

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – JANUARY 16, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Tuesday evening, January 16, 2024, 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 7:00 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. Michael A. Bingaman, Mr. David W. Hess, Mr. Christopher J. Kenawell, Mr. Cory A. Naugle, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. Eric L. Watkins, Dr. David M. Watto, and non-voting member, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski, Superintendent.

Others present were: Mr. Zachary Appleman, Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Paul Bozella, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Mrs. Renee Frederick, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Dr. Colton Moyer, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Ryan Solomon, Mrs. Caitlin Swank, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, Mike Stebila, Dennis Wolfe, and Roy Sassaman.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Paladino and seconded by Teats 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 13, 2024. He also announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the Board meeting for personnel and legal matters.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Jankowski announced that Friday, January 12th marked the end of the second marking period and the mid-point of the school year.

Dr. Jankowski highlighted Act 91 extensions for the Board. He noted that one change permanently allows a school entity to hire an annuitant to fill a substitute teacher position without having to attempt to secure non-retired teachers. Dr. Jankowski commented that this change, as well as other changes made by the commonwealth, will allow districts more flexibility for securing substitute teachers, which will be helpful with the current teacher shortage.

Dr. Jankowski referenced several Act 35 enhancements which included the establishment of a public database by the PA Department of Education for posting of instructional vacancies at no cost to school districts; as well the requirement that a mandatory course in financial literacy be developed and incorporated by the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Parise commented that this requirement will not be a significant change as a personal finance course already exists in the district and he is confident that it meets the expectations of that legislation.

Elementary Principal

Mr. Gessel publicly recognized the maintenance and custodial crew for working on a Sunday to remove snow so that school could open on time the next day. He noted that they consistently work hard and do a great job at the elementary school and on the campus as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Paladino reported that a committee meeting is scheduled to be held following adjournment of the Board meeting.

Policy and Education: Mr. Hess reported that a committee meeting is scheduled to be held following adjournment of the Board meeting.

Extracurricular: No report.

Personnel/Meet and Discuss: Motion by Bingaman and seconded by Watto to approve the following personnel matters:

Staff Resignations: Keiley Smith (verbal) as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School, effective December 12, 2023; Kelly Leitzel as a Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, effective December 21, 2023; Michael Ferriero as Assistant Varsity Football Coach, effective December 29, 2023; Charles Moll as Assistant Varsity Football Coach, effective December 22, 2023; and James Meixel as a Second Shift Custodian at the Intermediate School, effective March 31, 2024, due to retirement

Staff Transfer: Dalton Kreitzer from First Shift Custodian at the High School to First Shift Custodian at the Middle School, effective retroactive to December 11, 2023

Leaves of Absence: Employee #000-00-1890 for an extension of a child rearing leave of absence to February 1, 2024 (original request tentatively effective 10/30/23 through 1/1/24); and Employee #000-00-2310 for a childbearing/child rearing leave of absence, tentatively effective February 28 through May 21, 2024

Staff Elections: Ethan Hummel as a Predictable Long-Term Substitute Grade 2 Teacher, effective retroactive to October 26, 2023, through February 1, 2024; Emily Morgan as an Autistic Support Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, effective retroactive to January 10, 2024; Dina Irizarry as an Emotional Support Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School, effective January 17, 2024; Jamie Hepler as a Paraprofessional at the Seals Den, effective January 22, 2024; Sienna Messimer as a Life Skills Support Paraprofessional at the High School, effective February 1, 2024 (pending receipt of required paperwork); Amy Domaracki as a Library Clerical Assistant at the Elementary School, effective retroactive to January 4, 2024; Co-Curricular Contract with Lance Schwartz as Middle School TSA Advisor, effective January 16, 2024; 2023-2024 District Volunteers – Nicole Koster and Shaina Pagana (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation); and 2023 Intermediate Boys' Basketball Volunteer – John (Jake) L. McCabe, III (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Substitutes: Day-to-Day Predictable Substitute Teachers – Sarah Minden-Hummel (SE), Dana Brandt (IS), and Amy Ward (HS) (per building or based upon operational needs); Teacher – Michaela Novack (pending receipt of required paperwork); Guest Teachers – Katelynne Michael and Carolynne Mori; Prospective Teachers – Annalise Bond and Emily Swineford (pending receipt of required paperwork); Paraprofessionals – Kelly Leitzel and Kathy Ziegler; and Crossing Guard – Ashley Herring

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Transportation: Motion by Paladino and seconded by Kenawell to consider the recommendation of the Transportation Coordinator to approve the following drivers: Elwood Smith, Erin McManus-Yatsko, and Heather Shultz for Weikel Busing; and Brian Hufnagle for Rohrer Bus Service, effective during the 2023-2024 school year.

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: Mr. Teats, Representative, referred to a copy of the JOC meeting highlights, which he has requested be included monthly with the Board packet. (a copy of the highlights to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Mr. Bingaman reported that he recently attended a program at Warrior Run where he spoke to students regarding automotive technology. He noted that he also took a tour of their shop and mentioned to them that he is a Selinsgrove School Board Member. Mr. Bingaman commented that they had nothing but good things to say about our shop department and SUN Tech.

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Hess, Representative, reported that the Board is scheduled to meet tomorrow, January 17, 2024. He referred to the Board Report and Highlights of the previous meeting and requested that these be included monthly with the Board packet.

PSBA: Mr. Hess encouraged Board members to read emails received from PSBA, noting that they are a good source of information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed 2024 Committee Assignments:

Motion by Watto and seconded by Paladino to consider approving the proposed 2024 committee assignments, as presented. (a copy to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Motion was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Aikey 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)

Motion was unanimously carried.

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Paladino to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve the Affordable Care Act Resolution for 2024, as presented. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Motion was unanimously carried.

Snyder County Tax Collection Committee:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Aikey to consider appointing Jeffrey H. Hummel as primary delegate and Andrew V. 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)

Motion was unanimously carried.

Health and Safety Plan:

Motion by Bingaman and seconded by Teats 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)

Dr. Jankowski explained that approximately 3-4 years ago Board consideration of a Health and Safety Plan was a hot topic. He noted that districts must continue to review recommendations from the Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and approve the plan every six months, as required by the Federal Government, so that we can continue to receive ESSER funds. Dr. Jankowski reported that there are no changes to our current operations/plan.

Motion was unanimously carried.

Independent Study Proposals:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watkins to consider the request of the High School Principal to approve Independent Study Proposals for the following students: #200574 and 200586, as presented. (a copy of the proposals to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Motion was unanimously carried.

Settlement Agreement and Release:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Bingaman to consider approving the Settlement Agreement and Release, as presented. (a copy to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Motion was unanimously carried.

Board Discussion:

Dr. Jankowski introduced Caitlin Swank as Assistant High School Principal, noting that she began her employment with the district in December. He then requested that all members of the Administrative Team introduce themselves to the new Board.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min11624