

January 24, 2022

The regular meeting 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, Brigandi, Bukeavich, Engel, Hitesman, Miller, and Rupert.

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

Visitors: Tara Battaglia, Brenda Trimble, Jon Thompson, Elyse Schopfer, Tom O'Malley, and Jonathan Bergmueller – SunGazette.

There was an executive session prior to the board meeting related to a student discipline hearing.

#### **ADJUDICATION OF STUDENT**

A motion to adopt adjudication of student number 28024 for the student discipline hearing held prior to the board meeting was moved by Miller, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

#### **APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORTS**

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports for November 2021 and December 2021 was moved by Miller, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-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 \$2,415,930.88 as funds become available was moved by Bachman, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-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 \$76,286.79 as funds become available was moved by Miller, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

#### **APPROVE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$49,889.05 as funds become available was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

#### **APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2021 and January 10, 2022, as written was moved by Rupert, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **CHILD BEARING/CHILD READING LEAVE**

A motion to approve Employee #1283's child bearing/child rearing leave request from April 14, 2022 until the end of the 2021-2022 school year was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **REAL ESTATE TAX BILL COLLECTION AGREEMENT**

A motion to approve the two-year agreement between the South Williamsport Area School District and Dorothy White Mertz for the collection of Real Estate tax bills at a rate of \$4.00 per bill mailed plus reimbursement for office supplies was moved by Bachman, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

A motion to approve Tom O'Malley's overnight/out-of-state field trip request to take the girls' softball team to Myrtle Beach, SC, from March 26-April 1, 2022 was moved by Bachman, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-no, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **EMPLOYMENT – DRAMA STAFF**

A motion to approve the following drama staff and their stipends for the Spring Musical was moved by Miller, seconded by Engel.

- Jared Whitford, Director, Designer and Choreographer - \$3,250
- Miki Rebeck, Assistant Director, Vocal Coach, and Music Director - \$1,800
- Garret Taylor, Music Director and Conductor - \$1,550
- Stefanie Welty, Week of Show Production Coordinator - \$750

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **EMPLOYMENT – WINTER COACHES**

A motion to approve Chad Quimby as a Junior High Boys Basketball Volunteer Coach and Nick Koletar and Chad Quimby as Elementary Girls Basketball Volunteer Coaches was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **EMPLOYMENT – GUEST TEACHERS**

A motion to approve Barth Carson and Lauryn Watkins as Guest Teachers for the 2021-2022 school year was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **SUSQUEHANNA TRANSIT BUS RENEWAL**

A motion to approve the proposal for transportation services for 2022-2027 at rates of \$217.39 per bus per day for 2022-23 & 2023-24, \$226.09 per bus per day for 2024-25 & 2025-26, and \$232.87 per bus per day for 2026-27 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **2022-2023 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR – FIRST READING**

A motion to approve the first reading of the 2022-2023 school calendar was moved by Bachman, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **DUO SECURITY ACCESS**

A motion to approve the purchase of DUO Security Access for the District at a cost of \$2,780.25 for the year was moved by Bachman, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

### **DISCUSSION ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Mrs. Mowrey, Business Manager, discussed the preliminary budget for the 2022-2023 school year. The preliminary budget is required if the District would like the option of raising real estate taxes above the Act 1 Index using exceptions. The District will qualify for a Special Education Exception. The Preliminary Budget must be available for public inspection no later than January 27, 2022 and must be adopted no later than February 16, 2022.

In preparing the preliminary budget, Real Estate Taxes were increased by a total of 1.08 mills which is a 0.83 mill increase as allowed under Act 1 and a 0.25 mill increase for the Special Education Exception. The Basic Education Subsidy was increased to the actual 2021/2022 allocation. The State Share of FICA and PSERS were increased due to increases in FICA and PSERS expenses. Under expenses, salaries were rolled forward based on employment agreements and compensation plans in place. For benefits, health insurance was increased by 3.4% which is the preliminary rate increase; PSERS rate was increased from 34.94% to 35.26%, and other benefit costs increased due to increased salary expense. Under Other Purchased Services, transportation increased related to the new agreement with Susquehanna Transit and increases in outside cyber costs. The 2021-2022 budget has 26 regular education students at \$11,400 each and 6 special education students at \$21,500. For the 2022-2023 preliminary budget, amounts were rolled forward based on current enrollment which is 37 regular education students at \$11,900 and 13 special education students at \$23,300 which is an increase of \$317,800. Debt service was raised back to pre-pandemic amount of \$1,286,143. After these adjustments, the District will have a deficit of \$322,923.

#### **FACILITY RENOVATION PLAN DISCUSSION**

The board discussed the next steps to take in relation to the facility renovation plan. A motion to form a sub-committee to refine the Building Advisory Team's recommendations was moved by Engel, seconded by Hitesman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried. Mrs. Bachman, Mr. Engel, and Mr. Rupert will be members of this committee with room for one additional board member if another member would like to volunteer to serve on this committee.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Engel, Board Present, created an Athletic Committee that will meet with the Athletic Director to talk about potential athletic projects on a quarterly basis. Mrs. Bachman, Mr. Brigandi, and Mr. Rupert will serve on this committee.

#### **COURTESY TO THE FLOOR**

The following individuals spoke about the following topics:

- Elyse Schopfer – substitute teaching rates
- Jon Thompson – building project

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Miller, seconded by Bachman. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey  
Board Secretary