

# OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting Held on March 13, 2023

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on March 13, 2023.

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

The President, Mr. Ganow, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Fox, 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, and 20 visitors. Four visitors remained after the presentation.

Under presentations, Mrs. Boyd's class along with Dr. Shultz shared a presentation entitled *EdTech Meets Social Skills*. Students shared projects they worked on including creating on a laser engraver, 3D printer, creating a podcast, stop-motion filming, and working with drones.

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

Mr. Ganow presented the following items for action at the March 20, 2023 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Lease Agreement with American Tower Management, LLC.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Chesconet Agreement effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the extension of the Environmental Control Systems, Inc. contract through June 30, 2026.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Service Agreement with the Chester County Intermediate Unit for a technology specialist from March 8, 2023 through June 8, 2023.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first reading:
  - 137 *Home Education Programs*
  - 137.1 *Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students*
  - 137.2 *Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students*
  - 137.3 *Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students*

### Resignation Approvals:

- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. Colin Kolb as a computer systems technology teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective March 3, 2023. (Hired January 2, 2020)
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Deirdre Shappell as a long-term substitute reading specialist at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective March 31, 2023. (Hired February 20, 2023)

### Hiring Approvals:

- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Robert Smith as a long-term substitute CTE Teacher of Record/Computer Systems Technology teacher effective March

6, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Smith's salary will be \$54,416, pro-rated, which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Mr. Smith is transferring from a previous long-term substitute position beginning December 1, 2022 and is replacing Colin Kolb who resigned.)

I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the transfer of Ms. Diane Vinson from food service employee to food service site leader at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective February 16, 2023. Ms. Vinson's rate will be \$17.00 per hour for 5.75 hours per day.

J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contract for the 2022-2023 school year:

Craig Leister	Varsity Asst Baseball Coach	6 pts @ \$620	\$3,720
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K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contract for the 2023-2024 school year:

Ed Smith	Head Football Coach	10 pts @ \$620	\$6,200
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Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported on the meeting held on February 27, 2023. Charlis Cooper presented on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programming; Dwayne Walton and John Cummings presented a partnership opportunity with The Point. The committee was given an update on MAP data, the Jr./Sr. High master schedule for 2023-2024, ATSI Improvement Plan, and a draft of the LIEP handbook.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman said the committee tabled the first reading of policies 103 *Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students* and 104 *Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff*. PSBA will be invited to the committee meeting next month to help with the legal language in the policy. The committee also discussed the four Home Education policies on the agenda for first reading.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris said the committee gave administration approval to begin stage one of the Architerra field study project with the exception of the softball field. The committee discussed a purchase of a three wheeled field groomer, air conditioning in the Elementary School, playground equipment, replacement of pipes in the Sr. High, equipment donation for the OHSPSA, chemical clean out program, and lighting and curtains in the Sr. High auditorium.

Under other items/concerns Mr. Hilbolt presented information regarding the Gifted Program and the recent monitoring audit.

Dr. Orner and Ms. Marsala presented information regarding the national teacher shortage as well as Octorara statistics and recruiting information.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Melanie Schillinger, Londonderry Township, thanked Dr. Orner and Ms. Marsala for their insightful presentation. She expressed her concern with teachers resigning and how we can best support staff so they want to stay in the District. She expressed concern over student behavior and discipline.

Under administrator comments, Ms. McNamara announced the OABEST Expo will be held on Saturday, May 20. A community yard sale will be added to the event this year. She said the Culinary CTE Program Management Team received third place in the ProStart competition at Penn State held last month.

Dr. Propper announced 8<sup>th</sup> grade scheduling night will be held on March 15 at 6:00. The local scholarship application process was emailed to students and parents; deadline to apply is March 17. He announced the prom has been moved from May 26 to June 2 at the Doubletree at Willow Valley. He thanked the cast, crew, parent volunteers, and Ms. Norton, Ms. Testerman, and Mr. Lynch for their hard work resulting in great performances of the *Wizard of Oz*.

Dr. Orner also expressed her thanks for everyone involved in the *Wizard of Oz*. She applauded the students, Ms. Boyd, and Dr. Shultz for their presentation to the Board. She gave a shout-out to the Girls run the World program for the fashion show held on Friday afternoon and evening.

Under Board comments, Ms. Bowman commended the student presentation this evening along with the culinary students, STEM, and the many accomplishments of all students. She expressed her concern that sometimes it gets lost that there are a lot of great things happening in the District. She questioned how the cell phone policy was going and asked for a report at a future meeting.

Ms. Yelovich thanked the cast, crew, and directors for a great performance of the *Wizard of Oz*. She gave a shout-out to Dr. Propper and Dr. Orner for their Oscar winning performance as well. She said her children have had a wonderful time in the performing arts at Octorara and hopes the program continues.

Mr. Ganow announced the following meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, March 13, 2023 – following the Work Session in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, March 20, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, March 20, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, March 27, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. on motion of Mr. Hurley, 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](https://www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD).

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
Octorara Board of School Directors