

BLAIRSVILLE-SALTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT
102 School Lane
Blairsville, PA 15717
724-459-5500
May 21, 2008

Final Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Meditation
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the minutes of the April 16, 2008, Regular Meeting
5. Indiana County Technology Center Report - Mr. M. Smith
6. ARIN Report – Mr. Rowley
7. Legislative Report – Mr. M. Smith
8. Standing Committee Report
9. State/Federal Programs Update – Mrs. Hanley
10. Student Representatives Report
11. Remarks
 - a. Citizens' Remarks
 - b. Remarks to Citizens

12. Items of Business Regarding Finance:

Motion to approve and/or ratify action on School Finance items 12a through 12h, in accordance with provisions of the Public School Code and Series 600 of the District Policy Manual, as hereinafter described:

- a. Financial Reports – The Board of Director at this time shall consider ratification/approval of current School District financial reports including the treasurer's report, all of which have been provided the Board in advance of tonight's meeting and will be included in the official Minutes of this meeting.
- b. Payment of Bills – The Board shall consider ratification/approval of all the bills paid from the school district funds since the last regular meeting of the Board of Directors on April 16, 2008, with the exception of check #5400 to D. LaMantia and Company Incorporated. Bill listings were provided to the Board prior to tonight's meeting and will be included in the official Minutes of this meeting.
- c. Payment of Bills – The Board of Directors shall consider ratification/approval of check #5400 to D. LaMantia and Company Incorporated.
- d. The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the administration to advertise to bid for regular and diesel fuel for the 2008-2009 school year.
- e. The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the administration to advertise to bid milk and bread products for the 2008-2009 school year.
- f. The Board of Directors hereby approves the adoption of the proposed budget for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$28,833,411. It is understood that the proposed millage rate for Indiana County will be 122.97 mills and for Westmoreland County will be 116.58 mills. The proposed budget reflects a 2.22 mills increase for Indiana County and a .64

mills increase for Westmoreland County. The proposed budget will be available for public review, in the business office, during regular business hours, until final vote on June 18, 2008.

- g. The Board of Directors hereby approves the adoption of the proposed budget for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$28,833,411. It is understood that the proposed millage rate for Indiana County will be 126.34 mills and for Westmoreland County will be 119.77 mills. The proposed budget reflects a 5.59 mills increase for Indiana County and a 3.83 mills increase for Westmoreland County. The proposed budget will be available for public review, in the business office, during regular business hours, until final vote on June 18, 2008.
- h. The Board of Directors hereby approves the attached list of capital reserve projects for the 2008-2009 school year.

For Board Action by Roll Call Vote on Finance Items 12a through 12h.

13. Items of Business Regarding Curriculum:

Motion to approve Items of Business Regarding Curriculum 13a through 13b in accordance with provisions of the Public School Code and Series 300, 400 and 500 of the District Policy Manual, as hereinafter described:

- a. The Board of Directors hereby approves the attached tentative list of 2008 Blairsville High School graduates.
- b. The Board of Directors hereby approves the attached tentative list of 2008 Saltsburg Middle/High School graduates.

For Board Action by Roll Call Vote on Items of Business Regarding Curriculum 13a through 13b.

14. Items of Business Regarding Personnel:

Motion to approve Personnel items 14a through 14j in accordance with provisions of the Public School Code and Series 300, 400 and 500 of the District Policy Manual, as hereinafter described:

- a. The Board of Directors hereby approves the following conference/workshop requests (copies of all requests are attached for information purposes):

Name	Activity	Dates
Kaylor, Gregory BHS	1. Approval to attend the 16 th Annual Model Schools Conference in Orlando, FL. All costs to be paid from the Project 720 funds.	6/22-26/08
Kaylor, Trisha BHS	2. Approval to attend the 16 th Annual Model Schools Conference in Orlando, FL. All costs to be paid from the Project 720 funds.	6/22-26/08
Lopata, Kevin BHS	3. Approval to attend the National Educational Computing Conference in San Antonio, TX. All costs to be paid from CFF grant funds.	6/28-7/2/08
Kocsis, Eric Admin	4. Approval to attend the 2008 Local Government Conference in Hershey. \$399 registration; \$172 travel; \$70 meals; \$497.28 lodging. Total \$1,138.28	7/14-15/08

- b. The Board of Directors hereby approves the following school trip requests (copies of all field trip requests are attached for information purposes):

