

January 14, 2019

The combined work session/board meeting of the Berwick Area School Board was held on Monday, January 14, 2019, in the Line Street Administrative Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Mr. Donald Butz.

PRESENT: Mr. Donald Butz, Mrs. Susy Wiegand, Mr. Larry Clausen, Mr. Keith Hess, Mrs. Maryann Kovalewski, Mr. Daniel McGann, Mrs. Christy Monico, Mr. Jon Morell
Mrs. Sandra Slavick

ABSENT: None

Also **PRESENT:** Mr. Wayne Brookhart, Attorney Bull, Ms. Renee Gomez, Mr. Steven Christian, Mr. Robert Croop, Mr. Benton Culver, Mrs. Pamela Hegland, Mrs. Janet Kovach, Mrs. Wendy Kupsky, Ms. Amy Melchiorre, Mr. Gregory Michael, Mr. Randy Peters, Mr. Christopher Rivera, Mr. David Robbins, Mr. Patrick Sharkey, Mr. Frank Sheptock, Ms. Lori Frey, Ms. Susan Swartz, Phillip Kocher, student, tax payers

Lord's Prayer

Flag Salute

Wayne Brookhart – Read portions of Board Policy #903 Public Participation in Board Meetings

Recognition: School Board Members (Certificate given to each member)

G-1 January is School Director Recognition Month. In Pennsylvania the cornerstone of local school governance is the 4,500 school directors who serve the commonwealth's 500 public schools. These unpaid local volunteers work many hours each week on school business so that students in Pennsylvania receive a quality education.

We thank the Berwick Area School Board Members for their time and dedication to our school district.

Reading of the Minutes:

On motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Susy Wiegand, we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the two previous meetings on December 3, 2018, as everyone had received copies prior to the meeting. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - none and no abstentions.

Business Manager's Report

Financial Report: Treasurer's report: Approval

On motion of Daniel McGann, seconded by Susy Wiegand, we approve the financial report and the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and no abstentions.

Budgetary Transfers: Approval Pages 35-41

On motion of Larry Clausen, seconded by Daniel McGann, we accept the budgetary transfers as presented. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye". "Nay" - None and no abstentions.

Presentation of Bills: Approval

On motion of Daniel McGann, seconded by Susy Wiegand, we pay the bills as listed.

Question: Keith Hess – About the tax refunds for Berwick Borough, why is this amount quite large?

Renee Gomez – Tax refunds are for several different parcels regarding something that was filed with the county several years ago. All these were under two different ownerships.

Question: Keith Hess – Was that reconciled with what was actually received from these tax payers?

Renee Gomez – No. This is an amount that is higher than what the tax payer actually paid.

Question: Keith Hess – And how exactly did that happen?

Renee Gomez – The school district did not receive direct communication from Columbia County Courthouse regarding these tax refunds.

Question: Daniel McGann – So, was it a court order that didn't recognize the proper number of dollars?

Renee Gomez – Correct.

Question: Keith Hess – Where did that communication go?

Renee Gomez – Attorney Bull's office.

Keith Hess – OK.

Daniel McGann – So, just to be clear, we are paying back more than we should be paying back because of the lack of exactness by the county?

Renee Gomez – Because the school district was not able to verify the numbers that were provided over the three years.

Daniel McGann – But we know that we received last month less money from them than we are giving back.

Renee Gomez – Yes that is correct.

Wayne Brookhart – The school district never received any communication from the County.

Renee Gomez – Until we received the settlement orders to pay out the money after three years of going through the appeals process.

Christy Monico – What steps should the County have taken?

Renee Gomez – They should have notified when the tax payers were appealing their assessed value. The school should have gotten the direct correspondence.

Christy Monico – And we didn't.

Renee Gomez – That is correct.

ROLL CALL VOTE: "Ayes" – Jon Morell, Susy Wiegand, Daniel McGann, Maryann Kovalewski, Christy Monico, Sandra Slavick, Keith Hess (except tax refunds for

Berwick Borough pg. 20), Larry Clausen, Donald Butz
 “Nays” – Keith Hess (only for tax refunds for Berwick Borough pg. 20)
 “Abstaining” – None

Motion carried.

Business – Renee Gomez

- We started the budget in the business office and discussed the Budget Committee items that were reviewed at our last meeting.
- We have a request from the band boosters to recycle the old band uniforms and conduct a fund raiser in which they would make pillows and then sell them to the students. The reason why the request is coming through this way for further approval, of course the principal can approve the fundraiser as per the policy that changed several months ago, however though the uniforms themselves are district property which has a value of \$42,500 that are sitting on our financials. We, of course, will be purchasing new uniforms in the next year, so it would be a good use for those uniforms; however though, you as a Board should agree if that is the process that could go forward with.

Jon Morell – How long do we depreciate this?

Renee Gomez – Over ten years.

Jon Morell – Do we do an accelerated depreciation to get them off the books?

Renee Gomez – I would work with the auditors at the end of the year.

Daniel McGann – It has been ten years, hasn't it?

Renee Gomez – Since we last purchased, I believe it is nine.

Wayne Brookhart – Nine or ten.

Daniel McGann – We don't have much left.

Jon Morell – If we have that much left, it's only got to be eight or nine.

Renee Gomez – We had a recent inventory conducted in February of last year, so that's why I believe we would have a little bit of a higher value for that because of the condition of the uniforms. Generally, you have your purchase of the uniforms and then you depreciate over the time. We conducted a full asset appraisal and because of the condition of the uniforms, that is why you would see a value that high.

Christy Monico – What you are saying is that they can be sold for that much money?

Renee Gomez – I don't know who you would sell them to, but possibly.

Daniel McGann – I think we have the wrong number on the books.

Jon Morell – Yes, I think this too. Just because they were appraised at \$42,500 usually you don't change your depreciated value. That could be a pick up on disposal.

Daniel McGann – They were only about \$110,000 to start with.

Jon Morell – We either need to do an accelerated depreciation or something else to get that money off the books and then I have no problem letting the band members do their fundraiser. We shouldn't have that much on the books.

Daniel McGann – No, we shouldn't.

Jon Morell – Then we are going to take a loss on the disposal.

Renee Gomez – The next opportunity to do that will be as of June 30th of this year with the filing of the AFR.

Christy Monico – When do they want to do the fundraiser?

Renee Gomez – Starting in February. I could speak to the auditors and see if there is any clarity that they could provide to the financial position of the district with consideration of the purchase of the new uniforms in the next year.

Wayne Brookhart – When are we going to file the purchase order? When are we going to purchase these? When do we expect them to show up?

Renee Gomez – For the new uniforms?

Wayne Brookhart – Right.

Renee Gomez – They will be purchased in the new fiscal year.

Daniel McGann – We were planning for them to show up early.

Wayne Brookhart – That is what we hoped.

Renee Gomez – We did a requisition with the company. That was provided in December, so they are moving forward on that.

Jon Morell – Yes. Why don't we check with the auditors? I think we can do an accelerated depreciation.

- I confirmed with the Foundation that they did receive \$10,000 from the 12th Man Booster Club in the month of November/December.

Wayne Brookhart – Consistent with their bylaws. That is what the bylaws stated.

Maryann Kovalewski – Did we receive their closeout books yet?

Renee Gomez – We have not received it yet. I have been in conversations requesting that information.

Maryann Kovalewski – Should we perhaps give them a deadline of February 1st so that we can see exactly where we stand?

Wayne Brookhart – That is reasonable to me if that is what you would like to do. How does the Board feel?

Christy Monico – What are you asking for?

Wayne Brookhart – Closeout of all the financials? Is that fair? The season ended and it will give them 2 ½ months.

Christy Monico – Yes, financials absolutely. So are you going to give them a letter that you are asking for the closeout of their financials?

Renee Gomez – Yes.

Christy Monico – And that includes just their financials?

Maryann Kovalewski – And what about any remaining finances and equipment?

Daniel McGann – I don't believe they have any equipment.

Maryann Kovalewski – I believe there was a video camera that they had purchased.

Daniel McGann – They gave that to the coach.

Maryann Kovalewski – As long as it came back to the district.

Christy Monico – It never belonged to the district but if they want it they can certainly have it.

Frank Sheptock – Mr. Thomas is away until January 22nd just so you know he is away.

Superintendent's Report – Wayne Brookhart

- The Office of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania initiated a new safety program today called Safe2Say.

Wendy Kupsky – Act 44 has been reporting on this quite often. It is in your board report. Safe2Say is an anonymous tip line that the secondary students (middle and high school students) will be trained on. It goes through an 800 number and then from there it gets filtered out if it needs to. They rank it on an emergency level and then it may go to either 911 or it may just come to our team of five people. We had to submit five people that will get a text alert, email alert and/or a phone call depending on the level of security. Our local police departments are aware of it as well. We just have to act on the type of anonymous tip. Just to clarify, there are some school districts that have written resolutions regarding this because of their concern about training and making sure that people remain anonymous. It is from the Office of Attorney General and they have made it very clear that it is something that you are supposed to be implementing. With our team that we have of myself, Jen Parulis, Norm Fedder, John Latin and Bill Waltman, we feel that until the training comes that we are able to carry through with it.

Wayne Brookhart - The intention is to keep kids safe. That is what we all want. Implementation of something like this across 500 school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will take them some time. They have some bugs to work out. We just want to make you aware of it. It went live January 14th.

Wendy Kupsky – Musical “Beauty and the Beast” - this will be our first musical. The showing will be Friday, March 15th, Saturday March 16th and Sunday March 17th. We will have lots and lots of information put out into the community so that everyone can buy tickets. Only three showings. I have been in touch with Michelle Kozak from First Keystone. First Keystone Community Bank has donated a substantial amount for the startup for the first year. We are grateful for them for doing that and for the subsequent years after that they have also agreed to continue to help. Once the musical gets going, the musical will be able to sustain itself. We know we are going to have a great performance. The kids are just over the top with excitement. John Obringer and Melissa Driscole are already putting in endless hours already to make sure it is a fine show. This is the first time. We have never done a musical here.

- Wayne Brookhart – We are in receipt of our School Performance Profile (SPP) scores for the 2017-2018 school year. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Bob Croop is going to provide a summary of our scores.

Robert Croop – A brief overview. SPP is how we were judged as a district over the last 7-8 years, maybe more than that. PDE has gotten away from this score. They must legally have to give this score because the SPP is actually part of our teacher evaluations. We were not able to give our teacher their evaluations until the score was released and I think that was early December. The High School and the Elementary Schools in all categories were above the State average. The Middle School was below the State average. We are aware of this and are working on this. We have added technology and chrome books to implement remedial projects. We are looking at different groupings with students this year. We will give the test and get the results and monitor that and make changes if we think it is appropriate. We are trying to get our teachers professional development in several areas. All information is on the PDE site if anyone wants to look at the reports in more depth.

Jon Morell – You look at the high school and all the elementary schools and the scores seem to be very similar. How come the huge dip when we go into the middle school and

they tend to rebound when they go into the high school? Something is missing in our middle school.

Robert Croop – There is. That is State wide also. You will see that pattern. When we meet with other principals and other curriculum directors, the average in many of these areas are in the 40's, which seems crazy. They are saying the majority of middle school students are only achieving at 40%. I personally with no data, and this is my personal opinion, I think there is something wrong with that system when the average student in the State of Pennsylvania only 40% can be proficient in math but we are not going to use it as a crutch either. It is our lowest area. We know we can do better and we are working to do better.

Sandra Slavick – A score you do not have on here is how well our middle school kids do on the Algebra Keystone Test. Our kids are blowing it away. They are doing very, very well. However, on the PSSA, it is looking like they are not performing. There is something wrong and I don't know what the answer is but across the board, across the State, our students are doing very well on the Algebra Keystone which they need to graduate high school in 8th grade. However, when they take their PSSA's they are doing poorly. I don't know what they answer is.

