Ed and was told that currently about 164 are in the on road portion and 223 in classroom, but that most students took the course during their High School years. Mr. Fleischman asked if individual votes would be required to reduce any program and he was told yes, with the exception of reducing the band instructor to 5/8ths time, which would be a decision made when hiring of a person occurred. During the course of the speakers expressing their views, Dr. Miller pointed out that the course would be available through CCBC, with the on road portion done at the High School, that CCBC would use our instructors as much as possible, and the retirements made this the best time to review all programs so that furloughs would not be needed to reduce the staff.

Mr. May left for work at this time.

Eight students and parents spoke about the proposal to reduce the band instructor to a 5/8ths time position. Wendy Rakus, Kathy Kaiser, Gwen Vela, Laura Gibson, Victoria Bovalino, Michelle Myers, Eric Stormfels and Russ Couch spoke.

On the subject of extended day care several people spoke as follows: Robin Moyer (three times), Amanda Bouril, Eric Stormfels (three times), Jennifer Henderson, Jodi Weister, Missy Kaszer, Tricia Connelly, Jon Kaszer, and Laura Gibson. During the discussion Dr. Rose suggested that the District research with its insurer any possible liability if extended care is offered at one of the District's facilities.

Concerning the proposed Pre- K Program, Robin Moyer spoke once again. She directed the District to be sure to take "Pre-Care Counts" into consideration and be sure participants were truly disadvantaged, etc. Mr. Fleischman requested that she email him her main points and she assured Dr. Rose when he asked that pre-k programs are already offered in the District. She stated private providers could do a better job of providing early education than the school district.

Dr. Miller announced that sessions were scheduled for parents to discuss the full day kindergarten proposal.

Teacher Joe Verbosky expressed his opinion that the District should not do JROTC because it isn't worth the cost. Dr. Miller replied that it is not being planned for next year but is just being considered, the cost is being explored and adding the program has not been approved by the Board.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Wessel reviewed the items proposed in this area for the voting meeting scheduled for March 8, 2012.

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to approve using the UPMC Vision Advantage Program beginning April 1, 2012 to provide the District's vision insurance pending concurrence by the bargaining units in the District.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Note: Mr. May had departed the meeting for work during the Public Discussion portion of the meeting.

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to advertise for bids to replace the dishwasher at Northwestern Primary School using the bid specifications prepared by the McFarland Kisler Company.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Dr. Rose requested that the motion to accept the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit budget for 2012- 2013 be moved to the Intermediate Unit Committee section of the agenda. The Board approved the move by consensus.

Mr. Fleischman stated that the Board needed to make decisions concerning which buildings the District should keep and if any should be closed before spending money for things like the dishwasher approved above. Mr. Clendennen pointed out that the Board addressed that subject in the past and decided that the current buildings would remain open for the foreseeable future, which is why repairs were made to the roof at Northwestern, roads and parking areas were upgraded, etc. Mr. Fleishman said that short sighted decision making was happening and the Board should reconsider the long range plans.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the Personnel items proposed for this meeting.

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve substitutes for the remainder of the school year as follows: Rebecca Grassel (Elementary Teacher); Dana Tessier (Physical Education Teacher); and, Natalie Nicolette (Physical Education Teacher).

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to permit Angie Rolston (paraprofessional) time off without pay for five days in March 2012.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to permit Loralee Alexander (paraprofessional) time off without pay for five days in April 2012.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Bruce VanHorne as Cross Country Assistant Coach effective immediately.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mrs. Pander moved and Mr. Clendennen seconded a motion to accept the retirement of Constant Baker from Food Services effective June 8, 2012.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the Education items proposed for this meeting and the next.

