

**BLACKHAWK SCHOOL DISTRICT
500 BLACKHAWK ROAD
BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010**

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' VOTING MEETING
Blackhawk High School Library
November 17, 2011**

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Mr. Richard Oswald, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:38PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by eight members. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Calabria	Mr. Clendennen	Mr. Fitzgerald	Mr. Fleischman
Mr. Heckathorn	Mr. Inman	Mr. May	Mr. Oswald

Absent was: Mrs. Pander

Also attending were:

Dr. Miller- Superintendent Mr. Salopeck- Solicitor Mr. Wessel- Board Secretary

The invocation was given by Pastor Jeff McNicol, Chippewa Evangelical Free Church.

Mr. Oswald announced that a workshop for recently appointed or elected Board members will be held at the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit on January 28, 2012 from 8:30 AM to 11:45 AM. It is open to all Board members but is designed specifically for those appointed or elected since the prior local elections.

Mr. Oswald announced that there was an executive session for personnel matters prior to the public meeting and a second executive session was planned for personnel and legal matters after the meeting.

Mr. Oswald announced that the next scheduled meeting will be December 5, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the High School Library and will include the annual Board reorganization.

Mr. Oswald then asked that the presentation shown under the Education Committee portion of the agenda be given. The Art and Music Departments presented a video showing students during the learning process in Art and Music classes throughout the District. Mr. May thanked the presenters for their presentation and their outstanding work with students.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fleischman congratulated Megan Bailey and Shawn Haddox on behalf of the Board from being selected a Highland Middle School Teacher of the Month by the students.

Mr. Fleischman congratulated the High School Band on behalf of the Board for winning the class AA PIMBA Championship, their second consecutive championship, which is a major accomplishment.

Mr. Fleischman congratulated on behalf of the Board the participants in the Computer Programming contest hosted by Westminster College at which Blackhawk took first and third place. The first place team consisted of Jacob Cruzan, Nick Rome, Jesse Groom and Christian Gecina. The third place team included Dan Warnaka, Tyler Tracey, Elena Iannuzzi, and Clint Davies.

Mr. Fleischman congratulated on behalf of the Board the participants in KDKA's High Q competition with Kiski Area School district and The University School. High School students Elena Iannuzzi, Max Levine, Matt Pulleo, Connor Camp and Louie D'Amico competed.

Mr. Fleischman congratulated on behalf of the Board the nineteen participants from Accounting 1 and 2 classes who finished third in a Financial Statement Analysis Contest held at Duquesne University on November 3, 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Oswald asked if there were any public comments on agenda items or other matters.

Mr. Bob Barthan thanked the Board for their support of the High School Band over the fall season.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to accept the Financial Report for October as submitted.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve bills for October from the various Funds as submitted.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

The Board was directed by Mr. Inman to the exhibits within their packets for the October Monthly Insurance Report.

Discussion of the topic of borrowing money through a General Obligation Bond was postponed until the end of the meeting. At that time Mr. Wessel recommended that the Board borrow \$10M rather than the \$9.45M just needed to complete the Middle School project because interest rates are at historic lows, \$10 M remains bank qualified and the money will be needed for projects at other schools. A discussion followed. Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to authorize Robert Aumer from Janney Montgomery Scott to market General Obligation bonds as Series 2012 for \$9,450,000.

Roll Call Vote: 3 Yes; 5 No- Motion Failed to Pass (Dissenting members were Mr. Calabria, Mr. Clendennen, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Heckathorn, and Mr. Oswald.)

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to authorize Mr. Robert Aumer from Janney Montgomery Scott to market General Obligation Bonds as Series 2012 for \$10,000,000. **Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes; 3 No- Motion Passed** (Dissenting members were Mr. Fleischman, Mr. Inman, and Mr. May).

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to provide funding to the Patterson Township Recreation Board in the amount of \$5,000 to be combined with other funds to upgrade outdoor facilities at Patterson Primary School. Mr. Clendennen asked if there was any problem with combining the project with Patterson's Recreation Board and sharing the cost as proposed and Mr. Salopek, the District solicitor, said there was not. Mr. Fleischman asked if the Board could receive a report with details of the plan and costs and Dr. Miller replied that the Patterson Recreation Board will brief the Board with a plan in the spring before the project begins. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the plan will require Board approval and Dr. Miller stated that the plan will be the proposed plan submitted by the Township at the meeting last month. Mr. Salopek suggested that the wording be changed to "pledge" rather than "fund" so the Board can approve on the final plan with costs included. Mr. Inman moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to pledge the Patterson Township Recreation Board the amount of \$5,000 to be combined with other funds to upgrade the outside facilities at Patterson Primary School.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to offer teachers a Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive as presented to the Board.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Inman moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to offer all employees a District-wide Health Care Opt Out Program as presented to the Board.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Heckathorn and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve 13 substitutes as listed on the agenda.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Heckathorn moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to employ Tom Duffy as High School Head Custodian at a rate of \$20.00 per hour effective November 21, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Heckathorn moved and Mr. Calabria seconded a motion to employ Nancy Glass as a part time cafeteria employee at the Intermediate School at a rate of \$7.25 per hour effective immediately.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. May moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve a field trip for the 8th grade Team Show Stoppers with Sammi Hanna to “Its Almost Your Time Workshop” at Penn State Beaver on November 29 and December 1, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. May moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to contract with the Watson Institute for 10 days of services at a rate of \$740 per day using ACCESS funds to support Lifeskills and Learning Support to autistic students.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. May moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to permit Dr. Claire Conry-Murray, a Penn State professor, to recruit student s ages 5 through 10 to voluntarily participate in a research study regarding fairness in complicated situations.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to acknowledge receipt from PDE of Plan Con Part G for the Middle School project.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Clendennen moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve a change order to McElroy Paving in the amount of \$13,600 for Option 3 as briefed by VEBH related to stabilizing and restoring the existing slope on Dillon Street on the High School campus as recommended by the Beaver County Conservation District and to rescind the motion made in October setting the “not-to-exceed” cost for that project at a lower amount. Mr. Fleischman thanked all involved making this fix happen at the best cost the District could obtain.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried (Mr. Fitzgerald was out of the room and did not vote on this motion).

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to approve the athletic activity accounts as presented.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried (Mr. Fitzgerald was out of the room and did not vote on this motion).

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Robin Ostach as Middle School Volleyball Coach

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried (Mr. Fitzgerald was out of the room and did not vote on this motion).

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to appoint Brian Boggs as a volunteer coach for the men’s 7th grade basketball team pending receipt of favorable clearances.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried (Mr. Fitzgerald was out of the room and did not vote on this motion).

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Heckathorn seconded a motion to appoint Tom Desmond as a volunteer coach for the men's 7th grade basketball team.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to appoint Marc Lodovico as a volunteer coach for the women's varsity basketball team.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. May seconded a motion to permit Alexander Huffman, grade 9 and Kelly Ostrowski, grade 11, from Shenango High School to compete as WPIAL independent swimmers in the Blackhawk swim meets. Their parents will act as their coaches.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to appoint Jared Slimm as Middle School Softball coach.

Verbal Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Inman seconded a motion to appoint Rachel Finch as assistant girl's lacrosse coach pending receipt of favorable clearances.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried (Mr. Heckathorn was out of the room and did not vote on this motion).

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

No report.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mr. Fleischman asked that the Food Service supervisor give a report by the next meeting documenting where the Food Service Fund is for the year.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No report.

BOARD/ STAFF ENRICHMENT

Mr. Calabria moved and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded a motion to approve attendance by Robin Ostach and Lauren Bartoe at the PA Volleyball Coaches Association 2011 Coaches Clinic at Penn State on December 2, 2011.

Verbal Vote: 7 Yes; 0 No- Motion Carried (Mr. Heckathorn was out of the room and did not vote on this motion).

INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that the reorganization meeting for the Intermediate Unit is scheduled for December 15, 2011 at 6 PM.

VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that the reorganization meeting for the Vocational- Technical School is scheduled for December 15, 2011 at 6 PM.

PSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

No report.

BEAVER COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

No report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

School Directors: Mr. Fitzgerald thanked the Board and members of the Community for his time on the Board and said he was proud of the staff, children and administrators. Mr. Calabria thanked Mr. Fitzgerald on behalf of the Board for his years of service.

Mr. Clendennen thanked those who presented for the Arts Program earlier in the meeting and said that the Arts are a very important part of education. He encouraged the Board to continue to support the Arts Program.

Mr. Fleischman said that he likes the presentations such as the Arts Program and asked if a briefing on teacher evaluations could be done in the future. Dr. Miller stated that a presentation by the Physical Education Department was already scheduled for next month and that the State is piloting a teacher evaluation tool and the process may change within the next year or less. Mr. Fleischman asked if a bullet paper could be created showing what is done currently and Dr. Miller said yes.

Mr. Fleischman asked that the Buildings and Grounds Committee revisit the funds remaining for construction projects and report. Mr. Clendennen pointed out that the list of projects is as per exhibit C and bids have not been received for the ADA projects yet. Other projects on the list that were deferred do not currently show prices, but those will be added when the projects are scheduled. Mr. Fleischman said the Board needs to start thinking about future projects and keep projects within budget, unlike adding to the gym at the Middle School. Mr. Clendennen said that while the gym added to the cost, he was sure the Board would believe it was worth it when they see it in place in two years.

Administration: No report.

Visitors: Mrs. Barb Brown asked Mr. Wessel for the balances in the Health and Dental funds. Mr. Wesel gave her the current balances. She asked what the stipend for opting out of Health Insurance would be and she was told \$3,000 per year.

Mrs. Jane Ann Fucci thanked Mr. Fitzgerald for his efforts as a Board member and his support of the students.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2011 Reorganization Session in the High School library at 7:30PM, with **no** Buildings and Grounds meeting prior to the work session meeting unless posted on the District web site.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 PM.

Submitted by Jerry Wessel
Board Secretary