

SELINGSGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF MEETING – JANUARY 10, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, January 10, 2022, 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 7:01 p.m. by the President, Mr. David W. Hess.

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. Christopher A. Aikey, Mr. Larry D. Augustine (via phone), Mr. William L. Bechtel, Jr., Mr. David W. Hess, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino, Atty. Matthew A. Slivinski, Mrs. Kara L. Taylor, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. David M. Watto, and non-voting member, Mr. Brian Parise, Assistant Superintendent.

Others present were: Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Matthew Conrad, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Mr. Kevin Oswald, Mr. Paul Roman, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, Mike Stebila, Coy Arnold, Dalton Savidge, Catherine Dent, Elise Zimmerman, Mark Zimmerman, Truly Zimmerman, Andrew Stewart, Angelo Picerno, Joy Hahn, and several additional interested individuals.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Teats and seconded by Slivinski 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)

The motion was unanimously carried.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Hess announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. He called attention to the addendum to the agenda which includes several additional personnel matters. Mr. Hess also noted the addition of Alex Ulsh as a volunteer.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

Catherine Dent addressed the Board regarding the schedule flip at the Middle School. She remarked that this flip has caused the music teachers to be concerned and distraught over the change in schedule and the detrimental effects of having band and chorus rehearsals at the end of the day. She requested that the Board investigate why the quality of rehearsal is lower at the end of the day.

Elise Zimmerman, an eighth-grade band student, addressed the Board regarding the schedule flip at the Middle School. She noted that with band, chorus, and study halls at the end of the day, students are getting far less accomplished than when the flex period was held at the beginning of the day. She noted that students are much more attentive at the beginning of the day which is in stark contrast to what is occurring now where they are talkative and unfocused. Miss Zimmerman added that many of her peers do not like the new schedule and find it

confusing. She asked that consideration be given to changing the schedule back to pre-pandemic days when band, chorus, and study halls were in the middle of the day, which allowed for a more focused and productive rehearsal.

Mrs. Dent asked that the Board contact the band and music teachers directly to hear their side of the situation. She also asked that a statement that was sent to the administration by the music staff be shared with the Board.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION**

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider 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)

The motion was unanimously carried.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

### **Assistant Superintendent:**

Mr. Parise spoke in regard to the public comments made and noted that the administration did receive a statement from the Music Department that will be shared with the Board.

Mr. Parise reported that Keystone Exams at the high school are currently on-going. He commended the elementary community for a relatively smooth transition to virtual learning prior to the winter break.

### **High School Principal**

Dr. Conrad announced that Cassidy Ressler, a senior in the Criminal Justice Program, was named as January's SUN-Tech Young American.

### **Middle School Principal**

Mr. Bohle addressed the Board regarding the reasoning behind the schedule flip at the Middle School. In looking at the schedule, they determined that by placing flex time at the end of the day it allowed students to have time for remediation at the end of the day, rather than at the beginning of the day, while it was still fresh in their minds and prior to going home and completing their homework. Mr. Bohle noted that the change was reevaluated prior to the winter break by comparing the first and second marking periods, and saw the benefits of the change, and plan to keep the schedule the same through the end of the school year. Mr. Bohle reported that advertising will be held to fill the positions of Jazz Rock Ensemble Director and Millennium Mélange Director. He noted that these are stipend positions, and the directors will be responsible for holding rehearsals twice a week before the start of school in the morning.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget and Finance:** No report.

**Buildings and Grounds:** No report.

**Policy and Education:** No report.

**Extracurricular:** No report.

**Personnel/Meet and Discuss:** A motion to amend the agenda to include the election of Alex Ulsh as a 2021-2022 Elementary Boys' Basketball League Volunteer was approved unanimously.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Augustine to approve the following recommendations of the Personnel Committee:

**Letters of Intent to Retire at the End of the 2021-2022 School Year:** Lisa Bordner as a Grade 4 Teacher at the Intermediate School; and Amy Kenny as an Instrumental Music Teacher at the Middle School

**Staff Resignations:** John Aument as Jr. High Assistant Football Coach, effective December 2, 2021; Brian Derr as Jr. High Girls' Soccer Head Coach, effective January 3, 2022; Brett Hummel as Jr. High Assistant Football Coach, effective December 2, 2021; Dave Klinger as Jr. High Boys' Soccer Head Coach, effective December 7, 2021; Erin Kulp as Head Varsity/Head Jr. High Cheerleading Coach, effective December 5, 2021

**Staff Transfers:** Brett Reinard from MS Second Shift Custodian to HS Second Shift Lead Custodian, effective December 28, 2021, at the hourly rate of \$16.68; and Jeffrey Dorman from HS Second Shift Custodian to SE Second Shift Custodian, effective December 28, 2021

**Staff Elections:** Gloria Benfer as a HS Second Shift Custodian, effective December 28, 2021, at the hourly rate of \$13.00; Dana Brandt as a Predictable Long-Term Substitute K-2 Librarian, effective January 10, 2022, through the end of the 2021-2022 school year; Makyla Seeger as a Predictable Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher, effective January 27, 2022, through the end of the 2021-2022 school year (pending receipt of required paperwork); Brittany Liddick as a Cook/Cashier at the Middle School, effective January 11, 2022, at the hourly rate of \$11.00 (pending receipt of required paperwork); Kennedy Myers as Head Varsity/Jr. High Winter Cheerleading Coach, effective immediately;

**2021-2022 District Volunteers:** Lindsey Bordner, Lisa Coins, Ashley Kerstetter, and Christie Sharma (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation);

**2021-2022 Elementary Boys' Basketball League Volunteers:** Brad Hatter, Tonya Hatter, Juan Vasquez, Andrew Paladino, Charles Pagana, Luis Tirado, Jeff Turner, Jack Lydic, Nathan Long, Travis Lerch, and Alex Ulsh (pending receipt of required paperwork) (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

**Leaves of Absence:** Employee #000-00-1768 for a childbearing/rearing leave of absence, tentatively effective February 1, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year; and Employee #000-00-2381 for a childbearing/rearing leave of absence, tentatively effective May 5, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year

**Substitutes:** Teacher – Debra Barrick; and Guest Teacher – Rena Shively

**Other Matters:** Paul Roman as Acting Intermediate School Principal, effective December 20, 2021, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, at a stipend of \$2,000; Damian Gessel as Acting K-8 Assistant Principal, effective December 15, 2021, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, at a stipend of \$2,000; and Paul Bozella as Acting High School Dean of Students, effective January 18, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, at a stipend of \$1,000

The motion was unanimously carried.

**Transportation:** Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Taylor to approve Desiree Windsor as a van driver for Rohrer Bus Service, effective during the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

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 next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022. He also reported that they received notice that several of the classrooms held in rental spaces have been closed temporarily and have gone to virtual learning due to COVID.

**PSBA:** Mr. Hess, Liaison, updated the Board on the landmark school funding trial that has been ongoing in the Commonwealth Court of PA. He reported that the trial is expected to convene by the end of January. Mr. Hess commented that if this passes, it would mean property taxes vs. earned income taxes, which could be a huge change for the district. Mr. Hess reported that the Governor will hold his budget address on February 8. Following that they will take the education budget to the legislature to divide up equitably. He suggested contacting state legislators to express concerns regarding these topics and fair funding. Mr. Hess announced that January is School Director month and expressed congratulations to our Board members for being honored. He also reminded members that PSBA is offering school director training, which is required of both newly elected and reelected Board members.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Proposed 2022 Committee Assignments:**

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider approving proposed 2022 committee assignments, as presented. (a copy of committee assignments to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Business Matters:**

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Slivinski to consider approving the 2022-2023 Act 1 Budget Resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of real estate taxes by more than the allowable index. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Motion by Paladino and seconded by Teats to consider approving the Affordable Care Act Resolution for 2022, as presented. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Aikey to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve a request for tax exoneration, as presented. (a copy of the request to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Slivinski to consider approving a request from the Director of Food and Nutrition to increase adult meal prices, effective January 3, 2022, as follows: adult breakfast from \$1.50 to \$2.00, and adult lunch from \$3.50 to \$4.00. (increase necessary to be in compliance with the required Department of Education meal pricing calculations)

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

### **Snyder County Tax Collection Committee:**

Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Teats to consider appointing Jeffrey H. Hummel as primary delegate and Andrew Paladino as alternate delegate to represent the Selinsgrove Area School District on the Snyder County Tax Collection Committee. (for the collection of earned income taxes).

The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Independent Study Proposals:**

Motion by Augustine and seconded by Teats to consider the request of the High School Principal to approve Independent Study Proposals for student #10265, #10217, and #10638, as presented. (copies of the proposals to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

**Request for Additional Computers:**

Motion by Teats and seconded by Bechtel to consider the request of the Assistant Superintendent and Technology Department for the purchase of additional computers at the high school to support newer courses and industry-based software programs at a cost of \$25,575. (ESSER Funds) (state contract pricing through PPEPM contract at CSIU).

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

**2021-2022 Assistant Superintendent Goals:**

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Paladino to consider approving 2021-2022 Assistant 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.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver  
Recording Secretary

cab/min11022