

**Bloomsburg Area School District  
Board of School Directors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, 21 February 2017  
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 Tuesday, 21 February 2017 in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Mr. Brent Hock, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Jonathan Jones, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Norman Mael, Mrs. Gail Moore, and Mr. Leo “Joe” Yodock III. Ms. Stephanie Dunn Haney and Mr. Joshua Klingerman were absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Gary Honabach (left at 8:31 p.m.), Mr. Justin Simpson, Mr. Michael Upton, and Dr. Donald Wheeler.

Others present were: Mr. Steve Boone (left at 8:07 p.m.), Mr. Phil Burrell, Ms. Sandy Davis, Mr. Tyler Dombroski (left at 8:07 p.m.), Ms. Teresa Drucker, Ms. Carey Howell, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Mr. Tom Lawton (left at 8:07 p.m.), Mr. Brandyn Miller, Ms. Kali Neff (left at 8:27 p.m.), Ms. Deanna Schmoyer (left at 8:07 p.m.), Ms. Brittany Smith, Mr. Jedediah Smith, Mr. Michael Stevens, Mr. Diangeli Vazquez, and Ms. Abigail Willcox.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK**

Mr. Michael Stevens from Fitness Headquarters made a presentation on the fitness center equipment that was being recommended for approval on that night’s agenda. He said that he’d been working with Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Simpson to improve the strength room and make it better equipped to serve the whole student body through gym classes and also be more functional for students participating in all sports and also to the faculty. Mr. Stevens said the equipment would be safe and easy to use and that 30 individuals could be utilizing the weight room at a time. He said that despite the limited space, the new traffic pattern would make the space much more efficient. Mr. Hock asked if Fitness Headquarters was Co-Stars approved, and Mr. Stevens replied that it was, and had been for a number of years. Mr. Mael said that he had worked with Fitness Headquarters at the Pine Barn Inn for 10 years and that they had enjoyed a very positive relationship with them.

Next, Mr. Tyler Dombrowski from SEDA-Cog updated the board on the Town of Bloomsburg’s progress toward building a flood wall. He said that on 23 January 2017, the town had officially voted to retain Borton-Lawson as the engineering firm for the flood wall. Ms. Deanna Schmoyer distributed to directors a map of the proposed flood wall, which said needed to be finalized. She said that Borton-Lawson would like the board’s permission to be on the district’s property over the next few weeks in order to conduct wetland and utility inspections.

Mr. Stephen Boone then recapped recent events regarding the flood wall discussion that had led to the present. He said that in Summer 2015, the town started to talk with Borton-Lawson about building a flood wall. He said that in October 2015, Borton-Lawson presented flood mitigation options to the

school board, noting that it was determined that mere flood proofing was not feasible and was quickly ruled out. From that point on, the district consider options for a flood wall, most recently including Panther Stadium inside the wall.

Ms. Kreisher said that Mr. Klingerman wanted her to ask if the earthen levee would be less expensive than a concrete wall. To this, Mr. Boone answered that it would not be, but that more materials would be involved in building an earthen levee. He said that the pros of building an earthen levee were that the construction window would be decreased due to the ease of construction and an aesthetic factor. Mr. Hock asked how much space would be lost if the district opted for an earthen levee wall. Mr. Boone responded that the earthen levee would be about 90 feet at the base. Mr. Tom Lawson said that the earthen levee was viewed as the most safe and economical option. Mr. Yodock asked if the wall could be made of various materials, and Mr. Lawson replied that it could, and that Borton-Lawson representatives were at that night's meeting to get the board's input. He continued by saying that the town was in the planning the stages right now so the district's input was valuable. Mr. Yodock asked if seating could be built into the levee, and Mr. Lawson responded that it could, but a permit would need to be obtained in order to do so.