Robert Croop – We will have 8th graders that will be proficient or advanced on algebra 1 and below basic on the 8th grade PSSA. We are trying for them to get both the 8th grade curriculum and the algebra 1 curriculum.

Wayne Brookhart – Mr. Croop is exactly right. We don't want to use it as a crutch however when you are 59.9 with only 3% below average the State average, your 37 is only 8% that means only 45% of the kids are at the grade level, is essentially what you are saying on the math exam at the middle school. Statewide here we are at 37%. Both of those performances I think are alarming. We're struggling here to get some answers to figure out why we show that inverted bell curve here.

Christy Monico – Can it be broken down by grade?

Robert Croop – There is a lot more data that can be broken down if you want it which we do break down. We do look at it at meetings and we do share with the teachers. We are looking at all that. Tonight, I just wanted to give an overview.

Wayne Brookhart – If you want anything more specific, we would be glad to give it to you.

Sandra Slavick – I do think it is important that the public understand how well the students are doing on the Algebra Keystone in 8th grade.

Wayne Brookhart – Keystones initially were supposed to be implemented as a graduation requirement by now. They actually had ten that they were proposing and the 4th one was going to be the social studies area and that never got off the ground. It's been a political football for years. We have put a lot into this. We have great kids and great teachers. Just over the last several years, we have had a National Blue Ribbon School at the High School. We have been one of the top 100 public schools in Pennsylvania at the high school as rated by US News and World Report. We won the Advanced Placement School of Distinction Award twice that comes out by the College Board and we have had two Title 1 of Distinction. We have done a lot of great things. We just need to solve this middle school issue.

Daniel McGann – Just to be clear Mr. Croop, the financial lack is on the part of the State.

Robert Croop – The State, not the district at all. It is absolutely the State.

- Wayne Brookhart – We’ve been discussing a plan to add a concession stand with restrooms at the Softball Field near Crispin. We budgeted \$150,000 this year. We’ve moved toward another option. Ben Culver, Director of Buildings and Grounds will provide a summary of the plan that was presented to the Buildings and Grounds Committee as well as the Athletic Committee this morning.

Ben Culver – Back in the spring we wanted to do the concession stand down at the softball field. Throughout the project we faced a lot of issues: the water was in a certain place, the sewer was in a certain place, we had boundary issues, permitting from the borough was difficult. We wanted to give the softball the same opportunities as the baseball with Title IX. We looked at putting the softball down at the baseball field. It will require a few things: a mound, some turf modifications and a fence. A few things this helps with is: it alleviates the cost to build a concession stand on the site, Title IX concerns, delays in the season will be avoided, ability to play in inclement weather will be allowed. Future projects are all one to one then, so if you want to do lights or if you want to do any other projects, it’s a one-time deal. We won’t have to do it at the baseball and softball field, so we will save money that way. I have reached out to quite a few vendors. I reached out to PIAA. I reached out to other athletic directors. All in all the project is looking to cost \$68,000, so we’re cutting our \$150,000 more than in half and that’s with \$20,000 for field modifications. I’m pretty generous there. Right now we are about eight weeks out for the fence. That is my biggest problem right now. I am hoping to be done March 15th to have this done. It doesn’t just give the softball concession stands; it gives them many things like bullpens, storage for their uniforms and bathrooms. The excess money that is left over, we could put that into other building needs or things like that. Creates a lot of opportunity. I think it is something that will be beneficial to everybody. It’s a matter of where do we want to go next. I would appreciate if we put this up to vote to see what you think.

Wayne Brookhart – This would add that you can play softball at the field once called “North Berwick”. We would still maintain the softball field on Columbia Avenue. You are actually adding a softball field and you are doing this for \$75,000-\$80,000 less roughly. You are going to maintain the softball field as a practice field and it can also be used as a game field. We are adding a softball field and doing it for less money and now we are in Title IX compliance. That sounds pretty good.

Jon Morell – Is there going to be a problem with scheduling?

Frank Sheptock – We will have to work through some things, but for the most part we will have more opportunities. We will try to fit in some of the junior high softball there as well. We will have the boys’ varsity baseball and girls’ varsity softball at the turf and try to work around with the JV as best we can. Mr. Clausen was kind enough to say he will reach out to Fowler if we are having a practice issue with JH baseball just so we have another alternative. I guess it has been done for a very long time. It was done prior to the turf being built.

Jon Morell – The biggest concern there would be the difference between the ball being on the turf and the ball on a grass field.

Frank Sheptock – Yes, it is a different game. I think the hardest part will be the early part. Traditionally, the girls’ softball had practiced at Crispin Field because their ground was

too wet at that point. We will probably still tap into that as well. Baseball came over and used The John Gordner's Field prior to use having the turf. We have been trying to be as resourceful as possible with our artificial turf surfaces to get everybody what they need. Christy Monico – But you don't always play on artificial turf? Some of the places you play are grass fields yet.

Frank Sheptock – I would think most of it is grass fields.

Christy Monico – So, it is good to have them play on grass too.

Larry Clausen – We need to add that to the agenda.

- Wayne Brookhart – Coach Sheptock is working on scheduling a football banquet to recognize the 2018 team.

Coach Sheptock – We are in the process right now. We have a date which is March 17th. We have a venue which is the Nescopeck Township Fire Hall. We are still working on a vendor currently. One of the parent representatives for the 12th Man is assisting me with that, with getting some information from some vendors. Depending on how that all works out, Mrs. Sheptock and I are committed if we have to pay for all the boys ourselves. We are going to make sure that happens. We have some other ideas we have in moving forward to make sure it is a first class affair as it's been. The staff and I got together and started reaching out with venues and meals and those types of things and I think we made a lot of headway the last ten days. Just waiting to hear back from the vendors of what we can do and price wise in things like that. All in all, I think we are in a good position right now for the banquet. I reached out to a new company for our senior gifts. I talked to Mr. Brookhart the other day. Things are moving along pretty well at this point. I think the team will be celebrated as it should be.

Daniel McGann – Does that timing interfere with one of the performances of the musical on the 17th?

Wendy Kupsky – It does. The musical is at 2.

Larry Clausen – What is the time of the banquet?

Frank Sheptock – We don't have a set time for the banquet. We have a five hour block for the venue.

- Wayne Brookhart – As we move into the second semester of the school year, graduation plans and scheduling are beginning. Graduation is tentatively scheduled for June 7th. We'll be presenting a proposal for the 2019-2020 school calendar at our February meeting. Graduation is always tentative because we always wait until we get through our snow days to make sure we don't have to adjust the date. We usually can set a date hopefully in mid-March.
- Several of our students have received recognition for their effort during the fall sports season. We'll be inviting them to the February meeting as well as anyone else who has submitted for recognition. We had several football players that have been recognized at the All-State level or the conference level and I think there are others that have been recognized in their sports.

Jon Morell – There was a letter in our packet about recognizing the dual enrollment students during graduation. I think that is a wonderful idea. I would like to see that as part of this graduation and if they want to do a cord. I don't see that has a problem at all.

Maryann Kovalewski – I think that is important.

Wayne Brookhart – I think that is great and Ms. Melchiorre is in agreement and has spoken to that student.

- Wayne Brookhart – Kindergarten registration will be held in late February/early March. I will give you the numbers as I receive them. We have a new person in Child Accounting. Mrs. Kupsy oversees Child Accounting. That always plays a part in our staffing and the budgeting process. We may need to come to you later if we need an additional teacher, sometimes two.
- Dave Bacher is the Director of the Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech School. He will attend our February meeting. Mr. Bacher will speak about the options included in the CMVT feasibility study and will answer any questions that the Board has. Conversations are going on through all seven sending districts. From what I am hearing is there seems to be a general sentiment that a project will probably be needed, just not sure of the scope. It is how large is it going to be? What is the cost going to be? Clearly, the building and the program is valued by the people. I am not hearing anyone say that it is not important and that we don't value Vo-tech. It's just figuring out all the details from getting from point A to point B.
- Once again, thank you to our Board members for your commitment to serve the students of our district. We have had a lot of great accomplishments here that I talked about academically, many things with Buildings and Grounds, the auditorium and the fields. We really appreciate your service.
- I think the Heartland is dead. In speaking with the people from the Heartland, they had some timelines that they were trying to face with football and getting the schedule finished. We felt right from the start that this was a little too quick and we felt rushed at times and not having all the data we needed to present to the Board. We were very concerned about volleyball and backing that program so at this point the Heartland issue I believe is dead and it will not be brought back to you I don't believe; certainly not in the near future unless there is something that happens that I am not aware of or not anticipating. I think we are going to continue in the Wyoming Valley Conference.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

General:

Approve Items G-2 through G-5 With One Motion

- G-2 Approval to accept a \$1,000 donation in school supplies from J. B. Hunt Transport for the students in the Autistic Support classrooms at the Salem Elementary School.**
- G-3 Approval to accept a \$1,000 grant from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation for the Newspapers in Education program for the 2018-2019 school year.**
- G-4 Approval to accept a grant in the amount of \$250 from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation for Volleyball Team Equipment purchase. This grant is awarded through the Daniel L. Kessler Memorial Fund of the CSCF.**

G-5 Approval to accept a grant in the amount of \$250 from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation for the Swim team for Swim Suits. This grant is awarded through the Daniel L. Kessler Memorial Fund of the CSCF.

On a motion of Maryann Kovalewski, seconded by Keith Hess, we approve Items G-2 through G-5 with one motion. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye.” “Nay”- none and no abstentions.

Wayne Brookhart – We would like to thank the Foundation for the grants and continued support of the district in our programs here in our district as well as J. B. Hunt Transport for a \$1,000 in supplies that they are going to give as a gift for our autistic students and the benefits those students will get from that. We would like to thank both of them.

Academic Affairs:

Approve Items AA-1 through AA-2 With One Motion

AA-1 Approval of an affiliation agreement with East Stroudsburg University. (enc.)

AA-2 Approval to establish an Elementary Coding Club at the Salem Elementary School.

On a motion of Keith Hess and Daniel McGann, seconded by Christy Monico, we approve Items AA-1 through AA-2 with one motion. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye.” “Nay”- none and no abstentions.

Wayne Brookhart – East Stroudsburg University, we do get student teachers from various schools. We did not have an articulated agreement with them. The coding club is going great at West Berwick as well as Salem. Thank you for your commitment to it financially. They will now have advisors and will take more kids. The response has been overwhelming in both buildings. Salem has 42 and WBE is in the 60’s.

Personnel:

Approve Items P-1 through P-11 With One Motion

P-1 Approval of the following as After School Reading and Math Tutors. Tutoring will run from January 15, 2019 through April 11, 2019. Compensation will be at the instructional rate of \$25.00 per hour for teaching, and the non-instructional rate of \$24.00 per hour for planning.

Ashley Stratchko

Nicole Kozma

Brianna Lynn

P-2 Approval of Justin Eveland as technical director for the 2018-2019 school year. Compensation will be at a stipend of \$1,500.

- P-3 Approval of Rachael Eveland as choreographer for the 2018-2019 school year. Compensation will be at a stipend of \$2,500.**
- P-4 Approval for employee #1068 to take unpaid days from September 14, 2018 through December 21, 2018. (enc.)**
- P-5 Approval for employee #2097 to take unpaid days from December 17, 2018 through January 2, 2019. (enc.)**
- P-6 Approval of Caroline Curry and Debra Kern as class advisors for the Class of 2022. Compensation will be at a stipend of \$595.54 per each advisor.**
- P-7 Approval of the following advisors for the Elementary Coding Club at Salem Elementary School. Compensation will be at a stipend of \$600 prorated.**
- Brianna Seely Shelby Crawford**
- P-8 Approval for employee # 2527 to extend her Family Medical Leave (FMLA) from January 17, 2019 until March 12, 2019. She would also like to take unpaid days from March 13, 2019 until the start of the 2019-2020 school year.**
- P-9 Approval of Nancy Moyer as part-time middle school reassignment room staff, effective January 15, 2019. Compensation will be \$14.90 per hour.**
- P-10 Approval to accept with regret the retirement of the following personnel: (enc.)**
- Dorothy Kishbaugh, effective July 1, 2019
Jolene Hueholt, effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year
Alex Kleiner, effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year**
- P-11 Approval of Elizabeth Tanribilir as long term substitute teacher effective September 17, 2018 through to the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Compensation will be at the Bachelor's Step 1, \$38,088 prorated.**

On a motion of Daniel McGann, seconded by Maryann Kovalewski, we approve Items P-1 through P-11 with one motion. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye except Susy Wiegand on item P-11." "Nay"- none and Susy Wiegand abstention on item P-11.

Wayne Brookhart – Mr. Culver, the figure you got for softball/baseball, was that a proposal or a bid figure.

Ben Culver – No, it is two quotes and then a budgetary from Sprint Tuff when we met at the baseball field. The fence is a sole source product. We aren't required to bid that. The mound is through KPN.

Wayne Brookhart – I just want to be clear legally with all these things. A single provider we are ok. KPN we are ok through the IU with Keystone purchasing.

Ben Culver – And Sprint Tuff we have the budgetary for \$20,000 but they have to do the work to keep the warranty on the field so we have to use those.

Wayne Brookhart – Because they were the original supplier of the turf for the baseball field. Do all those things sound good? Total amount?

Ben Culver – \$68,976 is my final total.

Wayne Brookhart – So it would be not to exceed \$68,976.

EC-1 Approval to modify the baseball field through alterations in an amount not to exceed \$68,976.

Wayne Brookhart – This puts us into Title IX compliance \$75,000-\$80,000 less than budgeted.

On a motion of Daniel McGann, seconded by Susy Wiegand, we approve to modify the baseball field through alterations in an amount not to exceed \$68,976.

Jon Morell – Do we want to, instead of putting an exact amount, do we want to go with \$75,000 just in case they find something when they are trying to modify the field?

Wayne Brookhart – I would appreciate if you would do that.

EC-1 On a motion of Daniel McGann to change the motion, seconded by Susy Wiegand to change the motion, to modify the baseball field through alterations in an amount not to exceed \$75,000. Motion carried. All members voting “Aye.” “Nay”- none and no abstentions.

Reports:

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs – Maryann Kovalewski

- At our last meeting, we had a speaker come in to talk about the possibility of and aviation/aerospace engineering track. We are going to continue to review that and we are also going to examine that and the other CTE’s that do not conflict with anything that is currently offered at Vo-Tech. We will be meeting next week.

Athletic Committee – Larry Clausen

- We met this morning.
- We did discuss the Heartland and that is no longer going to be discussed.
- We discussed the academic standard that we thought we had an issue with them possibly finding a way around our core class rules that we have but after we discussed it, we found out that we actually were only dealing with one student. We didn’t think it was worth changing at this time. Our program is working. We had one student athlete in the fall that was PIAA ineligible. Currently right now there are two in the winter sports but both are on track to become eligible again. Our remediation process is working for our student athletes.
- We were kicking around about healthy you and healthy standards. We are going to start looking up possibly some kind of strength and conditioning program for our students and our athletes. We are going to get some costs that other districts pay for possibly a stipend

position or putting it into our curriculum like a gym class. I will have more information on that as we move forward.

Jon Morell – If we do that, we should make nutrition part of that.

Larry Clausen – That is part of the healthy you. It's the healthy living type thing.

Budget Committee – Keith Hess

- We met earlier this month and we discussed the preliminary budget.
- Discussed our long term debt and to get that refinanced. May is the balloon interest rate so we want to get that done soon.
- Another meeting is scheduled for February 4th at 5:30 p.m. to continue budget discussions.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Susy Wiegand

- We have not met.

CSIU – Daniel McGann

- Annual Operating Budget for the CSIU is going to most likely be approved on Wednesday at the Board level and then brought home to each of the home districts for an approval in February.
- We have the financial information system that the CSIU provides to many school districts across the State. Just recently they have gotten approval, the Board of Directors down there, to enter into an agreement with a company from Ohio where the CSIU will be paid by this company in Ohio to let this company use the software. The main impact of those types of financial things down there these days are that it will provide a financial benefit to the seventeen sending districts in the CSIU in that their fees will be lesser than they would otherwise be due to this financial arrangement. It is interesting and a positive thing.

Vo-tech – Daniel McGann and Keith Hess

- The main thing at the Vo-Tech is the project. It is ongoing with the various meetings that are being held to explain the project options and go on from there.

Keith Hess – They still don't have a dollar figure. I did send the PDF file of the RFP. We are going to get the same presentation in February that the JOC got in December. You will be able to ask your questions. Mr. Bacher and the architect will be here.

Daniel McGann – If you have questions ahead of time, study your homework, I'm sure Mr. Bacher would be happy to hear those questions and will prepare an answer for us.

Larry Clausen – Based on the three options that they are presenting, they show an increased vocational capacity of one number that is lower than the academic capacity. In option two its 450 academic capacity and vocational capacity of 392. Option three is academic capacity of 500 with vocational capacity 428 students being added. Why aren't those numbers the same? If you look through the presentation they have the historical data or the projected data they have for all the school districts show student enrollments either flat lining or declining through 2020 and beyond. So if the enrollments are declining, how are we going to fill these positions? We all know something needs to be done to this school and it is a benefit for a lot of kids.

Jon Morell – You have to remember that we had 38 kids that didn't get into Vo-Tech that wanted to.

Larry Clausen – They average 50-60 kids on the wait list. That is what the data says in the presentation with all the seven districts.

Wayne Brookhart – We average about 30 kids a year for the last 13-14 years

Larry Clausen – You say the population is going this way.

Jon Morell – If you look at the enrollment at the technical colleges, it's going up. More and more of the kids want that type of education. Yes, I see our enrollment going down. The kids that want to go to Vo-Tech, I see that climbing.

Larry Clausen – Well, I hope it does.

Susy Wiegand – The Governor is pushing a lot of technical and there is going to be money directed to that. I think we are going to see more of that.

Christy Monico – In the next two years, you are going to see more jobs in those kind of fields.

Larry Clausen – Do they know when they will come out with numbers?

Daniel McGann – No. They haven't yet.

Jon Morell – Option one is not really an option.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment:

Phillip Kocher – I have a house for sale. I have 712 Third Street, Nescopeck next door to the elementary school. I was wondering if the Berwick School District would like to purchase the property to add on to what they own already.

Wayne Brookhart – Is yours the house that had the pre-school?

Phillip Kocher – Yes, it has the pre-school.

Wayne Brookhart – We will talk privately. Real estate purchases we can talk privately. It is not something we speak about in public. We appreciate you coming and talking about it but real estate purchases are discussed in executive session topic. We will definitely talk about it and gather information. We will call you and let you know our position.

Susan Swartz – Just for clarification, you don't have to talk in private. You don't have to meet in private. You are just allowed to.

Wayne Brookhart – It does make a lot of sense, if you do negotiate a price to not do it in public.

Summarization of Executive Session:

Wayne Brookhart – Two student issues, one negotiation topic that we discussed and talked about one personnel issue.

Wendy Kupsky – There was an accident on Fowler and 8th Street. From our understanding, the bus was coming down Fowler going towards the river and the car was coming out from Laubach's turning left going up towards the school. The car was trying to get around the bus before the bus came down, made the corner too quickly and hit the telephone pole across the street. There was some confusion that the bus was involved, but the bus was not involved although he did have to hit his brakes.

On a motion of Christy Monico, seconded by Susy Wiegand we adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. All members voting "Aye." "Nay"- none and no abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Janet K. Kovach, Secretary to the Board