

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, 22 April 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 Tuesday, 22 April 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. Joshua Klingerman, Mr. Terry Kramarz, Mrs. Sandra Rupp, and Mr. Thomas Tobin. Ms. Marianne Kreisher was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Chris Groody, and Mr. Michael Upton.

Others present included: Ms. Kyla Burns (left at 8:16 p.m.), Mr. Geoff Craven (left at 7:20 p.m.), Mr. Robert Davies (left at 7:50 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Ms. Deb Krupp, Ms. Hayley Morgans (left at 8:16 p.m.), Ms. Paige Morgans (left at 8:16 p.m.), Dr. Kevin Singer (left at 7:20 p.m.), Ms. Nicole Walberg (left at 8:30 p.m.), and Mr. Andrew Zourides.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Dr. Kevin Singer and Mr. Geoff Craven from the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) demonstrated the robot recently purchased by the CSIU to be used in school districts as needed. The purpose of the robot is to help students who are homebound be able to virtually attend class and be able to see the teacher and students and also be able to be seen by the teacher and students. The robot had already been successfully used by a Danville Area School District student earlier this school year. Any district wishing to purchase their own robot could do so through the CSIU at a cost of \$2,199.

Next, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students Hayley and Paige Morgans showed the school board the video presentation they had created and used at the state competition. The pair placed third in the state and had therefore qualified to compete the national FBLA competition over the summer. The theme for this year's video was going green and being eco-friendly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which Mr. Cantore seconded, to approve the minutes of the 17 March 2014 regular monthly meeting and the 7 April 2014 special meeting and work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Cantore made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve the financial reports for March 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tobin, to approve the bills payable for 18 March 2014 – 22 April 2014, ranging from check #00036202 – check #00036397, including wire transfers totaling \$595,392.04, in the amount of \$2,022,245.60. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE – CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

Mr. Cantore made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve the bills payable for the Capital Project Fund from 18 March 2014 – 22 April 2014, being check #00010528, in the amount of \$6,380.00. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Curry distributed a handout from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) highlighting some of their successes over the past year. He then reported that the easement with SEDA-Cog was presently being revised and that he would share the finished product with the board at an upcoming meeting. Lastly, Dr. Curry reported that he was continuing to work on the Memorandum of Understanding for a contingency plan for classes to continue if the district went through an event such as severe flooding. He said he was working with both Central Columbia School District and Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School on this plan, and that he would share a draft of it with the board at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Community Assistance Agreement with Geisinger

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Mr. Cantore seconded, to approve as presented the Community Assistance Agreement by and among Geisinger, Columbia County, Town of Bloomsburg, and Bloomsburg Area School District.

Mr. Robert Davies from Geisinger reported to the school board that the Town of Bloomsburg and the Columbia County Commissioners had already approved the agreement, which would take effect for 2014-2015.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of BMS Student Handbook 2014-2015 Addition

Mrs. Rupp made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve as presented the addition to the Bloomsburg Middle School Student Handbook for 2014-2015. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of BHS Program of Studies 2014-2015 Change

Mrs. Rupp made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Howell, to approve as presented the change to the Bloomsburg High School Program of Study for 2014-2015. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Six-Day Cycle for Elementary Schools

Mr. Kramarz made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve instating a six-day cycle for elementary schools, effective for the start of the 2014-2015 school year.

Mr. Groody said that if approved, elementary parents would be notified of this change through the calendar, group e-mail to parents, the web site, and possibly via Remind101 (for text messaging).

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Transfer of Funds

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve transferring \$400,000.00 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the Capital Reserve Fund for the high school window project. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve transferring \$114,206.00 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance for the district's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hummel, to approve transferring \$850,000.00 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance for the flood wall project. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Dependent Eligibility Audit

Mr. Kramarz made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve granting amnesty to employees who voluntarily come forward to remove ineligible dependents or individuals from their insurance coverage.

Mr. Upton explained that if approved, this motion would cover only the amnesty phase and not ineligible dependents found during the audit, and if approved, neither the Central Susquehanna Trust nor the district would prosecute for damages and past paid claims voluntarily brought to the district's attention during the amnesty phase. Mr. Upton reported that all employees with health insurance through the Central Susquehanna Trust would be audited in this process. He said that all district employees with health insurance had been sent a letter informing them of the audit, and that in May, the third-party auditor, Benefit Connections, would also be sending a letter to all appropriate parties. Mr. Upton said that the Central Susquehanna Trust had already voted to grant amnesty to all parties who came forward with ineligible dependents prior to the audit.

Mr. Hock said he would be voting against this recommendation, as he believed that cases should be reviewed on an individual basis. He said that employees who unknowingly had ineligible dependents on their health insurance policy should be granted amnesty, but that employees who were trying to "stick it to the system" should not.

After discussion, the motion failed by a voice vote of four yes votes to four no votes (being Mr. Hock, Mrs. Howell, Mr. Klingerman, and Mr. Tobin).

Approval to Purchase Vans

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve purchasing the following vans as quoted through the Costars program: a ¾-Ton Cargo Van through Hondru Chevrolet – \$23,569.00 – for the maintenance department; and a 1-Ton Passenger Van through Bob Fisher Chevrolet - \$22,733.00 – for student transportation. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which seconded by Mrs. Howell, to accept the following donation to the Bloomsburg Area School District: the books “Marley Goes to School” by John Grogan and “Bad Dog, Marley!” by John Grogan, donated to the Beaver-Main Elementary School Library by Kimber and Rose Williams, in memory of their sister Terrie Bennett. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Mr. Kramarz seconded, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests: AP US History students to Washington DC from 20 May 2014 – 21 May 2014, at a cost to the district of \$1,052.40; and FBLA students to Nashville, Tennessee from 27 June 2014 – 3 July 2014 for the FBLA National Leadership Conference, at a cost to the district of \$1,489.20. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Amendment to 2013-2014 Calendar

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hummel, to approve as presented the amendment to the 2013-2014 calendar, dated 11 April 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Administrative Job Description

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve as presented the job description for the position of Assistant High School & Middle School Principal, effective 1 July 2014.

Mr. Klingerman asked if there would be a way in the future for the district to find help for the elementary principals, as well, and Dr. Curry replied that this would be beneficial and that the district was looking at ways to fund such positions. Mr. Cantore asked if the position of middle school head teacher would now be eliminated, and Dr. Curry responded that it would be, effective for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Cantore then said that he thought it would be beneficial for Ms. Christensen and Mr. Moran to move their offices to Memorial Elementary School. Dr. Curry said that both Ms. Christensen and Mr. Moran, while their offices were at the district office, were out in the buildings a considerable amount of time. Ms. Kessler pointed out that moving Ms. Christensen and Mr. Moran out of the district office would prove difficult, as they have ample office space at the district office and also because moving the two of them would affect other district office staff, some of whom worked under several administrators at the district office.

After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Professional Staff Leave of Absence Request

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve the leave of absence request of Beaver-Main Elementary School/Memorial Elementary School Art Teacher Jillette Smith, from 15 August 2014 through 26 September 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Classified Staff Transfer

Mrs. Rupp made the motion, which Mr. Hummel seconded, to approve transferring Fatma Elemam from the position of Classified Substitute to the position of Bloomsburg Middle School Life Skills Paraprofessional at \$8.50 per hour and with benefits offered as per the negotiated contract, effective 23 April 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of ESY Paraprofessionals

Mrs. Rupp made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klingerman, to approve the following individuals as Extended School Year 2014 paraprofessionals, at their hourly rates of pay: Michele Edgar, Amy Fuehrer, Julia Lehman, Shawna Malencore, Sue Nevius, Heather Starr, and Valerie Whitebread. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Professional Staff Transfers

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve the following professional staff transfers, effective for the start of the 2014-2015 school year: Kimberly Honabach from the position of W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher to the position of Bloomsburg Middle School Sixth-Grade Math Teacher, with Mr. Freeman as her supervisor; Nicole Walberg from the position of W.W. Evans Elementary School Long-Term Substitute Teacher to the position of W.W. Evans Elementary School (permanent) Teacher, with Mr. Groody as her supervisor; and Lindsay Knupp from the position of Bloomsburg High School Learning Support Teacher to the position of Bloomsburg High School Learning Support and Gifted Teacher. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Classified Substitute

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve Marjorie Wegrzynowicz as a classified substitute, effective upon receipt of her Act 34, 114, and 151 clearances and her tuberculosis test results. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of ESY Teacher

Mr. Hummel made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve Lauren Holmes as an Extended School Year 2014 Teacher at a rate of \$22 per hour. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Administrative Staff Transfer

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Mr. Hummel seconded, to approve transferring Steve Bressi from the position of Bloomsburg High School Assistant Principal to the position of Bloomsburg High School/Bloomsburg Middle School Assistant Principal, effective 1 July 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Bus Driver

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rupp, to approve Roger Mowery as a bus driver through FishingCreek Transportation. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION

It was announced that the following items would appear on the next work session agenda: Budget and Board Elections.

Mr. Tobin reported to the board that Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School was considering finding another attorney instead of Ben Pratt, due to issues with him not being well prepared and not presenting a case well. He said he just wanted to make the board aware of this.

Mr. Klingerman said that he had walked around the grounds of the middle and high schools earlier that day and that the grounds were still not being well maintained. He said the district may want to consider bringing in a third party to do landscaping, and that after the landscaping was complete, the maintenance department could maintain it. Mr. Kramarz said he thought the district should hire an additional district maintenance employee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that the next special meeting and work session would be held on Monday, 5 May 2014 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room, and that the next regular monthly meeting would be held on Monday, 19 May 2014 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the district office board room. Additionally, there would be an expulsion hearing on Thursday, 24 April 2014 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the district office board room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:48 p.m., Mr. Cantore made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tobin, to adjourn the meeting. A unanimous voice vote followed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary