

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on February 13, 2023

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on February 13, 2023.

Mr. Ganow asked for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Mr. Jeff Butch, retired Octorara teacher, and Mr. Scott Alexander, parent and school advocate.

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

The President, Mr. Ganow, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 two visitors.

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

Under information items, Beth Peticca will be mentoring John Cummings (originally approved to mentor Verna [Toni] Trainor) effective January 19, 2023 contingent on approval of agenda items J and K.

Mr. Ganow presented the following items for action at the February 20, 2023 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2023-2024 school calendar.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the annual fiscal audit report of the District for the year ending June 30, 2022 as prepared by the auditing firm of Herbein & Company.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve homebound instruction for student "A" pursuant to policy 117 *Homebound Instruction*.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the student activity club "Diversity Club" at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the attainment of tenure status for the following professional employees in accordance with Section 1108 of the current School Laws of Pennsylvania:
 - Savannah Geisler
 - Colin Kolb
 - Kristina Campbell

Resignation Approvals:

- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Olha Paden as a food service employee effective August 11, 2022. (Hired November 15, 2021)
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Rosita Taylor as a food service employee effective February 2, 2023. (Hired September 19, 2022)
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Yesenia Vasquez as an ESL instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective January 31, 2023. (Hired August 16, 2021)

- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Trent Zook as varsity boys' soccer coach effective January 18, 2023. (Hired for the 2012-2013 school year)

Hiring Approvals:

- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Deirdre Shappell as a long term substitute reading specialist at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective January 20, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Ms. Shappell's salary will be \$54,416, pro-rated, which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Ms. Shappell is an approved substitute and is replacing Kelly Holub who is on sabbatical leave.)
- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the transfer of Mr. John Cummings from health and PE teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School to OVA PM Program teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective January 19, 2023. Mr. Cumming's salary will be \$47,137, pro-rated, which is MAX of the Master's +60 scale. (Replacing Toni Trainor who is transferring.)
- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the transfer of Ms. Verna (Toni) Trainor from OVA PM Program teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School to health and PE teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective January 19, 2023. Ms. Trainor's salary will be \$54,416, pro-rated, which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Replacing John Cummings who is transferring.)
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Amy Bess as a food service employee effective January 31, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Bess's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Rosita Taylor who resigned.)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Roy Engel as a food service employee effective January 30, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Mr. Engel's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for five hours per day. (Replacing Olha Paden who resigned.)
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following co-directors for the OASD Summer Programs at \$40 per hour:
Beth Peticca – Incoming Transition Program
Heather Kramer – ESY
Stefanie Nuse – Literacy, Math, and Science
Alysyn Hoffman – Literacy, Math, and Science
- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year:
Lexi Bierman, Emergency
Emily Dyer, Emergency
Melissa Levengood Jobe, Emergency
Kelly Lomboy, Emergency
Helena Salve, Emergency
- Q. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute support staff for the 2022-2023 school year:
Joy Schnelli, Instructional Assistant
Yesenia Vasquez, Instructional Assistant
- R. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2022-2023 school year:

Darren Hodorovich	Varsity Asst Track & Field Coach	6 pts @ \$620	\$3,720
Adam Udell	Mentor for Robert Smith	.62 pt @ \$620	\$389.40
Shirley Williams	Mentor for Stacie Larer	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Michelle Moran	Mentor for Isabella Stuccio	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Anthony Slusher	Mentor for Amanda Hegarty	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Chris Heller	Mentor for Rebecca Rotz	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Christian Taylor	Mentor for Natalie Allen	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Scott Cullen	Mentor for Jaclyn Urbas	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Kim Hoferer	Mentor for Verna (Toni) Trainor	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Katie Heller	Mentor for Heidi Wertz	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Renee Shenk	Mentor for Deidre Shappell	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Robin Lewis	Mentor for Reina Eckman	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Adam Udell	.5 11 th Grade Advisor	.72 pts @ \$620	\$446.40
Jen Hoskins	.5 11 th Grade Advisor	.72 pts @ \$620	\$446.40

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris said the committee was given an overview of the Athletic Campus Master Plan from Architerra following their field study.

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

Under administrator comments, Dr. Propper announced Wednesday, February 15 is a half-day for students in grades K-12. The next parent advisory meeting will be held next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. The musical *The Wizard of Oz* will be held on March 2-4 at 7:00 p.m. with a 2:00 matinee held on March 4. Admission is \$10 per person. Cookies with the Cast will be held on Saturday, February 18 from 10:00-2:00. Admission is \$5 per person. Dr. Propper congratulated the boys' basketball team for making it to the play-offs. Their first game is tonight at Manheim Central. He gave remembrance to Mr. Jeff Butch and his service to our country and the Octorara School District as well as Mr. Scott Alexander.

Dr. Orner shared the Chester County School Jobs website that gives information on job openings in school districts in Chester County.

Under Board comments, Ms. Bowman said Mr. Butch was always very supportive of the District and the Board and expressed her condolences.

Mr. Norris requested Mr. Curtis do a workup on the cost to add an administrator in the Jr./Sr. High School and how it would impact the budget.

Mr. Fox said Mr. Alexander helped with special effects in the musicals and was always willing to pitch in and help. He will be missed. Mr. Fox read the following statement:

"I want to thank the PA State Troopers for their professionalism around their interactions with Mr. John Miller. Over the past year, they have had to respond to our campus 3 times for incidents involving him, most recently in September when he was arrested for criminal trespass and possessing a weapon on our school property. His trial on those charges is scheduled for March 14th. As we await the court decisions and regardless of those judicial outcomes I'm deeply appreciative of the actions of our State Troopers. Thanks to them and our local police who have continuously worked towards the safety and well-being of our school and community. When we have need and call, you respond. Thank you."

Mr. Ganow announced the following meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, February 13, 2023 – following the Work Session in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, February 20, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, February 20, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, February 27, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m. on motion of Mr. Fox, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
Octorara Board of School Directors