

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on October 12, 2020

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 12, 2020.

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 (arrived at 7:10), Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris (via Zoom), Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team, Ava Zimmerman, student representative, and 29 citizens who attended the meeting via Zoom

Under presentations, Dr. Orner gave an update on the transition to in-person learning.

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

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the October 19, 2020 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the updated Octorara Area School District Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve policy 710 *Use of Facilities by Staff*, first reading.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the resolution to appoint Ms. Nicole Morrow as tax collector for the District effective September 28, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept a donation of \$500 for the Sr. High School Student Council from Mr. Theodore Agurkis.

Resignation Approvals:

- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Valerie Guisepe as a science teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective October 31, 2020. (Hired October 1, 2000)
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Mary Weaver as library assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective November 1, 2020. (Hired October 25, 1995)
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Richard Baker as an ESL Program Specialist at the Octorara Intermediate and Jr./Sr. High Schools effective October 9, 2020. (Hired August 25, 2004)
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Leslee Wilcox-Kahler as ESL assistant at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective September 23, 2020. (Hired March 21, 2016)
- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. Seth Hoopes as JV wrestling coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective October 3, 2020. (Hired for the 2019-2020 school year)

Hiring Approvals:

- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Deb Bollenbach as a long term substitute OVA teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective October 12, 2020 through November 25, 2020. Ms. Bollenbach's rate will be \$140 per day. (Replacing a medical leave.)
- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Kristan Eannone as a long term substitute Kindergarten teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective October 12, 2020 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Eannone's salary will be \$52,617 pro-rated. (Ms. Eannone is an approved substitute and is filling a remote learning class.)
- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Linda McCawley as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective October 20, 2020 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. McCawley's rate will be \$12.65 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Haleigh Abbott who resigned.)
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Hannah Dieringer as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective October 5, 2020 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Dieringer's rate will be \$12.65 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Joan Ohar who resigned.)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Robert Knecht as an OVA instructional assistant at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective October 12, 2020 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Mr. Knecht's rate will be \$12.65 per hour. (Replacing Tammy Simon who transferred.)
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the salary adjustment for Ms. Lisa Hillman from \$52,617 (Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale) to \$54,929 (Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's +15 scale.) (Ms. Hillman is a long term substitute second grade teacher.)
- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contract for the 2020-2021 school year:

Joanna Bowder	Mentor-Kristan Eannone	1.71 pts @ \$620	\$1,062
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- Q. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute support staff for the 2020-2021 school year:

Grace Meyer

Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported the committee met on September 28, 2020 and discussed the Elementary School staffing and the Jr./Sr. hybrid model. Ms. Jeanne Casner was present to address COVID questions and concerns. The committee was given an athletic program update.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the committee discussed Policy 710 *Use of Facilities by Staff*.

Under the Facilities Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee discussed the PLC parking lot project, additional storage trailers, solar panel project, Sr. High roof vent covers, CCHD annual inspection with an emphasis on COVID requirements, extra cleaning staff, and updating the ten-year maintenance plan.

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

Under administrator comments, Mr. Brooks updated the Board on student orientations and parent-teacher conferences.

Ms. McNamara said the Homeland Security and Protective Services Academy started in person learning today. Other CTE programs are getting industry certifications. She is contacting industry partners to participate in virtual OAC meetings next month.

Dr. Tachau reported the first day back to in person learning for kindergarten and fifth grade was a success; students did well with masks and lunch in the classroom. Parent pick up procedures are different this year and Dr. Tachau reminded parents to notify the school if they are picking students up. She welcomed Ms. Yelovich to the EdTAC Committee and announced there will be a virtual meeting this Thursday. Dr. Tachau invited parents to contact her if they are interested in being on the committee.

Mr. Peticca clarified there are 280 students in the OVA program. He thanked the facilitators, Ms. Hood, Mr. Kluge, Ms. Peticca, and Ms. Cross for the work they have been doing with the students.

Under Board comments, Mr. Falgiatore questioned the reopening of the Jr./Sr. High as hybrid or OVA with no choice for remote learning. He expressed his concern about the Elementary School's delayed opening due to staffing issues.

Mr. Koennecker congratulated the football team for a great start to the season. He thanked Ms. Gaido for doing a great job. Mr. Koennecker said Octorara graduate, Jonathan Michalski, did a great job as the announcer for the football game on Friday.

Mr. Norris said October is Bully Prevention month and encouraged everyone to be mindful given the unrest that is going on in the nation.

Mr. Fox said we are fortunate to have the one: one technology devices, updated infrastructure, and the OVA that laid the groundwork to help our students be successful in the current learning models.

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

Executive Session for Legal and Personnel – Monday, October 12, 2020 – Following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, October 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, October 19, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, October 26, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman 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