

# **OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Minutes of Board Meeting Held on May 15, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on May 15, 2023.

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

The President, Mr. Ganow, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Mr. Fox was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Scanlon, Interim Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; and 11 citizens (9 citizens remained after the presentation).

The minutes of the Work Session of April 10, 2023, and the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2023 were approved on motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present.

Under presentations, Mr. Dan Lefever along with students, Carson Schempp, Brady Zimmerman, and Landen Albrecht gave a presentation on projects in the Honors Engineering Program.

Mr. Curtis gave a 2023-2024 budget update.

Under information items, the following teachers will transfer to a Teacher on Assignment using ESSER funds for the 2023-2024 school year:

Margaret Schaefer, Math/Behavior Interventionist at the PLC  
Trent Zook, Math Interventionist at the OES  
Jennifer Reeves, Math Interventionist at the OES  
Joan McDermott, ELA Interventionist at the OES  
Stefanie Nuse, Math Interventionist at the OIS  
Allison Venini, ELA Interventionist at the OIS

Lindsay Mitman will transfer from a second grade teacher to a permanent Math Interventionist at the PLC using the General Fund effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Patty Steyer will transfer from a reading specialist at the Jr./Sr. High School to a fourth grade teacher at the Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year.

Samantha Norris will transfer from a third grade teacher to an emotional support teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Caysie Williams will transfer from a special education teacher to a learning support teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Kelly Wetzel will transfer from a learning support teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School to a job coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Dana Shultz will transfer from a speech language therapist at the Jr./Sr. High School to a speech language therapist at the Primary Learning Center effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-5/15/23)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$2,083,703.93; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$26,330.38, Capital Projects totaling \$9,119.25, and Capital Reserve totaling \$0.00 of which are attached to these minutes

as Appendix B-5/15/23, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present except Mr. Falgiatore who voted no. Mr. Falgiatore asked that the legal bill for \$457.45 be pulled consistent with his previous objections.

Under visitors' comments for agenda items only, Mary Ellen Karris, Sadsbury Township, asked for clarification concerning the \$900,000 contingency funds and the fund balance.

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

The Octorara Board of School Directors elected Matt Hurley as Board Treasurer from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the resolution for the Proposed Final General Fund Budget for the 2023-2024 school year. (Appendix C-5/15/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the list of current Class of 2023 seniors of the Octorara Area Sr. High School, having been individually considered for graduation by the Octorara Board of School Directors, contingent upon their successful completion of all local and state requirements. (Appendix D-5/15/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Mental Health Staffing Support with the Chester County Intermediate Unit for the 2023-2024 school year. (Appendix E-5/15/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Grant Agreement for \$2,702.76 for the purpose of purchasing water quality treatment kits, chiller, pumps, and nets for the Agriculture Program. (Appendix F-5/15/23)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the donation of an AED for the athletic training room from the Peyton Walker Foundation.

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the following donations/sponsorships for the OABEST Expo:

- Null's Towing Company - \$300
- OAEA - \$500
- Chester/Delaware Farm Bureau – In-kind Immersion Lab
- Triple Play Barn - \$200
- Citadel Credit Union - \$500
- Chester County Conservation District - \$300
- Ironlinx Transportation – In-kind Tractor Trailer Simulator
- Houghton Enterprises – In-kind Funnel Truck
- Chester County Economic Development Council – \$550
- Herr Foods – 1,500 bags of chips
- BELFOR Property Restoration - \$1,000
- Parkesburg Action Committee - \$100
- Dutchland Inc. - \$500
- Cope Construction Renovation - \$215
- Cecil County Community College - \$100
- Fulton Bank - \$250
- CertaPro Painters - \$200

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Vanessa Peterson as a Spanish teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective June 7, 2023. (Hired August 29, 1996)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Mr. Charles Graydus as an agriculture education teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective June 7, 2023. (Hired August 23, 2003)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Lois (Penny) Wertz as a maintenance employee effective June 30, 2023. (Hired August 5, 1991)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Mr. William Wertz as a maintenance employee effective June 30, 2023. (Hired March 10, 1994)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Mr. Samuel London as a custodian at the Octorara Elementary School effective June 30, 2023. (Hired September 9, 1999)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Holly King as a special education teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective June 7, 2023. (Hired November 21, 2022)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Mr. Akram Madanat as a food service employee effective April 5, 2023. (Hired February 20, 2023)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Reham Madanat as a food service employee effective April 21, 2023. (Hired February 20, 2023)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following professional and support staff employees for the Summer Literacy/Math/Science and Extended School Year Programs:

- Stacie Larer, teacher, \$32 per hour
- Shannon Owens, teacher, \$30 per hour
- Amy Hollingworth, teacher, \$30 per hour
- Melissa Fanelli, teacher, \$35 per hour
- Kathryn McGinnis, teacher, \$30 per hour
- Dominic London, support, \$22 per hour
- Brianna Cortez, support, \$22 per hour
- Travis Lankford, support, \$20 per hour
- Matt Bruni, support, \$20 per hour
- Holly Strogan, support, \$20 per hour
- Sara Herman, teacher, \$32 per hour
- Asta Kaba, teacher, \$30 per hour
- Hannah Baxter, teacher, \$30 per hour

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following changes for the Summer Literacy/Math/Science and Extended School Year Programs:

- Jill Bright will transfer from a teacher to a substitute teacher at \$30 per hour
- Val Brucherri will transfer from a teacher to support staff at \$22 per hour
- Cheryl Coughlin will transfer from support staff to a teacher at \$35 per hour

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year:

Kaci McIlmoyle, Elementary Education  
Hailey Rohrer, Elementary Education (60 Credits)  
Sarah Boyer, Elementary Education

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following summer interns at a rate of \$8.25 per hour:

Savannah Fitzgerald – Agriculture/Animal Care  
Cowan Hahn – Technology  
Sarah Watson - Technology

On motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Crystal Duncan as a driver for Faithful Transportation for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

On motion of Mr. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Macey Wetzel as a third grade teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 15, 2023. Ms. Wetzel's salary will be \$56,389 which is Step 17 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing Samantha Norris who transferred.)

On motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Maggie Imms as a third grade teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 15, 2023. Ms. Imms' salary will be \$56,389 which is Step 17 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing Suzanne Schurr who transferred.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Isabella Stuccio as a long-term substitute third grade teacher at the Octorara Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Stuccio's salary will be \$56,389 which is Step 17 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing Trent Zook who will be a math interventionist for the 2023-2024 school year.)

On motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Kaci McIlmoyle as a long-term substitute fourth grade teacher at the Octorara Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. McIlmoyle's salary will be \$56,389 which is Step 17 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing Jennifer Reeves who will be a math interventionist for the 2023-2024 school year.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Brooke Maldonado as a special education teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 15, 2023. Ms. Maldonado's salary will be \$60,953 which is Step 17 to MAX of the Master's Scale. (Replacing Caysie Williams who transferred.)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute support staff for the 2022-2023 school year:

Robert Bright, Instructional Assistant

On motion of Mr. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Chris Marsala as Supervisor of Human Resources effective May 31, 2023. (Hired June 13, 2022)

On motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Mr. Jeff Curtis as Business Manager effective June 30, 2023. (Hired December 16, 2014)

Under the Finance Committee report, Mr. Hurley reported the committee discussed the 2023-2024 budget, a PASBO resolution to eliminate multi-county rebalancing, food service National School Lunch Program, pay scale for summer interns, and the Sterling Tax Credit.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting held on April 19, 2023.

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

Under visitors' comments in general, Mary Ellen Karris, Sadsbury Township, thanked the Board for serving the community. She expressed her concerns with taking prayer out of school and the Lord's Prayer out of Board meetings.

Mellanie Schillinger, Londonderry Township, expressed her concerns with the transgender guidelines.

Under administrator comments/announcements, Dr. Tachau gave an update on the Summer Literacy/Math/Science and Extended School Year Programs.

Dr. Propper thanked Ms. Urbas for a great Sr. High choral concert. He announced the Jr. High choral concert will be held on May 23 and the POPS concert will be held on May 25. He congratulated the boys' track team for winning the Section 3 Championship and placing 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the League Championship. Brooklyn Thomas won the League Championship in the long jump and is Octorara's first ever Lancaster Lebanon League Champion. Brooklyn, along with Steele Wrigley, Vincent Thaler, Lucas Thaler, Jack Holub, and Juju Maurice will be participating in the district meet. Jack Holub recently set a new school record in the 800 meters with a time of 1:58.84 breaking a 20-year record. Dr. Propper congratulated seniors Jackson Leaman and Mackenzie Muldoon for being Octorara's A. Landis Brackbill Scholar-Athlete Award nominees. Dr. Propper announced June 1 is the last official day for seniors, prom is June 2, graduation practice will be held June 5-7, and the last day of school and the Commencement Ceremony is June 7.

Dr. Scanlon wished Chris Marsala well in her new position at Kennett. He said Jeff Curtis has an excellent reputation in southeast Pennsylvania due to his knowledge of business administration procedures. Jeff has stabilized the District financially and will be missed. The District will seek interim candidates for both positions to allow Dr. Leever to help in the hiring process. He announced fifth grade students, Andrew Mitman, Jack Bierlein, and Jack McGinnis placed third at the state STEM Design Challenge. Dr. Scanlon announced the District is no longer disproportionate in any area of Special Education and has met School Performance Profile targets identified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. He thanked all staff for keeping their focus on students and all they are doing to provide support and document the progress of our students with special needs. He encouraged everyone to attend OABEST this Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Under Board comments, Mr. Norris said one of the great roles of public schools is to provide a safe environment to maximize opportunities educationally regardless of how a child looks, loves, or worships. He expressed his concern of future Boards invoking a policy that will violate civil rights and who will pay for it.

Mr. Zimmerman said his opinion of the lawsuit is it is about someone saying their name and municipality. He said the judge found policy 903 is constitutional and the District can enforce the

policy. He said his family and his business have been targeted by the same person who said administration was wrong for searching a bus for a suspected weapon.

Ms. Yelovich said her youngest is graduating and thanked everyone in the District who have touched her children's lives.

Mr. Koennecker congratulated the retirees on the agenda and thanked them for their years of service to the District.

Mr. Ganow announced an Executive Session for labor matters was held at 6:40 p.m. tonight prior to the meeting.

Mr. Ganow announced the following upcoming meetings:

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, June 12, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, June 12, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. in in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next Regularly Scheduled Work Session – Monday, June 12, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, June 19, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, June 19, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:17 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 at [www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD](https://www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD).

TREASURER'S REPORT  
OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
GENERAL FUND  
2022-2023

**Cash Balance as of March 31, 2023** \$ 6,962,386.57

**Receipts Deposited:**

Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$	1,833,854.05	
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)		1,000.00	
Checking Account Interest		4,206.09	
Accounts Receivable		72,471.43	
Transfer in from Investments		1,000,000.00	2,911,531.57
 Total Available	 \$		 9,873,918.14

**Disbursements:**

Net Payroll	\$	1,090,198.50	
Accounts Payable		6,989,828.16	
Transfer to Investments		-	8,080,026.66

**General Fund Cash as of April 30, 2023** \$ 1,793,891.48

**Investments Outstanding**

Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account	\$	8,383,927.54	
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market		14,378,298.05	
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account		31,866.45	
Earnings on Fulton Money Market		34,549.19	
Net Transfers		(1,000,000.00)	

**Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of April 30, 2023** \$ 23,622,532.71

**For the May 15, 2023 Regular Board Meeting**

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
Octorara Board of School Directors