

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on November 15, 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 November 15, 2021.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were: Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley via Zoom, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Mr. Koennecker was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; Paige Linnenbaugh, student representative; one reporter; 24 citizens and 54 citizens via Zoom.

The minutes of the Work Session of October 11, 2021 and the Regular Meeting of October 18, 2021 were approved on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present.

Under presentations, Mr. Fantazzi gave a fall athletic update.

Dr. Orner provided Comprehensive Plan feedback.

There were no information items.

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Mr. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Falgiatore and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-11/15/21)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$1,886,820.97; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$42,517.08, Capital Projects totaling \$5,467.60, and Capital Reserve totaling \$0.00 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix B-11/15/21, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present.

Under visitors' comments for agenda items only, Matthew Taylor, Christiana, expressed his concern over his students being quarantined due to close contact and the cost of testing.

Susan Boninu, Parkesburg, said the choice of mask wearing should be up to the individual.

Kristin Weber, West Fallowfield Township, believes that mask wearing should be optional and asked the Board to allow the parents to decide whether their child wears a mask and expressed concern over the emotional and physical damage the masks could be doing.

Leanne Welch, Christiana, shared her son is struggling to breath with the mask and has been bullied by teachers and staff when he takes the mask down to breath.

Christina Kostyk, Londonderry Township, said she left it up to her son to wear a mask. He went to the nurse today because he wasn't feeling well and the nurse talked to him while he wasn't wearing a mask. He was put in a room by himself and was told to wear a mask while waiting to be picked up.

Janeen Walker, Sadsbury Township, thanked Dr. Orner for her response in getting her the documents she requested. She expressed her concern over the stay of the order. She feels students are being used and requested the District go back to the way masking was done in August.

John Hopkins, Christiana, expressed concern over the girls' softball field.

Barbara Watters, West Fallowfield, encouraged the Board and Dr. Orner to make masks optional. She gave statistics she read on the efficacy of masks.

Brett Stevens, West Fallowfield, expressed concern over instruction her four children are missing from being quarantined and none have been sick. She said her students do not have the books, software, and access to labs they need to keep up with their work. She said her children have worn masks and are still quarantined. She said her daughter goes to a different school and they are testing so students don't have to quarantine.

Kelly O'Donnell, West Fallowfield, thanked the board for their time. She asked the name calling to end and said everyone wants the pandemic to go away. She requested finding a way for the students who are sent home to get the instruction they are missing.

Marcus Carter, Parkesburg, expressed concern over his students not wanting to go to school because they have to wear a mask. He wants the district to get back to normalcy. He feels there is nothing being done about bullying because the focus is on students wearing masks.

Jamie Ference, Atglen, expressed concern over the inconsistencies and lack of communication between the buildings.

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the proposed 2021-2024 Comprehensive Plan including the Induction Plan, Professional Development Plan, and Gifted Education Plan Assurances. (Appendix C-11/15/21)

Mr. Falgiatore motioned, Mr. Zimmerman seconded the motion that the Octorara Board of School Directors revert back to the Health and Safety Plan that the school year started with. There was no vote on this motion.

After Board discussion and on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present except Mr. Falgiatore and Mr. Zimmerman who voted no, the Octorara Board of School Directors laid the question on the table.

Mr. Falgiatore motioned, Mr. Zimmerman seconded the motion that the Octorara Board of School Directors follow the Department of Health Order effective September 7, 2021 in its entirety. There was no vote on this motion.

After Board discussion and on motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present except Mr. Falgiatore and Mr. Zimmerman who voted no, the Octorara Board of School Directors laid the question on the table.

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

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Proposal for Support – Option 2 with Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health effective November 15, 2022 through June 23, 2022. (Appendix D-11/15/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Settlement Agreement and Release for student "A". (Appendix E-11/15/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Third Party Education Trust for student "A". (Appendix F-11/15/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Martin Luther School Services Agreement for student “B”. (Appendix G-11/15/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following bus drivers for Althouse Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year:

Toni Sherrer, School Vehicle #70
Timothy Lubrano, School Vehicle/Substitute Driver

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Costars bid with 3B Services, Inc. for water tank replacement at the Octorara Primary Learning Center at a cost of \$26,940.00. (Appendix H-11/15/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the proposal with Entech Engineering, Inc. for engineering services for a Corrosion Control Chemical Treatment Addition. (Appendix I-11/15/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following policies, second reading:

607 *Tuition Income*
800.1 *Electronic Signatures/Records*
801 *Public Records*
802 *School Organization*
803 *School Calendar*
804 *School Day*
805 *Emergency Preparedness and Response*
805.1 *Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies*
805.2 *School Security Personnel*
806 *Child Abuse*

(Appendix J-11/15/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following policies, first reading:

807 *Opening Exercises/Flag Displays*
808 *Food Services*
810 *Transportation*
810.2 *Transportation – Video/Audio Recording*
811 *Bonding*
812 *Property Insurance*
813 *Other Insurance*
814 *Copyright Material*

(Appendix K-11/15/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Mr. Brad Boyer as 8th grade baseball coach effective September 16, 2021. (Hired for the 2019-2020 school year.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved an increase from four hours per day to five hours per day for Ms. Valerie Wilson. (Ms. Wilson is a cafeteria employee at the Octorara Primary Learning Center with a rate of \$15.00 per hour.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following cafeteria employees:

Bianca Adorno - \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day (Replacing Joann Gathercole)
Travis Compton - \$15.00 per hour for five hours per day (Replacing Sally DeForest)
Olha Paden - \$15.00 per hour for five hours per day (Replacing Janet Tice)
Wendie Miller - \$15.00 per hour for five hours per day (Replacing Angela Miller)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved a rate adjustment for the following instructional assistants effective August 25, 2021:

Annette Williams from \$11.02 to \$12.65
Angela Christou from \$11.02 to \$11.84

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year:

Keturah Caldwell, Emergency
Ann Clymer, General Science/Biology
Verna Trainor, Health/PE
Robert Smith, Social Studies 7-12
Stacie Larer, Emergency

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute support staff for the 2021-2022 school year:

Erin Sullivan
Joelyn Metzler

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following supplemental contract for the 2021-2022 school year:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Scott Whiteside | Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach | 10 pts. @ \$620 | \$6,200 |
| Shain Quigley | Girls' JV Basketball Coach | 9 pts. @ \$620 | \$5,580 |

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following change to the 2021-2022 calendar:

December 2, 2021 – Early Dismissal – All Staff Act 80 PM (K-12)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Amanda Hegarty as a health/PE teacher at the Octorara Elementary and Intermediate Schools effective December 6, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Hegarty's salary will be \$53,267 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing Allie Moffett who resigned.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Falgiatore and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors exonerated 2021-2022 school taxes on real estate owned by Atglen Borough for parcels 7-4-41 and 7-4-41.1.

On motion of Mr. Norris, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the New Holland Auto Group Costars bid for the purchase of the following vehicles using the Capital Projects Fund:

Ford 350 Box Truck Package - \$50,890
Two Ford F-250 Trucks - \$60,754

(Appendix L-11/15/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the boiler system control upgrade with NRG Controls, Inc. at the Primary Learning Center at a cost of \$23,900 using the Capital Projects Fund. (Appendix M-11/15/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Amber Owen as JV girls' basketball coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective November 11, 2021. (Hired for the 2020-2021 school year.)

Under the Finance Committee Report, Mr. Ganow reported the committee had a transportation report from Althouse Transportation, discussed 2022-2023 budget assessment information, Federal funding including ESSER, local audit update, the exoneration of the tax parcels on the agenda, and food services.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting that was held on October 20, 2021.

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

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Kristin Weber, West Fallowfield, requested Board Directors raise their hands to vote.

Darla Petty, Sadsbury Township, expressed her displeasure with the Board.

Matthew Taylor, Christiana, said his family does not wear a mask because they refuse to comply.

Barbara Watters, West Fallowfield, gave further statistics she read concerning COVID and expressed her displeasure with the Board.

Lily Freeland, Parkesburg expressed her concern that students are not being heard in regards to mask wearing.

Jacob Lusby, Parkesburg, expressed his displeasure with the Board.

Kate Thomas, Christiana, addressed the parents and shared her child's story. She encouraged parents to stand up.

John Nowicki, West Fallowfield, asked why we are staying with wearing masks. He said facial expressions are important to the development of children.

Karen Smith, Christiana, asked if the questions that were presented to the Board at last week's meeting will be answered by the Board in a communication to parents.

Barbara Watters, West Fallowfield, said the appeal made the courts decision null and void, however when someone is tried and arrested and there is an appeal, they don't get out of jail. She asked the Board to do the right thing.

Melanie Schillinger, Londonderry, shared a bible verse and said the community is broken and divided. She expressed her displeasure with the Board.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Ms. Lease announced the Primary Learning Center Students learned about Veteran's Day and what it means to be a veteran. She welcomed the sixth grade OIS readers back to the PLC. Ms. Lease thanked Operation Warm for collecting coats for students who need them and thanked the PLC for collecting food for the Octorara Food Cupboard.

Dr. Haller said 46 sixth grade students signed up to be readers at the PLC. Ms. Welsh takes a different group of readers to the PLC to read to the students once per cycle. The student groups visit the PLC three times a month which allows each OIS reader to visit once each month.

Paige Linnenbaugh, student representative, reported on the Student Council State Conference she and seven other students attended. She announced the fall play, "Clue" will be held this Friday and

Saturday and auditions for the musical, “The Adams Family” will be held on November 30 and December 1.

Dr. Propper congratulated the fall student athletes and their accomplishments. He announced the Jr./Sr. High has started the second quarter of the school year. He encouraged attendance at the fall play, “Clue” this Friday and Saturday – tickets prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. He announced the next Parent Advisory meeting will be held on November 30.

Mr. Hilbolt announced the nurses, along with staff from LG Health and the athletic trainers, are completing student screenings in all grades. He gave details about the upcoming optional COVID assurance testing program to be held at the district three days per week.

