

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on January 9, 2023

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on January 9, 2023.

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

The Vice-President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Mr. Ganow and Mr. Koennecker were absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; members of the administrative team and two visitors.

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

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the January 16, 2023 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Health and Safety Plan.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors appoint Saxton & Stump, LLC as the District's Solicitor. Due to a merger, the attorneys formerly at Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP are moving their practices to Saxton & Stump, LLC. The District appoints Saxton & Stump, LLC with the understanding that the District will continue its relationships with the attorneys formerly at Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP. The Solicitor's services and hourly rates will stay the same for 2023.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policy, second reading:
916 Volunteers
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Track & Field Cooperative Sponsorship Proposal with the Pequea Valley School District.
Board discussion followed.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the following grants:
Paper Company - \$8,440 – to support OABEST Expo
Ag Youth Grant - \$7,500 – to purchase two chicken coops
Pro-Start - \$2,500 – to order new mixers for the Baking Program
Land-O-Lakes - \$500 – for seed and planting supplies
PARSS - \$500 – to support Avedium
Orner Family matching PARSS grant - \$500 – to support Avedium
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following driver for Althouse Transportation for the 2022-2023 school year:
Travis Compton

Resignation Approvals:

- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Dale McCarthy as an ELA teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School as well as advisor for the Academic Team, Model UN, Character Club, and National Honor Society effective January 20, 2023. (Hired August 20, 2012)

Hiring Approvals:

- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the transfer of Ms. Michele Famiano from cafeteria employee at \$15.35 per hour to cafeteria assistant site leader at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School at a rate of \$16.00 per hour effective December 16, 2022.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the committee discussed the second reading policy on tonight's agenda with no changes. The committee was given a draft of the employee handbook. There is still work to be done on the handbook before the Board approves it.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris said the committee discussed the hiring of the facility director, door replacement, wrestling room renovation completion, additional cameras in the Sr. High cafeteria, summer roofing projects, frozen greenhouse waterline, bus fender bender, stone turn around addition at the bus gas pumps, and a presentation for the athletic facilities study.

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

Under administrator comments, Ms. Lease reported the second grade Christmas musical program was a great success and was well attended. She announced kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Incoming kindergarten students will receive a preparation kit and have opportunities to participate in play and learn sessions, story time with open gym, and the kick-off to kindergarten to be held on January 12. Welcome baby bags are being given to newborns in the District.

Dr. Propper announced the first semester will end on January 18. He reported almost 40 ninth grade students have been selected to participate in the High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 2022. On January 17, all students in grades 7-12 will participate in presentations from the Richard J. Caron Foundation called Clear Facts where they will learn about the health impact of using nicotine and cannabis. He announced 164 PMEA District 12 Chorus students will be at Octorara from January 12-14 to prepare a concert and audition for the next level of festival.

Ms. McNamara announced the receipt of a \$5,000 grant from Dansko Foundation for a calf simulator and \$500,000 from American Rescue Plan Act Grant (ARPA) for the purchase and installation of three modular classrooms. She recognized Octorara alumni Jake Wilson, Jordan Marzol, and Randall Patton for their achievements. She reported the Mechanical Systems Technology students researched, engineered, and fabricated a hydraulic log splitter that they have entered at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Dr. Orner shared the TCHS report from the Chester County Intermediate Unit. Similar info on Octorara's CTE programs can be found in the OASD Annual Report. She announced she shared the OASD Annual Report at the Parkesburg Boro Council meeting on January 3 and will be sharing it at the Atglen Boro Council meeting on February 6.

Under Board comments, Mr. Falgiatore asked if there is a plan for further discussion on the transgender guidelines.

The Board is waiting for Title IX guidelines to be finalized before further discussion.

Ms. Bowman asked if there was an unusual amount of staff and student absences on January 2.

Dr. Orner said not that she was aware of – the District was staffed without a problem.

Mr. Fox announced the OIS band concert will be held on January 10. He expressed his sadness in Mr. McCarthy's resignation and thanked him for all he did for the students. He shared the article in the PSBA magazine from Octorara's Literacy Under the Lights program. He thanked Dr. Orner for the matching PARSS grant funds.

Mr. Fox announced the following meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, January 9, 2023 – following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, January 16, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, January 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, January 23, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. on motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Zimmerman 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