

MINUTES
AGENDA MEETING OF THE BALDWIN-WHITEHALL BOARD OF SCHOOL
DIRECTORS
BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

The Baldwin-Whitehall Board of School Directors met on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Central Administration Office for their Agenda Meeting. There was an Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel.

THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

Ms. Karen Brown
Dr. Anthony DiCesaro
Mr. Dan Knezevich
Mrs. Tracy Macek
Mr. Martin Schmotzer
Mr. David Solenday

Mr. Rainaldi, Mr. Rambo and Ms. Tarson were not present.

Administrators in Attendance:

Dr. Randal Lutz, Ms. Denise Sedlacek, Mr. Mark Cherpak, and Solicitor, Ms. Lisa Colautti.

Student Board Representatives present:

Carl Carlson, Nick Pantelis, Michael Kahwash, Corina Pittman, Nathan Hobson, and Avery Greenaway

1.0 Call to Order

Ms. Karen Brown, Board President, called the meeting to order.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Roll Call

Theanita Hampsay, Board Secretary, called the roll.

4.0 Mission Statement of School District

Mr. Schmotzer read the Mission Statement.

The Baldwin-Whitehall School District is committed to the promotion of excellence through a system of traditional values, a quality educational program, and a world of opportunities.

5.0 Student Board Representative Comments

Mr. Carlson spoke about the recent Band trip to Disney, the success of the Boys' Basketball team, the upcoming Snowball Dance and the Jazz Band's recent concert.

Mr. Hobson spoke about the upcoming Special Olympics Club fundraiser at Chick-fil-A on 2/2/2017 and the Varsity Ice Hockey Team.

6.0 Resident comments on Action Items Only

No comments.

7.0 Action Items

7.1 Open Positions – Football

Recommendation: Resolved, that the Board of School Directors declare all Football coaching positions open for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Schmotzer spoke about the recent opening of the Baseball and Tennis Head Coaching positions and said that he will be voting no on this item. He said that the recent openings of the Baseball and Tennis Head Coaching positions may be why the opening of the Football Coaching positions is on this evening's agenda. Mr. Schmotzer said that the Board Meeting should be more about business instead of athletics.

Mr. Knezevich talked about how athletics is a driving force in all Districts. He said that athletic-related issues are of great interest to District residents.

Dr. DiCesaro said that the most important thing is that coaches are teaching the student athletes in a positive manner and that he is not as concerned with their winning records.

Mrs. Macek said that athletics is part of what the Board needs to address. She said that the Athletic Committee's main focus is how to get students interested in sports.

Ms. Brown said there is a Football Coach resignation letter before the Board and that the Board should be focusing on that matter.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (Solenday David) Moved, Member (DiCesaro Dr. Anthony) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'Resolved, that the Board of School Directors declare all Football coaching positions open for the 2017-2018 school year.'. Upon a Roll-Call Vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1. The motion Carried. 5 - 1

Schmotzer Martin	No
Macek Tracy	Yes
Solenday David	Yes
Brown Karen	Yes
Knezevich Dan	Yes
DiCesaro Dr. Anthony	Yes

8.0 Superintendent Report

8.1 Dr. Randal A. Lutz

Dr. Lutz spoke about a request for proposal for the Harrison Middle School’s Wireless Network Replacement and another one for Firewall Replacement. He explained that these were both E-rate projects.

Mrs. Macek asked for an explanation of the difference between something that requires a request for proposal and a professional service that does not require a request for proposal.

Ms. Colautti said that when the purchase is for equipment and over the expenditure limit of \$19,700 it would require a request for proposal. There are some exceptions when the equipment is proprietary, even if above the expenditure limit. She explained that another option for equipment-based purchases is to use a government list. Ms. Colautti said that professional services are not required to be put out for bid regardless of price.

Dr. Lutz spoke about Property Tax Elimination and how Dr. Ron Dufalla will be present to speak about this topic next week. Dr. Lutz explained that Property Tax Elimination is a significant change for public school funding and could have an impact on the District. He continued to explain some of the facts and concerns about Property Tax Elimination.

Mr. Cherpak said that the replacement of the Property Tax money is not going to come from residents living within the District, but will come from residents living across the State. The State will determine how much the District will receive.

Mr. Schmotzer said that public schools cannot be funded without property taxes. He said he does not believe that this will pass.

Mr. Cherpak said this is House Bill 860 and Senate Bill 76.

9.0 Board President Remarks

9.1 Ms. Karen Brown, Board President

Ms. Brown said there will not be an Audit and Finance Committee meeting on February 8th, but there will be Community Development & Advancement and Athletics & Student Activities Board Committee meetings.

10.0 Education and Instruction

10.1 Ms. Denise Sedlacek - BWSO Successes

Ms. Sedlacek spoke about the upcoming program entitled *Drugs: What Students Are Using Today* on February 16, 2017. Ms. Sedlacek also spoke about the upcoming Family Steam Night on March 16, 2017. She said that the scheduling process is underway District-wide. She spoke about the upcoming College Admissions Night on February 8, 2017 and the 4C Your Future program on February 23, 2017.

10.2 2017-2018 School Calendar

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar. The first day of school for students will be Tuesday, August 29, 2017, and the last day of school for students will be Friday, June 8, 2018.

Ms. Sedlacek explained that community member feedback will be considered before the calendar is finalized.

10.3 Agreement - Wesley Spectrum Services

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the Individual Student Enrollment Agreement Addendum between the Baldwin-Whitehall School District and Wesley Spectrum Services for a student to be enrolled part-time in the Wesley Spectrum High School Private Academic School effective January 19, 2017 at a cost of \$11,250 per semester, for the 2016-2017 school year according to the attached Agreement.

No discussion.

11.0 Business and Finance

11.1 Mr. Mark Cherpak - Operational Update

Mr. Cherpak talked about the restroom project at Paynter Elementary School. He spoke about some repairs at Harrison Middle School and the need to possibly repair or replace an emergency generator there. Mr. Cherpak spoke about various repairs being done at the high school. He said there are companies looking at the roofs of all District buildings. Mr. Cherpak spoke about a recent Pennsylvania Department of Education Food Service review at McAnnulty Elementary School that went very well. Mr. Cherpak spoke about a tire issue that some newer buses are having and how the repairs are being done under warranty.

Mr. Knezevich spoke about a leak in the roof at the Baldwin High School gymnasium. Dr. Lutz said that Mr. Huddart is taking care of this issue. Mr. Cherpak said that this leak will be replaced under warranty.

Mr. Cherpak also spoke about the Harrison Middle School gymnasium roof that is in need of immediate repair. He said that there is also a roof leak at McAnnulty Elementary School.

Mr. Knezevich asked about the Whitehall Elementary School front steps repair. Dr. Lutz said that internal repairs have been done to these steps and that periodic assessments will be made to see how they are holding up.

Ms. Brown asked for the status of the heating system at Harrison Middle School. Mr. Cherpak said that this issue has not been resolved. He said that the parts have been ordered and Honeywell has done some other repairs that have helped this issue.

11.2 Audit Update

Mr. Cherpak said that Jordan Tax Service was able to reconcile the Baldwin Borough Tax duplicate for 2015 to within \$200. He said this information was sent to the auditors this morning. The final audit report will be issued for next week's meeting. He said the auditors will come to the Board Meeting next week to address any concerns or questions from the Board Members.

Mr. Schmotzer said that he had a good conversation with Ms. Gail Dobson, tax collector from Baldwin Borough, about finally being on board with Jordan Tax Service and doesn't anticipate any further problems with tax collection.

Ms. Brown asked that the Board receive a copy of the audit prior to next week's meeting.

Mr. Cherpak said that he will request an electronic copy and get it to the Board as soon as possible. Dr. Lutz said that a copy of the audit will be printed and delivered to each Board Member.

11.3 Fund Balance Adjustment

Recommendation: The Administration recommends the Board approve the following adjustments to the District's Fund Balance: Move \$810,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Committed Fund Balance for Technology. This figure represents the savings from the refunding of the bonds during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Ms. Brown asked if this amount included Technology expenses that have already occurred. Mr. Cherpak said this would be for Technology expenses moving forward.

11.4 Proposal - HHS DR

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the proposal between the Baldwin-Whitehall School District and HHSDR Architects/Engineers to complete a Facility Study for Long-Term Capital Improvements, District-wide, at a cost of \$2,875.00 according to the attached proposal.

Mr. Cherpak said that HHSDR will assess all buildings in the District and provide a report that will help Administration build a Capital Improvements Plan.

Mrs. Macek said that this is a great idea.

Dr. Lutz said that they are looking to see a broader picture, not just from an energy savings standpoint.

Mrs. Macek asked if HHSDR could evaluate the water usage at the Wallace facility.

11.5 Preliminary Budget

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board of School Directors adopt the 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget attached that was made available for public inspection on the District website on January 18, 2017. The Administration also requests approval to file for referendum exceptions with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in accordance with the provisions of Act 1 of 2006 as amended by Act 25 of 2011. The Baldwin-Whitehall School District's Act 1 index for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is 3.3%. If granted, the referendum exceptions will permit the Baldwin-Whitehall School District to increase taxes above the index without voter approval.

Mr. Cherpak explained that these numbers are estimated and that this will fulfill the Act 1 requirements.

