

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on January 11, 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 January 11, 2021.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow, 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 18 citizens who attended the meeting via Zoom.

Under presentations, Ms. Gaido gave a winter sports update.

There were no visitors' comments for agenda items only.

Under information items, Ms. Sarah Kluge will transfer from a special education teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center to an instructional support teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective TBD.

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the January 18, 2021 Board meeting:

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

- 200 *Enrollment of Students*
- 201 *Admission of Students*
- 202 *Eligibility of Nonresident Students*
- 203 *Immunizations and Communicable Diseases*
- 203.1 *HIV Infection*
- 204 *Attendance*
- 205 *Postgraduate Students*
- 206 *Assignment Within District*
- 207 *Confidential Communications of Students*
- 208 *Withdrawal From School*
- 209 *Health Examinations/Screenings*
- 209.1 *Food Allergy Management*
- 209.2 *Diabetes Management*
- 210 *Medications*
- 210.1 *Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine*
- 212 *Reporting Student Progress*
- 214 *Class Rank*

B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first 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*
- 220 *Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials* (this policy will be tabled for further discussion)
- 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 and Class Trips*

- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the extension of unpaid Family Medical Leave for the purpose of child rearing for Ms. Allyson Fought from December 23, 2020 through January 15, 2021. (Ms. Fought is a CTE learning support teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.)
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve an unpaid leave of absence for the purpose of student teaching for Ms. Stephanie Chesnet from January 4, 2021 through April 9, 2021. (Ms. Chesnet is an ESL instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School.)
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the \$500 grant from Land O'Lakes Foundation for the CTE Agriculture Production Program and Octorara FFA. Funds will be used to purchase industry level materials and equipment that will help provide students with hands-on learning experiences while addressing the need for hunger relief in their community.
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following school bus driver employed by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2020-2021 school year:
Michelle Taylor, bus #7

Resignation Approvals:

- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Cindy Eshleman as a first grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective January 31, 2021. (Hired November 18, 1980)
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Lynn Brown as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective December 21, 2020. (Hired September 15, 2003)
- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Buffie Vaught as Octorara Junior High softball coach effective December 18, 2020. (Hired for the 2017-2018 school year.)

Hiring Approvals:

- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Lisa Budzik as a long term substitute first grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 31, 2020 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Budzik's salary will be \$52,617 which is step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Ms. Budzik was originally approved as a long term substitute through December 23, 2020 and will be completing the school year due to Ms. Eshleman's retirement.)
- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Grant Pusey as a long term substitute ELA teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 31, 2020 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Pusey's salary will be \$52,617 which is step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Mr. Pusey was originally approved as a long term substitute through January 27, 2021 and is replacing a medical leave which has been extended.)

- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year:
 Lisa Gerber, ESL PK-12, Elementary K-6
 Valerie Brewer, Emergency Permit
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute support staff for the 2020-2021 school year:
 Maria Stoltzfus, instructional assistant
 Emily Lantz, instructional assistant
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2020-2021 school year:
- | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Lori Boldt | Mentor Emily Creighton | 1.31 pts @ \$620 | \$811 |
| Robin McKenna | Mentor William Holmes | Up to 4 hours @ hourly rate | TBD |

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the committee discussed the first and second reading policies on tonight's agenda. Policy 220 *Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials* will be removed for further discussion.

Under the Facilities Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee discussed the Chester County Health Department request for a vaccine center on campus, roof damage at the Elementary School, replacement of the Jr. High daytime custodian, Sr. High roof repair, capital sources and uses report, asbestos removal and carpet replacement and remodeling in the District Office, boiler repair at the Jr. High, replacing the gates at the maintenance building, and Homeland Security and Protective Services Academy temporary relocation sites.

There were no other items/concerns.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Ms. Toni Trainor, West Fallowfield, thanked the Board for allowing winter sports to compete. She asked the Board to figure out a way for the musical and other extra-curricular events to take place. She requested the band record the *National Anthem* to be played before sporting events.

Under administrator comments, Ms. McNamara announced the Homeland Security and Protective Services Academy temporary relocation sites. She said today was the first day at the new sites and everything went well. She announced a Homeland Security and Protective Services Academy Virtual Open House will be held on January 19 at 3:00 p.m. with previous students speaking about the program. The permits have been approved for the solar panels to be installed behind the Sr. High.

Ms. Gaido said she spoke to Mr. Cullen last week about Ms. Trainor's request to record the *National Anthem*. Mr. Cullen is working on the recording.

Mr. Brooks announced the updated schedule for the Jr./Sr. High for next week due to school not being in session on Monday, January 18, 2021. Information will be sent to parents tomorrow. Mr. Brooks congratulated Kieran Lomboy, Kailyn Nuse, Madeline Perkins, and Taylor Strayer for being selected to PMEA District 12 Chorus.

Dr. Orner announced January is School Board Director Appreciation month. On behalf of the students, staff, and administration, she thanked the Board for everything they do for the Octorara community. She said today was the first day in many weeks each building was opened for student learning. Safety will always be our number one priority. She reminded the Octorara community to continue to wear a mask, social distance, wash hands, and stay at home when you are sick – what we do outside of school impacts what we can do in school. The District continues to follow case counts as mandated by the Department of Health. She has no control over the mandates and thanked everyone for their continue patience.

Under Board comments, Mr. Zimmerman said students that participate in sports have a feeling of school involvement. He requested administration figure out a way for the other students to get that same feeling of school pride back.

Mr. Fox gave a report on the academic team competition.

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

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, January 11, 2021 – Following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, January 18, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, January 18, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, January 25, 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 7:55 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman 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