

# OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Minutes of Board Meeting Held on September 12, 2022

The Work Session of the Octorara Area School Board was held in the Octorara Area Jr./Sr. High School Multi-Purpose Room on September 12, 2022.

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. Also present were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary; Dr. Orner, Superintendent; Mr. Curtis, Business Manager; members of the administrative team and three visitors.

Under presentations, Mr. Fox presented, as a requirement of PA code, information regarding the results of the 2020 census to see if there is a need to change the Board regions.

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

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Kaitlyn Glidewell as a music teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 23, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Glidewell's salary will be \$54,416 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Replacing Doreen Steinmacher who resigned.)

On motion of Mr. Norris, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Emily Creighton as a long term substitute ESL teacher at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 23, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year. Ms. Creighton's salary will be \$54,416 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Replacing Richard Baker who resigned.)

On motion of Mr. Zimmerman, second by Ms. Yelovich and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Shannon Owens as a long term substitute kindergarten teacher at the Octorara Primary Learning Center effective August 23, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Owens' salary will be \$69,005 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Master's +45 scale. (Replacing a medical leave.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Melissa Friedman as a special education teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective August 23, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Friedman's salary will be \$54,416 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Replacing Heather Kramer who transferred.)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Mr. Ganow and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Brooke Maldonado as a long term substitute special education teacher at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 23, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Maldonado's salary will be \$56,751 which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's +15 scale. (Replacing Shanna McAllister who transferred.)

On motion of Mr. Koennecker, second by Ms. Bowman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Reina Eckman as a long term substitute 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at the Octorara Intermediate School effective August 23, 2022 through January 18, 2023 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Eckman's

salary will be \$54,416 pro-rated which is Step 18 to MAX of the Bachelor's scale. (Replacing Amanda King who is on child rearing leave.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Luz Sosa as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Elementary School effective August 29, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Sosa's rate will be \$15.00 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Amanda Schmidt who resigned.)

On motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved Ms. Jane Blankenhagen as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Intermediate School effective August 29, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District. Ms. Blankenhagen's rate will be \$17.00 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Elizabeth Monk/Sarvis 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. Dana Fogg 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. Fogg's rate will be \$17.00 per hour for 5.75 hours per day. (Replacing Ketaurah Caldwell who transferred.)

On motion of Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Hurley and approval of all members present the Octorara Board of School Directors approved the following cafeteria employees effective August 29, 2022 pending completion of employee related documents required by law and the District:

- April Detwiler - \$15.00 per hour – replacing Wendy Nellius
- Deborah Czepiel - \$15.00 per hour – replacing Stormy Umble
- Rosita Taylor - \$15.00 per hour – replacing Bianca Adorno

Mr. Fox presented the following items for action at the September 19, 2022 Board meeting:

- A. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of school bus drivers employed by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2022-2023 school year.
- B. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the list of school bus runs by Althouse Transportation, Inc. for the 2022-2023 school year.
- C. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2022-2023 Octorara Area School District Organizational Chart.
- D. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Contract for the Transportation of School Pupils with Faithful Transportation, LLC effective September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
- E. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Service Agreement with the Chester County Intermediate Unit for System Design Benchmarking and LIEP Development.
- F. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the Waiver Agreement and Release for student "A".
- G. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the updated Agreement for Consulting Services with The Devereux Foundation for Mental Health Specialists and Social Work Services.
- H. That the Octorara Board of School Directors vote for the following PSBA officers:

President Elect – Michael Gossert  
 Vice-President – Allison Mathis  
 Section E4 Advisor – Amy Goldman  
 PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee – Kathy Swope  
 PSBA Insurance Trust Trustee – Roberta Marcus } V

- I. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the 2022-2023 Octorara Area Career & Technical Education Occupational Advisory Committee.
- J. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept 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.

Resignation Approvals:

- K. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation for purpose of retirement of Mr. William Ray as custodian effective October 31, 2022. (Hired November 2, 1992)
- L. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Kaitlyn McKinley as custodian effective September 14, 2022. (Hired February 18, 2019)
- M. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. Andrew Chesnet as an instructional assistant at the Octorara Jr./Sr. High School effective August 29, 2022. (Hired August 15, 2022)
- N. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Matthew Livingood as IYPT assistant advisor effective September 1, 2022. (Hired for the 2017-2018 school year)
- O. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Mr. David Baker as Jr. High girls’ basketball coach effective September 6, 2022. (Hired for the 2021-2022 school year)
- P. That the Octorara Board of School Directors accept the resignation of Ms. Sue Boninu as Jr. High assistant baseball coach effective August 4, 2022. (Hired for the 2021-2022 school year)
- Q. That the Octorara Board of School Directors acknowledge the no-call, no-show for Ms. Stephanie King as a cafeteria employee effective August 15, 2022. (Hired August 15, 2022)

Hiring Approvals:

- R. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year:
  - Margaret (Peggy) Imms, Emergency
  - Danielle Good, Emergency
  - Rachael Blomiley, Emergency
  - Sara Herman, Early Childhood
  - Camryn Koennecker, Emergency
  - Kensington Denlinger, Emergency
  - Heidi Wertz, Elementary, Special Education
  - Sara Daigle, Emergency
  - Chelsea Curry, Emergency
- S. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following supplemental contract for the 2022-2023 school year:

- T. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the change in rate for Ms. Renee Yarrish from \$16.57 per hour to \$17.40 per hour. Ms. Yarrish is an instructional assistant at the Octorara Primary Learning Center.
- U. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the transfer for Ms. Brittany Myers from cafeteria employee to cafeteria site leader effective August 23, 2022. Ms. Myers' rate will be \$16.00 per hour for 5.75 hours per day.
- V. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve a salary adjustment for Ms. Patty Steyer from Bachelor's to Master's +15, Step 17 to MAX. Ms. Steyer's adjusted salary will be \$64,208.
- W. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the change in days worked for Ms. Melissa Fanelli from 198 days per year to 188 days per year. Ms. Fanelli is the Intervention Specialist at the Octorara Intermediate School.
- X. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the change in supplemental points from 8 points to 12 points for Mr. William McWatters. Mr. McWatters is the advisor for IYPT and will assume the additional position of assistant advisor upon Mr. Livingood's resignation.
- Y. That the Octorara Board of School Directors approve the following changes in salary due to graduate credits earned:

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|------------------|---|----------------|
| Danielle Kelley  | From B+15 (\$59,778) to M (\$61,715)    | Step 14 to MAX |
| Patrick Lauletta | From M+30 (\$81,207) to M+45 (\$83,895) | Step 5 to MAX  |
| Kyle Whary       | From M+30 (74,503) to M+45 (\$77,466)   | Step 9 to MAX  |

Under the Policy Committee Report, Mr. Fox reported the committee discussed the previous first reading of policy 226.1 *Video Surveillance* and how it is related to existing policies 709 *Building Security* and 810.2 *Transportation – Video/Audio Recording*. The committee also discussed the difference between policy and administrative regulations.

Under the Facility Committee Report, Mr. Norris reported the committee was given an update on summer projects and discussed exterior door replacement, replacing the skidster, stadium sound system replacement, athletic field study, good lead test results, custodial positions, and the water pressure problem from last week. The committee was also given an explanation on Act 57 regarding late fees on tax bills.

There were no other items/concerns.

Under visitors' comments for items in general, Joelyn Metzler, West Sadsbury, thanked the Board for all they do. She expressed her concern with the administrative guidelines for transgender students and the lack of parental notification.

Under administrator comments, Mr. Dikun said the school year has gotten off to a great start at the OES. He thanked Cochranville Methodist Church for their donation and discussed possible plans for rescheduling Back-to-School Night for the OES.

Dr. Haller said the OIS has also had a great start to the new year. He announced they have kicked off the Discovery Education Program and students are enjoying the lessons with positive feedback from parents. He will give a more in-depth look at the Discovery Program at an upcoming Education Committee meeting.

Dr. Propper echoed the great start to the new year for the Jr./Sr. High. He acknowledged the great work ethic of custodian, William Ray and wished him the best in retirement. He announced Back-to-School Night will be held on September 22 with the Spanish speaking families Back-to-School Night to be held on September 29. Homecoming is next week with daily school spirit activities, Hall of Fame induction assembly on Friday, Homecoming Parade on Friday evening followed by the football game against Conrad Weiser. Half-time activities include announcing the parade float winners and the Homecoming King and Queen. Saturday activities include athletic events and the dance in the evening. Dr. Propper plans on getting the first newsletter of the year out to parents this week.

Mr. Norris asked how the policy for no cell phones was going.

Dr. Propper said it is going well, students are well adjusted with very few problems with cell phone usage. He said the increased adult presence in the hallways to monitor student traffic has been a wonderful addition this year.

Mr. Falgiatore asked since the cell phone policy is going well, is there any thought to letting students use their cell phones in study hall and in the hallways.

Dr. Propper said not this year because of the specific reasons why the policy was put in place. Students may carry their phones, they may not use them during the day. Students would be able to use their phone if an emergency necessitated their using it. Students are allowed to use their cell phones on the bus.

Ms. McNamara said the Homeland Security Program Back-to-School Night will be held on September 22 one hour prior to the Jr./Sr. High Back-to-School Night.

Dr. Orner announced the annual energy curtailment will take place tomorrow; students in grades 7-12 will dismiss at 12:30 and students in grades K-6 will dismiss at 1:30. She invited the public to stop by the OASD tent at the Atglen Community Day on Saturday, September 17 – Ms. Peticca will also be there with games for kids. Dr. Orner said superintendents learned last week that breakfast will be free for students in the Commonwealth. The only change for Octorara will be who is paying the bill as breakfast is currently free for all students in the District. Dr. Orner shared an OASD brick/cornerstone that was dated 1956.

Under Board comments, Mr. Falgiatore requested an update on the Dad's on Patrol Program. Dr. Orner said the program has not been rolled out yet. Dr. Propper is working with Dwayne Walton from the Point to get the program started.

Mr. Falgiatore said in May he requested in writing from the solicitor how District policy supersedes the US Constitution in regards to cell phone confiscation. Dr. Orner and Dr. Propper reviewed the steps taken before the phone is confiscated. Mr. Falgiatore said no phones should be taken by force. Board members discussed having the solicitor present at the next Board meeting to discuss the issue.

Mr. Norris announced the band will participate in the Solanco parade on Wednesday evening.

Ms. Bowman referenced the video documentary sent by Dr. Orner on the dangers that lurk within the home with cell phones. She suggested the video be put on the website for parents to reference.

Mr. Fox announced the following meetings to be held:

Executive Session for Personnel and Safety/Security – Monday, September 12, 2022 – following the Work Session in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Finance Committee Meeting – September 19, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Monday, September 19, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

Education Committee Meeting – Monday, September 26, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. on motion of Mr. Ganow, second by Mr. Zimmerman and approval of all members present.

This Board meeting can be viewed in its entirety on [www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD](http://www.youtube.com/user/OctoraraAreaSD).

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
Octorara Board of School Directors