

**BLAIRSVILLE-SALTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**102 School Lane**  
**Blairsville, Pennsylvania 15717**

**January 15, 2007**

The Board of Directors of the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District met for their Regular Voting Meeting on Monday, January 15, 2007, in the Multi-purpose Room at the Saltsburg Elementary School with the following members present:

Lance Alexander	Paul Bell
Linda Brown	Michael LaMantia
Daniel McGregor	George Rowley
Karen Shusko	Edward Smith
Mary Whitfield	

Arnie Nadonley, Ron Saffron, Eric Kocsis, Leigh Free and a group of citizens also attended the meeting.

Mr. Paul Bell, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the December 6, 2006 Reorganization Meeting, December 6, 2006 Regular Meeting and December 13, 2006 Special Voting Meeting were approved as mailed.

**Indiana County Technology Center Report** – Mr. Smith reported that the Board room at ICTC was dedicated to Bernie Smith. They talked about the senior citizen pass and will get a list of the schools in the county who will participate. The pass will go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ARIN Report** – Mr. Rowley reported that the meeting is tomorrow night. Last month they discussed the Golden Pass. It was unanimous that each member will take back to their school district and vote on by their Board. Each participating school will have the name of the District, the name of the Athletic Director and the telephone number.

**Legislative Report** – Ms. Whitfield reported that each Fall PSBA meets to go over the legislative platform. They can take five priority items to the platform. Each School Board gets to chose the five they would like to see go to the platform. Please contact Mary with the five items you choose before February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Standing Committee Reports** – No reports.

#### **Student Representative Reports**

Jared Korchock reported the following for Saltsburg Middle/High School:

- Students are starting the production of the musical, “Annie Get Your Gun.”
- Basketball teams are off to a strong start.
- Ground Hog Job Shadowing Day will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade held a basketball game. The younger students enjoyed watching.

#### **Citizens' Remarks**

John Hanna, 722 Market Street, Saltsburg, signed in to address the Board regarding air quality testing and tax increase. He stated that the Board will take action tonight on the gas and oil lease. Do we have any additional information on the location? Mr. Hanna asked to see the results of the recent air quality tests that were done. He stated that he attended the budget meeting and understands that the property tax will be increased by 5.33 mills which is the maximum allowable under Act 1. He understands that the district can meet its operating budget without increasing mills, however, the budget will be increased to prepare for consolidation. The last figures given to the Board for the building program was a figure of \$26 million which is an increase of 2.5 – 3 mills more than what is reflected in the preliminary budget. He stated the Board is attempting to circumvent the intention of Act 1 by raising taxes by the maximum allowable amount and circumvent public input.

Kathy McCormick, 285 Sawmill Road, Saltsburg, signed in to address the Board regarding varsity volleyball. She passed out copies of the Alle-Kiski News showing a picture of the Saltsburg members of the varsity girls' volleyball

team. They were not dressed in uniforms and the other teams in the paper were dressed in their uniforms. She stated that they were not dressed because there were not enough uniforms to give them. She stated that the Saltsburg girls were forced into a consolidated volleyball program. There were concerns because of the busing and now only seven girls from Saltsburg are on the volleyball team. She is asking to bring the team back to Saltsburg. There are 24 girls who want to play but cannot for one reason or another. The Saltsburg team has previously gone to championships.

**Remarks to Citizens**

Mr. McGregor stated that his understanding of the budget led him to the conclusion that there is one (1) mill in the budget for operation of the district and roughly 4 mills for consolidation. When it comes time, he will vote against the budget. He stated that one of the best recommendations by Dr. Mencer was hiring Mr. Kocsis because he is a very good business manager. He asked Mr. Kocsis if an increase was set aside for consolidation and he said yes.

Mr. Nadonley responded to Mr. Hanna’s remarks stating that the air quality test was done on Friday and when he gets the report he will give a copy to Mr. Hanna and the Board. He further responded that regarding the gas well, they are going to try to hide the gas well within the trees. The lease takes into consideration the aesthetics as well as practicality. Mr. LaMantia made sure there this is a one-well site only. The district does own the gas and mineral rights on the property. Mr. Nadonley will exchange telephone numbers with Mrs. McCormick and he will talk to her about the volleyball team.

**FINANCE**

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Whitfield to amend the *Finance* section of the agenda to include Checks #5100, 5115, and 5130 payable to D. LaMantia & Company, Incorporated. Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following Financial Report be approved and placed on file. Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

**(Financial Report available for public review in the Office of the Board Secretary)**

Mr. McGregor stated that because the solicitor and others have ruled that paying Mr. LaMantia is legal and as long as Mr. LaMantia abstains, he will be voting in favor of making payment to D. LaMantia and Company. He stated that he can continue to make a point by voting no for payment but it flies in the face of other matters. In an effort to show that instead of continuing to cause conflict, and as long as it is deemed legal and ethical and good business practices, he will vote yes to make payment.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Smith that the following Accounts Payable be paid. Smith, Whitfield, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Shusko and Brown voting yes to all with the exception of Cafeteria account checks #5100, 5115, 5130 to D. LaMantia & Co., to which they voted no. LaMantia voted yes to all accounts payable with the exception of Cafeteria account checks #5100, 5115, 5130 to D. LaMantia & Co., Inc. to which he abstained. Motion carried.

**(Bill list available for public review in the Office of the Board Secretary)**

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager, the Board of Directors hereby approves the request for exoneration from payment of the 2006 per capita taxes for the list of district residents who have met the parameters established by the Board of Directors, per attached lists. (Attachment #1) Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Shusko abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, the Board of Directors hereby approves the attached budgetary transfers. (Attachment #2) Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL**

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following conference requests:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Conference</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
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Bowen, Donna BMS	1. Approval to attend the PA Educational Technology Expo & Conference in Hershey, PA. Total cost to the district will be \$200 (\$50 meals; \$150 substitutes). Remainder of costs will be provided by grant money.	2/11-13/07
Bole, Heather SES	2. Approval to attend the PA Educational Technology Expo & Conference in Hershey, PA. Total cost to the district will be \$200 (\$50 meals; \$150 substitutes). Remainder of costs will be provided by grant money.	2/11-13/07
Isenberg, Stacie BMS	3. Approval to attend the PA Educational Technology Expo & Conference in Hershey, PA. All cost will be provided by grant money.	2/11-13/07
DeMarines, Valerie BMS	4. Approval to attend the PA Educational Technology Expo & Conference in Hershey, PA. Total cost to the district will be \$325 (\$175 registration; \$150 substitutes).	2/11/13/07
Henigin, Kimberly BMS	5. Approval to attend the PA Educational Technology Expo & Conference in Hershey, PA. Total cost to the district will be \$613 (\$175 registration; \$150 substitutes; \$288 lodging shared with Ms. DeMarines).	2/11-13/07
Brida, James Admin.	6. Approval to attend the annual PASBO conference at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Total cost to the district will be \$487.66 (\$322 registration; \$30 meals; \$135.66 lodging).	3/14-15/07
Free, Leigh Admin.	7. Approval to attend the annual PASBO conference at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Total cost to the district will be \$487.66 (\$322 registration; \$30 meals; \$135.66 lodging).	3/14-15/07
Kocsis, Eric Admin.	8. Approval to attend the annual PASBO conference at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Total cost to the district will be \$607.66 (\$322 registration; \$120 travel; \$30 meals; \$135.66 lodging).	3/14-15/07
Palazzi, Linsey SMHS	9. Approval to attend the National Science Teachers' Association annual conference in St. Louis, MO. Total cost to the district will be \$840 (\$180 registration; \$100 meals; \$225 substitutes; \$350 lodging). There are no transportation costs provided by the district.	3/29-4/1/07
Lopata, Kevin BHS	10. Approval to attend the National Science Teachers' Association annual conference in St. Louis, MO. All costs will be provided through the 720 Project grant.	3/28-4/1/07

Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following school trip requests:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Jake, Stephanie SMHS	1. Approval to accompany students to the Math Counts competition at UPJ campus. Total cost to the district will be \$322 (\$80 registration; \$242 transportation).	2/10/07
Jasper, Wendy Kunkle, Karen BMS/BHS	2. Approval to accompany students to the PJAS Regional and State Competitions at Slippery Rock University and Penn State University. Costs are not available at this time; will be determined by number of students participating.	2/24/07 5/13-15/07
Johnson, Lorrie Eckenroad, Dorinda Stiffler, Becky Antonacci, Diane SES	3. Approval to accompany 4 <sup>th</sup> grade students to the Carnegie Science Center. All costs to be provided by the PTA organization.	3/1/07
Spadafora, Jolene Droste, Heather SMHS	4. Approval to accompany students to the 2007 PA Science Olympiad Competition at California University. Total cost to the district will be \$618 (\$195 registration; \$273 transportation; \$150 substitutes).	3/28/07

Slezak, Susan Dunlap, Susan Kokolis, Jane Lukacs, Janet BES	5. Approval to accompany 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade students to Fort Ligonier. Total cost to the district will be \$75 for a substitute school nurse.	5/11/07
Droste, Heather Muir, Kathy SMHS	6. Approval to accompany AP Physics, Physics I and Math students to Physics and Math day at Kennywood Park. Total cost to the district will be \$1849 (\$1260 registration; \$360 transportation; \$225 substitutes).	5/15/07

Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following as professional substitutes for the 2006-2007 school year:

	Name	Residence	Certification
1.	Brady, Brian	Vandergrift	Business, Computer Technology
2.	Bush, Rebecca	Derry	Business, Computer Information Technologies

Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following as non-professional substitutes for the 2006-2007 school year:

	Name	Residence	Classification
1.	Auden, David	Saltsburg	Custodian/Maintenance

Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the transportation coordinator, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following as spare bus drivers for Smith Bus Company for the 2006-2007 school year:

	Name	Residence
1.	Fello, Jeff	Homer City
2.	Fleming, Ginger	Blairsville
3.	Roskosh, James	Ligonier

Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the extended uncompensated leave of absence for *Pamela Curnow*, instructional aide at the Blairsville Elementary School, for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year. Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Smith that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, the Board of Directors hereby approves the hiring of *Martin Kessler* for a two year (2006-07 & 2007-08) supplemental contract as the BSSD assistant girl's track coach. It is understood that all the necessary paperwork is on file with the district. The salary for the year 2006-07 will be \$2295 and for 2007-08 will be \$2353. Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Bell stated that before voting on Other Business, Mr. Nadonley has a recommendation for baseball issue. Mr. Bell read the resolution and asked for public comment. John Hanna asked if there was any further consideration on the coaches giving up payment of their salary. Mr. Nadonley stated that was a contract issue and the District cannot take a stand on that. That issue is up to the union. Mr. Saffron stated that if the coaches donated the salaries the Board can write that off the budget.

Motion by Mr. McGregor and seconded by Mr. Smith to amend the *Other Business* section of the agenda to include the following resolution:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following agreement with the baseball and golf booster organization due to the fact that the organization is having

difficulty making full payment of the amount due to the school district prior to the start of the season as previously agreed by the booster organization and the school district.

- It is understood that the total amount due to the school district for the operation of the 2007 baseball season is \$12,618.03.
- The booster organization will pay the outstanding amount to the School District in three (3) payments, as follows:
  - March 1, 2007 (1<sup>st</sup> payment) \$4,700.00
  - April 1, 2007 (2<sup>nd</sup> payment) \$4,700.00
  - May 1, 2007 (3<sup>rd</sup> payment) \$3,218.03
- This agreement applies only to the 2006-2007 baseball budget year.
- In future years the entire amount of the budget must be paid prior to the start of baseball practice.
- The Boosters should establish a plan for the 2007-2008 fiscal year for both golf and baseball for the payments to the School District as agreed in the past.
- The Boosters should establish the number of fundraisers to meet its goal.
- As of July 1, 2007, a monthly cash-on-hand report should be furnished to the School District to monitor the budget for the 2007-2008 budget year.

Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Alexander voting no. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that be it hereby resolved that the Board of Directors approves the scheduling of an additional voting meeting for February 12, 2007, at 6:45 p.m. in the Blairsville Middle/High School cafeteria, to approve the preliminary 2007-2008 budget and for general purposes. It is understood that the district will advertise in the usual publications and each building throughout the district. Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Alexander voting no. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Committee of the Board of School Directors appointed to conduct Student Disciplinary Hearings, upon reviewing the Adjudication and Recommended Disposition prepared by the Committee regarding Student No. 074836, a copy of which was provided to each Board Member prior to this meeting, and the record of such having been made available to the Board Members for review prior to this meeting, and after having had an opportunity to review the entire record of the Disciplinary Hearing involving such Student, the Board of Directors hereby approves and adopts the Adjudication of the Committee and the Recommended Disposition regarding Student No.074836 and hereby authorizes the Administration to fully implement the Adjudication and Disposition as therein stated. Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Alexander voting no. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, the Board of School Directors hereby approves entering into an oil and gas lease with Kriebel Resources Company pertaining to the District's property located in Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Oil and Gas Agreement, a copy of which has been provided to each Board member, and the Board of School Directors further authorizes the Superintendent and the appropriate Board officers to execute the Oil and Gas Agreement on behalf of the District. Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, LaMantia, Bell voting yes. Alexander voting no. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following agreement with the baseball and golf booster organization due to the fact that the organization is having difficulty making full payment of the amount due to the school district prior to the start of the season as previously agreed by the booster organization and the school district.

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- The Boosters should establish the number of fundraisers to meet its goal.

- As of July 1, 2007, a monthly cash-on-hand report should be furnished to the School District to monitor the budget for the 2007-2008 budget year.

Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, LaMantia voting yes. Alexander and Bell voting no. Motion carried.

**Report of the Superintendent** – Mr. Nadonley reported that the state auditors will be here the end of January. He has received the evaluation of the technology program. He will meet with the company and ask for an action plan. It is obvious that the District needs change. At the inservice today, he met with the staff and talked about himself, his expectations, lesson plans, technology, professional dress and chain of command. Mr. Nadonley complimented Mrs. Hanley and the teachers on setting up the inservice. Everything went very smooth.

Mr. LaMantia asked if the company who did the technology plan actually visited the school. Mr. Kocsis responded that they were at the schools for 3 or 4 days speaking with teachers, office personnel, aides, etc. Mr. LaMantia asked how or will the improvements affect the budget. Mr. Nadonley responded that he does not want to give a figure but yes, it will affect the budget. There is going to be a learning curve for a lot of people. The School Matrix needs to be addressed. The web site will be done by our people. We are not currently utilizing people in the technology program the way we should, like the aides. He does not want to offend people but we do need changes. Mr. LaMantia stated that he thinks the two areas that may need to be addressed quickly is the lack of documentation and backup. Mr. Nadonley stated that he is working with ARIN to do a back up for all school districts at a central area. Information can also be transferred between Blairsville and Saltsburg. Technology is not cheap but if used correctly there are a lot of good things happening with technology. There are some problems in organization and management. Mr. McGregor stated that he likes the idea of getting quotes on equipment. He asked Eric to watch the software agreements as they can get very costly. Mr. Smith stated that the software license is costing over \$100,000 a year and we need to see what direction we are going. Mr. McGregor pointed out that time can be better spent managing computers than building computers.

**Report of the Solicitor** – No report.

Mr. Bell announced there would be an Executive Session immediately following the meeting to discuss legal issues.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

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Paul A. Bell, Board President

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Leigh A. Free, Board Secretary