

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on September 20, 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 September 20, 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, Mr. Ganow, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Koennecker, Mr. Norris, Ms. Yelovich, and Mr. Zimmerman via Zoom. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team; Paige Linnenbaugh, student representative; one reporter; 56 citizens; and 72 citizens via Zoom.

The minutes of the Work Session of August 9, 2021, the Regular Meeting of August 16, 2021, and the Special Meeting of August 17, 2021 were approved on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present.

Under presentations, Dr. Tachau presented Title I Schoolwide Plans.

There were no information items.

The Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes, was approved on motion of Mr. Hurley, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present. (Appendix A-9/20/21)

A list of bills for the General Fund totaling \$3,249,595.12; Cafeteria Fund totaling \$799.01, Capital Projects totaling \$297,008.64, and Capital Reserve totaling \$0.00 of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix B-9/20/21, were approved and ordered paid on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present.

There were no visitors' comments for agenda items only.

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the list of school bus drivers employed by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year. (Appendix C-9/20/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the list of school bus runs by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year. (Appendix D-9/20/21)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Title I Schoolwide Plans for the Octorara Primary Learning Center, the Octorara Elementary School, and the Octorara Intermediate School. (Appendix E-9/20/21)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present except Mr. Ganow and Mr. Falgiatore who voted no, the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Kegel Kelin Litts & Lord LLP as the District solicitor for the 2021-2022 school year. (Appendix F-9/20/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Falgiatore and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Waiver Agreement and Release contracts for student "A", student "B", and student "C". (Appendix G-9/20/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the grant from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for \$2,016.57 to purchase a UV system to improve the aquatic system in the agriculture education classroom. (Appendix H-9/20/21)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following policies, first 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

719manned Aircraft Systems – Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles - Drones

(Appendix I-9/20/21)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors voted for the following PSBA officers:

President Elect – David Schaap

Vice-President – Allison Mathis

East Zone Representative – Edward Brown

PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee – Richard Frerichs

PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee – William LaCoff

PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee – Nathan Mains

Forum Steering Committee – Jennifer Davidson

Forum Steering Committee – Bethanne Zeigler

Forum Steering Committee – Jaime Lynn Zimerofsky

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Falgiatore and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Samantha Kelly as a Spanish teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective TBD. (Hired September 15, 2014)

On motion of Mr. Bowman, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Mr. Robert Knecht as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Virtual Academy effective August 31, 2021. (Hired August 17, 2020)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Robin Sockoloskie as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 20, 2021. (Hired March 27, 2000)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Janna Proud as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective September 1, 2021. (Hired July 19, 2021)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Stephanie Chesnet as an ESL instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 16, 2021. (Hired February 18, 2019)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Wendy Nellius as a cafeteria employee effective August 13, 2021. (Hired January 16, 2012)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Brenda Simons as a cafeteria employee effective August 19, 2021. (Hired July 19, 2021)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Caysie Calder as a long term substitute learning support teacher at the Octorara Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Calder's salary will be \$53,267.00 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's Scale. (Replacing Shauna McAlister who transferred to a 3rd grade Elementary Itinerant Acceleration Teacher on Assignment for one year.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Lisa Gerber as a substitute music teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 24, 2021 through September 24, 2021. Ms. Gerber's rate will be \$150 per day. (Replacing a medical leave.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Hannah Dieringer as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 23, 2021. Ms. Dieringer's rate will be \$12.65 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Janna Proud who resigned.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Ketaurah Caldwell as a health/PE instructional assistant at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective TBD pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Caldwell's rate will be \$11.84 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Elizabeth Hingle who resigned.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Michele Famiano as a cafeteria employee effective September 7, 2021. Ms. Famiano's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Nikki Irwin who resigned.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Joy Cann as a cafeteria employee effective August 23, 2021. Ms. Cann's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for four hours per day. (Replacing Dawn Miles who resigned.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present except Mr. Koennecker who abstained the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year

- Lisa Budzik, Early Childhood
- Elizabeth Yu, Mathematics 7-12
- Kayla Brown, Emergency
- Camryn Koennecker, Emergency
- Grace Puffenberger, PK-4
- Candace Mulderig, nurse

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following substitute support staff for the 2021-2022 school year:

Janna Proud, instructional assistant
Robin Sockoloskie, instructional assistant

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

Ben Creighton	From M+15 (\$66,272) to M+30 (\$68,262)	Step 13 to MAX
Scott Cullen	From M+30 (\$79,831) to M+45 (\$82,483)	Step 5 to MAX
Kathleen Heller	From M+45 (\$80,881) to M+60 (\$83,514)	Step 6 to MAX
Tara Murdock	From M+45 (\$72,871) to M+60 (\$76,061)	Step 11 to MAX
Samantha Pittman	From M+15 (\$64,600) to M+30 (\$66,718)	Step 15 to MAX

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present except Mr. Koennecker who abstained the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year:

Samantha Pittmann	Jr. High Field Hockey Coach	4 pts @ \$620	\$2,480
Camryn Koennecker	JV Softball 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 approved the Independent Contractor Agreements for the following:

Sarah Goe
Valerie Piskorski
Kristine Kristman Jarrett

(Appendix J-9/20/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the Transportation Contract between the Linville Hill Mennonite School and the Octorara Area School District for the 2021-2022 school year. (Appendix K-9/20/21)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Norris and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Alivia Ellingsworth as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School effective September 20, 2021 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Ellingsworth's rate will be \$11.02 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Jennifer Young who resigned.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Nicole Norton as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective TBD pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Norton's rate will be \$12.65 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Robin Sockoloskie who resigned.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Candace Mulderig for contact tracing support for the District. Ms. Mulderig's rate will be \$30 per hour for 5.75 hours per day.

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the transfer of the following lunch playground supervisors at 3 hours per day to instructional assistants at 5.75 hours per day effective August 30, 2021:

Bianca Cortez (PLC) from \$9.50 to \$11.02 per hour

Phyllis March (PLC) no increase in rate
Yesenia Vasquez (PLC) from \$9.50 to \$11.02 per hour
Leisly Semanyk (PLC) from \$9.50 to \$11.02 per hour
Bonita DeForest (OIS) from \$9.50 to \$11.02 per hour
Maria Sosa (OIS) from \$9.95 to \$11.02 per hour
Holly Strogan (OIS) from \$9.95 to \$11.02 per hour

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the 2021-2022 supplemental mentor roster. (Appendix L-9/20/21)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the resignation of Ms. Melanie Schillinger as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective September 13, 2021. (Hired August 16, 2021)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved, with line four struck, the Contract for the Transportation of School Pupils with Faithful Transportation, LLC effective September 16, 2021 through June 30, 2022. (Appendix M-9/20/21)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved an overnight trip for 6-8 FFA students to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 26 – October 30, 2021.

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Koennecker and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors accepted the donation of \$500 each to the Octorara Primary Learning Center and the Octorara Elementary School from Cochranville United Methodist church for school supplies for students.

Under the Education Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported on the meeting held on August 23, 2021. The committee discussed the summer programs, OABEST joining with Parkesburg's Sesquicentennial celebration, Comprehensive Plan, and equity.

Under the Policy Committee Report, Ms. Bowman reported on the meeting held on September 13, 2021. The committee discussed the first readings of the 700 series.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting held on September 13, 2021. The committee discussed summer projects, PLC water heater, carpet replacement in the OES library and music room, baseball scoreboards, athletic field study, storm damage, additional cleaning, exhaust hood and suppression system for the culinary CTE program.

Under the Finance Committee Report, Mr. Ganow said the committee met before this meeting and discussed the audit, grant revenue, Act 1 index, Linville Hill bus contract, ACCESS reporting, athletic study proposal, campus radios, and cell tower agreement.

Under the CCIU Board Representative Report, Mr. Norris reported on the meeting held on August 18, 2021.

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

Under visitor's comments for items in general, Karen Williamson, Christiana Boro and second grade teacher, read excerpts from her job description and expressed concerns on students wearing masks.

Katie Klingensmith, Parkesburg, gave statistics on pediatric COVID cases and expressed her approval of the mask mandate.

Molly Mastrippolito, Highland Township, expressed concerns about students wearing masks.

Sophia and Gianna Falgiatore, Atglen and sixth grade students, expressed their concerns about wearing masks.

Darla Petty, Sadsbury Township, expressed concerns about students wearing masks.

Kelly Hayes, East Fallowfield, expressed concerns about students wearing masks.

Kristin Weber, West Fallowfield, expressed concerns about students wearing masks.

Toni Trainor, West Fallowfield, asked when we will receive the information from the ESSER report.

Allison Thaler, Christiana Boro, expressed her approval of the mask mandate.

