

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – JANUARY 13, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, January 13, 2020, 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. Dennis R. Wolfe.

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. Larry D. Augustine, Mr. Thomas A. Badman, Mr. David W. Hess, Mr. John Molitoris, Dr. Jennifer Rager-Kay, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. Dennis R. Wolfe, and non-voting member, Dr. Chad L. Cohrs, Superintendent. Mr. William L. Bechtel, Jr. and Mrs. Amelia G. Stauffer, Board Members, were absent.

Others present were:

Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Matthew Conrad, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Dr. Frank Jankowski, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Mr. Christopher Morrison, Mr. Kevin Oswald, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Paul Roman, Dr. Jason Schmucker, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Ms. Claudia Beaver, Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Mr. Rick Dandes (Daily Item), Mr. Harold Malehorn, and Mrs. Wendy Malehorn

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Rager-Kay 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: 7 yes, 0 no, 2 absent

Announcements:

Mr. Wolfe announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:30 p.m. regarding personnel matters. He noted that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2020. Mr. Wolfe also noted that Leslie O'Malley has withdrawn her letter of intent to retire at the end of the school year, therefore, the Board should remove it from the agenda.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Mr. and Mrs. Malehorn were present to address the Board regarding action taken at the last meeting concerning course weighting. It was explained that the Board acted to weight honors courses at 1.05 and AP courses at 1.10, effective with the 2020-2021 school year for all students that will be in the high school taking the honors and AP courses and retroactively took those courses. Mr. Malehorn indicated that they support the change in weighting, but not retroactively, as it will negatively affect their daughter and will appear as though her grades were altered when comparing grades submitted with preliminary applications and final grades submitted later. Mr. Parise noted that the actual grade will not change and that it should not appear altered. Discussion was held regarding concerns expressed by Mr. and Mrs. Malehorn. Mr. Wolfe suggested that Mr. Parise meet with the parents, as well as schedule a Policy and Education Committee meeting to revisit the subject.

Board Discussion:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Rager-Kay to consider approving proposed 2020 committee assignments, as presented. (a copy of the proposed assignments to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent:

Dr. Cohrs noted that consideration of a 2020-2021 school calendar is listed on the agenda later for consideration.

Dr. Cohrs reported that bids for the parking lots and tennis courts will go out a little later this month with a February 21st due date.

Dr. Cohrs explained that the Act 80 day scheduled for Monday, February 20th is a professional development day for staff, administrators, and secretarial staff.

Dr. Cohrs pointed out that January is National School Director Recognition Month. As a way of saying thank you to our Board members for the work they do, a meal will be provided on February 10th, prior to the Board meeting.

Dr. Cohrs indicated that later this week he would be forwarding to the Board a report from a Regional Task Force that has been looking at youth mental health. He noted that he was able to preview the report which provides some very interesting statistical information. Dr. Cohrs noted that Mr. Paul Roman, HS Assistant Principal, is a member on that task force. He expressed thanks to Mr. Roman for his participation.

Business Manager:

Mr. Hummel referred to a handout which is a summary of commercial appeals from 2015 through 2019. He noted that the total cumulative loss of tax revenue over five years has been \$1.17 million, which represents 4.6 mills of tax. Mr. Hummel also noted that the Susquehanna Valley Mall has lost 49% of its total assessed value. He reported that a motion is listed later on the agenda to approve agreements for intergovernmental cooperation in assessment appeal litigation for both Lowe's and Wood-Metal. (a copy of the summary to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time-line of the 2020-2021 budget process. He noted that at the December meeting, the Board passed the 2020-2021 Act 1 Budget Resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of real estate taxes by more than the allowable index. In February, the Governor will release the state budget numbers. The Budget and Finance Committee will meet in late February to begin work on a preliminary budget. A proposed final budget will be presented in May and a final budget will be presented in June.

School Safety & Security Coordinator:

Mr. Wolfberg briefly reviewed the report of monthly activities for December. He stressed that it is a confidential report and the information contained in the report is not to be shared with the public.

Mr. Wolfberg reported that on November 27th the Governor signed Act 49 which restores arrest powers to school police officers. He indicated that he spoke with Attorney Wiley to confirm that the district's officers do not need to be sworn in again. Attorney Wiley confirmed that our officers are grandfathered in and do not need to go through the swearing in process again. Mr. Wolfberg indicated that, due to a 60-day waiting period, Act 49 will go into effect on January 27th.

Assistant Superintendent:

Dr. Jankowski gave a brief synopsis of the Typing Club implementation (Grades 3-5) and the After-School Tutoring Program (Grades 3-8). Both Mr. Bohle and Mr. Conrad commented that the after-school tutoring program is going very well and believe that it is truly making a difference.

Mr. Conrad recognized a grade 3 student, Braylin Massey, for his effort in successfully creating a “coats for kids” project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: No report.

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: No report.

Personnel/Meet and Discuss: Motion by Teats and seconded by Rager-Kay to consider the recommendation of the committee to approve the following personnel matters:

Letters of Intent to Retire at the end of the 2019-2020 School Year: Victoria Gulick as a Grade 5 Teacher at the Intermediate School; and, Edward Smith as a Music Teacher at the High School

Staff Transfer: Noreen Robbins from Part-Time Utility Aide/Paraprofessional at Selinsgrove Elementary to Full-Time Life Skills Support Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective date yet to be determined

Staff Elections: Heather A. Swimley as a Grade 5 Learning Support Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School, effective retroactive to January 6, 2020, at an hourly rate of \$10.75 (due to the resignation of Amanda Graybill; Erika Cherry as a Cook/Cashier at the Selinsgrove Elementary, at the hourly rate of \$10.25, effective date to be determined (pending receipt of required paperwork); 2019-2020 District Volunteers: Alesha Love-LaForme and Rebecca Margel (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation); and 2019-2020 Volunteer Wrestling Coach: Blaise Zeiders (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Leave of Absence: Employee #000-00-2308 for a child bearing/child rearing leave of absence, tentatively effective May 4, 2020 through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year

Substitutes: Teachers – Mitchell Rebeck and Tricia Sullivan (pending receipt of required paperwork); and, Guest Teacher – Kathryn Madara

On roll call vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 2 absent

Negotiations: Mr. Molitoris, Chair, reported that the committee continues to negotiate the contract with teacher union representatives.

Transportation: Motion by Hess and seconded by Teats to consider approving Arthur Harner as a driver for Rohrer Bus Service, effective during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: Mr. Teats, Representative, reported that Selinsgrove student, Hannah Alderson was November's Young American. She is enrolled in the criminal justice program. He reported that the committee is currently in negotiations with SUN Tech employees. Mr. Teats also called attention to the proposed 2020-2021 budget which will be presented for Board consideration at the February meeting.

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Augustine, Representative, referred to the Board of Directors' Report for the meeting held on December 18, 2019. He noted that Dr. Kevin Singer, CSIU Executive Director, has announced his retirement, effective June of 2021. Mr. Augustine reported that the Board of Directors appointed Dr. John Kurelja to the position of Executive Director upon the retirement of Dr. Singer, pending his acceptance of a contract for employment.

PSBA: Mr. Augustine, Liaison, reported that state legislators recently reconvened. He reported that Governor Wolf recently announced a new mental health initiative which calls for more social workers in schools.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess 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)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion by Hess and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve a donation from Leroy and Lois Glick (class of 1953) of \$61,236.42 (to be spent as follows: \$21,236.42 for high school science program, \$20,000 for high school music, \$20,000 for high school plays/theatre).

The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion by Rager-Kay and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve a resolution to establish a Cash Reserve Investment Management Account with Fulton Financial Advisors for the investment of district funds. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 2 absent

Motion by Rager-Kay and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve the agreements for intergovernmental cooperation in assessment appeal litigation cost and settlement for the Lowe's Home Centers LLC appeal and the Management Acquisition LLC (Wood-Metal) appeal, as presented. (a copy of the agreements to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 2 absent

Motion by Rager-Kay and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve the real estate assessment appeal agreement with Rod B. Donaldson (Tax Parcel No. 16-05-185 at 127 Queen Ave. Shamokin Dam). (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 6 yes, 1 no (Teats), 2 absent

Snyder County Tax Collection Committee:

Motion by Rager-Kay and seconded by Teats to consider reappointing Jeffrey H. Hummel as primary delegate and John Molitoris 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.

2020-2021 School Calendar:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess to consider the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt draft #5 of the 2020-2021 School Calendar, as presented.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed calendar and adjusting it in such a way that would allow for the last student day to occur in May.

Mr. Teats proposed amending the original motion so that the school year would end before Memorial Day. Discussion was held regarding tabling action until next month.

Motion by Molitoris and seconded by Teats to table adopting a 2020-2021 School Calendar until next month.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min 2020-01-13