

January 10, 2022

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: Bachman, Bowman, Cramer, Engel, Miller and Rupert.

Others Present: Maria Pierce – Director of Student Services/Rommelt Principal, Michele Loomis – Central Elementary Principal, Dwight Woodley – Director of Innovative Learning/IT, Kristin Bastian – Director of Special Education/School Psychologist, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings & Grounds, Mark Stamm – Superintendent, Tom Burkhart – Solicitor, and Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager.

Visitors: Ben Brigandi, Tammy Miller, Jessica Smith, Summer Bukeavich, Charles Haefner, Tom Henderson, John Hitesman, Tara Battaglia, Dottie White Mertz, Pam Reifsnyder, Connie McLaughlin, Jamie Bloom, Hailey Carson, Vern McKissick – McKissick Associates and Trina Gribble – McKissick Associates.

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY – REGION I

After hearing from the candidates for Region I, Mr. Engel opened nominations. Mr. Rupert nominated Mr. Brigandi. Mr. Miller nominated Dr. Miller. Mr. Engel nominated Mrs. Smith. There being no additional candidates for nomination, Mr. Engel closed nominations. Roll call: Bachman-Miller, Bowman-Brigandi, Cramer-Brigandi, Engel-Smith, Miller-Miller, and Rupert-Brigandi. No candidate received a majority vote. Mr. Engel re-opened nominations. Mr. Miller nominated Dr. Miller. Mr. Rupert nominated Mr. Brigandi. Hearing no additional nominations, Mr. Engel closed nominations. Roll call: Bachman-Miller, Bowman-Brigandi, Cramer-Brigandi, Engel-Brigandi, Miller-Miller, and Rupert-Brigandi. Mr. Brigandi was appointed as Region I school board director.

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY – REGION II

After hearing from the candidates for Region II, Mr. Engel opened nominations. Mr. Rupert nominated Mrs. Bukeavich. Mrs. Bowman nominated Mr. Haefner. There being no additional candidates for nomination, Mr. Engel closed nominations. Roll call: Bachman-Bukeavich, Bowman-Haefner, Cramer-Haefner, Engel-Bukeavich, Miller-Bukeavich, and Rupert-Bukeavich. Mrs. Bukeavich was appointed as Region II school board director.

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY – REGION III

After hearing from the candidates for Region III, Mr. Engel opened nominations. Mr. Miller nominated Mr. Hitesman. Mr. Engel nominated Mr. Henderson. There being no additional candidates for nomination, Mr. Engel closed nominations. Roll call: Bachman-Hitesman, Bowman-Hitesman, Cramer-Hitesman, Engel-Henderson, Miller-Hitesman, and Rupert-Henderson. Mr. Hitesman was appointed as Region III school board director.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

EMPLOYMENT – LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE

A motion to approve Joella Harvey as a long-term substitute for the vacancy created by the resignation of Jacquelyn Newlen from January 17, 2022 – June 2, 2022 at a rate of \$175 per day plus benefits and a stipend of \$5,000 to continue to serve as Mountie Academy Elementary Education teacher was moved by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

MODIFIED WORK WEEK FOR STAFF MEMBER

A motion to approve absence from work for Irina Plotnikova, Instructional Paraprofessional at the High School, for one day a week for the remainder of the school term for purposes of furthering her education was moved by Bachman, seconded by Cramer. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF POLICY 336 – SECOND READING

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

EMPLOYMENT – HIGH SCHOOL SECRETARY

A motion to approve Cheyenne Hogue as a 240-day Junior Senior High School Secretary at a starting rate of \$14.79 per hour effective December 15, 2021 was moved by Miller, seconded by Cramer. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT’S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Stamm emailed the Strategic Plan to board members prior to the meeting and fielded questions about the plan. The plan will be posted in the main office and district’s website from January 11, 2022 through February 9, 2022. The plan will be brought to the board for final approval on February 17, 2022.

REAL ESTATE TAX BILL COLLECTION AGREEMENT

Mrs. Mowrey discussed that there are 4 municipalities within the District. A tax collector was elected for Susquehanna Township. The other 3 municipalities, Armstrong Township, Borough of Duboistown, and Borough of South Williamsport, did not have an election winner for tax collector. The board has to appoint someone to collect taxes for the other 3 municipalities. Mrs. Mowrey is recommending the District enter into an agreement with Dottie White Mertz who is the current tax collector in Loyalsock Township. Mrs. White Mertz provided the board with an overview of her experience and how she would service the District’s taxpayers.

SUSQUEHANNA TRANSIT BUS RENEWAL

Mrs. Mowrey discussed the renewal contract with Susquehanna Transit. This agreement will cover 5 years. For daily transportation, the rates increased as follows: Year 1 – 9%; Year 2 – 0%; Year 3 – 4%; Year 4 – 0%; and Year 5 – 3%. The increase in Year 1 is related to drivers receiving a 23% raise and a \$1,000 retention bonus as a result of the nationwide shortage of bus drivers.

SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE

Dr. Stamm provided information about the rollout of the Mental Health program, including monthly topics with specialized and age appropriate activities that are aligned with the Second Step Program. Discussions with students have been beneficial to guide the development of the program.

BUILDING PLAN UPDATE

McKissick Associates provided a summary of what occurred with the building project up through the start of the pandemic. The Building Advisory Team was reassembled in November 2020 to review the plan to determine if it was still the appropriate direction for the District given the changes from the pandemic. McKissick Associates then presented a result of the findings of the Building Advisory Team.

COURTESY TO THE FLOOR

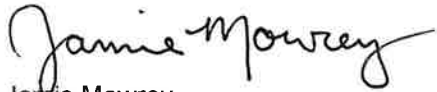
The following individuals spoke about the following topics:

- Tammy Miller – Mountie Academy, COVID

There will be an executive session following the meeting regarding security, real estate, and personnel.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bachman, seconded by Cramer. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Attest

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Mowrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary