

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, 16 June 2014
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 June 2014, in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Mr. David Cantore, Mr. Brent Hock, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Justin Hummel, Mr. Terry Kramarz, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mrs. Sandra Rupp, and Mr. Thomas Tobin. Mr. Joshua Klingerman was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Dan Bonomo (left at 7:45 p.m.), Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Christopher Groody (left at 7:45 p.m.), Mr. Ryan Moran, and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present included: Ms. Jenn Bates, Mrs. Allison Burrell, Mr. Phil Burrell, Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Ms. Barbara Fritz, Mr. Ryan Gible (left at 7:45 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Ms. Deb Krupp, Mr. Michael McGarry, Mr. Jason Moser, Ms. Linda Neyer (left at 7:59 p.m.), Ms. Brenda Pitonyak, and Ms. Teri Watson.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Ms. Barbara Fritz addressed the board to voice her support of retaining the position of high school librarian, saying that if she had to assume this position for one day out of each six-day cycle, she would not have the skills set or be able to promote rigor to do so and there would be a very steep learning curve for her.

Ms. Linda Neyer said that having a high school librarian is essential, not a luxury, and that she supported the district having a 21st-Century high school librarian.

Ms. Brenda Pitonyak said she believed it was important to replace the retiring high school librarian because it is important to have a librarian who can help students decide what books to read.

Ms. Jenn Bates said that she viewed librarians as being the cornerstone of the school as opposed to just a luxury, that there should be a librarian in the library as opposed to an aide, that the library should be open to students throughout the entire school day, and that there were grants available that could help Bloomsburg add to its library collection.

Ms. Teri Watson said the district should retain the position of high school librarian and that the position should be modernized.

Mr. Michael McGarry said that the high school English department believed there should be a high school librarian and that the district should use this transition as an opportunity to modernize the position.

Mrs. Bonnie Crawford said that also supported the position of 21st-Century high school librarian and that research skills should be developed in students earlier than in their senior year.

Ms. Deb Krupp echoed what other members of the audience had stated, saying that she supported the district having a 21st-Century librarian at the high school.

Mrs. Allison Burrell told the board that she was the sole librarian for Southern Columbia Area School District and that this arrangement did not work well there.

Mr. Phil Burrell concluded the public comment portion of the school board meeting by saying that he also agreed with the others who had voiced their support of the district hiring a 21st-Century librarian.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Bonomo reported that high school personnel were beginning to meet with students regarding scheduling conflicts for 2014-2015 and that he was working with groups using high school facilities during the summer to ensure there would be no conflicts due to the window replacement project. Mr. Hock complimented Mr. Bonomo on the smooth graduation ceremony.

Mr. Groody reported that the custodians had begun their summer building cleaning and that the reading program coordinated between the district and Bloomsburg University and held at Memorial Elementary School would be starting the following week, as would KinderCamp. He also said that the elementary basketball program was going on at W.W. Evans Elementary School that week. Mr. Cantore asked about a “30 Seconds” that had recently appeared in the *Press Enterprise*. Mr. Groody explained that a member of the W.W. Evans Elementary School parent co-op had provided a student directory to an insurance agent and that the agent had been contacting parents about purchasing insurance. Mr. Groody said that he had sent home a letter to parents explaining the situation and that he had also asked the parent co-op member who had given the parent directory to this insurance agent to step down from the parent co-op.

Mr. Moran reported that the Summer of Innovation Camp was scheduled to take place in mid-July and that 35 elementary students were registered for it. He said that Mr. Michael Runkle and Mr. Andrew Brown at Memorial Elementary School would be leading this STEM camp. Mr. Moran also reported that the feedback regarding the professional development offered during the four Act 80 Days in June had been positive. Mr. Cantore suggested that Mr. Moran consider having Dr. Ruby Payne provide in-service to staff in the future and Mr. Moran said he would take this suggestion back to the Act 48 Committee for its consideration. At the end of Mr. Moran’s report, Ms. Kreisher said that at Memorial Elementary School’s recent fifth-grade graduation, many students had very nice things to say about Mr. Moran.

Mr. Gibble distributed to board members and then reviewed with them the end-of-season spring sports report. Mr. Tobin requested that from that point on, Mr. Gibble send the end-of-season sports reports to the school board prior to the meeting at which he would be presenting it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the minutes of the 19 May 2014 regular monthly meeting and the 2 June 2014 special meeting and work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the financial reports for May 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve the bills payable for 20 May 2014 – 16 June 2014, ranging from check #00036565 – check #00036715, including wire transfers totaling \$349,740.51, in the amount of \$976,742.89. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE – CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve the bills payable for the Capital Project Fund from 20 May 2014 – 16 June 2014, being check #00010530, in the amount of \$414.99. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Curry began his report by stating the following professional staff members had been granted tenure, having met all the requirements of Section 1108 of the Pennsylvania School Code:

- Elizabeth Barnett, W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher;
- Gina Dinko, Bloomsburg High School Spanish Teacher;
- Michelle Hintz, Bloomsburg Middle School Language Arts Teacher;
- Carrie McClure, Bloomsburg Middle School Science Teacher;
- Mary Michaels, Bloomsburg High School Learning Support Teacher;
- Meghan Moyer, W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher; and
- Bethany Slonaker, Beaver-Main Elementary School Teacher.

He then reported that 13 new professional staff members had completed the district's induction program that year. Dr. Curry also reported that on July 8 and 17, the district would be holding child abuse reporter training for all staff that had not completed the state-mandated training in January. He then announced that parent-teacher organizations and booster clubs would be brought to the school board for approval again this summer as they had been the previous year. He finished his report by saying that all of the district's 2013-2014 goals had been met, with the exception of completing the memorandum of understanding with Central Columbia School District and Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School for continuing education for Bloomsburg Area School District students in the case of an emergency situation.

Mr. Cantore asked Dr. Curry if the board was permitted to see the staff's evaluation of the district's administration, and Dr. Curry said that yes, they could be made available to the school board. Mr. Cantore then asked if the board was privy to information regarding staff being suspended, because he would like to know the names of suspended employees. Mr. Hock said he did not think the board should know the names of employees who were suspended, and Mr. Kramarz agreed, saying the board should just let Dr. Curry do his thing. Ms. Kreisher said she would like to know that incidents with employees were not being simply brushed under the rug. Mr. Hock said that he knows that Dr. Curry does investigate concerns regarding staff. Mr. Tobin said he would like an end-of-year report of staff suspended during that school year.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Final Adoption of Policies

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve for final adoption the following policies:

- Policy 008: Organization Chart; and
- Policy 227: Use of Unauthorized Substances.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve the out-of-state/overnight field trip request of the Bloomsburg High School Band to Daytona Beach and Disney World from 20 May 2015 – 25 May 2015, at no cost to the district. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Donations

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to accept the following donations made to the Bloomsburg Area School District:

- Sixteen high-visibility vests for the Memorial Elementary School Safety Patrol, made by Carol Pavlick; and
- A \$600 donation to cover the cost of the district's football program's use of Bloomsburg University's football facilities for 2014, made by the Old Panther Group through the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. (The contract for this was approved at the 19 May 2014 school board meeting.)

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Cancelling 7 July 2014 Special Meeting and Work Session

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve cancelling the 7 July 2014 Bloomsburg Area School District Board of Directors' special meeting and work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Athletic Schedule

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve as presented the Bloomsburg Area School District's 2014-2015 athletic schedule. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Changing Policy Font

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Hummel seconded, to approve changing the Bloomsburg Area School District's policy font from Comic Sans MS to Times New Roman, effective immediately.

Mr. Tobin said he thought the district should continue using Comic Sans as its policy font, as it was a parent/student-friendly font, and Mr. Kramarz replied that it was not professional-looking.

Mr. Kramarz then made a motion to amend the original motion to read: Approve changing the Bloomsburg Area School District's policy font from Comic Sans MS to Times New Roman, effective immediately as policies are updated or replaced. Ms. Kreisher seconded this motion, which then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The amended motion then passed by a voice vote of seven yes votes to one no vote (being Mr. Tobin).

