

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Monday, 3 March 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, 3 March 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, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mrs. Sandra Rupp, and Mr. Thomas Tobin.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Dan Bonomo, Mr. Steve Bressi, Ms. Donna Christensen, Dr. Cosmas Curry, Mr. Marc Freeman, Mr. Chris Groody, Mr. Ryan Moran, Mr. Trevor Palmatier, Mr. Mike Upton, and Mr. Nick Wozniak.

Others present included: Ms. Antonina Albrecht, Ms. Christy Finnerty, Ms. Lindsey Fogelsanger, Ms. Deb Krupp, and Ms. Megan Shields.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

During this portion of the meeting, Memorial Elementary School Student Lindsey Fogelsanger presented the school board with a petition of other students who wanted the cafeteria staff to wear hair nets.

Christy Finnerty and Tina Howell then addressed the school board regarding grading carry over from the middle school to the high school.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests:

- Forensics students to Susquehanna University for the PHSSL State Championships from 28 March 2014 – 29 March 2014, at a cost to the district of \$388.00;
- Bloomsburg High School Chorus students to Cumberland Valley and Hershey for State Chorus from 26 March 2014 – 29 March 2014, at a cost to the district of \$1,102.77; and
- Bloomsburg High School Band students to Hershey for State Band/Orchestra from 26 March 2014 – 27 March 2014, at a cost to the district of \$1,410.00.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Amendment to 2014-2015 Calendar

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Rupp seconded, to approve amending the 2014-2015 calendar to remove 14 August 2014 as New Teacher Induction and to reschedule it within the professional staff agreement timeline. After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

After this vote, Dr. Curry reported that graduation for the current year's seniors would be on 6 June 2014 and that seniors would have to attend at least one day of Saturday school. He said he would be recommending an amendment to the calendar at a future meeting, once he believed with certainty the district would not be having any more snow days. Dr. Curry voiced a concern over other potential reasons to miss school, such as flooding, power outages, and water main breaks. He asked the board if it was okay for him to pursue the use of four Act 80 Days at the end of the 2013-2014 calendar, which, as of that date, would have the last student day being 5 June 2014, and then faculty would attend the last four days of school for professional development (Act 80 Days), as directed by the administration, making the last day of the 2013-2014 school year 11 June 2014. It was the unanimous consensus of the board for Dr. Curry to pursue this. In conclusion, he reported that an Act 80 Day was a reimbursable student day, even though students were not in attendance.

PERSONNEL

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Item

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Mr. Klingerman seconded, to approve/accept the following personnel items:

- Approve Antonina Albrecht and Lindsey McAndrew as professional day-to-day substitutes, effective 4 March 2014;
- Accept the classified staff resignations of Data Management Coordinator/Technology Technician Ron Kouf, retroactive to 28 February 2014, and Memorial Elementary School Paraprofessional Lexi Gunn, retroactive to 28 February 2014;
- Approve the classified staff leave of absence request of Memorial Elementary School Health Aide Debra Gelnett, retroactive to 27 January 2014 and lasting through the end of the 2013-2014 school year;
- Approve the professional staff leave of absence request of W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher Robert Cromley, retroactive to 6 February 2014 through 28 February 2014;
- Approve the following individuals as summer student program staff for 2014:
 - Jane Endress – BU Reading Program Liaison (approximately 76 hours at \$22/hour for an approximate total of \$1,672);
 - Sara Broadt and Faith Halderman – KinderCamp Teachers (approximately 44.5 hours each at \$22/hour for an approximate total of \$1,958); and
 - Angela Stolz and Leah Sosnoski – KinderCamp Paraprofessionals (approximately 37.5 hours each at their hourly pay rate for an approximate total of \$640);
- Accept the following professional staff retirements, effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year:
 - Bloomsburg High School Librarian Linda Steffen;
 - Bloomsburg High School Social Studies Teacher Ron Grzybowski;
 - Bloomsburg Middle School Math Teacher Robert Horn; and
 - Bloomsburg Middle School Physical Education Teacher Brad Helfrich;
- Approve Megan Shields as the Beaver-Main Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher, at Step 1 Masters and an annual pro-rated salary of \$37,853.00 and with benefits as per the negotiated contract, effective 31 March 2014; and
- Approve transferring Long-Term Beaver-Main Elementary School Kindergarten Substitute Teacher Jane Endress back to the position of Beaver-Main Elementary School Half-Time Reading Specialist, effective 31 March 2014;

- Approve Ashley Honabach as the Temporary Part-Time Data Technology Coordinator at a stipend of \$500 per month, effective 4 March 2014 and lasting until a permanent replacement is found; and
- Approve transferring Stephanie Vogt from the position of Classified Substitute to the position of Memorial Elementary School Paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$8.50 and with benefits as per the negotiated contract, effective 4 March 2014.

Mr. Tobin then made the motion to amend the following two parts of the original motion:

- Approve the professional staff leave of absence request of W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher Robert Cromley, retroactive to 6 February 2014 through **10 March 2014**; and
- Remove the following: Approve transferring Stephanie Vogt from the position of Classified Substitute to the position of Memorial Elementary School Paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$8.50 and with benefits as per the negotiated contract, effective 4 March 2014.

Mrs. Howell seconded the motion to amend the original motion, and this motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The motion to approve the amended original motion then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:14 p.m., Mr. Hummel made the motion to adjourn the special meeting and move into the work session. Mrs. Howell seconded the motion, which then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Board Recording Secretary

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Work Session
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Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance Report

Mr. Wozniak reported on his plan to plant grass on the area surrounding the steps of the middle school. He also reported that he was getting quotes on replacing concrete on the sidewalks leading up to the high school and removing the set of sidewalks in front of the expressive arts wing of the high school and planting grass. The sidewalks along Railroad Street would still exist in their current condition.

Administrative Reports

Ms. Christensen and Mr. Freeman reported on starting a middle school emotional support program at the start of the 2014-2015 school year. They reviewed the recommended location which was based on square footage and associated costs, which would include a new teacher and two new classroom paraprofessionals. We would be bringing back Bloomsburg students who were currently outplaced back to this program, giving us the ability to fund it and provide a savings from what we currently pay.

Ms. Kreisher, Mr. Bonomo, Mr. Freeman, and Dr. Curry reported on the current practice of middle school students taking high school courses and having the grade count toward a student's high school GPA. Ms. Kreisher wanted to know why it didn't count as a pass/fail since it's being counted toward middle school GPA. Mr. Bonomo reported that this has been the established practice, from what the administration had gathered, until several parents had called voicing concerns. Mr. Freeman recognized that there was a communication issue between the school and parents in understanding that the grade would be on the high school transcript and count toward high school GPA. An immediate effort was being made to resolve this communication problem, and Mr. Freeman said he would report at the April work session what he wanted to add to the student handbook so parents would better understand this process. Mr. Tobin charged the administration to come back with a recommendation, and said that the school board shouldn't micromanage this issue.

Protocol for After-School Activities When School is Closed

Mrs. Howell reported that there were some communication issues with how after-school activities (practices, games) were relayed when there was a school closing. Dr. Curry reported that he makes the decision of whether to hold practice and/or games and reports it to the principal(s) and athletic director as necessary, depending of it is an athletic event or co-curricular activity. To better improve communication, the principals and Dr. Curry said they would add something to next year's student handbooks better outlining the expectations for this process.

Certified PA Evaluator – County Position Funded by BASD

Dr. Curry reported that the county was looking for local school districts to fund a county tax assessor with costs being pro-rated among the six Columbia County school districts. After a short discussion, the board said no to funding this initiative, as the district did not want to use public school tax dollars to fund a county position that would only stand to increase taxes.

Budget

Mr. Upton reported that the budget was showing a projected positive balance at the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Administrative Professional Development

Mr. Hummel reported that Bloomsburg had missed an opportunity to attend a trip organized by the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit in Mooresville, North Carolina to tour a school where the student-computer ratio was 1:1, and that Dr. Curry should be bringing back opportunities for professional development for him and other administrative team members for board support.

CSIU Budget

Dr. Curry reported that the 2014-2015 CSIU budget was up for approval and that the district would only be paying for actual services rendered. The past several years, the district had spent an average of \$120,000 per year on CSIU services, and the 2014-2015 projection was roughly \$65,000.

CMAVTS Budget

Dr. Curry reported that Bloomsburg's share of the 2014-2015 CMAVTS budget was approximately \$804,418, which was a two percent increase from 2013-2014. That two percent, he said, equaled \$6,930.43. Dr. Curry said that CMAVTS had since put together a five-year budget plan to help account for increased pension costs and contractual liabilities.

BrightBytes

Dr. Curry reported that the CSIU would be underwriting a technology survey that would provide useful data to districts as to how technology was being used in the educational process. He reported that he would like to use this information to determine whether the district is really providing connected learning to students via computers. The cost for this program would be \$4 per student, and with the CSIU underwriting a portion thereof, it would only cost the district approximately \$.40 per student, or \$625 per year for the next three years, totaling \$1,875.

Flood Wall Project Update

Dr. Curry reported that in a recent meeting with SEDA-Cog representatives, it was communicated that BASD would have two options regarding flood wall protection of the middle/high school. The first would involve a wall around the schools only, costing \$2 million, but this would have no opportunity for grant funding; it would be fully funded by the district. The second option would be a joint project with the Town of Bloomsburg to build a flood wall that would connect with the one currently planned with the town, around Autoneum and Windsor Foods. In this second option, the wall would envelope the middle/high school, extend down Twelfth Street, and have a water pump station at the corner of Eleventh and Railroad streets. Preliminary estimates, Dr. Curry reported, put Bloomsburg's share of this project at \$3.3 million (of the total \$6.1 million cost of the project), and that grant opportunities might be available. This would be pending the town and school board collaboratively committing to this joint effort.

CMAVTS Report

Mr. Tobin reported that a revised admissions policy was still being discussed.

CSIU Report

Mr. Hummel distributed a summary of board activity at the CSIU.

Adjournment

At 9:53 p.m., Mrs. Howell made the motion, which Mr. Cantore seconded, to adjourn the work session. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary

(compiled with use of notes
from Dr. Curry and Mr. Upton)