

December 6, 2021

The regular meeting of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 7:00 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: Bachman, Cramer, Engel, and Rupert.

Others Present: Mark Stamm – Superintendent, Tom Burkhart – Solicitor, and Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager.

Visitors: Scott Shaffer, Tara Battaglia, Police Chief Daniel Embeck, Detective Devin Thompson, Mayor Marlin Angelo, Ben Brigandi, Dottie White Mertz, Jon Thompson, Amanda White, Tara Stryker, Sara Thomas, Holly Niven, Maurine McBride, Elijah McBride, Noel Shaffer, Bill Reifsnyder, Pam Reifsnyder, Summer Bukeavich, and Mike Reuther – SunGazette.

#### **ELECTION OF TEMPORARY BOARD PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Cramer nominated Mr. Engel to be the Temporary President for the purpose of reorganization. Being no further nominations, Mr. Engel closed nominations. All members present voting yes, Mr. Engel took over as Temporary President.

#### **READING OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION**

Mrs. Mowrey gave the results of the election held in November. Mr. Nathan Miller was elected to a four-year term for Region One. Mr. Steven Rupert was elected to a four-year term for Region Two. Mrs. Cathy Bachman was elected to a four-year term for Region Three.

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE**

Mr. Engel administered the oath of office to the elected members.

Roll call with newly sworn in members: Board Members Present: Bachman, Cramer, Engel, Miller and Rupert.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VACANCIES FOR UNSEATED BOARD MEMBERS**

A motion to acknowledge a vacancy in Region One for the seat won by Airneezer Bingham who is unable to serve due to having moved from the area, a vacancy in Region Two due to a lack of election winner, and a vacancy in Region Three due to the appointment of Jonathan Thompson who is unable to serve due to employment reasons was moved by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert yes; motion carried.

#### **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

Mr. Engel requested nominations for the office of President. Mrs. Cramer nominated Mr. Engel. Being no further nominations, Mr. Engel closed nominations. All members present voting yes, Mr. Engel was elected President for the ensuing year.

#### **ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Engel requested nominations for the office of Vice President. Mr. Miller nominated Mr. Rupert. Being no further nominations, Mr. Engel closed nominations. All members present voting yes, Mr. Rupert was elected Vice President for the ensuing year.

### **ADOPTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2022**

A motion to adopt the school board meeting dates for 2022 was moved by Bachman, seconded by Cramer. Work session dates are January 10, March 7, April 11, May 9, June 6, October 3, and November 7. Regular meeting dates are January 24, February 14, March 21, April 25, May 23, June 20, July 18, August 22, September 12, October 17, and November 21. Reorganization meeting is December 5. Meetings will be held at the High School Library at 6PM. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **DISCUSSION ABOUT DEATH OF A STUDENT**

Mr. Engel gave a statement regarding the death by suicide of a student. Mr. Devin Thompson, South Williamsport Borough Police Detective, spoke about the investigation into the death of the student and conversations with the student's family. Dr. Stamm gave a statement regarding the death. Detective Thompson, Chief Embeck, and Mayor Angelo remained present during the meeting and were available for questions at the conclusion of the meeting.

### **APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT**

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2021 was moved by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **APPROVE GENERAL FUND BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$2,167,183.76 as funds become available was moved by Bachman, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **APPROVE FOOD SERVICE FUND BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the Food Service Fund in the amount of \$73,787.32 as funds become available was moved by Miller, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2021 and November 15, 2021, as written was moved by Rupert, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **APPROVE POLICY – FIRST READING**

A motion to approve Policy No. 336 – Personal Necessity Leave for first reading was moved by Bachman, seconded by Cramer. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

#### **2021-2022 ARP – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN IDEA AGREEMENT**

A motion to approve the ARP American Rescue Plan IDEA Agreement with BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 with an estimated allocation of \$43,908 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

#### **EMPLOYMENT – RESIGNATIONS**

Dr. Stamm, Superintendent, presented a list of resignations that have been accepted

- Julie Horning from her lunch monitor position effective November 19, 2021.
- Jacquelyn Newlen from her secondary Special Education teaching position effective January 4, 2022.

#### **EMPLOYMENT – CUSTODIAN**

A motion to approve Charles Davis as a full time third shift custodian at a starting rate of \$12 per hour in accordance with the AFSCME Agreement was moved by Miller, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **EMPLOYMENT – LUNCHROOM MONITOR**

A motion to approve Megan Apker as a lunchroom monitor starting November 30, 2021 with a starting rate of \$11.54 per hour in accordance with the Educational Support Professionals Association Agreement was moved by Bachman, seconded by Cramer. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **EMPLOYMENT – CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTE**

A motion to approve Janice Ritter as a classified substitute for the 2021-2022 school year was moved by Cramer, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **EMPLOYMENT – ATHLETICS**

A motion to approve the following athletic personnel was moved by Rupert, seconded by Bachman

- Winter Coaches
  - Elementary Boys Basketball Volunteer: Paul McGinn
  - Wrestling: Scott White as the Assistant Junior High Coach at \$2,006
  - Elementary Wrestling Volunteers: Don Bower, Joe Engel, Lucas Franzen, Robert Killian, Ernie Naugle, and Kristopher Runner
- 2021-2022 Winter Game Workers at \$25 per game – Nancy Bieber, Stacie Bieber, Karen Geise, Jaimee Kopp, Terry Kopp, Frances Kropp, and Jean Lowery
- 2021-2022 Winter Game Managers at \$35 per game – Karen Geise and Frances Kropp.
- 2021-2022 Fall Game Workers and Game Managers – Emily Wagner as a game worker at \$25 per game and Karen Geise and Frances Kropp as Game Managers at \$35 per game

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **EMPLOYMENT – GUEST TEACHER**

A motion to approve Jodi Nolan as a guest teacher for the 2021-2022 school year was moved by Cramer, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **BUDGET TIMELINE DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Mowrey, Business Manager, discussed the timeline for the 2022-2023 budget. There are two possible timelines for the budget based on Act 1 of 2006. If the district chooses to adopt a resolution that it will not raise taxes above the adjusted Act 1 index, the resolution must be adopted no later than January 27, 2022; the 2022-2023 proposed version of the final budget must be adopted no later than May 31, 2022, and the 2022-2023 final budget must be adopted no later than June 30, 2022. If the district seeks referendum exceptions in order to raise taxes above the adjusted Act 1 index, the 2022-2023 proposed preliminary budget must be available for public inspection no later than January 27, 2022; the 2022-2023 preliminary budget must be adopted no later than February 16, 2022, the 2022-2023 proposed version of the final budget must be adopted no later than May 31, 2022, and the 2022-2023 final budget must be adopted no later than June 30, 2022. If the District seeks referendum exceptions, they do not need to be used, but they will give the district more options as we move through the budget process. The District currently qualifies for a referendum exception related to Special Education in the amount of \$95,729. Mrs. Mowrey intends to move forward and present the board with a proposed preliminary budget in order to pursue referendum exceptions.

### **DISCUSSION ABOUT OPEN BOARD SEATS**

A motion to advertise for all three vacant board seats was moved by Miller, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-no, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried. The board intends to review applicants at the January 10, 2022 meeting.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Dr. Stamm, Superintendent, provided the board with changes made to the Health and Safety Plan. Under Universal and correct wearing of masks, changes were made to state that the District will continue to review guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, and PDE. When associated guidance on this topic is adjusted or made, the Superintendent will review and make any necessary recommended changes to the board at its next regular meeting. Absent further action by the board, or an emergency situation as determined by the Superintendent, face coverings are not required but remain optional in schools. Under Contact Tracing, Title 28 PA Code Chapter 27 is referenced. Effective January 1, 2022, asymptomatic students who were determined to be a close contact will not be excluded from school, but parents will have the option to keep them at home as excused absences. Symptomatic students or staff and those who test positive regardless of symptoms will be excluded from school. Those exposed at home to a positive case will be excluded from school unless fully vaccinated and asymptomatic. Under Diagnostic and Screening Testing, the district will continue to advise students, staff, and families of the signs and symptoms of illness. Given recent changes in cost and availability of testing kits, the District will not seek to acquire testing kits for distribution. Under Efforts to Provide Vaccinations, effective January 1, 2022, the District will no longer offer vaccination clinics on school campuses during the school term. The District will distribute information about community vaccination clinics to students and families.

A motion to table the Health and Safety plan was moved by Miller. There was no second.

A motion to accept the Health and Safety plan revisions was moved by Engel, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-no, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

## COURTESY TO THE FLOOR

The following individuals spoke about the following topics:

- John Thompson – health and safety plan
- Noel Shaffer – mental health
- Elijah McBride – death by suicide and mental health
- Scott Shaffer – death by suicide
- Summer Bukeavich – daily COVID counts
- Holly Niven – death by suicide and bullying

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cramer, seconded by Rupert. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey  
Board Secretary