

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on December 7, 2020

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 December 7, 2020 immediately following the Reorganization Meeting.

Under presentations, Dr. Orner gave a transition back to in-person learning update including regulations from the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

Angie Gaido gave a winter sports update. Winter sports will start practice tomorrow with no competitions until January. Athletes must wear masks to practice and during all competitions.

Under visitors' comments for agenda items only, Mr. Brent Focht, Atglen, thanked Angie Gaido and the Board for supporting winter sports and allowing his sons to participate in wrestling.

There were no information items.

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the December 14, 2020 Board meeting:

A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, second reading:

- 106 *Curriculum Maps*
- 107 *Adoption of Courses of Study*
- 109 *Resource Materials*
- 110 *Instructional Supplies*
- 111 *Lesson Plans*
- 113.1 *Discipline of Students With Disabilities*
- 113.2 *Behavior Support*
- 113.4 *Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information*
- 122 *Extracurricular Activities*
- 123 *Interscholastic Athletics*
- 123.1 *Concussion Management*
- 123.2 *Sudden Cardiac Arrest*
- 130 *Homework*
- 137 *Home Education Programs*
- 137.1 *Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students*
- 138 *Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners*
- 140 *Charter Schools*
- 140.1 *Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students*
- 142 *Migrant Students*
- 143 *Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools*
- 144 *Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes*
- 146 *Student Services*
- 150 *Title I Comparability of Services*

B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first reading:

- 200 *Enrollment of Students*
- 201 *Admission of Students*
- 202 *Eligibility of Nonresident Students*
- 203 *Immunizations and Communicable Diseases*
- 203.1 *HIV Infection*
- 204 *Attendance*
- 205 *Postgraduate Students*
- 206 *Assignment Within District*
- 207 *Confidential Communications of Students*

208 *Withdrawal From School*
209 *Health Examinations/Screenings*
209.1 *Food Allergy Management*
209.2 *Diabetes Management*
210 *Medications*
210.1 *Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine*
212 *Reporting Student Progress*
214 *Class Rank*

- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education dated November 30, 2020.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2020-2021 K-6 Parent/Guardian Handbook.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2020-2021 Octorara Career and Technical Education Programs Occupational Advisory Committee members.
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the donation of \$500 from the Cochranville United Methodist Church.
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the request for unpaid family medical leave for the purpose of child rearing for Ms. Doreen Steinmacher from approximately June 2, 2021 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Steinmacher is a music/chorus teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the request for uncompensated leave for Ms. Marjory Zajac effective December 7, 2020 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Zajac is a first grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center.

Resignation Approvals:

- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. Mike Griffith as a track coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective November 16, 2020. (Hired for the 2019-2020 school year)
- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Michaela Landis as an assistant track coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective November 13, 2020. (Hired for the 2019-2020 school year)
- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Lisa Foster as a cafeteria employee effective October 23, 2020. (Hired February 17, 2020)

Hiring Approvals:

- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Emily Creighton as a long term substitute ESL teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective December 7, 2020 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Creighton's salary will be \$52,617 prorated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Ms. Creighton is currently an ELL Instructional Assistant at the Primary Learning Center and is taking a leave of absence from that position to fill this long term substitute position. She is replacing Richard Baker who resigned.)
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. William Holmes as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District effective December 15, 2020. Mr. Holmes' rate will be \$12.65 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Paula Spicher who resigned.)

- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute support staff for the 2020-2021 school year:
 Grace Puffenberger, Instructional Assistant
 Connor Lewin, Cafeteria
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year:
 Brandon Olmeda, K-12 Music
- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contract for the 2020-2021 school year:
- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Danielle Kelley | Mentor Holub/Shenk | 1.31 pts @ \$620 \$811 |
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Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported the committee met on November 23, 2020 and were given an instructional coaching update, bathroom pass information, student achievement update, an opportunity with West Chester University for social work, and an update on planning for return to in person learning.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the committee discussed the first and second reading policies on the December agenda. School Code is dictating many of the changes in the policies.

Under the Facilities Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee discussed the second round of lead and copper water testing with no test results above the limits, COVID 19 inspections at the Jr./Sr. High schools, custodian replacement, camera access control system bids, and a storage unit at the PLC. Althouse Transportation gave a transportation report.

There were no other items/concerns or visitors' comments for items in general.

Under administrator comments, Krista Lease thanked everyone involved for allowing the PLC to reopen to in-person learning today. She thanked parents and students for following protocols and said students are doing a great job at wearing masks. She also thanked the teachers and instructional assistants for the great job they are doing. She reported it is hard to get substitutes for the instructional assistants and is thankful for alumni students, Grace Meyer and Emily Lantz who volunteered while they were in the early childhood education program and now will be approved as instructional assistant substitutes while home from college on break. Ms. Lease thanked B&T Bank for the \$25,000 grant that allowed for the purchase of new furniture and supplies for the new library stem program. She said she is working on a creative name for the center and the first Stem Challenge will be coming up soon.

Mr. Brooks announced senior, John Beecher has received the prestigious QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship. From over 18,500 applicants, only 1,464 are recognized as Match Scholarship Recipients. John will receive a full four-year scholarship to the University of Chicago. This scholarship covers the full cost of attendance, including tuition, room and board, books and supplies and travel expenses. Mr. Brooks congratulated John and his family on this amazing accomplishment.

Mr. Brooks said staffing continues to be a challenge but at this point, he should be able to staff the Jr./Sr. High School for reopening for hybrid learning on December 14 but it will be a day-to-day scenario.

Dr. Tachau said K-6 parents whose students were remote were given the choice to see if they wanted their students to return to in-person learning after the first trimester. She announced the buildings can accommodate those requests beginning Monday. The next step is to look at those who want to return from OVA. She will update the Board next week with those numbers.

Dr. Orner, Dr. Tachau, and Mr. Hilbolt led a discussion on the West Chester University Social Work partnership.

Under Board comments, Ms. Bowman said she appreciated the conversation on reopening for in-person learning and winter athletics. She has confidence that the athletes and coaches will do what is needed to continue athletics and keep the school open.

Mr. Fox announced the following Lancaster Lebanon League Coaches 2020 All Star Team Honors:

Harrison Maillie - Academic 1st Team
Mike Trainor - Academic 2nd Team
Andrew Koennecker and Kaden King - Academic Honorable Mention
Mike Trainor - First Team Offense
Bryan Pennypacker - First Team Offense
Caleb Rising - First Team Offense
Kaden King - First Team Offense
Aidan Neary - Ross First Team Offense
Weston Stoltzfus - Second Team Offense
Kaden King - First Team Defense
Ryan Kernan - First Team Defense
Paulie Murray - Second Team Defense
Bryan Pennypacker - Second Team Defense
Weston Stoltzfus - Second Team Defense
Mike Trainor - Second Team Defense
Ryan Kernan - Second Team Defense
Coach Jed King Section 4 Coach of the Year

He also announced a *Lancaster Farming* article on junior, Maddy Cracknell regarding her equestrian endeavors.

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, December 7, 2020 – Following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, December 14, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, December 14, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman 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