

**Bloomsburg Area School District  
Board of School Directors  
Special Meeting  
Monday, 6 February 2017  
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 7:05 p.m. on Monday, 6 February 2017 by President Marianne Kreisher in the district office board room, followed by the pledge to the flag. Directors in attendance were: Ms. Stephanie Dunn Haney, Mr. Brent Hock, Mrs. Tina Howell, Mr. Jonathan Jones, Mr. Joshua Klingerman Sr., Ms. Marianne Kreisher, Mr. Norman Mael, and Mrs. Gail Moore (arrived at 8:12 p.m.). Mr. Leo "Joe" Yodock III was absent from the meeting.

Bloomsburg Area School District administrators in attendance were: Mr. Stephen Bressi (left at 8:32 p.m.), Ms. Donna Christensen (left at 8:32 p.m.), Mrs. Melissa Day (arrived at 7:27 p.m.), Mr. Marc Freeman (left at 8:32 p.m.), Dr. Amanda Stutzman, Mr. Joshua Tabor (left at 8:32 p.m.), Mr. Michael Upton, and Dr. Donald Wheeler.

Others present were: Ms. Angela Brown (left at 8:20 p.m.), Mrs. Robin Callahan (left at 8:14 p.m.), Mr. Rob Davidson (left at 7:58 p.m.), Ms. Teresa Drucker, Ms. Megan Fleetwood (left at 7:58 p.m.), Ms. Stephanie Kessler (left at 9:35 p.m.), Mrs. Carol Leipold (left at 7:58 p.m.), Mr. Tom Leipold (left at 7:58 p.m.), Ms. Diane LeVan (left at 7:58 p.m.), Ms. Jenna Madden (left at 8:06 p.m.), Mr. Matt Munson (left at 7:58 p.m.), Mr. Alex Potier (left at 7:58 p.m.), Ms. McKenna Somerville (left at 8:06 p.m.), Mr. Matt Zoppetti (left at 7:58 p.m.), and Mrs. Roxann Zoppetti (left at 7:58 p.m.).

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

Ms. Kreisher introduced Matt Zoppetti, saying that the board had invited Mr. Zoppetti to the meeting to make a presentation on his proposed rehabilitation center, which Mr. Zoppetti wanted to locate at the former Windsor Foods plant. Mr. Zoppetti said the proposed site was more than three football fields away from the middle and high schools and that it was in a secure, isolated area. He showed directors maps of the facility, which would include a detox and wellness center, inpatient apartments, transitional housing that included a gym component, artisan studio, urgent care clinic, day care, and an area for career training. Mr. Hock said the board had invited Mr. Zoppetti to the meeting to find out how this proposed facility would impact the school district. He also referred to a recent quote from the local newspaper made by Mr. Leipold, in which Mr. Leipold stated oxycodone could be purchased for \$5 a pill in the middle school. Mr. Leipold responded to this, saying that he was talking about middle schools in general, not specifically Bloomsburg Middle School. He also said that in a survey conducted by Bloomsburg police about five years ago, about 25% of the eighth-grade students survey admitted to having tried illicit drugs. Ms. Kreisher said that the board was upset about Mr. Leipold's quote in the newspaper because it made it seem that drugs were rampant in the schools, with the implication being that it's not going to matter if a drug rehabilitation facility was erected in Bloomsburg because there are already drugs all over the community. She said that while the board agreed that Mr. Zoppetti's plan was a good one, they had

brought him to the meeting to find out why he thought the former Windsor Foods plant was the best place for the facility.

Mr. Zoppetti continued with his presentation, saying that the facility would bring in about \$3 - \$6 million for the school district. Ms. Kreisher asked if the facility would be a for-profit one, and Mr. Zoppetti replied that it would, adding that the buildings would all be owned individually and that he would not look for grants. He continued, saying that he could have non-profit organizations, such as Your Loving Choices, renting parts of the facility from him, but that he would not be looking for a variance to exclude him from paying taxes because he was renting to non-profit organizations.

Ms. Kreisher asked if the individuals in the facility would be limited to area residents, and Mr. Zoppetti replied that the order of priority of residents would be those from Bloomsburg, then the whole of Columbia County, then the rest of Pennsylvania, and then the remainder of the United States. Ms. Kreisher asked that if the facility was full, would Mr. Zoppetti still make sure that a Bloomsburg resident needing treatment would still be admitted? Mr. Zoppetti responded that there would be a buffer of about 10, 15, or 20 unfilled beds at the facility that would filled in emergency situations such as this. Mr. Klingerman asked what would happen if the facility somehow reached capacity and a Bloomsburg resident needed to be admitted. Mr. Zoppetti said that there would be so much money pouring in from donors that he would make sure beds were always available to those who needed it.

Ms. Kreisher said she was concerned that students could be walking to the middle school and pass someone who had just left the facility. To this, Mr. Zoppetti said that residents of the facility would be tested for drugs every day, so there would not be drugs in the facility. He also said that residents of the facility would be in a controlled system that would be enclosed at all times.

