

SELINGSGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – DECEMBER 1, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Wednesday evening, December 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Selingsgrove Area Middle School, 359 Seals Avenue, Selingsgrove, PA 17870.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 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 (via phone), 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, Angelo Picerno, Dalton Savidge, Mike Stebila, Andrew Stewart, Kim Rigel, Sally Krouse, Donna Orsini, Ken Shaffer, Stephanie Heddings, Chris Aikey, Dave Watto, and approximately 10 additional interested individuals.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Teats 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 an Executive Session regarding personnel matters was held earlier in the evening. He also announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting is proposed to be held on Monday, January 10, 2022. Mr. Wolfe also called attention to an addendum to the agenda which included several additional personnel matters.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Mr. Wolfe reminded those present that if they wish to address the Board, to respect the process and complete a request to comment form.

Kim Rigel noted that she has a question related to the Health and Safety Plan and yesterday's Supreme Court decision regarding a new mask mandate. She indicated that she would wait to hear the outcome of the Board discussion since the plan is on the agenda.

Board Discussion

Dr. Jankowski reported that the Health and Safety Plan that was approved in November is still the plan and approach that the district plans to move forward with in the foreseeable future.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Jankowski announced that Debra Barrick, the district's K-2 Librarian, is one of 12 finalists in the state of Pennsylvania for PA Teacher of the Year. He noted that being named a finalist is quite an honor for her and is also a reflection on the district and the supports that she receives.

Dr. Jankowski reported that School Boards reorganize every year in December. He noted that since this is an election year, we have two members leaving the Board. Those members are Dennis Wolfe, President, and Amy Stauffer, Vice President. Dr. Jankowski highlighted each of them individually, acknowledging Mr. Wolfe's 12 years of service, and Mrs. Stauffer's 4 years of service, with a commemorative plaque.

Athletic Director

Mr. Simpson brought the Board up to date on the completion of the fall sports season. He reviewed the accomplishments and successes of the following teams: football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, field hockey, girls' tennis, golf, and cross country. Mr. Simpson noted that Shaela Kruskie finished ninth in the cross country state championship which is the highest place of any Selinsgrove district cross country runner ever.

Dr. Jankowski stated that our district has a lot of very successful young people who are being noticed because of their hard work and dedication on multiple fronts, as just reported by Mr. Simpson in extracurriculars and by Dr. Conrad who, last month, highlighted several academic successes by students at the high school level.

Dr. Jankowski stated that he would like to formally acknowledge Dr. Jason Schmucker who is currently serving in the position of Intermediate School Principal. Dr. Jankowski noted that Dr. Schmucker has been a dedicated individual on multiple levels over the last six years. He has been a teacher, a K-5 Assistant Principal, and an Intermediate School Principal. Unfortunately for the district, Dr. Schmucker will be moving on and taking a position at another educational entity. He acknowledged his hard work and dedication and constant focus on students. Dr. Jankowski noted that we wish him well in his new position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Teats, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on November 22, 2021. He reviewed the recommendations listed on the agenda for Board consideration.

Motion by Hess and seconded by Bechtel to consider the recommendation of the committee to approve the proposal from Bartush Signs for the purchase and installation of an electronic sign at Broad Street and Seals Avenue for a cost of \$70,138.75 (CO-STARS State contract pricing) and to approve electrical work not to exceed \$6,750. (Total project cost of \$76,888.75 funding from the capital reserve fund)

Mr. Teats expressed his opinion regarding the purchase of the electronic sign. When the process started it was all about need, and now it has become all about want. He feels that it is frivolous spending, that it is something that is not benefiting education, and that it is not needed. Mr. Teats suggested fund raising for the revenue needed for the purchase of the sign, without burdening the taxpayers. He also noted that the sign was pushed to the very end of Mr. Wolfe's tenure with the Board, which he finds to be quite coincidental. Mr. Wolfe responded that he has been pursuing the sign for seven years. Mr. Teats referred to it as an "ego" sign. Mr. Wolfe

noted that Mr. Teats has never raised any particular objection to the design of the sign. Mr. Teats commented that he was opposed to the purchase of two signs. Mr. Wolfe acknowledged that we don't "need" the sign, but that it is justified in promoting ourselves and positive messages. He does not think that it's a waste of money and absolutely does not think that anyone is on an ego trip. Mr. Teats questioned what benefit the "sexy" sign is to the students. Mr. Teats commented that we should show a little respect to the people who are spending the money. Mr. Wolfe took opposition to this statement and noted that they have different points of view.

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

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Hess to consider the recommendation of the committee to approve the proposal from Tremco (Weatherproofing Technologies Inc.) for high school roof replacement/ restoration for a total cost of \$519,456.47 (Base proposal and Alternate 3 per attached) (AEP/KPN contract pricing funding from the capital reserve fund).

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

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Taylor to consider the recommendation of the committee to approve the proposal from Johnson Controls for the replacement of the intermediate school chiller at a cost of \$159,763.00. (CO-STARS State contract pricing) (Funding from the capital reserve fund).

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

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: No report.

