SELINSGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING – AUGUST 9, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Selinsgrove Area School District’s Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, August 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Selinsgrove Area Middle School, 359 Seals Avenue, Selinsgrove, PA 17870.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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, Superintendent.

Others present were: Mr. John Bohle, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, 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, Tina and Todd Buckles, Erin Goedegebuure, Erin Smith, Angela Mowery, Naomi Niskala, Lori Kershner, Ann Harshbarger, and Dalton Savidge

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Teats 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 an Executive Session regarding personnel was held earlier in the evening. He also announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021. Mr. Wolfe called attention to the addendum to the agenda which includes additional action items.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:**

Erin Goedegebuure, parent of first and third grade students, expressed concern that unvaccinated students at the elementary and intermediate schools can be unmasked. She reported that the CDC is now recommending that even vaccinated individuals should be masked. She noted that currently 130 children are hospitalized in Florida due to the Delta variant. She feels that masking is a fairly simple way to protect individuals who are vulnerable. Mrs. Goedegebuure asked that the Board consider mandating masking across the district.

Lori Kirchner, parent of a second grade student, noted that she has strong concerns regarding the Delta variant and the unknown. She commented that the district did so well last year wearing masks and that the infrastructure is already in place to protect ourselves. She suggested at least starting the year with mask wearing until we know what is happening with the Delta variant as percentages continue to increase nationwide. Mrs. Kirchner expressed concerns about children being in closed, not well-ventilated spaces without masks which are a proven way to mitigate this pandemic. Since there is no distance learning option for parents at this time, it would be best for students to be masked. Mrs. Kirchner stated that she has had such positive experiences with the teachers in this system, who really care for the students, and have gone out of their way. She ended by saying that she has serious concerns with masking being optional.

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Naomi Niskala, parent of a second grade student, expressed concerns about masking being optional. She noted that she is having a really difficult time wrapping her head around why the district would back-track on a safety protocol from last year. She commented that students are resilient and don’t even notice that they are wearing a mask and are ready to do it again this year. She noted that there will be a very clear divide in the classroom of those masking and those unmasked which the teacher will have to manage. This will lead to teasing and bullying. She expressed concerns about the Delta variant and it being 40-60% more transmissible than the previous virus. She noted that even with masking mandates in place last year, there were still school closures and the need to quarantine. She commented that she does not see the logic in making masking optional.

Angela Mowery, parent of a Middle School and High School student, commented that even though both of her children are vaccinated, she is still very concerned about the Delta variant. She asked that the Board follow the recommendations of the CDC and AAP that all K-12 students be masked indoors to provide for a safe environment in which to learn.

Erin Smith, parent of a second grade student, expressed concern about the proposed optional masking plan. She commented that she specializes in child development and has been impressed with our children. She remarked that this is not a political situation, it’s a public health issue. She noted that students can adapt if adults lead the way. She is very concerned that her student cannot be vaccinated and will be in a mask in school. Mrs. Smith is hoping that the school is a safe place to send students and that the Board consider requiring masks.

Dr. Jankowski expressed thanks to the parents for their concerns. He explained that most mitigation efforts that were in place last year are being recommended again this year, with the exception of masking. Dr. Jankowski noted that they are trying to make sure that we are as safe as possible. We don’t want to put any students in harms way and the decisions that are being made are sincere. Continued discussion was held with questions being raised and concerns addressed. It was noted that action on the health and safety plan would be taken later in the meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

**Superintendent:**

Dr. Jankowski reported that we are 16 days away from August 25th, the first day for students. On Monday, August 16th fall sports preparation begins. He noted that teachers are hard at work in preparing for students to return to the classroom. He also noted that there are many professional development endeavors taking place. Dr. Jankowski reported that all four buildings will hold in-person student orientations.

**Assistant Superintendent:**

Mr. Parise reported that there are a variety of ways to utilize on-line educational platforms and that the district continues to work on a variety of approaches to utilize in the event of contact tracing or quarantining for students or staff.

**High School Principal:**

Mr. Wolfe announced that Mr. Matt Conrad has earned his doctorate and is now Dr. Conrad. A round of applause was received acknowledging this achievement.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget and Finance:** No report.

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**Buildings and Grounds**: Mr. Teats, Chair, reported that a meeting was held on August 2, 2021. He noted that the variance has been approved by the Borough and the committee is recommending moving forward with the electronic signs.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Stauffer to approve the recommendation of the committee to authorize the administration to work with the district’s engineer (Livic Civil) to develop plans and estimated costs for electronic signs. (pending Selinsgrove Borough approval)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Simpson brought the Board up to date on the progress of summer projects.

**Policy and Education:** Mr. Hess, Chair, reported that a meeting was held on August 2, 2021, to review the proposed revisions to Board Policy No. 210.

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Paladino to approve revisions to Board Policy No. 210 – Medications, as presented. (a copy of the policy to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

**Extracurricular:** Mr. Bechtel, Chair, commented that the district is gearing up for the fall sports schedule.

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

**Staff Resignations:** Michael Shay as Assistant Jr. High Football Coach, effective July 8,

2021; Tracy A. Smith as a Special Education Paraprofessional, effective July 29, 2021; Amy Ward as a Special Education Paraprofessional, effective August 2, 2021; Nathan

Bingaman as Jr. High Assistant Wrestling Coach, effective immediately; Ethan Hummel

as Varsity Boys’ Basketball Head Coach, effective August 8, 2021; and, Joelle Billheim

as a Reading Tutor Interventionist, effective August 9, 2021

**Staff Transfers:** Allyson Glass from Food Service Employee to Special Education

Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective with the start of the 2021-2022 school

year, at the hourly rate of $11.00; and, Angie Weaver as a Baker at the Middle School to

a Baker at the Intermediate School, effective with the 2021-2022 school year

**Leave of Absence Request:** Employee #000-00-1943 for a child bearing/child rearing

leave of absence, tentatively effective September 29 through December 22, 2021

**Staff Elections:** Heather N. Sprenkle as a Professional Employee at Step 1 of the

Bachelor’s Classification ($46,895) to be assigned as a Kindergarten Teacher at the

Elementary School, effective with the 2021-2022 school year; Steven D. Shambach as a

Middle School Clerical Assistant, effective August 4, 2021, at the probationary hourly

rate of $14.00; Amanda Moyer as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the

Elementary School, effective with the start of the 2021-2022 school year, at the hourly

rate of $12.00 (pending receipt of required paperwork); Rebecca D. Mull as a Life

Skills/Seals Den Paraprofessional at the High School, effective with the start of the

2021-2022 school year, at the hourly rate of $11.50 (pending receipt of required

paperwork); Amber Krout as a Life Skills Support Paraprofessional at the Middle School,

effective with the start of the 2021-2022 school year, at the hourly rate of $11.50

(pending receipt of required paperwork);

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2021-2022 Elementary School Employees with Supplemental Duty Contracts:

Aaron Ettinger - Technology and Innovation Coordinator

Amy Veach - School Wide Positive Behavior Co-Coordinator

Evonne Workman - School Wide Positive Behavior Co-Coordinator

Anne Parise - Data, Assessment and MTSS Co-Coordinator

Ashley Kolak - Data, Assessment and MTSS Co-Coordinator

Julie Prusch - Family & Community Engagement & Partnership Co-Coordinator

Molly McCabe - Family & Community Engagement & Partnership Co-Coordinator

2021-2022 Intermediate School Employees with Supplemental Duty Contracts:

Teresa O’Brien – Data and Assessment Coordinator

Michael Shay - Family & Community Engagement/Partnership Co-Coordinator

Beth Vasquez - Family & Community Engagement/Partnership Co-Coordinator

Zachary Showers – Outdoor Education Coordinator

Renee Parker – School Wide Positive Behavior Co-Coordinator

Judy Fatchaline – School Wide Positive Behavior Co-Coordinator

Jennifer Debo – Technology and Innovation Coordinator – Jennifer Debo

2021-2022 Middle School Employees with Supplemental Duty Contracts:

Matt Metzger – Department Head

Brenda Folio – Department Head

Jamie Ettinger – Department Head

Jake Stiefel – Department Head

Mike Smith – Yearbook Co-Advisor

Lance Schwartz – Yearbook Co-Advisor

Jill Raymond – District Nurse Leader

Julianna Jones –Vocal Director

Amy Kenny – Jazz/Rock Director

Additional 2021 High School Summer School Teachers: Business Education Teachers

– Daniel Frake and Bethanie Yevics

2021-2022 District Volunteers: Stacy Fritz, Kiley Klinger, Janel Kopp, Julianne Long, Patrick Long, Shari Mangels, Colleen Moyer, Marlin Moyer, Michele Pryor, Pamela Ross, Stacy Slavishak (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

2021-2022 New Fall Coaches with Extracurricular Contracts

Brad Hatter – Head 9th Grade/Varsity Football

Chad Rice – Assistant Jr. High Football

Lukas Auker – Head Girls’ Tennis

Mike Stebila – Head Jr. High Cross Country

Jessica Chappell – Head Jr. High Softball

2021-2022 Continuing Fall Coaches with Extracurricular Contracts

Derek Hicks – Varsity Head Football

Peter Voss – Varsity Assistant Football

Jim Hile – Varsity Assistant Football

Mike Ferriero – Varsity Assistant Football

Seth Hicks – Varsity Assistant Football

Chip Moll – Varsity Assistant Football

Brett Hummel – Jr. High Assistant Football

Brian Shambach – Jr. High Head Football

John Aument – Jr. High Assistant Football

Chris Lupolt – Head Boys’ Soccer

David Klinger – Assistant Boys’ Soccer

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LIST CONTINUED - 2021-2022 Continuing Fall Coaches with Extracurricular Contracts

Brian Derr – Second Assistant Boys’ Soccer

Cheryl Underhill – Head Girls’ Soccer

Scott Simone – Assistant Girls’ Soccer

Tayla Derr – Second Assistant Girls’ Soccer

Chris Magee – Second Assistant Girls’ Soccer

Roz Erb – Head Field Hockey

Melissa Bingaman – Assistant Field Hockey

Megan Wetzel – Second Assistant Field Hockey

Erin Newcomer – Head Cheerleading

Kennedy Myers – Assistant Cheerleading

Erin Newcomer – Jr. High Head Cheerleading

Ray Moyer – Head Golf

Ali Huber – Girls’ Cross Country

Brent Beiler – Boys’ Cross Country

2021-2022 Volunteer Coaches:

Brent Bastian – Varsity Football

Dan Troup – Varsity Football

Anthony Hauck – Varsity Football

Jenna Fisher – Girls’ Soccer

Amber Hauck – Field Hockey

Donna Prince – Field Hockey

Megan Kahn – Field Hockey

(without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Maria Mull as Cook/Cashier at the Intermediate School, effective August 23, 2021, at the hourly rate of $11.00; and, Denise Dietterick as Cook/Casher at the Middle School, effective August 23, 2021, at the hourly rate of $11.00

Substitutes: Teachers – Reva Herrold, Martha Smith, Megan Becker; and Food Service

– Elaina Bailor (SE only) and Kara Sensenig

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

**Transportation:** Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Slivinski to consider the recommendation of the Transportation Coordinator to approve the following: Bus/Van Drivers, Fleet Lists/Vehicle Identification, Worker’s Compensation Panel, Emergency Care Facilities List, and Employee List for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented; and approval of Maryann Cole as a van driver for Rohrer Bus Service, effective during the 2021-2022 school year. (copies of lists to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

**Technology:** No report.

**SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee:** No report.

**CSIU Board of Directors:** Mr. Augustine, Representative, reported that the Board will meet on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. He commented that this will be the first meeting held in-person since early last spring. Mr. Augustine reported on the progress of current renovation projects. He noted that election of officers was held at the June meeting and that all officers remained the same. Mr. Augustine also reported that all 17 Board members are meeting individually with the new Executive Director, Dr. John Kurelja.