Ms. Kreisher said that the school board agreed that there was a drug issue and that Mr. Zoppetti's holistic concept of drug rehabilitation was a great one, but that they were concerned that having the facility so close to schools would negatively affect students. Mr. Davidson responded to this by saying that studies had shown that drug rehab facilities do increase crime (as liquor stores and convenient stores do). He said that studies actually showed that such facilities actually decreased crime, as people were going to rehab and getting clean instead of being on the streets. He said that rehab facilities were also helpful to children of addicted parents because once the parents entered rehab and got sober, they could be better parents. Ms. Kreisher asked Mr. Davidson to forward these studies to Dr. Wheeler so he could then forward them on the board.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Hock asked Mr. Zoppetti to keep the board informed of the process. Dr. Wheeler thanked Mr. Zoppetti for making the presentation to the school board, and said he hoped that moving forward, there would be no more reckless statements made about the school district. Mr. Leipold said he stood by what he'd said, and Dr. Wheeler said he wanted to work with Mr. Zoppetti but that he didn't want to be on the defensive.

Next, Bloomsburg High School English Teacher Robin Callahan and two high school students, Jenna Madden and McKenna Somerville, presented information on the proposed diversity club that directors would be voting on later that meeting. Mrs. Callahan said that she had been attending the Diversity Conference at Bloomsburg University many times since its inception in 2002, and that Jenna and McKenna had approached her about creating a diversity club which she could mentor. Mrs. Callahan said this club would help students to learn techniques that would help them de-escalate a situation, intervene when they witness bullying, and also help them to talk about issues and bring in guest speakers.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Proposed Preliminary 2017-2018 Budget**

Mr. Klingerman made the motion, which Ms. Dunn Haney seconded, to approve as presented the proposed preliminary 2017-2018 Bloomsburg Area School District budget.

Mr. Upton told directors that there had been only some minor changes made to the preliminary budget since the last meeting. He said that the deadline for professional staff to submit a retirement letter for the end of the 2016-2017 was March 1, so no professional retirements had been factored into the budget. He said that in mid-February, he would be attending a presentation of the state budget, which could help him gain a better understanding of how much funding the district could receive from the state for 2017-2018. He said that considering the 2017-2018 budget contained an almost \$1 million deficit, taxes would need to be raised. The district's final 2017-2018 budget was scheduled for approval at the June work session, Mr. Upton reported.

After Mr. Upton presented information on the proposed preliminary budget for 2017-2018, the motion to approve it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of First Reading of Policies – 000 Section**

Mr. Hock made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve on first reading and schedule for final reading at the 6 March 2017 meeting the following policies: Policy 000: Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations; Policy 001: Name and Classification; Policy 002: Authority and Powers; Policy 003: Functions; Policy 004: Membership; Policy 005: Organization; Policy 006: Local Board Procedures; Policy 006.1: Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications; Policy 007: Policy Manual Access; and Policy 011: Principles for Governance and Leadership. 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. Hock, to approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trip requests: Bloomsburg High School Chorus students to Hughesville, Pennsylvania for the PMEA Region IV Chorus Festival from 22 February 2017 – 24 February 2017, at a cost to the district of \$320; and Bloomsburg High School French students to Quebec City, Quebec from 7 April 2017 – 11 April 2017, at a cost to the district of \$994. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of New Student Organization**

Mrs. Howell made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve adding the Students for Social Awareness Club at Bloomsburg High School, effective 7 February 2017, at no cost to the district. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items**

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

- Approve the following professional staff leave of absence requests:
  - Bloomsburg Middle School Learning Support Teacher James Booth, retroactive to 11 January 2017 with a return date on or about 13 February 2017;
  - Bloomsburg High School Learning Support Teacher Melissa Bonin, effective on or about 18 April 2017 with a return date of 5 June 2017;
- Accept the resignation of Long-Term Substitute Learning Support Teacher Taylor Stair, retroactive to 27 January 2017;
- Approve transferring Katelyn Piestrak from the position of Long-Term Bloomsburg Middle School Emotional Support Substitute Teacher, effective on or about 17 February 2017 with a return date of on or about 1 May 2017, to the position of Long-Term Bloomsburg Middle School Life Skills Substitute Teacher, effective 30 January 2017 through the end of the 2016-2017 school year;
- Accept the resignation of W.W. Evans Elementary School Personal Care Aide Jessica Malia, retroactive to 10 January 2017;
- Approve the following individuals as professional day-to-day substitutes as per Policy 405: Employment of Substitute Professional Employees, effective 7 February 2017:
  - Chelsea DeWire through CSIU Education Major as Substitute Teacher Program, not to exceed 20 working days through the end of the 2016-2017 school year;
  - Nicholas Lurowist Jr. through CSIU Guest Teacher Program, through 31 July 2017;
- Approve the following classified staff:
  - The following individuals as members of the Bloomsburg High School musical pit orchestra for the 2017 musical, with their stipends being paid by the Bloomsburg High School Drama Club:
    - Madeline Schuster;
    - Steve Gilliland;
  - Sharon Zurewich as a W.W. Evans Elementary School Personal Care Aide (6.5 hours per day) at \$8.85 per hour and with benefits as per the negotiated classified staff agreement, effective 7 February 2017;
- Approve the following individuals as athletic coaches for the 2016-2017 season:
  - Charles Kingston Jr. – Volunteer Elementary Wrestling Coach;
  - Gail Moore – Volunteer Field Hockey Coach;
- Approve Robin Callahan as the Volunteer Students for Social Awareness Advisor for the 2016-2017 school year.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:13 p.m., Mrs. Howell made the motion to adjourn the special meeting and move into the work session. Mr. Jones seconded this motion, which then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler  
Recording Secretary