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 2021-2022 School Year: Todd Myers as a High School English Teacher; and Kevin J. Oswald as Director of Food and Nutrition

Staff Resignations: Mallory Robinson as a Mental Health/Behavior Interventionist, effective December 31, 2021; Richard Tyler as an Emotional Support Teacher at the Middle School, effective January 14, 2022; Darla DeSantis as a Reading Intervention Tutor at the Intermediate School, effective January 11, 2022, due to retirement; Erin Newcomer as Head Lacrosse Coach, effective November 17, 2021; and Dr. Jason R. Schmucker as Principal at the Intermediate School, effective December 5, 2021

Staff Transfer: Colby Roman as Cook/Cashier to Assistant Kitchen Manager at the Intermediate School, effective December 1, 2021, at the hourly rate of \$11.25

Staff Elections: Dana L. Bealer as a Professional Employee at Step 3 of the Bachelor's Classification (\$50,933.00) to be assigned as a Learning Support Teacher at the Middle School, tentatively effective December 15, 2021; Kelly L. Ponce as an Autistic Support Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, at the hourly rate of \$11.00, effective December 2, 2021; Jessica L. Inch as an Autistic Support Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School at the hourly rate of \$11.00, effective December 2, 2021; 2021-2022 District Volunteers: Susan Beiler and Megan Herrold (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation); 2021-2022 Elementary Boys' Basketball League Volunteers: D.J. Menifee, Amy Veach, Robert Veach, Frank Jankowski, Cleo Tirado, Nate Roman, and Colby Roman (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation); and Dr. Stephen M. Kalberer as a Professional Employee at Step 16 of the Master's +45 Classification (\$79,112) to be assigned as a School Psychologist, effective January 1, 2022 (pending receipt of required paperwork)

Leaves of Absence: Employee #000-00-2306 for a childbearing/rearing leave of absence, tentatively effective March 6, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year; and Employee #000-00-2673 for a childbearing/rearing leave of absence, tentatively effective March 24, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year

Other Matters: Approval of a salary increase for the Superintendent, Frank R. Jankowski, based upon his annual performance review, as presented.

Substitute: Food Service – Judy Mease (pending receipt of required paperwork)

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

Transportation: Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Taylor to consider the recommendation of the Transportation Coordinator to approve Gary L. Hubbert and Shawn A. Simmons as Drivers for Weikel Bus Service, during the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: Mr. Teats, Representative, reported that the Board approved the opening of a Mechatronics Program in the spring of 2022, in place of an Electronics Program at this time. He noted that it is possible that they may revisit the opening of an Electronics Program in the future.

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Augustine, Representative, reported that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. He noted that the Board has approved that meetings can be held both virtually and in-person for the foreseeable future.

PSBA: Mr. Hess, Liaison, reported that the PA Commonwealth Court is in the middle of a school funding trial. He explained that the William Penn School District brought a lawsuit against the PA Department of Education, and depending on the outcome, it could completely change the funding system in PA. Mr. Hess noted that this is something that the Board needs to pay attention to and may need to get PSBA to advocate on our behalf. He reported that PSBA is opposing House Bill 1660 which limits local Board control in emergency situations. Mr. Hess noted that the PA House of Representatives would like to take away our power to make emergency decisions on the local level.

Mr. Hess reminded newly elected members of the five hours of required training, and reelected members of the three hours of required training that must be completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Hess and seconded by Taylor to consider approving the Agreements for Intergovernmental Cooperation in Assessment Appeal Litigation Cost and Settlement for the Kohl's and Target real estate assessment appeals. (copies of the agreements to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Hess to consider approving the bid from Waste Management for refuse removal for the period 1/1/22 through 12/31/24, as presented; and the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve a list of requests for tax exoneration, as presented. (a copy of the bid and list of requests to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Extended Day Field Trip Approval:

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Taylor to consider approving a request for an extended day field trip from the High School Principal made on behalf of the National Art Honor Society to travel to Christmas City, Bethlehem, PA, to attend the Christkindl Market and Artist Festival on Friday, December 10, 2021. (departure at 8:30 a.m. with return at 5 p.m.)

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

Residence Rights to Free School Privileges:

Motion by Stauffer and seconded by Teats to consider approving a request for residence rights to free school privileges made on behalf of Joel A. Ramos, Grade 9, in the home of Courtney Garrison and Daniel Borges, effective retroactive to November 15, 2021.

The motion was unanimously carried.

2021-2022 Superintendent Goals:

Motion by Hess and seconded by Stauffer to consider approving 2021-2022 Superintendent Goals, as presented. (a copy of the goals to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Limited Superintendent Authority:

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

The motion was unanimously carried.

Board Discussion:

Dr. Jankowski reported that on Thursday, December 9, 2021, the district will be hosting a Business and Education Committee meeting with the local Chamber of Commerce. He explained that the goal of the meeting is to continue to work together as educators with businesses in the region on building a more comprehensive pipeline from school to employment. He noted that he will report on the outcome of that meeting in the near future.

Mrs. Stauffer stated that she is grateful that she was given the opportunity to serve the students of this community in this manner. Her time as a Board member was sometimes okay and was also crazy and hectic and at times dealt with sobering and serious issues, such as COVID. She asked that as everyone celebrates Christmas this year to remember that Christ is the reason for the season. Mrs. Stauffer noted that her relationship with her savior is the foundation upon which she has built her principles and made her decisions. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked Mr. Wolfe for his service on the Board.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned sine die at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min12121