

June 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 7:00 PM as a virtual meeting on the Zoom platform by the President, Nathan Miller.

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

Board Members Present: Bachman, Bowman, Cramer, Fiorini, McGinn, Miller, and Molino.

Others Present: Mark Stamm – Superintendent, Fred Holland – Solicitor, and Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager.

Visitors: Audrey Bear, Morgan Haas, Chris Molino, Emily Wagner, Kristin Bastian, Melissa Bradley, Michele Loomis, Scott Hill, Brenda Trimble, Kevin Eck, Jessica Kaledas, Robyn Rummings, Bill Reifsnnyder, Jesse Smith, Matt Eisley, Rob Houseknecht, Steve Rupert, Susan Zaydell, Lesa Hennigan, Amy Pregent, Tara McGlensey and Mike Reuther-SunGazette.

APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for April 2020 was moved by Fiorini, seconded by McGinn. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE GENERAL FUND BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$714,678.03 as funds become available was moved by Fiorini, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020, as written was moved by Cramer, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

BUDGET UPDATE

Jamie Mowrey, Business Manager, gave an update on the 2020/2021 budget. The Commonwealth approved their 2020/2021 budget which contains a 12 month budget for K-12 schools but only has a 5 month budget for all other sectors. Basic Education Subsidy, Special Education Subsidy, and Ready to Learn Block Grant were flat funded. Schools will receive exactly what they received in 2019/2020. They are not running the funds through formula so any changes in ADMS will not have an impact on our allocation. Homestead/Farmstead funds are gambling funds to help offset property taxes. There was an initial allocation provided to us on May 1; however, we then received notification that the allocation was wrong and would be cut by up to half. The Commonwealth managed to find funds to fill the gap, so our allocation will remain at the same level as the past. Federal CARES funding was passed through. In the past, the Commonwealth used federal funding to supplant or offset state funding. In this case, they passed in through as supplemental funding. These are one-time funds. The Commonwealth also made funds available for COVID-19 Disaster Emergency Health and Safety Grants. These funds replace the prior School Safety and Security Grants. These are one-time funds. We are planning on using these one-time funds to purchase iPads to go one-to-one, upgrade our wireless technology to support the iPads, potentially buy hot-spots, and purchase any PPE required for COVID-19.

In the proposed final budget that was approved on May 4, 2020, local earned income tax was decreased by 5%. Studies that were released show a drop in local revenue of 10%-25%, so we decreased local earned income tax by another 5%. After making that change, along with several others, we are showing a deficit of \$393,000. If we add back our lost revenue due to COVID-19 (\$316,000), our deficit would be

\$77,000. Our solution is to refinance our outstanding debt to offset the drop in revenue. If revenue does not drop by \$316,000, we will transfer more funds to Capital Reserve. If revenues drop more than \$316,000, we will transfer less to Capital Reserve. It is important to note that we are still showing that we will use \$77,000 of fund balance. We can't use budgetary relief from refinancing to cover operating expenses. We still have work to do in future years to get back to a balanced budget.

The final budget will be voted on at the June 15, 2020 board meeting.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO INCUR DEBT

A motion to approve a resolution to incur non-electoral debt pursuant to the Local Government Unit Debt Act, and to evidence such indebtedness by the issuance of its General Obligation Notes, Series of 2020, for the purpose of financing the current refunding of all or a portion of the remaining outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series AA of 2014, and to pay the costs and expenses of issuing, and possibly insuring, the Notes was moved by McGinn, seconded by Cramer. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bingham-absent, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-absent, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the South Williamsport Area School District and the Council 86, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO Local 660 (Association) pertaining to Vacation, Section 7 was moved by Cramer, seconded by Fiorini. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

KEYSTONE EXAM UPDATE

Dr. Stamm, Superintendent, provided an update on Keystone Exams. Students in Algebra 1, 10th Grade English, and 9th Grade Biology are required to take the Keystone Exams. The May 2020 exams were cancelled. PDE said the exams were not required. However, there is a 2017 law that requires students to take the exam for graduation. Keystone exams will be offered in September 2020 but there will be an opt out allowed. However, if they opt out, they can't graduate in the first 2 pathways. School Counselors are drafting letters to send home to students and families to explain their options.

GRADUATION CRITERIA CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE

A motion to remove the local graduation requirement of remediation completion for students who have not met the Keystone Exam "proficiency" threshold due to students being unable to participate in the make-up exam in May 2020 due to the mandatory school closure was moved by McGinn, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

CHILD BEARING/CHILD REARING LEAVE REQUEST

A motion to approve the early return request from employee #1007 regarding her leave request was moved by Cramer, seconded by Bachman. The employee was previously approved to be off through the end of the 2019/2020 school year. The employee returned on May 26, 2020 to prepare for the digital transition process for the 2020/2021 school year. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE POLICY 800 – FIRST READING

A motion to approve Policy 800, Student iPad Responsible Use, for first reading was moved by Bachman, seconded by Fiorini. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF POLICY 707

A motion to temporarily suspend Policy 707, Use of School Facilities, to suspend facility access to Class B, C and D organizations through December 31, 2020, was moved by McGinn, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

POLICY CHANGE – POLICY 237

A motion to revise Policy 237, Electronic Devices, to permit students to carry their cellular phones but require them to be turned off during the school day was moved by Cramer, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

REQUEST TO CANCEL BOARD MEETING DATE

A motion to cancel the July 6, 2020 board meeting and committee meeting was moved by Cramer, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Fiorini-yes, McGinn-yes, Miller-yes, and Molino-yes, motion carried.

Mark Stamm, Superintendent, provided an update about re-opening guidelines that were released by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. A committee will be formed to create district guidelines for re-opening school in the fall.

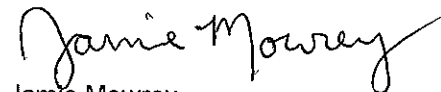
COURTESY TO THE FLOOR

The following topics were discussed by the following individuals:

Melissa Bradley – school in the fall.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Fiorini, seconded by Bachman. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary