

# **OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Minutes of Board Meeting Held on October 18, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom on October 18, 2021.

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

The President, Mr. Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were: Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore via Zoom, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman. Mr. Ganow was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; Paige Linnenbaugh, student representative; one reporter; 57 citizens – 15 remained after the Heroes presentation; and 61 citizens via Zoom.

The minutes of the Work Session of September 13, 2021 and the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2021 were approved on motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present.

Under presentations, Ms. Moran introduced this year's Octorara Heroes – Sidnie Althouse, Devon Carroll, Daniel DaPrix, Chase Decker, Hannah DeFiore, Marc DiGregorio, Lily Gray, Megan Gray, Mallorie Gurel, Theresa Imms, Christina Keating, Kayla Kittlitz, Andrew Koennecker, Emilie LeFevre, Carly Maxwell, Seneca McCaw, John Mickel, Collin Nolan, Serenity Shoemaker, Taylor Strayer, Coy Testerman, and Michael Trainor.

K.C. Testerman, Chris Althouse, and Joy Malinowski presented \$2,097 to the Sr. Class officers and Mr. Udell. These funds were left over from the parent led prom held in the spring.

There were no information items.

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-10/18/21)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$1,696,640.60; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$27,744.86, Capital Projects totaling \$172,551.27, and Capital Reserve totaling \$0.00 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix B-10/18/21, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Norris, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present.

There were no visitors' comments for agenda items only.

The following items were approved on motion of Mr. Falgiatore, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present:

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Directors of the Octorara Area School District and the Octorara Education Association: Professional Staff. (Appendix C-10/18/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Directors of the Octorara Area School District and the Octorara Education Association: Support Professionals. (Appendix D-10/18/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Proposal for Professional Services with Architerra, PC for athletic facility assessment. (Appendix E-10/18/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following bus driver for Althouse Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year:

Dale Curry

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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 manned Aircraft Systems – Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles – Drones*

(Appendix F-10/18/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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*

(Appendix G-10/18/21)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Allie Moffett as Health/PE teacher at the Octorara Elementary and Intermediate Schools effective TBD. (Hired August 31, 2020)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Hannah Dieringer as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective October 1, 2021. (Hired September 20, 2021)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted 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)

The Octorara Board of School Directors accepted 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)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.)

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved 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.

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present except Mr. Koennecker who abstained, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved a rate adjustment for Ms. Camryn Koennecker from 4 points at \$620 each (\$2,480) to 6 points at \$620 each (\$3,720). Ms. Koennecker is a JV softball coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.

The following items were approved on motion of Ms. Yelovich, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present:

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute support staff for the 2021-2022 school year:

Sandra Jaques  
Ann Clymer  
Jennifer Dickinson

The Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year:

Shirley Williams	PLC Yearbook Advisor	3 pts. @ \$620	\$1,860
Ginny Schempp	Mentor Lisa Gerber	2 pts. @ \$620	\$1,240
Kendra Collins	Mentor Caitlin Cressman	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Alexis Pointek	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the Costars contract with Interface Services for carpet replacement in the Octorara Elementary School library and music room. (Appendix H-10/18/2021)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Amber Lowe as a long term substitute school counselor at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective October 14, 2021 through January 14, 2022. Ms. Lowe's rate will be \$150 per day. (Ms. Lowe is an approved substitute and is replacing a medical leave.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Falgiatore and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Margaret Lee as a cafeteria employee effective October 14, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Lee's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Casey Engelhardt who resigned.)

On motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved a rate adjustment for Ms. Madison Anthony from \$11.84 per hour to \$12.65 per hour. Ms. Anthony is an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center.

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute teacher for the 2021-2022 school year:

Paula Spicher, Early Childhood

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following additional points for yearbook advisors:

Amy Steinmetz, OES – one additional point at \$620  
Michelle Moran, OES – one additional point at \$620  
Donna Jensen, OIS – one additional point at \$620  
Robin Lewis, OIS – one additional point at \$620  
Marcia Rapone, Jr./Sr. High – 2 additional points at \$620 (\$1,240)

On motion of Mr. Norris, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following changes in salary due to graduate credits earned:

Ashley Whiteman	From M+30 (\$69,034) to M+45 (\$72,045)	Step 12 to MAX
Trent Zook	From M (\$63,124) to M+15 (\$67,944)	Step 11 to MAX

Under Finance Committee Report, Mr. Curtis reported the committee discussed the local audit, federal funding grants and expenditures, and gave a 2022-2023 budget update. Mr. Curtis announced the Food Service Director received a grant to attend the food service conference.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting that was held on September 15, 2021.

There were no items of old business.

Under new business, on motion of Mr. Falgiatore, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present after discussion on the matter, the Octorara Board of School Directors take action on voting for reverting back to the Health and Safety Plan that the school year started with and follow the mandate as it is written from the Department of Health dated September 7, 2021.

There were no other items or announcements.

Under visitor's comments for items in general, Charles Walcott, Atglen, expressed his concern over a video taping incident the day he picked up his daughter for wearing what was said to be an offensive mask.

Jacob Lusby, Parkesburg, questioned if there will be parental approval and notification needed for students to receive the COVID vaccine if it is administered at school.

Kate Thomas, Christiana, expressed concern about her daughter's mask exemption being denied. She accused Dr. Orner of breaking the law and the Board of not knowing what they are doing and not focusing on the safety of the children.

Kathleen Thomas, Parkesburg, thanked Dr. Orner for her transparency.

Claire Wise, Kennett Square and parent of students who attend the District, expressed her concerns about mask wearing protocols.

Meg Hood, Londonderry Township, asked the chatter in the community to be more uplifting and not tear each other down, differences can be discussed without making assumptions and ugly comments.

Malinda Walcott, West Sadsbury, believes masks should be an option and expressed concern about how her daughter's mask was handled.

Kristin Weber, West Fallowfield, said she believes we will have to learn to live with the virus and is concerned about the damage the masks may be doing physically and emotionally.

Michelle Farrell, Parkesburg, asked the Board to continue to make decisions based on science, facts, data, and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. She supports the efforts of the Board to keep kids safe.

Jacob Lusby, Parkesburg, suggested that parental permission for the vaccine is more than a signature that can be forged.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Lisa McNamara gave an update on the CTE programs. She reported at the regional tractor driving contest held recently, Mason Ellingsworth placed 3rd and Kayden King placed 4th in senior division and William Miller placed 2nd in junior division.

Ms. McNamara announced tomorrow is the last day for National Honor Society nominations, parent conferences will be held virtually on Thursday evening, Dr. Propper will be hosting his second Parent Advisory on October 26 at 6:00 p.m. In sports, there will be a pep rally on Friday with a football game against Annville-Cleona at 7:00 p.m. The volleyball team is vying for a section title this week and hoping to host districts on Saturday.

Ms. Lease thanked the volunteers from the local fire companies for teaching the students about what emergency responders do and thanked Lena Audette and Casey Williams for organizing the event. She announced the link to schedule a K-6 parent conference will be emailed to parents on Wednesday.

Mr. Dikun also thanked the local fire companies for coming to school – it was well received by the students. He announced the PTO Fund Walk has collected over \$17,000 and will continue to collect funds through Friday. The facility dog team has started online training with in person training to follow.

Dr. Tachau announced a virtual Title I Parent and Family Engagement meeting was held this evening. Parents were provided an overview of the K-6 literacy program and discussed ways for parents to help their students at home. The meeting was recorded and will be on the District website for parents who could not attend.

Dr. Orner said the Comprehensive Plan is posted to the website for review. The Plan will be discussed in detail at the October 25 Education Committee meeting.

Under Board comments, as chair of the policy committee Ms. Bowman read the following from policy 006 *Meetings* in regards to requests for items to be put on the agenda: “Items of business may be suggested by Board members, the Superintendent, or citizens of the district for inclusion on the agenda. Items suggested by citizens of the district shall be submitted in writing and received in the office of the Superintendent at least seven (7) days before the meeting in order to be considered for inclusion on the written agenda.” Ms. Bowman said the suggestion to defy the order may put the District at risk for financial liability. She said Dr. Orner and the staff of the District put children first.

Mr. Zimmerman asked questions about the PAYS (Pennsylvania Youth Survey) that was given to students recently.

Mr. Norris said he does not believe the wearing of masks will be a permanent part of our society. He said there is misleading information on social media. He added calling for a petition for the removal of the superintendent will have no consideration as the Board is not in conflict with the superintendent. To say the majority of the Board is burying their heads is not true – the Board takes their rolls seriously and work to address the range of issues we face. Everyone’s ideas are welcome but Mr. Norris said he is calling out the falsehoods.

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, October 18, 2021 – Following the Regular Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

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

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, November 8, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, November 8, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Work Session – Monday, November 8, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, November 15, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, November 15, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on motion of Ms. Bowman, 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](http://www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD).

TREASURER'S REPORT  
OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
GENERAL FUND  
2021-2022

<b>Cash Balance as of August 31, 2021</b>		\$ 16,455,872.18
<b>Receipts Deposited:</b>		
Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$ 5,074,478.02	
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)	11,850.51	
Checking Account Interest	112.60	
Accounts Receivable	217,575.27	
Transfer in from Investments	0.00	5,304,016.40
Total Available		\$ 21,759,888.58
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Net Payroll	\$ 1,042,616.03	
Accounts Payable	5,122,196.63	
Transfer to Investments	8,950,000.00	15,114,812.66
<b>General Fund Cash as of September 30, 2021</b>		\$ 6,645,075.92
<b>Investments Outstanding</b>		
Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account	\$ 9,427,214.83	
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market	15,867,060.26	
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account	38.57	
Earnings on Fulton Money Market	158.67	
Net Transfers	8,950,000.00	
<b>Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of September 30, 2021</b>		\$ <u>40,889,548.25</u>

For the October 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
Octorara Board of School Directors