

February 23, 2017

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, February 23, 2017, at Blue Mountain Middle School, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania.

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

Present for the Board were Herman Fligge, Dean Gherghel, Timothy Grube, 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, Director of Technology Austin Miller-Siple, Middle School Principal James McGonigle, Middle School Assistant Principal Timothy Gombar, Elementary Principal Kristin Frederick, Elementary Assistant Principal Katherine Hubiak, Attorney Erick Prock, and Recording Secretary Cheryl Lagola.

Others attending included Brian Manning, Mike Regensberger, Mark Palerino, Lesley Gumaer, David Williams, Cathy Seibert and others who did not sign the guest register.

PRESENTATIONS

Schuylkill Technical Center

Brian Manning, Assistant Business Manager at the Schuylkill Technical Center, was available for questions from the Board in regards to the STC budget which was on the agenda for approval. Mr. Manning did note that any physical renovations and improvements were not included in the budget. Mr. Lafko asked Mr. Manning to discuss the decision making process in building the budget and who determines what cuts are made. Mr. Fligge questioned how the STC is making the student experience better.

Student Council Representative

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

Blue Mountain Recreation Commission

Mark Palerino discussed the development of the South Schuylkill Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan which was last completed in 1975. Areas included in the plan are the boroughs and townships of the Blue Mountain and Schuylkill Haven School Districts. Mr. Palerino invited all residents to attend and support the public meeting being held on Monday, March 13, 2017 at the Health & Wellness Building at Penn State Schuylkill to give input for the future enhancement of the recreation programs, services, and parks in the South Schuylkill region.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Helsel read the names of the Students of the Month who were chosen in each building. He congratulated all the winter sports teams for their successes so far and those participating in the STC competition and music competitions. Dr. Helsel also reported that guidance counselors are in the process of assisting 8th grade students schedule their classes in the Career Academies for their freshman year.

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 Mrs. Moss, seconded by Mr. Fligge, the Consent Agenda was approved. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was recommended that the Board approve the minutes of the following meetings: the January 26, 2017 Regular Board Meeting and the February 16, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting (Attachment #1). Mr. Lafko moved and Mr. Gherghel 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):

- Monthly Bank Account Summary – January 2017
- Revenue Report – Total Receipts – January 2017
- Expenditure Report – January 2017
- General Fund Check Register – February 2017
- General Fund List of Payments – January 2017
- Cafeteria Report – January 2017
- Cafeteria Fund Check Register – February 2017
- Cafeteria Fund List of Payments – January 2017
- High School Activity Fund Report – January 2017
- Middle School Activity Fund Report – January 2017
- Special Revenue Fund Report – January 2017
- Athletic Fund Report – January 2017
- Athletic Fund List of Payments – January 2017
- BMEE Additions and Renovations Project – January 2017
- Budget Transfers
- Tax Refunds

Dr. Grube moved, seconded by Mrs. Vesay, to approve all FINANCE items as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Elevator Contract

It was recommended that the Board approve a revised contract with Thyssenkrupp to service district elevators.

Facility Requests

It was recommended that the Board approve the attached list of facility requests dated February 23, 2017 (Attachment #3).

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

PERSONNEL**BMEA Collective Bargaining Agreement**

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

Retirement

It was recommended that the Board acknowledge the letter of intent to retire received from Tammy Freiler, BMHS Guidance Counselor, effective July 15, 2017.

Leave of Absence

It was recommended that the Board approve a request received from Vanessa Frankenstein, BMEC teacher, to extend her uncompensated leave of absence from February 27, 2017 through the end of the 2016-2017 school year with the possibility of returning sooner per doctor recommendation and approval by the Superintendent.

Employment Requests

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

Extend the employment of Janice Maher as a long-term substitute Elementary teacher assigned to BMEC from February 28, 2017 through the end of the school year or until Mrs. Frankenstein returns from her uncompensated leave of absence.

The positions of Extended School Year (ESY) teachers, speech clinicians, and school nurses at a rate of \$30.00 per hour for the summer of 2017.

BMESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement

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

Resignation

It was recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Catherina Zwolan, BMHS Aide, effective March 10, 2017.

Employment Request

It was recommended that the Board approve the positions of Extended School Year (ESY) aides at the contractual starting hourly rate for the summer of 2017.

Creation of Positions

It was recommended that the Board approve the creation of the following positions:

A full-time personal care aide position at BMEE.

A part-time personal care aide position (4.5 hours) at BMEC.

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

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS**Revised 2016-2017 School Calendar**

It was recommended that the Board approve the revised 2016-2017 school calendar (Attachment #4).

2017-2018 BMHS Program of Study

It was recommended that the Board approve the 2017-2018 BMHS Program of Study.

Summer Credit Recovery Program

It was recommended that the Board approve Blue Mountain School District to conduct a Summer Credit Recovery Program from June 19 – July 14, 2017.

Settlement Agreements

It was recommended that the Board approve the following Settlement Agreements:

Settlement Agreement Regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation related to Student #1712000 dated January 30, 2017.

Settlement Agreement Regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation related to Student #1810500 dated January 30, 2017.

Settlement Agreement Regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation related to Student #1816100 dated February 1, 2017.

Overnight Conferences

It was recommended that the Board approve the following overnight conferences:

Mrs. Gwendolyn Witmer-Belding to attend the Pennsylvania Association of Federal Program Coordinators Annual Conference from May 7-9, 2017 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA. Conference fees and expenses will be paid through Title I funding.

The following individuals to attend the 2017 Pennsylvania Department of Education Annual Conference on March 8-10 in Hershey, PA: Frank Musitano, Gwen Belding, Kathy Edwards, Cindy Brooks, Katie Hubiak, Mark Cesari, Kristin Frederick, Tom Bonner, Sarah Hudock, Jessica Roth, Jessica Polak, Cathy Hassman, Megan Hufford, and Charlotte Granito (parent liaison). Registration fees, mileage, meals and lodging expenses will be paid through PDE funds to support the Dyslexia Pilot Program.

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

FOOD SERVICES, HEALTH AND SAFETY

None

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS**Employment Requests**

It was recommended that the Board approve the following employment requests in accordance with the BMSD/BMEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Dana Clauser as BMHS Spring Musical Assistant Director at the stipend of \$840 (Class D, Step 1).

Michael Capilo as BMMS Science Fair Co-Advisor at the stipend of \$85 (Class B, 1/6 of Step 1).

Volunteer

It was recommended that the Board approve Scott Dayson as a volunteer Softball Coach.

Out of State Field Trip Request

It was recommended that the Board approve the chaperones and World Language students and International Club students taking a field trip to New York City on Friday, April 21, 2017, departing at 7:00 a.m. and returning approximately at 10:00 p.m. The group will participate in an ethnic foods tour of Lower Manhattan, learn about the history of the city at Top of the Rock, and explore ethnic neighborhoods of Chinatown and Little Italy. There is no cost to the district other than substitutes needed for Kimberly Tohill, Jennifer Gipe, Jeanette Mullen, and Samantha Markowski.

Mrs. Moss moved, seconded by Dr. Grube, 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 #5):

- Policy 100 Programs – Comprehensive Planning
- Policy 101 Programs – Mission Statement/Vision Statement/Shared Plan
- Policy 112 Programs – Guidance Counseling
- Policy 146 Programs – Student Services
- Policy 201 Pupils – Admission of Students
- Policy 203 Pupils – Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
- Policy 217 Pupils – Graduation
- Policy 227.1 Pupils – Drug Testing Consent Forms Attachments 1, 1A, 2, 2A
- Policy 251 Pupils – Homeless Students
- Policy 255 Pupils – Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care
- Policy 609 Finances – Investment of District Funds
- Policy 701 Property – Facilities Planning
- Delete Policy 919 Community – District/School Report Cards

Policies – 2nd Reading and Adoption

It was recommended that the Board approve the second reading and the adoption of the following policies of the Blue Mountain School District Board Policy Manual (Attachment #6):

- 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

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 January 25, 2017 report which includes minutes of the December 21, 2016 meeting (Attachment #7).

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

OTHER REPORTS

A. Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29

2017-2018 Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget

It was recommended that the Board approve the 2017-2018 Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget in the amount of \$7,813,586. Blue Mountain School District's cost is \$931,256.

Mrs. Usuka requested a roll call vote.

On a motion made by Mr. Lafko, seconded by Mrs. Moss, the 2017-2018 Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget was passed with the following roll call results:

AYES: Mr. Fligge, Mr. Gherghel, Dr. Grube, Mr. Hoover, Mr. Lafko, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Vesay, Mrs. Usuka

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: Mr. Reichert

Mr. Reichert abstained as he is an employee of the Schuylkill Technical Center of the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29. Motion carried.

Information Items

Information items included the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 agenda for the Board of Directors' meeting of February 6, 2017 including the minutes from the January 9, 2017 meeting and the Schuylkill Technology Center agenda for the Board of Directors' meeting of February 6, 2017 including the minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting (Attachment #8).

B. PSBA Legislative Council (Dean Gherghel)

None

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Invitation to Public to Speak

President Usuka invited the public to speak on any items. There were no comments.

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings were noted as listed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters. No further board action took place.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Michelle Vesay
Secretary


Cheryl Lagola
Recording Secretary

