

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 15, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Tuesday evening, February 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Selingsrove Area Middle School, 329 Seals Avenue, Selingsrove, PA 17870.

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 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, 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, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski.

Others present were:

Mr. John Bohle, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Paul Roman, Mr. Justin Simpson, Mr. Erick Decker, Mr. Kevin Oswald, Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Ms. Donna Wagner, John Collins, Mandi Mladenoff, Judy Christie, James Czarnaski, Art Montgomery, Dick Zeigler, Jessie Wilcox, Brandon Linn, Rebecca Rodgers, Siena Rodgers, Keir Rodgers, Catherine Dent, Lake Zobal Dent, Samya Zain, Tom Gegenheimer, Coy Arnold, Julia Arnold, Yvette Hummel, Jeremy Hummel, Mike Stebila, Nick Eischeid, Julianna Jones, Cheryl Shellenberger, Darby Orris, Amy Kenny, Tori Ross, Maya Caron, Julia Pannebaker, Xiao Yan Shi, Brooke Goodall, Rachel Ulsh, Spencer Cook, and Rebecca Gideon.

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 explained to those in attendance that the meeting was started late due to the Board being in Executive Session regarding personnel matters and apologized for the lateness of the start of the meeting.

Mr. Hess announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Judy Christie addressed the Board regarding movement of the band period. She discussed that scientific research has proven that students have the best focus having band early in the morning, especially in middle school students from 5th grade to about 10th grade. She spoke on

how good sports programs also have good band programs especially in Texas and Western Pennsylvania. She recommended that several studies should be read like the "Stanford 2007 Applied Study of Brain Mechanism" and if you prefer a book check out "This is Your Brain on Music." She is not a member of our district but does not want to see a good band program wrecked.

Jessie Wilcox spoke on the music program. She is a 1998 alumnus of this district and also has a son in this district. She understands that band is not a core subject, but it's very important to kids. If she didn't have the foundation of middle school band, she wouldn't have been able to participate in concert band, marching band, wind ensemble, and orchestra in high school. Moving the band schedule to the end of the day is a great detriment to the great program Selinsgrove has built. Amy (Kenny) and Ed (Smith) have worked tirelessly over the past 30 years to grow this program to where it is today. Numerous students have gone to districts, regions, and state band competitions. Having band moved to the end of the day will hurt this program. Middle school students have lost focus by that time of the day, and nobody knows why this decision has been made. This will force students to choose between sports and band or doing nothing. Instrumental music doesn't start until 4th grade, but by then many students have been playing sports for years. Middle school students should be able to try as many things as possible to find what they can do, because in high school they can do both sports and music at the same time. She would love to see a committee formed with outside members of the community to oversee what is going on in the schools.

Art Montgomery spoke on the music program. He is a retired pastor and graduated from Selinsgrove in the class of 1966. He played an instrument all through school and during his time at Lycoming College. After college he played in the Sunbury City Band and Greenwood Community Band. He is 74 and continues to play an instrument. He appreciates the opportunity the school district gave him and doesn't want to see anything done to make it worse for students.

Tom Gegenheimer spoke on the music program. He is the director of the Sunbury City Band. He grew up in Central New York. As an educator previously in public schools and currently at the collegiate and community level, he has been afforded the opportunity to see both short-term and long-term impacts from decisions made at the public school level. The impact will be devastating and the ripple it will cause throughout the community will be felt for many years to come. Interest in music at the middle school level will begin to wain as constant interruptions and an unfocused ensemble period will mean a less prepared concert program. Students will be less prepared to transition to the high school level and fewer students will be selected for marching band and honor events. Educators will burn out attempting to make-up for the deficiencies in the program by putting in extra hours. Even fewer students will choose to attend college for music or join community bands. Music programs nationally have been struggling to recuperate from the effects of COVID. Music programs for decades have come under attack as being expendable. He asked the Board and administration to restore music to earlier in the day.

Tori Ross spoke on the music program. She is currently a senior at Selinsgrove and a member of the band and choir and stood with four other unnamed seniors participating in the music department. She named some great accomplishments our music program has achieved for the size of our district. The seniors attended a band rehearsal recently and noticed a difference in the students' performance. Limited hours won't allow students to reach their full potential. The strength of our music program equals or exceeds our sports and academic programs in the middle and high school. Maya Caron, introduced as one of the seniors standing behind Tori, is

going to college for music education and she may not have decided to do that if it wasn't for our strong music program. Please take into consideration that you may be depriving students of future possibilities.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent:

Dr. Jankowski addressed those who made public comments to the Board and those who were in attendance to support the speakers. Dr. Jankowski, on behalf of the Administration and the Board, conveyed that we are consistent in reviewing this topic and having dialog with our highly regarded music educators throughout the district. In working to create schedules, there is no desire from Administration, the Board or any professional colleagues of the music department to create a negative and competitive situation. At the moment, there are people throughout the district who don't have things currently the way they prefer them whether it be athletics or music. Our Administrators, Departments Chairs and Programmatic Leads are consistently and professionally advocating for those they represent. We are going to continue the dialogue as no door is ever closed on decisions. We are continuing to evaluate to ensure that we are not intentionally or unintentionally placing a lesser value on music education. He thanked everyone for their feedback, respect, and acknowledged that their message is being heard. Moving forward, the decision will stand as is, but he is available to discuss any questions before the next Board meeting.

Business Manager:

Mr. Hummel updated the Board on next year's state budget. Governor Wolf introduced his budget proposal last week and state revenue is being projected higher than expected and the state has on hand Federal revenue for Covid relief. The Governor's proposal is a huge increase to basic education of 22%, which translates to a \$1.5 billion dollar increase to the basic education line item. This would be a 16% increase to basic education funding or \$1.3 million dollars for our district. However, that number right now seems unrealistic because it has to go through the legislative process. He is projecting a 3% increase in the preliminary budget and keeping it conservative. Historically we receive 1% to 1 ½% increase in basic education funding. Special Education's line item is projected to increase by 11% or \$170,000 and that also seems unrealistic. The state budget should be passed by June 30th as we are currently preparing our budget for next year. Our revenue consists mainly of 3 parts: real estate taxes, earned income taxes and basic education funding. The basic education funding is an important piece of our budget.

Assistant Superintendent:

Mr. Parise discussed the Covid relief money and his working on an application for the third wave of the ARP or ESSER III funds. As part of the requirement, we need community feedback, so there is a survey on our web site for community members (staff, students, faculty, Board members, etc.) to fill out and provide suggestions on how the money can be expended.

High School Principal:

Dr. Conrad heard from SUN Tech and we have several students that placed in the SkillsUSA Competition and will be moving on to the state SkillsUSA competition. Those students are: Jonathan Fisher/Sam Laudenslager/Tyler Martin – Welding Fabrication – 1st; Ethan Hauck – Auto Refinishing – 1st; Luke Whipple – Commercial Baking – 1st; Sheldon Price – Carpentry – 2nd.

Director of Special Education:

Mrs. Lipsey wanted to congratulate Jenessa Richmond our elementary autistic support teacher. She was awarded with a \$200 scholarship from the Snyder County Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees. This will purchase materials to implement a “Coffee Cart Friday” at the elementary building. Students will be practicing their social communication and academic skills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: No report.

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: No report.

Personnel/Meet and Discuss: Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Paladino to approve the following recommendations of the Personnel Committee:

Rescinding Letter of Intent to Retire at the End of 2021-2022 School Year: Lisa Bordner as a Grade 4 Teacher at the Intermediate School.

Staff Resignations: Stephen Kalberer as School Psychologist, effective January 27, 2022; Faith Moore as a Life Skills Support Paraprofessional at the High School, effective February 16, 2022.

Staff Transfers: Shannon Walter as an Autistic Support Paraprofessional to a Reading Intervention Tutor at the Intermediate School, effective retroactive to January 31, 2022.

Staff Elections: Melinda Williams as a Part-Time Substitute Utility Aide at the Middle School, effective January 18, 2022, at the hourly rate of \$11.00; Megan Dauberman-Yoder as an Autistic Support Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School, effective retroactive to January 31, 2022, at the hourly rate of \$12.00; Amy Isaacs as a K-12 Nursing Assistant, effective retroactive to January 31, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, at an hourly rate of \$24.00; Erin Hoffman as a K-12 Nursing Assistant, effective retroactive to January 31, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, at an hourly rate of \$24.00; Madalyn Jankowski as a Predictable Long-Term Substitute Gr. 3-5 Reading Specialist, with an anticipated start date of March 3, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

2021-2022 Teacher Mentors: Jayme Klingler, Renee Parker, and Kristi Nevel

2021-2022 Continuing Spring Coaches with Extracurricular Contract: Baseball Head Coach - Brent Beiler Baseball Assistant Coach - Dave Brown Baseball Assistant Coach - Kevin Kline Baseball Assistant Coach - Jim Messner Softball Assistant Coach - Chris Eisley Softball Assistant Coach - Jeremy Goodling Boys Lacrosse Head Coach - Tom Garlock Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach - Jim Youngman Boys Track and Field Head Coach - Brian Catherman Girls Track and Field Head Coach - Mike Stebila Girls Track and Field Assistant Coach - Allison Huber Girls Track and Field Assistant Coach - William Switala JH Girls Soccer Head Coach - Cheryl Underhill JH Girls Soccer 2021-2022 Continuing Spring Coaches with Extracurricular Contract - CONTINUED: Assistant Coach - Scott Simone JH Boys Soccer Head Coach - Brian Derr JH Boys Soccer Assistant Coach - David Klinger JH Field Hockey Head Coach - Roz Erb JH Field Hockey Assistant Coach - Melissa Bingaman

2021-2022 New Spring Coaches with Extracurricular Contracts: Softball Head Coach - Jessica Chappell Girls Lacrosse Head Coach - Andy Howell Boys Track and Field Assistant Coach - Daniel Frake Boys Track and Field Assistant Coach - Dave Lauer Boys Track and Field Assistant Coach - Ken Estep Girls Track and Field Assistant Coach - Hunter George

2021-2022 Spring Coach Volunteers: Baseball Volunteer Coach - Bryan Mohr Baseball Volunteer Coach - Travis Lerch Baseball Volunteer Coach - Eric Hubbert Softball Volunteer Coach - Paige Smith Softball Volunteer Coach - Paul Herrold Softball Volunteer Coach - Tammy Newberry Boys Lacrosse Volunteer Coach - Benjamin Youngman Boys Track and Field Volunteer Coach - Jay Pagana Boys Track and Field Volunteer Coach - Scott Frost Boys Track and Field Volunteer Coach - Grant Rowe Girls Track and Field Volunteer Coach - Beth Huff Girls Track and Field Volunteer Coach - Angela Stebila Girls Track and Field Volunteer Coach – Troy Hess JH Girls Soccer Volunteer Coach - Tayla Derr JH Field Hockey Volunteer Coach - Donna Prince (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

2021-2022 District Volunteers: Renee Beaver and Madalyn Jankowski (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Jack Newell as an intern/volunteer with the Technology Department for a minimum of 120 hours, effective retroactive to January 25, 2022 (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Substitutes: Guest Teachers: Jessica Chappell, Haley Combs, Alexis Golden, and Ellen Hayman; Teacher: Lorraine Blough

Other Matters: The Board should consider approving the separation agreement with employee #000-00-2657, as presented.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Transportation: Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Taylor to approve Karissa Bower as a bus driver for Rohrer Bus Services and Jamie Bowersox as a van driver for Weikel Busing 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 operating budget is on the agenda for approval and Mr. Conrad went over the good news with SkillsUSA. Nothing else to report.

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Augustine, Representative, announced the monthly meeting will be held virtually and in person on February 16, 2022 and are back to regular business.

PSBA: Mr. Hess, Liaison, forwarded an email slideshow that describes Governor Wolf's budget proposal as a good resource and there is a training opportunity coming up monthly for new school board directors.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Taylor to consider approving the real estate tax assessment appeal agreement with SVM 10108887, LLC (Susquehanna Valley Mall In-Line Stores), as presented. Mr. Slivinski discussed with the Board that commercial property reassessments will continue to be an issue in the upcoming school year. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 6 yes, 3 no (Slivinski, Teats, Aikey), 0 absent

Motion by Teats and seconded by Taylor to consider approving the SUN Area Technical Institute 2022-2023 General Operating Budget, as presented. Mr. Slivinski motioned to table this item and have it go back to the Budget and Finance Committee to review due to multiple questions he had. Dr. Jankowski, Mr. Hummel, and Mr. Teats clarified the questions Mr. Slivinski had and his motion to table was rescinded. (a copy of the budget to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Adjournment:

Mr. Hess reminded everyone that an Executive Session will be held immediately following adjournment.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Wagner
Recording Secretary

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