

October 18, 2021

The work session of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:00 PM in the High School Library by the President, Todd Engel.

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

Board Members Present: Cathy Bachman, Diane Cramer, Todd Engel, Micah LaBarre, Steve Rupert and Steve Shope.

Others Present: Jesse Smith – HS Principal, Scott Hill – HS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Maria Pierce – Director of Student Services/Rommelt Principal, Dwight Woodley – Director of Innovative Learning/IT, Kristin Bastian – Director of Special Education, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings & Grounds, Mark Stamm – Superintendent, Fred Holland – Solicitor, and Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager.

Visitors: Brenda Trimble, Lawrence Fryda, Jonathan Thompson, Pam Reifsnyder, Danielle Bradley, James Bradley, Amanda White, Ben Brigandi, Nate Hicks, A Grace Hicks, and Derek Dawes.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER FOR REGION I**

There were 3 applicants for the vacant Region I position – Ben Brigandi, Lawrence Fryda, and Jessica Smith. Shope nominated Brigandi. Cramer nominated Fryda. There being no additional nominations, a motion to close nominations was made by Rupert, seconded by Bachman. All members present voting yes, the nominations were closed. Roll call: Bachman: Fryda, Cramer: Fryda, Engel: Brigandi, LaBarre: Fryda, Rupert: Brigandi, Shope: Brigandi; vote tied 3-3. A motion to table the appointment of board member for Region I was moved by Engel, seconded by Shope. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, LaBarre-yes, Rupert-yes; and Shope-yes; motion carried.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER FOR REGION III**

There were 3 applicants for the vacant Region III position – Thomas Henderson, John Hitesman, and Johnathan Thompson. Bachman nominated Thompson. There being no additional nominations, a motion to close nominations was made by Cramer, seconded by Engel. All members present voting yes, the nominations were closed. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, LaBarre-yes, Rupert-yes; and Shope-yes; motion to appoint Johnathan Thompson to the vacant Region III position carried.

#### **WELLS FARGO TRUST DESOLATION**

A motion to approve the Wells Fargo Trust Desolation for scholarship funds was moved by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, LaBarre-yes, Rupert-yes; and Shope-yes; motion carried.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

##### **GRANT UPDATES – ESSER**

Mrs. Mowrey, Business Manager, provided an update on Federal COVID Funding. There have been 11 different grants awarded through October 18, 2021 totaling \$4,855,745. Mrs. Mowrey then spoke about the 11 grants and provided updates on what has been spent, what has been allocated, and what is remaining as unallocated.

##### **GRANT UPDATES – EITC FUNDS**

Dr. Stamm, Superintendent, provided an update on \$27,000 of Earned Income Tax Credit grant funds available through the First Community Foundation Partnership that need to be allocated by the end of December 2021. Dr. Stamm presented his vision for a Bridges to Learning drop in center for students utilizing Mountie Academy or other students that take additional online courses through Mountie Academy, Mansfield University, Penn College of Technology, etc.

### **GRANT UPDATES – EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND**

Mr. Woodley, Director of Innovative Learning/IT, provided an update on applying for Emergency Connectivity Funds to help offset the cost of iPads for students and the required documentation that will be needed should the District qualify for funds.

### **ATHLETIC COACHES – 15 PARTICIPANT RULE**

Mr. Hill, Athletic Director, spoke about the total number of paid coaches budgeted and the complication of having a set participant rule for paid coaches.

### **SCHOOL COLORS**

Dr. Stamm, Superintendent, provided the School Board with a Color Guide which specified the district's colors, logo/mascot, and branding.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATES – COVID UPDATES & DOH PROCESS UPDATE**

Dr. Stamm, Superintendent, provided an update on COVID cases and exclusions. As of October 5, 2021, the PA Department of Health is allowing districts to perform contact tracing.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATES – EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS**

At the elementary level, the elementary long-term substitutes are being used in classrooms to allow the classroom teacher to focus on content for at home learning. Staff is being trained on how to live stream their classes for students that are at home. During remote learning at the High School level, teachers are spending the first part of the period teaching content and then giving students time to do their work so that students aren't live streaming all day long.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATES – PANORAMA STUDENT SURVEY BRIEF**

Mrs. Pierce, Director of Student Services, provided a handout to show overall scores on the Panorama Survey. She then provided results broken down by economic status, gender, race, and grade to show where efforts can be focused to help students.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATES – AT HOME TESTS**

Dr. Stamm, Superintendent, provided an update about the availability of At Home COVID Tests. Currently, they are only available in pallets at a significant cost.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATES**

Agenda items under the Strategic Planning Update section were tabled for a future meeting.

### **IN-SERVICE DAY UPDATE**

Dr. Stamm, Superintendent, spoke about the In-Service day on October 11, 2021 and the types of trainings that were offered.

### **BOARD MEETINGS & WORK SESSIONS**

The board discussed the type of structure, scheduling, and times for upcoming board meetings which will be approved in December 2021.


### **PRINCIPAL SPOTLIGHTS**

Mr Smith, HS Principal and Mrs. Pierce, Rommelt Principal, provided updates about activities going on in their buildings.

There will be an executive session after the meeting for personnel matters. No action to follow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by LaBarre, seconded by Cramer. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Attest

  
Jamie Mowrey  
Board Secretary