PERSONNEL

Approval of Mentors for 2014-2015

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve as indicated the following 2014-2015 mentors:

- Ashley Marsicano (for James Booth) – 7 units - \$525; and
- Taryn Verstraeten (for Megan Shields) – 7 units - \$525.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Professional Staff Leave of Absence Requests

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cantore, to approve the following professional staff leave of absence requests:

- Bloomsburg Middle School Language Arts Teacher Lauren Mayse, effective 29 September 2014, with a return date of 19 January 2015; and
- Bloomsburg Middle School Physical Education Teacher Carmela Franco, effective 29 August 2014 through 29 September 2014.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Classified Staff Transfers

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve the following classified staff transfers:

- Huaxiang Wang from the position of Classified Substitute to the position of Full-Time Second-Shift Bloomsburg High School Custodian at \$8.25 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff contract, effective 1 July 2014; and
- Suzanne Adamchick from the position of Memorial Elementary School Secretary to the position of Special Education Secretary at \$8.90 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff contract, effective 30 June 2014.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Professional Day-to-Day Substitute

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tobin, to approve Jennifer Gotaskie as a professional day-to-day substitute, effective for the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval to Not Replace Professional Staff

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve not replacing the position of Bloomsburg High School Librarian for the 2014-2015 school year.

Dr. Curry started the discussion by saying that he had talked to the department heads for their input regarding the necessity of replacing the position of high school librarian, that the district needed to control costs, that each year administrators evaluated positions each year, and that the district needed to continue to exercise fiscal management and responsibility. He said that if the board voted to not replace the position of high school librarian, that it could re-evaluate the position for the following school year.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Hock pointed out that currently, the district did not have a 21st-Century librarian and said that he would like to have a job description created for this position. Ms. Kreisher and Mr. Cantore voiced their support of retaining a high school librarian. Mr. Hummel said he thought the board was handicapped, not having the professional staff contract settled. Mr. Tobin said that he trusted Dr. Curry and the rest of the district's administration, but that in light of the number of individuals who had shown up at the past several board meetings to support replacing the position of high school librarian, he also supported it. He added that the district needed to advertise the position as a 21st-Century librarian and not stick to the traditional librarian position. Dr. Curry said that if the board voted to hire a 21st-Century librarian, the entire K-12 library curriculum would need to be realigned and that he thought the district needed more time to research and evaluate this. He then reviewed with the board the current library uses of each department in the high school, and assured the board that his making the recommendation to not replace the position of high school librarian in no way was an indication that he was against academics. Ms. Kreisher said she thought the administration should have already evaluated this, and Dr. Curry responded that when he reported his recommendation of not replacing the position of high school librarian at the April work session, there was no opposition to this recommendation.

At the end of the discussion, the motion failed by a voice vote of zero yes votes to eight no votes (being Mr. Cantore, Mr. Hock, Mrs. Howell, Mr. Hummel, Mr. Kramarz, Ms. Kreisher, Mrs. Rupp, and Mr. Tobin).

Mrs. Rupp then made the motion, which Mr. Tobin seconded, to approve not replacing the position of Bloomsburg Middle School Physical Education Teacher for the 2014-2015 school year.

Mr. Cantore said he thought this position should be retained and that he thought the district should be doing more with the pool.

The motion went on to pass by a voice vote of seven yes votes to one no vote (being Mr. Cantore).

Approval of Classified Staff

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to approve the following individuals as classified staff:

- Amy Starr as a Bloomsburg Middle School Emotional Support Classroom Paraprofessional at 5.5 hours per day at \$8.50 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff agreement, effective at the start of the 2014-2015 school year, pending receipt of her Act 34, 114, and 151 clearances and her tuberculosis test results; and
- Justin Ridall as a Classified Substitute, effective upon receipt of his Act 34, 114, and 151 clearances and his tuberculosis test results.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Professional Staff Resignations

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to accept the following professional staff resignations:

- Bloomsburg High School Half-Time Spanish Teacher Daniel Prosseda, effective 17 June 2014; and
- Itinerant K-12 Autistic Support Teacher (through 30 June 2014)/Bloomsburg Middle School Emotional Support Teacher (effective 1 July 2014) Adam Kocher, with his last day of work being 1 August 2014.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Revised Job Description

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve as presented the revised job description for the position of Transition Coordinator. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION

Ms. Kreisher announced that she was stepping down as a Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee member (but that she would act as the district's alternate representative), as she was now serving on the negotiating committee. Mr. Hock said that he would check to see if Mr. Klingerman was interested in filling this position.

Mr. Cantore then announced that he was resigning as a Bloomsburg Area School District school board member, and that this meeting would be his last.

Mr. Kramarz asked if he could have a report of the number of student-athletes on free and reduced lunches over the past four years, at both the middle and high school levels.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that the 7 July 2014 special school board meeting and work session was cancelled and that the next regular monthly meeting would be held on Monday, 21 July 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:16 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Cantore seconded, to adjourn the meeting. A unanimous voice vote followed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary