

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – DECEMBER 1, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Tuesday evening, December 1, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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, Atty. Matthew A. Slivinski, Mrs. Amelia G. Stauffer, Mrs. Kara L. Taylor, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. Dennis R. Wolfe, and non-voting member, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski.

Others present were:

Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Mr. Kevin Oswald, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Paul Roman, Dr. Jason Schmucker, Mr. Justin Simpson, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, and approximately 16 viewers

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Wolfe asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Teats requested that the minutes from the November meeting be pulled. He noted that he had not yet received any explanations for the questions he raised at the last meeting in regard to cupola repairs, elevator repairs, and a payment to Ziegler's Machine Shop. Mr. Hummel responded that he was prepared to address those items at this time. He explained that it was not a repair to the actual cupola, but a roof repair around the cupola. Mr. Hummel explained that the elevator expense was not for repairs, but was a quarterly maintenance fee payment; and, the payment to Ziegler's was supplies for the High School Ag Department.

Mrs. Stauffer questioned two tuition payments and wondered if they were payments for Cyber schooling? Mr. Hummel explained that those payments were for out-placement special education students.

In regard to the November, 2020, minutes, Mr. Teats expressed his desire for additional information to be provided to parents regarding traumatic brain injuries and concussion management, as well as his concerns expressed about cutting students from sports. Mr. Teats requested that his concerns be reflected in the minutes of this meeting and added that he will readdress these issues later in the meeting under Board discussion.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Bechtel 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: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Announcements:

Mr. Wolfe announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting is proposed to be held on Monday, January 11, 2021.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Jankowski reported that an email was received from a parent preferring consistency for instruction during the remainder of this month.

Mr. Bechtel commented that he would like to see more in-person instruction, as long as it can be done safely. Dr. Jankowski noted that he will be addressing this subject in his Board report later in the meeting.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Teats raised the subject of CTE's and the importance of informing parents. Dr. Jankowski framed this discussion by explaining that Mr. Teats is concerned regarding the district having information about concussion management and CTE effects of traumatic brain injuries and the need to provide additional information to parents. Dr. Jankowski commented that this is not district-specific information, but the information referenced was sent to many educational entities. Mr. Bechtel, Extracurricular Committee Chair, reassured the Board that this subject, as well as cutting students from sports, will be on the agenda of the next committee meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent:

Dr. Jankowski recapped for the Board actions taken on November 17 by the Governor and the PA Department of Health which involve increased expectations associated with face coverings and travel restrictions. In conjunction with these updated orders, an attestation form was provided to public school entities ensuring implementation of mitigation efforts. Dr. Jankowski explained that those districts in counties designated as "substantial", and wishing to elect to continue in-person instruction for students, must sign and submit the form affirming that we are in compliance, and will continue to comply with and enforce the updated orders.

Business Manager:

Mr. Hummel reported that the Act 1 Index Resolution will be on the January agenda for Board consideration. He explained that this resolution caps the tax increase for the fiscal year at 3.9%, or 2.69 mills.

Mr. Hummel also reported with some good budget news! He noted that the district received some unexpected state reimbursement subsidy in the amount of \$712,000. Mr. Hummel explained that in 2016 the SUN Technical Institute undertook an \$8.1 million, cash based, renovation project which was funded by the five sending schools, with our district's share of the project being a little over \$2 million. The unexpected subsidy was a partial reimbursement from that project.

Mr. Teats questioned where this leaves the district financially. Mr. Hummel responded that we were initially looking at a \$1.5 million deficit. However, if earned income taxes continue to come in as projected, we may be looking at a lower deficit than anticipated, perhaps around \$200,000-\$300,000.

Assistant Superintendent:

Mr. Parise reported that improvements and additions to our curricular offerings in our High School Technology and Business Departments have been proposed to the Policy and Education Committee for board consideration. Additional courses and adjustments to existing courses are being proposed to better align with career readiness. He noted that efforts are being made to navigate through state testing expectations to solidify pathways to graduation requirements that are not contingent upon Keystone proficiency.

High School Principal:

Mr. Conrad acknowledged the very successful fall sports season of all teams, and especially the field hockey team and girls' and boys' soccer teams.

Mr. Conrad recognized Laura Melhorn and Emmaline Snook, as November and December Young Americans, respectively.

Mr. Conrad reported that Selinsgrove has been recognized as one of the best communities for music education in 2020. He explained that the NAMM Foundation's Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) is a signature program of The NAMM Foundation that recognizes and celebrates school districts and schools for their support and commitment to music education and efforts to assure access to music for all students as part of a well-rounded education.

Middle School Principal:

Mr. Bohle reported that three sixth grade students, Berkeley Fertig, Jack Piecuch, and Malina Keller, were recognized at the state level for their entries in a Short Scary Story writing competition.

Intermediate School Principal:

Dr. Schmucker gave a huge shout out to the staff and students at the Intermediate School for a job well done. He reported that although, due to the current climate, not all planned school-wide positive behavior events are able to be held, he noted that they were able to hold many school spirit days as well as a school-wide raffle. Dr. Schmucker also noted that the school's social committee has been rewarding the staff throughout this time.

Elementary School Principal:

Ms. Garman announced that the teachers are doing an incredible job balancing in-person and distance learning and that they go above and beyond for their students every day. She also recognized that families are doing a great job adapting with the changes.

Athletic Director/Acting Director of Buildings & Grounds:

Mr. Simpson reported that every one of the district's fall sports teams made it to district competition, which is a huge success. He expressed congratulations to the coaches and players for having such a successful season during a very challenging time.

Mr. Simpson addressed the latest masking requirement for student athletes. He noted that a Zoom meeting was held last week with all of the winter coaches regarding the mask mandate and that everyone was very receptive. Mr. Simpson reported that Seth Martin, head wrestling coach, has produced and distributed a video on how to wear a mask with head-gear.

Mr. Simpson reported that the new spectator limitations will decrease our capacity from 20% to 10% for winter sports. He also reported that the PHAC Superintendents held a meeting that day to discuss the possibility of delaying winter sports. The Superintendents voted to not delay and to begin on December 11th, per PIAA. Our district will begin practice tomorrow with December 14th as our anticipated start date for games.

Mr. Simpson gave a shout out to the district's maintenance and custodial staff for their hard work during this very challenging year.

Director of Food Services:

Mr. Oswald gave a shout out to the Food Service Staff. He noted that they put themselves at risk and stand out in the cold weather to provide distance learning meal service. Mr. Oswald recognized them as great, committed staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Teats, Chair, reported that a meeting will be held in the near future.

Policy and Education: Mr. Hess, Chair, reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on November 23, 2020. He briefly highlighted the following discussion items: Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Learning; recommended changes in course and course descriptions in Technology Department courses and Business Department courses; recommendations regarding the high school music department; revisions to several policies; random drug testing; and communication. (a copy of the minutes to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Extracurricular: Mr. Bechtel, Chair, reported that a meeting with fall coaches will be scheduled in the near future, as well as a committee meeting to discuss the concerns that were raised this evening.

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

Letters of Intent to Retire at the End of the 2020-2021 School Year: Reva Herrold as a Music Teacher at the Intermediate School; Christopher Lupolt as a Guidance Counselor at the High School; Kelly Miller as a Kindergarten Teacher at the Elementary School; and, Todd Myers as an English Teacher at the High School

Staff Resignation: Tammy Newberry as Jr. High Softball Coach, effective immediately

Leave of Absence: Employee #000-00-2474 for child rearing leave of absence, tentatively effective December 24, 2020 through April 30, 2021

Substitutes: Teacher – Lindsey McAnaney; and, Guest Teacher – Christa Dieffenderfer (pending receipt of required paperwork)

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

Negotiations: Mr. Bechtel, Chair, reported that contract negotiations are going very well and we are reasonably close to an agreement with the Teacher's Association.

Transportation: Motion by Hess and seconded by Stauffer to approve Dale Henry as a driver for Weikel Busing; and, Patricia Hine as a driver for Rohrer Bus Service, effective during the 2020-2021 school year.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: Mr. Teats, representative, reported that a special meeting was held on November 23, 2020, to address COVID. He reported that there have been six positive cases at the school since the beginning of the year. Mr. Teats noted that a total of four programs have been quarantined and have switched to virtual learning.

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Augustine, Representative, reported that several leased classrooms have been shut down due to COVID, with plans to reopen before the winter break, after a thorough cleaning. He noted that the next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2020, and will be held virtually.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Hess and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve the following:

- 1) List of requests for tax exoneration, as presented. (a copy of the list to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)
- 2) Affordable Care Act Resolution for 2021, as presented. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)
- 3) Renewal proposal from Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC for auditing services, as presented. (a copy of the proposal to be attached and made a part of the official minutes).

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

Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts:

Dr. Jankowski reported that the DOH and DOE are requiring a signed statement from those districts electing to continue in-person instruction. The form was provided to school districts on November 23, 2020, and required to be submitted by November 30, 2020. Dr. Jankowski noted that he submitted the attestation form on November 25, 2020. He asked for reassurance that the Boards' desire, moving forward, is for in-person instruction. Mr. Wolfe responded that it is the general consensus of the Board, whenever it is practical and possible, to have in-person instruction.

Discussion was held regarding face coverings, and Mrs. Stauffer noted that she does not agree with masking students while participating in extracurricular activities.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Hess to confirm the decision to sign the attestation form from the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health, as presented.

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

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned sine die at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min12120