

December 15, 2016

BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORWIGSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Blue Mountain School District Board of School Directors held its Regular Board Meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, at Blue Mountain High School, Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania.

President Usuka opened the meeting with the Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

President Usuka asked the Recording Secretary to call the Roll. Present for the Board were Herman Fligge, Dean Gherghel, Timothy Grube (arrived 7:38 p.m.), Mark Hoover, David Lafko, Mary Jo Moss, Scott Reichert, Anne Usuka, and Michelle Vesay.

Present for the Administration were Superintendent David Helsel, Business Administrator Angel Green, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Gwendolyn Witmer-Belding, Director of Pupil Services Frank Musitano, High School Principal Kevin Berger, High School Assistant Principal/Supervisor of Special Education Kenneth Rossi, Middle School Principal James McGonigle, Middle School Assistant Principal Timothy Gombar, Elementary East Principal Mark Cesari, Elementary Assistant Principal Katherine Hubiak, Elementary Cressona/West Principal Kristin Frederick, Attorney Eric Prock and Recording Secretary Cheryl Lagola.

Others in attendance were Raven Wesley, Jan Wesley, Rob Burcik, Laurie Seigfried, Lauren Elizabeth, Maya Sites-Kagenski, Sequoia Gawlik, Taylor Kerstetter, Connor Kerstetter, Jonathan Benner, Mitchel Yeakley, John Sanders, Kaylee Clauser, Linsey Clauser, Madison Thompson, Chris Evans, James Sophy, David Williams, Aaliyan Muhammed, Mamie Muhammed, Ryan Grogan, Jack Grogan, Jon Shirvinski, Leo Thompson, Sabrina Fry, Cory Mabry, Jill Bobbin, Vinny Bobbin, Bobbi Jo Smith, Abigail Smith, Mike Burcik, Nick Marrongelle, Janis McGowan, Abby Stumpf, Ashley Stumpf and others who did not sign the guest register.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Extracurricular Recognition

The Volleyball, Football, and Boys' Soccer teams along with the Competition Band were recognized for their successful seasons.

Student Council Representative

Taylor Kerstetter updated the Board on activities being held at the High School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Helsel congratulated all the fall extracurricular activities for their season and wished the winter extracurricular activities success. He was impressed by the holiday concerts which he attended. Finally, he stated how proud he was of the recognition displayed for the veterans at the programs that he attended throughout the schools.

RECESS

The Board recessed for 10 minutes to greet those in attendance and congratulate those being recognized.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Board members reviewed in detail those items listed on the agenda.

INVITATION TO PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

President Usuka extended an invitation to anyone who wished to speak on any agenda items. There were no comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Gherghel, seconded by Dr. Grube, the Consent Agenda was approved. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was recommended that the Board approve the minutes of the November 17, 2016 Regular Board Meeting, the December 8, 2016 Reorganization Meeting, and the December 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting (Attachment #1). Mr. Lafko moved and Mr. Reichert seconded the motion to approve the minutes as listed. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE

Financial Reports

It was recommended that the Board approve the financial reports as listed (Attachment #2):

- General Fund Check Register – December 2016
- General Fund List of Payments – November 2016
- Cafeteria Report – November 2016
- Cafeteria Fund Check Register – December 2016
- Cafeteria Fund List of Payments – November 2016
- High School Activity Fund Report – November 2016
- Middle School Activity Fund Report – November 2016
- BMEE Additions and Renovations Project – November 2016
- Budget Transfers
- Tax Refunds

Real Estate and Occupation Tax Audits

It was recommended that the Board accept the Blue Mountain School District Real Estate and Occupation Tax Audits for the municipalities located within the Blue Mountain School District for the period ended December 31, 2015 as prepared by Jones and Co., CPAs of Pottsville, PA. Copies are available in the District Office upon request.

Retention of Anthony Matsell

It was recommended that the Board authorize the retention of Anthony Matsell to perform appraisals for taxpayer initiated assessment appeals through December 2017 (Attachment #3).

2017-2018 General Fund Budget Resolution

It was recommended that the Board adopt the General Fund Budget Resolution that states the District will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2017-2018 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education for the District of 3.2% (Attachment #4).

Release of 2015-2016 Single Audit

It was recommended that the Board authorize the Business Manager to release the 2015-16 Single Audit Report to the appropriate governmental agencies prior to Board Approval for regulatory debt compliance purposes.

Mr. Fligge moved, seconded by Mrs. Moss, to approve all FINANCE items as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Facility Requests

It was recommended that the Board approve the attached list of facility requests dated December 18, 2016 (Attachment #5).

Mrs. Vesay moved, seconded by Mr. Reichert, to approve all PHYSICAL FACILITIES items as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL

Independent Contract

It was recommended that the Board approve an Independent Contract with Behavioral Health Associates (BHA) to provide educational programs for students that receive special education services during the 2016-2017 school year. This contract will replace all existing contracts from August 31, 2016 (retroactive) through the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Contract rates are established within the contract and are calculated when students enter or move to other programs within the BHA System.

BMEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

The following items are in accordance with the BMSD/BMEA Collective Bargaining Agreement and district policies and procedures:

Request for Leave of Absence

It was recommended that the Board approve a request received from Jennyfer Oswald, BMEE teacher, for a leave without pay on February 15-17, 2017.

Employment

It was recommended that the Board ratify the following employment actions:

Melissa Gehman as a professional Special Education Autistic Support teacher assigned to BMEE at a prorated salary of \$56,994 (Masters, Step 11), start date contingent upon release from her present employer. Ms. Gehman fills a new position created at BMEE.

Jonathan Shirvinski as a professional Science teacher assigned to BMMS at a prorated salary of \$56,279 (Masters+30, Step 10), start date contingent upon release from his present employer. Mr. Shirvinski replaces Tom Bonner who was appointed BMEC/W Assistant Principal.

BMESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement

The following items are in accordance with the BMSD/BMESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement and district policies and procedures:

Regular Employment Status

It was recommended that the Board acknowledge regular employment status for Audrey Faust who completed her 60-day probationary period on December 8, 2016.

Resignation

It was recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Christine Scheitrum, BMHS personal care aide, effective December 23, 2016.

Transfers

It was recommended that the Board approve the following transfers:

Melissa Bachman from a BMMS part-time classroom aide (3 hours) position to a BMMS part-time classroom aide (4.5 hours) position with no change in hourly rate effective January 3, 2017. Mrs. Bachman replaces Bernadette Umbenhaur who was transferred to the nurse aide position.

Catherine Wolesschok from a BMEC part-time aide position to a BMMS full-time aide in the library position with no change in hourly rate effective January 3, 2017. Mrs. Wolesschok replaces Christa Meyers who resigned.

Employment Requests

It was recommended that the Board approve the following employment requests:

Nancy Mengel as a probationary Cafeteria employee assigned to BMEE for 4 hours per day at the hourly rate of \$9.25 retroactive to November 9, 2016. Mrs. Mengel replaces Lois Gorski who resigned.

Jodi Schwartz as a probationary Cafeteria employee assigned to BMHS for 3 hours per day at the hourly rate of \$9.25 effective January 3, 2017. Ms. Schwartz fills a position which was vacated last year.

Renee Shade as a probationary personal care aide assigned to BMMS for 3 hours per day at the hourly rate of \$10.00 effective January 3, 2017. Mrs. Shade replaces Mrs. Bachman who was transferred to another position.

Mr. Lafko moved, seconded by Dr. Grube, to approve all PERSONNEL items as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

President Usuka introduced Mr. Shirvinski who was in the audience and welcomed him to the District.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS**Overnight Trip**

It was recommended that the Board approve Frank Musitano to attend the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Gifted Compliance Monitoring at Great Valley School District on April 4-5, 2017. PDE will be responsible for all costs including lodging, mileage, tolls, and meals.

Mrs. Vesay moved, seconded by Mr. Reichert, to approve all CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS items as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

Information Item

An information item included the Superintendent approving a request for homebound instruction for a 9th grade student at BMHS.

FOOD SERVICES, HEALTH AND SAFETY**Information Item**

An information item included the Minutes of the November 29, 2016 meeting of the Safety Committee Meeting (Attachment #6).

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Employment

It was recommended that the Board ratify the employment of Sandra Englert as Diving Coach at the stipend of \$1,576 (Class BB, Step 1) retroactive to November 18, 2016.

Resignations

It was recommended that the Board accept the following resignations:

Justene Frushon as Band Percussion Instructor
 John Sanders as Assistant Football Coach
 Austin Miller-Siple as BMHS Drama/Musical Technical Director
 Samantha Clarke as BMHS Spring Musical Assistant Director

Volunteers

It was recommended that the Board approve the following volunteers:

Adam Street – Indoor Drumline
 Shawn Wolfe – Indoor Drumline
 Gordon Ensinger – Indoor Drumline
 Robert Hamilton – Indoor Drumline
 Blake Bergey – Indoor Drumline
 Nicholas Houtz – Indoor Drumline
 Patrick Killian – Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach

Out of State Field Trip

It was recommended that the Board approve a trip for the Indoor Percussion and Colorguard Ensembles to attend the Tournament Indoor Association (TIA) Championships held in Wildwood, NJ. The Championships will take place on May 4-7, 2017, and will involve approximately 40 Blue Mountain students in grades 9-12. The Band Boosters will cover all costs associated with this trip and Mr. Adam Street will be the director in charge (accompanied by other adults holding appropriate clearances), hence there is no need for a substitute.

Mr. Gherghel moved, seconded by Mrs. Moss, to approve all EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS items as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY/LEGISLATIVE

Policies – 1st Reading

It was recommended that the Board approve the first reading of the following policies of the Blue Mountain School District Board Policy Manual (Attachment #7):

Policy 216 Pupils – Student Records
 Policy 216.1 Pupils – Student Records – Guidelines
 Policy 800 Operations – Records Management
 Policy 800.1 Operations – Records Retention

Policies – 2nd Reading and Adoption

It was recommended that the Board approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies of the Blue Mountain School District Board Policy Manual (Attachment #8):

Policy 113 Programs – Special Education
 Policy 113.1 Programs – Discipline of Students with Disabilities
 Policy 113.2 Programs – Behavior Support

Policy 113.3 Programs – Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities
 Policy 113.4 Programs – Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
 Policy 227.1 Pupils – Drug Testing
 Policy 317 Employees – Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
 Policy 824 Operations – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

Mr. Lafko moved, seconded by Mrs. Vesay, to approve all POLICY/LEGISLATIVE items as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT/TECHNOLOGY

None

OLD BUSINESS (Reserved for prior agenda items)

None

NEW BUSINESS (Reserved for items for placement on next meeting agenda)

None

RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission Report

It was recommended that the Board accept the Recreation Commission November 16, 2016 report which includes minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting (Attachment #9).

Mr. Fligge moved, seconded by Mr. Lafko, to approve all RECREATION COMMISSION items as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER REPORTS

A. Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29

Information Items

Information items included the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 agenda for the Chief School Administrators' meeting of November 21, 2016 including the minutes from the October 24, 2016 meeting (Attachment #10) and the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 agenda for the Board of Directors' meeting of December 12, 2016 including the minutes from the November 7, 2016 meeting and the Schuylkill Technology Center agenda for the Board of Directors' meeting of December 12, 2016 including the minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting (Attachment #11).

B. PSBA Legislative Council

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

2017 Board Meeting Dates

It was recommended that the Board approve the 2017 Board Meeting Dates (Attachment #12).

Dr. Grube moved, seconded by Mr. Lafko, to approve the 2017 Board Meeting dates. Motions carried unanimously.

Invitation to Public to Speak

President Usuka invited the public to speak on any items. Mr. David Williams of Cressona shared his concerns over the STC schedule change when the STC and BMSD have different schedules.

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings were noted as listed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. No further board action took place.

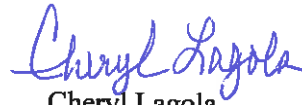
ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Vesay
Secretary



Cheryl Lagola
Recording Secretary

January 19, 2017

BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORWIGSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Blue Mountain School District Committee of the Whole Meeting convened at 7:18 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2017, in the Blue Mountain District Office Conference Room, Orwigsburg, PA.

Present for the Board were Herman Fligge, Dean Gherghel, Timothy Grube (arrived 7:32 p.m.), Mark Hoover, David Lafko, Mary Jo Moss (arrived 9:10 p.m.), Scott Reichert, Anne Usuka (arrived 7:38 p.m.), and Michelle Vesay.

Present for the Administration were Superintendent David Helsel, Business Administrator Angel Green, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Gwendolyn Witmer-Belding, Director of Pupil Services Frank Musitano, Director of Facilities Jeffrey Faust, Director of Technology Austin Miller-Siple, High School Principal Kevin Berger, Middle School Principal James McGonigle, Elementary Principal Kristin Frederick, Assistant Business Administrator Tricia Tamburelli and Virtual Academy Coordinator John Rohrer.

Others attending included Becky Hoover, Mike Regensburger, Rich Eckert, Chris Brommer, Cathy Seibert, Krista Kantner, and Jodi Baldwin.

FINANCE

Mr. Ed Ebling from Jones and Co. reviewed the Single Audit Report for Year Ended June 30, 2016 which was provided to each board member. There were no findings.

Mrs. Green provided an analysis of enrollment going forward 5 years. She also shared a handout with the Board on the 2017-18 budget overview which currently reflects a \$1.9 million deficit.

There was a discussion on the 2017-2018 Schuylkill Technology Center Budget. Districts have concerns and requested that the STC explore cost cutting measures.

Dr. Helsel reviewed a PowerPoint detailing how Senate Bill 76 will affect Districts if approved.

POLICY/LEGISLATIVE

The Board received the following Policies for 1st Reading for their review and will be placed on the January agenda for approval:

- Policy 000 Local Board Procedures – Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations
- Policy 002 Local Board Procedures – Authority and Powers
- Policy 004 Local Board Procedures – Membership
- Policy 007 Local Board Procedures – Policy Manual Access
- Policy 011 Local Board Procedures – Principles for Governance and Leadership

The following policies are on the January agenda for 2nd Reading and Adoption:

- Policy 216 Pupils – Student Records
- Policy 216.1 Pupils – Student Records – Guidelines
- Policy 800 Operations – Records Management
- Policy 800.1 Operations – Records Retention

The Board also received a copy of the Tax Collection Procedures and Reporting Policy Manual which will be placed on the January agenda for approval.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Helsel discussed the elimination of two part-time aide positions at BMEC and creating one full-time aide position at BMEC.

Two letters of intent to retire have been received from professional staff along with two professional staff resignations.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Mr. Faust provided a list of future anticipated facility improvements throughout the District in addition to estimated costs.

Mr. Faust requested that the board consider the placement of air conditioning units at the West and Cressona to improve overall air flow and cooling of the building. The PTO will pay for half of the cost.

Mr. Faust discussed the need to purchase two school vans, one for the special education department and one for the facilities department.

Mr. Faust discussed in detail the creation of a store and coffee house at BMHS which would be used by the Life Skills class to transition them to the working world. Mr. Faust reviewed a handout provided to the Board. Board members discussed concerns on the hours and associated costs. The intent is to make it a cost-neutral endeavor to the District.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Mrs. Belding reviewed the professional development activities that were completed on January 16, 2017. These activities included ALICE Training for all K-12 teachers, creation of common assessments, curriculum revisions, technology grade-level expectations, and PSSA/Keystone Administrator training.

Dr. Helsel shared reasons to revise the 2016-17 school calendar due to the school closure on January 11, 2017. The snow make-up day will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. February 20, 2017 will not be used as a make-up day. The revision to the calendar will be placed on the January board agenda for approval.

Mrs. Belding shared draft copies of the 2017-17 BMHS Program of Studies book for students entering ninth grade next year. This guide reflects revised graduation requirements that include participation in a Career Academy, completion of 25 credits for graduation, and inclusion of skill classes in technology, finance, and communication. Final drafts of the Program of Studies books will be shared with the board prior to the January 26, 2017 board meeting.

Mrs. Belding shared information on changes in the McKinney-Vento Homeless regulations that removed foster care students from the regulations. New guidelines need to be adopted by the district to establish educational stability for children placed in foster care. The new guidelines include naming a liaison to work with Schuylkill County Children and Youth and approval of a Transportation Plan for Foster Care Students. This will be placed on the January board agenda for approval.

Dr. Musitano recognized the strong efforts of the teachers involved in the Dyslexia/Early Literacy Pilot Program and described the recent benchmarks and upcoming scheduling of intervention through the pilot program.

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

A listing of coaches and volunteers for the spring season was provided in board packets and is on the January agenda for approval.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT/TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Rohrer provided a report to the board on updates in enrollment in the District. Dr. Musitano reviewed the next Community Information Series being held on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at BMHS beginning at 7 p.m. The topic is "Education and Business Partnerships."

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:05 p.m. and went into Executive Session at 9:08 p.m. to discuss legal, student and personnel issues. The Executive Session ended at 10:15 p.m.

