

September 27, 2021

The work session of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:00 PM in the High School Auditorium by the Treasurer, Cathy Bachman.

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

Board Members Present: Bachman, Bowman, Cramer, Engel, Labarre, Rupert and Shope.

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

Visitors: Brenda Trimble, Corey Weaver, Nate Hicks, Derek Dawes, Danielle Bradley, Jim Bradley, Mitchell Labarre, Traci Daniels, Pam Reifsnnyder, Jodi Nolan, Krista Rogers and Mike Reuther – SunGazette.

ACCEPTANCE OF SCHOOL DIRECTOR RESIGNATIONS

A motion to accept the resignations from Nathan Miller and Nicholas Fiorini from their school director positions was moved by Shope, seconded by Cramer. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Labarre-yes, Rupert-yes; and Shope-yes; motion carried.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

With the resignation of Nathan Miller, the office of President is vacant. Mrs. Bowman nominated Mr. Engel. Being no further nominations, Mrs. Bachman closed nominations. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Labarre-yes, Rupert-yes; and Shope-yes; motion carried.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

With the resignation of Nicholas Fiorini, the office of Vice President is vacant. Mr. Engel nominated Mr. Rupert. Being no further nominations, Mrs. Bachman closed nominations. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Labarre-yes, Rupert-yes; and Shope-yes; motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

BUILDING ADVISORY TEAM (BAT TEAM)

Dr. Stamm discussed resuming the Building Advisory Team to move forward in the design phase of the building project. McKissick Architecture has advised to keep the team the same if possible. On the original team, 2 board members were represented; however, only 1 is still on the school board. Mrs. Bachman indicated that she is still interested in serving on the BAT team. Mr. Rupert and Mr. Engel also volunteered to serve on the team. The proposed timeline from McKissick Architecture has been pushed from the beginning of October to the beginning of November. The board also discussed a potential Strategic Communications/Fundraising Position to assist with the building project. The board has asked Dr. Stamm to provide more information before a decision can be made.

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE

Dr. Stamm provided an update on the Strategic Plan which is due in March 2022. The Committee, comprised of board members, district administration, parents, teachers, a student, and a community representative, is holding meetings and is in process of selecting 4 growth goals for the District. Dr. Loomis, Elementary Principal is heading the Professional Development Plan committee and Mr. Smith, Secondary Principal is heading the Teacher Mentor Program committee. These components are scheduled to be finished by December 2021.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Dr. Stamm provided positive COVID case counts to the board. Since August 2021, there have been 15 cases at Central Elementary, 4 cases at Rommelt Elementary, and 26 cases at the Junior-Senior High School. Dr. Stamm also shared the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)'s Guidance for PA

Schools on "What To Do When There's A Positive COVID Case" and "How To Respond To A COVID-19 Outbreak".

Mrs. Bachman left the meeting at 6:45 PM. She indicated at the beginning of the meeting that her departure will be due to attending her son's football game.

Dr. Stamm informed the board that the long-term substitute for Mountie Academy is helping to cover elementary teacher classrooms so that those teachers are available to post content for students who are quarantining at home. A solution is trying to be found to assist secondary teachers. Dr. Stamm also updated the board that there should be a Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) update on the masking mandate by October 1. Per the Governor's office, no decisions have been made yet.

TRAININGS AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The School Board discussed creating a Board training manual for new members beyond the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) training. The board also discussed ways to efficiently and effectively communicate with the community.

LEVIN LEGAL GROUP

The school board asked for clarification of the scope of use of Levin Legal Group. Dr. Stamm explained that the firm was used as outlined at the March 2021 meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH

The first Panorama screening assessment for 2021-2022 will be done on October 5, 2021. Second Step is currently being performed in all K-8 classrooms. Over the summer, our County Outreach Counselor made contacts with each child that flagged as at risk for self-harm. The Pennsylvania Youth (PAYS) Survey is upcoming. This collects information about drugs, alcohol, bullying, mental health and suicide for students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. Parents can opt-out their child from this survey.

REMOTE LEARNING ON INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

Dr. Stamm asked for board member opinions on whether to use remote learning on inclement weather days.

POLICY 717 CELLULAR PHONES

Dr. Stamm asked for board member opinions on the placement of the School Police Officer within Policy 717 Cellular Phones.

WORK SESSIONS

Dr. Stamm asked for feedback about the schedule and format of future work sessions or committee of the whole.

COURTESY TO THE FLOOR


The following individuals spoke about the following topics:

- Jodi Nolan – remote learning
- Krista Rogers – remote learning and COVID

There will be an Executive Session following the meeting regarding a student issue. No action to follow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shope, seconded by Rupert. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Attest


Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary