

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on September 14, 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 September 14, 2020.

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 Ms. Bowman, Mr. Falgiatore, Mr. Ganow (via Zoom), Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris (left the meeting at 8:53), 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, one reporter, and three citizens with an additional 92 citizens who attended the meeting via Zoom

Under presentations, Dr. Orner gave an update on the transition to in-person learning. Principals and members of the technology department gave a report on the success and challenges of the first week of remote learning.

Ms. Gaido and Mr. Brooks gave an athletics update.

Under visitors' comments for agenda items only, Kelly O'Donnell, Parkesburg, said the principals and teachers have done a phenomenal job this week with remote learning. She said her son has been engaged and it has exceeded her expectations. She expressed her desire to keep learning remotely until later in the year, possibly December.

Kate Thomas, Parkesburg, thanked administration and teachers for the amazing week her daughter had in remote learning. She expressed her concerns with the technology issues.

Toni Trainor, West Fallowfield, thanked Ms. Gaido on her efforts regarding sports. She said having the outlet of sports in virtual learning is helpful and has given the students hope.

Under information items, the child rearing leave request for the 2020-2021 school year for Ms. Samantha Kelly be corrected to September 1, 2020 through March 10, 2021. (Ms. Kelly is a Spanish teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.)

The child rearing leave request for the 2020-2021 school year for Ms. Shelley Leonard be corrected to September 1, 2020 through April 29, 2021. (Ms. Leonard is a science teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School.)

Ms. Megan Hood will transfer from a second grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center to OVA teacher on assignment for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Nick Kluge will transfer from a learning support teacher at the Octorara Elementary School to OVA teacher on assignment for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the September 21, 2020 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Policy 707 *Use of Public School Facilities*, second reading.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the agreement between CRITICARE and the Octorara School District through June 30, 2022.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of school bus drivers employed by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2020-2021 school year.

- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of school bus runs by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2020-2021 school year.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Transportation Contract between the Linville Hill Mennonite School and the Octorara Area School District for the 2020-2021 school year.
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP as the District solicitor for the 2020-2021 school year.
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the lease agreement with Xerox for a copy machine for CTE at the Sr. High School.
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the agreement between the Octorara Area School District and Centreville Layton School for student "A".
- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors vote for the following PSBA officers:
 - President Elect – David Hein
 - Vice-President – Sabrina Backer
 - Vice-President – Daniel O’Keefe
 - Treasurer – Michael Gossert
 - Section 2 Advisor – Aimee Kemick
 - Section 4 Advisor – Brian Petula
 - Section 6 Advisor – Andrea Christoff
 - PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee– Michael Faccineetto
 - PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee – Marianne Neel
 - Form Steering Committee – Stephen Skrocki
 - Form Steering Committee – Tracy Long

} Vote for 2

} Vote for 2

Resignation Approvals:

- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Tammy Simon as an instructional assistant for the Octorara Virtual Academy-PM Program effective August 31, 2020. (Ms Simon has accepted the position of Business Education teacher for the District.)
- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Ms. Annamarie Vnucak as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School effective September 1, 2020. (Hired September 29, 2005)
- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Paula Spicher as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 19, 2020. (Hired September 21, 2020)
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Taylar Nines as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 14, 2020. (Hired November 18, 2019)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Amanda Hamilton as a cafeteria employee effective August 13, 2020. (Hired September 17, 2018)
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Maria Miller as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective September 2, 2020. (Hired September 17, 2012)

- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Blake Aponte as JV softball coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 29, 2020. (Hired for the 2017-2018 school year)
- Q. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. Todd Lease as 7th grade baseball coach at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 25, 2020. (Hired for the 2019-2020 school year)

Hiring Approvals:

