

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on December 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom on December 13, 2021.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other members present were: Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Ms. Bowman was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary via Zoom; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; one reporter; 29 citizens and 101 citizens via Zoom.

The minutes of the Work Session of November 8, 2021 and the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2021 were approved on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present.

Under presentations, Dr. Tachau presented the OASD Library book selection process. The Board discussed removing a particular book out of circulation. The book in question will be removed as per the Board request.

Under information items, Holly Strogan will transfer from an instructional assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School to a library assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School. (Replacing a retirement)

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Mr. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Falgiatore and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-12/13/21)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$1,483,576.42; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$25,713.01, Capital Projects totaling \$14,900.00, and Capital Reserve totaling \$0.00 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix B-12/13/21, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present.

There were no visitors' comments for agenda items only.

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

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the addendum to the Proposal for Support with Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health originally approved on November 15, 2021 to include ESY services. (Appendix C-12/13/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Lease Agreement with TP Trailers, Inc. to provide a trailer for on-site COVID testing. (Appendix D-12/13/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the 2021-2022 Octorara Career and Technical Education Programs Occupational Advisory Committee members. (Appendix E-12/13/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the rate schedule for Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord, LLP for January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. (Appendix F-12/13/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the grant for \$500 from Land O'Lakes Foundation in support of the Answer Plot Community Garden Program. Funds from this grant will be used to purchase industry level materials and equipment which will help provide students with hands-on learning experiences while addressing the need for hunger relief in their local community.

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

- 807 *Opening Exercises/Flag Displays*
- 808 *Food Services*
- 810 *Transportation*
- 810.2 *Transportation – Video/Audio Recording*
- 811 *Bonding*
- 812 *Property Insurance*
- 813 *Other Insurance*
- 814 *Copyright Material*

(Appendix G-12/13/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Kelly Cross as an Octorara Virtual Academy teacher effective January 1, 2022. (Hired August 19, 2019)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Sheryl Malinics as library assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School effective January 3, 2022. (Hired August 25, 2008)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Alivia Ellingsworth as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School effective November 30, 2021. (Hired September 20, 2021)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Christina Ruth as varsity softball coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective November 17, 2021. (Hired for the 2019-2020 school year)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Amber Stirling as 8th grade girls' basketball coach and varsity track coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective November 23, 2021. (Hired for the 2020-2021 school year for both positions)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Deirdre Shappell as a long term substitute Family and Consumer Science teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective December 13, 2021 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Shappell's salary will be \$57,531 pro-rated, which is Step 18 to MAX of the Master's scale. (Ms. Shappell is an approved substitute and is replacing Tara Murdock who will be on a sabbatical leave.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Camryn Koennecker as a long term substitute Spanish teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective November 1, 2021 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Koennecker's salary will be \$53,267 pro-rated, which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Ms. Koennecker is an approved substitute and is replacing Samantha Kelly who resigned.) Mr. Koennecker abstained from this vote.

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Ellen Aracil as a long term substitute reading specialist at the Octorara Elementary School effective November 22, 2021 through December 23, 2021. Ms. Aracil's rate will be \$150 per day. (Replacing a medical leave.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved an increase from five hours per day to 5.75 hours per day for Ms. Valerie Wilson. (Ms. Wilson is a cafeteria employee at the Octorara Primary Learning Center at a rate of \$15.00 per hour.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year:

Harley Ludy, Music Education Credit
Danielle Good, Emergency

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute support staff for the 2021-2022 school year:

Hailey Rohrer

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year:

Shain Quigley	Girls' JV Basketball Coach	9 pts. @ \$620	\$5,580
Kelsey Nisula	7 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	4 pts. @ \$620	\$2,480
Dave Baker	8 th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach	4 pts. @ \$620	\$2,480

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Gianna Lambert as a student score/timekeeper effective December 13, 2021 at a rate of \$45 per event.

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved an overnight trip from Tuesday, December 13, 2022 through Saturday, December 17, 2022 to Walt Disney World, Florida for band and chorus students in grades 9-12. Students will perform in the Disney Candlelight Ceremony and at Disney Springs as well as attend performance-driven workshops. Audition videos are required to allow students the opportunity to see how real-life auditions work for performances. The student/parent will be responsible for the cost of \$1,389 per student.

On motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the 2021-2022 Octorara Area School District Organizational Chart. (Appendix H-12/13/21)

Under the Finance Committee Report, Mr. Hurley reported the Committee discussed the 2020-2021 audit report, food service update, 2022-2023 budget, and West Fallowfield Township invoice for the traffic signal at Rt 41 and Highland Road.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting that was held on November 17, 2021.

Under old business, Mr. Zimmerman asked for clarification if the Board could see in writing a response from the Chester County Health Department regarding following the mandate.

Dr. Orner responded with a statement from the solicitor.

Mr. Falgiatore commented on what he believes is the solicitor's opinion. Mr. Falgiatore asked for the specific statutes and what crimes are we possibly committing by not following these mandates. Mr. Falgiatore requested the solicitor speak with the Oxford solicitor to see how they determined that they could operate mask optional.

Dr. Orner said she posed the same question to Chester County Health Department's Public Health Director, Jeanne Franklin and she was not able to provide what the consequences would look like for not following the mandate.

Under new business, Mr. Ganow resigned his position as treasurer following his appointment as Vice-President at the December 6, 2021 Reorganization Meeting. On motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present, Mr. Ganow's resignation was accepted. On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present, Mr. Hurley was nominated as Board treasurer to complete the term from 12/13/2021 through June 30, 2022.

Mr. Hurley moved to make a revision at the January 10, 2022 meeting to the Health and Safety Plan, page 5, item A deleting the first sentence and replacing it with the language used in the August Health and Safety Plan that masks are recommended but not required. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koennecker and approved by all members present.

There were no other items or announcements.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Molly Mastrippolito, West Sadsbury Township, commented on Mr. Dikun removing an unmasked special education student from class. She expressed her concern with her conversation with Dr. Orner.

Melanie Schillinger, Londonderry Township, commented on the masking recommendation and said we are under no legal requirement to follow it.

Kim Kush, Sadsbury Township, questioned the K-6 schedule not being the same as the students in grades 7-12. She would like the schedules to be the same to help working parents. She commented on the band not playing at football games and the low pay rate for instructional assistants.

Adrienne Walburn, Sadsbury Township, thanked the Board for their efforts on keeping students safe. She commented on two local hospitals that are closing. She supports masking and said it is important that students stay in school. She thanked the staff for all they are doing.

Melissa Falgiatore, commented on the ESSER grant and asked who was hired for the positions. She believes the Board never voted on policy that includes denied entry or what discipline action would be taken for students who did not wear a mask. She shared what happened to her students. She asked what liability the Board believes they will be under for the people that have filed a class action lawsuit for denied entry. She believes this is not a disease that is attacking children but is attacking the elderly.

Dave Lapp, West Sadsbury Township, commented on the mask mandate and the negative effects it is having on our children.

Kristin Weber, West Fallowfield Township, commented on the mask psychosis and asked what the board needs to hear to be opposed to the mask mandate. She gave death statistics for children. She asked the Board to make masks optional and let parents decide.

Carrie Rettew, Sadsbury Township, said she is a parent and employee in the District. She shared how long her family has lived in the community. She said the Board is in charge of academics and behavior and they are not her doctor. She referenced the yellow scarves the Jews were forced to wear and encouraged the board to make masks optional.

Brittany Hopkins, Christiana, commented on student mask wearing and asked the Board to make masks optional when they vote in January.

William Seger, not a resident of the District, has grandchildren who attend, asked that a temporary mask optional plan be put in place until the vote in January.

Jay Lusby, Parkesburg, asked questions about the District Covid testing. He commented on the need for oxygen and asked that masks be optional. He asked to use local numbers or building numbers for the Health and Safety Plan.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Mr. Dikun gave an update on Cider, the OES facility dog.

Dr. Haller reported fifth grade students were given a virtual tour of TCHS Pennock' Bridge programs. He thanked Ms. Steiner for arranging the tour and said the activity will become part of the student's PA Career Ready portfolio.

Dr. Propper announced the Jr. High chorus concert will be held on December 14 at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Sr. High chorus concert at 7:30 p.m. There will be a Jr. High dance on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. as well as a Night of Champions at the basketball game. The Jr. High band concert will be held on December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Orner said there is a 2022 Board meeting schedule for each Board member at their table and encouraged attendance at the upcoming concerts.

Dr. Tachau commented on the ESSER survey and how the funding will be used to fund many of the survey items. Mental health work, additional staffing K-6 and additional staffing 7-12 were the three top requested uses of the funding. She also commented on all of the ESSER grant funding possible uses. The survey is still open for stakeholders and is available on the website.

Under Board comments, Mr. Falgiatore asked the Board consider extending the public comment for future meetings.

Mr. Zimmerman asked there be one calendar on the district website that includes all activities and sporting events. He commented on the chart in the Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Norris said the public comment that forcing students to wear a mask is comparable to the Holocaust was offensive.

Ms. Yelovich congratulated the cast and crew of the fall play, "Clue", for a great performance.

Dr. Orner commented on the testing trailer and that the information about testing is on the website.

Mr. Zimmerman requested that students who are being tested be accompanied by a parent to the testing trailer so the parent can't say they didn't approve it – he said a parent signature can be forged.

Mr. Fox suggested checking with EMS to see what their guidance is.

Mr. Zimmerman asked which test is being done.

Dr. Orner said it is the PCR test. It is the most accurate and has a 24-36 hour turnaround time.

Ms. Yelovich commented that the testing option is a good thing since difficulty getting student's tested was a concern from parents.

Mr. Fox commented that it is Board policy that there is no disciplinary action for students not masking in school. If there was discipline, it was related to other behavior outside the Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Fox said the District's band is a marching band and not a field performing band. There was a pep band before Covid restrictions, it may be possible to have the pep band return.

Mr. Fox said the instructional assistant rate is contractual. He said this is a negotiation year for both professional and support staff.

Mr. Fox said there are many inaccurate and false statements on social media one of which claims the District gets money for each 504 written.

Mr. Curtis commented on the Act 16 report where the District reports on IEP students and that is what drives our special education subsidy, not 504s.

Mr. Fox addressed a comment that was made saying the District is focused on writing 504s and not focusing on protecting our special education students. He asked Dr. Orner how many 504s related to masking were written in the past 4-6 weeks.

Dr. Orner said there were no masking 504s written in the last 4-6 weeks.

Mr. Falgiatore believes students are being disciplined for not wearing a mask.

Mr. Fox said the Board discussed not taking action against students who were not wearing a mask.

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings:

Executive Session for Personnel and Legal Matters– Monday, December 13, 2021 –
Following the Regular Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, January 10, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School
Multi-Purpose Room

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, January 10, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School
Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Work Session – Monday, January 10, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr.
High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, January 17, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School
Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, January 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr.
High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, January 24, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High
School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow,
second by Ms. Yelovich 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
 2021-2022

<u>Cash Balance as of October 31, 2021</u>		\$	3,968,914.72
<u>Receipts Deposited:</u>			
Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$		2,170,829.29
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)			10,163.45
Checking Account Interest			15.89
Accounts Receivable			226,124.21
Transfer in from Investments			1,526,370.98
			3,933,503.82
Total Available		\$	7,902,418.54
<u>Disbursements:</u>			
Net Payroll	\$		1,104,775.93
Accounts Payable			2,735,697.95
Transfer to Investments			2,000,000.00
			5,840,473.88
General Fund Cash as of November 30, 2021		\$	2,061,944.66
<u>Investments Outstanding</u>			
Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account		\$	9,427,293.45
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market			37.34
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account			27,817,451.29
Earnings on Fulton Money Market			238.93
Net Transfers			473,629.00
			28,348,429.01
Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of November 30, 2021		\$	39,780,594.67

For the December 13th, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Curtis, Business Manager

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