

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

November 20, 2006

The Board of Directors of the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District met for their Regular Monthly Voting Meeting on November 20, 2005, in the Cafeteria at the Saltsburg Middle/High School with the following members present:

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Paul Bell | Linda Brown |
| Dan McGregor | George Rowley |
| Karen Shusko | Ed Smith |
| Mary Whitfield | |

Lance Alexander and Michael LaMantia were absent.

Dr. Mencer, Eric Kocsis, Leigh Free, Ron Saffron, Jared Korchok, 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 October 16, 2006 Regular Monthly Voting Meeting were approved as mailed.

Indiana County Technology Center Report – Mr. Smith reported that the ICTC is starting a class before the end of the year that is coordinated with the challenge program through Congressman Murtha for ICTC students to be involved and is endorsed by congress. Since Bernie Smith passed away and he was very involved in ICTC in the beginning, the Board is going to name the boardroom after him in his honor. His family will be invited to the activity.

ARIN Report – Mr. Rowley reported that the last meeting was business as usual. He talked with Dr. Coad and asked to have the Golden Pass put on the agenda for Board discussion.

Legislative Report – No report.

Standing Committee Reports – No report.

Student Representative Reports

Jared Korchock reported the following for Saltsburg:

- Winter sports, basketball, cheerleading, wrestling, are starting practice.
- Quiz Bowl doing well and close to finals.
- Students are donating previously used prom dresses to “Cinderella’s Closet” for purchase by students.
- The school play was held last Thursday and Friday. The name of the play was “The Aliens Are Coming, The Aliens Are Coming.”
- The door decorating contest has started.
- The Battle of the Classes is coming up on Tuesday.
- In October, the Board offered a trip to the Student Leadership Program which Jared attended. He stated that he appreciates the opportunity the Board offered him. He went last year and it provides a good opportunity to talk with other students from other schools. Attended a session on “Cell Phone Use In Schools.

Citizens’ Remarks

John Hanna, 722 Market Street, Saltsburg, signed in to address the Board regarding the gas well and legal representation. He asked the Solicitor if the school district is in violation of the Right-to-Know Act. He has been asking where is the location of the gas well and which company is doing this well with no response. He stated that he understands the school district has retained outside legal services for the law suit file against the District by the SOS. Why hasn’t the public been notified?

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2006

Lloyd Robinson, 17750 SR 286 West, Saltsburg, signed in to address the Board regarding sick leave, etc. At last meeting he heard about absenteeism of teachers and staff. He read in the paper tht BHS has a program to boost attendance of students. The school district should do the same thing for teachers. He is not against the teachers but is against the policy. The school district has talked about the Board giving the teacher too much in the way of salary and benefits. He talked to Mr. Kocsis at the Act 1 meeting and was told the teachers make between \$60,000 and \$70,000 per year with salaries and benefits. Yet the Board continues to increase wages.

Remarks to Citizens

Mr. Saffron reported that the company that approached the school district is Kreibel Gas Company and they have made a proposal to the school district about leasing the district's gas on the Saltsburg property. The Board has discussed the proposal in executive session. There has not been any agreement. Kreibel has proposed a location. Some of the Board members are to meet with Kreibel and that could be a deal breaker. As far as the additional legal services, the Board did not retain these legal services. The insurance carrier is providing those services. The school district is obligated to pay the deductible of \$10,000 and the insurance will pay \$100,000.

Mr. Smith stated that he was very disappointed when the Act 1 meeting was held the other evening and there were only three people in attendance. The five members of the Local Tax Commision should be applauded for their work. A recommendation will be made by the Commission on December 6, 2007, at the board meeting. This is the beginning. The wages, hospitalization and pension are going up \$700,000 which leaves the district \$500,000 in the red. Roughly a five mill increase. He stated he applauds and supports the teachers but still says that everyone has to pay their share. The pension is so far out of whack and it is not the teachers fault, but the legislators fault. Even if we consolidate and do away with 9.5 teachers, that is not the end. Everyone on the Board is very concerned.

Mr. McGregor stated that other Board members have also spoke about the cost facing the Board. He stated that he applauds the people who negotiated the last teacher's contract because it could have been far worse. They were very effective negotiators. Mr. McGregor commended the SES cheerleaders on their success at competition. The cheerleaders are coached by Tracy Richards, Samantha Corridoni and Dee Carr which are all volunteers. In the last month the cheerleaders won four consecutive first place awards. They were Grand Champions for the entire competition which consisted of children their own age up to 8th grade. This speaks to the type of volunteers we have in Saltsburg.

Linda Brown stated that when they went to Johnstown and competed against Richland, SES won and Richland always wins.

Mr. McGregor stated that not too long ago by a 3-6 decision, the Board looked at a proposal as far as the current three region plan. The current voting structure violates the law, therefore, the School District needs to submit a plan for voting. Mr. McGregor read the opinion and order of the court. SOS has been granted some relief because the Judge has asked for alternatives to the current three region plan. There was reference made to cultural differences. The most burning question in Saltsburg is what are the cultural differences. Some people have reported instances of hazing in Blairsville. Not sure if this is a cultural difference but he hasn't heard of hazing in Saltsburg. This will be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Saffron stated that first of all there was not a decision in favor of SOS. They did not file a petition asking court to look at this, this was a constitutional issue. The Judge said that anyone involved in Section 303 can submit a petition for the reorganization of the school district election districts. 173 electors need to submit a petition of a plan before December 28th. They must be registered voters and can be from Blairsville of Saltsburg. The Board of Directors also has the right to submit a plan.

FINANCE

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Smith to amend the Finance section of the agenda to include cafeteria check #5100 in the resolutions to ratify and approve the payment of bills. Shusko, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, 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. Shusko, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Smith that the following Accounts Payable be paid. Rowley, Smith, Whitfield, Bell voting yes. Shusko, McGregor, Brown voting yes to all accounts payable with the exception of Cafeteria account check #5100. Motion carried for all accounts payable with the exception of Cafeteria account check #5100 which was not approved.

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

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager, the Board of Directors hereby approves the budget transfer as presented. (Attachment #1) Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager, the Board of Directors hereby expresses appreciation for services of the Local Tax Commission and discharges the commission from its responsibility once the recommendation has been presented; furthermore the commission will be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses in the discharge of their duties, with valid receipts. Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager, the Board of Directors hereby requires that the Local Tax Commission return, to the Board, all records, including receipts, tapes, minutes of meetings and written communications. These records will be available for public inspection, in the business office, during regular business hours of the school district. Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the administration to make the Local Tax Commission recommendation available to all interested persons, upon request, within the policy guidelines consistent with public records adopted previously by the Board of Directors. Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rowley to amend the *Personnel* section of the agenda to include the name of Jill Elkin as a part-time (3 ¾ hour) instructional aide. Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

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

| Name | Activity | Dates |
|--|--|----------|
| Muir, Kathy Droste, Heather Highburger, Sharon SMHS | 1. Approval to accompany the senior class to a Pittsburg Penguins Game. There will be no cost to the district. | 12/15/06 |
| Bowen, Donna Popp, Fred Rovison, Brenda Stuchal, Scott Joyce, Kim BMS | 2. Approval for the 6 th grade students to Idlewild Park for an Outdoor Classroom – Math in Motion. Total cost to the district will be \$477 (\$402 transportation; \$75 substitute). | 5/24/07 |

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

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Whitfield 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. | Aion, Justin | Saltsburg | Math |
| 2. | Newcamp, Matthew | Homer City | Biology |

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

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Whitfield 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 |
|----|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 3. | Henigin, Kimberly | Indiana | Instructional Aide |

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

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the hiring of *Jill Elkin* as a part-time (3¼ hour) instructional aide, with initial placement in a special education classroom at Blairsville Middle School, at the salary of \$7.86 per hour and official date of hire as December 7, 2006. Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby approves the hiring of *Melinda Street* as a part-time custodian for Blairsville Middle School at a beginning salary of \$9.80 per hour and an official date of hire as December 7, 2006. Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

OTHER

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Smith that the Board of Directors will hold a Special Voting Meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Cafeteria and the Blairsville Middle/High School. The purpose of the meeting will be to hire a Superintendent and also other business. Brown, Whitfield, Rowley, Smith, McGregor, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Report of the Superintendent – Dr. Mencer reported on the School District’s updated web site. The past Board agendas are available on the web site. Beginning in January, the agenda will be available on the web site at 4:00 pm. Policies are in the process of being put on and the minutes will be put on in January.

Report of the Solicitor – No report.

Mr. Bell announced there would be an executive session following the meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Paul A. Bell, Board President

Leigh A. Free, Board Secretary