

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on February 14, 2022

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 February 14, 2022.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman via Zoom, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich via Zoom, and Mr. Zimmerman. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team via Zoom; two citizens in-person and 35 citizens via Zoom.

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

Under information items, Allyson Hoffman will transfer from a sixth grade teacher to an emotional support teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective TBD.

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the February 21, 2022 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Waiver Agreement for student "A".
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Admission and Waiver for student "B".
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2022-2023 school calendar.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the student activity club "Aevidum" at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, second reading:
 - 610 *Purchases Subject to Bid*
 - 626 *Attachment Procurement*
 - 810.3 *District Vehicle Drivers*
 - 816 *District Social Media*
 - 818 *Contracted Services personnel*
 - 819 *Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response*
 - 822 *Automated External Defibrillator (AED)/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)*
 - 823 *Naloxone*
 - 824 *Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries*
 - 827 *Conflict of Interest*
 - 828 *Fraud*
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first reading:
 - 222 *Tobacco and Vaping Products*
 - 901 *Public Relations Objectives*
 - 902 *Publications Program*
 - 903 *Public Participation in Board Meetings*
 - 904 *Public Attendance at School Events*
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following drivers for Althouse Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year:
 - Linda G. Flack, School Vehicle #66

Resignation Approvals:

- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Tim Ergler for purpose of retirement as a second grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective the end of the 2021-2022 school year. (Hired November 11, 2002)
- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Melanie Johnson as a special education teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective TBD. (Hired August 23, 2006)
- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Allison Thaler as assistant track coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective February 14, 2022. (Ms. Thaler will transfer to the boys' head coach upon Board approval of agenda item "P".)

Hiring Approvals:

- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Jillian Matys as a long term substitute third grade teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective March 7, 2022 through April 29, 2022. Ms. Matys' rate will be \$150 per day. (Ms. Matys is an approved substitute and is replacing a Family Medical Leave.)
- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Brooke Hawley as a long term substitute STEM teacher at the Octorara Elementary and Intermediate Schools effective January 28, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Hawley's salary will be \$53,267 pro-rated which is step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Ms. Hawley is an approved substitute and is replacing Dean Bicking who is on sabbatical leave.)
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Renee Yarrish as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective February 17, 2022. Ms. Yarrish's rate will be \$11.84 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Bianca Cortez who resigned.)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Patricia Softchin as a cafeteria employee effective February 21, 2022. Ms. Softchin's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Travis Compton who resigned.)
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following change in salary due to graduate credits earned:

Frances Propper	From B+15 (\$67,749) to M (\$70,561)	Step 7 to MAX
Doreen Steinmacher	From B+15 (\$60,423) to M (\$62,234)	Step 12 to MAX
Marcia Rapone	From M (\$59,565) to M+15 (\$64,600)	Step 15 to MAX
- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year:

Marcia Rapone	Leo Club Advisor	.98 pts. @ \$620	\$606
Denim Kurtzhals	8 th Grade Baseball Coach	4 pts. @ \$620	\$2,480
Kenneth Baker	7 th Grade Softball Coach	4 pts. @ \$620	\$2,480
Alison Thaler	Head Boys' Track Coach	7 pts. @ \$620	\$4,340
- Q. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contract for the 2022-2023 school year:

Anthony Ross	Asst Varsity Football Coach	7 pts. @ \$620	\$4,340
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Mr. Fox requested agenda item "R" be added to next week's agenda: That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the revised Health and Safety Plan with an effective date of February 22, 2022.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the Committee reviewed the second reading and first reading policies on tonight's agenda. Any changes to first reading policies will be reflected next month in the second reading of these policies.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris said the Committee discussed using ESSER funds to improve controls for the HVAC system, purchase of an activity sign, and discussed some summer projects. More discussion will take place at the Finance Committee meeting next week.

There were no other items/concerns.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Sue Boninu, Parkesburg, expressed her desire for the Board to vote for mask optional. She addressed her concern that there will not be a 7th and 8th grade baseball team next year due to changing Jr. High athletics to the Lancaster Lebanon League.

Under administrator comments, Ms. Lease announced the students at the PLC celebrated the 100th day of school last week. Second grade students are looking forward to "Tuesday 2/22/22". She said the second incoming kindergarten workshop was held last week and announced the March workshop will be "March into Math" and will be held on March 15. She discussed the *Community Courier* article about Lindsay Mitman's second grade class that collected puzzle books for the senior citizens at Ashbridge Manor. Students will also be pen pals with some of the Manor's residents.

Dr. Tachau announced Dr. Propper and the Jr./Sr. counselors will be holding a virtual parent advisory meeting on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss graduation requirements and dual credit course offerings.

Dr. Orner highlighted the 2022-2023 calendar for approval. She asked the Board for direction on the new agenda item regarding the Health and Safety Plan for next week's agenda.

Under Board comments, Mr. Fox read the following statement:

"I find refuting false claims against the district is again something I need to do. To counter the false, hurtful, and unsubstantiated claims I offer the following:

- I don't condone recent statements from family members of board members, and I believe the majority of the board agrees these statements are hurtful. I am personally saddened that someone would use the death of one of our students to make baseless claims against the district.
- In a prior meeting I referenced the potential cost to taxpayers from threatened legal actions made by spouses of two board members. We've had that threat along with:
 - The theater of being served a legal filing in our last meeting
 - Threats of fines against board members every 30 daysWe've actually seen nothing – no legal actions – no fines.
- There have been lies that we don't care about the mental health of our students – we absolutely do
- Lies that the school is in chaos and that the administration is covering things up – it isn't and they don't
- Lies that the West Fallowfield police can't keep up with what's happening in our school – not true
- Lies that we use scare tactics, improper mandates and intimidation – we don't

We do hear your concerns, and are there things we want to change? Sure. Is everything running perfectly? No. But nothing I've seen calls for the false accusations and unfounded claims made against us. We do want community input to help us address the issues and problems we all face, but

some of the public behavior is not productive. We may not all agree with the decisions made but please know the decisions are made with regard for all community stakeholders.

If you do have a concern about your child's education, rather than take it to social media or to individuals who say they can help or coach you, yet do not represent the district and are not qualified to address your concerns, I encourage you to reach out to the appropriate people. Work with our teachers and staff. The district's communication flowchart was designed specifically to answer questions and support families. It provides a pathway to bring up and escalate your concerns if you feel your issues are not being addressed.

Let the public observe for themselves, let the proof be in our actions and results. We're all here for the education of our students and let's return to discussion of items relevant to their education."

Mr. Fox announced an Executive Session for Legal and Security was held on Monday, January 31, 2022 following the Education Committee Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.

Mr. Fox announced the following meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, February 14, 2022 – following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, February 21, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, February 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, February 28, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris 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