

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on April 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on April 17, 2023.

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

The President, Mr. Ganow, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Fox, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; and 11 citizens.

The minutes of the Work Session of March 13, 2023, and the Regular Meeting of March 20, 2023 were approved on motion of Mr. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present.

Under presentations, Mr. Curtis gave a 2023-2024 budget update.

Under information items, Nick Kluge will transfer from a special education teacher at the Octorara Elementary School to a STEM teacher at the Octorara Elementary and Intermediate Schools effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-4/17/23)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$2,769,641.58; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$54,889.71, Capital Projects totaling \$87,556.92, and Capital Reserve totaling \$0.00 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix B-4/17/23, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present except Mr. Falgiatore who voted no.

There were no visitors' comments for agenda items only.

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present by a roll call vote, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the 2023-2024 Chester County Intermediate Unit Core Services Budget in the amount of 34,720,570. (Appendix C-4/17/23)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present by a roll call vote, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the 2023-2024 Chester County Intermediate Unit Occupational Education Budget in the amount of \$31,574,393. (Appendix C-4/17/23)

The following items were approved on motion of Mr. Fox, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present:

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Revised Service Agreement with the Chester County Intermediate Unit for a technology specialist from March 8, 2023 through June 8, 2023. (Appendix D-4/17/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the 2023-2024 Legal Services Consultation Agreement between Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams LLP and the Octorara Area School District for Special Education Services. (Appendix E-4/17/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Octorara Area School District and the Oxford Area School District for students in the Octorara Homeland Protective Services Academy. (Appendix F-4/17/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following policies, second reading:

137 *Home Education Programs*

137.1 *Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students*

137.2 *Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students*

137.3 *Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students*

(Appendix G-4/17/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Octorara Area School District Employee Handbook. (Appendix H-4/17/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the donation of \$500 from Penningtonville Presbyterian Church to be applied to unpaid student cafeteria balances.

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Jean Curry as a kindergarten teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 31, 2022. (Hired January 5, 1995)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Diane Powers as a reading assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective July 20, 2023. (Hired January 12, 2004)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Natalie Allen as a long-term substitute seventh grade ELA teacher effective March 21, 2023. (Hired January 16, 2023)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Diane Martin as a food service employee effective November 22, 2022. (Hired August 15, 2022)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the list of professional and support staff employees for the Summer Literacy/Math/Science and Extended School Year Programs. (Appendix I-4/17/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Mr. John Atlee as a substitute teacher for the 2022-2023 school year to assist with PSSA testing. (Mr. Atlee is a retired OASD guidance counselor.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following supplemental contracts for the 2023-2024 school year:

Ken Wilson	Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach	7 pts @ \$620	\$4,340
Daryl Maser	Girls' Volleyball Coach	7 pts @ \$620	\$4,340

On motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following supplemental contract for the 2022-2023 school year:

Denise Schreffler	Asst Jr High Track Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
-------------------	--------------------------	---------------	---------

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Judy Head as a speech pathologist at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective June 7, 2023. (Hired October 20, 2008)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following changes in salary due to graduate credits earned:

Brooke Maldonado	From B+15 (\$56,751) to M (\$58,772)	Step 18 to MAX
Maria Scarfo	From M+15 (\$77,432) to M+30 (\$79,532)	Step 6 to MAX

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Fox and approval of all members present by a roll call vote, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the contract for the Superintendent of the Octorara Area School District effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028. (Appendix J-4/17/23)
Dr. Steve Gerhard, Chester County Intermediate Unit Search Consultant, thanked the Board for their work and the community for their input in the search process. He introduced Dr. Steven A. Leever as the Octorara Area School District Superintendent effective July 1, 2023.

Mr. Ganow read the following statement:

“The Board is excited to appoint Dr. Steven A. Leever as the next Superintendent of the Octorara Area School District. After an extensive search process, the Board believes Dr. Leever has the skill set to best meet the needs of the District.

The search process brought in a diverse candidate pool of superintendents, assistant superintendents and life-long educators. During the past two months, the Board completed rigorous interviews to determine the degree of fit between the community’s criteria and the candidates’ professional experiences.

Dr. Leever has an accumulation of over 30 years in public, private and international education. Dr. Leever’s mission is to teach students to be agile learners, prepared to adapt for careers and opportunities that have not yet been created. Currently, Dr. Leever is the assistant superintendent of Kutztown Area School where he has worked since 2019. Prior to Kutztown, Dr. Leever spent ten years living in the Middle East, serving as a high school principal for The American School of Dubai in United Arab Emirates and a middle school principal at The American school of Doha located in Qatar. Before his experiences abroad, Leever spent 15 years as a social studies teacher, three years as a high school assistant principal, and two years as a junior high principal.

Dr. Leever received his undergraduate degree in history from Crown College; his master’s degree in educational leadership and his Doctor of Education in educational administration from Immaculata University. As a resident of Eastern Lancaster County, Dr. Leever and his family are familiar with Octorara and its reputation as a strong community that’s committed to academic excellence.

We look forward to introducing Dr. Leever to the Octorara Community. Plans are being made for Dr. Leever to meet with staff, students, parents and the community in the near future.”

Dr. Leever thanked the Board and said he is humbled for the opportunity to come to Octorara and has felt drawn to the position and the community from the beginning of the process. He is looking forward to begin his work in the District.

Under the Finance Committee report, Mr. Hurley reported the committee was given a review of the District’s insurance coverage from Willis Towers Watson Northeast, Inc. The committee was given a 2023-2024 budget update and discussed the food service community-wide program.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting held on March 15, 2023.

There were no items of old business or new business.

Under other items or announcements, Mr. Ganow thanked Dr. Orner for her years of service at Octorara and is excited for her opportunity to move forward.

There were no visitors' comments in general.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Ms. Lease announced the PLC students raised \$22,122.47 for the American Heart Association through the KIDS Heart Challenge. She thanked the Crime Victims Center of Chester County for the puppet based Safe Touches Workshop they presented to second grade students. She said the PTO Bingo night donated \$2,653.38 to the victims of last week's fire in Parkesburg. She announced the K-6 Art Show will be held on April 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the PLC. She thanked and congratulated retirees Jeanie Curry, Judy Head, and Diane Powers for their years of service to the students and staff.

Mr. Dikun announced the winners of the Math 24 Challenge: 1st place, Madyson Williams; 2nd place, Maci Marshman; 3rd place, Jayden Besash; and 4th place, Emilia Rossi. He said Brady Corvaia placed 2nd in the Pennsylvania Dental Poster Contest.

Dr. Haller announced several students from the Intermediate School participated in the Chester County STEM Design Challenge held on March 31. Fifth grade students Jack Bierlein, Jack McGinnis, and Andrew Mitman earned first place and will advance to the state competition next month.

Dr. Proper invited parents to attend the Parent Advisory meeting on April 26. He thanked Mr. Sifford and the National Honor Society students for raising \$3,500 for Four Diamonds in their quest to conquer childhood cancer.

Ms. McNamara announced the OABEST Expo will be held on May 20 from 9:30-1:30. She reported on happenings and events in the CTE programs.

Dr. Orner thanked Dr. Scanlon as they started their first day of transition today. She thanked Mr. Curtis and the administrative team for their work with the budget. She welcomed Dr. Leever to the District. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the District for the last five years.

Under Board comments, Ms. Bowman wanted to clarify the District's insurance carrier has approved payment of the legal costs for the staff and Board that are named in the lawsuit after the deductible is fulfilled. She thanked Dr. Orner for her hard work and advocacy on behalf of the students during the last five years. Ms. Bowman welcomed Dr. Leever and thanked Dr. Scanlon for stepping in as interim until Dr. Leever's tenure begins.

Mr. Hurley thanked Dr. Orner for her time at Octorara and wished her good luck. He welcomed Dr. Leever to the District.

Mr. Falgiatore congratulated Dr. Leever. He said the federal lawsuit is a private person lawsuit until the judge says otherwise.

Mr. Fox welcomed Dr. Leever and is thankful the Board was able to recruit him. He thanked Dr. Scanlon for his service as interim. Mr. Fox thanked Dr. Orner for her dedication to the students and wished her well.

Ms. Yelovich thanked Dr. Orner and agreed with the others about her dedication to the students. She welcomed Dr. Scanlon and Dr. Leever.

Mr. Zimmerman welcomed Dr. Leever and thanked Dr. Orner for being able to talk out their differences and thanked her for helping Ava while she served as student representative to the Board.

Mr. Koennecker wished Dr. Orner the best and thanked her for her service. He said he is looking forward to working with Dr. Scanlon and Dr. Leever.

Mr. Ganow read the following statement:

“As some of you are aware, John Ryan Miller, an individual who is not a resident of the Octorara Area School District, filed a Federal lawsuit against a number of people including 8 of 9 School Board members and certain employees of the Octorara Area School District. At this point in the case, the Court has already dismissed 56 named defendants including the District solicitor. Currently in front of the Court is a Motion to Dismiss on behalf of the 8 named School board members and employees, along with the District Attorney and Pennsylvania State Police. We do not know when the Court will issue their decision, but we expect a decision shortly on these Motions and anticipate the same result as the previous decision from the Court granting of the Motion to Dismiss. At this point there is no indication that the claims presented by Mr. Miller are viable. The School Board will continue to monitor the case and report to the public any updates.”

Mr. Ganow announced the following upcoming meetings:

Executive Session for Personnel - Monday, April 17, 2023 - Following the Regular Meeting in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, April 24, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, May 8, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, May 8, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. in in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next Regularly Scheduled Work Session – Monday, May 8, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, May 15, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, May 15, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. on motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present.

This Board meeting can be viewed in its entirety at www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD.

**TREASURER'S REPORT
OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
GENERAL FUND
2022-2023**

Cash Balance as of February 28, 2023 \$ 1,810,987.84

Receipts Deposited:

Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$	2,655,744.56	
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)		1,000.00	
Checking Account Interest		1,563.30	
Accounts Receivable		177,431.51	
Transfer in from Investments		8,997,654.59	11,833,393.96
 Total Available	 \$		 13,644,381.80

Disbursements:

Net Payroll	\$	1,174,613.43	
Accounts Payable		5,507,381.80	
Transfer to Investments		-	6,681,995.23

General Fund Cash as of March 31, 2023 \$ 6,962,386.57

Investments Outstanding

Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account	\$	8,352,565.92	
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market		23,351,044.95	
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account		31,361.62	
Earnings on Fulton Money Market		24,907.69	
Net Transfers		(8,997,654.59)	

Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of March 31, 2023 \$ 29,724,612.16

For the April 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
Octorara Board of School Directors