

SELINGSGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – JANUARY 17, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Tuesday evening, January 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Selingsgrove Area Middle School, 359 Seals Avenue, Selingsgrove, PA 17870.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by the President, Mr. David W. Hess.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by those in attendance.

A roll call indicated a quorum with the following members present: Mr. Christopher A. Aikey, Mr. William L. Bechtel, Jr., Mr. David W. Hess, Mrs. Anabel Menifee, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino, Ms. Kara L. Taylor, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Dr. David M. Watto, and non-voting member, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski, Superintendent. Atty. Matthew A. Slivinski, Board Member, was absent.

Others present were: Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Paul Bozella, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Dr. Colton Moyer, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Paul Roman, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, Rick Zeigler, Cyndi Wetmiller, Eric Wetmiller, Henry Wetmiller, Cerene Dubaskas, Joe Dubaskas, Wendy Malehorn, Harold Malehorn, Dan Frake, Pam Knouse, Vicky Bickhart, Eric Watkins, Lisa Weikel, and Randy Weikel.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watto to approve minutes, reports, and bills lists, as presented. (copies of reports and bills lists to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Announcements:

Mr. Hess announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. He also announced that an Executive Session regarding personnel matters was held at 6 p.m. that evening. Mr. Hess called attention to an addendum and asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include the items listed on the addendum.

Motion by Menifee and seconded by Teats to amend the agenda to include the items listed on the addendum, as presented.

The motion unanimously carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Wendy Malehorn addressed the Board regarding her concern that, because of different grading scales, SUN Tech. scores are modified to our district's scale. She reported that her son, Ben, is a senior currently dual enrolled at SUN Area Technical Institute and Penn College in the welding program. Mrs. Malehorn commented that she did not know what this meant, until her son received a 97% in pre-calculus and a 95% in welding, which then converted to a 95% and 92% on his high school report card. She added that he went from being a distinguished

honor roll student to being just an honor roll student. Mrs. Malehorn feels that a transcript needs to be accurate and reflect a student's effort and true potential, because transcripts are used when competing for employment and for college scholarships. She requested that the Board review the policy and consider changing the grading scale.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Dr. Jankowski stated that one of the topics that has been discussed by the Board and the district, at a more heightened and frequent level, is how we can support students in need of additional mental health services. He noted that he would like to reconfirm that if we are able to work out a system that will increase those opportunities for our students and families, that the Board will support that and we would not need to wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting to approve those agreements. He explained that a follow-up and a confirmation would occur at the next meeting. Dr. Jankowski noted that grant funds are available for use to provide these mental health services. Mr. Hess acknowledged confirmation and support of the Board in this regard. Ms. Taylor commented that at the next committee meeting she would like to talk about other potential opportunities available to provide mental health services to our students.

Mr. Wolfberg and Dr. Jankowski presented service recognition certificates for safe and professional transportation of students and staff to the following drivers: Lisa Weikel for 25 years, Cerene Dubaskas for 25 years, Vicky Bickhart for 30 years, and Pam Knouse for 35 years.

Dr. Conrad introduced Dan Frake, HS Business Education Teacher, and Henry Wetmiller, HS student. He reported that under the guidance of Mr. Frake, Henry, in competition with 3,589 students, won the statewide fall 2022 Stock Market Challenge competition. The Board expressed congratulations to Henry for this awesome academic accomplishment.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Business Manager

Mr. Hummel referred to the Act 1 Budget resolution which is on the agenda for consideration by the Board later in the evening. He explained that by approving this resolution, the Board agrees that it will not raise the rate of real estate taxes by more than the allowable index, which is 5.2%, making a cap of 3.71 mills. Mr. Hummel clarified that this does not mean that taxes will be increased by that amount, it is the cap set by the state that is not to be exceeded. He noted that the Budget and Finance Committee will begin looking at the budget proposal in the near future, and the Board will act on a proposed final budget in May, with final budget approval in June. Mr. Hummel explained that acting on the resolution is the beginning step of the budget process for the 2023-2024 school year.

Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Parise noted that in the next coming weeks and months he will be proposing some resources and instructional programs for Board approval. He reported that multiple departments at various building levels are working to improve, update, and align the district's resources with current best practices and research. Mr. Parise indicated that ESSER funds have been allocated for the purchase of curricular resources and updated programming.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Teats, Chair, noted that a committee meeting will be scheduled before the end of the month.

Policy and Education: Motion by Watto and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the committee to approve a request of the Assistant Superintendent for a new AP Biology textbook: "Biology: The Unity and Diversity of Life AP Edition Update" – Cecie Starr, Ralph Taggart, Christine Evers, and Lisa Starr Brooks/Cole CENGAGE Learning, 15th Edition 2023.

On roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 absent

Extracurricular: No report.

Personnel/Meet and Discuss: Motion by Aikey and seconded by Meniffee to approve the following personnel matters:

Staff Resignations: Wendy Wat as K-2 Mathematics Intervention Tutor, effective December 22, 2022 (verbal resignation); Amy E. Isaacs as a K-12 Nursing Assistant, effective January 13, 2023; David A. Klinger as Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach, effective December 13, 2022; Tom Garlock as Head Boys' Lacrosse Coach, effective December 20, 2022 (verbal resignation); and Pat O'Brien as Head Boys' Tennis Coach, effective January 13, 2023 (verbal resignation)

Staff Transfers: Angie Weaver from Baker to Assistant Kitchen Manager at the Intermediate School, effective January 3, 2023; Kelly Hoffman from PIMS Data Manager/Central Registrar to Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, effective date to be determined; Justin Aurand from Clerical Assistant at the Intermediate School to PIMS Data Manager/Central Registrar at the District Office, effective date to be determined; and Lisa Hoot from Clerical Assistant at the High School to Clerical Assistant at the Intermediate School, effective date to be determined

Staff Elections: Mary Brosius as a Full-Time Second Shift Custodian at the High School, effective retroactive to January 3, 2023 (pending receipt of required paperwork); Tabbetha VanHorn-Price as a Mathematics Intervention Tutor at Selinsgrove Elementary, effective January 17, 2023 (pending receipt of required paperwork); Robert Klock as an intern/volunteer with the Technology Department, effective January 23, 2023 (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation); 2022-2023 District Volunteer: Aja Mellinger (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation); 2022-2023 Jr. High Wrestling Volunteer Coach: Kevin Kratzer (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation), and 2022-2023 Winter Volunteer Boys' Basketball Elementary Coaches: Ali Goetcheus, Laurie Decker, Lindsey Bordner, Ryan Bordner, Andy Paladino, Nathan Long, Charlie Pagana, Matthew Reinard, Ryan Rumberger, Frank Jankowski, and Doug Wilburn (pending receipt of required paperwork) (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Leave of Absence: Employee #000-00-2179 for an extension of a Medical Sabbatical through the end of the 2022-2023 school year

Substitutes: Guest Teachers – Girard Bohler, Sarah Bolig, Alayna Gottemoller, and Katie Sheaffer; Prospective Teacher Substitute – Grace Shawver, and Paraprofessional – Lori Rathfon (pending receipt of required paperwork)

On roll call vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Teats), 1 absent

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watto to consider approving the recommendation of the Superintendent and Business Manager in regard to weather impacted days for related district staff expectations, as presented.

On roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 absent

Transportation: Motion by Aikey and seconded by Taylor to consider the recommendation of the Transportation Coordinator to approve Alissa Durkee, Michael Fasold, Karen Herman, and Michael Shirk as drivers for Weikel Busing, effective during the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

On roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 absent

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: No report.

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Hess, Representative, reported that the CSIU Board of Directors on December 21, 2022, elected him to the Board as our district's representative. He noted that the Board will hold its' next meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

PSBA: Motion by Aikey and seconded by Meniffee to adopt a resolution to approve PSBA's revised Principles for Governance and Leadership, as presented. (a copy of the principles to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion by Watto and seconded by Aikey to consider accepting the resignation of David W. Hess as PSBA Liaison, effective immediately.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hess recommended that Anabel Meniffee be appointed as his replacement.

Motion by Watto and seconded by Bechtel to approve the appointment of Anabel Meniffee as PSBA Liaison to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association to serve effective immediately through December 2023.

Mr. Teats questioned Mrs. Meniffee if she agrees with PSBA that real estate taxes should be the main source of income for school districts or if there should be an alternate source? Mrs. Meniffee responded that she would need to gather more information before she can answer that question.

On roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 absent

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed 2023 Committee Assignments:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Taylor to consider approving proposed 2023 committee assignments, as presented. (a copy of the committee assignments to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Aikey to consider approving the 2023-2024 Act 1 Budget Resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of real estate taxes by more than the allowable index. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 absent

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve a list of requests for tax exoneration, as presented. (a copy of the list to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 absent

Snyder County Tax Collection Committee:

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Bechtel to consider appointing Jeffrey H. Hummel as primary delegate and Andrew Paladino as alternate delegate to represent the Selinsgrove Area School District on the Snyder County Tax Collection Committee. (for the collection of earned income taxes).

The motion was unanimously carried.

Health and Safety Plan:

Dr. Jankowski explained that there are no changes to the plan, however, LEAs are required to review the plans at least every six months.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watto to consider the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Selinsgrove Area School District's Health and Safety Plan, as presented. (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Independent Study Proposal:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Slivinski to consider the request of the High School Principal to approve an Independent Study Proposal for student #12235, as presented. (a copy of the proposal to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Teats questioned if the district's cyber school will be a topic of discussion at a future committee meeting. Dr. Jankowski responded that it could be brought up at the meeting. He also reminded members to touch base with him prior to any committee meetings with any specific questions, concerns or topics, so that the meetings can be as productive as possible.

Dr. Jankowski noted that a Policy and Education Committee meeting will be held in the near future where one of the topics that will be discussed is the SUN Tech. grade conversion, which he added that he has shared this information with the Board previously. He noted that it is anticipated that the desires of Mr. and Mrs. Malehorn is supported by the district and will be recommended to the committee at that meeting.

Mr. Hess announced that an Executive Session will be held immediately following adjournment regarding legal and personnel matters.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min11723