

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Tuesday, 2 September 2014
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, 2 September 2014, 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, Mr. Terry Kramarz, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mrs. Sandra Rupp, Mr. Thomas Tobin, and Mr. Joe Yodock. Justin Hummel was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Steve Bressi (left at 7:56 p.m.), Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 7:56 p.m.), Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 7:56 p.m.), Mr. Gary Honabach (left at 8:50 p.m.), Mr. Ryan Moran (left at 8:50 p.m.), Mr. Trevor Palmatier (left at 8:50 p.m.), Mr. Mike Upton, and Mr. Nick Wozniak (left at 7:37 p.m.).

Others present were: Mr. Andrew Brown (left at 7:13 p.m.), Mrs. Bonnie Crawford (left at 8:54 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler, and Mr. Nick Hessert (left at 7:13 p.m.).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mrs. Bonnie Crawford thanked the board for keeping the high school librarian position.

Next, Mr. Moran introduced Mr. Nick Hessert and Mr. Andrew Brown, both teachers at Memorial Elementary School, who made a presentation on the Summer of Innovation 2014 STEM program. They talked about the training they received during the summer and then outlined what took place at the camp, which was collaborated by the STEM grant, NASA, and the school district. Mr. Brown reported that if the district would like to offer this camp to students next summer, it would have to do so using district and/or local funds, as the grant funding would no longer be available. Mr. Brown showed a video of some of the activities in which students participated during the camp, which was run by Mr. Runkle and himself. Mr. Brown said the program was well received by the elementary students who attended it. Mr. Moran reported that he was in discussion with representatives from PPL about them helping to fund a Summer of Innovation Camp 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kramarz, to accept the following donations:

- The books as presented to the Bloomsburg High School Library, by Phil and Allison Burrell;

- 15 backpacks filled with school supplies from PPL employees; and
- A Bloomsburg High School 1963 champion season football helmet donated by Anthony Waskie, BHS Class of 1964.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Athletic Handbook Changes

Mr. Yodock made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve as presented the changes to the athletic handbook. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Item

Dr. Curry suggested the board amend the personnel motion to change Tina Howell from a paid stipend to a volunteer position for a Bloomsburg Middle School SGA Advisor for 2014-2015. Ms. Kreisher made the motion to make this amendment, and Mr. Klingerman seconded this motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

- Approve as presented the list of 2014-2015 advisors;
- Approve Joseph Adamic, Christopher Barnes, and Katharine Fester as bus drivers through FishingCreek Transportation for the 2014-2015 school year;
- Approve the leave of absence request of Bloomsburg Middle School Music Teacher Holli Lapinski, beginning 2 December 2014 through 27 March 2014;
- Approve the following classified staff leave of absence requests:
 - Bloomsburg Middle School Library Aide Trudy Ashelman from 10 November 2014 with a tentative return date of 5 January 2015; and
 - Bloomsburg High School Paraprofessional Audrey Crone, retroactive to 28 August 2014 and lasting for a period of four weeks;
- Approve Chelsey Whitmiller as a Long-Term Bloomsburg Middle School Language Arts Substitute Teacher at \$14.29 per hour, effective from 29 September 2014 until 19 January 2015, and to add her to the professional day-to-day substitute teacher list at \$10.72 per hour, effective 15 September 2014, pending receipt of her Act 151 Clearance and her tuberculosis test results;
- Accept the resignation of Bloomsburg Middle School Paraprofessional Denise Zeiber, retroactive to 22 August 2014; and
- Approve transferring Michelle Adams from the position of Classified Substitute to the position of Bloomsburg Middle School Paraprofessional at \$8.50 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff agreement, effective 3 September 2014.

Mr. Hock said that he would like to discuss the 2015-2016 advisor list at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Klingerman then said that he was disappointed with the Homecoming float last year.

At the end of discussion, the motion passed by a voice vote of seven yes votes to one no vote (being Mr. Hock).

Approval of Athletic Director

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve Corey Thomas as the Bloomsburg Area School District Athletic Director at a pro-rated annual salary of \$50,000 and with benefits as per his negotiated contract, effective 3 September 2014, pending receipt of his Act 114 and 151 clearances and his tuberculosis test results.

Mr. Hock started the conversation by stating that he believed Mr. Thomas was the best of the 26 athletic director candidates interviewed, and that he was the unanimous choice of the interview committee. Ms. Kreisher echoed what Mr. Hock said, saying she was very impressed with Mr. Thomas. She also stated she was really impressed with the fact that he took the time to look at our facilities and also looked at Bloomsburg University's facilities. She said that during the interview, Mr. Thomas stood up in excitement for a majority of the interview and when he was done, she stated, "I was ready to play." Mrs. Rupp said that she agreed that Mr. Thomas was the best candidate for the position, but that she couldn't justify his proposed salary of \$50,000. Mr. Upton said that while he also thought Mr. Thomas was a very capable candidate, he was concerned with the fact that the salary being offered to him was about the same as a teacher in the district with 11 or 12 years of experience and a Masters degree.

