

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – OCTOBER 11, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Tuesday evening, October 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Selingsrove Area Middle School, 359 Seals Avenue, Selingsrove, 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, Mr. William L. Bechtel, Jr., Mr. David W. Hess, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino, Atty. Matthew A. Slivinski, Mrs. Kara Taylor, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Dr. David M. Watto and non-voting member, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski, Superintendent.

Others present were:

Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Paul Bozella, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Dr. Colton Moyer, Mr. Kevin Oswald, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Paul Roman, Mr. Justin Simpson, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Donna Wagner, Mike Stebila, Rick Zeigler, and two other interested community members.

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 Monday, November 14, 2022. He also added there was an addendum to the agenda for tonight's meeting dealing with personnel that will be addressed when we get to that point in the agenda.

Dr. Jankowski notified Mr. Hess about a correction to the start date for Mr. Leon Yoder on page 2 under letter c. Staff Elections, item 1 of tonight's agenda. Mr. Yoder's effective date was October 5, 2022.

Mr. Hess announced there was an Executive Session before the Board meeting tonight dealing with personnel and legal issues.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Jankowski announced that Mr. Parise will be going over achievement data from this past year and Chief Wolfberg will be discussing our Safety Audit results.

Business Manager

Mr. Hummel reported on the Act 1 index for next year's 2023-2024 school year budget, the base index is 4.1% and our adjusted index is 5.2%. That means we set a cap on what we could increase real estate taxes by, but we do not have to increase taxes by that amount. The 5.2%, if we would go up to the cap, equals about 3.7 mills. As we begin our budget process, this is the cap we would have to abide by without going to referendum or applying for exceptions. Mr. Hummel feels comfortable that we can pass a resolution in January to stay within that index.

High School Principal

Dr. Conrad reported there was a very nice turnout for Homecoming and the dance on Saturday night and recognized all the hard work put into it. Dr. Conrad toured the high school with two alumni groups from the classes of 1971 and 1982 on Saturday and over 30 new National Honor Society members were inducted on Sunday.

Director of Facilities & Athletics

Mr. Simpson had an update on the fall sports. Our golf team won a District Title on Thursday concluding with a fire truck parade through town upon their return home. They are competing this week in Scranton for the Regional Team Championship and, if they win, they will move on to the State Championship next week. We did have one individual qualify for individual golf at Penn State next week and that was Sam Wetmiller.

Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Parise presented a PowerPoint on Achievement Data & Considerations. He presented PSSA data from 2022 and the numbers show room to grow and also indicate a need to overhaul our intermediate school math program due to it being outdated and no longer supported by the publisher. Mr. Parise will be asking for Board support for a new math series in a few months. We have added more intensive interventions such as the math interventionists, the math tutors and reading interventionists and reading tutors to support students below grade level or who need extra support. All of the scores represented on the PSSA chart are above state average for grades 3-8, but the administrators feel we can do better, and it is part of our academic improvement goals.

Our Keystone data is similar to the PSSA data and the principals will be working on growth measures in the next few weeks. PVAAS is used and we exceed expectations especially in math. There is a group of middle school students who take the Keystone Algebra exam prior to moving to the high school. All 61 students, or 100%, who took the test this past year were proficient or above and these students are the more accelerated group of students. The numbers presented are at or above state average. Act 158 graduation requirements are adjusted to make other pathways to achieve the graduation requirement.

At the K-2 level there are no state standardized tests, so we utilize the DIBELS assessment for basic indicators of basic early literacy skills. We base some of our Title I goals on these results which are beginning, middle and end-of-year assessments. We are also utilizing some new products such as the STAR screening assessment for reading and math and we have a multi-tiered system of support in place. Data teams review the assessments and determine which

students are at-risk providing students time with a reading specialist, math interventionist or additional support in the classroom. We are doing a program review to select materials to vet resources in reading and math to improve the gaps.

Chief of Police/Safety & Transportation Coordinator

Mr. Wolfberg reported that beginning in April of this year our school district started a mandatory assessment for all PA schools under Act 44 compliance to conduct climate & behavioral and safety & security assessments of our district. This included all four of our buildings and it took several months to complete. It was paid for through a grant from the Center for Safe Schools. All buildings received two certificates of recognition. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the effectiveness of the school to minimize undesirable and aggressive student behavior and minimize opportunities for exterior threats of violence or aggression. Also it is to evaluate the way the physical environment promotes positive social interactions with the student population, school staff, and the community at large. We are proud of our achievements and will use this assessment to further build on what we already have been doing in the district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: No report.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Teats, Chair, reported that there would be a meeting held in early November.

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: No report.

Personnel/Meet and Discuss:

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

Staff Resignations: Amanda Eisenhauer as Life Skills Support Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective October 27, 2022; Lori Long as a First Shift Custodian at the High School, effective December 2, 2022.

Staff Transfers: Ryan Hammaker from Grade 2 Classroom Teacher to Grade 1 Classroom Teacher, effective retroactive to the start of the 2022-2023 school year; Nicole Smith from Cook/Cashier to Assistant Kitchen Manager at the Middle School, effective retroactive to the start of the 2022-2023 school year; Rebecaa Delancey as a Second Shift Custodian at the Middle School to a Second Shift Lead Custodian at the High School, effective retroactive to September 19, 2022.

Staff Elections: Leon Yoder as a Utility Aide at the High School, effective retroactive to October 5, 2022; Nakita Robinson as a Learning Support Paraprofessional at the High School effective retroactive to October 3, 2022; Stacy Evans as a Life Skills Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective November 1, 2022; Erica Benfer as a 1:1 Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School, effective retroactive to October 2, 2022.

2022-2023 High School Employees with Co-Curricular Contracts: Adjustment of the joint percentage of Jon Jarrett and John Aument as TSA Co-Advisors, as presented.

2022-2023 District Volunteers: Nicole Anderson, Donna Blaszkza, Heather Carr, Chelsey Davis, Richard Davis, Amber Furgison, Kelly Lerch, Georgiana Luce, Juanita Stark (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

2022-2023 Lady Seals Youth Basketball Volunteers: League Coordinator: Denyel Decker, Coaches: Alex Ulsh, Mike Berge, Shaunda Zeigler, Frank Jankowski, Nate Roman, Amber Hauck, Ryan Felty, Aaron Trotto, Aimee Snyder, Aaron Fast, Ashley Kolak, Alex Callender, Mindy Callender (pending receipt of required paperwork, without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

2022-2023 Additional District Volunteer: Edythe Sonder (pending receipt of required paperwork, without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Substitutes: Teachers: Ryan Keiser and Lorinda Krause; Guest Teachers: Julianne Long, Tammy Richard-Moyer, and Olivia Wood; Paraprofessionals: Amanda Eisenhauer and Stacy Evans

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

Transportation: No report.

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: No report.

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Augustine, Representative, announced that the CSIU is working with the districts and Geisinger on the mental health situation in the 17 school districts in the center part of the state. This is needed desperately, and he is happy to say that our Superintendent, Dr. Jankowski, is taking a pro-active leadership role in that process. The group is meeting with security and police officials and groups involved with the development of the child. Also, negotiations are coming up.

PSBA: Mr. Hess, Liaison, reported that there are new training standards released by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the School Safety and Security Committee for Safety and Security Coordinators in PA school districts. Safety Coordinators will need 7 hours of training annually and will have 1 year to comply. There will be a day of learning and discussion at the November 2, 2022, PSBA post-conference event called the Connections: School Safety + Mental Health sessions. PDE just put out a report that highlights improved access to agricultural education in PA. The PA Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence was created in 2017 to help modernize agricultural education and reports an increase in the number of agricultural training programs from 131 to 138 with a lot of emphasis on diversity equity inclusion in urban and organic agriculture. If anyone needs help with the training requirements for School Board Director, let Mr. Hess know, but a link to the training can be found on the PSBA website.

NEW BUSINESS

Extended Day Field Trip Requests

Dr. Jankowski commented that Extended Day Field trips are to be Board approved according to policy. However, there is a difference between field trips that are truly considered extended day and go beyond the day (such as the request for FFA) and are bigger in nature than trips that extend several hours beyond the regular school day (such as the Ski & Board Club). Dr. Jankowski questioned how the Board interprets "extended day". It is his understanding that the Board wants to know about field trips that are truly considered extended day. The Board agreed with that sentiment and Dr. Jankowski confirmed that rather than go through a policy change, that it is the intention of the Board that administratively this is how we should regulate that process in the future.

Motion by Watto and seconded by Teats to approve the following extended day field trip requests.

FFA to travel to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, through Saturday, October 29, 2022 (departure on 10/26 at 6 a.m. with return on 10/29 at 6 p.m.); Ski & Board Club to travel to Montage Mountain, Scranton, PA, on Saturday, January 7, 2023 (departure at 7:30 a.m. with return at 9 p.m.); Ski & Board Club to travel to Montage Mountain, Scranton, PA, on Saturday, January 21, 2023 (departure at 7:30 a.m. with return at 9 p.m.); Ski & Board Club to travel to Elk Mountain, Union Dale, PA, on Saturday, January 28, 2023 (departure at 7 a.m. with return at 10 p.m.)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Guitar Course Curriculum

Motion by Watto and seconded by Paladino to consider the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to approve the Guitar Course Curriculum, as presented. (a copy of the curriculum overview to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Adjournment:

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

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Wagner
Recording Secretary

dmw/min2022-10-11