

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF MEETING – NOVEMBER 12, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Tuesday evening, November 12, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Selingsrove Area Middle School, 359 Seals Avenue, Selingsrove, 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. 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. Mr. Chris J. Kenawell, Board Member, was absent

Others present were: Mr. Paul Bozella, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Mrs. Renee Frederick, Mrs. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mr. Stephen Hartley, Esq., Mr. Troy Hickman, Mr. Brian Parise, Mrs. Maggie Roberts, Mr. Mike Sokoloski, Mrs. Caitlyn Swank, Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, Mike Stebila, Rick Zeigler, Dennis Slaybaugh, Leslie Slaybaugh, Paul Mall, Lori Mall, Toni Niles, and Joy Hahn.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino 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)

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

**Announcements:**

Mr. Hess announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, which will be followed by a Reorganization meeting. He announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting at 6:15 p.m. regarding legal and personnel matters.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

**Superintendent**

Dr. Jankowski reported that the storage addition construction project at the Middle School is moving right along and should be completed by mid-January, just in time for the start of the musical season.

Dr. Jankowski reported that fall sports finished up last week. He commented that we had a very positive fall sports season with a lot of participants, noting that our rate of participation with regard to our extracurriculars continues to be high, but that it is also something that we look to continually improve upon. As a district we have a goal to consistently engage our students to participate in those experiences, to be part of a team, and to take on leadership roles.

Mr. Kenawell arrived at the meeting at approximately 7:04 p.m.

### **Assistant Superintendent**

Mr. Parise addressed several items that are on the agenda for Board consideration later in the evening. He noted that there are three policies being presented for first reading revisions, and that the changes are based on clarifying language or legislative updates. Mr. Parise also spoke regarding the Early College Agreement with Luzerne County Community College, which will give us the opportunity to offer dual enrollment and dual credit. He commented that he prefers dual credit which allows our High School teachers to teach college courses within the building and allows students to receive transferable college credits. Mr. Parise explained that our current dual enrollment agreements are being vetted for rigor and structure.

Mr. Parise indicated that yesterday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, was a Professional Development Day and that SUN-Technical Institute hosted our secondary-level teachers for half-day tours and lunch. He added that this allowed for a real time experience because students were in session at the school. Mr. Parise publicly expressed thanks to the Administration at SUN-Tech for facilitating this opportunity which allowed our teachers to better understand and support all career pathways.

### **Intermediate School Principal**

Mr. Bozella highlighted the efforts of the fifth-grade students, and their teachers, which resulted in another successful Veteran's Day assembly this year. He recognized Stacy Gasteiger, Darby Orris, and Cheryl Shellenberger for all of the work that goes on behind the scenes. Mr. Bozella stated that he was very proud of the students for reading their letters to the veterans aloud on stage, for performing a song, as well as a clarinet solo. He also noted that the Veteran turn-out for the event was great. Mr. Bozella added that the Daily Item published a nice article on the event.

### **High School Principal**

Dr. Conrad recognized Noah Walter for taking second place in the state in the Brighter Financial Futures Investing Challenge, noting that at the last Board meeting he reported that Colby Kratzer took first place in the challenge. He added that Colby traded 89 times in 10 weeks and generated \$786,000 and that Noah traded 110 times in 10 weeks and generated \$729,000.

Dr. Conrad announced that the fall play "Twelve Angry Jurors" will be held on November 21, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget and Finance:** No report.

**Buildings and Grounds:** No report.

**Policy and Education:** Motion by Paladino and seconded by Bingaman to consider approving first reading revisions to the following Board Policies: No. 317.1 – Educator Misconduct, No. 806 - Child Abuse, and No. 824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries. (a copy of the policies to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

**Extracurricular:** Dr. Watto, Chair, commented that he would like to reiterate what was said by Dr. Jankowski earlier regarding the importance of extracurriculars in terms of our students' education and their high school experience, and their experience at all levels.

**Personnel/Meet and Discuss:** Motion by Aikey and seconded by Bingaman to consider approving the following personnel matters:

**Staff Resignation:** Darryl Fisher as a Part-Time School Police Officer, effective November 8, 2024

**Staff Elections:** Michael Shay as a 2024-2025 Mentor Teacher; Brett Arnold as Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce Head Coach; Paul Mall, Jr. as a Part-Time School Police Officer, effective November 13, 2024 (pending receipt of required paperwork); Mary Ann Sweitzer as a Paraprofessional at the High School, tentatively effective in January of 2025 (pending receipt of required paperwork); Kristen Phillips as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School, effective December 3, 2024 (pending receipt of required paperwork);

2024-2025 District Volunteers – Laura Aungst, Maria Blocker, Holly Catlin, Judy Fatchaline, Samantha Gehers, Amber Heimbach, Nicole Henry, Mako Klisiewicz, Kelly Lerch, Marissa Morris, Shaina Pagana, Heather Specht, Beth Stark, Julie Sutfin, Emily Wendt, and Patricia Wendt (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

**Leave of Absence:** Employee #000-00-2920 for a childbearing leave of absence, tentatively effective January 22 through April 4, 2025

**Substitutes:** Teacher - Leslie Slaybaugh; Prospective Teachers - Mackenzie Erb and Lauren Weinhoffer (pending receipt of required paperwork); and Nurses - Sarah Dressler and Katie Shingara (pending receipt of required paperwork)

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

**Transportation:** Motion by Kenawell and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Transportation Coordinator to approve Kareem Shami as a driver for Weikel Busing, effective during the 2024-2025 school year.

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

**Technology:** No report.

**SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee:** No report.

**CSIU Board of Directors:** Mr. Hess, Representative, reported that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

**PSBA:** Mr. Hess reported that the Delegate Assembly Meeting was held on Saturday, November 2, 2024, and that both he and Mr. Bingaman voted to adopt PSBA's 2025 legislative platform. He commented that he would like to see the Board get more involved in the process in the future. The platform is PSBA's official record of positions on legislative issues and is the guide for the association's advocacy efforts.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Business Matters:**

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Naugle to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve the agreements for the Intergovernmental Cooperation in Assessment Appeal Litigation Cost Settlements for the following parcels: 12-09-283A, 12-09-283B, 12-09-283C, 12-09-283D, 12-09-283F, 12-09-283G, 12-09-283H, and 12-09-283M. (copies of agreements to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 8 yes, 1 abstention (Kenawell), 0 no, 0 absent

### **Early College Agreement with Luzerne County Community College:**

Motion by Watkins and seconded by Paladino to consider the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to approve entering into an Early College Agreement with Luzerne County Community College. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

### **World Language Course Outline/Curriculum:**

Motion by Teats and seconded by Kenawell to consider the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to approve the new course outline/curriculum for the approved World Language course. (a copy of the course outline/curriculum to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Extended Day Field Trip Requests:**

Motion by Paladino and seconded by Watkins to consider formally approving the following requests for extended day field trips: FFA to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana to attend the FFA leadership conference/ National FFA Convention, October 23-26, 2024; and the Outdoors Club to travel to Adirondack Extreme in Bolton Landing, New York, November 1-2, 2024.

The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Board Discussion:**

Mr. Teats expressed thanks to the Administration for maintaining the tradition of Senior Quotes in the High School yearbook.

Mr. Teats questioned if the district has a system in place to track student issued computers and also why there was a random computer sitting in the hallway outside of the High School Office recently? Mr. Decker responded that there is a system in place and Mrs. Swank responded that it was just a case, and there was no device in it.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Hess announced that a brief Executive Session regarding personnel matters will be held immediately following adjournment.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver  
Recording Secretary

cab/min111224