

January 21, 2019

The regular meeting of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order this evening in the library of the High School by the President Chris Branton.

The meeting opened with Silent Meditation and Pledge to the Flag.

Board Members Present: Anthony, Bachman, Bowman, Miller, Molino, Persun, Page, and Branton.

Others Present: Dr. Mark Stamm-Superintendent, Dwight Woodley-Director of Innovative Learning, Michelle Loomis- Elementary Principal, Jamie Mowrey-Assistant Business Manager, Fred Holland-Solicitor and Dennis Artley-Business Manager.

Visitors: Brenda Trimble, Emily Wagner, Tara McGlensey, Melissa Bradley, Amber Fagnano, Jovanna Fagnano, Luci Steinbacher, Mike Steinbacher, Todd Engel, Dean Kriebel, Zachary Walters, Tom Lorson, Chris Molino, Nick Fiorini.

APPROVE GENERAL FUND BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$570,267.85, as funds become available, was moved by Bachman, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE CAFETERIA FUND BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$38,245.93, as funds become available, was moved by Miller, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2019, as written, was moved by Miller seconded by Persun. All members present voting yes, motion carried.

Mr. Woodley, announced that the district has been awarded a \$35,000 STEM initiative grant. The grant is to expand innovative approaches to high quality computer education and STEM courses.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

CONFERENCE REQUESTS

Moved by Miller, seconded by Anthony, to approve the following conference request:

- **Adam Rubert**, to attend a Business & Economic Workshop to be held at Susquehanna University on January 21, 2019.

Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

RETIREMENT/RESIGNATION

A motion to accept the retirement resignation of Carol Fagley from her position as a cafeteria worker at Central Elementary effective December 21, 2018, was moved by Persun, seconded by Page.
Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT CAFETERIA WORKER

A motion to appoint Elizabeth Potter as a general food service employee was moved by Persun, seconded by Miller. This position will be 6.5 hours per day, non-benefit position and compensated \$11.93 per hour in accordance with the South Williamsport Educators Support Professional Association.
Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT SPRING COACHES

A motion to approve the following athletic coaches was moved by Anthony, seconded by Bachman.

Baseball Coaches:

Dan Pinkerton – 1st Assistant - \$2,507
Zach Welter – 2nd Assistant - \$1,839

Softball

Todd Snyder – 1st Assistant - \$2,507
Greg Hennigan – 2nd Assistant - \$1,839

Boys Tennis

Theresa Summerson – 1st Assistant - \$2,507

Boys Jr High Soccer Coach:

Chris Vanaskie – Jr High Head Coach - \$2,173
Adam Rubert – Assistant - \$1,839

Girls Jr. High Soccer

Jane House – Jr. High Head Coach - \$2173
Heather Green – Assistant - \$1,839
Dan Solley – Volunteer
Marc Lovecchio - Volunteer

Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

FINAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

A motion to approve the revised graduation requirements for the Class of 2022 and beyond relating to Keystone Exam options and for the Class of 2023 and beyond relating to Career Pathways was moved by Miller, seconded by Bachman. These changes reflect new state graduation mandates for Keystone Exams and national, state and local initiatives for Career Pathways. Dwight Woodley, director of innovative learning, Zach Walters, elementary guidance counselor and Emily Wagner, Jr. High guidance counselor provided the Board information on these requirements. Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

APPROVE POLICY 121 SECOND READING

A motion to approve second reading of Policy 121 Field Trips was moved by Bachman, seconded by Miller. Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

Dr. Stamm informed the board that the administrative team met with McKissick on January 11 for an initial meeting. This was basically a fact finding meeting in the morning and then they toured our facilities in the afternoon. Larson Design did a walk-through of our athletic fields on the 17th. They are coming back to check our HVAC units. They are coming to the February 4th meeting to update the Board. They want to create a Board subcommittee of four members and they also want to create a stakeholders committee which would be 12 to 15 members of the community, teachers and staff.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

A motion to approve the revised Emergency Response Plan was moved by Miller, seconded by Persun. The revisions to the plan are based on recommendations from: Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Secret Service Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Department of Emergency Management. This plan is current with state and federal requirements for all Hazards planning. Key Changes for the plan include.

- Declaration and Policy Statement
- National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) Incident Command Structure
- Annual District Training Requirements for Employees and Students
- ALICE Response Protocol
- Building Floor Plans
- Rally Locations

Roll Call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Page-yes, Persun-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Dr. Stamm told the Board that today the staff went through an enhanced lockdown drill following the ALICE Response Protocol at Central, Rommelt and the High School in preparation to do it with the students later this week. New electronic door locks have been installed through a \$25,000 school safety grant. He also briefed the Board on the OAG launch of Safe 2 Say Something.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT APPROVAL

A motion to approve the superintendent's contract effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022 was moved by Miller, seconded by Page. This three-year agreement includes performance measures that address the strategic plan, district finances, and student achievement.

Roll Call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-no, Page-yes, Persun-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

2019-2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mrs. Mowrey, assistant business manager told the Board that we start with the budgeted deficit from 2018-2019 of \$479,000. We are still struggling with Outside Cyber School costs. We are projecting that we will be \$203,000 over budget. Health insurance is projected to increase 4%, the retirement rate changes from 33.43% to 34.29%.

At this meeting, we need to decide for budgeting purposes, whether we are going to stay within the Act 1 index or whether we are going to pursue exceptions in order to possibly raise taxes above the Act 1 index. This does not mean that we are definitely going to raise taxes; this simply provides us with guidelines as we move forward. The common exceptions are for PSERS retirement contributions and for Special Education costs. An exception will appear if the District's costs for these categories increased more than the ACT 1 index. For the 2019-2020 school year, the Act 1 index is 3.2% or .5 mills. A tax increase of .5 mills is \$184,000. We do not qualify for an exception for PSERS but we do under Special Education. The exception for Special Education for the 2019-2020 school year is based on changes from the 2016-2017 school year to the 2017-2018 school year. We saw a jump in Special Education costs due to the following items: Normal increases in salaries, health insurance, and PSERS, we had a significant bill for ESL students assisted by Blast IU, we added an instructional classroom aide, we had a student move from alternative education to Special education, and we had an employee move tiers in health insurance. The exception will allow the District to increase taxes up to an additional .53 mills or \$195,000. In total, we could raise taxes 1.03 mills or \$379,000. In the past 12 years since Act 1 was adopted, we made a motion to identify and submit exceptions eight times but we only used them twice.

PERMISSION TO IDENTIFY AND SUBMIT EXCEPTIONS TO THE STATE

Mr. Miller then made a motion to allow the Administration to identify and submit to the State any exceptions allowable by law, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

APPROVAL TO DRAFT PRELIMINARY 2019-2020 BUDGET AND PUBLICALLY DISPLAY

Mr. Miller made a motion to allow the Administration to draft a preliminary 2019-2020 budget, and publically display the budget as required by law, seconded by Persun. Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

BOARD VACANCY

Because of the resignation of Mrs. Davenport as a board member, a vacancy exists for Region 3. The position was advertised and four candidates have submitted a letter of interest. The four candidates are Nicholas Fiorini, Todd Engel, Dean Kriebel, and Amber Fagnano. The Board spent the next thirty minutes interviewing the four candidates. After the interviews the Board members did a silent vote and selected their top two candidates. This process however showed the votes were split between the candidates. Mr. Branton then asked for nominations. Miller nominated Amber Fagnano, seconded by Bowman. Anthony nominated Nicholas Fiorini, seconded by Bachman. Page nominated Dean Kriebel, seconded by Molino. The nominations were closed. Roll call: Anthony – Fiorini, Bachman – Fiorini, Bowman – Fagnano, Miller- Fagnano, Molino –Fagnano, Page –Kriebel, Persun – Fiorini, and Branton – Fiorini. The vote was Fiorini 4 votes, Fagnano 3 votes and Kriebel 1 vote. No one received the required 5 votes.

Mr. Branton again asked for nominations. Anthony nominated Fiorini, seconded by Persun. Bowman nominated Fagnano, seconded by Miller; Page nominated Kriebel, seconded by Miller, Anthony nominated Engel, seconded by Persun. The nominations were closed. Roll call: Anthony – Fiorini, Bachman – Fiorini, Bowman – Fagnano, Miller- Fagnano, Molino –Fagnano, Page –Kriebel, Persun – Fiorini, and Branton – Fiorini. The vote was Fiorini 4 votes, Fagnano 3 votes and Kriebel 1 vote. No one received the required 5 votes.

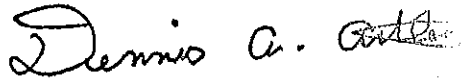
After another 5 minutes of discussion by the Board about why they were voting for certain candidates. Mr. Branton again asked for nominations. Bowman nominated Fagnano, seconded by Molino. Anthony nominated Engel, seconded by Persun. Page nominated Kriebel but did not receive a second. The nominations were closed. Roll call: Anthony-Engel, Bachman-Engel, Bowman-Fagnano, Miller-Fagnano, Molino-Fagnano, Page-Engel, Persun-Engel, and Branton- Engel. Mr. Engel was elected to serve on the Board pending being sworn in before a judge before the next meeting.

DOOR SECURITY HARDWARE

Mr. Miller made a motion that the district purchase 160 units of door security hardware at a cost of \$8,116.40 coming from the capital reserve fund, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Anthony-yes, Bachman-yes, Bowman-yes, Miller-yes, Molino-yes, Persun-yes, Page-yes, and Branton-yes, motion carried.

Moved by Miller, seconded by Bachman that the meeting be adjourned. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Attest



Dennis A. Artley
Secretary