

**Bloomsburg Area School District
Board of School Directors
Special Meeting
Monday, 7 April 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, 7 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. Terry Kramarz, Ms. Marianne Kreisher, and Mr. Thomas Tobin. Mr. Joshua Klingerman and Mrs. Sandra Rupp were absent from the meeting.

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: Mrs. Bonnie Crawford, Mr. Robert Davies, Mr. Todd Davis, Mrs. Dawne Erwin, Mr. Ryan Gible, Ms. Stephanie Kessler, Ms. Deb Krupp, Mr. Mike Lester, Mr. Kirk Marshall, Mr. Jason Moser, Mr. Mike O'Shea, Ms. Glenda Ruch, Mr. Bill Siegal, Mr. Randy Zickgraf, and about three dozen BASD professional staff members who did not sign in.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr. Robert Davies and Mr. Randy Zickgraf from Geisinger made a presentation on the proposed Community Assistance Agreement with Geisinger. If approved, this agreement would make the nursing home, which was part of the merger between The Bloomsburg Hospital and Geisinger several years ago, become tax-exempt just as the hospital already is. In exchange, certain spaces within the system, such as a Subway restaurant or office space, would be taxable. If this agreement is approved by the Bloomsburg Area School District, the county commissioners, and the Town of Bloomsburg, the three-year renewable contract would start next school year. Dr. Curry said he would like the school board to vote on the agreement at its 22 April 2014 meeting.

Ms. Deb Krupp then addressed the board to let directors know that having the four classes of fourth-grade at Memorial Elementary School and having teachers focus on one subject was working very well this year. She said she would like this to happen for next year's fifth-grade class and that the district should hire a fourth fifth-grade teacher to make this happen.

Mr. Todd Davis addressed school directors next, inviting them to visit classrooms or call and talk to teachers about what's going on in their classrooms. Mr. Davis said the district's teachers are very proud to be educators and that they are professionals and work very hard.

Mrs. Bonnie Crawford said that next year's annual stakeholders' meeting should be more widely publicized by having a OneCall message sent out about it. She also said that regarding talk of not replacing all of that year's retiring teachers, she would like to see the board replace as many of them as possible.

At this point, Mr. Hock asked Mr. Upton to share with those at the meeting the district's projected 10-year budget. Prior to the start of the presentation, many of the professional staff members in the audience left the meeting. Mr. Upton went over the projected 10-year budget, pointing out how the district had to stay within the limitations of Act 1, how PSERS retirement rates were projected to increase significantly over the next 10

years, and how the district's fund balance would reflect a deficit by the end of the 10-year period. It was requested that Mr. Upton put this 10-year projected budget on the web site to make it available to anyone who would like to review it.

Mr. Hock then informed the rest of the school board that he had stepped down from the professional staff negotiation team.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Agreement Between Bloomsburg Area School District and Bloomsburg Area Education Support Professionals Association, PSEA/NEA

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to approve as presented the Agreement Between Bloomsburg Area School District and Bloomsburg Area Education Support Professionals Association, PSEA/NEA for the period 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Donation

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to accept the donation of a copy of the book "Freedom for Kate: A Revolutionary War Story" by P.R. Van Dyke to the library of each of the five schools in the district, donated by P.R. Van Dyke. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Mr. Hummel seconded, to approve out-of-state/overnight field trip request of the Robotic Team to go to Berea, Ohio for the National Robotics League 2014 National Competition from 15 May 2014 – 18 May 2014, at a cost to the district of \$603.80. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Reapproval of ACE Agreement

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Kreisher, to reapprove as presented the ACE agreement between Bloomsburg University and the Bloomsburg Area School District. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Homebound Instruction Requests

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mr. Cantore seconded, to approve the following homebound instruction requests:

