

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on October 17, 2022

The regular meeting of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on October 17, 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 Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Fox, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Ms. Bowman was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; and 46 citizens.

The minutes of the Work Session of September 12, 2022 and the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2022 were approved on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present.

There were no presentations.

Under information items, there was continued discussion on Administrative Guidelines for Supporting Transgender & Gender Non-Binary Students. (Appendix A-10/17/22)

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present. (Appendix B-10/17/22)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$3,365,535.64; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$35,763.70, Capital Projects totaling \$336,814.59, and Capital Reserve totaling \$206,461.66 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix C-10/17/22, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present.

Under visitors' comments for agenda items only, Mr. Jay Lusby, Parkesburg, stated parents should be involved in every aspect of their student's education, health and well being especially if they are showing signs of distress. He read a portion of the *Guidelines for Supporting Transgender & Gender Non-Binary Students* that mentioned statistics; he noted there is no reference to the statistics cited in the document. Mr. Lusby said that paragraph brings no value to the *Guidelines* other than to plant the seed that unsupportive parents are abusive parents.

Sam Masteller, Londonderry Township, expressed his concern with the *Guidelines* being tied to funding and the possible lack of parental consent. He asked the Board to reconsider their stance. He said educators should provide a neutral environment where students can exercise their first amendment rights and not be required to agree with statements that are not scientifically proven or punish students who voice disagreement with gender identity ideology. He asked if we will allow cat litter into the bathroom to accommodate confused children or instead offer to help them in a different manner.

Chris Althouse, West Fallowfield Township, stated the *Guidelines* cater to students who choose to be transgender and gender nonbinary and asked what is being done to ensure the safety and support for students and staff who don't believe the cultural creation of gender identity. She said when looking at the *Guidelines* from a Christian standpoint, students and staff who believe in God's word are being

asked to be silent about their beliefs. She said students from all beliefs need to be accepted and protected by school practice and guidelines so all can feel safe and comfortable at school.

Melanie Schillinger, Londonderry Township, expressed her concerns with the *Guidelines* not being voted on by the Board as policy and students using bathrooms other than their biological gender. She reviewed and presented documents to the Board containing information about the loss of federal funding if districts do not prevent or combat discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. She asked the Board to make decisions that are not politically motivated and are what is best for all students.

Joelyn Metzler, Sadsbury Township, asked what is a guideline versus what is a policy. She expressed her concerns with parental consent in the *Guidelines*. She referenced information regarding Mandated Reporting. She asked if the solicitor has reviewed these guidelines and why she hasn't been responded to regarding how this has been implemented with staff.

Melissa Falgiatore, Atglen, referenced statements made by Ben Pratt, solicitor, regarding the constitution protecting citizen's rights and is not superseded by school policy. She expressed her concerns regarding the *Guidelines* in regards to overnight trips, locker rooms, and bathroom assignments. She is concerned about teachers being trained on the *Guidelines*. She expressed her concern over the District's avoidance of her children's special dietary needs.

Matt Holub, Parkesburg, said he is concerned over the school inserting themselves on this topic and making decisions and intervening on behalf of parents. He asked what the goal of the policy is and if there was community, parent, or student feedback. He expressed his concerns over the data and the *Guidelines* particularly as they relate to elementary aged children.

Kristen (KC) Testerman, Westfallowfield Township, said she is here with a different perspective because her family lives this every day. She said everyone from the school has honored her request of how she addresses her child and they have honored what she asked for. She said as a previous school administrator, she lost students to suicide and asked the Board to consider the other side of it for kids who are living this and figuring out how to make it work. She expressed her appreciation for everything the District has been doing to support her and her child.

The following items were approved on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present:

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

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

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

Dana Fogg, Emergency
Renee Yarrish, Emergency

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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

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

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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
Alysia Coldren	From M+30 (\$81,207) to M+45 (\$83,895)	Step 5 to MAX
Dan Lefever	From M+45 (\$91,931) to M+60 (\$94,274)	MAX

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Dr. Yvette Line-Koller as a school psychologist effective October 18, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Dr. Line-Koller's salary will be \$90,687 pro-rated which is Step 10 to MAX of the Doctorate scale for 198 days per year. (Replacing Mike Vnucak who retired.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Heather Jackson as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective TBD pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Jackson's rate will be \$16.00 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Deb Gajari who retired.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Amanda Dugger as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School effective TBD pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Dugger's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Heidi VanGilder who transferred.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following employees as translators for the District at \$39.55 per hour:

Luz Sosa
Nancy Sosa

Maria Estrada
Leisly Semanyk
Karino Carrillo
Ysenia Vasquez

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Grant Funding Agreement with the County of Chester for \$32,000 for cafeteria tables at the Octorara Primary Learning Center. (Appendix D-10/17/22)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the revised Food Service Worker job description. (Appendix E-10/17/22)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the compensated professional leave for Maria Scarfo for the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year.

On motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the request for unpaid family medical leave for the purpose of child rearing for Ms. Kate Dill from approximately December 19, 2022 through March 6, 2023. Ms. Dill is a guidance counselor at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the request for unpaid family medical leave for the purpose of child rearing for Ms. Allyson Fought from approximately February 14, 2023 through May 15, 2023. Ms. Fought is learning support teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.

Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported on the meeting held on September 26, 2022. The committee was given an overview of the MTSS Audit, a Summer Program debrief, a presentation on the Discovery Program at the OIS, and school code highlights and updates.

The was no Finance Committee meeting this month.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting that was held on September 21, 2022.

Under old business, Mr. Fox said the following item will be on the agenda for November:

That the Octorara Board of School Directors, upon review of the 2020 Census data for the municipalities within the District, confirm 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.

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

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Joelyn Metzler, Sadsbury Township asked to make sure the solicitor clarifies the privacy requirements in the *Guidelines* and expressed her concern with how it is presented in the document. She expressed her concerns with the students at the Intermediate School not being in a safe and supportive environment, discipline, and parental involvement.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Dr. Propper announced Family Fun Night will be held on October 26, the launch of the girls' wrestling program, Parent Advisory meeting to be held

on October 18, a fundraiser for Cross Country at Wolf's Hollow on Saturday, and the fall play, *Pride and Prejudice* to be held on November 18 and 19.

Mr. Hilbolt reported on the Best Buddies program and activities relating to the program held at the Jr./Sr. High and Intermediate Schools.

Dr. Orner said the solicitor did review the *Guidelines for Supporting Transgender & Gender NonBinary Students*.

Under Board comments, Mr. Zimmerman thanked everyone for coming out and speaking. He said community involvement and input makes a difference.

Mr. Falgiatore asked Ms. Metzler for her information on Mandated Reporting so it can be shared with the Board. He requested Ms. Metzler's questions that haven't been answered from the previous meeting be answered first.

Mr. Fox thanked parents for coming out and continuing the dialogue on various topics. He said we are all looking to provide a great education and safe environment to our students regardless of how they arrive at our door. Mr. Fox read the following statement:

“The Board of Directors for the Octorara Area School District, with the exception of Board Member Anthony Falgiatore, have been notified that they – along with the School District's Superintendent, Business Manager, Solicitor, Board Secretary, and other Administrators, including the County District Attorney, the Pennsylvania State Police, numerous police officers from local jurisdictions including Christiana and Parkesburg Boroughs and Sadsbury and West Fallowfield Townships, and many others – have been named as defendants in a lawsuit filed by John Ryan Miller. Mr. Miller does not even reside in Octorara Area School District, nor does his lawsuit have any legal or factual foundation whatsoever as opposed to a legitimate legal complaint. Unfortunately, the Octorara Area School District must take all necessary steps to protect its Board of Directors, Administrators, and Staff to the fullest extent possible from Mr. Miller's baseless lawsuit. Regrettably, doing so will entail wasting taxpayer funds to get the lawsuit dismissed. However, the Octorara Area School District will, if possible, take action against Mr. Miller to recover public funds wasted on defending against his meritless lawsuit.”

Mr. Fox announced there was an Executive Session for personnel and legal matters held tonight at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings:

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

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, November 14, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, November 14, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next Regularly Scheduled Work Session – Monday, November 14, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, November 21, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, November 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:14 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 at 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 August 31, 2022</u>		\$	8,072,078.79
<u>Receipts Deposited:</u>			
Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$	7,851,006.82	
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)		48,940.51	
Checking Account Interest		1,061.80	
Accounts Receivable		22,419.76	
Transfer in from Investments		0.00	
		<u>7,923,428.89</u>	
Total Available		\$	15,995,507.68
<u>Disbursements:</u>			
Net Payroll	\$	1,079,288.33	
Accounts Payable		5,370,806.95	
Transfer to Investments		7,000,000.00	
		<u>13,450,095.28</u>	
General Fund Cash as of September 30, 2022		\$	2,545,412.40
<u>Investments Outstanding</u>			
Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account		\$	8,215,187.77
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market			16,395,943.87
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account			13,993.06
Earnings on Fulton Money Market			5,628.70
Net Transfers			7,000,000.00
			<u>34,176,165.80</u>
Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of September 30, 2022		\$	<u>34,176,165.80</u>

For the October 17, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
Octorara Board of School Directors