

# **OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Minutes of Board Meeting Held on February 21, 2022**

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 February 21, 2022.

A moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance preceded the meeting. Mr. Fox asked that student Corbin Bailey, who passed away last week, be remembered in the moment of silence.

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Other members present were: Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley via Zoom, 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; 13 citizens and 78 citizens via Zoom.

The minutes of the Work Session of January 10, 2022 and the Regular Meeting of January 24, 2022 were approved on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present.

Under presentations, Dr. Orner gave a Health and Safety Plan update. Mr. Hilbolt and Ms. Fraterman gave a Special Education Program overview.

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-2/21/22)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$1,019,995.25; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$19,034.06, Capital Projects totaling \$0.00, and Capital Reserve totaling \$0.00 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix B-2/21/22, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris 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 Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present:

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Waiver Agreement for student "A". (Appendix C-2/21/22)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Admission and Waiver for student "B". (Appendix D-2/21/22)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the 2022-2023 school calendar. (Appendix E-2/21/22)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the student activity club "Aavidum" at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School. (Appendix F-2/21/22)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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*

(Appendix G-2/21/22)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following policies, first reading:

222 *Tobacco and Vaping Products*  
901 *Public Relations Objectives*  
902 *Publications Program*  
903 *Public Participation in Board Meeting*

(Appendix H-2/21/22)

Mr. Falgiatore Requested this statement be part of the record for this meeting:

“During the last week we reviewed the full modifications to policy 903, Public Participation in Board Meetings. I am going on the record objecting to the adoption of these additions and changes to this policy. The policy is in violation of the Sunshine Act and was never made available for the public to full view of the policy prior to this reading and subsequent vote.

Further, I will not violate my oath as a school board director in which a policy is in direct violation of a citizens Constitutional Rights protected by the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and language which attempts to criminalize 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment protected activities.

This stand is in unison with the Supreme Court ruling in Marbury v Madison which in part states that any rule, statute, or policy which infringes a constitutional right is repugnant. I encourage others to register similar objections. I am on the record that I will not deprive a citizen’s rights under 42 USC 1983 or 18 USC 242.

I would also like to add my objection that the School Board continuing violations of the Sunshine Act and not making all materials being voted upon by the board in full visibility to the public prior to being voted on by the board.

Respectfully,  
Anthony Falgiatore  
School Board Director  
Region #1”

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

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following drivers for Althouse Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year:

Linda G. Flack, School Vehicle #66  
Richard C. Gardinier, School Vehicle #68

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, 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)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, 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)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted 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".)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Renee Yarrish as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective February 17, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Yarrish's rate will be \$12.65 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Bianca Cortez who resigned.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Patricia Softchin as a cafeteria employee effective February 21, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Softchin's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Travis Compton who resigned.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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

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

Marcia Rapone	Leo Club Advisor	.98 pts. @ \$620	\$606
Denim Kurtzhals	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball Coach	4 pts. @ \$620	\$2,480
Kenneth Baker	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Softball Coach	4 pts. @ \$620	\$2,480
Alison Thaler	Head Boys' Track Coach	7 pts. @ \$620	\$4,340
<i>Rachel McGinnis</i>	Jr. High Asst Track Coach	3 pts. @ \$620	\$1,860

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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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On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the revised Health and Safety Plan with an effective date of February 22, 2022. (Appendix I-2/21/22)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Agreement for Consulting Services with The Devereux Foundation effective February 1, 2022 through August 15, 2022. (Appendix J-2/21/22)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Independent Contractor Agreement with Carla Giovanetti for psychoeducational and related services. (Appendix K-2/21/22)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Co-Star Program proposal with 3B Services, Inc. to replace a boiler at the Octorara Jr. High School at a cost of \$40,500. (Appendix L-2/21/22)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Co-Star Program proposal with 3B Services, Inc. to replace hot water heaters at the Octorara Intermediate School at a cost of \$56,780. (Appendix M-2/21/22)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the transfer of Ms. Tammy Swanson from a long term substitute sixth grade teacher to a permanent sixth grade teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective February 23, 2022. Ms. Swanson's rate will remain at \$57,531 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Master's Scale. (Replacing Alysyn Hoffman who transferred.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Karlie DeCola as a long term substitute sixth grade teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective February 23, 2022. Ms. DeCola's salary will be \$53,267 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Ms. DeCola is an approved substitute and is replacing Tammy Swanson who transferred to a permanent position.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the extension of Ms. Amber Lowe as a long-term substitute guidance counselor at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School through March 9, 2022. Ms. Lowe's rate will be \$150 per day. (Ms. Lowe was approved through January 14, 2022 and is replacing a medical leave.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present except Mr. Ganow who abstained, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Lori Wendling as a long term substitute Spanish teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective January 24, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Wendling's salary will be \$53,267 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Ms. Wendling is an approved substitute and is replacing a family medical leave.)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute teacher for the 2021-2022 school year:

Emily Lantz, Early Childhood Credit

Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported the Committee met on January 31, 2022 and discussed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant, student success data, the culture and climate at the Jr./Sr. High School, mental health services and support, count down to kindergarten report, translation services, and family focus group dates.

Under the Finance Committee Report, Mr. Curtis reported the Committee was given a budget process update including state revenue, discussed tax collector deputization letters, Interstate cleaning contract, elevator maintenance agreements, summer flooring projects at the PLC, and additional classrooms for the Homeland Security and Protective Services Academy.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting held on January 19, 2022.

There were no items of old business, new business, or other items or announcements.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Susan Boninu, Parkesburg, expressed her concern over transparency, requested following the brave mission statement and be leaders instead of followers, requested a question and answer time, and said the community is afraid to come forward and speak at Board meetings.

John Nowicki, West Fallowfield, clarified that any changes to the Health and Safety Plan will shift from the Board to Dr. Orner. He expressed his concern over Ms. Johnson and Ms. Propper leaving the District, asked for clarification on Board responsibilities and the CCIU classrooms, and expressed his desire to help with community involvement.

Jeanine Walker, Sadsbury Township, expressed her concerns over masking and encouraged parents to be vigilant about what goes on in school and attend Board meetings.

Jay Lusby, Parkesburg, shared on behalf of Randy Simmons that the OIS and Jr. High gyms have leaks in them. He expressed his concerns regarding policy 903 *Public Participation at Board Meetings*.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Ms. McNamara gave an update on the Career and Technical Education Programs.

Dr. Propper announced there will be a virtual town hall on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. for parents of students in grades 7-11 regarding graduation pathways and career readiness, the musical, *The Addams Family*, will be preformed on March 3, 4, and 5, and a resource night for Spanish speaking families of students in grades 6-11 will be held on March 10 at 6:00 p.m. He wished good luck to the boys' basketball team and congratulated wrestlers, Mike Trainer and Tyler Walton who both earned a spot at the district meet.

Dr. Haller announced the OIS will be celebrating Read Across America next week including dressing like their favorite book character and participating in the One Book/One School literacy event with the book *Wishtree*. He thanked the PTO volunteers for helping with the Valentine candy grams.

Dr. Tachau announced there will be a family literacy event for students in grades K-6 on Read Across America day. The students will each receive a copy of the book *Wishtree*. More information with family activities to do at home will be given to parents.

Dr. Orner announced administration is working with a safety task group made up of the local police departments. First responder training will take place on April 18 with family reunification training with the staff at one of the August in-service days.

Under Board comments, Ms. Bowman said the Board has been undergoing a complete policy revision. They rely on PSBA as many policies contain school and/or federal law. The Board has started reviewing the 900 policies this month, which is the last policy group to be revised. Tonight's first reading of policy 903 will change from what is on the website as revised in 2015. There are not a lot differences but there will be some changes as recommend by PSBA and discussed by the policy committee. Ms. Bowman said the committee does not make up the policies, they use the template and recommendations provided by PSBA.

Mr. Norris said all committee meetings are open to the public.

Mr. Fox said policy development is the Board's responsibility.

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings:

Executive Session for Personnel - Monday, February 21, 2022 - Following the Regular Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

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

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, March 14, 2022 – 5:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, March 14, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Work Session – Monday, March 14, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

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

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

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, March 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 8:38 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 at [www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD](http://www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD).

TREASURER'S REPORT  
 OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
 GENERAL FUND  
 2021-2022

<b>Cash Balance as of December 31, 2021</b>		\$	3,059,241.37
<u>Receipts Deposited:</u>			
Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$	1,018,251.95	
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)		20,505.91	
Checking Account Interest		20.25	
Accounts Receivable		143,534.03	
Transfer in from Investments		0.00	
		1,182,312.14	
Total Available			\$ 4,241,553.51
<u>Disbursements:</u>			
Net Payroll	\$	1,091,098.61	
Accounts Payable		1,677,457.11	
Transfer to Investments		-	
		2,768,555.72	
<b>General Fund Cash as of January 31, 2022</b>			\$ 1,472,997.79
<u>Investments Outstanding</u>			
Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account	\$	8,188,358.87	
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market		24,291,546.31	
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account		31.62	
Earnings on Fulton Money Market		618.92	
Net Transfers		-	
		-	
<b>Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of January 31, 2022</b>			\$ 33,953,553.51

For the February 21, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
 Octorara Board of School Directors