- A Bloomsburg High School student, retroactive to 12 March 2014 and lasting for a period of at least 20 school days;
- A Bloomsburg Middle School student, retroactive to 13 March 2014 and lasting for a period of at least 20 school days; and
- A Bloomsburg High School student, extension from an already approved homebound instruction request to now last through the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Professional Staff Leave of Absence Extension

Mr. Cantore made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kramarz, to approve extending the leave of absence for W.W. Evans Elementary School Teacher Robert Cromley, through 24 April 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Classified Staff Resignation

Mr. Tobin made the motion, which Ms. Kreisher seconded, to accept the resignation of Bloomsburg Middle School Paraprofessional Megan Hummel, retroactive to 2 April 2014. The motion passed by a voice vote of six yes votes and one abstention (being Mr. Hummel, who abstained because Megan Hummel is his wife).

Approval/Acceptance of Personnel Items

Ms. Kreisher made the motion, which Mrs. Howell seconded, to approve/accept the following personnel items: Approve the leave of absence request for W.W. Evans Elementary School Custodian Gerald Konen, effective 29 April 2014 and lasting for up to eight weeks;

- Approve Heather Beagle as a classified substitute, effective upon receipt of her Act 114 Clearance and her tuberculosis test results;
- Approve Samantha Bittner as a Long-Term Professional Substitute Fifth-Grade Teacher at W.W. Evans Elementary School, retroactive to 10 February 2014;
- Accept the classified staff retirements of:
 - Bloomsburg Middle School Paraprofessional Karen Miksits, effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year; and
 - Bloomsburg High School Cafeteria Cashier Nancy Martz – changing her retirement date from 14 June 2014 to 17 April 2014;
- Approve Leslie Mastroianni as a school van driver through FishingCreek Transportation for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year;
- Approve Rachel Flagg as a Volunteer Girls' Junior High Soccer Coach for the 2013-2014 season;
- Approve W.W. Evans Elementary School Part-Time Art Teacher Steffanie Bowes as a Part-Time Paraprofessional at W.W. Evans Elementary School at a rate of \$8.50 per hour and with benefits offered as per the negotiated contract, not to exceed 15 hours per week, and to also add her to the classified substitute list, effective 8 April 2014; and
- Approve Kelsey Diltz as a Summer 2014 Extended School Year (ESY) Teacher, at a rate of \$22 per hour.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:56 p.m., Mr. Tobin made the motion to adjourn the special meeting and move into the work session. Mr. Hummel 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, 7 April 2014
7:00 p.m.
District Office Board Room**

MINUTES

Easement for Flood Wall Project

Ms. Glenda Ruch and Mr. Bill Siegal from SEDA-Cog reported on the progress of the town's flood wall project. Mr. Siegal said the project was approximately 65% designed and that SEDA-Cog was currently working on obtaining permits. Board members were given a map of the project. The SEDA-Cog representatives discussed renting a temporary easement for \$1,000, which equates to the value of the quarter-acre property that they are looking to acquire from the district for the purpose of developing a new 11th Street. The board inquired about SEDA-Cog developing the parking lots by either extending the existing one and/or raising and leveling it, based on permitting. The next step is to approve an easement agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance Report

Mr. Wozniak reported that the district would be purchasing occupancy sensors and LED lights and exit lights for the middle school. This project would be reimbursed through a PPL e-power rebate, which would cover 100% of the cost.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Moran reported on a partnership grant that would help bring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to the elementary level. He said that two teachers would be participating in this initiative over the summer. The teachers would be participating in professional development (up to 104 hours, which they would be paid for at a rate of \$20 per hour), would have all expenses paid for the seminars they would be attending, and would receive an i-pad. They would then teach a week-long STEM camp for up to 40 students in grades four through nine this summer. Mr. Moran said that the only cost for the district would be transportation, which would be approximately \$1,000 for the entire week and could be paid for out of the curriculum budget. Mr. Moran said that the grant was presently in its second of three years.

Mr. Bonomo reported that at the high school, all formal evaluations had been finished. He said the final exam schedule was being worked on and that next year's schedule was being finalized.

Mr. Bressi gave a report on discipline at the high school, pointing out the decrease in incidents over the past few years. In 2012-2013, for example, there were 90 suspensions, and so far in 2013-2014, there had been only 58. He also shared with the board an e-mail from a mother whose seven-year-old son had attended the recent Xtreme Bots Competition at Wright State University, in which the district's robotics team had participated. In the e-mail, the mother stated that after the competition, the team spent time with her son, even allowing him to control their bot, The Executor. She said that the team left a very positive impact on her son, and that she was grateful that the students took the time to talk to and work with him.

Next, Mr. Freeman reported that the Rotary Club had provided 18 free student YMCA memberships to the middle school to give to students who may not be able to afford them. Mr. Freeman said that six memberships had been given at each grade level, six through eight. He also reported that the school's science fair would be held on May 15 at 7 p.m., and that any school director interested in being a judge should contact him. Lastly, Mr. Freeman reported that Keystone Camp had been going on since March in preparation for the Keystone Exam, being taken in May.

Dr. Curry then gave a quarterly report on the 2013-2014 district goals, focusing on math. He said that math for grades six, seven, and eight and Algebra I had been divided into units of study and that summative assessments would then be created, likely to be completed at the Act 80 Days this June (pending board approval of said Act 80 Days). He said that next school year, the district would go through the same process with Algebra II.

Next, Dr. Curry said that the 2013-2014 district calendar would again need to be amended, to include Saturday, 3 May 2014 as graduation practice for seniors only. Dr. Curry said he would bring the amended calendar to the board for approval at its 22 April 2014 meeting. Mr. Bonomo asked the board if it was alright for him to notify seniors of the May 3 graduation practice date now, and the board agreed this was acceptable.

The last item on which Dr. Curry reported was the middle school emotional support classroom. Dr. Curry said that he, Mr. Freeman, and Ms. Christensen had looked at rooms 106 and 211, and that they had decided to stick with using room 106 as the emotional support classroom. Dr. Curry said that because this room was on the first floor, Mr. Freeman could get there quickly if needed, that there is a handicapped bathroom nearby, that most of the students in the class would be sixth-graders so their classes would be on the first floor, and that the room has a sink, which is important because snacks are often used as rewards in this program.

Personnel

Dr. Curry reported that of the teachers retiring at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, it was being recommended the district not replace the high school social studies, high school library, and middle school physical education positions. He recommended transferring the current sixth-grade math teacher to the eighth-grade math position and recommended transferring a current full-time elementary teacher to the position of sixth-grade math teacher, thus opening an elementary teaching position. He then recommended transferring the current long-term substitute at W.W. Evans Elementary School to this full-time fourth-grade elementary teaching position. He said he would like to add three paraprofessionals (two for the middle school emotional support classroom and one to be a high school library aide), that he would like to transfer the autistic support teacher to the middle school emotional support teaching position, and that he would like Mr. Bressi to move from Assistant High School Principal to Assistant Middle/High School Principal, effective 1 July 2014. Dr. Curry said he would bring the internal transfers to the school board for approval at the 22 April 2014 meeting.

Middle School Courses Counting Toward High School GPA

Mr. Moran distributed an informational sheet regarding students who take Algebra I prior to their ninth-grade year. Presently, most students take Algebra I in their ninth-grade year, but students who are advanced in mathematics may take Algebra I while they are in the middle school. Middle school students who take Algebra I have their Algebra I grade count toward their middle school and high school GPA. They also receive credit for the course both in middle school and high school. Mr. Moran reported that it was the final recommendation of the administrative team to maintain the status quo, moving forward.

Regarding the fact that not all students seemed to be aware that taking Algebra I in middle school would result in their Algebra I grade and credit being counted for both middle school and high school, it was resolved that beginning in 2014-2015, this information would be provided in the middle school's student handbook. This next excerpt in the handbook would be shared with the board at the May work session.

Scheduling of Middle School Students for High School Classes

Mr. Cantore said he would like to see a half-time theatre arts/half-time band teacher just for the middle school, or have middle school students go to the high school for classes, such as Spanish I. Mr. Freeman said that the administration has been and will continue to look for such opportunities to offer middle school students.

Meals for Athletes

Dr. Curry reported that the Employee Reimbursement Form, which includes the allowance for meals, is distributed to all coaches. Meals for student-athletes who are at a competition for more than one day are eligible for meal reimbursement, as per the Employee Reimbursement Form.

Six-Day Cycle

Mr. Groody and Mr. Palmatier distributed a handout on the impact of the elementary schools moving to a six-day cycle (like the middle and high school are already on). It was their recommendation that after researching the matter, there would be a universal six-day cycle for all schools in the district, both elementary and secondary, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. This would be communicated with parents through newsletters and other means.

Policy Font

Ms. Kreisher asked that this topic be discussed at a later work session.

Panther Logo

Dr. Curry said he would like to have the three panther logos the district uses copyrighted. Mr. Tobin replied that one copyright would cost about \$1,500 and would need to be renewed in three to five years. It was suggested the district consider using a panther logo accessible on a public domain, which Dr. Curry said he would do. Mr. Hock said he thought the district should use just one logo.

Transfer of Funds

Mr. Upton said that at the next meeting, there would be a motion to transfer \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the high school window project. He then updated the board on the current GASB 45 Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) liability for the year ending 30 June 2014. An additional \$114,206 should be committed in the General Fund Balance to cover this additional liability. There will be a motion on an upcoming board agenda to commit the funds.

Dependent Eligibility Audit

The Central Susquehanna Trust (CS Trust) has contracted with an independent third party called Benefit Connections to perform a dependent eligibility audit. Benefit Connections will be contacting all employees who are enrolled in health coverage through the district. The employees will be required to provide documentation to confirm the eligibility of all dependents. The CS Trust will be sending a letter to all Enrolled employees to alert them of the audit. The district's business office will send out an e-mail to inform staff of the audit.

Budget

Mr. Upton distributed and reviewed with school directors a reconciliation of the preliminary to the current final 2014-2015 budget. Additional adjustments to the final budget are anticipated, he said.

Van Purchases

Mr. Upton distributed van quotes from the dealerships that are registered with the state Costar program and the Keystone Purchasing Network. He said there would be a motion to accept the low quote for a ³/₄-ton cargo van for maintenance and a one-ton passenger van for student transportation. These purchases will be made through the Capital Reserve Fund.

Staff Recognition Dinner

Dr. Curry reported that the annual Staff Recognition Dinner would be held on 3 June 2014 at 5 p.m. at Bloomsburg High School.

Graduates of Distinction Induction Ceremony

Dr. Curry remind directors that the Graduates of Distinction induction ceremony would be held on 17 April 2014 at 10 a.m. at Bloomsburg High School. He also said that any director who would like to serve on the Graduates of Distinction Committee should let him know.

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation – Informational Item

Dr. Curry reported that in order to help grow the alumni database for the Panther Foundation, Mr. Tobin had agreed to be the 1980s alumni liaison and that Mr. Klingerman had agreed to be the 1990s alumni liaison.

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Report

Mr. Tobin reported that the first reading of the new CMAVTS admissions policy had been approved. Ms. Kreisher added that CMAVTS Principal Bill Forsythe was looking at home school and cyber school student admission procedures.

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Report

Mr. Hummel reported on the robot that was being used for a Danville Area School District student to attend class while not in the classroom. Mr. Tobin said he would like the robot to be brought before directors for a demonstration.

Adjournment

At 10:20 p.m., the work session was adjourned.

Executive Session

An executive session was held from 10:20 – 10:35 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kessler
Recording Secretary