

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

October 16, 2006

The Board of Directors of the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District met for a Regular Monthly Voting Meeting on October 16, 2006, in the Cafeteria at the Blairsville Middle/High School with the following members present:

Lance Alexander	Paul Bell
Linda Brown	Michael LaMantia
Dan McGregor	George Rowley
Ed Smith	Mary Whitfield

Karen Shusko was absent.

Dr. Mencer, Theresa Hanley, Eric Kocsis, Ron Saffron, Leigh Free, and a group of citizens also attended the meeting.

Mr. Paul Bell, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. The minutes of the September 11, 2006, Special Voting Meeting and September 18, 2006, Regular Board Meeting were approved as mailed.

Indiana County Technology Center Report – Mr. Smith reported that the adult classes are going well. ICTC is expanding the adult courses in the evening.

ARIN Report – Mr. Rowley reported that this month's meeting will be held tomorrow night. Last month was normal business. The diesel fuel has been locked in at \$2.2255/gallon which is about a \$6,500 savings a year by participating in the consortium at the IU. Although we do not use gasoline, those prices were locked in at \$2.05/gallon from 500 to 2,999 gallons, \$1.99 from 3,000 to 5,999 gallons, and \$1.97 over 6,000 gallons.

Legislative Report – Ms. Whitfield reported there is strong support to move the start of the school year after Labor Day. The Governor's proposal on continuing education for teachers will soon come out in a report.

Standing Committee Reports – No reports.

Student Representative Reports – No reports.

Citizens' Remarks

Bev Carnese, Saltsburg resident, signed in to address the Board regarding finances and consolidation.

Tim Chelsted, Saltsburg resident, signed in to address the Board regarding assistant varsity wrestling coach position.

Scott Miller, Saltsburg resident, signed in to address the Board regarding the assistant varsity wrestling coach position.

Joseph Henigin, Blairsville resident, signed in to address the Board regarding the Local Tax Commission.

John Hanna, Saltsburg resident, signed in to address the Board regarding the gas well and sports field.

Remarks to Citizens

Mr. Saffron responded to Ms. Carnese's question regarding the Chestnut Ridge Golf Land tax assessment indicating there has been an appeal filed by the company before the Board of Assessment Appeals. They are asking that their assessment be reduced. The first step is for the Board of Assessment Appeals to hear the appeal and make a determination. At some point a hearing will be scheduled before a Judge who will make a decision. The petition that was filed is public record and is filed in the Prothonotary's Office. Mr. Saffron stated that he has not said

anything about a millage increase in reference to consolidation. In regard to the gas lease, the company did send a proposal lease but Mr. Saffron indicated that he has not had an opportunity to review the lease.

Dr. Mencer stated that he will be setting up a meeting with the architect and principals on October 26th so they can voice their concerns and then the architect can go back and make the necessary changes which then can be brought to the Board. As far as what happened with the J.V. Coach, the position was advertised and no applications were received for the position. The position was advertised a second time and there was an applicant. The application was brought to his office and thought it was intended for placement on the agenda. An individual was appointed to the position. The Board is trying to correct the situation. Dr. Mencer indicated he has talked to Mr. Chelsted about the mistake and has a couple ideas to discuss with the Board.

Mr. Smith stated that regarding the coaching position, he did not try to master mind a plan to get rid of Mr. Chelsted. He stated he saw Mr. Moore running one day and he mentioned he saw there was an opening and was going to apply for it. There was discussion between Mr. Bell and Mr. Chelsted about proper procedure for the application process. Mr. Bell stated that Mr. Chelsted could come up after the meeting to discuss the matter with him but the Board cannot change a legal vote.

Mr. Bell responded to Ms. Carnese's remark about using LaMantia Produce to provide produce to the cafeteria. He explained that generally there are suppliers the district uses on a regular basis for their produce. LaMantia is used on an as-needed basis. The company is convenient and nearby and the produce is delivered quickly when needed. He indicated he is having a hard time understanding how the wellness policy is connected with Mr. LaMantia. LaMantia Produce has been serving the District for four generations.

Mr. Smith stated that LaMantia Produce will go on without our business. The public does not realize how much free produce the company gives the District.

Dr. Mencer responded to Mr. Hanna's remark concerning Saltsburg having a regulation field and that the football team could use that field and the track is in good shape. Although Saltsburg has a regulation field the track is a 330 yard track instead of a 400 meter track and is a cinder track. All the other schools in the area have all-weather tracks, therefore, those schools are where the track events will be held.

Mr. Saffron reiterated his stand on the conflict of interest with LaMantia Produce and reminded the public that there was a letter sent to the Ethics Commission to which they responded that there is no problem with purchasing from LaMantia Produce as long as Mr. LaMantia abstains from voting on payment to his company. Mr. Brida has been asked if there is a viable alternative for immediate deliveries and he does not know of one.

Mr. Rowley brought up the fact that when Mr. LaMantia got on the Board, the format of the agenda was changed to break out the check payable to LaMantia Produce so that Mr. LaMantia could abstain from the vote without any error or misunderstanding.

Mr. McGregor verified the proposed cost of the consolidation as being \$27,137,073 as the total cost with \$9,266,684 being the reimbursable amount, leaving \$17,870,389 as the cost to the taxpayers. He also asked the value of a mill which Mr. Koscis responded is \$79,000. He also verified that Ms. Carnese's figure of 100 mills over 10 years is a 10 mill increase per year. He stated that consolidation will save future generations money but not the present generation. Dr. Mencer responded that the savings will occur by consolidating and saving money on staff, utilities, sports, etc. Mr. McGregor stated that if he understood Mr. Chelsted, the application that took precedence over his did not go through the A.D.'s office. Dr. Mencer indicated that was correct but if you look at it, there was no application from Mr. Chelsted at that time.

Mr. McGregor read a prepared statement regarding the resolution addressing the breakdown of the three voting regions of the district. He indicated he did not support the current system of regions within the district, therefore, he would not vote yes to approve this resolution. He indicated he could live with a 2 member per region and three at large plan but the existing plan is not fair to Saltsburg.

Mr. Bell talked about the history of how the 3-3-3 plan came about. There was a jointure of Burrell and Blairsville and then Saltsburg was added which resulted in three members from each region. He stated that there are always equity issues between the high schools. With the consolidation of high schools, those issues will no longer be a

problem. All students will have the same opportunities. He indicated that when you talk with the students there is not the level of animosity that there is with the parents. When we have a unified school district, there will not be a problem with having an at-large voting region. Mr. Bell stated that he did not feel it is worth taking a chance that Saltsburg has no representation on the Board.

FINANCE

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Whitfield to amend the *Finance* section of the agenda to include cafeteria checks #5053 and #5081 for payment to D. LaMantia & Company. Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, Smith, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following Financial Report be approved and placed on file. Rowley, Alexander, LaMantia, 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. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that the following Accounts Payable be paid. Rowley, Alexander, Smith, Whitfield, Bell voting yes. McGregor and Brown voting yes to all accounts payable with the exception of Cafeteria account checks #5053 and #5081 to D. LaMantia & Co., Inc. to which they voted no. LaMantia voted yes to all accounts payable with the exception of Cafeteria account checks #5053 and #5081 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 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	1. Approval to accompany the senior class to a Pittsburgh Penguins Game.	12/15/06

Droste, Heather Highberger, Sharon SMHS	There will be no cost to the district.	
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