

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on October 10, 2022

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on October 10, 2022.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, and Ms. Yelovich. Mr. Zimmerman arrived at the meeting at 7:35. Mr. Hurley was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team and approximately 30 visitors. Five visitors remained after the Heroes presentation.

Under presentations, Ms. Michelle Moran introduced the 2022-2023 Octorara Heroes. Seven students attended this meeting to be introduced to the Board. Another session will be held next week as some students were participating in athletic events. The 2022-2023 Octorara Heroes are Joshua Bare, Tarin Boohar, Riley Bristow, Skylar Cook, Jacob DiGregorio, Kaitlyn Diviney, Maddie French, Hannah Hulton, Ava Hurley, Jake Jensen, Kaycee King, Emma Lease, Paige Linnenbaugh, Brianne McGovern, Elizabeth Meyer, Mackenzie Muldoon, Logan Prokay, Richard Rocchia, Julia Roth, Ryan Seeger, Cole Shatto, Thalia Swager, Amy Tellez, Lucas Thaler, Alex Thompson, Joshua Wentz, Francesca Wiley, Eduardo Zavala-Lopez.

Dr. Orner recognized Nolan Moran, Solanco senior, who created an outdoor classroom at the Octorara Elementary School for an Eagle Scout Project.

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

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the October 17, 2022 Board meeting:

Resignation Approvals:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Brittany Myers as a cafeteria employee effective September 28, 2022. (Hired April 18, 2022)

Hiring Approvals:

- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the transfer of Ms. Sarah Kluge from IST at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School to guidance counselor at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective October 24, 2022. Ms. Kluge's salary will be \$80,468 which is Step 9 to MAX of the Master's +60 scale at 198 days per year. (Replacing Dawn Baldt who is retiring.)
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the transfer of Ms. Pat Softchin from cafeteria employee to site leader at the Octorara Jr. High School cafeteria effective September 16, 2022. Ms. Softchin's rate will be \$16.35 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Brittany Myers who resigned.)
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teacher for the 2022-2023 school year:
Dana Fogg, Emergency
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Madison Anthony as a substitute teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. Ms. Anthony is an instructional assistant for the district who is currently student teaching and is eligible to substitute according to Act 86.

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

Jill Bright	Mentor for Melissa Fannelli	2 pts @ \$620	\$1,240
Heather Denlinger	Mentor for Ketaurah Caldwell		\$92.12
Christina Britt	Jr High Fall Cheer Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
Christina Britt	Jr High Winter Cheer Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
Lisa Marshman	Sr High Asst Fall Cheer Coach	6 pts @ \$620	\$3,720
Lisa Marshman	Sr. High Asst Winter Cheer Coach	6 pts @ \$620	\$3,720
James Wright	Jr High Asst Football Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480

G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve a salary adjustment for Mr. Charles Ankney from \$53,284 to \$64,729 due to additional maintenance responsibilities.

H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following changes in salary due to graduate credits earned:

Kristal Guertler	From B (\$57,020) to B+15 (\$59,778)	Step 14 to MAX
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The Education Committee Report will be given at the October 17, 2022 meeting.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the committee discussed the Guidelines for Supporting Transgender & Gender Non-Binary Students. She reported this is administrative regulations and not Board policy. The Board does not vote on administrative regulations. Due to only four Directors being present, the discussion will continue at next week's Regular Board meeting.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee was given notice of future discussion with the Board regarding ballistic film and door locking. The committee discussed the change of ownership of the District's security firm, Signal 88; facility director vacancy and future plans for the position; skid steer replacement; ventilation in the welding room; wrestling mat replacement; classroom furniture; and an update on Architera and athletic needs. Mr. Falgiatore reported there is an odor in the Sr. High School choral room.

There were no other items/concerns.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Joelyn Metzler, Sadsbury Township, expressed her concerns with the Guidelines for Supporting Transgender & Gender Non-Binary Students. She said she feels her son does not have a safe and supportive environment at the Octorara Intermediate School. She asked if the Board is aware of the reasons teachers are leaving and what they were asking for before they left.

Mr. Rzonca, West Sadsbury Township, announced that Octorara board members have been named defendants in their private person capacity in federal lawsuit case #22-3329 for deprivation of rights under color of law and other crimes. He said the lawsuit will have zero financial impact on taxpayers of the district.

Under administrator comments, Ms. Lease announced a Title I Parent and Family Engagement Meeting will be held on November 2 and the PTO Fall Fest fundraiser that will include trunk or treat, rides, and games will be held on October 23 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The PTO is planning future activities to include paint night and bingo night.

Mr. Dikun announced fire prevention activities for the OES will be held on October 28. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on November 3 and 9 – information will be sent to parents next week.

Ms. McNamara announced Octorara 2022 graduate, Emily Blomiley was one of only 343 students in the world to earn every point possible in the AP Drawing exam. OACTEP students participated in

a Presentation and Team Building day on October 6. NOCTI pre-tests will be given to seniors who qualify on October 19 and 20.

Dr. Orner announced a parent meeting will be held on October 19 at 7:00 p.m. to review district safety and security and other items parents wish to discuss.

Under Board comments, Mr. Norris said federal lawsuit case #22-3329 that Mr. Rzonca referenced board members as defendants, does not include Mr. Falgiatore as a defendant.

Mr. Falgiatore asked if staff are trained in trauma informed care.

Dr. Orner said yes - the Pennsylvania Department of Education requires staff training every year. There will be a discussion on trauma informed care at the October Education Committee meeting.

Ms. Bowman said she participated in trauma informed care training through the CCIU – it was informative although very sad. In reference to Ms. Metzler’s comment about teachers leaving, Ms. Bowman referenced an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about attrition rates across Pennsylvania. She said teachers are leaving across the state, Octorara is actually low on the list of number of teachers leaving compared to other districts. It is not specific to our district.

Mr. Fox asked if there can be a discussion in the Finance Committee about any cost associated with the Act 55 requirements.

Mr. Fox announced the following meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel and Legal – Monday, October 10, 2022 – following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – October 17, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, October 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, October 24, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in Room 102 at the Jr. High School

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:40 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 on www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
Octorara Board of School Directors