

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

September 18, 2006

The Board of Directors of the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District met for their Regular Voting Meeting on Monday, September 18, 2006, 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	Mary Whitfield

Edward Smith was absent.

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

Mr. Paul Bell, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm. The minutes of the July 17, 2006, Regular Meeting and August 21, 2006 Regular Meeting were approved as mailed.

Indiana County Technology Center Report – No report.

ARIN Report – Mr. Rowley reported that the meeting will be held tomorrow night. Last month was business as usual; hiring of new teachers because of retirements.

Legislative Report – Ms. Whitfield reported on House Bill 2616 regarding requirements for Cyber schools. They are looking at cyber schools being funded through PDE instead of school district. Also, the accountability standards need to include cyber schools.

Standing Committee Report – Mr. Alexander reported that the Policy Committee held a meeting at 6:40 pm and discussed Policy #006 pertaining to the guidelines for school board meetings. The Committee recommends revisions in that policy as follows:

- Revise 5.2 as follows: The agenda for the monthly business meeting shall be developed by the Superintendent. The Board President or three other board members may ask that an item be placed on the workshop agenda. There is no change from what we have been doing but now the policy will reflect what we have been doing.
- Delete item 8.3 – incur a temporary debt or borrow money upon an obligation
- Delete item 8.4 – incur a temporary debt to meet an emergency or catastrophe
- Add 8.24 to read: incur a temporary debt or borrow money upon an obligation; including, but not limited to, the borrowing of money on bonds or notes. Our policy was different than the school code. We can be more restrictive but not less restrictive than the school code, therefore, the Committee would like to change the wording to reflect the wording of the school code.
- Add 8.25 to read: incur a temporary debt to meet an emergency or catastrophe;

Student Representative Reports

Abbey Summerson, Saltsburg Junior representative, reported the following to the Board:

- Students at SHS settled into the school year very well.
- Senior high football team is 0-3.
- The newly consolidated volleyball team is going well with the exception of some bus problems which have been worked out.
- The Sadie Hawkins Dance will be coming up.

Citizens' Remarks

Jill Mountain, Saltsburg resident & President of the ESPA, signed in to address the Board concerning the hiring of substitutes.

John Hanna, Saltsburg resident, signed in to address the Board regarding consolidation and policy.

Rev. Dan Satler, Saltsburg resident, signed in to address the Board regarding a Code of Conduct for Board members.

Coleen Summerson, Saltsburg resident, signed in to address the Board regarding consolidation.

Kathy McCormick, Saltsburg resident, signed in to address the Board regarding consolidation and an apology.

Remarks to Citizens

Mr. McGregor asked about the policy regarding lunches on field trips and not allowed to stop for fast food. His question was did we inform the community. Dr. Mencer responded that he asked the principals to let their people know. Mr. McGregor stated that he was not aware that we voted on this policy. Dr. Mencer responded that this policy was a result of meeting with Jim Brida during the budget meeting. At that time it was the consensus of the Board to implement the policy. The policy keeps things in line with the nutrition policy. Stopping at a fast food restaurant during a field trip violates federal policy.

Mr. McGregor asked everyone to look at the August issue of the PSBA Bulletin. The articles are devoted to older buildings and renovating them. You will find research supporting renovation of buildings and small community schools.

Dr. Mencer reported that all Pennsylvania schools must meet AYP. 45% of the student body must achieve proficiency in math and 54% proficiency in reading. He went online and looked at cyber schools. There are eight (8) cyber schools represented in our district. Six of the eight are not making AYP. There are five steps that schools go through before the State becomes highly involved in their operations. The public stated at one time that cyber schools offer post-secondary credits for curriculum. After reviewing the BEC, it indicates that cyber schools are not permitted to award post-secondary credits. Mr. LaMantia asked if public schools can award college credits and Dr. Mencer's response was yes. Another concern that was voiced is that cyber schools do not require criminal records search. This could be a potential problem with the internet predators out there.

FINANCE

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Whitfield to amend the *Finance* section of the agenda to include cafeteria check #5053 in the approval of bills to D. LaMantia and Company Incorporated.

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Alexander that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following Financial Report be approved and placed on file.

