

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – APRIL 12, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, April 12, 2021, at 7:00 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 7:03 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 (via phone), 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 (via phone), Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. Dennis R. Wolfe, and non-voting member, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski, Superintendent.

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, Mr. Rick Dandes (Daily Item), Dr. Lenaire Ahlum, Mr. John Shipman, and one additional individual

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Stauffer 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 will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021. He also announced that an Executive Session was held earlier that evening regarding personnel matters.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Mr. John Shipman and Dr. Lenaire Ahlum, Executive Director of the Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project were in attendance to make a PowerPoint presentation regarding the establishment of a Susquehanna Valley Community College. (a copy of the presentation to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Following the presentation, Dr. Ahlum and Mr. Shipman explained that they are requesting from the Board a letter of support, addressed to the local county commissioners, for establishing a regional community college.

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Paladino to show the Boards' support of the establishment of a regional community college by writing a letter to the local county commissioners. (a copy of the letter to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent: Dr. Jankowski updated the Board on the district's most recent COVID data, which he noted is available on the district's Pandemic Response page on the website. He noted that the data shows an overall month of decline in COVID cases. Dr. Jankowski reported that approximately 750 individuals were contact traced between August and March with only 1% of those individuals being a confirmed positive. He commented that this is an extremely unique success story that is the result of all stakeholder groups working together in unison to make sure that we are providing educational opportunities for students.

Dr. Jankowski reported that the PA Department of Education and the Department of Health have made some adjustments within the last week in regard to the quantity of time that schools are required to close down if they hit a case threshold based on the size of the district. This allows districts to reset their cases over the weekend now. He also reported that the CDC, the Federal government, and the State government have reduced the social distancing requirement from six feet to three feet.

In regard to the vaccination roll-out effort by the State, Dr. Jankowski reported that all employees of the district who were interested in receiving a vaccination, were able to do so.

Dr. Jankowski highlighted the following student specific successes: a Mama Mia concert was held a few weeks ago with limited attendance of family and invited guests; the play *Crucible* was held at the High School recently; and he recognized Nate Schon as a two-time state champion, and four-time medal winner in wrestling.

Director of Buildings/Grounds: Mr. Simpson brought the Board up to date in regard to school signs, campus maps, the paving bid timeline, boiler replacement, and elevator upgrades. He noted that a proposal is on the agenda for Board consideration for a high school wall replacement between the cafeteria and gymnasium.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Mr. Paladino, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on March 25, 2021. In regard to the 2019-2020 Financial Statements and Audit Report, he noted that the district received a clean opinion and that there were no findings.

Motion by Paladino and seconded by Stauffer to consider the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee to approve the 2019-2020 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)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Paladino reported that the district will be receiving approximately \$7.3 million in additional ESSER (elementary and secondary school emergency relief) funds.

Mr. Paladino also reported that the committee reviewed the first draft of the 2021-2022 preliminary budget. He noted that this year's budget (20-21) is in much better shape than originally projected. Revenues are forecasted to come in over budget by 3% and expenses under budget by 1%. A budget surplus of \$450,000 is projected at this time for year end. The

General Fund balance at 6/30/21 is projected to be \$10.2 million. Next year's budget currently shows a \$963,000 operating deficit, without a tax increase. The Act 1 allowable increase is 2.69 mills. Mr. Paladino commented that the administration will work on ways to reduce that deficit. He announced that the Board needs to adopt a proposed final budget at the May Board meeting and a final budget at the June meeting. He noted that another committee meeting will be scheduled before the May Board meeting to review the proposed final budget.

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

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: No report.

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

Staff Resignations: Ashley Kolak as Varsity Girls' Basketball Head Coach, effective immediately; and, Karen Pyle as a Paraprofessional at the Selinsgrove Elementary School, effective April 30, 2021

Letter of Intent to Retire During the 2021-2022 School Year: R. David Russell as a Middle School Physical Education Teacher, effective December 31, 2021

Staff Elections: Erica Lauver as a Predictable Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher, effective retroactive to March 8, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year; Allyson Glass as a Cook/Cashier at the Selinsgrove Elementary School, effective April 13, 2021, at the hourly rate of \$10.25; Justin Keiser as an Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, effective immediately; Tara Dunigan as a Volunteer Lacrosse Coach (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation); Shelley Bogush and Christine Witmer as District Volunteers during the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation); and, Todd A. Shimko, Jr. as a Volunteer for the ESY Summer Program (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Substitutes: Teachers – Hannah Fogle and Madalyn Jankowski (pending receipt of required paperwork)

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

Transportation: Motion by Augustine and seconded by Paladino to approve Ashley Zook as a van driver for Rohrer Bus Service; and Angelinque Godbolt, Mary Ann Hayes, and Kegan Pontius as drivers for Weikel Busing, effective during the remainder of 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 Selinsgrove student, Devin Romig (welding) was named as March Young American.

CSIU Board of Directors: Motion by Teats to reappoint Larry Augustine as a representative to the CSIU Board of Directors to complete a three-year term, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

The motion was unanimously carried.

PSBA: Mr. Hess, Liaison, reported that the Pennsylvania House of Representatives recently passed House Bill 605 which would provide relief from COVID-19 related lawsuits. The bill will now move onto the PA Senate for review and consideration.

Mr. Hess reported that the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education recently release updated guidance for school reopening.

Mr. Hess reported that The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office of Commonwealth Libraries announced a project initiative to improve access to broadband services in and beyond libraries across the commonwealth's underserved and unserved communities. The project will provide participating libraries with the resources and infrastructure to strengthen their abilities to serve the community through broadband internet access; as well as provide training and education opportunities for participating librarians and staff; and identify critical broadband needs and projects within the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Teats to approve the 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 accept the proposal from Modernfold for replacing the high school wall between the cafeteria and gymnasium for a cost of \$77,049. (state contract pricing) (funding from capital reserve fund)

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

Health and Safety Plan:

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Stauffer to consider approving updates to the Health and Safety Plan, as presented. (a copy to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

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