

SELINGSGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – MAY 8, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, May 8, 2023, 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. David W. Hess, Mrs. Anabel Menifee, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino, Ms. Kara L. Taylor, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Dr. David M. Watto, and non-voting member, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski, Superintendent. Mr. William L. Bechtel, Jr. and Atty. Matthew A. Slivinski, Board Members, were absent.

Others present were: Mr. John Bohle, Mr. Paul Bozella, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Mrs. Renee Frederick, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mr. Jeffrey Hummel, Dr. Colton Moyer, Mr. Kevin Oswald, Mr. Brian Parise, Mr. Justin Simpson, Atty. J. Michael Wiley, Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Ms. Claudia Beaver, Mike Bingaman, Matt Herrold, and Officer Darryl Fisher.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino 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 is scheduled to be held on Monday, June 12, 2023. He also announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the start of the Board meeting, and another will be held following adjournment.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Mr. Matt Herrold, parent of 7-year-old, addressed the Board to express on-going concerns with district administrators since March of 2022 regarding his daughter's education and denial of services. He read from a prepared statement questioning Damian Gessel's authority to serve as a 504 Officer and Home and School Visitor and his authority to issue a summary citation against his wife regarding compulsory attendance.

Attorney Slivinski arrived at the Board meeting at approximately 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Herrold also questioned Attorney J. Michael Wiley's authority to act as an Attorney of the Commonwealth, instead of as a School Solicitor. He accused Mr. Gessel of falsifying and fraudulently altering his daughter's records. Mr. Herrold referenced a hearing held on March 21st, that his wife failed to appear, due to receiving no notice of the hearing. He also commented that the Superintendent has been made aware of all of these issues, and yet

nothing has happened. He questioned what the Board is going to do about the situation. Dr. Jankowski advised that since this is a current legal matter, that any conversations with the Herrold family should be in private. Attorney Wiley added that, since the Herrold family appealed the decision of the magistrate, a proceeding will take place and that is where the district will provide the information that has been requested.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Jankowski took a moment to highlight an individual that has dedicated much of his career to the Selinsgrove Area School District. He noted that Kevin Oswald was hired in 2000 as the district's Director of Food and Nutrition and will be retiring at the end of June. Dr. Jankowski highlighted Mr. Oswald's successes in this position over the past 23 years and added that we have been very pleased to have had him lead our food service department. A round of applause was received on Mr. Oswald's behalf.

Business Manager

Mr. Hummel noted that the proposed final budget for 2023-2024 is on the agenda under the Budget and Finance Committee for Board consideration. He explained that this is the second step in the three-step budget process, with having passed the Act 1 Budget Resolution in January indicating that the Board will not raise the rate of real estate taxes by more than the allowable index. Mr. Hummel reported that the index for this coming year was 5.2% which would have been an increase in real estate mills of 3.7 mills. He explained that the proposed budget does not include a real estate tax increase. Mr. Hummel reviewed the numbers listed on the 2023-2024 proposed budget highlights, which will be attached and made a part of the official minutes.

High School Principal

Dr. Conrad reported that Prom was held this past Saturday at the Country Club with approximately 280-300 participants in attendance. He expressed thanks to the chaperones, to Mark Wolfberg as Security, and to Taylor Roush as Junior Class Advisor, for their help with making the event a success.

Dr. Conrad reported that last Friday a Mock Car Crash was staged, and first responders were on-hand to help simulate an event. This event is held to encourage students to make safe choices when behind the wheel. In addition, he reported that they also made available to students an opportunity to experience a safe driver simulator.

Dr. Conrad introduced Jonathan Jarrett, a member of the Technology and Education Department, who serves with John Aument in this department. Dr. Conrad commented that Tech. Ed. is very popular with the students and that they gain a lot through their experience in it.

Mr. Jarrett distributed a brochure which outlines the purpose and goals of the Technology & Engineering Education Department as well as the courses available. He noted that between 600-650 students, grades 9-12, take Tech. Ed. Courses in a school year. Mr. Jarrett also noted that there is a wide range of both workforce and college-bound students. He gave a brief overview of the technology, design, and manufacturing courses. Mr. Jarrett explained that they

are actively seeking to develop partnerships with professionals from local industries to expose our students to authentic real-world experiences and technology to prepare them for success in their future endeavors. He also spoke about the Technology Student Association (TSA) which gives club members an opportunity to pursue academic challenges and compete against local schools and schools state-wide with similar goals and interests. (a copy of the brochure to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Mr. Paladino, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on April 17, 2023.

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Slivinski to consider the recommendation of the committee to approve the 2023-2024 Proposed Final Budget with expenditures of \$49,366,790 and revenues of \$48,984,778 and use of fund balance of \$382,012, as presented. (a copy of the proposed budget to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Teats, Chair, commented that bid results for the 2023 paving project will be received and reviewed in the near future.

Policy and Education: No report.

Extracurricular: No report.

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

Staff Resignations: Katherine Carrasquillo as a Second Shift Custodian at the Intermediate School, effective April 28, 2023, due to retirement; and Scott Simone as Assistant Varsity and Jr. High Soccer Coach, effective May 5, 2023

Staff Elections: Adam Spriggle as a Summer 2023 Technology Department Worker

2023 Elementary School Summer Reading Program Staff:

Teachers – Anne Parise, Kanda Gabel, Tracy Youngman, and Tabbetha VanHorn-Price
Paraprofessionals – Bonnie Hoover, Laurie Kirchner, and Bobbie Klinger

2023 Intermediate School Summer Program Staff:

Teachers – Joelle McEvoy, Christina Briggs, Renee Parker, Shannon Walter, and Kelsey Sands
Substitute Teachers - Tosha Varner and Wendy Young
Paraprofessionals – Angela Steimling and Jennifer Ferry

2023 Middle School Summer Program Staff:

Teachers – Derek Hicks, Jamie Ettinger, Dan DiCola, April Metzger, Matt Metzger, Amber Mensch, and Angelo Picerno
Paraprofessionals – Paula Freed, Lauri Hoke, and Steve Shambach

2023 High School Summer Program Staff:

English – Julia Arnold

Math – Stephanie Underhill

Science – Brandon Falk, Tracy Hepner, Stephanie Weikel

Social Studies – Brad Richmond, Ali Huber, Bill Switala

Business (Career Prep) – Bethanie Yevics

2023 ESY (Extended School Year) Staff:

Teachers – Tricia Sullivan, Emily Brion, Jenessa Richmond, Jamie Shambach, Mike Shay, Kiara MacMath, and Tiffany Myers

Paraprofessionals – Tom Badman, Noreen Robbins, Victoria Dupuis, Becky Geipel, Sky Weir, Gina Agoglia, Kelly Ponce, and Lori Rathfon

Summer 2023 Custodial Workers – Tom Badman, Angela Walter, Grayden Catherman, Cole Catherman, Jonas Stiefel, Cain Carter, Amber Young, Bonnie Hoover, Darryl Fisher, and Allyson Glass (pending receipt of required paperwork)2022-2023 District Volunteers: Matthew Atwood, Vickie Brown, Jaclyn Cook, Michael Corman, Chris Grill, Kara Herb, Valera Hess, Stacy Hostetter, Misty James, Tricia Klink, Kayla Kratzer, Lisa Krex, Karen Pyle, Heather Shoemaker, Kimberly Smith, Chris Snyder, Julie Sprenkel, and Jennifer Zeiders (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation) (pending receipt of required paperwork)**Substitutes:** Prospective Teachers – Claire Schmoke and Lily Stahl; Nurses – Misti Aleta and Sarah Stuczynski (pending receipt of required paperwork); and School Police Officer – Nathan Fisher (pending receipt of required paperwork)**Other Matters:** Consider approving an hourly rate compensation adjustment for Emily Guy based upon further review of her credentials upon employment, as presented.

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

Transportation: Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Transportation Coordinator to approve Virgil Fowler, II and Yunisa Jmenez Feliz as drivers for Rohrer Bus Service, and Beth Hoover as a driver for Weikel Busing, effective during the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Technology: No report.**SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee:** Mr. Teats, Representative, expressed his frustration regarding the possibility of the Advertising Arts & Design class being dropped due to low placement numbers, also noting that the instructor is retiring.**CSIU Board of Directors:** Mr. Hess, Representative, questioned if everyone was in favor of voting to approve the slate of candidates for the 2023 CSIU Board of Directors, as presented. (a copy of the list to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Hearing no opposition, the slate of candidates was unanimously approved, as presented.

PSBA: No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve a list of requests for tax exoneration, as presented.

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

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watto to consider re-appointing Jeffrey H. Hummel, Business Manager, as the District's HIPAA (protected health information) Privacy and Security Official pursuant to the Privacy Rule and the Security Rule regulations.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Graduating Seniors:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watto to consider the recommendation of the High School Principal to approve student #998497672 and student #1792212976 as 2023 graduates, effective immediately, due to completion of all graduation requirements and meeting the standards for early graduation as outlined in Board Policy No. 217.

Mr. Teats questioned if these students are juniors or seniors, noting that if they are juniors they shouldn't be on the senior list. Dr. Jankowski explained that if a student acquires the required quantity of credits in advance, they can graduate early according to this policy. Mr. Teats commented that he feels that no matter when a student meets the credit requirement, they should be allowed to graduate. Dr. Jankowski responded that the Board will need to take a look at that policy, since there is much more flexibility now for a student to earn credits in advance.

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

Proposed List of Graduating Seniors:

Motion by Slivinski and seconded by Teats to consider approving the list of graduating seniors for the Class of 2023, pending satisfactory completion of all graduation requirements, as presented.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Extended Day Field Trip Request:

Motion by Watto and seconded by Taylor to consider the request of the High School Principal to approve an extended day field trip request made on behalf of the FBLA to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, June 26 through July 1, 2023, to compete in leadership events at the 2023 FBLA National Leadership Conference.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Teats reported that PSAT testing was recently conducted at the high school for the entire class of tenth grade students. He noted that this is a qualifying exam for National Merit Scholarships. Mr. Teats expressed concern regarding the lack of adequate supervision for a group this size, noting that students were talking during testing, sharing answers, throwing pencils, and creating a distraction for those students earnestly wanting to take the test. Mr. Teats requested that the students be allowed to retake the test but was told that the test cannot be taken again in the same year. He questioned the inadequate supervision for a group this size and how the district is going to make it right for these students. Mr. Teats commented that if we are here for education, we should be fighting for all students... fighting for them to attain the highest level of excellence in everything. He added that the Board needs to put their foot down and correct this wrong-doing.

Dr. Jankowski explained that, just to be clear, the inability to retake the test is not a Selinsgrove decision but is determined by the College Board. Mr. Hess agreed that he would like to hear more about the situation from the teacher and principal involved. Dr. Jankowski noted that he will speak with staff and follow up with a report to the Board.

Adjournment:

Dr. Jankowski announced that a School Board Meeting will be held on May 22, 2023, which will be open to the public and advertised accordingly.

Mr. Hess announced that an Executive Session would be held following adjournment of the meeting.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min5823