Under administrator comments and announcements, Ms. Lease thanked Cochranville United Methodist Church for their donation for student supplies. She thanked Nulls Towing and Penningtonville Presbyterian Church for the backpacks and supplies. She announced PTO is doing a Fund Walk on October 1.

Mr. Dikun also thanked Cochranville United Methodist Church, Nulls Towing, and Penningtonville Presbyterian Church. He announced OES therapy dog training will begin the end of October or the beginning of November. There will be a presentation at the Education Committee meeting on September 27.

Dr. Haller said it has been a good start to the school year and the students are doing well, being kind to each other, and enjoying being back in school. He announced Tier 2 interventions have begun and he is looking forward to a great school year.

Dr. Propper gave highlights of the opening of the 2021-2022 school year. He said administration is focusing on changing the climate and culture of the building. He discussed the sports teams and the hard work of the athletes. Dr. Propper announced the change in Back to School Night – it will be one night on September 23, 2021 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. He announced homecoming events will be held on October 1st and 2nd that will include spirit week, Hall of Fame, parade, athletic events, and a dance. Virtual parent/teacher conferences will be held on October 14 and 21.

Dr. Orner said the Board and administration understand the communities' frustration. She asked that parents seeking mask exemptions do so by using the 504 exemption process and set up a conference with Mr. Hilbolt and herself to see how to best support the needs of their student. Administration stands ready to cooperate and collaborate to find solutions. Parent meetings need to be held prior to October 1, 2021. Dr. Orner shared superintendents across the state have been seeking answers from the Health Department for several weeks. Lancaster County superintendents have a meeting with Sherry Smith, Secretary of Education Deputy, to discuss how the order from the Department of Health has impacted schools. She said if we were still using the OASD Health and Safety plan that was approved six weeks ago, she would be recommending masks be worn at all times as we have more cases and 52 students in quarantine – there is no easy solution. Dr. Orner said she represented Octorara at Atglen Community Day on Saturday and will be at Final Friday in Parkesburg this Friday. She invited community members to stop by the Octorara tent.

Under Board comments, Mr. Falgiatore said the Board needs to be responsive to the people. Mr. Falgiatore said he would like to make a motion that the district goes back to the Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Ganow said the motion would be out of order – the Board does not make motions during Board comments.

Mr. Fox said the Board will look at possibly adding it to a future agenda – Mr. Fox said he personally did not want that item on an agenda.

Mr. Norris shared a story about a young mother with COVID. He said it is up to the Board to compromise both views and do what is best based on the legal position and the risk for the District.

Mr. Fox said he took some members of the class of 1985 on a tour of the Jr./Sr. High for their reunion.

Mr. Fox announced the following meetings that were held:

Executive Session for Safety and Security – Monday, August 23, 2021 – 8:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Executive Session for Legal Matters – Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:10 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room

Executive Session for Legal Matters – Friday, September 17, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom

Mr. Fox announced the following upcoming meetings:

Executive Session for Personnel – Monday, September 20, 2020 – Following the Regular Meeting in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, September 27, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Policy Committee Meeting – Monday, October 11, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Facility Committee Meeting – Monday, October 11, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Work Session – Monday, October 11, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room/Zoom

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

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Ms. Bowman 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
2021-2022**

<u>Cash Balance as of July 31, 2021</u>		\$	1,816,558.43
<u>Receipts Deposited:</u>			
Revenue - (Tax Receipts, State Transfers)	\$	25,650,085.24	
Other Receipts - (Retiree Medical Payments, Misc.)		9,926.07	
Checking Account Interest		57.15	
Accounts Receivable		307,695.84	
Transfer in from Investments		0.00	
		25,967,764.30	
Total Available			\$ 27,784,322.73
<u>Disbursements:</u>			
Net Payroll	\$	906,091.78	
Accounts Payable		2,422,358.77	
Transfer to Investments		8,000,000.00	
		11,328,450.55	
General Fund Cash as of August 31, 2021			\$ 16,455,872.18
<u>Investments Outstanding</u>			
Beginning Balance PSDLAF Investment Account	\$		9,425,685.91
Beginning Balance Fulton Money Market			7,866,956.46
Earnings on PSDLAF Investment Account			1,528.92
Earnings on Fulton Money Market			103.80
Net Transfers			8,000,000.00
			-
Total General Fund Cash and Investments as of August 31, 2021			\$ 41,750,147.27

For the September 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary
Octorara Board of School Directors