One the discussion was finished, the motion passed by a voice vote of five yes votes to three no votes (being Mrs. Howell, Mr. Kramarz, and Mrs. Rupp).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:32 p.m., Ms. Kreisher made the motion to adjourn the special meeting and move into the work session. Mr. Klingerman seconded the motion, which then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Board Recording Secretary

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Work Session
Tuesday, 2 September 2014
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance Report

Mr. Wozniak and Dr. Curry shared with the board the updated five-year maintenance plan. Mr. Hock thanked Mr. Wozniak and the maintenance department for their hard work with maintaining the school district's grounds over the summer.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Freeman reported that at the middle school, the school year had started off pretty smooth. He said that later that week, a meeting about the science fair would be held and he said that the school was very appreciative of the donation of science fair prize money by Kydex. He said that at a future board meeting, he would be bringing information to the board about possibly starting up a middle school history club.

Mr. Bressi shared with the board the drop-out report from 2001-2002 to 2013-2014, pointing out that there was only one drop-out in the 2013-2014 school year. He also reported that there had only been 82 suspensions at the high school in 2013-2014. Lastly, he shared with the board a letter to the editor from a member of the Class of 1964, who had recently attended her high school reunion, which praised Mr. Bonomo for his hospitality during the reunion.

Mr. Palmatier reported that at Memorial, the school year had started out well. He said that Kirk Marshall should have Memorial's buddy bench completed for fair break, showed the board Memorial's newly created facebook page, and gave kudos to Annie Kostiuk for the web page she had created over the summer.

Mr. Moran echoed what the other principals had said, stating that Beaver-Main and W.W. Evans elementary schools were off to a good start and that parents seemed very supportive of the schools.

Ms. Christensen reported that the new emotional support program at the middle school was going well and that the students seemed to be content and happy in this classroom. She also reported that speakers from the Philadelphia area had made a presentation about suicide prevention to the district's paraprofessionals and that the presentation was well received and did not cost anything to the district. Ms. Christensen thanked the Econo Lodge for giving the speakers a free room.

Mr. Hock then thanked all the administrators for their hard work over the past few months. He said that he especially appreciated the extra effort put forth by Mr. Bressi in his transition from assistant high school principal to assistant middle and high school principal.

Mrs. Howell echoed Mr. Hock's sentiment, thanking Mr. Freeman, Mr. Bressi, and Mr. Bonomo for all their preparation for the start of the school year.

Dr. Curry shared with the board the 2013-2014 Safe Schools report, complimenting the principals for the reduction of incidents and offenders from previous years. He pointed out that there had been 53 incidents and 38 offenders in 2013-2014. He also reported that anyone wanting to go to the upcoming PSBA

conference should let him know right away, as 19 September 2014 was the deadline for registration. He asked that any director who registered but did not attend reimburse the district for his/her registration fee.

Mr. Tobin said he had talked to some representatives from DEP, asking if the district could pump water from the Susquehanna River to water the district's athletic fields. He said that according to a representative from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, if the district used less than 100,000 gallons of water per day, no permits would be needed. He said that DEP said that using treated wastewater was encouraged. Dr. Curry said that he and Mr. Wozniak were also looking into this matter.

Apple Training and Maintenance

Dr. Curry said that the estimate from Apple of \$43,000 for Apple software and training, shared with the board the previous month, could be pared down to \$27,000 if just Mr. Honabach attended the training (as opposed to Mr. Honabach and Mr. Stevens). Mr. Honabach said that currently, the district had about 60 iPads, all of which were only secure when used on campus.

New Positions

Dr. Curry said the district would like to add a third technology position. Mr. Tobin said he supported this addition. The board asked that the advertisement for this position say that Apple knowledge was preferred.

Dr. Curry then reported that in Spring 2014, it was projected that there would be approximately 24-25 students in each of the three fifth-grade classes in 2014-2015. However, presently there were 27, 27, and 28 students in Memorial's fifth-grade classes. The board agreed that it supported advertising for a long-term fifth-grade substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year.

Final Estimated 2013-2014 Budget Condition – Not Audited

Mr. Upton reviewed the final estimated 2013-2014 budget condition with the board and reported that at a future board meeting, he would be requesting some budget transfers.

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report

Mr. Tobin reported that at its last meeting, the Joint Operating Committee had expected to vote on purchasing the Seesholtz property, but that this item did not appear on the agenda. He also reported on a personnel issue at the school, saying that he would come back to the board as more information became available.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

As Mr. Hummel was absent, there was no CSIU report given at this meeting.

Adjournment

Dr. Curry reported that he had recently sent all board members an e-mail containing the updated support staff contract, which had received the blessing of Ben Pratt and Matt Gruenloh. He said that the support staff association should vote on the agreement the following Monday, and thanked Mr. Hock, Mr. Hummel, and Mr. Tobin for their work on this agreement.

Dr. Curry then reported that to date, the district had received eight principal applications. He said that six of them had gone through a first-round interview, that one had withdrawn his/her name, and that one did not return calls regarding scheduling an interview. Dr. Curry said that the search had been extended

through 12 September 2014, and that he expected the third-round interviews to be conducted on 29 September 2014.

At 9:03 p.m., Ms. Kreisher moved 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