

# **OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Minutes of Board Meeting Held on November 21, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on November 21, 2022.

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. Fox, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Mr. Ganow was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; and 26 citizens that included 12 girl scouts.

The minutes of the Work Session of October 10, 2022 and the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2022 were approved on motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present.

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

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 Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-11/21/22)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$2,219,126.32; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$69,489.54, Capital Projects totaling \$127,605.50, and Capital Reserve totaling \$206,461.66 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix B-11/21/22, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present except Mr. Falgiatore who voted no. Mr. Falgiatore read the following statement:

"Based on a statement read into the record on 10/17/22 by Brian Fox, I began to have concerns about the legal bills.

While preparing for this current meeting, I asked Jeff Curtis to provide an itemized invoice for the legal bill up for approval. Upon receipt of my request it confirmed my suspicions that our solicitor's office was submitting billing to the district for private legal matters involving private legal issues.

I will be objecting to approving this invoice for legal services pending a receipt of documentation from the solicitor that confirms the board has been granted qualified immunity by the federal court.

If the board receives this document, I am willing to reconsider my objection. While the board wants to hold this conversation in executive session, it is in good faith and on behalf of our constituents that I object to this expense.

The board can pay this expense on their own and if documentation from the court is received, we can vote to reimburse those specific board members."

Mr. Fox said it is well established that the approach we are taking is legal, lawful, and appropriate.

Under visitors' comments for agenda items only, Mr. John Nowicki, West Fallowfield, thanked Althouse Transportation, Dr. Propper, and administration for handling the bus incident appropriately in September. He thanked the Board for volunteering and enduring difficult situations. He is saddened by the lawsuit against the Board and what it will cost taxpayers. He asked that the lawsuit be withdrawn.

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, upon review of the 2020 Census data for the municipalities within the District, confirmed the current Region structure maintains the population of each Region is as equal as possible and is compatible with the boundaries of the election districts.

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the student activity club “Film Club” at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School. (Appendix C-11/21/22)

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

236.1 *Threat Assessment*  
805 *Emergency Preparedness and Response*  
805.2 *School Security Personnel*  
808 *Food Services*

(Appendix D-11/21/22)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following driver for Althouse Transportation for the 2022-2023 school year:

Meghann Hatton, Bus 25

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Amy Chaballa-Wilde as varsity volleyball coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective October 25, 2022. (Hired for the 2021-2022 school year.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Benjamin Creighton as JV boys’ soccer coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective November 8, 2022. (Hired for the 2013-2014 school year.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Holly King as a special education teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective December 5, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. King’s salary will be \$58,772, pro-rated, which is Step 18 to MAX of the Master’s Scale. (Replacing Lauren Daly-Clark who resigned.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Denise Schreffler as a custodian at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective November 28, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Schreffler’s salary will be \$37,440, pro-rated. (Replacing Kaitlyn McKinley who resigned.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Mr. Robert Dillow as a custodian at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective November 28, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Mr. Dillow’s salary will be \$37,440, pro-rated. (Replacing William Ray who retired.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Andrea Green as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective November 7, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Green’s rate will be \$17.00 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Stephanie Chesnet who resigned.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Judith Myers as a food service employee effective October 24, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Myers’ rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Roxanne Barnes who resigned.)

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

Valentina Brucchieri, Emergency

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

Joelyn Metzler, Instructional Assistant

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the transfer of Mr. Andy Johnson from Jr. High head wrestling coach at four points (\$2,480) to girls' wrestling coach at the Jr./Sr. High School at six points (\$6,200) effective November 18, 2022. (This is a new position.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the transfer of Mr. Robbie Zavala from Jr. High assistant wrestling coach at three points (\$1,860) to Jr. High head wrestling coach at four points (\$2,480) effective November 18, 2022. (Replacing Andy Johnson who transferred.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Wanda Lapp as a tutor effective October 20, 2022 at a rate of \$39.55 per hour. (Ms. Lapp is a retired District math teacher.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved Mr. Ryan Clarke as an athletic event helper. (Event rates vary depending on event responsibilities.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following supplemental contracts for the 2022-2023 school year pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District:

Deandre Clark	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
Sterling Cross	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
Matt Wood	Jr. High Asst Wrestling Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
Nicholas McCaw	Jr. High Baseball Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
Jennifer Shaw	Mentor for Stevie Kell		\$82.04

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following change in salary due to graduate credits earned:

Amy Steinmetz      From M+45 (\$87,109) to M+60 (\$89,445)      Step 3 to MAX

Under the Finance/Facility Committee meeting, Mr. Hurley reported the committee discussed the impact of Act 55, charter school enrollment and budgetary impact, 2023-2024 budget, food service equipment purchase, local audit, and a list of projects for the PCCD Grant.

Mr. Curtis reported on the facility director search, athletic field study, wrestling mat completion, and CTE childcare playground equipment purchase with Perkins Grant funding.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting that was held on November 16, 2022.

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

Under visitors' comments for items in general, John Nowicki, West Fallowfield, requested visitor comment time be five minutes instead of three. He also requested an open forum discussion with the Board to help with community understanding. He commended an instructional assistant who goes above and beyond her normal work day to help students. He recognized the girl scouts in attendance.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Dr. Propper thanked Ms. John and the cast and crew of *Pride and Prejudice* for a great show. He said the Powder Puff Volleyball game was a success and was well attended. He thanked the girl scouts from troop 4673 for coming out to earn their Government Badge.

Mr. Hilbolt gave Dr. Orner's comments in her absence. He congratulated the Avedium Program for winning a \$500 grant from PARRS. He announced the Superintendent Meet and Greet will be held on Tuesday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend.

Under Board comments, Ms. Yelovich thanked Ms. John and the cast and crew for the great performance of *Pride and Prejudice*. She gave personal thanks to Ms. John for inspiring her son.

Mr. Fox welcomed the girl scouts to the Board meeting. He announced OABEST will be returning on May 20, 2023 from 9:30-1:00.

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings:

Executive Session for Personnel - Monday, November 21, 2022 - Following the Regular Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, December 5, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, December 5, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Reorganization Meeting – Monday, December 5, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Work Session – Monday, December 5, 2022 – immediately following the Reorganization Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, December 12, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, December 12, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m. on motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present.

This Board meeting can be viewed in its entirety at [www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD](http://www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD).

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

<u>Cash Balance as of September 30, 2022</u>		\$	2,545,412.40
<u>Receipts Deposited:</u>			
Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$	12,903,315.06	
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)		3,565.16	
Checking Account Interest		1,713.47	
Accounts Receivable		37,637.60	
Transfer in from Investments		0.00	12,946,231.29
Total Available	\$		15,491,643.69
<u>Disbursements:</u>			
Net Payroll	\$	1,113,369.65	
Accounts Payable		3,772,994.42	
Transfer to Investments		6,000,000.00	10,886,364.07
<b>General Fund Cash as of October 31, 2022</b>	\$		4,605,279.62
<u>Investments Outstanding</u>			
Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account	\$	8,241,506.03	
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market		23,401,572.57	
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account		5,165.49	
Earnings on Fulton Money Market		15,389.66	
Net Transfers		6,000,000.00	
<b>Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of October 31, 2022</b>	\$		<u>42,268,913.37</u>

For the November 21, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
Octorara Board of School Directors