

# OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting Held on Oct 11, 2021

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom on October 11, 2021.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Other members present were Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore via Zoom, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich and Mr. Zimmerman via Zoom. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; one reporter, 14 citizens in-person and 66 citizens via Zoom.

Under presentations, Dr. Orner gave a Comprehensive Plan overview.

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

Under information items, Elizabeth Monk-Sarvis will transfer from an instructional assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School to an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective September 20, 2021.

Yesenia Vasquez will transfer from an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center to an ESL assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective September 29, 2021.

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the October 18, 2021 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Directors of the Octorara Area School District and the Octorara Education Association: Professional Staff.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Directors of the Octorara Area School District and the Octorara Education Association: Support Professionals.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Proposal for Professional Services with Architerra, PC for athletic facility assessment.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve a sabbatical leave for Mr. Nick Kluge effective September 21, 2021 through January 19, 2022. (Mr. Kluge is a learning support teacher at the Octorara Elementary School.)
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following bus driver for Althouse Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year:  
Dale Curry
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, second reading:  
*701 Facilities Planning*  
*702 Gifts, Grants, Donations*  
*702.1 Crowdfunding*  
*703 Sanitary Management*  
*704 Maintenance*  
*705 Facilities and Workplace Safety*  
*706 Property Records*  
*707 Use of School Facilities*

- 708 *Lending of Equipment and Books*
- 709 *Building Security*
- 710 *Use of Facilities by Staff*
- 716 *Integrated Pest Management*
- 717 *Cellular Telephones*
- 718 *Service Animals in Schools*
- 719 *Unmanned Aircraft Systems – Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles – Drones*

G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first reading:

- 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*

Resignation Approvals:

- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Allie Moffett as Health/PE teacher at the Octorara Elementary and Intermediate Schools effective TBD. (Hired August 31, 2020)
- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Hannah Dieringer as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective October 1, 2021. (Hired September 20, 2021)
- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. Matthew Harper as assistant varsity football coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective September 14, 2021. (Hired for the 2019-2020 school year)
- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Candice Schwien as yearbook advisor at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective October 4, 2021. (Hired for the 2017-2018 school year)

Hiring Approvals:

- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Kim Hanley as Student Services secretary effective October 18, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Hanley’s salary will be \$40,260 pro-rated. (Replacing Nichole Little who resigned.)
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Lisa Gerber as a long term substitute special education kindergarten teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective September 27, 2021 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Gerber’s salary will be \$55,579 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor’s +15 scale. (Ms. Gerber is an approved substitute and is replacing a medical leave.)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Caitlyn Cressman as a long term substitute learning support teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective September 1, 2021 through January 17, 2022. Ms. Cressman’s salary will be \$53,267 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor’s scale. (Ms. Cressman is an approved substitute and is replacing Nick Kluge who is on sabbatical leave.)
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Bettye Thomas as an OVA instructional assistant at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective September 27, 2021

pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Thomas' rate will be \$11.84 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Robert Knecht who resigned.)

- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Chelsea Curry as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School effective TBD pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Curry's rate will be \$11.02 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Ann Marie Vnucak who retired.)
- Q. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Amanda Schmidt as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective TBD pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Schmidt's rate will be \$11.02 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Sandra Jaques who resigned.)
- R. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Robin Sockoloskie as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective October 25, 2021. Ms. Sockoloskie's rate will be \$17.18 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Ms. Sockoloskie was a District employee and is replacing Yesenia Vasquez who transferred.)
- S. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Stormy Umble as a cafeteria employee effective September 27, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Umble's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Nancy Creed who resigned.)
- T. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve a rate adjustment for Ms. Ketaurah Caldwell from \$11.84 per hour to \$12.65 per hour. Ms. Caldwell is a PE/Health instructional assistant at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.
- U. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve a rate adjustment for Ms. Camryn Koenecker from 4 points at \$620 each (\$2,480) to 6 points at \$620 each (\$3,720). Ms. Koenecker is a JV softball coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.
- V. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute support staff for the 2021-2022 school year:
  - Sandra Jaques
  - Ann Clymer
  - Jennifer Dickinson

- W. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year:

Shirley Williams	PLC Yearbook Advisor	1 pt. @ \$620	\$620
Ginny Schempp	Mentor Lisa Gerber	2 pts. @ \$620	\$1,240

Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported on the meeting that was held on September 27. The Committee discussed a facility dog for the Octorara Elementary School.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman said the Committee reviewed the first and second reading policies on tonight's agenda.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris said the Committee discussed a corrosion control system for the water system, hot water tank replacement at the Primary Learning Center, roof repairs at the Sr. High and the Primary Learning Center, vehicle replacement, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor carpet replacement at the Primary Learning Center, GESA (Guaranteed Energy Savings Act) projects, filtration system, and a small shed installation at the Sr. High for the child care program.

There were no other items/concerns.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Melanie Schillinger, Londonderry Township, expressed her concerns on the mask mandate and asked the Board to consider going back to the original plan of letting parents choose if their students wear a mask.

Melissa Falgiatore, Parkesburg, expressed her concerns on how the Board and Dr. Orner are handling the mask mandate.

Lilly Freeland, Parkesburg, expressed her concerns about the mask mandate and how staff, administration, and the Board are handling it.

Kathryn Klingensmith, Parkesburg, thanked staff, administration, nurses, and the Board for keeping the students safe and in school.

Gloria Lapp, Highland Township, expressed her concerns on the mask mandate and is upset over their decision to withdraw their children from Octorara.

Todd Orner, Parkesburg, thanked the Board for following their oath of office. He said the Board has three responsibilities – create policy, create a budget, and hire a superintendent to implement the policies. He is disheartened by comments on Facebook and things that are happening around his home that created the need to install cameras on his property.

Darla Petty, Sadsbury Township, expressed her concern that parents are having their rights taken from them and is having trust issues with the District. She is concerned that Octorara is no longer a safe place for her children and hopes there are changes so she is able to trust in the community again.

Dave Raab, Sadsbury Township, said no one on the Board was elected on their stance on masks or the vaccine. He asked the Board to vote on the way the majority of their constituents feel concerning issues and not their own personal opinions.

Dana Peters, Parkesburg, asked people to consider others who may not agree when things are posted on Facebook. She said the mandate is above the head of the District and people should be addressing their concern at the appropriate place. She expressed her concern over her students who need to wear a mask due to health issues.

Under administrator comments, Dr. Orner announced the Brave Bowl will be held on Friday at 7:00. A pep rally will be held at the Sr. High before students are dismissed on Friday.

Under Board comments, Mr. Falgiatore expressed his concerns over Mr. Orner's comments.

Mr. Norris asked Mr. Curtis to explain the suggestion that the District is making money for the 504's that are written for the mask mandate.

Mr. Curtis said the District receives no funding for 504's. The special education allotment is for students with IEP's and that allotment does not fully fund those students. The 504 has nothing to do with the IEP funding.

Ms. Yelovich thanked everyone for speaking up – she acknowledged there is a lot of emotion and passion on each side of the mask mandate. She asked that we try to keep hate at bay on social media and emails. There should be no tolerance for bullying and hate in any form.

Mr. Fox thanked students and families for following the mask mandate and working through the exception process. He thanked the administrative team for their work in keeping students in the classroom.

Mr. Fox announced an Executive Session for Safety and Security was held on Thursday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings to be held:

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, October 25, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room.

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:02 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 You Tube.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
Octorara Board of School Directors