

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Special Board Meeting Held on August 17, 2021

A special meeting of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom on August 17, 2021.

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. Koennecker, Mr. Norris via Zoom, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Mrs. Hardy, secretary was absent. Also present were Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; approximately 60 citizens; and 188 citizens via Zoom.

Dr. Orner presented the Health and Safety Plan as it was updated August 17, 2021.

Under visitor's comments, Kate Thomas from Christiana Borough commented on contact tracing, wording of the health and safety plan update.

Kathleen Thomas from Parkesburg Borough asked about the 200 quarantined students last year, hypothetically could 100 students be quarantined in one day. Dr. Orner answered quite possible.

Craig Fackler from Highland Township asked about the definition of an outbreak and how many are currently positive.

Katy Klingensmith from Parkesburg Borough commented on the number of positive cases in Chester county and the long-term effects of Covid. Why not begin the year masked?

Kurt Hershey from West Sadsbury Twp, spoke about students with special needs and not mandating masks.

Allison Thaler from Christiana Borough, commented that the plan is not working towards in person learning. Will we be doing the testing, can we have masked classrooms and non-masked classrooms. Dr. Orner answered that PDE has asked the IUs to work with schools about implementing free Covid testing in school.

Darla Petty from Sadsbury Township asked that the Board allow parents to make masking decisions for their students.

Amanda McLaughlin from Parkesburg Borough commented on masking and keeping students safe and asked about the prior year Covid protections. If student is sent home quarantined, what is their schooling look like at home?

Rosita Taylor form Christiana Borough commented on teachers telling students masks are recommended and that it is bullying.

Adrienne Walburn from Sadsbury township commented on the Delta variant and the unvaccinated students. She asked for students to be masked to avoid quarantine and keep kids in school.

Mathew King from Highland Township, approves of the plan as is and wants it passed by the Board. Also what do we do with vaccinated students who test positive.

Michelle Farrell from Parkesburg Borough commented on masking and wants it so that her kids are in school.

Mr. Ganow, Ms. Bowman, and Mr. Norris commented on the plan.

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present except Mr. Norris who voted no, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Proposed Revised Health and Safety Plan updated August 17, 2021. (Appendix A-8/17/21)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Mr. Falgiatore and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Mr. Greg Fantazzi as athletic director effective TBD pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Mr. Fantazzi's salary will be \$96,000 pro-rated. (Replacing Angela Gaido who resigned.)

Mr. Hurley commented on the process and community involvement.

Mr. Ganow thanked the Board for all their hard work.

Mr. Fox commented on the public comment process.

Dr. Orner noted that she will work on a question and answer sheet.

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Curtis, Business Manager

Typed by Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
Octorara Board of School Directors