Building/Grade	Activity	Cost	Date(s)
BHS/VIP Club	1. Chestnut Ridge for Drug Free Choice	0	5/22/08
BHS Government	2. Senator Don White's Student Government Seminar	\$75	5/22/08
BHS/VIP Club	3. Year end event at Mohawk Lanes	\$1102	5/27/08

BES/Student Leaders	4. Student Leadership Workshop at IUP	\$203	5/29/08
BES/5 th Grade	5. Promotion Day Activity	\$214.50	6/2/08

c. The Board of Directors hereby approves the following individuals as professional substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year:

	Name	Residence	Certification
1.	Sandrock, Casey	Tionesta	Social Studies
2.	Spehar, Kristen	Latrobe	Elementary
3.	Westrick, Julie	Homer City	Elementary, Special Education
4.	Nearhood, Laura	Altoona	Elementary
5.	Peters, Jeffrey	Indiana	Health & PE
6.	Stouffer, Lisa	New Alexandria	Elementary, Reading Specialist

d. The Board of Directors hereby approves the following non-professional substitutes for the 2007-2008 school year:

	Name	Residence	Classification
1.	Carr, Brittney	Saltsburg	Custodian – Summer Help
2.	Crevak, Daniel	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
3.	Fritz, Caleb	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
4.	Knepsha, John	Saltsburg	Custodian – Summer Help
5.	LaMantia, Chris	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
6.	LaMantia, Kevin	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
7.	Mazzoni, Erin	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
8.	Moore, Matthew	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
9.	Moore, William	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
10.	Ramsden, Tiffany	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
11.	Raypush, Wendy	Saltsburg	Custodian – Summer Help
12.	Rellick, Craig	Blairsville	Custodian – Summer Help
13.	Sommerson, Alex	Saltsburg	Custodian – Summer Help
14.	Ulisse, Arron	Saltsburg	Custodian – Summer Help
15.	Peppler, James	Saltsburg	Custodian – Summer Help

e. The Board of Directors hereby approves the following spare bus drivers and aides for the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District as employees of Smith Bus Company and contingent upon receipt of all required documentation according to Board Policy #817.

	Name	Residence
1.	Fulton, Melinda	Clarksburg
2.		

f. The Board of Directors hereby approves the following list of supplemental one-year contracts for the 2008-2009 school year:

	Position	Candidate
1.	Saltsburg 4 th Assistant Football Coach	Clint Weimer
2.	BHS Yearbook Advisor	Amanda McAnulty
3.	SMHS Newspaper Advisor	Geoffrey Dixon
4.	Saltsburg 2 nd Assistant Football Coach	Jerry Moore
5.	BHS Newspaper Advisor	John Brady
6.	BHS English Department Chairperson	John Brady
7.	BSSD Wrestling JV Coach	William Moore
8.	BHS Girl's Junior High Basketball Coach	Todd McGee
9.	BSSD Baseball Assistant Coach	Jaison Blystone
10.	BHS Junior High Volleyball Coach	James Buckles
11.	SMHS Musical Co-Director	Joyce Greece
12.	SMHS Drama Co-Director	Joyce Greece

13.	SMHS Musical Co-Director	Matthew Corridoni
14.	SMHS Drama Co-Director	Matthew Corridoni

- g. The Board of Directors hereby approves the lateral transfer for *Susan Piper* from part-time guidance secretary at Blairsville Middle School to the Blairsville High School Guidance office as a 12-month secretary, effective June 27, 2008. Further, the Board authorizes the administration to post and/or advertise to fill the vacancy this transfer has created.
- h. The Board of Directors hereby approves the administrative action of hiring of *Marcia Andrews* to serve as a licensed nurse to accompany a special needs student to and from school each day, to meet the specific needs established in the student's IEP, at a rate of \$50 per day, through the end of the 2007-2008 school year, effective April 29, 2008.
- i. The Board of Directors hereby approves the request of *Jane Foust*, teacher at Blairsville Elementary School, for a sabbatical leave of absence for professional development for the 2008-2009 school year, having met the necessary requirements established by the Board of Directors and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- j. The Board of Directors hereby accept, with regret and appreciation for years of outstanding service, the resignation request, due to retirement, of Donald A. Davis, principal at Saltsburg Elementary School, under the provisions and incentives provided by the Board of Directors, effective date of retirement will be August 1, 2008.. Mr. Davis has been an outstanding administrator in the district with innovative ideas and strategies while always assuring that students come first. Mr. Davis is well respected by the administration, students, teachers, community, colleagues and district staff. It is understood that the Board of Directors authorizes the administration to begin the search for an elementary principal to fill the vacancy created with this retirement.

For Board Action by Roll Call Vote on Personnel Items 14a through 14j.

15. Policy:

Motion to approve Policy item 15a in accordance with provisions of the Public School Code and Series 300, 400 and 500 of the District Policy Manual, as hereinafter described:

- a. The Board of Directors hereby approves the first readings of the following policies as presented by the Policy Committee:

	Policy #	Title
1.	006	Meetings
2.	006.1	Use of Teleconferencing

For Board Action by Roll Call Vote on Policy Item 15a.

16. Other Business:

Motion to approve Other Business items 16a through 16g in accordance with provisions of the Public School Code and Series 300, 400 and 500 of the District Policy Manual, as hereinafter described:

- a. The Board of Directors hereby approves the adoption of the 2008-2009 school calendar as presented. Motion tabled until June 2008.
- b. The Board of Directors hereby approves the appointment of B. Edward Smith as treasurer for the district, commencing July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.
- c. The Board of Directors hereby approves the securing of a bond for B. Edward Smith, treasurer, in the amount of \$10,000 with Ohio Casualty Insurance Company.

- d. The Board of Directors hereby approves the acceptance of a student from Apollo-Ridge School District, currently enrolled in the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District's emotional support program and to authorize the appropriate Board officers to execute a contract with Apollo-Ridge School District regarding the acceptance of the non-resident student, which contract shall provide for a per diem tuition rate of \$50 per day to be paid by Apollo-Ridge School District in addition to any other charges for additional special education services not normally provided by the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District's emotional support program.
- e. The Board of Directors hereby cancel the scheduled workshop meeting for June 4, 2008, due to conflicts with high school graduations and change the June 18, 2008, to a combined workshop and regular voting meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Blairsville Middle/High School.
- f. On the recommendation of the secondary principals, the Board of Directors hereby approve the following attendance policy as a uniform guideline for all secondary buildings in the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District, to be included in each student handbook beginning with the 2008-2009 school year:

Attendance Policy: A student accumulating any combination of seven (7) or more non-medical tardies or absences in a class or classes during a one nine week grading period, will receive an FA (Failure for Attendance) grade for that nine week period regardless of the actual percentage score achieved in that class. However, if, in the next sequential nine week marking period, during that same school year, the student accumulates a combination of less than seven (7) absences and/or tardies in the class or classes in which he/she received an FA grade, the FA grade will be erased and the student will be awarded the percentage score he/she initially achieved.

- g. RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BLAIRSVILLE-SALTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has approved a proposal to revise the current high school graduation requirements under the Chapter 4 regulations to require students to pass a series of standardized high stakes Graduation Competency Assessments in order to get a diploma; and

WHEREAS, these new requirements and exams will be the same for all students, whether they are taking college prep or vocational courses, are English language learners or participating in individualized programs, and all students effectively will be required to take the same courses in order to pass this new battery of state tests; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4 currently allows districts to use either the PSSA or rigorous local assessments for their students to demonstrate proficiency of the state academic standards; and it is misleading and incorrect to make the assumption that because students demonstrate their achievements on local assessments rather than the PSSA that there is a disconnect between proficiency and graduation; and

WHEREAS, although the GCA proposal permits schools to use a local assessment option, it establishes numerous limitations, including the elimination of the ability to use various assessment strategies now available to local entities and requires local tests to be closely modeled to the GCAs; and

WHEREAS, decades of research shows many reasons why standardized pencil and paper test scores should never be the determining factor in making major decisions about students, and that a diploma should be granted based on the coursework, tests and quizzes, presentations, projects and papers throughout the student's career; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has not prepared a cost analysis or fiscal note, even though this will create a large financial impact on state and local budgets, and the State Board's own costing-out study did not include the costs for this new system and found that the state already is

\$4.4 billion short in helping school districts prepare students to meet the academic standards by 2014; and

WHEREAS, the proposal requires school districts to absorb many new costs related to revising curriculum, professional development, test development and validation, test preparation and administration, remediation and other costs. Given the state's funding shortfall and the Act 1 limitations on tax increases, school districts have limited ability to fund these potential new costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of school directors of the school district opposes the State Board of Education's proposal to enact Graduation Competency Assessments and any other regulation or legislation that usurps the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned a high school diploma. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, state legislators including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Signed, Attest: _____

School Board President

Board Secretary (seal)

For Board Action by Roll Call Vote on Other Business Items 16a through 16g.

- 17. Report of the Superintendent
- 18. Report of the Solicitor
- 19. Adjournment