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**PSBA:** Mr. Hess, Liaison, reported that PSBA is encouraging districts to discuss preparing for a safe new school year and follow recommendations by the Department of Health and Department of Education. He commented that our district is already ahead of the game in this area. Mr. Hess reported that PDE is providing guidance on flexibility for districts to use ESSER and GEER funds in unexpected ways. He also reported that PSBA is warning districts to anticipate food costs to increase this year. There may also be distribution issues and food shortages which may result in last minute menu changes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Wolfe asked for a motion to approve Items 1 through 13.

Motion by Hess and seconded by Teats to consider approving Items 1 through 13.

Dr. Jankowski explained details of the Emergency and Instructional Time Template as well as the Health and Safety Plan.

Mrs. Stauffer commented that she has questions on several items and asked how she is going to vote no on a specific item that is included in the grouped motion?

Mr. Wolfe asked if Mr. Hess would like to withdraw his original motion.

Mr. Hess withdrew his motion to approve Items 1 through 13.

Discussion was held and Mrs. Stauffer requested that Item 9 be pulled for separate action. Mr. Augustine requested that Item 4 also be pulled for separate action.

Motion by Hess and seconded by Teats to consider approving Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Questions were raised and discussion was held regarding an agreement with Safety Net Counseling, the PAYS Agreement, and the Intermediate School Schoolwide Title 1 School Plan.

A roll call vote was taken to consider approving the following items:

**Business Matters:**

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)

**Appointment of Solicitor:**

The reappointment of McCormick Law Firm as district solicitor, effective with the 2021-2022 school year, at the proposed fee structure, as presented. (a copy of the proposed fee structure to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

**Emergency and Instructional Time Template:**

The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Emergency and Instructional Time Template, as presented. (a copy of the template to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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**Central Susquehanna Regional Guest Teacher Training Agreement:**

The recommendation of the Superintendent to once again enter into an agreement with the CSIU to provide Guest Teacher Training Services during the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

**The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) Agreement:**

The recommendation of the Superintendent to once again enter into an agreement with the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency to participate in The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS), during the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. (Survey collects information on mental health and youth attitudes and behaviors towards alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and other problem behaviors) (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

**Safety Net Counseling, Inc. Agreement:**

The recommendation of the Superintendent to once again enter into an agreement with Safety Net Counseling, Inc. for the provision of Intensive Behavioral Health Services, during the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

**CMSU Behavioral Health Services Agreement:**

The recommendation of the Superintendent to once again enter into an agreement with CMSU Behavioral Health Services for the provision of mental health and drug and alcohol services, during the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

**Assessment Plan Revisions:**

The request of the Assistant Superintendent to approve revisions to the District Assessment Plan, as presented. (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

**2021-2022 Lackawanna College Proposal for Dual Enrollment Agreement:**

The recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to once again approve a dual enrollment agreement with Lackawanna College to offer college credit for high school courses, as presented. (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

**2021-2022 Schoolwide Title I School Plan – Selinsgrove Area Elementary School:**

The recommendation of the K-2 Principal to approve the 2021-2022 School-Wide Title I School Plan for the Selinsgrove Area Elementary School, as presented. (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

**2021-2022 Schoolwide Title I School Plan – Selinsgrove Area Intermediate School:**

The recommendation of the 3-5 Principal to approve the 2021-2022 School-Wide Title I School Plan for the Selinsgrove Area Intermediate School, as presented. (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

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**Health and Safety Plan:**

Discussion was held regarding the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Selinsgrove Area School District’s Health and Safety Plan, as presented. (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Mr. Augustine commented that he is against voluntary masking at the K-6 level. He referenced a recent editorial in the Daily Item that masks make sense for students who can’t get vaccinated. He suggested mandating masks until we see how things are going along, rather than the reversal pattern.

