

August 5, 2019

The regular meeting of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 7:07 PM in the library of the High School by the Superintendent, Mark Stamm.

The meeting opened with a Moment of Silence and Pledge to the Flag.

Board Members Present: Bachman, Bingham, Bowman, Engel, Miller, Molino, and Persun.

Others Present: Mark Stamm – Superintendent, Michele Loomis – Elementary Principal, Bill Reifsnnyder – Maintenance Director, Rob Houseknecht, Athletic Director, Fred Holland – Solicitor, and Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager.

Visitors: Nicole Hockman, Linda Snyder, Todd Snyder, Griffin Molino, Grady Molino, Tayge Molino, Melissa Bradley, Cindy Sullivan, Joe Hamm, Jackie Hamm, Karen Stugart, Alana Stugart, Scott Stugart, Emily Wagner, Michael Allison, Sue Bastian, Lisa Arp, Megan Bloom, Delores Masser, Maddie Bastian, Jennafer Bowman, Liz Steppe, Natalya Steppe, Mark Godfrey, John Pulver, Bill Miller, Hayes McEwen, Josh Gardner, Jeff Richards, Tom Lorson, Aaron Reidy, Daphne Branton, Adam Dincher, Pam Reifsnnyder, Jaimee Kopp, Terry Kopp, Amy Pregent, Coleman Gregory – Larson Design Group, Vern McKissick and Trina Gribble – McKissick Associates, and Mark Maroney – Sun Gazette.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an executive session prior to the board meeting regarding legal matters. No action will result from this meeting.

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

With the absence of the President and Vice President, Superintendent Mark Stamm asked for nominations for Temporary President. A motion to appoint Nathan Miller as temporary president was moved by Bingham, second by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION

The board was presented with a letter of resignation from Board Member, Christopher Branton, from his position of school director effective August 5, 2019. A motion to accept the letter of resignation was moved by Bachman, seconded by Bingham. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

DECISION ABOUT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Miller presented three options on how to proceed with the vacant President position with the resignation of Branton. The board could hold an election during this board meeting; they could defer the election until the August 19, 2019 meeting; or they could allow the Vice President, Anthony, to assume the duties of President until the reorganization meeting in December 2019. A motion to defer the election of President until the August 19, 2019 meeting was moved by Engel, seconded by Persun. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was moved by Persun, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE GENERAL FUND BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$1,146,501.95 as funds become available was moved by Bingham, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE FOOD SERVICE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the Food Service Fund in the amount of \$50,746.72 as funds become available was moved by Bachman, seconded by Persun. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE CAPITAL RESERVE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$28,132.00 as funds become available was moved by Persun, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2019, as written was moved by Bachman, seconded by Bingham. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

FEASIBILITY STUDY

Vern McKissick and Trina Gribble from McKissick Associates presented an update of Phase 2 of the feasibility study. Phase 2 was a process in which options were generated for improvement of building utilization and implementation of 21st Century learning modalities across K12. The Steering Committee established the criteria for ranking the options generated. Eleven options were developed that were grouped into three major areas: 1. Upgrade existing facilities; 2. Close Rommelt Elementary and/or Central Elementary and consolidate into 2 district buildings; or 3. Build a new facility and close one existing facility. The resulting preferred building option was Option 2B which creates a K-6, 7-12 alignment which will close Rommelt Elementary and create an addition at Central Elementary. For Athletic Fields, the options were grouped into two major areas: 1. Update and repair existing facilities or 2. Build new multi-sport stadium and address all other areas. The preferred Athletic Field Option is to perform upgrades at the existing on-site stadium and perform improvements at the existing baseball and softball fields. The Soccer Field facility and track will be addressed in a future study. The next step will be Phase 3 – Option Refinement in which a final plan will be prepared.

CONFERENCE REQUEST

A motion to approve conference requests was moved by Persun, seconded by Molino:

- Lisa Laidacker to the School Counselor Professional Learning Opportunity Conference at BLAST IU 17 in Williamsport, PA on October 25, 2019, January 24, 2020 and March 27, 2020.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

RESIGNATION

A motion to approve resignations was moved by Bachman, seconded by Persun:

- Sara Caputo from her Instructional Paraprofessional position effective July 5, 2019.
- Naomi Decker from her Instructional Paraprofessional position effective July 16, 2019.
- Toni Hiller from her Food Service position effective July 16, 2019.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT

A motion to approve Leanne Hill as Drama Director for the 2019-2020 school year was moved by Bingham, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

A motion to approve the employment of Food Service employees was moved by Bachman, seconded by Persun:

- Lynda Engel at the Junior Senior High School for 3 hours per day at a rate of \$12.18 per hour.
- Jacquelyn Shifflet at the Junior Senior High School for 3 hours per day at a rate of \$12.18 per hour.
- Melissa Manley at Central Elementary for 6.5 hours per day at a rate of \$12.18 per hour.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

A motion to approve the employment of assistant coaches and their stipends and volunteer coaches for the 2019 season was moved by Persun, seconded by Bachman:

- Football: Chris Lusk as 1st Assistant at \$3,899; Chris Engler as 2nd Assistant at \$2,733; Randy Boone as 3rd Assistant at \$2,451; Sam Buck as 4th Assistant at \$2,451; Alex Peluso as Jr High Head Coach at \$2,897 and Rocco Bausinger as 5th Assistant at \$2,451. Volunteers: Rich Schonewolf; Barth Carson; Ryan Barnes; and Dominick Bragalone.
- Girls' Tennis: Kent Young as Assistant Coach at \$2,172. Volunteer: John Dörner.
- Girls' Volleyball: Terry Packard as Assistant Coach at \$2,507. Volunteers: Darci Warriner and Lynn Fessler.
- Girls' Soccer: Dan Solley as Assistant Coach at \$2,836 and Jane House as Assistant Coach at \$1,839.
- Cheerleading: Mackenzie Miller as 1st Assistant at \$2,507; Heather Bower as Junior High Head Coach at \$2,173; and Heather Hicks as Junior High Assistant Coach at \$1,839.
- Boys' Soccer: Adam Rubert as Assistant Coach at \$2,507. Volunteer: Manny Tsikitas.
- Cross Country Volunteer: Kerry Taylor.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

A motion to approve Fall Game Workers was moved by Bachman, seconded by Persun:

- Nancy Bieber, Steve Bieber, Stacie Bieber, Karen Geise, Fran Kropp, Christy Pinkerton, Dwight Woodley, Ron Hine, Jaimee Kopp, Doug Betz, Susan Albert, Scott Lowery, Erik Ranck, Mike Fogarty, Ned Shaw, Robert Shaw, Don Fullmer, Craig Kropp, and Terry Kopp.
- Ticket Sellers, Ticket Takers, Chains, Statisticians, Scorebook and Scoreboard are paid \$25 per game. Game Managers are paid \$35 per game.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

A motion to approve Security Staff for the 2019-2020 school year was moved by Bachman, seconded by Persun:

- Greg Forsburg, Terri Knecht, Dick Knecht, Ed March, Danny Reaser, Robert Perry, James Kavcic, Brenton Pflieger, Jason Young, and Mark Seube.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

SUBSTITUTES

A motion to approve substitutes for the 2019-2020 school year was moved by Bingham, seconded by Bachman:

- Certified Substitutes: Timothy Bachman, Megan Fox, Elisha Hertwig, Yvonne Lentz, Phillis McKernan, Sharon O'Malley, Alex Peluso, Richelle Sandford, Karin Waugh, Lauralyn Weisel, and Marjorie Wonderlich
- Classified Substitutes: Mae Allvord, Sharon Biber, Christine Bickel, Connie Bilby, Kelly Brooks, Rose Fausey, Chris Gottschall, Michelle Heim, Marilyn Huff, Terry Kopp, Holly Lyons, Crystal Smith, Gina Stoetzel, and Louise Waldman.

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Education Association and the District to allow use of Federal Title II Professional Development Funds from the 2018-2019 allocations for the purpose of creating new courses or substantial modifications to existing courses was moved by Bachman, seconded by Persun. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

JUSTICEWORKS YOUTHCARE BEHAVIORAL ANALYST AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the Behavioral Analyst Agreement with JusticeWorks YouthCare for the 2019-2020 school year to support the PBIS program, the elementary counselor, and the elementary administration to provide intensive behavioral support for the students at school and in the home was moved by Bachman, seconded by Bingham. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

JUSTICEWORKS YOUTHCARE ACT 48 PROGRAM PLACEMENT AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the agreement with JusticeWorks YouthCare for the use of alternative education for disruptive youth for the 2019-2020 school year was moved by Persun, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE POLICY 005 – FIRST READING

A motion to approve Policy 005 – First Reading was moved by Persun, seconded by Bachman.

A motion to table the approval of Policy 005 – First Reading was moved by Bowman, seconded by Molino. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE POLICIES – FIRST READING

A motion to approve Policies – First Reading was moved by Bachman, seconded by Persun:

- Policy 103 – Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment – School & Classroom Practices
- Policy 103.1 – Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities
- Policy 104 – Nondiscrimination/Discrimination Harassment – Employment Practices
- Policy 222 – Tobacco/Nicotine (Pupils)
- Policy 247 – Hazing
- Policy 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Policy 323 – Tobacco/Nicotine (Employees)
- Policy 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance
- Policy 707 – Use of School Facilities
- Policy 709 – Copy of Building Security
- Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-yes, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion to take from the table the motion to approve Scott Stugart as Junior High Softball Head Coach at a stipend of \$2,173 was moved by Bowman, seconded by Molino. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-abstain, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-abstain, motion carried.

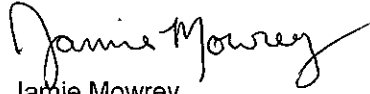
Roll call vote to approve Scott Stugart as Junior High Softball Head Coach: Bachman-abstain, Bingham-yes, Bowman-yes, Engel-abstain, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, and Miller-abstain, motion failed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There will be an executive session after the board meeting regarding legal matters. No action will result from this meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bachman, seconded by Bingham. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34PM.

Attest

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie Mowrey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary

August 1, 2019

Dear Dr. Stamm, and Board members:

Effective August 5, 2019, I am resigning my position as School Director for the South Williamsport Area School District. I have served on the board for the past 8 years and for 6 of those years it was an enjoyable experience and felt that I was serving the community to the best of my abilities.

For the last 2 years I have served as president of the board. While I knew it would be challenging, I had no idea of the effort that would be required. For the last six months, I have easily spent 20-30 hours per week on board issues. The constant conflict and personal attacks have spilled into my personnel life, and is beginning to affect my physical health. Two years ago, the board significantly changed, and I met with all members, both old and new, and hoped to form a cohesive board that would continue to serve the community. I have not been able to do that, and the board continues to become more and more divided. Personal agendas abound, and members do not want to follow traditional board procedures. This is the most dysfunctional group that I have ever been a part of and I do not have a solution to bring it together. One member refuses to speak to the Superintendent on any issues, EVER. Members question \$15 charges. No one trusts that a committee can perform their task in an unbiased manner. Basic accounting and math have to be explained repeatedly.

There are incredibly important decisions that will be made over the next few months, including new construction, a new teacher contract and a bond issue. The board needs to be united on issues of this magnitude, and I do not believe that this board is capable of doing that. The purpose of the board is to guide the school, set big picture goals, etc. We are unable to do this because we are constantly stuck in the every day minutiae of running the district and debating irrelevant topics. I would highly suggest that both current and future board members attend the PSBA training for new board members so that they can begin to understand the real purpose of a School Board.

I still believe that most members are well intentioned, and that the board can regain their purpose and find a way to become a functioning board that will serve both the community and the students. I just can not be a part of that board.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Branton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Chris Branton