Mr. Heckathorn moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve the following field trips:

- a. Multimedia Club (2), Don Diehl, Regional PA High School Computer Fair, BVIU, April 13, 2012 (budgeted).
- b. Northwestern Primary First Grade, First Grade Teachers, Children's Museum, Pittsburgh, May 30, 2012 (funded by PTO).
- c. BHS Chamber Players (7), Nate Goodrich, Performance at Chippewa Township Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry, March 23 & 30, 2012 (grant).
- d. BHS Chamber Players (7), Nate Goodrich, Performance at Elmcroft Nursing Home, March 14, 2012 (grant).
- e. HMS Orchestra, (27), Nate Goodrich, Adjudication Performance at Carnegie Mellon University, June, 1, 2012 (expenses paid by students).
- f. BHS Band, Bob Barthen, Kennywood, August 13, 2012 (budgeted).
- g. Select AP Science Students (4) Kim Baker, NOVA Chemical Science Lab Challenge, April 13, 2012 (no cost).
- h. Select Computer Science Students (6), Jim Cox, Robert Morris Programming Competition, April 13, 2012 (budgeted).

Dr. Miller reported to the Board that several employees (about ten) have asked if a reduced rate of tuition could be established so that their children can attend Blackhawk despite the parents not residing in the District. Mr. Clendennen asked if the District would receive state reimbursement for the children and Dr. Miller said she believed so since that is the case with other tuition children, but it would be checked out. Mr. Fleischman asked what the number would be and Dr. Miller replied that it could be about 15 children and would start with the 2012-2013 year.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Clendennen reminded the Board members that minutes from the weekly construction meetings for the Middle School project are sent by email to Board members for their review. Dr. Rose requested that all emails communicating information to the Board be copied on paper for him, Dr. Miller said that it can be begin .

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Dr. Miller reviewed the Athletics items proposed for the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

No report.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

No report.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Heckathorn moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to adopt Policy 005, Organization, as revised and presented in the concurrent third reading of the policy. Dr. Rose requested that the entire policy be read to the public. Mr. Oswald asked the solicitor if that was required and he replied that only the change need be read. Mr. Heckathorn did so. Dr. Rose questioned why the change was proposed and Mr. Inman, as the change author, replied that it clarified the Board's practice and followed Robert's Rules of Order more closely .

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Heckathorn moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to adopt a new policy, number 620, Fund Balance, as presented in the concurrent third reading. Dr. Rose again asked if the policy had to be read in its entirety to the public. The solicitor replied that it was not required.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

Dr. Miller reviewed the list of conferences and attendees on the agenda for the March 15, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve the following conferences:

- a. Susan Hullihen, Bullying Prevention Workshop, Churchill, PA, April 12, 2012 (budgeted).
- b. Susan Hullihen, Bryan Vitali, Farm to Table – Wellness Program Conference, Pittsburgh, March 23, 2012 (budgeted).
- c. Anthony Mooney, Carol Sprinker, Highmark Foundation: Foundations for Success,

Pittsburgh, March 22, 2012 (budgeted).

d. Steve Lodovico, Kyleigh Squicquero, Bullying Prevention Workshop, Churchill, PA, April 12, 2012 (budgeted).

e. Mike McManus, Tim Pyle, Arc Flash Welding School, Mars, PA, March 15, 2012 (budgeted).

f. Michelle Miller, Federal Programs Conference, Hershey, PA, March 25-28, 2012 (budgeted).

g. Rick Ford, Archery BAI Instructor Certification, Bessemer, PA, April 12, 2012 (No cost).

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Dr. Rose reported that he attended his first Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit meeting Tuesday March 6th. The IU budget had been presented at the previous meeting but had not passed due to questions about salary increases for the staff. An explanation was given that Act 93 agreements and contracts had to be honored although some savings was achieved through a furlough. The budget then passed unanimously.

VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Dr. Rose reminded the Board that he reported at the previous meeting that a Veterinary Technician course was being added to the Vo Tech curriculum.

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

No report.

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

School Directors: Mr. Heckathorn informed the Board that he met with the superintendent at North Hills School District and discussed the implementation of all day kindergarten and that district's experiences in the process. The District offered Blackhawk the benefit of their advice and experience if desired by Board members or the administration.

Mr. Fleischman requested an executive session after the meeting for personnel.

Administrators: Mr. Wessel reminded those Board members that have not turned in their Ethics Commission forms that the deadline is rapidly approaching.

Visitors: Barb Brown asked if the Board was coming back to vote on anything after the executive session and she was told no.

Next Meeting: March 15, 2012 in the Patterson Primary School cafeteria at 7:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary