

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

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

The Baldwin-Whitehall Board of School Directors met on Wednesday, March 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. Louis Rainaldi, Jr.
Mr. Martin Schmotzer
Mr. David Solenday
Ms. Janice Tarson

Mr. Elliot Rambo was not present.

Administrators in Attendance:

Dr. Randal Lutz, Ms. Denise Sedlacek, Mr. Mark Cherpak, and Solicitor, Mr. Ira Weiss.

Student Board Representatives present:

Carl Carlson, Nick Pantelis, 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. Rainaldi 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

Ms. Greenaway spoke about students being recognized by the Tribune Review for various accomplishments. She spoke about the Gymnastics Team taking first place at their regional competition in the silver division, the Special Olympics Club's recent bocce tournament, the Spanish Club's bracelet fundraiser, and the "Spread the Word to End the Word" project at the high school.

6.0 Superintendent Report

6.1 Dr. Randal A. Lutz

Dr. Lutz spoke about the Niche 2017 Best School Districts in Pittsburgh Metro rankings report. This report is attached to the agenda. Dr. Lutz said that these ratings were quite favorable for the District.

Ms. Brown said that this report shows the District is doing well.

7.0 Board President Remarks

7.1 Ms. Karen Brown, Board President

Ms. Brown said that all three committee meetings will meet on March 8, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., but the meetings will end at 6:45 p.m.

8.0 Education and Instruction

8.1 Ms. Denise Sedlacek - BWSO Successes

Ms. Sedlacek spoke about the upcoming Kids Count Extravaganza this Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Baldwin High School. She also spoke about the upcoming Concussion Management Program sponsored by Representatives Harry Readshaw and William Kortz on March 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Baldwin High School. Ms. Sedlacek spoke about K-8 Family Steam Night coming up on March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Harrison Middle School. She explained this program was funded by a grant that Dr. Peretin and Ms. Huffman received through the Carnegie Science Center. Ms. Sedlacek spoke about the recent K-12 ALiCE review done in all schools, 4C Your Future night that took place at Baldwin High School, and the Harrison Middle School's production of "The Sound of Music" that is coming up this weekend. Ms. Sedlacek spoke about the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing and said that there are 62 randomly selected students from Harrison Middle School that will be participating.

8.2 Bullying Programs

Ms. Sedlacek spoke about the upcoming bullying parent program on March 14, 2017 at Whitehall Elementary School. She spoke about the District's bullying program and specific procedures and curriculum in place at the different school levels. She explained that the District plans to revisit their bullying programs. She said that bullying is one of the most challenging areas for the District to address.

Mr. Rainaldi commended the District for their work on bullying. He spoke about electronic bullying, or cyberbullying, and asked if it was the District's responsibility to control that type of bullying.

Mr. Weiss said that cyberbullying is a legal matter, but schools have a role in teaching positive behavior and encouraging students to do the right thing.

Mr. Rainaldi spoke about some of the reported problems that the District is facing at the middle school level with bullying. He asked for a report showing how many incidents of bullying are reported District-wide.

Ms. Sedlacek said that the number of bullying incidents is listed in the Safe Schools Report. She said that the District has a good relationship with local law enforcement which helps in bullying prevention efforts. Ms. Sedlacek said that every administrator was required to complete a survey last spring regarding bullying that was done through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and these results have not been received yet.

Mr. Rainaldi said that he would like to see a monthly bullying report from the schools. He also said that he would like to keep this on the agenda for more Board discussion.

Dr. DiCesaro said that he asked for this item to be put on the agenda. He said that the staff and Administration are doing a good job with many good programs in place, but bullying is still happening. Dr. DiCesaro said that he feels there is a lack of consequences. He said that kids are afraid of coming forward for fear of getting into trouble.

Dr. Lutz said that bullying is one of the most difficult student issues to work through. Dr. Lutz said that bullying policies limit the District in handling situations outside of school. He said the District has a good Code of Student Conduct. Dr. Lutz explained that there are many different things to consider when handling bullying situations. He explained that true bullying situations show a true imbalance of power among students.

Dr. DiCesaro said that there is a problem District-wide with students being afraid to come forward because of punishment and consequences that are being set by Administration. He said that he would be willing to be part of a Bullying Task Force to help figure out ways to make the students feel safe against bullying.

Mrs. Macek said that educating parents about social media might help the bullying situation.

Mr. Rainaldi said that the District must figure out how to help students and families because this behavior is dangerous.

Dr. DiCesaro asked that parents come forward and let the Board know what is happening in the schools with their kids and bullying issues.

Motion by Dr. DiCesaro, Seconded by Mr. Rainaldi to put together a bullying task force. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 8 Nay: 0. The motion Carried. 8-0.

Mr. Schmotzer said that bullying has been around for a very long time. He said that social media has changed the face of bullying. Mr. Schmotzer said that kids need to learn conflict resolution, and that true bullying is a different story that does need teacher or administrative intervention.

Ms. Tarson said that she is in favor of the creation of a Bullying Task Force. She said that defining the difference between true bullying and just being a kid is important.

Dr. DiCesaro said that a bullying issue has been identified, and that the creation of this task force will give people a way to discuss these issues.

Mr. Rainaldi thanked Dr. DiCesaro for making the motion and he would like to be on this task force.

Ms. Kristy Tagg, 4794 Biehl Drive, spoke about the District's bullying policy. She spoke about her son's personal experience with bullying as a student at Whitehall Elementary School.

Melissa Wood, 432 Lucy Drive, spoke about bullying consequences at the elementary level.

Brown Karen	Yes
DiCesaro Dr. Anthony	Yes
Knezevich Dan	Yes
Macek Tracy	Yes
Rainaldi, Jr. Louis	Yes
Schmotzer Martin	Yes
Solenday David	Yes
Tarson Janice	Yes

Dr. Lutz asked if any other Board members wanted to be on the Bullying Task Force. He said that this will be available to parents and staff as well and once the committee is set, the Board will need to approve it.

8.3 Agreement - Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the Transition Services Agreement between the Baldwin-Whitehall School District and Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania for a student, as outlined in the attached agreement for the 2016-2017 school year.

No discussion.

8.4 Student Participation - PMEA Region Band

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the following Student Participation:

March 22-24, 2017
PMEA Region Band
Sharon, PA
Sponsor: Greg Steele
Student: Olivia Sinkule

No discussion.

8.5 Student Participation - Boys' Basketball

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the following Student Participation:

NEXT SCHOOL YEAR (2017-2018)
December 26-31, 2017
KSA Holiday Ball Tournament
Orlando, FL
Sponsor: Joe Urmann
Students: TBD (Boys' Basketball)

Mr. Schmotzer said that he is not in favor of Christmas break trips for student activities because they take away from family time.

Ms. Tarson said that this trip was scheduled for the week before Christmas week, but the students would have missed 4 days of school and that would have violated the District policy.

Mr. Knezevich said that he is not in favor of sending student athletes to Florida to play when there are closer tournaments.

Mr. Schmotzer said that there are tournaments in Pennsylvania that the boys can attend. He said that the Board does have the authority to vote this down.

Mrs. Macek said that the Board should not be discussing this because if the basketball team chooses to go to Florida and pay all of their own expenses during their vacation, that is their decision. She said the only reason the Board votes on this is because they are going to the tournament as a Baldwin basketball team.

Dr. Lutz said that there is no additional costs for insurance on top of what the District already pays.

8.6 Student Participation - Varsity Swimming and Diving Championships

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the following Student Participation:

Varsity Swimming & Diving State Championships
March 15-18, 2017
Lewisburg, PA
Sponsor: Ryan Johnson
Student(s): TBA

No discussion.

8.7 Student Participation - daVincian Society & BHS Art Department

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the following Student Participation:

Cleveland Museums
daVincian Society & BHS Art Department
April 13, 2017 (not overnight)
Cleveland, OH
Sponsors: Lisa Klein, James Wodarek
Students: TBA

No discussion.

8.8 Student Participation - BHS Special Olympics PIAA Unified Bocce Championships

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the following Student Participation:

March 23-24, 2017

BHS – Special Olympics

PIAA Unified Bocce Championships (if qualify on March 7 at Allegheny Championships)
Hershey, PA

Students: Special Olympics Club/Partners P.E.

Sponsors: Eric Jankoski, Tim Laughlin

No discussion.

9.0 Business and Finance

9.1 Mr. Mark Cherpak - Operational Update

Mr. Cherpak spoke about the attached Operational Update and custodial detail assignments. Mr. Cherpak explained that the Harrison Middle School roof above the gym and the McAnnulty Elementary School roof above the multipurpose room have both failed. He said that HHSDR has been conducting roof inspections as part of their feasibility study and will have a report next week. Mr. Cherpak said that preliminary budgets for each roof are in the \$120,000 to \$140,000 range. Mr. Cherpak said that he submitted warranty claims for portions of the Whitehall Elementary School roof as well as McAnnulty Elementary School.

Dr. Lutz said that the architects are putting together bid documents so that the District can put these out for advertisement. He explained that this is Phase 1 of the feasibility process.

Mr. Knezevich asked about the rest of the roof at Harrison Middle School. Mr. Cherpak said that the rest of the Harrison Middle School roof is not failing. Mr. Knezevich asked if the report will tell the age of each roof. Mr. Cherpak said yes.

Mrs. Macek asked if there was an issue with the high school gymnasium roof. She said there was a condensation problem occurring at the high school.

Mr. Cherpak explained that there is an air conditioning duct issue at the high school.

Dr. Lutz said that Administration is looking at repairing the condensation problem. He said that it would cost the District about \$11,000 to fix it internally.

Mr. Knezevich asked if the current leak at the high school was being addressed. Dr. Lutz said that it is being addressed and that it is under warranty.

Ms. Brown spoke about the custodial detail reports that Mr. Cherpak provided. She said that in addition to the custodial detail reports, the Board would like feedback on how the custodial details are working out in each building.

9.2 Property Tax Resolution

Recommendation: Resolved that the Board of School Directors approve the Resolution regarding Property Tax Elimination, as presented.

No discussion.

9.3 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget 2017-2018

For 2016-2017, the amount was \$53,460.

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the proposed 2017-2018 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget as presented. The School District contribution portion of the Program of Services Budget totals \$1,835,198.00. The Baldwin-Whitehall School District's expected contribution to the AIU Program of Services budget is \$53,524.

No discussion.

9.4 Copiers and Printers

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve a 5-year agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions for copier/printers for the District at a cost of \$16,375.71 per month.

This is a reduction of \$8,222.29 per month from the expiring agreement with Comdoc.

Mr. Cherpak said that the District received six responses, one of which did not meet the specifications. Mr. Cherpak said that there is a huge reduction in what the District was paying previously due to the interest rates being significantly lower as well as hardware costs decreasing.

Mrs. Macek asked what the District pays currently to Comdoc. Mr. Cherpak said about \$24,500 per month.

9.5 Agreement - Forecast 5 Analytics, Inc.

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the agreement between the Baldwin-Whitehall School District and Forecast 5 Analytics, Inc. for services

as outlined in the attached agreement effective March 9, 2017 through June 30, 2018 in the amount of \$10,875.00.

Mr. Cherpak explained that the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) recommends using this software. He said that this software will eliminate the need to manually generate some business office reports, as well as give the District the means to forecast projections.

Mr. Rainaldi spoke about the subscription fees involved with this type of software.

Mrs. Macek said that she thinks this is a great idea. She spoke about the time that the Business Office will save manually running some reports.

Dr. Lutz said that this software allows the business side of the District to meet the academic side as far as reporting and projecting.

9.6 Proposal - Brooks Sports & Pro Bike + Run - Baldwin Invitational

Recommendation: The Administration recommends that the Board approve the proposal from Brooks Sports & Pro Bike + Run for sponsorship of the Baldwin Invitational on May 5, 2017.

Mrs. Macek asked how many years the District has been using this company and thanked Brooks Sports & Pro Bike + Run for their support year after year. She asked that they be acknowledged for their loyalty to the District.

Dr. Lutz said that this market is limited.

Mr. Knezevich spoke about promoting the invitational.

Dr. DiCesaro said that Pro Bike + Run is the local business and Brooks is the sponsor. He thanked both for their support.

Mr. Schmotzer spoke about the student parking issue during the invitational. He said that he hopes for better cooperation from the Whitehall Police Department in regards to parking during the day of this event.

Ms. Tarson spoke about her own past personal experience with student parking on the day of the invitational.

Dr. DiCesaro asked if Administration works with the Whitehall Police Department for the security component of this event. Dr. Lutz said yes.

9.7 Donations - MK63444 Fund (Student Lunch Account)

Recommendation: Resolved, that the Board of School Directors accept the following donations to the MK63444 Fund from the following donors in the total amount of \$1,100:

Option Supply - \$100
Progressive Music - \$100
Legal Tax Service, Inc. - \$250
Carrie Lynn Butler (Carrie On Communication) - \$150
Twin Hills Software LLC - \$150
Colt Plumbing Specialties - \$100
Public Financial Management, Inc. - \$250

Mrs. Macek commended Mr. Schmotzer's efforts with this fund.

Mr. Schmotzer said that the General Fund will not owe anything to the Cafeteria Fund at the end of this school year. He also thanked all who have responded to this effort by donating.

9.8 Donations - Technology Fund

Recommendation: Resolved, that the Board of School Directors accept the following donations to the Technology Fund in the amount of \$1,435:

BAW Plastics Inc. - \$1,000
Penn Brewery - \$100
Mr. Harry Readshaw - \$100
Online Portal - \$235 (Melissa Prilla, anonymous, Susan Cook, Gary Paul, Tammy Grace, Michele Haney)

Ms. Brown thanked Dr. Peretin for her work on this Technology Fund.

10.0 Unfinished Business

10.1 Resignation - Special Representative - Southeastern Area Special School and Steel Center for Career and Technical Education

Recommendation: Resolved, that the Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. Elliot Rambo as Special Board Representative for Southeastern Area Special School and Steel Center for Career and Technical Education effective March 9, 2017.

Dr. Lutz asked the Board to reconsider their commitment for the Steel Center meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. He said that without a School Director being present, the District will not have a voice or a vote. He said that Baldwin-Whitehall School District represents 16.9% of student enrollment at Steel Center, so it is critical to have

representation. Dr. Lutz said that he will plan to attend the meetings, but reminded the Board that he will have no vote.

Ms. Brown said that if no Board Member can commit to being the representative, then she suggested that each Board Member take a turn going to the meetings.

Mr. Schmotzer said that this is a poor reflection on the Board. Mr. Schmotzer asked Mr. Weiss if the Board could elect a non-Board member representative. Mr. Schmotzer said that using a rotation schedule would not be beneficial because the Board Members would not have the history to make informed decisions.

Mr. Weiss said that School Code, Chapter 18, specifies that the Joint Operating Committee must have a Board Member from each sending District. Mr. Weiss said that another option for the District would be to have a Board Member and an Alternate Board Member attend the meetings.

Ms. Brown said that if a Board Member does not volunteer that she will move with the rotating schedule for Board Members.

Mr. Schmotzer suggested eliminating the Board Committees so that Board Members could use that time for other Board activities.

Motion by Mr. Schmotzer, with no Second to eliminate the three Board Committees.

There was no discussion

There was no public comment.

10.2 AIU Annual Convention - March 29, 2017

Dr. Lutz said that the first portion of the convention is about wellness activities, and the second portion of the convention is voting for the new AIU Board Members.

Mr. Schmotzer said that he would be attending this event.

11.0 New Business

11.1 New Business - Board

No new business.

12.0 Solicitor Report

12.1 Solicitor Report

No report.

13.0 Resident Comments

13.1 Name and address should be clearly stated.

John Evosevic, 5239 Fieldcrest Drive, spoke about kids playing outdoors, school trips, fundraising, bullying.

14.0 Matters of Information - Superintendent

14.1 Dr. Randal A. Lutz

Dr. Lutz said that Administration will move forward on the things brought forward from tonight's meeting.

15.0 Adjournment

15.1 On motion by Mr. Solenday, which was seconded by Mr. Schmotzer, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Recognized Visitors

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



Theanita Hampsay
Board Secretary