Dr. Orner shared the Octorara data summary for students who attend the Technical College High School. She asked Board Directors for direction on options to present at the December 6 meeting concerning the mask mandate expected to expire on January 17. She asked the Board to confirm the District is staying the course with mask mandate.

Mr. Fox confirmed nothing has changed so the mask mandate stays in place.

Under Board comments, Mr. Norris requested the same respect from the audience that the Board gives them – the Board listens while visitors speak, please do the same when a Board Director speaks.

Mr. Fox said the mask mandate stays in place until the State Supreme Court says otherwise. Mr. Fox suggested to the audience if they liked what the other schools were doing, they could put their house up for sale.

Ms. Bowman explained her position as a Board Director. She chooses to be accountable, to not put the District in liability, to not have the staff lose their certifications, and to be accountable to tax payers. People come to Board meetings because they are unhappy; however, the Board has heard from a lot of people that say they are happy with the way the Board is following the order. She said she listens and understands what the audience says is heartfelt, sincere, and they care about their kids. The Board wants to do what is best for them.

Mr. Ganow said we have to figure out a way to get kids out of quarantine in the shortest amount of time possible– possibly paying for testing at the District expense.

Mr. Falgiatore said staff is not going to lose their certifications. He said there are districts flying under the radar and not following the mandate and superintendents and teachers are still in their positions. He said the inconsistencies are killing people and if mask optional is good for one day, it should be good for more.

Dr. Orner addressed a Facebook post that contained information from her without her permission – the post was taken out of context regarding an email that was sent to a few people that reached out to her. It was an effort on administration not to put students on the front line and was a course of action for one day.

Mr. Hurley said he agreed with Ms. Bowman – the Board has listened and has heard from many people on both sides of the situation. The situation is difficult and the Board has spent many hours discussing it. Since the Board has no idea what will happen in the court system, as of today the order stands. He supports what the Board is doing and he supports Dr. Orner.

Mr. Norris said the mask mandate allows us to have students in school at a much greater rate than if we weren’t wearing masks at this time. He agrees the quarantine period is excessive but it has been

successful in our District. The Board has heard voices from both sides and we need to come together to work through it.

Mr. Zimmerman said he believes the Board has to stand up and fight the government. He is concerned there will be a vaccine mandate. He expressed his concern that the vote was tabled. He said someone told him you are either for me or against me so he knows where he stands.

Mr. Falgiatore asked if there was a length of time for the tabling of the agenda item.

Mr. Fox said it is laid aside. The next step would be to make a motion to take a matter from the table.

Mr. Falgiatore asked if that would be done at the next meeting in new business from someone on the Board or in the community.

Mr. Fox replied only Board members can make a motion and it would have to be by a majority during old business.

Mr. Norris said one reason he did not vote is due to lack of data. Our numbers have doubled this week and we need to look at data in preparing the Health and Safety Plan. The CCIU data for transmission rates is good and it is a good place to start.

Mr. Falgiatore suggested putting a survey out to parents.

Dr. Orner asked for direction from the Board on what that survey would ask.

Mr. Falgiatore suggested to ask masks or no masks.

Mr. Fox said no one wants a mask and that would not get to the complexity of what we need as the situation changes.

Dr. Orner recommended the Board have a conversation on December 6 to make a data driven decision on possible changes to the Health and Safety Plan. We have to factor what role the Chester County Health Department will play. She said she has been accused of quarantining students – the District does not quarantine students, the Chester County Health Department quarantines students under the law.

Mr. Fox said we have to follow the Chester County Health Department processes and guidelines. We are not making decisions about quarantines, they come down from organizations above us. He requested Mr. Falgiatore create survey questions that can be looked at in December.

Mr. Fox announced an executive session for safety/security and legal matters was held on November 10, 2021 via Zoom.

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, November 15, 2021 – Following the Regular Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, December 6, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

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

Reorganization Meeting – Monday, December 6, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Work Session – Monday, December 6, 2021 – immediately following the Reorganization Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, December 13, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, December 13, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.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
2021-2022**

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Cash Balance as of September 30, 2021</u> | | \$ | 6,645,075.92 |
| <u>Receipts Deposited:</u> | | | |
| Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers) | \$ | 4,189,331.48 | |
| Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.) | | 13,272.62 | |
| Checking Account Interest | | 24.08 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | 294,742.14 | |
| Transfer in from Investments | | 0.00 | |
| | | <u>4,497,370.32</u> | |
| Total Available | | \$ | 11,142,446.24 |
| <u>Disbursements:</u> | | | |
| Net Payroll | \$ | 1,078,560.74 | |
| Accounts Payable | | 3,094,970.78 | |
| Transfer to Investments | | 3,000,000.00 | |
| | | <u>7,173,531.52</u> | |
| General Fund Cash as of October 31, 2021 | | \$ | 3,968,914.72 |
| <u>Investments Outstanding</u> | | | |
| Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account | | \$ | 9,427,253.40 |
| Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market | | | 24,817,218.93 |
| Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account | | | 40.05 |
| Earnings on Fulton Money Market | | | 232.36 |
| Net Transfers | | | 3,000,000.00 |
| Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of October 31, 2021 | | \$ | <u><u>41,213,659.46</u></u> |

For the November 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
Octorara Board of School Directors