

# OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting Held on February 8, 2021

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 8, 2021.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow via Zoom, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris via Zoom, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team, and 11 citizens who attended the meeting via Zoom.

Under presentations, Mr. Brooks gave a musical update.

There were no visitors' comments for agenda items only or information items.

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the February 15, 2021 Board meeting:

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

- 215 *Promotion and Retention*
- 216 *Student Records*
- 217 *Graduation*
- 218 *Student Discipline*
- 218.1 *Weapons*
- 218.2 *Terroristic Threats v*
- 219 *Student Complaint Process*
- 221 *Dress and Grooming*
- 223 *Use of Motor Vehicles*
- 224 *Care of School Property*
- 226 *Searches*
- 227 *Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia*
- 228 *Student Government*
- 229 *Student Fundraising*
- 230 *Public Performances by Students*
- 231 *Social Events, School Life Activities, and Class Trips*

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

- 220 *Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials*
- 232 *Student Involvement in Decision Making*
- 233 *Suspension and Expulsion*
- 234 *Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students*
- 235 *Student Rights and Responsibilities*
- 235.1 *Surveys*
- 236 *Student Assistance Program*
- 237 *Electronic Devices*
- 239 *Foreign Exchange Students*
- 246 *School Wellness*
- 247 *Hazing*
- 249 *Bullying/Cyberbullying*
- 250 *Student Recruitment*
- 251 *Homeless Students*
- 252 *Dating Violence*

- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Client Agreement between the Octorara Area School District and SwiftMD for telemedicine services.

Resignation Approvals:

- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Matthew Livingood as assistant football coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective January 22, 2021. (Hired for the 2013-2014 school year.)
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Elizabeth Hingle as physical education/health instructional assistant at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective February 18, 2021. (Hired September 16, 2019.)

Hiring Approvals:

- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Melanie Schillinger as a long term substitute instructional assistant at the Primary Learning Center effective February 4, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the district. Ms. Schillinger's rate will be \$12.65 per hour. (Replacing Emily Creighton who transferred.)
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year:  
Joshua Belford, Health & PE PK-12
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2020-2021 school year:  

Margaret Schaefer	Mentor Jacklyn Matkowski	1.01 pts @ \$620	\$626.60
Diane Powers	Mentor Sarah Soden	4 hours @ \$17.37	\$ 69.48

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the committee discussed the first and second reading policies on tonight's agenda. Policies *237 Electronic Devices and 252 Dating Violence* will be removed for further discussion.

Under the Facilities Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee discussed roofing bids, long range capital plan, District Office asbestos removal and remodeling, boiler repair in the Jr. High, Demand Response Contract, and RFP preparations for the waste water treatment plant.

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

Under administrator comments, Mr. Brooks announced there are 80 students currently enrolled in dual enrollment. Administration is formulating a plan to award honors credits to those students.

Dr. Tachau reported seventh grade students Caleb Campbell, Nick Duca, Brayden Remphrey, Grant Umble, Cassidy Jeffries, Elise Kurtz, Faith Moore, and Elizabeth Novak are participating in the Longwood Gardens STEM competition. Students will research and design a garden space at the school to attract birds using their talent in art and science. Longwood Gardens will award monetary prizes to the top three teams to build their garden design at their school.

Ms. McNamara announced senior, Savannah Fitzgerald, was recognized at the 2021 Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention. Savannah was one of approximately 210 FFA members from across the state to receive the FFA Keystone Degree. Only about 3% of the state FFA members qualify for this award.

She reported 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in an online Pennsylvania Rural Youth Survey conducted by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Ms. McNamara announced Ms. Martin was awarded \$2,000 from Corteva Agriscience to use for professional development, equipment, and supplies supporting the National CASE curriculum. Mr.

Hodorovich was awarded a \$1,000 grant from PRLA to use for upgrading items in the classroom. The Jr./Sr. High School received a \$2,000 grant from Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) which will be matched by the Orner family. These funds will be used as seed money to support the implementation of a possible Drone Pilot Course and the integration of drone technology into the classroom.

She announced she will soon be putting a link out to the community for an OACTEP Virtual Open House.

Dr. Orner said it is great to win the PARRS grant three years in a row. She said she is waiting on an update from the Pennsylvania Department of Education on whether the district will be required to give students the PSSA and Keystone accountability tests. The district is not the decision maker on whether or not students take the test. Administration is working on a plan to give the tests if they are required as the tests are not allowed to be given remotely.

Dr. Orner welcomed the K-6 in person learning students back after two weeks of remote learning due to COVID. She said COVID guidance is constantly changing and she will share updates with the Board at the February 15 meeting.

Under Board comments, Mr. Norris said he is hearing some parents may want to repeat this year for their students. He asked if there was any discussion about offering parents the ability to have their child voluntarily repeat a grade.

Dr. Orner said we will talk to the parents and work with them if they request their child to repeat this year.

Mr. Zimmerman thanked Mr. Lynch and Ms. Thwaites for their work in preparing for the musical.

Mr. Koennecker also expressed his pleasure with the musical moving forward. He said it is great to offer the students more activities and is hoping they can all attend five days a week soon.

Mr. Fox announced he received a letter to the Board from the OAEA for Board Recognition Month in January.

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

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, February 8, 2021 – Following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, February 15, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, February 15, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, February 22, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. on motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Koennecker 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