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

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Alexander that the following Accounts Payable be paid. Alexander, Whitfield, Rowley, Bell voting yes. McGregor, Brown, Shusko voting no. LaMantia voted yes to all accounts payable with the exception of Cafeteria account check #5053 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. Alexander that based upon the recommendation of the Business Manager, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals for exoneration from payment of 2005 Per Capita Taxes, having met all the parameters established by the Board of Directors:

Jillian Gundy – Loyalhanna Township

Mary E. Stuller – Saltsburg Boro

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

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Mr. Alexander that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the administration to enter into an agreement with Dr. William Hartman to serve as a consultant to *The Taxpayer Relief Act* task force at a fee not to exceed \$2000. Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Rowley to amend the *Personnel* section of the agenda to include the name of Jennifer Nadzadi as a member of the Local Tax Commission. Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the following conference requests:

Name	Activity	Dates
Palazzi, Linsey SMHS	Approval to attend the National Association of Biology Teachers Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Total cost to the district will be \$419 (\$150 registration; \$50 meals; \$150 substitutes; \$69 lodging). Transportation costs to be paid by Ms. Palazzi.	10/11-14/06
Himes, Kathy Admin.	Approval to attend the annual Pennsylvania Association of Education Office Professionals at Penn State. Total cost to the district will be \$620 (\$295 registration; \$150 travel; \$25 meals; \$150 lodging).	4/18-20/2007
Powell, Nancy Admin.	Approval to attend the annual Pennsylvania Association of Education Office Professionals at Penn State. Total cost to the district will be \$470 (\$295 registration; \$25 meals; \$150 lodging).	4/18-20/2007

Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the following school trip requests:

Name	Activity	Dates
Brady, John BHS	Approval to accompany the <i>The Claw</i> staff to the annual journalism workshop at IUP. Total cost to the district will be \$265 (\$90 registration; \$100 transportation; \$75 substitute).	9/29/06
DeMarines, Valerie Forte, John BMS	Approval to accompany 7 th and 8 th grade students to compete at the Indiana County Junior High Envirothon at Yellow Creek State Park. Total cost to the district will be \$426 (\$276 transportation; \$150 substitutes).	10/5/06
Spadafora, Jolene Droste, Heather SMHS	Approval to accompany chemistry and physics students to the annual Faraday Lecture at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland. Total cost to the district will be \$312 (\$162 transportation; \$150 substitutes).	10/25/06
Jake, Stephanie SES/SMHS Kunkle, Karen BES/BMS/BHS	Approval to accompany the district gifted support students the Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve in Pittsburgh. Total cost to the district will be \$400 for transportation.	10/26/06
Lind, Mary Ann Pontillo, Elaine DelVecchio, Frank SMHS	Approval to accompany Art, Tech & FACS students Falling Water in Ohio Pyle. Total cost to the district will be \$465 (\$240 transportation; \$225 substitutes).	10/27/06
Highberger, Sharon SMHS Lentz, Kirk BHS	Approval to accompany the Spanish III & IV students to a ballet performance at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland. Total cost to the district will be \$425 (\$275 transportation; \$150 substitutes).	11/3/06
Hanlon, Kathleen SMHS	Approval to accompany the Saltsburg French III students to Fox Chapel Area High School for a performance of <i>Moliere's Tartuffe</i> . Total cost to the district will be \$223 (\$148 transportation; \$75 substitute).	11/6/06

Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the following as professional substitutes for the 2006-2007 school year:

Name	Residence	Certification
Angel, Cheryl	Indiana	Math
Bond, Sarah	Indiana	Elementary
Buckles, Jennifer	Latrobe	Health & PE
Caldwell, Deborah	Armagh	Social Studies
Cipriani, Virginia	Apollo	Business Education
Losco, Bethany	Blairsville	Elementary
Pisarcik, Danette	Homer City	Spanish
Rohrbaugh, Thomas	Latrobe	English
Smith, Danielle	Clune	Elementary
Witmer, Janeen	Black Lick	Elementary
Wray, Charis	Saltsburg	Elementary

Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the following as non-professional substitutes for the 2006-2007 school year:

Name	Residence	Classification
Amy Fong	Blairsville	Secretary, Aide
Ginamarie Bruce	Saltsburg	Secretary, Noon-hour, Aide, Cafeteria
Sharon Smith	Blairsville	Secr., Nhr, Aide, Café, Maintenance, Cust.
Patricia Tauriello	Blairsville	Secretary, Aide

Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the following two-year contracted supplemental positions for 2006-2007 & 2007-2008:

		2006-07	2007-08
Linda Lasher	Saltsburg Jr. High Girl's Volleyball Coach	\$2219	\$2275
Brandy Lasher	Saltsburg Jr. High Girl's Volleyball Assistant Coach	\$2219	\$2275
Randall Thorn	Blairsville Musical Music Director	\$2327	\$2386
Helen Faith	Blairsville 10 th Grade Class Advisor	\$664	\$680
Amanda McAnulty	Blairsville Yearbook Advisor	\$3024	\$3100

Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the request of *Maureen Harris*, English teacher at Saltsburg Middle/High School, for leave without pay under the provisions of Article XIII, Leaves, Paragraph C, with an effective commencement date and return to work date to be provided to the District by the employee, provided, however, that such unpaid leave shall not exceed twelve (12) months, as provided for under Article XIII, paragraph C. Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the unpaid leave of absence request of *Tami Sieminski* for two week, with a return to work date of October 23, 2006. It is understood that Ms. Sieminski will use any accumulated personal days before the uncompensated leave begins. Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the hiring of *Michelle Clark* as noon-hour supervisor for Saltsburg Elementary School at a starting rate of \$6.50 per hour, effective September 5, 2006. Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, 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 Board of Directors hereby approves the hiring of *Kristin Shearer* as noon-hour

supervisor for Saltsburg Elementary School at a starting rate of \$6.50 per hour, effective September 5, 2006. Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

POLICY

Mr. Bell read the changes in Policy #006. He asked if there were any comments on the change to the policy. Ms. Joanne Machak, Saltsburg resident, responded that she thought it was real low to approve this policy when they (the Board) are just covering their butts. Kathy McCormick, Saltsburg resident, asked if this meant that a Blairsville director would lose a spot and a Saltsburg director would go in for a 5-4 vote. John Hanna, Saltsburg resident, stated that he hoped someone would have enough integrity to say this is a ploy. Mr. Alexander tried to explain the reason for the change and that since the Board is at such a critical point with securing bonds and since the rates change so suddenly, a vote could be taken and passed if someone was absent. Mr. McGregor stated that over the years he has asked for the change in policy to eliminate the super majority. He stated that when we looked at renovating SES, we had a 5-4 vote and was told by the solicitor that we have to have a 6-3 vote because of our policy. There was discussion between the Board and Mr. Saffron as to the discussion at a prior meeting regarding this topic.

Motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Rowley to amend the *Policy* section of the agenda to include the following resolution:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, the Board of Directors hereby approve the revisions to Policy No. 006, Section: 000 School Board, Title: Meetings, as follows:

- Revise 5.2 as follows: The agenda for the monthly business meeting shall be developed by the Superintendent. The Board President or three other board members may ask that an item be placed on the workshop agenda.
- Delete item 8.3 – incur a temporary debt or borrow money upon an obligation
- Delete item 8.4 – incur a temporary debt to meet an emergency or catastrophe
- Add 8.24 to read: incur a temporary debt or borrow money upon an obligation; including, but not limited to, the borrowing of money on bonds or notes.
The Local Government Unit Debt Act, 53 pa.C.S.A. Section 8001, et seq. S C 634, 640
- Add 8.25 to read: incur a temporary debt to meet an emergency or catastrophe;
The Local Government Unit Debt Act, 53 Pa.C.S.A. Section 8001, et seq. S C 636

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The Local Government Unit Debt Act, 53 pa.C.S.A. Section 8001, et seq. S C 634, 640
- Add 8.25 to read: incur a temporary debt to meet an emergency or catastrophe;
The Local Government Unit Debt Act, 53 Pa.C.S.A. Section 8001, et seq. S C 636

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Rowley and seconded by Ms. Whitfield that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Directors hereby appoints *Dr. Kenneth Gibson* of UPMC Partners in Health in Delmont, as school physician at a fee of \$10 per/physical examination, for the 2006-2007 school year. Alexander, LaMantia, McGregor, Brown, Whitfield, Shusko, Rowley, Bell voting yes. Motion carried.

Report of the Superintendent – Dr. Mencer reported that he has been in discussions with Mr. Greer Hayden, Architect for the proposed renovation and suggested he bring to the Board, a timeline establishing how this project

will work out over the next several years. A meeting has been tentatively set for October 5, 2006, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held in Blairsville.

Report of the Solicitor – No report.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Paul A. Bell, Board President

Leigh A. Free, Board Secretary