

# OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting Held on April 11 2022

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom on April 11, 2022.

A moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance preceded the meeting.

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Mr. Koennecker was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team via Zoom; five citizens and six students in-person and 20 citizens via Zoom.

There were no presentations, visitor's comments for agenda items only, or information items.

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the April 18, 2022 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2022-2023 Chester County Intermediate Unit Core Services Budget in the amount of \$33,173,390.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2022-2023 Chester County Intermediate Unit Occupational Education Budget in the amount of \$30,361,289.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Chesconet Agreement effective July 1, 2022.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the low bid of \$668,600 with Garvey Roark for restoration of the Primary Learning Center roof.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the agreement with Environmental Control Systems, Inc. for asbestos removal management and supervision in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the proposal with Bristol Environmental for asbestos removal in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the proposal with Interface Services for flooring replacement in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the proposal with Laird Painting Contractors, Inc. for painting of the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.
- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the CoStars quote with James Doorcheck for door replacement in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.
- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the proposal with G. A. Vietri, Inc. for installation of electrical service for the District sign.
- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2022-2023 Legal Services Consultation Agreement between Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams LLP and the Octorara Area School District for Special Education Services.
- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the student activity club "Octorara High School Esports Club" at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.

- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, second reading:  
     222 *Tobacco and Vaping Products*  
     901 *Public Relations Objectives*  
     902 *Publications Program*
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first reading:  
     237 *Electronic Devices*  
     815 *Acceptable Use of the Internet, Computers and Network Resources*  
     830 *Breach of Computerized Personal Information*  
     903 *Public Participation in Board Meetings*
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following driver for Althouse Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year:  
     Janice M. Fulkerson, School Bus Driver #2

Resignation Approvals:

- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Michele Miller as a fifth grade teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective April 8, 2022. (Hired August 26, 2002)
- Q. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. John Atlee for purpose of retirement as a school counselor at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective the end of the 2021-2022 school year. (Hired January 19, 2004)
- R. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Amanda Schmidt as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective March 18, 2022. (Hired October 18, 2021)

Hiring Approvals:

- S. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Craig Leister as a technology education teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District effective August 16, 2022. Mr. Leister's salary will be \$76,061 which is Step 11 to MAX of the Master's +60 scale. (Mr. Leister is replacing Patrick Lauletta who transferred.)
- T. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Margaret Nelson as a cafeteria employee pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District effective March 21, 2022. Ms. Nelson's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for five hours per day. (Replacing Doris McGinnis who resigned.)
- U. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Brittany Myers as a cafeteria employee pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District effective April 4, 2022. Ms. Myers' rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Valerie Wilson who resigned.)
- V. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contract for the 2021-2022 school year:
- |            |                   |                |         |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|
| Morgan Lee | JV Softball Coach | 5 pts. @ \$620 | \$3,100 |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|

Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported on the meeting held on March 28, 2022. The committee discussed 2021 PSSA and Keystone results, job embedded professional development, coaching initiatives, district wide mentoring opportunities for students, 2022 PSSA testing dates, mental health contract, and CPR training.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the committee reviewed the second reading and first reading policies on tonight's agenda. She reported Dr. Propper discussed the challenges with electronic devices and changes that will be made to policy 237 as a result of the challenges. Ms. Bowman addressed policy 903 and how it relates to the Sunshine Law.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris said the Committee discussed an RFP for the efflorescence at PLC, district sign update, summer projects including the Jr. High MPR, evening custodial services RFP, a minor incident involving one of the District's maintenance vehicles, baseball and softball scoreboard installation, and storm damage.

There were no other items/concerns.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Sue Boninu, Parkesburg, addressed her concerns regarding continuation of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade baseball next year. She said she is not receiving answers to her inquiries concerning next year.

The following students each expressed their desire for the continuation of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade baseball for next year:

Reid Boninu, Parkesburg  
Daulton O'Donnell, West Fallowfield Township  
Rocco DeLuca, Christiana  
Jack Dubree, Christiana  
Jacob Scott, Atglen  
Brady Foster, Atglen

Joseph Scott, Atglen, said he has coached baseball for 14 years and would like to see the program continue without a break between little league and the Sr. High program. He said he can't see spending money on score boards if there is no feeder program for the high school.

Kelly O'Donnell, West Fallowfield Township, said she is a baseball mom and shared her son received honor roll this quarter so his coach would be proud of him. She wants to know what the options are for continuing the program next year.

Steven Stafford, Parkesburg, said he has coached kids for three years and is a strong believer in school sports. It helps them keep their grades up and learn discipline. He requested the Board make sure the kids have the sport they deserve through Jr. High.

Mr. Norris said there is no talk of the Board cutting the program; they are looking for options. This takes time.

Dr. Orner said there will be options presented at the Education Committee meeting this month.

Mr. Fagliariore requested an update at the next meeting.

Mr. Stafford addressed the cost of students playing at different leagues and the result of playing different leagues will divide students up.

Dr. Orner said there has been discussion on students not having to pay \$500-\$1,000 to play the sport they love.

Under administrator comments, Ms. McNamara announced OACTEP workforce/college signing days. She reported 26 new sending school students for the Homeland Protective Services Academy. The written portion of the NOCTI test was administered last week with 80% of the students taking the test receiving competent or advanced scores.

Dr. Haller reported students will be taking the ELA PSSA exams on April 26-28 and the Math PSSA exams on May 3 and 4. An email was sent to parents with information regarding PSSA testing. He announced the OIS, in partnership with the PTO, will have a PSSA Afterschool Celebration on Friday, May 6 from 3:30-5:00. Tickets will go on sale Monday, May 2.

Ms. Lease announced the PLC students raised \$17,146 for the American Heart Association during their recent Kids Heart Challenge. She congratulated Mr. Lynch for being chosen as a tech director for the PMEA Conference. Ms. Lease said there are currently 86 incoming kindergarten students. The next incoming kindergarten workshop will be held on April 28. Kindergarten screenings will take place in May – parents can sign up using the link on the district website.

Mr. Dikun said the Math 24 Tournament will take place next Thursday and the Envirothon competition will be held the following week.

Dr. Propper announced the Jr./Sr. High Career and Wellness Day will be held on April 12. Each grade level will participate in a wellness or career activity with the class of 2022 having a breakfast and a service learning opportunity. Dr. Propper offered his apology to Ms. Boninu for not responding as he thought Mr. Fantazzi's correspondence with her had addressed the issue. He said he cares very much about athletics; they are an integral part of student life. He is looking at options for the best interest of the students and will have some idea of direction after formal discussion with the Board at the Education Committee meeting.

Dr. Orner reviewed highlights of the 2022 Pennsylvania State of Education Report published by PSBA. She thanked the class of 1971 for time well spent on Saturday giving 25 members of the class a tour of the Sr. High for their reunion. She encouraged other class reunions who would like to take a tour to contact the district office.

Under Board comments, Mr. Norris discussed the document received that is an intent to file a lawsuit and monetary charges that are attached to the intent.

Mr. Fox said Mr. Pratt has the document. It is a warning letter of intent to file a law suit. The board does not need to take any action on it. He said it is curious that Mr. Falgiatore was the only one sitting at the Board table who was not named in the document. He noted the document from Ryan Miller included language that was very similar to Mr. Falgiatore's statement submitted in February.

Mr. Fox read the following statement:

"I want to take a brief moment to address some correspondence addressed to the School Board concerning Policy 903, titled "Public Participation in Board Meetings."

School Board Policy 903 fully complies with Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act and other applicable laws with regards to allowing members of the public to address the School Board at its public meetings. The Sunshine Act only permits school district residents and taxpayers to address the School Board – and that is what our policy provides. The policy also sets forth rules concerning the time limits for public comments and expectations for proper decorum. Again, these rules comply with applicable laws – and rarely have to be enforced since the overwhelming number of people who attend our public meetings are school district residents or taxpayers; respect established time limits; keep their comments focused on school district business and do not otherwise interrupt our meetings.

One individual wrote that Policy 903 violates Marbury v. Madison. We confirmed with our solicitor that U.S. Supreme Court decision addresses the legal principle of judicial review – which is the right of our courts to declare a legislative action as being unconstitutional. Our solicitor assured me that Policy 903 is constitutional – and the School Board has no desire to interpret or enforce that policy to deny school district residents or taxpayers the right to address the School Board at its meetings."

Mr. Falgiatore said his statement from February is common language. He said people are grateful for the additional Board documents posted on the website and requested the committee meeting agendas be posted as well.

Mr. Ganow said it is time to have the administrative team attend the board meetings in person.

Mr. Fox announced an Executive Session for Personnel was held on Monday, March 28, 2022 following the Education Committee Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.

Mr. Fox announced the following meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, April 11, 2022 – following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, April 18, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, April 18, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, April 25, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present.

This Board meeting can be viewed in its entirety on You Tube.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
Octorara Board of School Directors