- R. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Joshua Belford as a long term substitute health and P/E teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective September 8, 2020 through November 9, 2020. Mr. Belford's rate will be \$140 per day. (Mr. Belford is replacing a family medical leave.)
- S. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Lisa Budzik as a long term substitute first grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 31, 2020 through December 23, 2020. Ms. Budzik's rate will be \$140 per day. (Ms. Budzik is a current employee and is replacing a medical leave.)
- T. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Mary Thomas as a long term substitute kindergarten teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Thomas' salary will be \$52,617 which is Step 18 to Max of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing a medical leave.)
- U. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Adrienne Blackerby as a long term substitute fifth grade teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective September 18, 2020 through October 30, 2020. Ms. Blackerby's rate will be \$140 per day. (Replacing a medical leave.)
- V. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Mr. Grant Pusey as a long term substitute ELA teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 31, 2020 through January 27, 2021. Mr. Pusey's salary will be \$52,617 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing a medical leave.)
- W. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Maggie Imms as a long term substitute learning support teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective August 31, 2020 through October 16, 2020. Ms. Imms' rate will be \$140 per day. (Replacing a medical leave.)
- X. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Lisa Hillman as a long term substitute second grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Hillman's salary will be \$52,617 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Ms. Hillman is an approved substitute and will be replacing Megan Hood who transferred to OVA teacher on assignment.)
- Y. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Lisa Rohrer as a long term substitute second grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 31, 2020 through January 27, 2021. Ms. Rohrer's salary will be \$52,617 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Ms. Rohrer is a current employee and is replacing Tim Ergler who is on sabbatical leave.)
- Z. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Lori Wendling as a long term substitute Spanish teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 31, 2020 through March 10, 2021. Ms. Wendling's salary will be \$52,617 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing Samantha Kelley who is on child rearing leave.)

- AA. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Olivia Miller as a long term substitute science teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 31, 2020 through April 29, 2021. Ms. Miller's rate will be \$52,617 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing Shelley Leonard who is on child rearing leave.)
- BB. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Kristan Eannone as a long term substitute first grade teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 31, 2020 through October 9, 2020. Ms. Eannone's rate will be \$140 per day. (Replacing a FFCRA leave.)
- CC. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Rachel Blomiley as a long term substitute third grade teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 31, 2020 through October 9, 2020. Ms. Blomiley's rate will be \$140 per day. (Replacing a FFCRA leave.)
- DD. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Lisa Fontanes as a long term substitute fifth grade teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective August 31, 2020 through October 9, 2020. Ms. Fontanes' rate will be \$140 per day. (Replacing a FFCRA leave.)
- EE. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve Ms. Allie Moffett as a health and P/E teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 31, 2020 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Moffett's salary will be \$52,617 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Replacing Deb Feather who retired.)
- FF. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of mentor supplemental contracts for the 2020-2021 school year.
- GG. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year:
- Mackenzie Bolduc, Emergency
 - Vicki Dixon, Instructional Pre-K-4
 - Lisa Fontanes, Elementary K-6
 - Lisa Hillman, Elementary K-6
 - Samantha Norris, Instructional
 - Lori Wendling, Emergency
 - Tina Zurcher, Art

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported the Committee discussed Policy 707 *Use of Public School Facilities* and Policy 710 *Use of Facilities by Staff*.

Under the Facilities Committee Report, Mr. Curtis reported the Committee was given an update on completed projects and discussed tree removal, storm damage, PLC fire hydrants repairs, PLC roof repairs, additional space needed at the Chester County Training Facility, and Freedom Life rental.

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

Under administrator comments, Ms. Lease, Mr. Dikun, Dr. Haller, and Mr. Brooks shared their buildings' positive experiences with teachers and students in remote learning along with success in troubleshooting problems with technology. Principals thanked the staff and parents for their hard work and patience.

Ms. McNamara said the CTE programs are running with positive feedback. Students in the programs are getting OSHA certifications during the time they cannot be physically present in their lab.

Dr. Orner announced Atglen will be having Community Day this Saturday, September 19. Octorara will have an information booth at the event. She said it has been a different, but successful, start to the school year and thanked the leadership team for working hard to get it done.

Under Board comments, Mr. Zimmerman thanked the teachers and administration. He said teachers are doing a good job at keeping students interested and involved. He thanked Ms. Gaido for the hard work she is putting in for the student athletes.

Ms. Bowman thanked everyone for their graciousness and patience. She acknowledged there are growing pains but she is proud of the way people are working through it and supporting each other.

Mr. Fox echoed the thanks to the administrative team, teachers, and support staff who came together to make the start of the school year a success. Mr. Fox said the highlight of the staff opening day meeting was seeing the principals rewarding their staff with a golden apple for their work last spring.

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

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, September 14, 2020 – Following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, September 21, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, September 21, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, September 28, 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 9:22 p.m. on motion of Ms. Bowman, 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