Mr. Yodock suggested the district may want to consider changing the configuration and/or location of Panther Stadium, and Ms. Kreisher said the district may want to find out how much it would cost to include the baseball field inside the wall, but that it would need to weight the cost of this against the benefit. Mr. Hock said that even if the town's flood wall project stalemated, the district still needed to go through with it, and asked if the wall could continue from the 11<sup>th</sup> Street closure down Railroad Street to enclose the schools. Mr. Boone said that the district could opt for a stand-alone system, but that the cost would approximately double and that the wall would be unattractive. Mr. Yodock asked if more land could be included inside the wall for possible future expansion, and Mr. Boone responded that it absolutely could.

Ms. Kreisher said she'd like to have an idea as to the cost of the project for the district if the town did not go through with building a flood wall. She said this information would be important for the district to decide if it would be more cost-effective to just move the schools. Mr. Boone said the district would need to decide what buildings and property needed to be included within the flood wall and what could be outside of it. Dr. Wheeler said the district would lose its field hockey and soccer fields unless it was exceedingly creative, and Ms. Kreisher said she would like the baseball field to be included within the wall because it was very expensive to repair the baseball field after the flood [of September 2011].

Dr. Wheeler said that there was about \$7 - \$10 million in work that needed to be done in the middle school once the wall was constructed. He said he was struggling with the difference in price per linear foot between the estimate of GPI (being \$525/linear foot) and Borton-Lawson (being \$1,000/linear foot). He suggested it might be beneficial for the board to have GPI present a proposal to the board. Mr. Lawson said he would stick by the \$1,000/linear foot price, and Mr. Dombroski said that the overall quote of GPI was fairly close to the overall quote of Borton-Lawson.

Mr. Dombroski said that town had applied for a few different grants in order to make its flood wall concept a reality, including a \$10.2 million disaster recovery grant, and that it was also working with FEMA and PEMA to get a grant for just under \$3 million. He said that he would be happy if the town received \$7 million of the \$10.2 million grant. Mr. Dombroski also said that it would be difficult to make the whole footprint of the flood wall without a contribution from the school district. He said that he respected the board being frugal with its money, but that it should consider the fact that after this project, the town would still need an additional \$10 million in order to link the wall up to Kawneer.

Ms. Kreisher asked what the estimated cost of construction for the entire project was, and Ms. Schmoyer replied that for the layout presented that evening, the cost would be about \$12 - \$14 million. Dr. Wheeler said that legally, he did not think the district could contribute money to a public works project. Ms. Kreisher asked if it was possible that the project could end up coming in under \$14 million and that the district would therefore not need to contribute any money at all, and Mr. Dombroski replied that he was not optimistic this would happen. He said the town was hoping for a combined \$10 million in grants. Ms. Kreisher asked when the town would know how much grant money it was getting, and Mr. Dombroski replied that it would probably know if it was being granted the \$10.2 million grant in May, and that it would probably be longer than that until it found out if it was getting the \$2.9 million grant.

Ms. Kreisher said she would like to have a ball park cost for the three different proposals out there, with the understanding that nothing would be set in stone. Mr. Yodock said that he had to voice the concern of taxpayers living in Buckhorn and without children in the school district who may not want to pay for the flood wall because it wouldn't affect them. Mr. Dombroski asked if Borton-Lawson would be permitted by the school district to go on its property to conduct the utility and wetland tests, and Ms. Kreisher responded that this would be voted on that night and that it would be coordinated through Dr. Wheeler.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Jones asked how long it would take Borton-Lawson to come back with its estimates, and Mr. Boone replied that it should be about two to three weeks. Ms. Kreisher added that she didn't think Borton-Lawson representatives needed to be physically present to present this information, as the information in writing would suffice.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Jones made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve the minutes of the following Bloomsburg Area School District Board of Directors' meetings: 16 January 2017 regular monthly meeting; and 6 February 2017 special meetings and work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Moore made the motion, which Mr. Jones second, to approve the financial reports for January 2017.

During his report, Mr. Upton pointed out that January was typically a lower revenue month, and that this January had been no exception. He said that local and state revenue were both up from last year, that the district had paid its third payment out of six to Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (in the amount of \$130,000), and that despite a drop in meal counts, there was still a bottom line in the cafeteria fund.

After Mr. Upton's report, the motion to approve the January 2017 financial reports passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE**

Mrs. Moore made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve the bills payable for 17 January 2017 – 21 February 2017, ranging from check #00042433 – check #00042618, including wire transfers in the amount of \$346,679.06, in the total amount of \$1,112,128.53.

During his report about the bills being recommended for payment, Mr. Upton pointed out the payment to Side Effects, a bill to Artesian Pools & Spas for a diving board, a bill to Central Columbia School District for tuition for two students in the agricultural program there and one student in its emotional support classroom, a bill to Millville Area School District for three special education students enrolled there, and a bill to New Story for a number of special education students placed there. Dr. Wheeler told directors that there was a regional conversation about creating a district-operated program similar to New Story to help decrease special education costs. Mr. Hock asked why directors were having the same discussion every month about the drop in school lunch counts. He said the district needed to find out what innovative school districts were doing to increase lunch counts, and said he would like to know what the district's options were. Mr. Mael said Danville was using a contracted-out service, which is something the district could consider. Dr. Wheeler said he would talk to Food Service Director Melissa Everhart about the board's concerns.

After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Bloomsburg High School student Kali Neff reported to the board that Bloomsburg High School would be hosting a volleyball tournament to benefit the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard, that the next American Red Cross blood drive would be March 9, and that Student Council would be awarding more scholarship money that May at the annual awards ceremony.

### **OPERATIONS/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Honabach asked if there were any questions relative to the board report that had been sent to directors. Mr. Yodock said he'd heard that a number of eighth-grade students were having issues signing in to the Parent Portal. Mr. Honabach said that the first point of contact should be the building secretary, and suggested they first check with her and then notify him if there were still issues.

Mr. Simpson said that in addition to what was in his written report to the board, he wanted to add that Marc Freeman was being inducted in the district wrestling hall of fame that week, which was a big honor for him.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Wheeler started his report by distributing a tentative school board meeting presentation schedule for various items in the areas of facilities, personnel, and programs. He then went over the personnel section of his State of the District report. He said that the district would soon begin its search for a new business administrator, as Mr. Upton was retiring on 1 July 2017, that the preliminary budget for 2017-2018 included the addition of a high school librarian, and that changes to the current Act 93 Agreement would be recommended in the coming months. He said that over the next few months, items of discussion regarding personnel would include buildings and grounds personnel, building substitutes/literacy assistants, and Beaver-Main Elementary School supervision.

Mr. Hock said he would like the school district to get a flood wall project quote from both GPI and Borton-Lawson, and said that the board was directing Dr. Wheeler to get a quote from GPI.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval to Solicit RFPs for Local Auditor**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve authorizing district administration to solicit Requests for Proposals for its local auditor for the 2017-2018 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Summer Programs for 2017**

Mr. Yodock made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hock, to approve as presented the following programs for Summer 2017:

- KinderCamp
  - o Location: Memorial Elementary School
  - o Dates: June 19 – July 19 – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (except July 4)
  - o Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m. each day
  - o Two teachers @ approximately 42 hours/each (\$22/hour) = \$1,848
  - o Two paraprofessionals @ approximately 35 hours/each (hourly pay rate) = approximately \$612.50
- Bloomsburg University Reading Program
  - o Location: Memorial Elementary School
  - o Dates: June 19 – July 19 – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (except July 4)
  - o Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m. each day
  - o No teachers needed – BU student volunteers
  - o Reading Program Liaison - \$22/hour x approximately 76 hours = \$1,672
- Extended School Year (ESY)
  - o Location: Memorial Elementary School and Bloomsburg Middle School
  - o Dates: July 17-20; July 24-27; August 9-10
  - o Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  - o Three to four teachers needed @ approximately 35 hours/each (\$22/hour) = \$2,310 - \$3,080
  - o Three to four paraprofessionals needed @ approximately 30 hours/each (hourly pay rate) = approximately \$780 - \$1020
- Extra ESY for 1 student
  - o Location: Bloomsburg Middle School
  - o Dates: June 13, 20, 27; August 1 and 8
  - o Time: 9 – 11 a.m.
  - o One teacher needed @ approximately 12.5 hours (\$22/hour) = \$275
  - o One paraprofessional needed @ approximately 24 hours (hourly pay rate) = approximately \$205
- STEM Camp
  - o Location: Memorial Elementary School

- Dates: July 10-13
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Two teachers needed @ a maximum of 40 hours/each (\$22/hour) = \$1,760

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Facilities Use Agreement with Bloomsburg University**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve as presented the facilities use agreement for the district to use athletic facilities at Bloomsburg University for spring sports as needed from 1 March 2017 – 1 July 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Homebound Instruction Request**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve a homebound instruction request for a Bloomsburg Middle School student from 3 March 2017 – 18 April 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Business Administrator Job Description**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Moore, to approve as presented the job description for the Business Administrator. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Requests**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests:

- A Bloomsburg High School band student to Central Columbia High School to participate in the Region Band Festival from 23 March 2017 – 25 March 2017, at a cost to the district of \$272;
- Bloomsburg Middle School eighth-grade students to Washington D.C. to visit museums and monuments on 2 June 2017, at no cost to the district.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of 2017-2018 Calendar**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve as presented the 2017-2018 school calendar. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval to Purchase Equipment for Fitness Center**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve purchasing the equipment as delineated on the Fitness Headquarters equipment proposal, in the amount of \$36,889.00, for the district's fitness center. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Permitting Borton-Lawson Access to Bloomsburg Area School District Property**

Mr. Yodock made the motion, which Mr. Hock seconded, to approve permitting Borton-Lawson access to Bloomsburg Area School District property for the purpose of wetland and utility inspection at no cost to

the district and with the district receiving a copy of the report upon completion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Proposal for Architectural/Engineering Services**

Mr. Yodock made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve as presented the proposal for architectural/engineering services through Arch Central Architects, Inc. for kitchen, electrical, and HVAC renovations at Beaver-Main Elementary School, in the amount of \$28,330.00. The motion passed by a voice vote of six yes votes and one no vote, being Mr. Hock.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **Approval of Van Driver**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve Robert Kowalski as a van driver through Fishing Creek Transportation for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Classified Staff**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve Alyssa Wawroski as a choreographer for the Bloomsburg High School Drama Club's 2016-2017 musical, with her stipend to be paid by the Bloomsburg High School Drama Club. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Acceptance of Professional Staff Resignation**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to accept the resignation of Bloomsburg High School Part-Time Spanish Teacher Aaron Billet, retroactive to 1 February 2017.

Mr. Hock asked if this should have been a termination instead of a resignation, and Dr. Wheeler responded that Mr. Billet should not have been approved as a teacher by the district, but instead the district should have approved purchasing the service of a part-time Spanish teacher from Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School. Dr. Wheeler said that if this had been approved as a purchase of service, the district would have not continued to purchase this service.

The motion passed by a voice vote of six yes votes and one no vote (being Mr. Hock).

#### **Approval of Professional Day-to-Day Substitutes**

Mr. Yodock made the motion, which Mr. Jones seconded, to approve the following individuals as professional day-to-day substitutes as per Policy 405: Employment of Substitute Professionals Employees, effective 22 February 2017:

- Tiara Bartol through the CSIU Education Major as Substitute Teacher Program, not to exceed 20 working days through the end of the 2016-2017 school year;
- Rachael Welliver through the CSIU Education Major as Substitute Teacher Program, not to exceed 20 working days through the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Acceptance of Professional Staff Retirements**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to accept the following professional staff retirements:

- Bloomsburg High School Social Studies/Industrial Technology Teacher Jeffrey Furman, effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year;
- Bloomsburg Area School District English as a Second Language/Gifted Support Teacher Denise Van Epps, effective 3 January 2018.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Professional Staff Leave of Absence Extension Request**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to approve the leave of absence extension request of Bloomsburg Middle School Learning Support Teacher James Booth, with his new return date being 6 March 2017.

### **Approval of Athletic Coaches**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve the following individuals as athletic coaches for the 2016-2017 school year:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Step/Unit</b>	<b>Salary</b>
Elementary wrestling	Fry, Lloyd	5 units	\$375.00
Head varsity baseball	Thrush, Keith	4	\$2,489.00
Assistant baseball	Stewart, Josh	6	\$1,768.00
Assistant baseball	Klingerman Jr., Richard	9	\$2,068.00
Assistant baseball	Malatesta, Chris	4	\$1,568.00
Volunteer baseball	Davis, Jeff		
<i>Head varsity softball (already approved)</i>	<i>Lynn, Doug</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$2,114.00</i>
<i>Assistant softball (already approved)</i>	<i>Mrozek, Todd</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>\$1,968.00</i>
Assistant softball			
Head track (girls and boys)	Weigle, Steven	6	\$5,478.00
Assistant track	Moore, Bob	12	\$2,368.00
Assistant track	Orzolek, Jalon	5	\$1,668.00
Assistant track	Huss, Jeff	3	\$1,468.00
Assistant track	Troychock, Nick	1	\$1,268.00
Head boys tennis	Finnerty, William	12	\$3,200.00



Assistant boys' tennis			
Volunteer boys' tennis	Burrell, Phil		
Head Jr high field hockey	Baker, Charles	16 (19 yrs)	\$4,424.00
Assistant Jr high field hockey			
<i>Volunteer Jr high field hockey (already approved)</i>	<i>Moore, Gail</i>		
Jr high girls' soccer	Geise, Stephanie	5	\$1,524.00
Jr high girls' soccer	Tumolo, David	2	\$1,337.00
Jr high boys' soccer	Heidlauf, Tyler	1	\$1,274.00
Jr high boys' soccer	McGarry, Michael	10	\$1,837.00

Mr. Jones requested that when the administration reviewed the current athletic contract it consider leveling coaching salaries at the elementary level. The motion to approve the aforementioned individuals as athletic coaches then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Long-Term Professional Substitute**

Mr. Yodock made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve Anna Neuhard as a Long-Term Professional Spanish Substitute Teacher, retroactive to 27 January 2017 through the end of the 2016-2017 school year, pending approval of her Type 04 emergency certificate through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of Columbia County Tax Collection Committee Representative and Central Susquehanna Trust Representative**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yodock, to approve Assistant Business Administrator Amy Kofskie as the district's Columbia County Tax Collection Committee Representative and the Central Susquehanna Trust Representative, effective 1 July 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **INFORMATION**

Ms. Kreisher announced that the following items would appear on the next work session agenda: Middle and High School Student Handbooks and Staff Recognition Dinner.

Dr. Wheeler reported that as of 16 February 2017, there were 1,555 students enrolled in the district from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Kreisher announced that the next special meeting and work session would be held on Monday, 6 March 2017 beginning at 7 p.m. in the district office board room, and that the next regular monthly meeting would be held on Monday, 20 March 2017 beginning at 7 p.m. in the district office board room.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:23 p.m., Mr. Yodock made the motion to move into executive session to discuss a grievance, and Mr. Hock seconded this motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

At 9:38 p.m., Mrs. Howell made the motion to move back into public session, and Mr. Yodock seconded this motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Action Regarding Grievance 2016-2017-01**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to deny Grievance 2016-2017-01. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:45 p.m., Mrs. Moore made the motion, which Mr. Yodock seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler  
Recording Secretary