

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on October 9, 2023

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on October 9, 2023.

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

The President, Mr. Ganow, 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. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Leever, Superintendent; members of the administrative team; Jeff Litts, Saxton & Stump; and four visitors (two visitors remained after the presentation).

Under visitor's comments for agenda items only, Melissa Falgiatore, Atglen, expressed her concern regarding the Sunshine Law. She suggested a different location for committee meetings and questioned why there are no committee meeting minutes.

Under presentations, Mr. Hodorovich and the culinary and baking pastry arts students presented a sampling of food to the Board and described the creation of each dish.

There were no information items.

Mr. Ganow presented the following items for action at the October 16, 2023 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the EAP Employer Services Agreement with Penn Medicine effective November 1, 2023.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the request from Youth Wrestling to use the Sr. High School Gymnasium on Sunday, January 7, 2024 prior to 1:00 p.m. for a tournament.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the grant with Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County for \$4,000 for the Kindergarten Transition Program for supplies.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following student activity clubs at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School:
 - Chess Club
 - Latino Club
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, first reading:
 - 006 *Meetings*
 - 216.1 *Supplemental Discipline Records*
 - 251 *Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability*

Resignation Approvals:

- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Rachel Schreiber as a Library Assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective October 20, 2023. (Hired September 17, 2012)

Hiring Approvals:

- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Alexis Stratman as a Food Service employee effective October 9, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents

required by law and the District. Ms. Stratman's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Lynn Spaulding who resigned.)

- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the transfer of Ms. K.C. Testerman from Assistant Musical Director at 6 points (\$3,720) to Musical Director at 8 points (\$4,960). (Replacing Nicole Norton who resigned.)

- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2023-2024 school year:

Jude Unitis	Jr. High Head Football Coach	6 pts @ \$620	\$3,720
Jen Hoskins	Mentor Sarah Danforth	2 pts @ \$620	\$1,240
Holly Conte	Mentor Grace Meyer	2 pts @ \$620	\$1,240
Jen Watson	Sr High Student Council	3 pts @ \$620	\$1,860
Adam Udell	Sr High Student Council	3 pts @ \$620	\$1,860
Joe Lynch	Asst Musical Director	6 pts @ \$620	\$3,720

- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year:

Christian Day, Emergency

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the committee discussed the first reading policies on tonight's agenda. These policies are being revised as a result of PSBA recommendation and updates in the law.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee discussed the bid for the welding shop, NRG control work at the PLC will begin in October, and having a company evaluate if solar power would be feasible for the District.

There were no other items/concerns.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Melissa Falgiatore, Atglen, asked for a response from the solicitor regarding the Sunshine Act and recommended Board members review the Act.

Under administrator comments, Ms. Andrews shared activities from the Latino Club and presented Student of the Month categories: music, art, and Brave of the Month.

Dr. Leever commended the Jr./Sr. High administration for doing positive things for kids and making connections available for all students.

Dr. Tachau announced the 2023 Spring PSSA results have arrived and will be mailed to parents. Parents who have questions concerning the results should contact their child's principal or school counselor.

Ms. McNamara announced the NOCTI testing will take place at the end of the month. The CTE audit is completed with many compliments and a few recommendations. The audit report will be shared with the Board when it is completed.

Dr. Leever introduced Ms. Joanne Redden, Assistant HR Director from the Chester County Intermediate Unit. Ms. Redden is with the District through January 15, 2024 to help provide HR services.

Under Board comments, Mr. Fox thanked the culinary students for their presentation tonight. It is helpful to see the outcomes of the programs provided in the District.

Ms. Bowman also thanked the culinary students and said there was a lot of good things happening at the District during Homecoming week last week.

Mr. Litts said he does not correspond with community members in this District or in any of the 28 districts Saxton & Stump represents. He said he went online and the agenda and accompanying documents are available. He believes there is a good faith effort from the Board to follow the Sunshine Act and there is no obligation under the Act to have documents available at a public meeting. He said there is the opportunity to object in good faith to a violation but that does not give anyone the license to abuse that right particularly when there is no violation. He will review the current structure and let the Superintendent and Board president know if there are any suggestions.

Mr. Norris asked Mr. Falgiatore if he would answer when he became aware the agenda for the September 18 meeting was not posted within the 24 hour time frame and why he did not reach out to administration to correct it.

Mr. Falgiatore said he would review it and get back Mr. Norris.

Mr. Norris added the Octorara Sr. High band did a terrific job at the New Holland Parade.

Mr. Ganow said there may be an addition to next week's agenda after his discussion with the attorney.

Mr. Ganow announced there was an executive session for Personnel and Legal held in room 102 at the Jr. High tonight prior to this meeting.

Mr. Ganow announced the following meetings to be held:

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, October 16, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, October 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, October 23, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m. on motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Zimmerman 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