

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on July 19, 2021

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 July 19, 2021.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Other members present were: Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, 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; 35 citizens; and 37 citizens via Zoom.

The minutes of the Work Session of June 14, 2021 and the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2021 were approved on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present.

Under presentations, Pete Mango from Signal 88 gave a safety and security update.

Dr. Orner reviewed the Health and Safety Plan.

There were no information items:

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-7/19/21)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$1,113,795.83; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$31,288.08, Capital Projects totaling \$99,265.20, and Capital Reserve totaling \$0.00 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix B-7/19/21, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Falgiatore and approval of all members present.

Under visitors' comments for agenda items only, Barbara Waters, West Fallowfield Township, expressed her concern about students wearing masks and gave statistics she read from various publications.

Betsy Parker, West Fallowfield Township, requested hall monitors so there is a presence of an adult in the hallways.

Tony Trainer, West Fallowfield Township, asked if the Health and Safety Plan is for athletes as well. Dr. Orner said it would apply to any event at the District.

Matt King, Highland Township, encouraged the Board to search through the truth. He referenced the Amish community who don't wear masks and gather in large numbers.

Kate Thomas, Christiana, said there is a lot of talk about social distancing but no talk about boosting the immune system and giving students healthy organic foods and vitamins.

Mark Thomas, Christiana, said we need to boost our immune system and take care of our self and masks do not boost the immune system.

Dave Raab, Sadsbury Township, expressed concern about receiving ESSER money and asked if it is worth it. He said take down the plexiglass and make it normal. Anyone that wanted the vaccine has

received it. He said schools have to follow regulations and can't choose. He referenced an article about herd immunity in the Amish community that never made national headlines.

Craig Fackler, Highland Township, expressed concern about students not having interpersonal relationships due to the plexiglass, masks and social distancing.

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved suspending Roberts Rules of Order for this meeting only to change the wording in the agenda item if needed without further motions.

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the 2021-2022 Emergency Instructional Plan. (Appendix C-7/19/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Health and Safety Plan. (Appendix D-7/19/21)

On motion of Mr. Falgiatore, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Extended School Year Services Agreement with Valley Forge Educational Services for student "A" from July 6 through August 6, 2021 at a cost of \$8,800.00. (Appendix E-7/19/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Agreement with The Concept School for student "B" for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$33,350.00 (Appendix F-7/19/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Dr. Ryan Kieffer as school psychologist effective TBD. (Hired July 2, 2001)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Tammy Anthony as a third grade teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective July 6, 2021. (Hired August 25, 2010)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Nae Al-Malik as cheerleading coach effective June 30, 2021. (Hired for the 2016-2017 school year)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Melissa Andrews as assistant principal at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective TBD pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Andrews' salary will be \$90,000 pro-rated. (Replacing Jon Propper who transferred.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Megan McLoone as a long term substitute learning support teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. McLoone's salary will be \$53,267 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Replacing Margaret Schaeffer who transferred to an Elementary Itinerant Acceleration Teacher on Assignment for the 2021-2022 school year.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Mr. Ryan Novak as a biology teacher at the Octorara

Jr./Sr High School effective August 23, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Mr. Novak's salary will be \$57,785 which is Step 17 to MAX of the Master's scale. (Replacing Val Guisepppe who retired.)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Sandra Mendez as a translation secretary effective August 2, 2021. Ms. Mendez's salary will be \$33,670 pro-rated. (This is a new position.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Valerie Popov as attendance secretary at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 2, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Popov's salary will be \$33,670 pro-rated. (Replacing Heather Denlinger who transferred.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Janna Proud as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 30, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Proud's rate will be \$11.02 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Ms. Proud is a current long term substitute and is replacing Rebecca German who resigned.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Brenda Simons as a cafeteria employee effective August 24, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Simons' rate will be \$15.00 per hour for 4 hours per day. (Replacing Roxanne Barnes who resigned.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following student summer interns for the IT Department effective June 17, 2021 at a rate of \$8.00 per hour:

Michael Fromal
Cowan Hahn
Thomas Hart

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following staff for the Summer Literacy/Math Program:

Kelsey Nisula, teacher - \$30 per hour
Rachel Schreiber, substitute teacher - \$22 per hour
Elizabeth D'Orazio, substitute teacher - \$22 per hour
Debbie Jones, support staff substitute - \$12 per hour
Rachel Schreiber, support staff substitute - \$12 per hour

On motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following as Summer Camp Co-Directors at a rate of \$30 per hour:

Stephanie Nuse
Alison Venini
Melissa Pillus

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee discussed the facility agreement with the Chester County Intermediate Unit, update on summer projects, athletic upgrades, grant application for 220 hot spots, Signal 88 agreement, and replacement of the F250 pick-up truck. The committee thanked Freedom Life Church and the volunteers who painted the dug out and balusters.

Under the Finance Committee Report, Mr. Ganow reported the Finance Committee was combined with the Facility Committee meeting this month. Additional discussion included a report on the state budget.

Under the CCIU Board Representative report, Mr. Norris reported on the May and June meetings.

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

Under visitor's comments for items in general, Jason Barr, Christiana, said he likes how personal the Board is as a group. He agrees with what the previous visitors' comments were regarding masks. He is concerned about Critical Race Theory and transgender sexual education being part of the curriculum. He believes it is not the schools job to push those beliefs; it goes against his beliefs as a taxpayer.

Barbara Waters, West Fallowfield Township, also expressed her concerns about Critical Race Theory being taught.

Toni Trainor, West Fallowfield, said she is excited to hear about the athletic upgrades. She requested a list on how the ESSER money was spent.

David Raab, Sadsbury Township, expressed his concerns about Critical Race Theory.

Craig Fackler, Highland Township, asked for guidance on how to look at the curriculum and how it will evolve.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Dr. Orner announced this is the last week of Summer Camps. She thanked everyone who assisted with ESY, Summer Literacy and Math, and the afternoon Summer Camps. A detailed report regarding summer programs will be shared at the August Education Committee meeting. She said the Pennsylvania Department of Education requested clarification of grading and attendance procedures on the Flexible Instruction Days (FID) application. She is making the clarifications and resubmitting the application. Dr. Orner announced she will be visiting the municipalities to discuss the Comprehensive Plan including Final Friday in Parkesburg next week.

Under Board comments, Mr. Falgiatore thanked the public for coming out and speaking as well as the phone calls and emails he has received.

Mr. Norris said everyone has been through a trying time during the past year and a half. He wanted everyone to know the Board's only concern is for the children. He shared he took offense with an email he received from a parent saying requiring masks for students is child abuse.

Mr. Ganow said he was at a funeral where five out of 130 attendees were wearing masks. He said what we do at school is different than what we can do in a church setting such as the Amish do. He read an excerpt from the Political Subdivision Torts Claim Act and the legal theory under the law that could open the District and Board members to liability defined as a State Created Danger.

Mr. Norris said to get herd immunity without vaccination at least one person per family got the virus in 90% of the Amish community. He said it would have been catastrophic if we would have had those numbers in our District.

Mr. Fox thanked everyone who came out tonight including the people on Zoom. He said we will continue with Zoom meetings in order to supplement but not replace attendance at Board meetings. Concerning the comment about instilling wellness, we have policy 246 and encourage wellness in our

students and staff. He asked Mr. Curtis to get a list of how the ESSER money was spent. Mr. Fox said the Board can't address the questions on Critical Race Theory because they haven't had the discussion yet. The Board will look into the hall monitor suggestion.

Mr. Koennecker thanked the public for coming out.

Mr. Ganow said the Board makes decisions on taxes and educating students; he encouraged the public to come out more often.

Mr. Fox announced the following Executive Session Meetings that were held:

July 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. – Personnel

July 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. – Personnel and Safety/Security

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, July 19, 2020 – Following the Regular Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Executive Session for Supervision/Evaluation – Monday, July 26, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, August 9, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, August 9, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Work Session – Monday, August 9, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, August 16, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, August 16, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, August 23, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:52p.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.

TREASURER'S REPORT
 OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
 STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 GENERAL FUND
 2020-2021

<u>Cash Balance as of May 31, 2021</u>		\$	1,268,323.89
<u>Receipts Deposited:</u>			
Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$	4,322,498.32	
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)		10,613.86	
Checking Account Interest		178.85	
Accounts Receivable		6,403.42	
Transfer in from Investments		<u>2,500,000.00</u>	<u>6,839,694.45</u>
Total Available			\$ 8,108,018.34
<u>Disbursements:</u>			
Net Payroll	\$	1,432,939.68	
Accounts Payable		3,921,094.53	
Transfer to Investments		<u>1,000,000.00</u>	<u>6,354,034.21</u>
General Fund Cash as of June 30, 2021		\$	1,753,984.13
<u>Investments Outstanding</u>			
Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account	\$	9,425,528.43	
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market		7,366,029.72	
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account		77.50	
Earnings on Fulton Money Market		497.47	
Net Transfers			(1,500,000.00)
Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of June 30, 2021		\$	<u><u>17,046,117.25</u></u>

For the July 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
 Octorara Board of School Directors