

November 6, 2023

The work session of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:02 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, Cramer, Engel, Hitesman, Miller and Rupert.

Others Present: Scott Hill – HS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Dwight Woodley – Director of Innovative Learning/IT, Bill Reifsnnyder – Director of Buildings & Grounds, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Fred Holland – Solicitor, and Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager.

Visitors: Jason Young, Hilarie German, Ashley Frei, Rocio Retana-Callaghan, Melissa Stahl, Elyse Schopfer, Lauren Reynolds, Jared Whitford, and Ernie Graham – ELA Sports.

There was an executive session prior to the meeting regarding personnel and negotiations.

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT AREA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the negotiated Agreement with the South Williamsport Area Education Association for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Cramer. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

PAY RATES FOR NEWLY HIRED TEACHERS

A motion to approve the following pay rates for newly hired teachers for the 2023-2024 school year was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Bachman.

- Sophia Biddle at step M-6 at a salary of \$60,478
- Dyan Hulslander at step M+30-15 at a salary of \$79,153
- Reanna Peritz at step M-1 at a salary of \$56,432 (200-day employee)
- John Peters at step B-5 at a salary of \$55,353
- Adeline Rothrock at step B-1 at a salary of \$48,053

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

EMPLOYMENT – INFORMATIONAL

Dr. Briggs, Superintendent, accepted the letter of resignation from Jennifer Kimball from her Business & Computer Information Technology 7-12 teaching position and FBLA Advisor position effective December 8, 2023.

EMPLOYMENT – HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE SECRETARY

A motion to approve Shelby Akers as the High School Guidance Secretary effective November 13, 2023 at a rate of \$18.02 per hour as a 7.5 hour per day, 240 day per year position with benefits in accordance with the South Williamsport Education Support Professionals Association was moved by Miller, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

CHILD BEARING/CHILD REARING LEAVE EXTENSION

A motion to approve EE# 1281's leave extension request, originally returning on November 20, 2023 to returning on January 2, 2024 was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

UNPAID LEAVE

A motion to approve unpaid leave for EE#651 through the end of the 1st semester (January 2024) was moved by Cramer, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

COOPERATIVE SPORTS AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the Cooperative Sports Agreement with Williamsport Area School District for Junior High and High School girls to participate in a Girls' Wrestling Program was moved by Rupert, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Cramer-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Miller-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ELA SPORTS PRESENTATION

Mr. Ernie Graham from ELA Sports presented information to the school board regarding Athletic Fields. Mr. Graham explained that he would like to perform Schematic Design for the district pro bono. The Schematic Design phase prepares the project scope and initial budget estimate for each project/project site. If the district would like to continue, there would be a Design/Build Procurement Contracting Phase, a Design, Permitting, and Construction Drawing Phase, and finally a Construction Phase. Mr. Graham then spoke about the different athletic fields. The first discussion revolved around the re-sodding of the existing football field. Mr. Graham explained that there are various levels of work that can be performed based on need. The second discussion revolved around a running track with a synthetic turf soccer field and the two spaces where this could be located; the current football practice field or the current soccer playing field which is Borough of South Williamsport property located in Armstrong Township. The next steps will be to approve soil sampling and surveying for the properties where the district believes they may construct athletic fields. These agreements will be presented for approval at the next school board meeting.

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM UPDATE & FUNDRAISING DISCUSSION

Mr. Jared Whitford, Drama Director, updated the school board on the high school auditorium construction. Lights are installed and painting is complete other than a couple of touch up areas. Flooring and new seats will be installed soon. Work is on schedule to be completed by December for the chorus and band concert.

The South Williamsport Education Foundation would like to start a fundraising campaign called a "Take A Seat". Under this fundraiser, the Foundation would sell the nameplate to the new seats in the auditorium. The Foundation would then use the proceeds of the fundraiser to benefit the arts departments (drama, band, and chorus). The purchaser of the seat is buying the nameplate to be engraved; it is not a reserved seat for the purchaser to use at events or performances.

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY PROJECT UPDATE

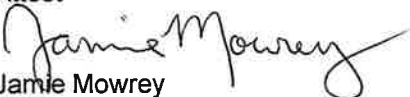
Dr. Briggs provided a brief update on the Central Elementary project. Contractors are on site. There are biweekly construction meetings. There is fencing up around the new project to secure the area for development. Windows are currently on backorder.

2024 BOARD MEETING DATES

The school board was provided with a draft of the 2024 Board Meeting dates. The school board will take action on the 2024 Board Meeting dates at the December 4, 2023 Reorganization meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Miller, seconded by Rupert. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Attest


Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary