

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, June 29, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Selingsrove Area Middle School, 359 Seals Avenue, Selingsrove, PA 17870.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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. (via phone), Mr. David W. Hess, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino (via phone), Atty. Matthew A. Slivinski, Mrs. Amelia G. Stauffer, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. Dennis R. Wolfe, and non-voting member, Dr. Chad L. Cohrs, Superintendent.

Others present were:

Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Dr. Frank Jankowski, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Justin Simpson, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, Rick Dandes (Daily Item), Todd Shimko, Andrea Borys, Blake Shellenberger, Debrah Baxter, Matt Metzger, Dan Stuter, Cyndi Wetmiller, Heather Hackenberg, Robert Bressler, Walter Heath, Abbe Heath, Michaeline Shuman, McKenzie Teats, Dana Teats, Ashley Kolak, Meredith Lemons, Olivia Lemons, Anne Coyne, Marsha Lemons, Jay Lemons, Amy Caron, Raven Rudnitsky, Mike Coyne, Janie Coyne, JoAnn Bower, Sydney Bower, Keenan Hall, Matthew Young, Kendra Ruhl, Kara Taylor, Sara Lauver (WKOK), Carl Nelson, Charles Welker, Nicole Adams, Terry Garbo, Angela Mowery, Tanya Matlaga, Stephen Feiler, Chris Markle, Mary Markle, Noelle Markle, Eli Markle, Sophie Markle, Sharlene Gilman, Kristin Volchansky, Jim Beddall, Sophia Alvarez, and Dalton Savidge

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess 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, 0 absent

Announcements:

Mr. Wolfe announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2020. He referred to an addendum to the agenda listing a number of additional action items. Mr. Wolfe also announced that an Executive Session regarding personnel matters was held prior to the start of the Board meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Mr. Wolfe reviewed the standard operating procedures regarding public comment and requested that everyone be respectful of one another. He also noted that this is not a debate forum.

Olivia Lemons, Meredith Lemons, and Anne Coyne addressed the Board on behalf of the Selingsrove Area School District Alumni Organizers and presented a petition with approximately 600 signatures. The SASD Community, in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives, is calling on the district to commit to implementing a list of six actions/demands in order to create a safer, more equitable, and more inclusive community. (a copy of the petition to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Michaeline Shuman addressed the Board regarding the district's lack of diversity, inclusion, equity, and racism.

Dan Stuter addressed the Board regarding COVID-19 and CDC guidelines.

Sophia Alvarez addressed the Board regarding the district's food and nutrition budget, as well as diversity, inclusion and equity.

Cyndi Wetmiller addressed the Board regarding district students and social media.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the district has a lot to respond to, discuss, and work on in regard to the concerns expressed this evening.

Dr. Cohrs expressed appreciation to those speaking tonight and the concerns expressed by those individuals who presented the petition. He commented that society expects the schools to solve all issues of the world. In a good year, a school district has 180 days and approximately six hours a day to educate students. He noted that the district cannot do it alone, and that we do need the community to help address the issues. This is not the first issue, and it won't be the last issue that we have to deal with. Dr. Cohrs noted that the people of Selinsgrove have always come together to try and make things better. He reported that he has reached out to representatives of the United Way to help organize a community group made up of district representatives and stakeholder groups to begin discussions on the topic of racism and ways that we can improve. He noted that it will also take the help of local organizations, church groups, and parents, to address the issues as best we can.

Matt Metzger, SAEA Representative, addressed the Board regarding food distributions conducted by members of the Education Association beginning in late March. Mr. Metzger noted that what had started as a one-time event and donation by SAEA, turned into a community outreach, with over 75+ staff members volunteering numerous times over several months to hand out over \$20,000 worth of food. (a copy of the written statement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Board Discussion:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Hess to accept the resignation of Jennifer Rager-Kay as School Board Director, effective June 1, 2020.

The motion was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent:

Dr. Cohrs noted that tomorrow, June 30th, is the last day of employment for Troy Beaver as the District's Director of Buildings and Grounds. Dr. Cohrs wished Mr. Beaver well in his retirement.

Dr. Cohrs reported that the Middle School parking lot paving project is in the process of wrapping up.

Dr. Cohrs mentioned that Dr. Jankowski will be providing an update on the progress being made towards reopening school in the fall.

Dr. Cohrs noted that his last day in the district as Superintendent will be July 10, 2020. He expressed thanks to the Board, administration, faculty and staff, students, parents and community members for their support over the years. He commented that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the district in various positions since 1989.

Other Administrative Reports:

Dr. Jankowski reported on the reopening of the school year. He noted that surveys have been conducted with faculty and families regarding the reopening process with 60 to 70% responding. He noted that a Health and Safety template must be in place by August. If the county is in the green, we will plan for a traditional opening with many health and safety measures in place. Dr. Jankowski noted that the district will be providing professional development training to staff on transitioning to distance learning and how to adapt quickly to unique situations. He noted that there is a potential for a blended approach as well. The district will adhere to CDC guidelines, as well as direction from the PDE and the Governor's Office. Dr. Jankowski noted that similar approaches are being taken by other regions of the state as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Teats, Chair, referred to two items which are listed later on the agenda. Those items being resurfacing of the existing tennis courts as well as a change order from Gutelius Excavating. Mr. Teats also mentioned a request regarding a Legacy Room. Mr. Wolfe explained that the Alumni Association is interested in converting the all-purpose room next to the Multi-Media Center at the High School into a heritage room which would then contain memorabilia and artifacts. He explained that this would be at no cost to the district. Mr. Wolfe noted that the room would continue to serve as it does now.

Motion by Hess and seconded by Stauffer to permit the Alumni Association to convert the all-purpose room next to the Multi-Media Center at the High School into a Legacy Room, at no cost to the district.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: Mr. Bechtel, Chair, noted that the Health and Safety Plan for extracurricular activities is listed later on the agenda for Board consideration.

Personnel/Meet and Discuss: Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess to approve the following personnel matters:

Staff Resignations: Linda Herrold, High School Assistant Kitchen Manager, effective June 5, 2020, due to retirement; Sheila Stine, High School Kitchen Manager, effective June 5, 2020, due to retirement; Jeffrey Kiss as Head Cross Country and Track Coach, effective June 5, 2020; Ryan Beddall as Head Jr. High Girls' Basketball Coach and Boys' Basketball Elementary Intramural Coordinator, effective May 11, 2020; Leon Yoder as a Utility Aide at the High School, effective June 5, 2020 (verbal resignation); Kay Morton as Administrative Assistant to the K-2 Principal, effective July 3, 2020, due to retirement; and, Lacey L. Winder as a Grade 1 Teacher at the Selinsgrove Area Elementary School, effective at the start of the 2020-2021 school year

Staff Transfers: Dr. Jason Schmucker from K-5 Assistant Principal to Intermediate School Principal, effective July 11, 2020, at a salary of \$93,500 (due to the transfer of Matt Conrad); Damian Gessel from High School English Teacher to Middle School Dean of Students, Effective July 1, 2020, at a salary of \$81,000 (due to the resignation of Chris Morrison); Julia Arnold from High School Special Education Teacher to High School English Teacher, effective with the 2020-2021 school year (due to the transfer of Damian Gessel); Teresa O'Brien from Instructional Coach to a Grade 5 Classroom Teacher at the Intermediate School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year; Jennifer Debo from a Grade 4 Classroom Teacher to a Grade 5 ELA Teacher at the Intermediate School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year; Elizabeth Vasquez from a Grade 2 Classroom Teacher to a Grade 4 ELA Teacher at the Intermediate School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year; Caroline Fiedler from a Kindergarten Teacher to a Grade 1 Teacher at the Selinsgrove Elementary School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year; Erica Cherry, Selinsgrove Elementary School Food Service Employee to the Intermediate School, 4.0 hours per day, effective July, 1 2020; Linette Varner, Intermediate School Kitchen Manager to High School Kitchen Manager, 6.0 hours per day, effective July 1, 2020; Becky Womer, Intermediate School Assistant Kitchen Manger to High School Assistant Kitchen Manager, 5.50 hours per day, effective July 1 2020; Jamie Fegley, Cook/Cashier at the Intermediate School to Kitchen Manager at the Intermediate School, 6.0 hours per day, effective July 1, 2020; and, Mary Hummel from Clerical Assistant to Principal's Secretary at Selinsgrove Elementary, effective July 7, 2020

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

Motion by Hess and seconded by Teats to approve the following personnel matters:

Staff Elections: Walter R. Heath, III as a Professional Employee at Step 7 of the Master's Classification (\$63,950) to be assigned as a Special Education Teacher at the High School, effective with the 2020-2021 school year (due to the transfer of Julia Arnold); Jessica L. McCool as a Professional Employee at Step 7 of the Master's Classification (\$63,950) to be assigned as a Speech and Language Therapist, effective with the 2020-2021 school year (due to the retirement of Wendy Luskin); Maria Mull, Cook/Cashier at the Intermediate School Kitchen, 5.0 hours per day, \$10.25 per hour, effective with the 2020-2021 school year; and, Ryan P. Hammaker as a Temporary Professional Employee at Step 2 of the Bachelor's Classification (\$48,895) to be assigned as a Grade 2 Teacher, effective with the 2020-2021 school year (due to the resignation of Lacey Winder/transfer of Elizabeth Vasquez)

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

Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess to consider extending the Act 93 Agreement for one (1) year with the 2020-2021 school year being a wage freeze; and, to consider approving a wage freeze for Classified, Food & Nutrition, and other salaried employees for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

On roll call vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 2 unavailable (Bechtel & Paladino – calls dropped)

Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess to consider approving a 50 cent per hour increase for the Maintenance Staff (Todd Shetter, Faron Hollenbach, Tom Roemer), effective July 1, 2020 (due to not replacing the Dir. of Bldgs. & Grounds position)

On roll call vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 2 unavailable (Bechtel & Paladino – calls dropped)

Negotiations: Mr. Bechtel, Chair, reported that there will not be a contract in place with the Selinsgrove Area Education Association on July 1st when the current contract expires. He noted that the Education Association has agreed to continue to work under the present agreement.

Transportation: No report.

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: Mr. Teats, Representative, reported that Kristy Etzler, a Selinsgrove graduate, has been named as the new Assistant Director at the Institute.

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Augustine, Representative, reported that contracts for senior leaders have been completed. He noted that the last several Board meetings have been conducted via Zoom and that CSIU employees have been working from home with success.

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

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Teats to adopt a resolution calling for Charter School funding reform. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 5 yes, 1 no (Stauffer), 2 abstain (Bechtel & Paladino), 0 absent

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**2019-2020 Year End Fund Balance Designations as of 6/30/20:**

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Teats to consider approving the following year-end tentative fund balance designations at 6/30/20 as outlined in the 2019-2020 budget document.

Designation of Fund Balance:	Balance 6/30/2019	2019-20 Designation	Balance 6/30/2020
General Fund			
Assigned	\$ 79,070	\$ -	\$ 79,070
Restricted - Special Ed ACCESS Program	\$ 547,141	\$ (165,406)	\$ 381,735
Nonspendable - Inventory of Supplies	\$ 18,811	\$ -	\$ 18,811
Nonspendable - Prepaid Expenses	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000
Committed - Real Estate Tax Appeals	\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000
Committed - Retiree Healthcare	\$ 2,318,334	\$ (207,698)	\$ 2,110,636
Committed - PSERS	\$ 3,214,716	\$ (126,998)	\$ 3,087,718
Committed - Educational Resources	\$ 306,389	\$ -	\$ 306,389
Unassigned	\$ 2,878,238	\$ -	\$ 2,878,238
Total Fund Balances	\$ 9,567,699	\$ (485,102)	\$ 9,082,597

(Final designations will change after the 2019-2020 books are closed and audited)

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

2020-2021 Final Budget:

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Hess to consider adoption of the Final 2020-2021 Budget with expenditures of \$44,476,945 and revenues of \$42,960,307 and use of fund balance of \$1,516,638. (a copy of the final budget to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Final Tax and Budget Resolution:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Stauffer to consider adoption of the Final Tax and Budget Resolution as presented. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

2020-2021 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Stauffer to adopt the 2020-2021 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS**Business Matters:**

Motion by Hess and seconded by Augustine to consider approving the following business matters:

- 1) Authorizing the Business Manager to make the necessary budget transfers and journal entries to close the District's 2019-2020 books;
- 2) 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);
- 3) A change order request from Gutelius Excavating Inc. to pave the front circle travel lane at the middle school for a cost of \$25,384. (funding from remaining bond proceeds) (a copy of the change order to be attached and made a part of the official minutes);

- 4) The proposal from Nagle to resurface the existing tennis courts at a cost of \$51,875. (Co-Stars pricing, funding from remaining bond proceeds) (a copy of the proposal to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Motion by Hess and seconded by Augustine to approve the real estate tax assessment appeal agreement with Management Acquisition, LLC, as presented. (Wood-Mode property, Selinsgrove) (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Motion by Hess and seconded by Augustine to approve the 2018-19 Financial Statements and Audit Report from Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC, as presented. (District's local audit firm) (a copy of the report to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Health and Safety Plan:

Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Slivinski to approve the Health and Safety Plan for extracurricular activities, as presented. (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Extended Day Field Trip:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Stauffer to approve a request for an extended day field trip on behalf of Fifth Grade Outdoor Education students for a trip to Camp Karoondinha in Mifflinburg, PA, on July 28 and July 29, 2020. (day trips only)

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

Independent Study Proposal:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Stauffer to consider the request of the High School Principal to approve an Independent Study Proposal for student #900729, as presented. (a copy of the proposal to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Central Susquehanna Regional Guest Teacher Training Agreement:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Stauffer to consider the recommendation of the Superintendent to once again enter into an agreement with the CSIU to provide Guest Teacher Training Services, as presented. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

2019-2020 Sick Leave Bank Report:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Stauffer to acknowledge receipt of the Selinsgrove Area Education Association's Sick Leave Bank Report for 2019-2020, as presented. (a copy of the report to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Addendum to Settlement Agreement and Release:

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

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

School Board Treasurer:

Motion by Teats to approve the reappointment of Andrew Paladino as Board Treasurer to serve from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Limited Superintendent Authority:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Stauffer to consider granting permission to the Superintendent, after Personnel Committee approval, to fill any vacant positions with final Board approval at the August 10, 2020 School Board Meeting.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Payment of July Bills:

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Teats to consider authorizing the Business Manager and the Superintendent to make payment of July bills with the lists to be presented to the Board for approval in August, 2020.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Resolution to Authorize Signing of PDE Electronic Agreements

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Teats to consider adopting a resolution to identify and authorize Dr. Frank Jankowski to sign electronic agreements with the PA Department of Education, as presented. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Appointment of Solicitor:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Augustine to consider appointing McCormick Law Firm as district solicitor, effective during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, at the rate of \$145 per hour for hourly work; and, \$350 fixed rate for meeting attendance. (no increase from current rates) (a copy of the proposal to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Interview and Appointment of School Board Member:

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Board currently has a vacancy to fill due to the recent resignation of Jennifer Rager-Kay. This position will become effective immediately through December of 2021. Mr. Wolfe indicated that the position of Board Member was advertised and we have six individuals interested in being considered. Those candidates are Andrew Bickhart, Pat Bruno, Sharlene Gilman, Colby Snook, Kara Taylor, and Charles Welker. (Four of the six candidates were present at the meeting. Pat Bruno and Colby Snook were unable to be present at the meeting and were listening/responding via cell phone) Mr. Wolfe noted that all six candidates were previously asked to respond to a list of questions. Those responses were then made available in advance to all of the current Board members. All six candidates were then given an opportunity to introduce themselves and express why they were interested in being considered for the position of Board member. Mr. Wolfe expressed thanks to all of the candidates for their interest in the district.

At this time, Mr. Wolfe asked for nominations. It was noted that nominations do not require a second. He explained that an individual would need to receive five votes to be the successful candidate.

Nominations were as follows:

Kara Taylor – nominated by Dave Hess and seconded by Matt Slivinski
Pat Bruno – nominated by Larry Augustine
Sharlene Gilman – nominated by Bill Bechtel
Colby Snook – nominated by Ken Teats
Charles Welker – nominated by Andy Paladino
Andrew Bickhart – nominated by Matt Slivinski

Voice vote #1 was taken as follows: Augustine – Bruno; Bechtel – Gilman; Hess – Taylor; Paladino – Welker; Slivinski – Taylor; Stauffer – Snook; Teats – Snook; Wolfe – Snook. Tally: Bruno (1), Gilman (1), Snook (3), Taylor (2), Welker (1).

Voice vote #2 was taken as follows: Bechtel – Gilman; Hess – Taylor; Paladino – Taylor; Slivinski – Taylor; Stauffer – Snook; Teats – Snook; Wolfe – Taylor; Augustine – Bruno. Tally: Bruno (1), Gilman (1), Snook (2), Taylor (4).

Voice vote #3 was taken as follows: Hess – Taylor; Paladino – Taylor; Slivinski – Taylor; Stauffer – Snook; Teats – Snook; Wolfe – Taylor; Augustine – Bruno; Bechtel – Taylor. Tally: Bruno (1), Snook – (2), Taylor – (5).

Mrs. Kara Taylor will serve as Board Member, effective immediately through December of 2021.

It was noted that Mrs. Taylor would be sworn in at a future date.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Wolfe presented a plaque to Dr. Cohrs in recognition of his over 31 years of service to the district in the following positions: Middle School Science Teacher, Middle School Assistant Principal, High School Assistant Principal, High School Principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Superintendent.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min 2020-06-29