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Bechtel to consider approving mandating masking for students at the K-6 level, until we see how things go.

Questions were raised and discussion was held regarding Mr. Augustine’s motion. It was noted that the Middle School includes sixth grade students. Dr. Jankowski feels that it will create a divide by specifically mandating masks for K-6 students and that it should be optional or no masks across the Board. Mrs. Stauffer questioned why the Board didn’t act on the motion as originally written and vote either yes or no? Attorney Wiley explained that the Board does have the right to amend or modify an original motion. Mr. Wolfe questioned if they were willing to withdraw their motion and vote on it as it is written?

Mr. Augustine amended his original motion from mandating masking at the K-6 level to the K-5 level. Mr. Bechtel seconded the motion in agreement to the amendment.

On roll call vote: 2 yes (Augustine & Bechtel), 7 no, 0 absent

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Hess to consider the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Selinsgrove Area School District’s Health and Safety Plan, as presented.

On roll call vote: 3 yes (Stauffer, Wolfe & Hess), 6 no, 0 absent

Motion by Taylor and seconded by Augustine to mandate masking for everyone on campus and inside all buildings.

On roll call vote: 4 yes (Taylor, Augustine, Bechtel & Paladino), 5 no, 0 absent

Dr. Jankowski recommended that the Board consider tabling action on this topic at this time.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Slivinski to table action on the Selinsgrove Area School District’s Health and Safety Plan.

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

**Request for Text Approval:**

Motion by Teats and seconded by Slivinski to consider the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to approve the purchase of the following text: *Exploring Environmental Science for AP Updated Edition.* To be used in the high school Environment Science course. 15 copies not to exceed $2,500. (Funds are available in the 21-22 budget.)

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

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**2021-2022 Publications:**

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider approving the following 2021-2022 publications as presented:

Elementary School – Parent Handbook and Teacher Handbook

Intermediate School – Student/Parent Handbook, and Teacher/Staff Handbook/Teacher

Schedules

Middle School – Student Handbook, Teacher Handbook, and Teacher Schedules

High School – Student Handbook & Curriculum Guide, Teacher Handbook, and Teacher

Schedules

(copies of the publications to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

**Medical Professionals:**

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider approving the following medical professionals, as presented: James L. Cope, DDS and Raymond L. General, DDS as examining dentists for students during the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of $2.00 per dental exam; Charles C. Pagana, MD, Charles M. Pagana, II, MD, and James D. Pagana, MD as examining physicians, and Laura Hummel, CRNP, and Jennifer Mitchell, PA-C, as examining medical professionals for both students and employee physical examinations for the 2021-2022 school year: at a cost of $20.00 per employee physical exam and $10 for TB examination, and $5.00 per student exam; Judie Steinbacher CRNP, and Beth Deckard, CRNP as examining medical professionals for student physical examinations for the 2021-2022 school year, at a cost of $5.00 per student exam; and the volunteer service of Michael J. Dunigan (Chiropractor) to assist in the scoliosis screening process at the Intermediate and Middle Schools during the 2021-2022 school year.

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

**Extended Day Field Trip:**

Dr. Jankowski commented that this request is being made now so that there is adequate time to fundraise for the trip. If the trip would become an issue from a public health standpoint at that time, the Board may need to have discussion and reconsider, which could put the Board in a tough stop considering all of the time and money spent supporting the team trip.

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider approving a request from the Athletic Director for an extended day field trip made on behalf of the Girls’ JV/Varsity Basketball Team to travel to Orlando, Florida, December 26-30, 2021, to compete in multiple regular season games, with the understanding that depending on health conditions that permission could be retracted.

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

**Adjournment:**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver

Recording Secretary

cab/min8921