

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – MAY 11, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, May 11, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 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. William L. Bechtel, Jr., Mr. David W. Hess, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino, Dr. Jennifer Rager-Kay, Atty. Matthew A. Slivinski, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. Dennis R. Wolfe, and non-voting member, Dr. Chad L. Cohrs, Superintendent. Mrs. Amelia G. Stauffer, Board Member, was absent at the time of roll call.

Others present were:

Mr. Troy Beaver, Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Matt Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Dr. Frank Jankowski, Mr. Kevin Oswald, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Paul Roman, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, and approximately 55 attendees

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Teats questioned wording in the minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2020, in regard to a motion to approve Colby Snook as a Board Member.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess to approve minutes (with changes/corrections), 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, 1 abstain (Slivinski), 1 absent

Announcements:

Mr. Wolfe announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8 2020; however, a suggestion has been made to move the meeting to Monday, June 29, 2020. Dr. Cohrs noted that this would provide an opportunity to advertise for vacancies, as well as become more aware of budget numbers.

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Rager-Kay to reschedule the June Board meeting from June 8 to June 29, 2020.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Board Discussion:

Motion by Rager-Kay and seconded by Teats to approve the list of revised 2020 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.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent:

Dr. Cohrs commented that this is our first Board meeting attempt at distance learning, but for the past two months the faculty has been conducting distance learning with their classes and have done a tremendous job of adjusting to the new situation. Dr. Cohrs expressed thanks to the faculty for their time and effort and to the Technology Department for their assistance with technical issues with staff and students.

Dr. Cohrs reported that the CSIU has been hosting “job alike” meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for Superintendents, Administrators, and Curriculum Directors to discuss how we are conducting our distance learning and noted that we are all very similar in our approach.

Dr. Cohrs stated that there is currently a lot of uncertainty on how the 2020 school year will start. The district is currently exploring a number of different scenarios so that we are prepared.

In regard to the current pandemic, Dr. Cohrs reported that the Federal Government has passed the Cares Act which will provide funding for districts to help try to meet the needs to continue to provide education and services to students. We are anticipating that our allocation will be approximately \$560,000 in one time funds. Dr. Cohrs noted that the district will be applying for those funds when the application opens later this month. In addition, the State and Federal Government have recently passed the Pandemic Benefit monies. Those monies are earmarked for students and families who qualify for free and reduced lunches. Dr. Cohrs explained that the benefit will provide \$5.70 per day, per qualifying student. The benefit is for any student who was qualified as of March 12, and up to and including any students who qualify any time between now and June 16. Dr. Cohrs noted that the application to apply for this benefit is posted on the district’s web-site.

Dr. Cohrs reported that the district is still holding out hope that we can hold an actual live graduation ceremony for our seniors and their families. However, we are also planning for the worst and conducted a survey of seniors and their parents. Mr. Parise noted that at least two-thirds of the class responded to the email survey. Overall the majority of the class would like there to be some sort of face-to-face celebration and anything virtual was ranked least by far. Mr. Parise expressed thanks to staff and Mr. Wolfberg for arranging the use of school buses to deliver to seniors, yard signs, caps and gowns, yearbooks, cookies and water.

Mrs. Stauffer, Board Member, joined the meeting at approximately 7:41 p.m.

Dr. Cohrs reported that construction on the parking circles at the Middle School and High School is scheduled to begin this week. He noted that the memorial tree at the High School cannot be moved, according to a local landscaper. Therefore, we would like to create a memorial garden outside of the district office, where there is currently a tree planted in memory of Chuck Longwell, and plant a new tree in memory of Linda Richards. In addition, Dr. Cohrs discussed the removal of dirt from the Middle School circle. He noted that the original bid was to install new tennis courts and use the fill to raise up and level it and gain clearance over a gas line. There is enough fill to meet that need; however, we did not award the bid for the tennis courts, the bid includes hauling away the fill from the Middle School circle. Dr. Cohrs emphasized that the top soil will be removed and will stay on campus; however, the fill will be hauled somewhere. Discussion was held regarding various options/scenarios for moving/hauling fill and the expense involved. Hearing no objection from the Board, the fill will be removed as is currently written in the contract.

Other Administrative Reports:

Mr. Wolfberg reported that the officers have been sporadically in the office to finish up some paperwork, etc. He noted that the department has assisted with some school events, as Mr. Parise mentioned earlier, as well as led parades, and have participated in birthday drive-by's along with the fire and ambulance leagues.

Mr. Wolfberg is working with the maintenance staff to oversee the installation of plastic sneeze guards in the main offices of all school buildings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Mr. Paladino, Chair, expressed thanks to everyone working to try to keep the district operating with a minimum impact on the students and community during the pandemic.

Buildings and Grounds: No report.

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: Questions were raised and discussion was held regarding paying spring coaches. Attorney Wiley advised that this is an appropriate discussion for executive session. However, he noted that the majority of districts are paying their coaches.

Personnel/Meet and Discuss: Motion by Augustine and seconded by Bechtel to approve the following personnel matters:

Rescinding 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; Christopher Lupolt as a Guidance Counselor at the High School; Raymond Moyer as a Mathematics Teacher at the High School; Todd Myers as an English Teacher at the High School; Janice Royer as a Physical Education Teacher at the Intermediate School; R. David Russell as a Physical Education Teacher at the Middle School; Edward C. Smith as a Music/Band Teacher at the High School; Martha W. Smith as a Kindergarten Teacher at Selinsgrove Elementary School; Wendy Watkins as a Family & Consumer Science Teacher at the Middle School; and, Robert Whyne as a Guidance Counselor at the High School

Staff Resignations: Christopher S. Morrison as Assistant Middle School Principal, effective Immediately; and, Joshua Beddall as Boys' J.V. Basketball Coach, effective April 8, 2020

Staff Elections: Appointment of Brian C. Parise as Assistant Superintendent, for a three (3) year term, effective July 11, 2020, at a starting salary of \$120,000; Appointment of Justin Simpson to Acting Director of Facilities and Maintenance with a \$18,000 stipend added to existing salary, effective July 1, 2020; Erin Newcomer as Head Varsity and Jr. High Cheerleading Coach for the 2020-2021 season, effective immediately; and, 2019-2020 District Volunteers: Lindsay Dalius and Devon Somers (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Staff Transfers: Matthew Conrad from Intermediate School Principal to High School Principal, effective July 11, 2020; Bradly Richmond from Grade 8 Learning Support Teacher to High School English/Social Studies Teacher, effective with the 2020-2021 school year (due to the resignation of Kayla Switzer); Kristi Nevel from Grade 7 Learning Support Teacher to Grade 8 Learning Support Teacher at the Middle School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year (due to the transfer of Bradly Richmond); and, Jennifer Tyler from High School Learning Support Teacher to Grade 7 Learning Support Teacher at the Middle School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year (due to the transfer of Kristi Nevel)

Rescinding Requests for Leave of Absence: Brittany Bunting-Specht for a sabbatical leave for professional development, during the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year; and, Employee #000-00-2308 for a child bearing/child rearing leave of absence effective May 4, 2020 through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year

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

Negotiations: Mr. Bechtel, Chair, noted that a committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss a proposal from teacher union representatives in regard to the contract.

Transportation: Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Teats to approve Lori Bower and LeeAnn White as drivers for Weikel Busing, effective during the remainder of the 2019-2020 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. Augustine, Representative, reported that the Board met virtually to discuss contracts for the new Executive Director and Senior Leaders.

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Rager-Kay to approve the slate of candidates for the 2020 CSIU Board of Directors, as presented. (a copy of the ballot to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

PSBA: Mr. Augustine, Liaison, reported on recent PSBA activity.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Rager-Kay and seconded by Teats to approve the following recommendations of the Business Manager: a list of requests for tax exoneration, as presented; and exonerating the district's nine (9) tax collectors for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. (a copy of the list of requests for tax exoneration and the final tax collector reports to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

2020-2021 Proposed Final Budget:

Mr. Hummel commented that the 2020-2021 budget has been very difficult to put together due to the high level of uncertainty at the State level. He explained that the deficit pre-virus was \$1.6 million. However, we have since lost up to 3% of our overall revenue, resulting in a total deficit of \$2.9 million. Mr. Hummel noted that, in an attempt to reduce the deficit, three teaching positions, a new guidance counselor position, and one administrative position have all been eliminated, as well as placing a freeze on all wages and salaries. He explained that no programs have been cut and no tax increase is being proposed. Mr. Hummel indicated that a final budget will require Board action in June, and that changes can still be made to the budget. It was noted that they will continue to look for additional ways to cut the budget in an effort to reduce the deficit.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve the 2020-2021 Proposed Final Budget with expenditures of \$44,629,434 and revenues of \$42,960,307 and use of fund balance of \$1,669,127. (a copy of the proposed final budget to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min 2020-05-11