

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on September 11, 2023

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on September 11, 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 Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Fox, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich and Mr. Zimmerman. Ms. Bowman was absent. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Leever, Superintendent; members of the administrative team, and three visitors.

There were no visitor's comments for agenda items only, presentations, or information items.

Mr. Ganow presented the following items for action at the September 18, 2023 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of school bus drivers employed by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of school bus runs by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Letter of Agreement with Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health for Student Assistant Program Liaison Services for the 2023-2024 school year.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Security Services Proposal with Signal 88 effective 8/29/2023 through 6/7/2024.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Transportation Contract with Linville Hill Christian School for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$58,500.
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the request for unpaid intermittent family medical leave for Ms. Samantha Norris effective August 28, 2023 through June 5, 2024. Ms. Norris is an Emotional Support teacher at the Octorara Elementary School.
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the request for unpaid family medical leave for the purpose of child rearing for Ms. Caysie Williams from approximately October 12, 2023 through January 12, 2024. Ms. Williams is a Learning Support teacher at the Octorara Elementary School.
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the request for unpaid family medical leave for purpose of child rearing for Ms. Megan Clarke from approximately November 13, 2023 through February 5, 2024. Ms. Clarke is a Second Grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center.
- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute rates effective the start of the 2023-2024 school year:
 - 1-19 days - \$125 per day (currently \$115 per day)
 - 20 + days - \$135 per day (currently \$125 per day)
- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following policies, second reading:
 - 800 *Records Management*
 - 830 *Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification*

Resignation Approvals:

- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Lisa McNamara as CTE Director effective June 5, 2024. (Hired September 4, 1991)
- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Megan Hood as a Second Grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective TBD. (Hired January 9, 2004)
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Sarah Jacien as a Math teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 15, 2023. (Hired August 14, 2023)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Erin (Smith) Pierznik as an Instructional Assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 28, 2023. (Hired August 21, 2023)
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors acknowledge the no paperwork, no show of Mr. Keith Thompson as an HVAC Maintenance Mechanic effective September 5, 2023. (Hired August 21, 2023)
- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors acknowledge the no paperwork, no response of Ms. Katelyn LaPearl as an Instructional Assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School effective August 28, 2023. (Hired August 21, 2023)
- Q. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Elizabeth D'Orazio as Academic Team Advisor at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 30, 2023. (Hired for the 2022-2023 school year)
- R. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Nicole Norton as Musical Director at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 28, 2023. (Hired for the 2022-2023 school year)

Hiring Approvals:

- S. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Katherine McGinnis as a Special Education Learning Support teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 15, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. McGinnis' salary will be \$59,000 which is Step 13 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Replacing Megan McLoone who resigned.)
- T. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Michael Smith as a Health/PE teacher at the Octorara Elementary and Intermediate Schools effective September 5, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Mr. Smith's salary will be \$64,801, prorated, which is Step 12 to MAX of the Master's scale. (Replacing Anthony Slusher who resigned.)
- U. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Sarah Danforth as an Eighth Grade Math teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective September 5, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Danforth's salary will be \$58,889, prorated, which is Step 17 to MAX of the Bachelor's +15 scale. (Replacing Sara Jacien who resigned.)
- V. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Holly Hayes as a Special Education teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective September 11, 2023 pending

completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Hayes' salary will be \$57,427, prorated, which is Step 15 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (This is a new position.)

- W. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Robert Smith as a long term substitute CTE Business Education-Computer Tech teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 29, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Mr. Smith's salary will be \$56,389, prorated, which is Step 17 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Mr. Smith is an approved substitute and is replacing Colin Kolb who resigned.)
- X. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Lynn Spaulding as a Food Service employee effective August 17, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Spaulding's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Joy Schnellli who transferred.)
- Y. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Pat Softchin as a Food Service employee effective August 28, 2023. Ms. Softchin's rate will be \$16.35 per hour for two hours per day.
- Z. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the increase in salary for Ms. Dana Shultz from \$47,332 to \$63,109 (80% of M+45, Step 9) effective August 22, 2023. Ms. Shultz is a Speech/Language Therapist at the Primary Learning Center and increased from three days per week to four days per week.

AA. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following change in salary due to graduate credits earned:

Samantha Pittman From M+30 (\$68,820) to M+45 (\$73,988) Step 13 to MAX

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

Holly Conte	Mentor Nicole Kutner	2 pts @ \$620	\$1,240
Alysyn Hoffman	Mentor Lauren Morlando	2 pts @ \$620	\$1,240
Heather Childress	Mentor Rebecca German		\$94.60
Jed King	Mentor Robert Smith	1 pt @ \$620	\$620
Joan McDermott	OES Envirothon Advisor	2 pts @ \$620	\$1,240

Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported the committee met on August 28 and discussed three focus area for student achievement: student health and wellness, continuous improvement for student learning, and collaboration and building collective efficacy through achievement teams.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported the committee discussed the two second reading policies on the agenda as well as 800 AR *Records Retention Schedule*.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee was updated on the completion of the water main repair with commendations going to our maintenance staff for their assistance in getting the job done. The committee also discussed a potential culinary CTE co-op with Pequea Valley, open custodial positions, and repair of the stadium field sprinklers.

There were no other items/concerns.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Mr. Anthony Falgiatore, Atglen, gave a statement as a citizen in response to Mr. Fox's statements and presentation at the August 21, 2023 Board Meeting. (Appendix A-9/11/23)

Under administrator comments, Ms. McNamara announced there will be a CTE audit this month.

Dr. Propper reported a good start to the school year. He announced Back-to-School night will be held on September 21 as well as on September 28 for our Spanish speaking families. Next week he will introduce the new student representative to the board, Menah Alkhabaz.

Dr. Leever acknowledged Ms. McNamara's coming retirement and commended her for what she has done to grow and nurture the CTE programs. He recognized her attention to detail and her relentless advocacy for the students. Dr. Leever thanked Ms. McNamara for her years of service and all she is doing to ensure the successful continuation of the programs.

Under Board comments, Mr. Fox also thanked Ms. McNamara for her leadership and hard work in creating and maintaining the CTE programs. He said he is sorry to see that Ms. Hood is leaving. In response to Mr. Falgiatore's visitor comment, Mr. Fox referenced the July 17 meeting when District council was present and stated that the District's policy on visitor's comments is constitutional and in most cases of Mr. Miller's attempt to raise claims against Board Members in their individual capacities, the court has ruled the opposite. Mr. Fox said Mr. Falgiatore relies on his oath, however, almost all of the 84 defendants have taken a similar oath.

Mr. Ganow stated that Mr. Falgiatore is deflecting his sharing of a confidential document but he is not denying it. Members of the Board have requested a censure of Mr. Falgiatore though Mr. Ganow does not believe that will do anything. Mr. Ganow said the lawsuit has taken away the focus of the Board and it is time to get back to focus on education.

Mr. Ganow announced there was a brief executive session for Safety and Personnel 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, September 18, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. in room 102 at the Jr. High School

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, September 18, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, September 25, 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. Zimmerman, second by Mr. Koennecker 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