

**BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**GARVIN LIBRARY**

**November 1, 2017**

Present:

BMU Board Members: Sara Dennis, Judy Murray, Julie Oliver, Wade Parker, Kelsey Root-Winchester, Bruce Stevens, Chair

Administrators: Emilie Knisley, Scott Blood, Lori Blood

Board Members from Danville and Newbury

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Bruce Stevens, Chair
  - A. The members from the Danville and Newbury Boards were welcomed
- II. School Finance 101
  - A. Video by AOE is available that can be used for Board education
    1. Will watch as a Board the first meeting in December
- III. Setting Board Goals for 2018—will address this at a future meeting
- IV. Act 46 Discussion: Plan for Retreat, Updates
  - A. Bruce Melendy, Danville Board Chair, gave an update on the recent community forum in Danville with an attendance of about 45
    1. Some Board members favor a merger with BMU, some a collaboration, some are unsure
    2. Some concerns over transportation
    3. Concerns over cost
    4. Concerns over logistics for students that learn differently
    5. Questions of who employees work for
  - B. Questions of number of members on the Board if a merger took place
  - C. Both Danville and BMU are (or are almost) debt free
  - D. Class size was a question
  - E. Both BMU and Danville have a little excess capacity at high school and middle school level, but not at the elementary level
  - F. BMU has been told that they must write a proposal to submit to AOE before December 26, 2017
  - G. Danville is planning to do something similar
    1. Is hoping for a decision by the Board at next week's meeting
  - H. Consultant Peter Clark will be meeting with the BMU Board at their retreat on November 16, 2017
  - I. Paul Jewett, Board Chair of Newbury, gave an update on Newbury
    1. Newbury is half owner of Oxbow
    2. They want to keep their own Board and their own budget, based upon a survey which brought 150 responses
  - J. By law, BMU can only work with Newbury if they decide to go south
  - K. Possibility of new legislation coming out after January

- L. Woodsville will be having a survey as to whether to close their high school
- M. Danville invited representatives from the BMU Board to attend their meeting next week, November 7<sup>th</sup>

V. Consent Agenda

A. Motion by Sara Dennis, seconded by Wade Parker to accept the Board minutes of October 18, 2017 with the correction that “ESA” stands for Every Student Succeeds, not Every School Succeeds. Motion voted on and approved with one abstention (Kelsey Root-Winchester)

B. Orders will be approved by committee

C. Administrative Reports

1. Business Manager Lori Blood

- A. Money is coming in from towns
- B. Will be watching insurance transition in January
- C. Getting prepared for budget preparation
- D. Final audit will be available in December

2. Supt. Emilie Knisley

A. Has talked with Secretary Holcomb about permission to operate after June 2018

3. Principal Scott Blood

- A. Samantha Winget has been hired as School Receptionist
- B. Long-term sub for MS Social Studies will not be hired, and the position is being covered in house and by a person from the sub pool
- C. Advertising for more substitutes
- D. Parent/Teacher Conferences going on this week
- E. Global Explorers Club will be doing a fund raiser for their trip to Belize
- F. Rowland Conference was attended by some administrators, teachers, and students
  - i. Keynote and workshops focused on equity, treating people respectfully and appropriately, and social change
  - ii. Students who went on trip to Cape Cod will be invited to share at a future Board meeting

VI. Public Participation—earlier in meeting under Act 46 discussion

VII. Report of Committees--None

VIII. Action Items--None

IX. Correspondence--None

X. Executive Session—Not needed

XI. Review “To Do List”

A. Board Retreat has been rescheduled to Thursday, November 16, 2017 (due to availability of consultant Peter Clark) and will be here at BMU at 6:00 PM

- 1. Will allow Board members to attend Pre-school Art Show, which begins at 5:30 PM

XII. Setting the Next Agenda

A. No Pre-Board

B. Board Retreat

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

**The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.**