

SELINGSGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – APRIL 14, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, April 14, 2025, at 7 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 7:09 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. Michael A. Bingaman, Mr. David W. Hess, Mr. Chris J. Kenawell, Mr. Cory A. Naugle, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. Eric L. Watkins, Dr. David M. Watto, and non-voting member, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski, Superintendent.

Others present were: Mr. Zachary Appleman, Mr. Paul Bozella, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Dr. Colton Moyer, Mr. Brian Parise, Mrs. Maggie Roberts, Mr. Mike Sokoloski, Mr. Ryan Solomon, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Ms. Claudia Beaver, Mr. Mark Wolfberg, Mr. Troy Hickman, Jared Hoffman, Lori Proger, Mike Proger, Isabel Proger, Hailey Beaver, Jevan Beaver, Christine Beaver, Julia Kline, Quinn Stanford, Mary Markle, Chris Markle, Toni Niles, Amy Caron, Emily Morgan, Ava Hendricks, Gabriel Schaeffer, Melody Aikey, Emily Aikey, Olivia Aikey, Laurie Meade, Ellie Herman, Kianna Cornell, Talia Beatty, Clara Beatty, Zachary Beatty, Todd Stanford, Beth Stanford, Gary Schaeffer, Ellie Schaeffer, Michele Mitchell, Mark Zimmerman, Truly Walters Zimmerman, Helen Kiso, Carrie Briggs, Erin McGlaughlin, Grace Rice, Taylor Roush, Ella Wenrich, Lily Bower, Myles Phillips, Chandra Childress, Emma Anderson, Caroline Bucher, Katie Proger, Karissa Springer, Cheri Cook, Kasey Bailey, Grayce Fordyce, Jace Diehl, Mara Diehl, Matthew Lehman, Sophia Lybarger, Hannah Rowe, Marsha Lemons, Bryan Snook, Bill Switala, Sophie Markle, Samuel Haak, Eli Markle, Kenny Little, Ryland Zimmerman.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watkins 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)

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

Announcements:

Mr. Hess announced that an Executive Session regarding personnel and legal matters was held prior to the start of the meeting. He noted that the next regular monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, May 12, 2025.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Dr. Jankowski noted that a number of individuals have completed and submitted request to comment forms and he reminded everyone that individuals making comment are limited to a few minutes and that the period of time devoted to public comment during any meeting is be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes per item. Dr. Jankowski commented that there is not a plan to remove AP Psychology and is aware that there are rumors swirling out there.

The following individuals addressed the Board to express concerns regarding the Board potentially taking action to eliminate AP Psychology from the High School: Mike Proger, Jared Hoffman, Hailey Beaver, Julia Kline, Quinn Stanford, Isabel Proger, Chris & Mary Markle, Ellie Herman, Erin McGlaughlin, and Samuel Haak. In addition, a petition with over a 1,000 signatures was presented to the Board. (a copy of the petition to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Mr. Kenawell questioned where the information came from that made everyone think that the Board was taking action to eliminate the course, because it is an untrue statement. A response was given that it was information that was heard throughout the community and student-body.

Mr. Hess thanked everyone for speaking and expressed his pride in the students for standing up for what they feel strongly about.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Middle School Principal

Dr. Moyer reported on a great opportunity for the Jr. High Band who were invited by the Wilkes-Barre Penguins ice hockey team to perform at the arena recently. He noted that this was the first Jr. High Band that was ever invited to play, adding that it was a huge opportunity, and a proud moment, and a testament to the program, the students, and Liza Smith as Band Director.

High School Principal

Dr. Conrad called attention to his written report where he listed many student accomplishments including SUN Tech students qualifying for Nationals, as well as FBLA State place winners. He recognized Kelsey Persons as the State champion in Business Ethics. Dr. Conrad also recognized Elise Zimmerman and Gabe Schaeffer as PMEA All State Chorus qualifiers, as well as the Forensics Team of Hendrix Corbin and Quinn Stanford as third place finishers in the state in the News Broadcasting event.

Mr. Aikey commented that he had the opportunity to attend the FFA Open House last month and witnessed a lot of student excitement about what they are learning and experiencing. He mentioned tapping maple trees to make syrup, small animal care, raising trout, electrical, plumbing, and welding. Mr. Aikey noted that these students will be leaving the district with skills and knowledge that they will be able to use in life. He expressed kudos to the FFA for everything that they do to prepare our students for the future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Mr. Paladino, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on March 26, 2025, at which time they reviewed the 2025-2026 proposed final budget. In regard to the budgetary deficit, there are a number of things that the district is facing that must be taken into account. Mr. Paladino explained that cyber school costs are a little over \$2 million, and commercial property tax appeals continue to devalue property thus reducing our real estate tax revenue. He commented that the district has been very fortunate over the last three+ years with no tax increase. However, due to the increases of some of these costs, the preliminary budget proposal includes a 2.5 mill increase for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Paladino noted that the budget will continue to be evaluated.

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Paladino to consider approving the 2025-2026 Proposed Final Budget with expenditures of \$53,169,007 and revenues of \$51,027,019 and use of the fund balance. (Adjustments will continue to be made until the scheduled Final Budget approval at the May 12, 2025, meeting.) (a copy of the proposed final budget to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 7 yes, 2 no (Kenawell and Teats), 0 absent

Motion by Teats and seconded by Bingaman to consider transferring \$750,000 of the Committed Future Capital Project Fund Balance to the Capital Reserve Account for use towards the anticipated summer project expenses.

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

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Teats, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on March 26, 2025, at which time they reviewed proposed summer projects, including paving, as well as masonry work that needs to be completed at the Intermediate School that will help prevent water and insect penetration.

Policy and Education: Mr. Hess, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on March 26, 2025. (a copy of the committee meeting minutes to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Extracurricular: Dr. Watto, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on March 26, 2025. He reviewed a number of items that were discussed at the meeting. (a copy of the committee meeting minutes to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Staff Resignations: Seth Martin as Head Varsity Girls' Wrestling Coach, effective March 25, 2025; Jennifer McDonough as a Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective April 4, 2025; Olegario Martinez as a Part-Time School Police Officer, effective May 9, 2025; and Mark A. Wolfberg as Transportation/Safety Coordinator, effective February 6, 2026, due to retirement

Staff Elections: Lynsey McKinley as Dean of Students at the High School, effective March 24, 2025, through the end of the 2024-2025 school year (at a stipend of \$3,500); Christopher Baker as a Part-Time School Police Officer, at an hourly rate of \$32.00, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required paperwork;

2024-2025 Middle School Employee with Supplemental Duty Contract:
Jaclyn Cook – Department Head

2024-2025 District Volunteers – Katherine Bohner, Gabrielle Fathel, Jenna Gatewood, Chris Grill, Jenna Hayes (pending receipt of required paperwork), Megan Herrold, Kristin Hollenbach, Jenica Hummel, Kellie Kline, Michelle Kline, Jamie Knouse, Kayla Kratzer, Cherakee Leitzel, Bonnie McGranaghan, Jaime Namminga (pending receipt of required paperwork), Tammy Newberry, Andrea Runkle, Talayna Schell, Melissa Shambach, Ed Smith, Martha Smith, Desiree Tarr, Anna Trayer, Heather Welsbacher, Eric Wendt, Nicole Wendt (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

2024-2025 FBLA Volunteer – Mike Stebila (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Leave of Absence: Employee #000-00-2255 for a Childbearing Leave of Absence, tentatively effective May 20, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Substitutes: Guest Teachers – Donna Blaszkas and Kyle Bryant; and Prospective Teacher – Rachel Kessler

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

Transportation: Motion by Watto and seconded by Teats to consider the request of the Transportation Coordinator to approve Bryan Anderson as a driver for Adam Transportation, and Wayne Hoffman and Keith Schleig as drivers for Rohrer Bus Service, during the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: Mr. Teats, Representative, reported on a change in the process for participating in a summer program held at SUN Tech. He explained that this is a program to encourage younger students to have an interest in a trade. Initially a computerized system was used, and was a first come, first served basis. However, Mr. Teats felt that this was unfair to students with poor internet service. He explained that it has since been changed to a lottery system with a one-week opportunity to apply. He noted that students outside the sending districts will not have an opportunity to participate until after students from local districts have been selected. (a copy of the highlights of the JOC meeting held on March 20, 2025, to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Hess, representative, referred to the highlights of the meeting held on March 19, 2025. (a copy of the highlights to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

PSBA: Mr. Aikey, Liaison, announced that the 2025 PSBA Delegate Assembly's annual association-wide business meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. The gathering will take place in-person at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in the Poconos. Both Mr. Aikey and Mr. Hess will attend this meeting as our district's liaisons.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Paladino and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to approve the agreement for the Intergovernmental Cooperation in Assessment Appeal Litigation Cost Settlement for parcel 16-02-168A. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watto to consider appointing Matthew Lehman as a District Representative to the Central Susquehanna Region School Employee's Health & Welfare Trust replacing Jill Raymond.

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

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino to consider the recommendation of the Business Manager to accept the lowest bid for High School Cafeteria tables from Penn Jersey Paper Company, LLC, in the amount of \$ 52,407.36 to be paid for with Food Service funds. (a copy of the bid tabulation sheet to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

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

Extended Day Field Trips:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Bingaman to approve a request from the Middle School Principal made on behalf of the eighth-grade class to travel to Philadelphia to visit historic sites such as Independence Hall, and the Liberty Bell, April 16, 2025 (with departure at 8:15 a.m. and return at 7:30 p.m.)

Motion was unanimously carried.

Motion by Bingaman and seconded by Watkins to approve a request from the High School Principal made on behalf of members of the Forensics Team to travel to Chicago, Illinois to compete in the NCFL National Tournament, May 23 through May 26, 2025.

Motion was unanimously carried.

Residence Rights to Free School Privileges:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Bingaman to approve a request for residence rights to free school privileges. (a copy of the request to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Motion was unanimously carried.

Board Discussion:

Dr. Watto expressed thanks to all of the students who spoke this evening to support their position regarding AP Psychology, noting that it takes courage to stand up. He added that there was not much that was said that any of us as Board Members would disagree with.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min41425