

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on November 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 November 13, 2023.

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

The Vice-President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich and Mr. Zimmerman. Mr. Ganow was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Leever, Superintendent; members of the administrative team; Jeff Litts, Saxton & Stump; and 61 visitors (four visitors remained after the presentation).

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

Under presentations, Ms. Michelle Moran introduced the 2023-2024 Octorara Heroes: Shane Althouse, Chloe Badman, Eleni Christou, Kadence Connors, Kayla Deets, Isabella Delise, Ryan Deluca, Jasmine Estrella, Thomas Falls, Abby Fleming, Ashlyn Foster, Jamie Guertler, Jack Holub, Brigid Imms, Sara Meyer, Abby Mickel, Lily Rising, Kaitlyn Salada, Carson Schempp, Olivia Simmons, Mia Testerman, Emmerson Ware, Fallon Weber, Melanie Witte, Vicki Wood, Brady Zimmerman.

There were no information items.

Mr. Ganow presented the following items for action at the November 13, 2023 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Scott Domowicz as the District's School Safety and Security Coordinator.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Kelley Vance as the District's Title IX Coordinator.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the contract with Apptegy for website development effective January 1, 2024 at an annual cost of \$13,225 with a one-time set-up fee of \$14,112.50.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2023-2024 Structured Literacy Grant from the Chester County Intermediate Unit for \$68,110.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the donation of a JayPro Bomber Elite Batting Cage from the Octorara Baseball Boosters at a value of \$5,500.
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the request from Octorara Youth Wrestling to host a wrestling meet on Sunday, January 21, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the request for unpaid family medical leave for the purpose of child rearing for Ms. Kimberly Boyd from approximately February 12, 2024 through April 22, 2024. Ms. Boyd is a Special Education teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors adjust Mr. Phillip Woodward's approved start date from October 12, 2023 to October 10, 2023. Mr. Woodward is a custodian at the Octorara Intermediate School.

- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, second reading:
 006 *Meetings*
 216.1 *Supplemental Discipline Records*
 251 *Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability*
- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first reading:
 815 *Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources*

Resignation Approvals:

- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Wanda Fisher as an Instructional Assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective November 23, 2023. (Hired June 19, 2017)

Hiring Approvals:

- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2023-2024 school year:

Helena Martin	FFA Technology Advisor	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
Debra Jones	Mentor Erin Sullivan		\$80.72
Patti Albrecht	Mentor Ana Torres		\$63.08
Adam Udell	Character Club Advisor	2 pts @ \$620	\$1,240
Denim Kurtzhals	Jr High Baseball Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480

- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the change in the Jr. High Chorus supplemental from Jaelyn Urbas to Sydney Szwarc at 2 points for a total of \$1,240. (Ms. Urbas was approved in error for both the Jr. High and Sr. High Chorus supplementals in August.)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following Intramural supplementals effective November 21, 2023:
 Jed King, Intramural Sr. High Fitness Coordinator - \$3,000 pro-rated
 Mark Durante, Intramural Jr. High Fitness Coordinator - \$3,000 pro-rated
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year:
 Hannah Dunnenberger, Emergency
- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute support staff for the 2023-2024 school year:
 Joyce Swisher

Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported the committee met on October 23, 2023. The committee discussed the focus areas. There was no update on Student Health and Wellness. Dr. Leever gave a Comprehensive Planning update and Dr. Tachau and the principals reviewed the School Improvement Plan progress and 2023 Fall MAP Growth testing data. Principals gave Achievement Team highlights for their building.

Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported there are no changes for the second reading policies on tonight's agenda. Policy 815 was reviewed with no changes and policy 819 was removed from the agenda for further direction from administration.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported representatives from Architerra were present to review Phase I of the athletic field upgrades which included a few changes recommended by administration. Work on Phase I will begin in early summer 2024.

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

Under administrator comments, Ms. Lease announced the PTO raised over \$19,000 in the Fund Walk to help fund events and offset the cost of activities. She thanked the PTO for hosting the Monster Bash at the OIS and providing conference dinners to the K-6 teachers prepared by the Sr. High culinary students.

Dr. Tachau congratulated the cast and crew of the fall play, *Olympiaganza*, directed by Jennifer John, for a great performance.

Dr. Leever thanked Michelle Moran for her work with the Octorara Heroes. There are good things happening and much to be proud of at Octorara. He thanked the parents and staff for supporting all the great endeavors our students are involved in.

Under Board comments, Mr. Norris said we have not been accustomed to contested Board races in the past. He suggested in the future, a debate or public forum be held for the candidates to let the public know what their views are.

Mr. Fox announced the following meetings to be held:

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

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

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. on motion of Ms. Yelovich, 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