Ms. Brown said that adopting this Preliminary Budget allows the District to keep all options open.

11.6 Agreement - Young Mens' Christian Association of Greater Pittsburgh (YMCA)

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the Agreement between the Baldwin-Whitehall School District and the Young Mens' Christian Association of Greater Pittsburgh to lease four (4) classrooms in the Harrison Middle School for the period of June 12, 2017 through August 18, 2017, excluding July 4, 2017 at a rate of \$200.00 per day according to the attached agreement.

Mr. Cherpak said that the YMCA will be submitting Simulator and Transportation Agreements as well.

12.0 Unfinished Business

12.1 Special Board Representatives - 2017

Recommendation: Southeastern Area Special School Representative - Mr. Elliot Rambo
Alternate: Steel Center Vocational Technical School Representative - Mr. Elliot Rambo
Alternate: SHASDA Representative - Ms. Karen Brown Economic Development South
Representative - PSBA Representative –

Ms. Brown said that any interested Board Member should submit their name.

12.2 Candidates for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Recommendation: Resolved, that the Board of School Directors supports the following candidate(s) to run for the position(s) of Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Board of Directors representing the Baldwin-Whitehall School District:

Mr. Schmotzer asked Mr. Cherpak about the space previously rented by the District Justice at the Wallace facility. Mr. Cherpak said that it is currently unoccupied. Mr. Schmotzer spoke about the Fund Balance and the Preliminary Budget. Mr. Schmotzer thanked the Student Board Representatives and students for the thank you notes to the Board Members.

13.0 New Business

Mr. Knezevich spoke about a Mik's Wish invoice dated January 27, 2017. Dr. Lutz explained the details of the invoices. Mr. Knezevich spoke about the possibility of the District waiving these fees so that Mik's Wish could donate that money to the Make-A-Wish charity.

Motion by Mr. Knezevich, Seconded by Dr. DiCesaro to waive all fees charged to Mik's Wish on invoices dated January 27, 2017. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion Carried. 6-0.

Dr. DiCesaro spoke about the performance and the great things that students in the District are doing.

Mr. Schmotzer asked how much money was raised. Mr. Knezevich said that he does not have an exact figure. Mr. Schmotzer questioned why this event was not sponsored by a District club so that there would not have been any fees charged.

Dr. Lutz explained that all activities, whether a school-sponsored activity or not, follow the District policies set forth.

Ms. Sedlacek said that Mikayla Davic's goal is to raise \$50,000 for Make-A-Wish before she graduates. So far, she has raised \$27,000 towards her goal.

There was no public comment.

Brown Karen	Yes
DiCesaro Dr. Anthony	Yes
Knezevich Dan	Yes
Macek Tracy	Yes
Schmotzer Martin	Yes
Solenday David	Yes

Mr. Schmotzer spoke about the danger of concussions. He said that since the football coaching positions were currently open, he would make the following motion to eliminate the District's football program.

Motion by Mr. Schmotzer, Seconded by Mrs. Macek to eliminate the Football Program in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 1 Nay: 5. The motion Failed. 1-5.

Melissa Wood, 432 Lucy Drive, spoke about the eliminating the football program.

Mr. Schmotzer spoke about the band, boosters, and community involvement in the football program.

Brown Karen	No
DiCesaro Dr. Anthony	No
Knezevich Dan	No
Macek Tracy	No
Schmotzer Martin	Yes
Solenday David	No

Motion by Mr. Schmotzer, Seconded by Mr. Solenday to add four custodians to the staff of the Baldwin-Whitehall School District. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 2 Nay: 4. The motion Failed. 2-4.

Mrs. Macek asked Mr. Schmotzer if he would be willing to table this motion until the Board has time to look at the budget. Mr. Schmotzer said no.

Mr. Knezevich said that he would need more time for consideration regarding this motion.

There was no public comment.

Brown Karen	No
DiCesaro Dr. Anthony	No
Knezevich Dan	No
Macek Tracy	No

Schmotzer Martin **Yes**
Solenday David **Yes**

14.0 Solicitor Report

There is no report.

15.0 Resident Comments

15.1 Name and address should be clearly stated.

John Evosevic, 5239 Fieldcrest Drive, asked if comments needed to be submitted prior to the meeting. Dr. Lutz said that they only need to be submitted if requested to be part of the minutes.

16.0 Matters of Information - Superintendent

16.1 Dr. Randal A. Lutz

No further comments.

17.0 Adjournment

On motion by **Mr. Solenday**, which was seconded by **Dr. DiCesaro** and duly carried by unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Recognized Visitors

See "Visitors List" attached to record set of minutes.



Theanita Hampsay
Theanita Hampsay
Board Secretary

