

SELINGSGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – JUNE 15, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Wednesday evening, June 15, 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 7:10 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. 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, Superintendent. Board Member, Mr. Larry D. Augustine, was absent.

Others present were: Mr. Paul Bozella, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Justin Simpson, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, Rick Zeigler, David Smeltz, Angela Stebila, Taylor Roush, and Eric Rowe.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Slivinski 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)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Announcements:

Mr. Hess announced that the regular monthly Board meeting scheduled for August has been moved from Monday, August 8 to Monday, August 15. He noted that this change will be advertised to the public.

Mr. Hess asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include the items listed on the addendum.

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino to amend the agenda to include the items listed on the addendum, as presented.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hess called attention to the deletion of a substitute paraprofessional listed on page four of the agenda.

Mr. Hess announced that the Boys' Varsity Baseball Team will be competing in the State playoffs on Friday, June 17, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Mr. David Smeltz addressed the Board regarding the proposed 1-mill real estate tax increase. Mr. Smeltz indicated that he spoke previously with our Business Manager regarding the increase who explained that it was necessary in the event that Federal funding was pulled from

the district, which he does understand. However, he does not understand having a reserve of \$10.2 million and still wanting to increase taxes and burdening the local taxpayers. Mr. Smeltz asked that the Board reconsider the proposed 1-mill tax increase.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Jankowski commented that the 2021-2022 school year wrapped up two weeks ago. He noted that the class of 2022 received their diplomas at the High School stadium on a beautiful Friday evening, June 3, 2022, which was a delay of one day due to rain in the forecast on Thursday.

Dr. Jankowski also commented that the Baseball team is participating in the state championship playoffs in State College on Friday, June 17 at 4:30 p.m. He noted that the newly installed electronic sign is being used to bring additional awareness to the community of events such as this.

Dr. Jankowski reported that the district had a number of seniors participate in the SUN Area Institute's awards ceremony held on May 25, 2022.

High School Principal

Dr. Conrad reported that Quinn Stanford, Philip Gesumaria, Emerson Voss, and Ezekiel Roussu recently participated in the CFL Grand National Speech and Debate Tournament in Washington, D.C. and represented the district very well.

Dr. Conrad shared that he received a very nice email from the Athletic Director of the site where our baseball team competed against Archbishop Wood, complimenting the behavior of coaches, players, and fans from both teams.

Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Parise reported that there has been a reduction in allocations for federal programs. He noted that staffing and overall programming should not be impacted. Mr. Parise believes that the reduction in funding is a reflection of our free and reduced lunch numbers right now which he anticipates should be increasing due to the end of the free lunch program.

Mr. Parise noted that, as a result of the Federal Programs monitoring, he is requesting Board approval of a number of items that are listed later on the agenda in order to meet compliance procedures.

Mr. Parise gave a brief presentation on the 2021-2024 District's Comprehensive Plan which included the following: a list of district challenges, priorities and goals, and implemented/ proposed action steps. (a copy of the presentation to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Dr. Jankowski acknowledged that a lot of work went on behind the scenes in the last year and a half to compile and submit the comprehensive plan to the state.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Watto to consider approving replacement of the carpet in the District Office at a cost of \$22,400 through Shaw Integrated Solutions (installation by MVT Flooring). (Funding from Capital Reserve)

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

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: Mrs. Taylor noted that the district will be losing a male athletic trainer and will be replaced by a female trainer, Amanda Lavalle.

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

- 1) Approval of the following personnel actions as of July 1, 2022:
 - a. Wage increase for Classified, Food & Nutrition, and other salaried employees for the 2022-23 fiscal year based on evaluation scale with 2.5% as the full increment (maximum performance increase of 3%)
 - b. \$12.00 per hour minimum rate for all classified and food & nutrition positions including substitute positions
 - c. Additional wage and salary adjustments, as presented (a copy to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Staff Resignations: Mark D. Beck (new hire) as a Grade 6 Science Teacher, effective May 31, 2022; Michael R. Connelly as a School Police Officer, effective June 3, 2022; Eden Delosier as a Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective June 3, 2022; Julianna Jones as a Choral/Music Teacher at the Middle School, effective June 3, 2022; Julianne Long as a Utility Aide at the Intermediate School, effective June 3, 2022; Kristen Porr as Kitchen Manager at the Middle School, effective June 3, 2022; Maria Mull as Cook/Cashier at the Intermediate School, effective immediately; Rebecca Mull as a Paraprofessional at the High School, effective May 10, 2022; and, Jeremy Benfer as Second Shift Custodian at the Selinsgrove Elementary, effective July 7, 2022

Staff Transfers: Ryan Beddall from English Teacher at the Middle School to English Teacher at the High School, effective with the 2022-2023 school year

Staff Elections: Katie R. Spracklin as a Temporary Professional Employee at Step 3 of the Bachelor's Classification to be assigned as a Grade 6 Science Teacher, effective with the 2022-2023 school year (pending receipt of required paperwork); Kayla T. Hulsizer as a Professional Employee at Step 7 of the Master's Classification to be assigned as an Emotional Support Teacher at the Middle School, effective with the 2022-2023 school year (pending receipt of required paperwork); Angela C. Stebila as a Professional Employee at Step 17 of the Master's Classification, to be assigned as a K-5 Emotional Support Teacher, effective with the 2022-2023 school year (pending receipt of required paperwork); Rebecca J. Romanic as a School Social Worker at the Master's Classification, effective with the 2022-2023 school year (pending receipt of required paperwork); Roger J. Legg, III as a Professional Employee at Step 8 of the Master's +45 Classification, to be assigned as a K-5 Guidance Counselor, effective with the 2022-

2023 school year (pending receipt of required paperwork); Teresa Bennar as Assistant Kitchen Manager at the High School, effective August 1, 2022; Matthew Salsman as Head Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach, effective immediately; Karen Herman as a Special Education Paraprofessional, effective with the 2022-2023 school year, at a starting hourly rate of \$12.00 (bldg. assignment TBD) (pending receipt of required paperwork);

Summer 2022 Custodial Workers – Justin Aurand, Tom Badman, Jr., Cain Carter, Allyson Glass, Logan Hile, Kelly Ponce, Jonas Stiefel, Quinn Tomko, and Angela Walter

Summer 2022 Technology Department Worker – Justus Stiefel

2022 ESY (Extended School Year) Staff:

Teachers – Tricia Sullivan, Shannon Walter, Lydia Wetzel, Emily Herman, Jamie Shambach, and Katie Heintzelman; Paraprofessionals – Tom Badman, Noreen Robbins, Victoria Dupuis, Becky Geipel, Sky Weir, Hannah Pursel, Gina Agolia, and Amanda Eisenhauer

2021-2022 District Volunteers: Obiora Akujieze, Jenica Hummel, Dianna McGovern, Jessica Pagana, and Jonathan Watts (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Liza Smith as a Temporary Professional Employee at Step 3 of the Master's Classification to be assigned as an Instrumental/Band Music Teacher at the Middle School, effective with the 2022-2023 school year (pending receipt of required paperwork); Courtney Kennedy as a Special Education Paraprofessional, effective with the 2022-2023 school year, at a starting hourly rate of \$12.00 (bldg. assignment TBD) (pending receipt of required paperwork); Wendy Wat as a Mathematics Intervention Tutor at the Elementary School, effective with the 2022-2023 school year, at a starting hourly rate of \$16.00 (ARP/ESSER funds) (pending receipt of required paperwork); Kathryn Keeney as a Mathematics Intervention Tutor at the Intermediate School, effective with the 2022-2023 school year, at a starting hourly rate of \$16.00 (ARP/ESSER funds) (pending receipt of required paperwork); Laurie Kirchner as a Reading Intervention Tutor at the Elementary School, effective with the 2022-2023 school year, at a starting hourly rate of \$16.00 (Title 1 Funds) (pending receipt of required paperwork); and, Katie Deppen as a 2022 Elementary School Summer Reading Program Teacher

Leave of Absence: Employee #000-00-2390 for a child rearing leave of absence, effective with the start of the 2022-2023 school year through October 31, 2022

Substitutes: Teachers – Victoria Gulick and Tricia Sullivan; and, Guest Teacher – Sarah Koch

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

Transportation: Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Taylor to consider the recommendation of the Transportation Coordinator to approve Chris Herman as a driver for Weikel Busing, and Melissa Robinson as a driver for Rohrer Bus Service.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: Mr. Teats, Representative, reported that a committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16th and that action will be taken to approve a new Executive Director and a new Superintendent of Record. Mr. Teats noted that he recently attended the awards ceremony and added that it would be nice if other Board members showed support by attending events at the SUN Tech.

CSIU Board of Directors: No report.

PSBA: Mr. Hess, Liaison, reported that PSBA is conducting a three-week campaign to focus on 2022-23 state budget asks for school districts. Board members are asked to reach out to your legislators on these critical budget issues: Week 1 - Special Education: Minimum \$200 million increase needed; Week 2 - Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Students: Minimum \$60 million needed; and Week 3 - Career and Technical Education: Minimum \$25 million increase driven out to CTE programs needed.

Mrs. Taylor referred to a short survey that was sent to Board members which is being conducted by PSBA on Mental Health.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2021-2022 Year End Fund Balance Designations as of 6/30/22:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Taylor to consider approving the following year-end tentative fund balance designations and surplus transfer at 6/30/22 as outlined in the 2022-2023 budget document:

| Designation of Fund Balance: | Balance 6/30/2022 |
|---|----------------------|
| General Fund | |
| Assigned | \$ 92,008 |
| Restricted - Special Ed ACCESS Program | \$ 365,650 |
| Nonspendable - Inventory of Supplies | \$ 43,706 |
| Nonspendable - Prepaid Expenses | \$ 200,000 |
| Committed - Real Estate Tax Appeals | \$ 200,000 |
| Committed - Retiree Healthcare | \$ 2,570,371 |
| Committed - cybercharter school expenses | \$ - |
| Committed - PSERS | \$ 3,714,716 |
| Committed - Instructional support positions | \$ 737,638 |
| Unassigned | \$ 2,946,211 |
| Total Fund Balances | \$ 10,870,300 |

(Final designations will change after the 2021-22 books are closed and audited)

Transfer of \$300,000 of projected General Fund surplus to the Debt Service Fund

Transfer of \$500,000 of projected General Fund surplus to the Capital Reserve Fund

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

2022-2023 Final Budget:

Motion by Watto and seconded by Teats to consider adoption of the Final 2022-2023 Budget with expenditures of \$47,533,677 and revenues of \$47,533,677. (a copy of the final budget to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Final Tax and Budget Resolution:

Mr. Teats questioned if a 1-mill tax increase is necessary? He feels that with everything going on in this country right now, that some respect needs to be shown to the taxpayer by looking at other way to get funds for the things that we want to do, but don't need to do. Mr. Hess commented that a small increase is being recommended to cover what might be a shortfall in the future. He noted that we are trying to avoid what happened many years ago when the Board did not listen to the recommendations of the Business Manager and ended up with a million-dollar deficit. Mr. Hummel explained that 2022 is year two of a five-year plan. In years three, four, and five is when ESSER monies drop off and a gradual tax increase in taxes is necessary to prevent us from cutting positions and programs. Mr. Slivinski questioned the total loss due to assessment appeals? Mr. Hummel responded that since 2017 the district has lost \$2 million. Mr. Hummel also expressed concern regarding transportation and fuel costs, explaining that we have hit the 4 ½% cap of what we pay the contractor since February. Discussion was also held regarding costs related to Cyber Schools. Dr. Jankowski noted that we anticipate paying \$1.8 million this year.

At this time, Dr. Watto called for the question for the proposal on the floor.

Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Paladino to consider adoption of the Final Tax and Budget Resolution, as presented. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 7 yes, 1 no (Teats), 1 absent

2022-2023 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution:

Mr. Slivinski asked Mr. Hummel to explain how the homestead and farmstead exclusion works. Mr. Hummel explained that the state divides state gaming/gambling funds amongst school districts and these monies are then used as credit to offset real estate taxes. He noted that this year's tax increase will cost the average taxpayer \$27.00. The exclusion credit will be \$35, which results in the average tax bill being reduced by \$8.00.

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider adoption of the 2022-2023 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution, as presented. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Board Policies:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino to consider approving second and final reading revisions to the following policies: No. 906 - Public Complaints, No. 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying, No. 626.1 - Travel Reimbursement (with Attachment 626); and No. 827 - Conflict of Interest.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Real Estate Assessment Appeals:

Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Paladino to consider removing from the table the real estate assessment appeal agreement with BRE RC Monroe MP PA, LP (Dick's Sporting Goods), as presented; and the real estate assessment appeal agreement with Weis Markets, Inc., as presented.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion by Taylor and seconded by Teats to consider approving the real estate assessment appeal agreement with BRE RC Monroe MP PA, LP (Dick's Sporting Goods), as presented; and the real estate assessment appeal agreement with Weis Markets, Inc., as presented. (a copy of the agreements to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 7 yes (Watto qualified his vote by saying that it is a "lose lose" situation, 1 no (Teats), 1 absent

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Teats to consider authorizing the Business Manager to make the necessary budget transfers and journal entries to close the District's 2021-2022 books.

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

Residence Rights to Free School Privileges:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Taylor to consider approving a request for residence rights to free school privileges made on behalf of Michael Miller, Grade 11, in the home of Ayesha Bey, effective retroactive to March 7, 2022.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Extended Day Field Trip:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Slivinski to consider approving a request for an extended day field trip from the High School Principal made on behalf of FFA students to travel to Penn State University to participate in the PA State FFA convention and contests, on Tuesday, June 7 through Thursday, June 9, 2022.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Independent Study Proposals:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino to consider the request of the High School Principal to approve Independent Study Proposals for student #10742 and #11122, as presented. (a copy of the proposals to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously approved.

2022-2023 District Equity Plan:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to The Board should consider the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to approve the 2022-2023 Selinsgrove Area School District's Equity Plan, as presented. (This is a requirement for schools utilizing Title/Federal funds and ensures that there is not a disparity in funding or greatly disproportionate number of newer teachers among schools relative to the percentage of economically disadvantaged students.) (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously approved.

2022-2023 District Parent and Family Engagement Policy:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Taylor to consider the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to approve the 2022-2023 Selinsgrove Area School District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy, as presented. (This is a requirement for schools utilizing Title/Federal funds and outlines the various ways in which the district communicates and involves parents in districts programming.) (a copy of the policy to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously approved.

2021-2024 District Comprehensive Plan:

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to approve the Selinsgrove Area School District's 2021-2024 Comprehensive Plan, as presented. (a copy of the plan to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)
The motion was unanimously approved.

2021-2022 Sick Leave Bank Report:

Motion by Bechtel and seconded by Paladino to acknowledge receipt of the Selinsgrove Area Education Association's Sick Leave Bank Report for 2021-2022, as presented. (a copy of the report to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously approved.

School Board Treasurer:

Motion by Hess and seconded by Taylor to consider the reappointment of Matt Slivinski as Board Treasurer to serve from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Limited Superintendent Authority:

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

Payment of July Bills:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider authorizing the Business Manager and the Superintendent to make payment of July bills with the lists to be presented to the Board for approval at the August School Board Meeting.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Student Enrollment/Tuition Request:

Discussion was held regarding the cost of tuition for non-resident students. Mr. Hummel explained that the rate is set by the state and is based on the previous school year operations. Dr. Jankowski noted that the Board has the authority to waive the tuition fee.

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Paladino to consider approving a request from Heather Sprenkle, made on behalf of Braxton Sprenkle, Grade 2, to enroll in the district as an anticipated future resident (on a tuition basis) effective with the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Occupation and Local Advisory Committee Members:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Taylor to consider a request from the Assistant Superintendent made on behalf of the Career and Technical System (CATS) approved High School programs to approve members of the Occupation and Local Advisory Committees as follows: Eric Rowe, President; Matt Hackenberg, Vice President; Courtney Cowden, Secretary; Dr. Gabby Pagana; Rick Zeigler; Dustin Smith; Erica Mulberger; and Erika Meiser, Student Representative.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Board Discussion:

Dr. Jankowski noted that at the May Board meeting discussion was held regarding a playground expansion project that was proposed for completion over the summer. He explained, however, that due to resources being unavailable, he does not anticipate that the project will be completed in the timeframe that was initially presented. At that meeting, the Board had given its support to move forward with the project. Dr. Jankowski asked for confirmation from the Board that they still wish to move forward with the expansion project? He explained that the Alumni Association plans to donate \$10,000 for the playground project and would like to include the donation in their records as they begin their Fall member campaign. The Board agreed that they continue to support the playground expansion project and expressed thanks to Mr. Eric Rowe, Alumni Association President, for the generous donation.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

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