

BANGOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2016

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; Lynne Moore, Trustee; Mark Seymour, Trustee; and Patrick Shaffer, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA Richard Kowalski recommended that Item 7a (Recommendation to Approve Joining the Saginaw Valley League) be a roll call vote. There were no objections.

EXPRESSIONS/ COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC Jeremy Werner expressed his concerns if the Board voted to join the Saginaw Valley League. Mr. Werner feels the athletes would be placed in a dangerous situation. Mr. Werner feels the atmosphere of success is built on success. He is concerned about the future of the district if Bangor loses programs, students will walk away. Mr. Werner also cited safety as a concern if they are placed in a conference they don't belong in.

Mr. Seymour asked Mr. Werner what he would like to do in the interim. Mr. Werner suggested waiting and build athletic programs for lower level grades. Mr. Werner said this is for the future of his kids. Currently gym/field time is busy. Our kids are working hard – why do we want to punish our kids? Injuries, and the students' safety are at risk. He feels we cannot compete with the Saginaw Valley schedule. He is speaking for all students - including his own.

Lynne Moore asked Mr. Werner to expound on what he means as a "dangerous situation." Kids want to succeed, kids will go in a different direction and chase after something else if they don't see success. Kids participate because they are successful programs. Coaches show success. If we jump into a league it will be tough - if not dangerous. We don't have the number of kids it takes to be in the Saginaw Valley League.

Dale Clyde handed the board a letter from Lisa Pfenninger, volleyball coach, not supporting the move to the Saginaw Valley League.

Dale Clyde thanked the board for their support with the students and teachers of Bangor Township Schools. Mr. Clyde shared his concerns if BTS joins the SVL. He feels there is a lot of competitive play and travel teams in surrounding areas such as Midland . 37% of Bangor is made up of schools of choice students who come to play sports. He wants what is the best for students and this move makes him nervous.

Aaron Jurek, track coach, supports all students who want to play a sport, often a student will join track team just to be in a sport. He works with all of the students the same and he does not want to lose that. He is disappointed that the coaches were not asked for their opinion. He is very nervous about this possible move and would like to remain independent.

Cory Snider, Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach, expressed his concerns. He is very nervous about the possible move. The girls had very good year last year and the youth numbers moving up look good. After reviewing the stats with the league, Mr. Snider feels the girls may have placed 3rd last year. It would be an uphill battle with the best team in the program's history. He thanked Troy Lynch for doing an exceptional job with facilities but it is hard to get gym time.

Jeff Hartt has 34 - one year contracts under his belt with BTS. He stated Troy and Jody do a fantastic job. He does not feel there is any comparison where numbers are concerned.

Bob LaRoche shared his mixed feelings. While the league is dwindling it would be a good move and have benefits. He feels teams may struggle but on an individual basis it would be a good move. He wants the best for teams and kids.

**PRESENTATIONS -
AUDIT**

Heather Kuebler presented the Financial Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2016

Net Increase in Fund Balance \$ 165,357

Fund Balance End of Year 2,884,092

The audit received an Unmodified Opinion which is the highest level ranking.

TEST SCORES

Michelle Goaley presented on M-Step, MME and SAT scores. State-wide and within the Bay-Arenac ISD. Improvements were shown in the areas of: K-3 literacy; ELA across the district; Scores in science and social studies were up but still struggling in elementary. M-Step results showed that 66.6% scores increased; 33.3% decreased; 40.4% scores are higher than the 2016 state average; and 26.1% scores are higher than the 2015 state average. Areas to work on for improvement: Math across the district and science and social studies at the elementary

REPORTS

Committees – No reports to give this evening

Superintendent Schmidt reported homecoming was this past weekend. The parade was awesome and all schools were represented with a float. It was a great event for the community and students. Mr Schmidt will be meeting with Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Loop to go over the policy updates received from Neola.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2016 (Regular Meeting)

Mr. Kowalski made a correction to the 9/26/2016 minutes. PPF report should have included Richard Kowalski was in attendance at the committee meeting on 9/15/2016.

Motion carried; 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion and Recommendation to approve joining the Saginaw Valley League beginning with the 2017/18 school year - Mr.

Schmidt thanked the coaches for coming this evening to share their concerns. Since leaving the NEMC League in 2009 it has been a challenge. Several applications were submitted to the Tri Valley League and all were rejected. Mr. Schmidt explained one of the board's goals was to either form their own league or find a conference to join. Mr. Lynch did what he was asked to do and found a conference to join. Mr. Schmidt recommended to approve. Mr. Kowalski asked that if before the vote each board member would like to express their opinion. It was agreed to go around the table before a motion and vote.

John Loop stated the timeline has been an issue for a long time. Mr. Loop expressed the athletic committee has worked hard to find a conference. He feels that joining the SVL is a very dangerous proposition. Mr. Loop had three points he wanted to bring up. The first one is that Bangor is put at a competitive disadvantage due to numbers; the SVL schools are larger in numbers. Football is a dangerous sport. The second reason he is against the move is we did not listen to our coaches. And the third reason he would be against the move is our large number of schools of choice students. These students come mainly for drama, size of classes, caring staff, and athletics. We are the alternative in Bay County.

Brian Tobin – Joining the SVL will be tough for some of our programs but better for some of our programs. Students will go out and work harder and compete.

Lynne Moore – Ms. Moore stated she does not feel informed enough to make a decision. She asked why there is such a concern with numbers. Is there a limit to how many athletes can be on team? It was explained that it is all a game of numbers. The more students you have the more bodies there are. Injured players can be easily replaced. Larger schools can have two teams - A and B teams. Ms. Moore also explained that she is a former Director in HR and there is always a turnover with coaches, she does not see why it would be a concern to if coaches come and go – that happens all the time.

Richard Kowalski – shared his disappointment that it was not talked enough with the coaches. Mr. Kowalski is concerned with the safety of the athletes. If the coaches are worried about the safety then the move should not be considered.

Melissa Kaczmarek – feels the students need and want recognition. Gate receipts and travel time are also a concern staying independent.

Patrick Shaffer – Based on the conversations this evening, Mr. Shaffer does has a tough time making a decision tonight.

Mark Seymour – Based on concerns presented this evening he would have a tough time supporting the move.

Approval of the Financial Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2016 –
John Loop made a motion supported by Patrick Shaffer to approve this recommendation. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Kaczmarek, Loop, Moore, Seymour, Shaffer, Tobin, and Kowalski. Nays: None.

Mr. Kowalski shared his disappointment that the board did not have the courage to bring the conference to a motion and vote on the issue. It was a board goal and recommendation by the superintendent and nobody wanted to take action. Lynne Moore asked for an additional week to research. Mr. Kowalski stated it was removed, it is done. No action can be taken now. He explained it is what the board is here to do – to make decisions.

Superintendent Schmidt and the Athletic Committee will meet to discuss next step.

**OTHER DISCUSSION/
EXPRESSIONS FROM
THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Lynch was asked when he needed a final answer. Mr. Lynch stated that he was invited to the November 8 meeting.

Aaron Jurek asked that there be a recall for a vote; to reach inside their heart and vote. Mr. Kowalski stated this could not be done after it was closed for discussion due to a motion not being made.

Mr. Lynch asked the board for help with what to do next.

ADJOURNMENT

John Loop made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY
SUBMITTED,**

Melissa
Kaczmarek,
Secretary