**Bloomsburg Area School District  
Board of School Directors  
Work Session  
Monday, 6 February 2017  
7:00 p.m.  
District Office Board Room**

**MINUTES**

**Administrative Reports**

First, Ms. Christensen and Mr. Palmatier introduced Angela Brown, a learning support teacher at Memorial Elementary School who had taken a leave of absence to hike the Appalachian Trail from February 2016 through the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. Brown said the trip lasted from 16 February 2016 until 15 August 2016, and that it had been the trip of a lifetime. She said that she had been able to turn her experiences into lessons (involving Pennsylvania geography, animals, habitats, adaptations) that she took to students at Memorial. She thanked the school board for approving her leave of absence request and thus allowing her to have this unique experience.

Next, Mr. Palmatier told directors that it was counselor recognition week, and he said he wanted to celebrate Memorial Elementary School Counselor Annie Kostiuk for all of her hard work.

Mr. Tabor then said that recently, several Bloomsburg State Police troopers had gone to Beaver-Main Elementary School to have pizza with the students and to develop a rapport with them. Mr. Tabor said this had gone very well and that the troopers would be invited back to the school again.

Mr. Bressi recognized Bloomsburg High School Industrial Technology Teacher Kirk Marshall for his work on receiving a \$2,500 grant for Craftsman tools. He then told directors that the drug panel he and Mrs. Day had been discussing was now scheduled for February 23. Lastly, he thanked his fellow administrators for their help with that evening's expulsion hearing.

Dr. Stutzman shared with directors the professional staff's feedback from the January 16 in-service day, which she said had been very successful.

Mr. Freeman reported that eighth-grade students had recently gone on their annual trip to Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (CMAVTS) to tour the school and help them determine if they'd like to apply to go there the following school year. He said that to date, 31 students had applied to go to CMAVTS and that there were only 24 Bloomsburg slots to be filled. Lastly, Mr. Freeman said that the school had earned about \$7,000 in magazine sales and \$76,500 in college tuition reward points.

**State of the District: Access and Opportunity**

Dr. Wheeler shared with directors the Bloomsburg High School tree illustrating the different pathways that students would be able to follow throughout their high school careers. He summarized each of these pathways, depicted as branches on the tree, which were: Bloomsburg University STEM, Bloomsburg High School STEM, Bloomsburg University ACE Program, Bloomsburg High School Academics, Bloomsburg High School Concurrent Enrollment, Bloomsburg High School Arts and Humanities, Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School, Bloomsburg High School Robotics, and Bloomsburg High School Cooperative Education. At the trunk of the tree were grade-level teams and a K-8 afterschool remediation

program. Dr. Wheeler said it was of utmost importance to make sure students knew the classes and extra-curricular activities with which they could be involved for each of the different “tracks.”

### **Business Administrator Job Description**

Dr. Wheeler shared with directors the business administrator job description that would be recommended to the board for approval at the February 21 school board meeting. No one had questions or comments about the job description.

### **Property Tax Independence Act**

Mr. Upton shared with directors information on the Property Tax Independence Act, which, if enacted, would decrease property taxes but increase income tax and sales tax in Pennsylvania. Mr. Upton said this act could be effective as of 1 July 2017, and that it would mean a decrease in revenue for school districts. He suggested board members write letters to Representative Millard and Senator Gordner to voice their concern about this act.

### **Tenure Report**

Dr. Wheeler reported that professional staff members Cheri Balmer, Kelley Dravenstott, and Sara Ervin were being granted tenure, as they had met all the requirements of Section 1108 of the Pennsylvania School Code. He told directors that he was now asking principals for letters of recommendation, which would be shared with the board, regarding professional staff tenure.

### **Proposed School Calendar 2017-2018**

Directors were provided with the draft school calendar for the 2017-2018 school year, which Dr. Wheeler told them would be recommended for board approval at the February 21 school board meeting. Directors did not have any questions about the calendar.

### **Graduates of Distinction Induction Ceremony**

Dr. Wheeler told directors that the 2017 inductee into Bloomsburg High School’s Graduates of Distinction program was Cpt. Mark Bridenstine, a 1982 graduate of the school. He said that the induction ceremony would take place at Bloomsburg High School on Thursday, 13 April 2017 at 10 a.m., and that any school director wishing to attend the ceremony should make his/her R.S.V.P. to Ms. Kessler no later than Friday, 7 April 2017.

### **Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report**

As Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School had been reported on earlier in the meeting, there was no report given at this time.

### **Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report**

Mr. Mael reported that the district would soon be receiving the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit’s 2017-2018 budget for review and approval.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:38 p.m., the work session was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler  
Recording Secretary