

**BANGOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS  
DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 8, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Kowalski at 6:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Kowalski, President; John Loop, Vice-President; Melissa Kaczmarek, Secretary; Brian Tobin, Treasurer; Jason Forgash, Trustee; and Mark Seymour, Trustee

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patrick Shaffer, Trustee

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** Add Student Senate report as Item 4 and re-number agenda items

**EXPRESSIONS/ COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** Darcy Long, a parent, had a few issues that were not being resolved with the building principal and contacted Mr. Schmidt and within a week everything was handled. Sometimes we focus on our lower level students, but sometimes we need to focus on the higher level students. I want to commend Mr. Schmidt for his time and the quick resolution of a problem. My kids are now getting what they need. A discussion took place regarding ways to communicate the opportunities that are available to high school students, i.e., dual enrollment, coop, etc. Mr. Schmidt will follow through on this.

**STUDENT SENATE** Nick Vlk reported that elections are underway, and results will be announced next Friday. In recognition of staff appreciation week a donut cart was available and a special lunch was served on Friday. Staff will receive a gift later this week. Constitutional changes have been made for next year's senate. Ms. Kaczmarek thanked Nick for his service.

**PRESENTATIONS -** Student achievement data and 5-year history presented by Michelle Goaley and Matt Schmidt. The theme was developing consistent practices to support curriculum and student achievement. Mr. Schmidt and Mrs. Goaley reviewed board goals which are: addressing student needs, K-12 curriculum and PD, evaluating the implementation of curriculum. Mrs. Goaley also reviewed the district improvement goals – reaching proficiency in all four content areas and a cultural goal that BTS will have an equitable, inclusive and engaging environment that is conducive to student learning. Mark Seymour asked how much of the budget has been dedicated to curriculum materials and Matt Schmidt responded by saying about \$150,000. He added that since Michelle has come on, we stopped sending money to the buildings for curriculum needs and created a district-wide system and cycle. Using our District Teaming model, we are working hard to get input from everyone being impacted by the decisions. Michelle shared the model for a more comprehensive look at needs across the content areas K-12. John Loop stated - 5 years ago we added extra time for ELA and math. However, we asked are we robbing Peter to pay Paul because our science and social studies scores are suffering. Michelle replied - the message was sent that we really needed to focus on ELA and math. It was easy to spend less time on the other subjects. Now, in

elementary with our new schedule, students are getting a dedicated science and social studies time for instruction. We have also specialize

d the training and expertise of the grades 2-5 teachers so that they are teaching both groups of students in their grade level. Students are also getting more science and social studies content during reading time. This year feels like the reset button. The ownership is growing. Brian Tobin asked – have we drilled down more with the data? Why so many changes, for example, in 10th grade from year to year? Michelle – I understand that concern. We have spent time in PLCs in departments looking closely at the released data to determine holes in curriculum, but we are not looking at cohorts in this data. If we have a high performing group, the scores will reflect that. We are better able to tell cohorts with the elementary students.

Michelle's report also included:

- Selection process for intervention students includes a strong focus on the bottom 30%
- Honors and AP sections added – honors at CMMS
- Looking at district processes for common format for entry into honors and for criteria within an honors class - Showed the Intervention and Honors Placement process that was worked through with the curriculum team.
- Data spreadsheets and processes for intervention were shared
- 3rd grade reading law – our current assessments are state-approved. Two classrooms of SSE kindergarten should help. Students having SSE cannot be retained for the 3rd grade law.

Mark Seymour asked do we have enough interventionists to meet the needs? Michelle – we need to improve the core; stronger Tier 1 instruction. Mark – I want to make sure we are not losing kids because they are not getting the help. Michelle - we have looked at the students not receiving intervention and picked up more for next year. Matt – we have a proactive approach by strengthening tier 1 instruction.

Mr. Kowalski – my perception/observation – when I look prior to 2014, the test scores that came to the board West always had the best scores. My observation, West isn't the top school. Lincoln is doing something right – they are the leader. Michelle – my insights? West used to have fewer free and reduced lunch numbers. We equaled that out with our placement process which increased the number students who are at risk at Bangor West. West has had 4 principals over the past 7 years. At Lincoln, Renee Mrozinski had a long-term commitment and focus on the right thing. She had been there for 5-6 years and always had a focus on student achievement and teacher accountability. Principal and teacher turnover can make a difference. Jason Forgash – did Lincoln have less turnover of teachers? Matt – up until this year yes. Jason – what did she put in place the other schools didn't do? Michelle – she had each classroom set goals and take the test seriously. Jason – has that been driven down by central administration? The atmosphere and goal setting are things that have been discussed, but left up to the buildings. After a year in this position, I'd like to work closely with building leaders on discussing protocols for test preparation and for administering the test.

**REPORTS**

**Committees** – No reports were given this evening.

**CFO** – no report this evening.

**Superintendent Schmidt** reported JGHS was awarded as a Bronze school with US News and World report. Seclusion and restraint changes are updated in board policy; staff will be trained in mid-August at ISD. 500 participants are registered for the Color Run for SVL this Saturday. The sheriff department has contacted the principal at Lincoln regarding parking in the road and blocking neighbors' driveways after school and special events. Notifications have been sent to parents but it is still an ongoing problem. The sheriff can and will ticket cars that are illegally parked.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

John Loop made a motion, supported by Jason Forgash, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

**Approval of Minutes** – April 24, 2017 (Regular Meeting)

Motion carried; 6-0

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Approval of 2017/2018 School Calendar** – Brian Tobin made a motion supported by Mark Seymour to approve the calendar.

**Approval of Second Reading and Final Approval of the NEOLA 2017 Spring Updates** - John Loop made a motion supported by Brian Tobin. A roll call vote was taken: J. Loop, yes; B. Tobin, yes; M. Kaczmarek, yes; J. Forgash, yes; M. Seymour, yes; R. Kowalski, yes. Motion carried.

**OTHER DISCUSSION/  
EXPRESSIONS FROM  
THE PUBLIC**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

John Loop made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY  
SUBMITTED,**



**MELISSA KACZMAREK  
SECRETARY**